EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION OF INDIA
SELECTION CRITERIA: SELECTION OF THE INDIAN EQUESTRIAN TEAM FOR 20th ASIAN GAMES 2025 AICHI–NAGOYA, JAPAN FROM 19 SEP TO 04 OCT 2026 (VERSION 1.0)

1. **Preamble & Purpose** The 20th Asian Games (Aichi-Nagoya, 2026) are scheduled to be held in Japan from 19 Sep to 04 Oct 2026. This Selection Criteria sets out the framework for the selection of riders and horses to represent India in Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing. The objective is to ensure that selection is fair, transparent, merit-based and aligned with international standards. This document shall be read in conjunction with and is subordinate to the Organising Committee's (OC) technical guidelines, horse movement protocols and competition regulations for the Asian Games 2026, as well as the Federation Equestrian Internationale (FEI) General Regulations and discipline-specific rules in force at the time of the Games.

2. **Scope & Governance** This Selection Criteria applies to all riders seeking selection in Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing. It shall be governed by the EFI Statutes and the decisions of the EFI Selection Committee, duly ratified by the EFI Executive Committee. Nothing contained herein shall override the rules of the FEI, the directives of the Organising Committee (OC), the policies of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) or the regulations of the Government of India.

3. **Events, Team Composition & Entries** The events shall consist of both Team and Individual competitions across all three discipline viz Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing at the 20th Asian Games, scheduled to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, from 19 Sep to 04 Oct 2026, subject to confirmation by the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games Organising Committee (AlNAGOC) :-

(a) Team sizes shall be limited to a maximum of four (4) riders per discipline, of whom three (3) will compete for the team score and the fourth shall serve as the drop score, in accordance with the quotas prescribed by the OC and the applicable FEI rules.

(b) Entries may be made either for teams or where it is not feasible to constitute a full team, as eligible individual entries, strictly subject to the entry quotas and conditions laid down by the AGOC and the FEI.

4. **Qualifying Window & Structure**

(a) **Qualifying Window for India and Abroad**. The qualifying window for selection trials shall be from ***15 Nov 2025 to 30 June 2026***. The **cut-off date (30th JUN 2026**) is set to accommodate veterinary protocols, logistical movements, any training camps, pre-export/import quarantine, other logistics/administrative requirements prior to the Games and cut - off date for definitive entries.

(b) **Competition Structure :** 20th Asian Games-2026, AICHI-NAGOYA, JAPAN is based on the technical standards of Dressage, Show Jumping and Eventing as given below : -

(i) **Dressage*. Competition overview in 20th Asian Games 2026: -*** *The team and the individual competitions will be held in a mixed format competition :-*

(aa) ***Big tour tests:***

- *Team Competition & 1st Individual Qualifier Competition: FEI Grand Prix*
- *2nd Individual Qualifier Competition: FEI Grand Prix Special*
- *Individual Final Competition: FEI Grand Prix Freestyle.*

(ab) ***Small tour tests:***

- *Team Competition & 1st Individual Qualifier Competition: FEI Prix St Georges*
- *2nd Individual Qualifier Competition: FEI Intermediate I*
- *Individual Final Competition: FEI Intermediate I Freestyle.*

(ii) **Jumping :-** ***Competition overview in 20th Asian Games 2026:***

(aa) ***Team Competition:*** *The Team Competition will be held in only one day, over 2 rounds judged under Table A, first round not against the clock and second against the clock, both rounds up to 1.45 m heights. The Jump-off will be held in case of tie.*

(ab) ***Individual Competitions****: Individual Competitions will be held in two (2) days:*

- ***First competition day*** *: First round of the* ***Individual competition A*** *(up to 1.45 m high)*
  First round of the ***Individual competition B*** *(up to 1.55 m high)*

- ***Second competition day*** *: Second round of the* ***Individual competition A*** *(up to 1.50 m high), followed by a Jump-off, if needed, and Medal ceremony*

  Second round of ***Individual competition B*** *(up to 1.55 m high) followed by a jump off if needed and Medal ceremony****.***

Note: *Both individual events will be held in two rounds, both judged under Table A, against the clock and as per FEI/OCA rules, a rider may only compete in one Individual Category (either 1.45–1.50 m or up to 1.55 m), even if qualified with more than one horse*

(iii) **Eventing :-** ***Competition overview in 20th Asian Games 2026:*** The Team and Individual Competitions will be run concurrently in a hybrid format over three consecutive days as follows: -

Day 1: Dressage at CCI3* level (test to be finalized by end of 2025).
Day 2: Cross-country at CCI2-L* level.
Day 3: Jumping at CCI3* level.

5. Attempts, Timelines & Communication

(a) **Attempts**. A rider/horse combination may compete in **up to five (5) nominated qualifying competitions** during the MER window in all three disciplines viz. Dressage, Show Jumping, and Eventing. For calculation of order of merit, EFI will consider only the best three (3) results where MERs were achieved within the prescribed limits.

(b) Selection Procedure

(i) Up to six (6) riders, to be called Probables, shall be shortlisted per discipline (Dressage, Show Jumping, and Eventing) on the basis of comparative merit of each horse–rider combination. To be eligible for inclusion in the list of probables, a combination must achieve at least one (1) valid MER within the prescribed limits, and a minimum of three (3) attempts out of five (5) nominated competitions is compulsory.

(ii) In Dressage, the highest cumulative score will decide merit and in Show Jumping and Eventing, the combinations with the least cumulative penalties across three MER results shall be considered as probables.

(iii) These six probables in each discipline shall be shortlisted based on MER/Results in selection trials, the three/four riders with the leading scores (highest in Dressage, lowest penalties in Show Jumping, and least cumulative penalties in Eventing) shall be selected as the final Team India nominees for each discipline based on the merit.

(c) **Timelines**

(i) Riders based abroad participating in selection trials must intimate the EFI by SMS, email or WhatsApp, at its official address / number(s) at least seven days (07) prior to the date of first horse inspection for each Trial.

(ii) In case any of the nominated FEI competitions are cancelled by the Organisers or the FEI, the rider shall be entitled to nominate an alternate event (or events) from the FEI Calendar at least 48 hours prior to first horse inspection will be ensured. This is to ensure that every rider-horse combination has an equal opportunity to participate in up to five trials, consistent with other competitors. Details of the alternate events so nominated will be uploaded on the EFI website for the information of all concerned.

(aa) **Dressage, Eventing and Show Jumping** Once the entry is uploaded for riders, it will be considered as an attempt and will be counted as such unless cancelled by FEI or the OC. A written proof of the same should be communicated to EFI within 48 hours of such notification.

(ab) **Show Jumping** Riders based abroad are required to participate in competitions as per calendar/events schedule issued by FEI, the rider wishes to participate in. Riders based abroad should approach the OC, where they wish to participate. To qualify for selection as a team entry, a horse rider combination should participate in a one round on day one and another round on consecutive days of the same show. At least one MER is required for a horse rider combination to be counted towards selection as probable's and for order of merit up to the best three (3) MERs out of a maximum of Five (5) attempts shall be counted

(d) **Communication to EFI** The results of a qualifier trial held abroad should be intimated on telephone (SMS) / WhatsApp / email, by the riders to the Secretariat of EFI within 48 hours of declaration of the results, for compilation of final results for selection/shortlisting. The EFI will acknowledge the receipt of such communication through the same platform on which it has been received from the riders. The results thus communicated will be verified by the EFI from the website of the FEI / Local NF / OC before compilation for computation of comparative merit. The events and venues should be listed on the FEI calendar and the level of competition

must conform to the technical specifications / standards for selection qualifiers / trials in India and abroad as laid down in these criteria.

(e) **Responsibility for Submission of Entries** The EFI shall not be held responsible for delays or non-submission of entries if the rider fails to provide, by the due date, any information or documentation requested by EFI, for whatever reason. EFI must give a confirmation of receipt to Riders for any communication or documentation submitted, in order to avoid disputes in case of any default on the part of EFI in acknowledging receipt.

6. Anti-Doping & Medication Control FEI anti-doping regulations and Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations (EADCMR) apply to riders and horses at all times. EFI reserves the right to conduct dope/medication controls during trials and camps. Positive findings will be dealt with under FEI/EFI rules. Anit-Doping programme of the 20th Asian Games Selection Trials will be conducted in strict accordance with the World Anti-doping Code and OCA Anti-doping Rules.

7. Athlete, Horse & Mandatory MER Eligibility

(a) **Athlete Eligibility & Nationality** Rider must be a citizen of India and eligible to hold an Indian passport. Riders must be entered by their EFI/IOA (India/IOA) and comply with AINAGOC Technical Handbook/Constitution, Rules & By-Laws. Riders must adhere to FEI regulations, Selection Criteria including Nationality requirements at accreditation deadline. They must also be registered with the FEI before the nomination of entries deadline and meet the following age criteria: -

(i) **For Jumping**, **Athletes** must be born on or before 31 December 2008 (eighteen (18) years old in the year of the Games).

(ii) **For Dressage, Athletes** must be born on or before 31 December 2010 (sixteen (16) years old in the year of the Games).

(iii) **For Eventing, Athletes** must be born on or before 31 December 2008 (eighteen (18) years old in the year of the Games).

(b) **Horse Eligibility.** Horses eligible to participate in the Equestrian Events at the 20th Asian Games must complete their 2026 FEI registration before submitting the Nomination Entries. They must also have a valid FEI Passport, or an FEI-approved national passport accompanied by a valid FEI Recognition card for identification proposals. Additionally, all documents related to Horses must be submitted without commercial prefixes or suffixes included in the Horse's name. Regarding the age requirements, all the Horses must comply with the following criteria :-

(i) **For Jumping, Horses** must be born on or before 31 Dec 2018 (eight years of age).

(ii) **For the Small Tour in Dressage**, Horses must be born on or before 31 Dec 2019 (seven years of age).

(iii) **For the Big Tour in Dressage**, Horses must be born on or before 31 Dec 2018 (eight years of age).

(iv) **For Eventing**, Horses must be born on or before 31 Dec 2020 (six years of age).

(c) **MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA** - To be part of in the Equestrian Events at the 20th Asian Games. The period for Athletes and Horses to achieve the **Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) for FEI i.e. The Certificate of Capability extends from 01 January 2025 until submission of the Nomination Entries, the deadline for which is 22 June 2026, for which point the Certificates of Capability must be provided (deadline for CoC is 22 Jun 2026, however the results for EFI selection trials can be submitted by 30 Jun 2026)**

It is important to note that the deadline is the same across all three disciplines. Any Athlete or Horse whose Certificates of Capability are not received on time on or before ***22ndJune 2026***) will not be accepted or allowed to participate in 20th Asian Games 2026. More details about the FEI/EFI- MER can be found in the dedicated part of each discipline.

(d) **Entry Process & Timelines (for Shortlisted Riders).**

Entry by Number: 18 Jul-16 Sep 2025.
Nomination Entries: 22nd June 2026
Entry by Name & Quota (Definite Entry): 01 Jul 2026.

(e) **Nomination Entries in 20th Asian Games 2026.** EFI/ IOA must enter the list of the Athletes and Horses whose names are on the Accreditation Entries list, as no additional Athletes or Horses can be included. The list must adhere to the following limits:-

For the team competition :
- o Jumping: a maximum of twelve (12) Athletes and twelve (12) Horses
- o Dressage: a maximum of twelve (12) Athletes and twelve (12) Horses.
- o Eventing: a maximum of twelve (12) Athletes and twelve (12) Horses.

For the individual competition: EFI/ IOA, if not represented by a team, can enter in:
- o Jumping: a maximum of six (6) Athletes and six (6) Horses.
- o Dressage: a maximum of six (6) Athletes and six (6) Horses.
- o Eventing: a maximum of six (6) Athletes and six (6) Horses.

If requested in the dedicated part of each discipline, EFI/ IOA must provide the **Certificates of Capability** along with the **Nominated Entries**. The deadline for this submission is ***22 Jun 2026***.

(f) **Official Entries (Definitive Entries for Selected Riders).** EFI/ IOA must enter the list of the Athletes and Horses whose names are on the Nomination Entries list, as no additional Athletes or Horses can be included by the deadline that will be defined. The list must adhere to the following limits:-

Teams
- o Jumping: three (3) or four (4) Athlete-Horse combinations and one (1) reserve horse
- o Dressage: three (3) or four (4) Athlete-Horse combinations
- o Eventing: three (3) or four (4) Athlete-Horse combinations

Individual - EFI/ IOA, if not represented by a team, can enter in:
- o Jumping: a maximum of two (2) Athlete-Horse combinations for

Individual Competitions

- Dressage: a maximum of two (2) Athlete-Horse combinations
- Eventing: a maximum of two (2) Athlete-Horse combinations

Relevant notes: Once the Definitive Entry has been submitted, no changes to the team composition and the individual competition entries shall be permitted, except in accordance with the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games Organization Committee (AINAGOC)Late Replacement Policy.

(g) **Horse-Rider Combination, Multiple Horses & Discipline Restrictions** Selection is based on the horse-rider combination. Each combination is considered separately. A rider may compete on multiple horses; there is no upper limit on the number of horses across the qualifying window. A horse-rider combination is permitted to participate in only one discipline within a given trial for selection purposes. At the first trial, every horse must be entered in one discipline only (Dressage, Show Jumping, or Eventing). That discipline will remain fixed for all future trials and the horse cannot switch to another discipline later.

(h) **Quarantine, Vaccination & Health Protocols:** Horses shall comply with all quarantine, vaccination, testing, and health certification requirements as promulgated by the 20th Asian Games 2026 OC and FEI Veterinary Regulations, including pre-export quarantine (PEQ), import quarantine (if applicable), and OIE-compliant laboratory testing. Compliance is the responsibility of the rider/owner; EFI will facilitate where possible, subject to timelines and government protocols.

(i) **Conflict of Interest & Officials:** Any person with a conflict of interest must not influence selection, as per Appendix 3 of FEI Internal Regulations (Article 013), EFI Statutes and FEI rules.

8. Dressage – Discipline Specific Prerequisites/Technical Standards for Selection Qualifiers/ Trials in India and abroad

(a) **Dressage (Team & Individual)** Music submission: Riders must submit the completed Music Submission Form in the form/format specified by the AINAGOC for each of their Freestyle test.(Details and deadlines yet to be decided by AINAGOC and will be intimated later)

(b) ***Minimum Eligibility Requirements(MER) of FEI*** *: All participants must achieve the following qualifying result (MER) between* ***1 Jan 2025*** *and the deadline for submission of* ***Nomination Entries, which is 22 June 2026****. At that time,* ***Certificates of Capability*** *must also be submitted along with the Entries*

(i) ***For Big tour level****: In order to qualify for participation at the 2026 Asian Games, Athletes and Horses must have attained (as a combination) a result of at least* ***62%*** *attributed by the Ground Jury in a Grand Prix at two different CDI3*/CDI4*/CDI5*/CDI-W or CDIO3*/CDIO4*/CDIO5* events,* ***from 1st January 2025 until the date of nominated entries (deadline is 22 June 2026****).*

(aa) ***Athlete-Horse*** *combinations that have participated at the FEI Dressage World Cup Finals, or the Olympic Games may participate at the 2026 Asian Games at the Big tour level, provided they achieve the MERs as set out above.*

(ii) ***For Small tour level****: In order to qualify for participation at the 2026 Asian Games, Athletes and Horses must have attained (as a combination) a result of at least* ***62%*** *attributed by the Ground Jury in a Prix St. Georges and/or*

Intermediate I at two different CDI1 or CDIO1* events,* ***from 1st January 2025 until the date of nominated entries (deadline is 22 June 2026).***

(c) ***Team composition:-*** *The team must be composed of at least 1 (one) Small Tour Athlete-Horse combination and up to 2 (two) Big Tour Athlete-Horse combinations.*

(d) **Dressage – EFI- Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) as per Selection Criteria**

(i) **General Requirement.** Each rider/horse combination may compete in up to five (5) nominated qualifying competitions during the MER window which shall be CDIs/ CDIOs. To be considered for inclusion in the list of Probables, at least one (1) valid MER must be achieved within these attempts. For calculation of comparative merit and order of selection, the best three (3) MER results will be considered; where fewer than three MERs are achieved, all available MERs shall be counted.

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(ii) **Team & individual Applicability (Dressage: Asian Games 2026)**

(aa) A team shall consist of **three/four athlete–horse combinations**, including at least **one (1) Small Tour** and up to **two (2) Big Tour** combinations. If four riders are allowed by the Organising Committee/FEI, the best three scores will count.

(ab) Individual nominations shall be made **only if a team cannot be constituted**. In that case, an EFI may nominate **up to two (2) individual combinations** (either Small Tour or Big Tour) who have achieved the FEI MERs(CoC) and the EFI's MER for selection.

(ac) EFI MERs for selection of team/Individuals are as under:-

Small Tour Tests

- *Team Competition & 1st Individual Qualifier Competition:*
  - ✓ *FEI Prix St Georges:* ***66%***
- *2nd Individual Qualifier Competition:*
  - ✓ *FEI Intermediate-I:* ***69%***

- ***Individual Final Competition:***

  - ✓ ***FEI Intermediate I Freestyle:69%***

Big Tour Tests

- *Team Competition & 1st Individual Qualifier Competition:*
  - ✓ *FEI Grand Prix:* ***64%***
- *2nd Individual Qualifier Competition:*
  - ✓ *FEI Grand Prix Special:* ***69%***

- ***Individual Final Competition:***

  - ✓ ***FEI Grand Prix Freestyle: 69%***

(e) For riders based abroad, in case the competitions do not have any of these three tests, they may participate in these tests in other competitions in subsequent days to acquire MERs for the Team or Individual categories with mandatory prior intimation to EFI. For an individual / team selection, a horse-rider combination shall attempt in five trials for each Test in small or

big tour to be conducted under the aegis of the EFI in India and in FEI CDIs and CDIOs competitions to be held abroad.

(f) Each EFI MER will comprise of all three tests. A combination must achieve the laid down percentage of scores (EFI MERs above) in each of the three tests in their respective Small or Big Tour tests which would then be considered as one MER achieved.

(g) **Merit Calculation:-** Only horse-rider combinations that meet the FEI MERs(CoC) and EFI selection criteria MERs will be considered for selection. For comparative merit, the best three valid results from MER-level competitions will be taken into account. Riders will be ranked on the basis of the highest cumulative percentage scores across these three results. The comparison will first be made between those combinations who have achieved three MERs, then will come those who have achieved two MERs and lastly between those who have achieved only one MER each. EFI will publish a Provisional Merit List of six (6) probables from which the final Team India and/or Individual nominations will be confirmed.

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(hi) **Jury Composition for Selection Trials in India / Abroad (Dressage)**

Test	**Tour Level**	**Minimum Jury Requirement**	**Foreign Judge Requirement**	**Other Officials**
Prix St. Georges	Small Tour	3 FEI-empaneled Judges	At least 2 must be foreign	All other officials (TDs, Stewards etc.) must be FEI-accredited/empaneled
Intermediate I	Small Tour	3 FEI-empaneled Judges	At least 2 must be foreign	Same as above
Intermediate I Freestyle to Music	Small Tour	3 FEI-empaneled Judges	At least 2 must be foreign	Same as above
Grand Prix	Big Tour	5 FEI-empaneled Judges	Al least 3 must be foreign	Same as above
Grand Prix Special	Big Tour	5 FEI-empaneled Judges	Al least 3 must be foreign	Same as above
Grand Prix Freestyle	Big Tour	5 FEI-empaneled Judges	Al least 3 must be foreign	Same as above

Note: Tests to be confirmed

9. Jumping (Team & Individual) Discipline-Specific Prerequisites/Technical Standards for Selection Qualifiers/ Trials in India and abroad as horse-rider combinations : MERs

(a) Mandatory Selection Trial Requirement for definite Entries in 20th Asian Game 2026 as per FEI – Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER)*: Achieve the following qualifying result* ***(MER)*** *as a combination:*

(i) at one minimum CSI2 event, 1m45 Table A: 4 penalties or less, AND*

(ii) at one minimum CSI3 event, 1m50 Table A: 8 penalties or less.*

(iii) CSI1-W competitions with a height of 1.45m or 1.50m will also be accepted as competitions to achieve the qualifying results above.*

(iv) Both results need to be achieved at two (2) different events.

*(v) **Only outdoor events count for the MER achievement**.*

*(b) **The period to obtain FEI MER: 1 January 2025 — to the deadline of nominated entries, which is 22 June 2026,***

(i) when the Certificates of Capability must be submitted along with the Nomination Entries for the Individual competition at the heights of up to 1.55 m.

*(ii) There is no participation restriction for combinations that have participated at the World Championship, World Cup Final, or Olympic Games or obtained an MER for CH-M-S between **1 January 2025 and the date of nominated entries deadline (22 June 2026).***

(iii) FEI will provide support for wildcards for Jumping events

(c **EFI MER for Jumping – Riders based in India and Abroad & Trial Format**

(i) Trial Period: EFI Selection Trials will be held between **15 November 2025 and 30 June 2026**, with a maximum of five (5) nominated competitions per horse–rider combination on **CSI** competitions. A rider is allowed to participate either in format A or B for obtaining individual qualification.

(ii) Team Trial Format: 08 penalties

(aa) Conducted over **one or seven subsequent days**, with **two rounds under Table A, either on the same or other venue**

(ab) Height : up to **1.40 m for the first & 1.45 m second round**.

(iii) **Individual Trial Format A: 08 penalties**

(aa) Conducted over one or seven **subsequent days** under table A, **either on the same or other venue**

(ab) First round at **1.45 m**

(ac) Second round at **1.50 m**

(iv) Individual Trial Format B: 08 penalties

(aa) Conducted over one or seven **subsequent days** under table A, **either on the same or other venue**

(ab) First round at **1.50 m**

(ac) Second round at **1.55 m**

(v) General Conditions:

(aa) All trials will be conducted **outdoors**, with FEI-standard footing, distances, combinations and technical difficulty.

(ab) **Out of five (5)** For merit calculation, the **best three valid results** will be considered.

Note :- As per FEI/OCA rules, a rider may only compete in one Individual Category **either competition A or B**

(d) **Jury Parity (Trials in India/Abroad: Jumping)**

(i) Ground Jury: Three-member jury of FEI empanelled judges (At least two foreign FEI empanelled judges for trials in India and for trials abroad in **CSI 2* & 3*** competitions

(ii) Technical Delegate (TD) -FEI empanelled TD.

(iii) Chief Steward -FEI empanelled steward.

(iv) Course Designer -FEI empanelled CD (A foreign FEI empanelled CD for trials in India).

(v) Course Design Parity: - The FEI-level Course Designer shall have discretion to set the course in conformity with the technical standards prescribed, thereby ensuring parity between trials conducted as CSI events in India and abroad.

(vi) **Number of Riders**

(aa) **Team:** Each NF may nominate **3 or 4 riders**, with the best three counting towards team classification.

(ab) **Individual:** If no team is entered, NF may nominate **up to 2 riders**.

(ac) In the Individual Final at the Games, a maximum of **two athletes per NF** may qualify as per OCA rules

(e) Merit Calculation:- Only horse-rider combinations that meet the **FEI, MERs(CoC)** and **EFI selection criteria MERs** will be considered for selection. For comparative merit, the best three valid results from MER-level competitions will be taken into account. Riders will be ranked on the basis of the lowest cumulative penalties across these three results. EFI will publish a Provisional Merit List of six (6) probables from which the final Team India and/or Individual nominations will be confirmed.

10. Eventing (Team & Individual) for Riders based in India and Abroad.

(a) ***Mandatory Selection Trial Requirement for definite Entries in 20th Asian Game 2026 as per FEI - Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER):***

(i) All participants must achieve the qualifying result (MER) as a combination at one CCI2- L or higher between 1 Jan 2025 and the deadline for submission of Nomination Entries, which is 22 June 2026 in accordance with Art 518.1 and 521 of FEI Eventing Rules. At that time, Certificates of Capability must also be submitted along with the Entries.*

(ii) There is no participation restriction for Horses that have participated or obtained an MER at an FEI Eventing World Championship for Seniors, Olympic Games or 5 event.*

(b) **EFI - Criteria :-** EFI is committed to ensuring that India's riders have a clear and internationally aligned pathway for qualification, keeping in view the Asian Games 2026 as well as the 2026 World Championships and future Olympic Games. In accordance with this approach, Minimum *qualification at CCI3*-S is mandatory* for Asian Games eligibility. At the same time, results achieved at higher levels of competitions viz. *CCI3**-L/CCI4*-S/ CCI4*-L formats**, whether in India or abroad, will also be recognised as valid MERs under EFI Selection Criteria. This provides riders with the flexibility to compete at levels appropriate to their long-term preparation, while maintaining fair and transparent standards and not denying horse-rider combinations competing at higher levels and opportunity to be part of Asian Games. For merit consideration, the MER thresholds remain unchanged — a score of **≤45 penalties** for Team qualification and **≤37 penalties** for Individual qualification at CCIs only.

(c) **No of Attempts & Mandatory Participation**: Each horse–rider combination may compete in up to **five (5) nominated Selection Trials**. Riders may present multiple horses, but each **horse–rider combination** will be evaluated independently, and only best 3 results meeting EFI MER thresholds will be considered valid for merit calculation.

(d) **Dressage Tests for Eventing Trials**: Due to paucity of time and the limited number of competitions available to competitors based in India/ abroad, Dressage Tests 'A'/ 'B'/'C/ D' shall be accepted for the purpose of trials in India and abroad.

(e) **In case of any change in technical standards** / other protocols / schedule by the OC of Asian Games, the criteria for selection of the Indian team will be revised accordingly by the EFI and intimated to all concerned participating in the selection trials.

(f) **All the selection trials in India will be held under the following officials:-**

Jury	--	As per FEI Eventing Rule 513.2 (At least one/two foreign FEI empaneled judges for trials in India)
Technical Delegate (TD)	--	FEI empaneled TD .
Chief Steward	--	FEI empaneled steward.
Course Designer	--	Foreign FEI empaneled CD (Foreign CD for trials in India).

(g) **MER for Eventing riders based in India and Abroad :-**

(i) **Team Qualification:-** A horse-rider combination must achieve at least one (1) Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) in an FEI-recognised event as specified above. For consideration in the team category, the combination shall not have incurred more than forty-five(45) penalties in at least one (1) trial.

(ii) **Individual Qualification**:- For consideration in the individual category, a horse–rider combination shall not have incurred more than thirty seven (37) penalties in at least one (1) trial.

(iii) **Allocation Between Team and Individual Categories**:- As the Eventing team may comprise a maximum of four (4) riders, contenders for the team category shall also be considered for the individual category. However, if at least three (3) riders do not meet the team qualification standards and it is therefore not possible to constitute a team, those horse-rider combinations that have achieved the MER for the individual category shall be nominated as individual entries.

11. Regulatory Conditions for Riders Based Abroad

(a) Performance of horse-rider combinations based abroad will be critically monitored by a designated member of the EFI. A nominated member of the EFI may visit the venues and monitor the performance levels of riders, fitness of horses and adherence to veterinary protocols. The member visiting the venue will submit a written report to the Selection Committee and the Secretariat of the EFI covering technical conduct, participation, outcomes, administrative, veterinary and any other relevant aspects of the events.

(b) The undermentioned conditions will apply to riders based abroad or to those desiring to be selected on horses taken on lease / being imported from abroad, for participating in selection for the 20th Asian Games 2026 for Team/Individual competitions of all disciplines :-

(i) No additional or exclusive trials for Show Jumping, Eventing and Dressage will be organized.

(ii) Results of riders abroad will also be corroborated from the results on FEI's / OC's official authenticated website for the FEI competitions in addition to the communications received from riders.

(iii) Identity of the horse-rider combination contending for selection must be intimated at least seven (07) days prior to the date of the first horse inspection of each trial attempted by the combination, to the Secretariat of EFI by SMS / email / fax / WhatsApp and the same will put up on EFI's website for information of all concerned.

(iv) A letter of consent signed by the owner / lessor of a foreign horse to include making necessary changes in the FEI passport of the horse as warranted by the OC of Asian Games should be submitted to the EFI latest by 20th June 2026. The said letter of consent must indicate the willingness of the owner / lessor to allow the horse to participate with its Indian rider, as an Indian Team or Individual entry in the 20th Asian Games 2026. In the absence of such certificate, the entry of the horse-rider combination will be considered void.

(v) Anticipated expenses on freight from the present location of the horse to the venue of the Asian Games competition and back are to be furnished to the Secretariat of EFI as and when asked for. This information is essential for seeking budgetary support for the Indian team from Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports.

(vi) An FEI veterinarian's certificate to the effect that the horse is sound, free from infectious / contagious diseases and not having been administered any prohibited substances (as verified by a dope test) at the time of being considered towards selection, should be forwarded within two weeks of conclusion of the last trial. It will be the sole responsibility of the rider to ensure that the horse has been given the

mandatory vaccinations based on veterinary protocols required by the host country, as per laid down schedules and guidelines in vogue.

(c) Ordinarily, each Indian rider based abroad and selected to represent India for 20th Asian Games 2026 will be allowed to have one person accompanying him / her as a groom, to the venue of 20th Asian Games 2026 on Government of India expenses if the funds are allotted, this permission is subject to government approval.

(d) **Responsibility for Knowledge of Rules** It shall be the sole responsibility of the rider to remain fully informed of the veterinary, quarantine, health protocols and other eligibility requirements applicable in the respective country where the rider and horse are based.

(e) **Administrative Facilitation by EF**I The EFI will make reasonable efforts to facilitate all administrative requirements of riders based abroad through the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. However, it shall remain the rider's responsibility to remain updated on all requirements and to inform the Secretariat of the Federation well in advance in order to enable such facilitation.

12. Unified Selection Procedures for Riders in India and Abroad : 20th Asian Games 2026

(a) All riders intending to be considered for the selection trials shall submit an undertaking to the Secretariat of EFI before commencement of their first trial that they will abide by the selection criteria laid down by the EFI. A written undertaking as per **Appendix 'A'** to these instructions in this regard shall be communicated to the EFI before commencement of the first trial. In case of minors (aged between 16 and 18 years) participating in the trials, the undertaking of parents or guardians as per **Appendix 'B'** to these instructions should be communicated to the EFI before commencement of their first trial.

(b) No additional/special competition or trial will be held any time before, during or after the scheduled trials. The presence of at least one member designated by EFI is mandatory at each of the trials to be held in India.

13. Order of Merit for Probables

(a) Only the horse-rider combinations that have achieved EFI MER as per Selection Criteria laid down for the 20th Asian Games 2026 trials, will be considered for selection.

(b) Only penalties / scores attained in trials in which the horse-rider combinations have attained the best of three MERs will be considered to arrive at the order of merit. At least ONE MER should have been acquired mandatorily in the new set of trials to be held during the period from **15 Nov 2025 to 30 June 2026**. **(**refer to Selection criteria as per each discipline above)

(c) If the horse selected in a horse-rider combination becomes unsound after selection for any reason, the combination standing next in merit will take its place. The original rider may not claim the same position in the list on a different horse unless that combination happens to be next in the order of merit on the list.

(d) Amongst riders having the same number of MERs, their relative merits will be decided based on the aggregate of scores / penalties. A rider with a higher cumulative score

for Dressage or a lesser cumulative penalty for Show Jumping and Eventing, will be placed higher than the others. (ref. to Selection criteria as per each discipline above)

(e) In the event of equality of MERs and scores in Dressage or penalties in Eventing, the merit will be decided as per FEI Rules. In case of Show Jumping, it will be decided on lesser cumulative penalties. In the event of equality in the penalties, the speeds of the second round of jumping in qualifying competitions (length of course divided by time taken) in which MER have been achieved will be considered. A horse-rider combination with higher average speed will be placed higher in merit.

(f) While deciding the order of merit for Dressage and Eventing, the comparison will first be made between those combinations who have achieved three MERs, then will come those who have achieved two MERs and lastly between those who have achieved only one MER each.

(g) While deciding the order of merit for Jumping the comparison will first be made between those who have achieved three MERs at Individual Trial format and they will be placed above others. Then the combinations who have achieved three MERs at Team Trial formats will be compared and placed in the merit. Then the combinations who have achieved two MERs at Individual Trial format will be placed. Then the combinations who have achieved two MERs at Team Trial format will be placed. Then the combinations which have achieved only one MER at Individual Trial format will be placed. In the end the combinations who have achieved only one MER at Team Trial format will be placed.

(h) Based on the order of merit, a team of six riders, including reserves as set out above, will be selected for each discipline for further training under the aegis of the EFI. These riders will be trained either in India or abroad, subject to the availability of budget and such other conditions as may be determined by the EFI.

14. **Coaching Camps and Coaching.** Riders and horses selected following the trials will be required to attend coaching camp(s) at designated locations and under the coaches organized by EFI. Dates for conduct of coaching camps will be notified by the EFI to the athletes concerned as soon as the details are finalized. Riders may choose to train with their individual coaches based abroad provided there is no additional financial burden on the EFI.

15. Selection of Final Teams for 20th Asian Games 2026

(a) **Selection is Provisional.** All selected combinations in all the disciplines will be considered as 'Probables' till the EFI, in consultation with Selection Committee and coaches for each discipline, again reviews the entire selection process before submission of final entry for Asian Games. Fitness of riders and horses, suitability of horse-rider combinations, performance during coaching camps and merit ascertained from competitive exposures will be of paramount importance and will be taken into consideration for final selection of teams / individuals in order to ensure that the best are selected to win medals for the country.

(b) **Competitions during Training Period.** Horse-rider combinations selected as 'Probables' will be required to participate in competitions at venues to be decided and facilitated by the EFI to provide necessary competitive exposure, ensure maintenance of fitness, form and to enable the Selection Committee to take a call on the final order of merit, based on which, the teams for the three disciplines will be finalized.

(c) **Change of Horses.** In case a rider attains MER on different horses, only his/her top two horses shall be accepted in the list of six probable's as per merit list. A rider in the top four positions may, in consultation with the coach, be allowed to switch his / her horse on which he / she has been placed in the top five positions on two horses.

(d) **Selection of Manager & Chef d'Equipe.** Selection Committee will also select the Manager and Chef d' Equipe of the Indian Equestrian Team based on competence, experience, exposure and knowledge of rules and regulations of the sport by 31st March 2026. The nominated persons should be in a position to meet the administrative / managerial requirements of the Team. The manager is required to take on responsibilities immediately on declaration of Probables so that the riders and coaches are free to concentrate on training / competition. The manager will be attached with the team from the day of declaration of Probables to organize all administrative aspects right until the dispatch of the riders and horses to their respective destinations on completion of the 20th Asian Games 2026. The Chef d' Equipe shall be responsible for overall coordination between teams, NF and AINAGOC.

(e) **Questions not Addressed/Unforeseen Matters** Any matter that has not been addressed in these criteria that may arise at any stage will be put up to the Selection Committee for consideration. The decision taken collectively by the Selection Committee and Executive Committee will be considered final and binding.

(f) **Rights to Make Amendments to the Selection Criteria.** EFI reserves all rights to make amendments to these Selection Criteria, should it become necessary, to do so under compelling circumstances.

16. Funding & Government Approvals Participation is subject to MYAS/SAI sanction and support; in absence of Government funding, EFI may field teams/individuals based on EFI funds and/or rider contributions.

17. Communication Protocol

(a) Only the rider (or legal guardian for minors) may correspond with EFI regarding selection matters.
(b) All official communication must be via EFI's designated email/WhatsApp channels; riders must obtain acknowledgement of receipt.
(c) EFI will publish scores of trials on its official channels for transparency.

18. International Movement of Horses – Rider Obligations and EFI Disclaimer

(a) The Equestrian Federation of India (EFI) shall make all reasonable efforts to obtain approval from the AINAGOC and the relevant authorities for the international movement of horses from India for participation in selection trials and qualifying competitions. Such efforts, however, shall not be construed as a guarantee or assurance of horse movement, and EFI expressly disclaims any liability should such approvals not be granted or movement otherwise be prohibited.

(b) Competitors based in India are required to maintain alternative options for participation in qualifying competitions abroad. Where horses cannot be transported from India, it shall be the rider's sole responsibility to secure the required Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) abroad within the timelines prescribed.

(c) For the avoidance of doubt, a horse–rider combination will only be considered for selection if the prescribed MERs are achieved within the stipulated timelines, whether in India or abroad. Failure to do so shall result in automatic disqualification, and no waiver, relaxation, or exception shall be permitted under any circumstances.

(d). However, if a Horse/Rider combination has come in the merit and short listed as one of the six probables based on the results obtained in India and the horse is not allowed by AINAGOC to move to Japan ex India due to quarantine issues then giving due credibility to their performance, such riders will be given an opportunity to obtain the mandatory Certificate of Capability and at least one EFI MER on an alternative horse abroad within the laid down timelines under their own arrangements. With this one MER obtained abroad, the rider's original merit obtained on his Indian based horse will be retained.

19. Grievances and Amendments

(a) **Grievances/Disputes**. To be addressed to the EFI-designated committee; decisions of EFI shall be final and binding.

(b) **Amendments**. EFI reserves the right to amend this Selection Criteria under compelling circumstances and will notify stakeholders accordingly.

20. Mandatory Reference: FEI MER & Technical Guidelines for the 20th Asian Games Aichi–Nagoya 2026:- All riders are requested to carefully review the 20th Asian Games Aichi–Nagoya 2026 – Sport Technical Handbook **(Version 2.0**) – Equestrian for each discipline (**Dressage, Eventing, Show Jumping**) **as being updated by the OC from time to time.**

The **FEI Mandatory Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) for qualification** at the Asian Games 2026 are to be followed by 22 June 2025 **in addition to** the EFI Selection Criteria. Relevant extracts are provided below for your reference.

A. ***DRESSAGE:-***

1. ***Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER): All participants must achieve the following qualifying result (MER) between 1 Jan 2025 and the deadline for submission of Nomination Entries, which is 22 June 2026. At that time, Certificates of Capability must also be submitted along with the Entries****:*

(a) For Big tour level: *In order to qualify for participation at the 2026 Asian Games, Athletes and Horses must have attained (as a combination) a result of at least 62% attributed by the Ground Jury in a Grand Prix at two different CDI3*/CDI4*/CDI5*/CDI-W or CDIO3*/CDIO4*/CDIO5* events,* ***from 1st January 2025 until the date of nominated entries (deadline is 22 June 2026).***

(i) Athlete-Horse combinations that have participated at the FEI Dressage World Cup Finals, or the Olympic Games may participate at the 2026 Asian Games at the ***Big tour level****, provided they achieve the MERs as set out above.*

(b) For Small tour level: *In order to qualify for participation at the 2026 Asian Games, Athletes and Horses must have attained (as a combination) a result of at least 62% attributed by the Ground Jury in a Prix St. Georges and/or Intermediate I at two different CDI1* or CDIO1* events,* ***from 1st January 2025 until the date of nominated entries (deadline is 22 June 2026).***

(i) Athlete-Horse combinations that have participated at the FEI Dressage World Cup Finals, or the Olympic Games are not eligible to participate in the 2026 Asian Games at the ***Small tour level****.*

2. ***Team composition:- The team must be composed of at least 1 (one) Small Tour Athlete-Horse combination and up to 2 (two) Big Tour Athlete-Horse combinations.***

3. ***Competition overview in 20th Asian Games 2026:-*** *The team and the individual competitions will be held in a mixed format competition*

(a) Big tour tests:

i. Team Competition & 1st Individual Qualifier Competition: FEI Grand Prix
ii. 2nd Individual Qualifier Competition: FEI Grand Prix Special
iii. Individual Final Competition: FEI Grand Prix Freestyle.

(b) Small tour tests:

(i) Team Competition & 1st Individual Qualifier Competition: FEI Prix St Georges
(ii) 2nd Individual Qualifier Competition: FEI Intermediate I
(iii) Individual Final Competition: FEI Intermediate I Freestyle.

B. SHOW JUMPING :-

1. ***Mandatory Selection Trial Requirement for definite Entries in 20th Asian Game 2026 as per FEI*** *– Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER): Achieve the following qualifying result (MER) as a combination:*

- *at one minimum CSI2* event, 1m45 Table A: 4 penalties or less, AND*
- *at one minimum CSI3* event, 1m50 Table A: 8 penalties or less.*
- *CSI1*-W competitions with a height of 1.45m or 1.50m will also be accepted as competitions to achieve the qualifying results above.*
- *Both results need to be achieved at two (2) different events.*
- *Only outdoor events count for the MER achievement.*

The period to obtain MER: 1 January 2025 — to the deadline of nominated entries, which is 22 June 2026, *when the Certificates of Capability must be submitted along with the Nomination Entries for the Individual competition at the heights of up to 1.55 m.*

There is no participation restriction for combinations that have participated at the World Championship, World Cup Final, or Olympic Games or obtained an

MER for ***CH-M-S between 1 January 2025 and the date of nominated entries deadline (22 June 2026).***
FEI will provide support for wildcards for Jumping events

2. Competition Overview

Team Competition

The Team Competition will be held in only one day, over 2 rounds judged under Table A, first round not against the clock and second against the clock, both rounds up to 1.45 m high. The Jump-off will be held in case of tie.
Individual Competitions

Individual Competitions will be held in two (2) days:

- *First competition day*

First round of the Individual competition (up to 1.45 m high) First round of the Individual competition (up to 1.55 m high)

- *Second competition day*

Second round of the Individual competition (up to 1.5 m high), followed by a Jump-off, if needed, and Medal ceremony
Second round of the Individual competition (up to 1.55 m high), followed by the Jump- off, if needed, and Medal ceremony

Both individual events will be held in two rounds, both judged under Table A, against the clock.

Participation details:

The EFI/IOA must submit the Certificate of Capability (CoC) by the Nomination Entry deadline (22 June 2026) for the combinations who will participate in the Individual Competition (heights of up to 1.55 m). At the time of the Definitive Entry, the NOC must confirm the Jumping Individual Event in which the Athlete will compete. The combination only participates in the Jumping Individual Competition (heights of up to 1.55) if the CoC was submitted by the Nomination Entry deadline and confirm the participation at the Definitive Entry.
The same process is mandatory for the reserve horse if it has achieved the MER with one of the three or four athletes entered on the definite entries in case it will be substituted into the Team Competition for the athlete in question and the new athlete/horse combination would like to take part in the Jumping Individual Competition (heights of up to 1.55m).
After the Definitive Entry deadline, the combination cannot change the Jumping Individual Event that will take part.
The reserve horse cannot be listed in both Jumping Individual Events.
It should be noted that an Athlete may not participate in both Jumping Individual Events, Individual Competition (heights of 1.45-1.50 m) and Jumping Individual Competition (heights of up to 1.55 m).

***C. Eventing* :-**

1. ***Mandatory Selection Trial Requirement for definite Entries in 20th Asian Game 2026 as per FEI - Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER):***

   (a) All participants must achieve the qualifying result (MER) as a combination at one CCI2- L or higher between 1 Jan 2025 and the deadline for submission of Nomination Entries, which is 22 June 2026 in accordance with Art 518.1 and 521 of FEI Eventing Rules. At that time, Certificates of Capability must also be submitted along with the Entries.*

   (b) There is no participation restriction for Horses that have participated or obtained an MER at an FEI Eventing World Championship for Seniors, Olympic Games or 5 event.*

2. ***Competition – Overview:-** The Team and Individual Competitions will be run concurrently in a hybrid format competition over three consecutive days, following these technical specifications:*

   (a) First day: Dressage CCI3 level (the test will be decided by the end of 2025)*

   (b) Second day: Cross country: CCI2 - L level*

   (c) Third day: Jumping: CCI3 level*

Appendix A

UNDERTAKING BY RIDER (before commencement of first trial)

I, _____ (Name), FEI ID _____, hereby undertake to abide by EFI Selection Criteria for Asian Games 2026, FEI rules, AINAGOC directives, anti-doping regulations, veterinary protocols, and all instructions issued by EFI. I confirm the accuracy of documents submitted and accept that selection is provisional until ratified

Signature: _____ Date: ____ Place: ____

Appendix B

UNDERTAKING BY PARENT/ GUARDIAN (FOR RIDERS AGED below 18 yrs)

I, _____ (Name), parent/guardian of _____ (Rider), consent to the Rider's participation in trials/selection. I undertake responsibility for compliance with EFI Selection Criteria, FEI/AINAGOC rules, anti-doping, and veterinary protocols.

Signature: _____ Date: ____

Appendix C

OWNER / LESSOR CONSENT FOR HORSE

I, _____ (Owner/Lessor), consent to the horse _____ (Name, FEI ID _____) being competed by _____ (Rider) as part of the Indian contingent, and to passport/ownership updates as required by OC/FEI.

Signature: _____ Date: ___

Appendix D

RIDERS BASED ABROAD – NOMINATION OF EVENTS (UP TO 5 yrs)

Rider: _____ FEI ID: _____ Discipline: _____ Horse(s): _____
Nominated Events – Event Name / Venue / Level / Dates / Vet Inspection Date:

1) _____ 2) _____
3) _____ 4) _____
5) _____ 6) _____

Signature: _____ Date: ___

Appendix E

RESULTS REPORTING TEMPLATE (WITHIN 48 HOURS)

Event: _____ Venue: _____ Level: _____ Dates: _____
Horse: _____ Rider: _____ Result (Dressage % / Jumping penalties / Eventing final penalties): _____
MER Achieved (Yes/No): _____ Link to Official Results: _____ Notes: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ___

Appendix F

VETERINARY & MEDICATION DECLARATION

Veterinary certificate of soundness and freedom from infectious/contagious disease attached. Doping/medication control compliance affirmed. Vaccination records (incl. Equine Influenza) attached. Vet Name/FEI ID: _____

Signature: _____ Date: ____

Appendix G

EFI CONSENT & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

EFI Secretariat Email: _____ WhatsApp: _____ Postal Address: _____
Rider acknowledges receipt of this document and agrees to timelines and protocols.

Signature: _____ Date: ____

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