



NEW ZEALAND

JUMPING

TOKYO 2020 OLYMPIC GAMES QUALIFICATION/SELECTION OVERVIEW

1. SUMMARY

Any Jumping combination(s) endeavouring to be selected for the Tokyo Olympics will be required to have met each of the following four elements:

- i. **FEI Qualification:** To have attained an FEI Olympic Qualification; either via NZL securing a team qualification spot or through NZL securing an individual spot as a consequence of declining its team quota or through the Group G individual qualification allocation; AND
- ii. **FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement:** As an individual, to have met the FEI Eligibility Requirements which includes securing a Certificate of Capability; AND
- iii. **ESNZ Performance & Eligibility Requirements:** To have proven to ESNZ's Jumping Selectors that they have met the requisite ESNZ Olympic Selection Performance Criteria; AND
- iv. **NZOC Overarching Criteria:** Have performances of such depth and quantity to have proven to the New Zealand Olympic Committee (NZOC) that they are capable of achieving a top 16 placing with the potential to win a top 8 placing in the Individual Event at the Games.

Each combination, whether qualified/selected as an individual or a combination must have met all four of these elements. When taking this into account alongside the various FEI and NZOC rules, processes and timeframes, it became evident that it was critical for there to be a clear plan understood by all to ensure that our Tokyo prospective combinations have the best possible chance to perform at the Tokyo Olympic Games. This document sets out each of the elements in a little more detail and provides a proposed plan.

2. FEI Qualification Requirements

2.1 Team Spot - For NZL to qualify a Jumping spot at the Tokyo Olympics we must finish as one of the two best ranked teams at the Group G FEI Designated Olympic Qualification Event.

2.2 We will need to compete at the Group G Qualifying competition which will take place between June and August 2019 in Valkenswaard, The Netherlands. The two best ranked teams from the Qualifier will gain Olympic CoC. The countries in Group G that we will compete against include:

Brunei	Cambodia	China	Chinese Taipei	Hong Kong
India	Indonesia	Japan	Korea	Malaysia
Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Sri Lanka	Thailand

Australia are also in Group G though have already gained their Qualification from the 2018 WEG.

2.3 If a country gains and then declines a team quota place by 3 February 2020 then the country will be allocated one (1) individual quota place from within the respective FEI Olympic Group in the Individual Qualification. This is a significant change from previous Olympic rules.

2.4 Individual Spot - Alternatively, an individual qualification can be gained through being one of two best ranked athletes from the FEI Olympic Ranking for group G. However, if a country has declined their team quote (see 2.3), they will get first priority to the two individual spots available, ahead of FEI Rankings priority.

3. FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirements

3.1 To be eligible to participate in the Olympic Games Tokyo 2020 Jumping Competitions, all combinations must achieve the Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) at selected Events between 1 January 2019 - 1 June 2020, which will provide them with a Certificate of Capability (CoC).

4. NZ Olympic Committee Over-arching Nomination Requirements

The NZOC requires any athlete being nominated for selection to show evidence of the following:

- 4.1** is or are capable of achieving a top 16 placing at the Games in the Individual Event, with the potential to win an Olympic Diploma (top 8 placing); and
- 4.2** has or have a track record of sufficient quality and depth that ESNZ believes demonstrates the Athlete (or group of Athletes) will be competitive at the Games and will perform creditably in the Individual Event.

This requirement is placed upon ALL sports and is to encourage strong performances on the world-stage, coupled with the fact that the NZOC funds the costs of athletes (including horses) and coaches that compete at the Olympics.

To that end, the ESNZ Olympic Nomination Criteria will need to have clear performance selection criteria that will demonstrate and equate to performances at the Olympics that meet this overarching requirement. This is necessary to ensure that Tokyo prospective combinations are clear on the performance required of them for selection as an Olympic representative (as distinct from a World Equestrian Games which doesn't have these overarching requirements).

The ESNZ Olympic Nomination Criteria will be published once it has been approved by the NZ Olympic Committee Selection Panel. This is likely to be by the end of February 2019.

5. Time Line

Date	Action
June-August 2019	Group G FEI Olympic Qualifier
31 st December 2019	All horses to be in NZ Ownership
	Deadline for NOC/NF to achieve Certificate of Capability/Qualification
10 th January 2020	FEI informs NOC/NF of Team Quota allocations
24 th January 2020	NZOC Athlete Applications due
3 rd February 2020	NOC/NF to confirm Team spot
17 th February 2020	FEI informs NOCs/NFs of Reallocation of team quota places
28 th February 2020	Jumping Olympic Long List announced
1 st June 2020	Deadline for Athletes to achieve FEI Certificate of Capability
TBC	ESNZ Nominations submitted to NZOC Selectors
6 th July 2020	Tokyo Sport Entries Deadline

6. Changes to the Olympic Structure

The FEI General Assembly have approved of the Structure/Formal for the Tokyo Olympic Games, though it is still to be approved by the International Olympic Committee. For the purpose of this paper, the following is of importance to note:

- 6.1 Qualified Teams can take 4 combinations. There are only three to compete in the team competition, but substitution is allowed.
- 6.2 The programme for Jumping is as follows:
 - i. Individual Trot Up, followed by declaration of starters for individual competition;
 - ii. Individual competitions (qualifier for individual final)
 - iii. Individual Final
 - iv. Team trot-up, followed by declaration of starters for team competition (3 in a team);
 - v. Team competition (qualifier for team final)
 - vi. Team Final
- 6.3 For the individual competition, a substitution for vet or medical reasons can occur anytime up to 2 hours prior to the individual competition starting;
- 6.4 For the team competition, a substitution for vet or medical reasons can occur anytime up to 2 hours prior to the first team competition starting OR before the start of the second competition for vet, medical or tactical reasons provided that that substitute completed the trot-up.

Given these significant changes to the format and the ability to substitute, it be hugely beneficial to have four combinations available at the competition. We would have to seriously consider the sensibility of taking a team of three, if there were no other combination(s) that could meet all four elements required for selection/qualification.

7. The Plan

2019 - 2019 is an important year in the lead up to Tokyo 2020. Not only is it the year in which we need to qualify for Tokyo, but it's the year in which we need to have sufficient results from at least 4 combinations to prove to the NZOC that we have the depth and quality to fill a team spot (if we have so qualified for that) or whether we only have individual(s) that can meet that overriding criteria. (Refer to point 4 above)

By the end of 2019 we will be expecting any horse that an athlete wishes to be considered for selection to be in NZ ownership this is to ensure we have established combinations going into 2020.

As outlined in 2.3 should we have been successful in gaining a NZL Team Qualification then we have until the 3rd February to accept this spot. This means that prior to the 3rd of February, ESNZ will need to prove to the NZOC Independent Selection Panel that we have at least 4 combinations showing quality and depth of form that is evidence that they would achieve the NZOC's requirement of a top 16 individual placing (see 4.1). This is why athlete's results from 2019 are vital to ensuring we can show performance tracking.

Should the NZOC Selection Panel not be satisfied that at least four combinations have sufficient performance results to support accepting a Team Spot at Tokyo, then we will have to decline that and fall back to an individual spot.

If we didn't secure the NZL Team Qualification, the focus for the rest of 2019 and moving into 2020 will be achieving FEI Ranking Points to secure at least one Individual Qualification for Tokyo.

2020 – Regardless of whether we have obtained a FEI Team or Individual qualification, a long list of combinations eligible for selection to Tokyo will be published. After the publication of the Long List NO further combinations can be added.

In 2020, the focus for the Tokyo prospective combinations will be getting performances that ensures their selection. The Performance Criteria is likely to require that riders will have to compete at specific events either in Europe or the USA to continue to demonstrate their current form and to provide further evidence to the NZOC that should they be selected, that they will be capable of meeting the overarching criteria.

The important message to any Athlete aiming for Tokyo is to use 2019 to make their mark, establish their performance plan and achieve good results which can then be further capitalised on in 2020.

8. Nations Cup Events

At a minimum in 2019 we will aim to target 2 Nations Cup Events, and in addition the Group G Qualification Team Event. At this stage targeting the Nations Cup Final is not a priority as we feel there is more advantage to be gained by attending other Nations Cup Events which provide a high likelihood of results that can be produced to the NZOC to demonstrate the teams' capability.

In 2020, at least another 2 Nations Cup Events to be targeted ahead of the final Olympic Nomination (Approximately end of June 2020).