



S A Showjumping ("Selection Policy")



FEI JUMPING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2026

AACHEN (GER) 18 – 23 AUGUST 2026

1. OVERVIEW

This document sets out the selection policy, process, and timeline to be followed by SA Showjumping in order to fairly and transparently select athletes and horses capable of achieving the best possible results in both team and individual competitions at the FEI Jumping World Championships 2026.

2. DEFINITIONS

Athlete	Refers to the rider; however, it may also indicate the combination of horse and rider or either the horse or rider individually, as context requires.
SASJ	South Africa Show Jumping.
SASJ Squad	Athletes and horses selected to remain under consideration for the SASJ Team.
SASJ Team	The team will consist of up to four (4) combinations (with a minimum of three [3]). Note that athletes and horses are not required to qualify solely as a combination.
SASJ Individual Athlete	Up to two (2) individual combinations may be selected. Note that athletes and horses are not required to qualify solely as a combination.
SAEF	South African Equestrian Federation.
SASCOC	Refers to the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee.
FEI	Fédération Équestre Internationale.
Mandatory Event	An event in which athletes and horses MUST compete to remain eligible for selection.
MER	FEI Minimum Eligibility Requirement.
Nominated Event	An event where Selectors will evaluate the performance of athletes and horses on the SASJ Squad long list. Any event occurring between 1 January 2025 and 2026, which is listed by the FEI as a qualifying event for the FEI Jumping World Championships 2026, will be deemed a nominated event.

WADA

World Anti-Doping Agency

Selectors

The appointed individuals responsible for evaluating and selecting the candidates.

3. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the Selectors is to choose riders who are worthy representatives of South Africa and who will strive to win the competition. This must be achieved while ensuring that, at all material times, athletes conduct themselves with propriety, dignity, and fair play, in strict conformity with the code of welfare for their horse, and by fostering a positive team environment.

4. ELEGIBILITY AND COMPLIANCE

Any athlete wishing to be considered for selection must meet, at a minimum, the following requirements:

- Be a registered member in good standing with both SASJ and SAEF.
- Be a citizen of the Republic of South Africa and hold a valid RSA passport.
- Be eligible to compete for South Africa under FEI General Regulations (Article 119).
- Not having any criminal convictions or pending charges of criminal wrongdoing.
- Not having any formal disciplinary action pending at the time of selection or during any material period of the Selection Process.
- Submit a duly completed Expression of Interest (EOI) form for the event along with the relevant horse(s).
- Acknowledge that selection is based on the combination of horse and rider.
- Possess the appropriate qualifications for both horse and athlete.
- Meet the age requirements for the 2026 FEI Jumping World Championships.
- Be in approved medical and veterinary condition.
- Have signed all mandatory agreements as determined by SASJ.
- Be available to attend any required clinics, gatherings, presentations, or functions.

5. SELECTION COMMITTEE

- Appointment: The Selection Committee is chosen by the SASJ Executive.
- Requirements: Members must be of high repute with the requisite knowledge and experience, be unbiased, and exercise their responsibilities independently and transparently.
- Composition: The committee will consist of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) Selectors, plus a convenor. All members must be available to discuss the selection process as needed.

The selection committee will be made up of the following members:

- Lisa Williams - Chairperson of the Selection Committee & Selector
- Barry Taylor - Selector
- Gonda Betrix - Selector
- Kate Launder - Convenor

In the event of a conflict involving coaches of riders submitting EOIs, alternate Selectors who have competed at the highest-level representing RSA will replace the conflicted Selector.

- Dominey Alexander
- Jonathan Clarke
- Bruce Dewar

6. GENERAL SELECTION PROCESS PRE-CONDITIONS

Throughout the Selection Process, all athletes must:

- Be able and willing to undertake any training and competition programs recommended by the Selectors after consultation, unless a written exemption is granted by SASJ following a timely request.
- Make their horse(s) available for examination at a reasonable time and location as requested by the Selectors or the Team Veterinarian and accept and implement any reasonable recommendations.
- Provide SASJ with accurate and up-to-date information when requested.
- Comply with any additional preconditions communicated in writing by SASJ prior to or at the time of selection.
- Notify SASJ promptly if the athlete or horse suffers any physical or mental impairment that may prevent them from competing at the 2026 Championships at the highest possible standard.
- Confirm that they have obtained the necessary permission from the owner(s) of any horse under consideration. The selection relationship is solely between SASJ and the athlete; SASJ will not communicate directly with horse owner(s).

7. SELECTORS EVALUATION PROCESS

Selectors will evaluate athletes and horses based on the following (with discretion to emphasize one or more factors):

- Primary consideration will be given to performances at CSI 4*/5* or CSI-W events (1.50m and higher) and other high-level events from 1 January 2025 onwards.
- Greater emphasis may be placed on results from nominated and mandatory events at the highest level.
- Head-to-head performance results will be considered, but they will not automatically rank one athlete above another during the selection process.
- The ability and experience of the Athlete or Horse to compete successfully at high-level international competition. Consideration will be given to:
 - Ability to perform under the stress and pressure of a World Championship.
 - Capacity to prepare the horse to peak condition for a major campaign.
 - Contribution to an effective team environment.
 - Consistency of performance and overall form.
- Each Selector will compile a merit-based list. Any Selector with a personal conflict (e.g., familial or coaching relationships) must recuse themselves from related

discussions and votes. The convenor will have the final decision in cases of uncertainty.

- All meetings, discussions, and decisions will be documented, with the convenor present at every meeting. In the event of a deadlock, the convenor's casting vote will determine the outcome. The final list will be submitted to the President of SASJ for ratification before the SASJ Team is announced.
 - Selectors are mandated to always choose, in their unbiased opinion, the best team for the competition with the object of winning.
- The selection process is a confidential process. Selectors must not discuss the process or decisions with any persons outside the Selection Committee. All discussions, communications, minutes of meetings, documents, decisions and other information exchanged by or produced by any of the Selectors during the course of the selection process will remain confidential and will not be disclosed to any third party, including but not limited to athletes and owners.

The selection committee's decision will be final and binding and not subject to appeal.

8. SELECTION POLICY

To be eligible for selection to compete at the 2026 FEI Jumping World Championships, athletes must:

- In the previous 24 months, have not used, administered, or allowed the administration of any substance that would constitute a positive drug violation under SAIDS and/or WADA regulations.
- Demonstrate that they are not suffering from any physical or mental impairment that would prevent them from competing at the World Championship to the highest possible standard.
- Conduct themselves in a manner that does not bring themselves, the discipline of show jumping, SA Showjumping, SAEF, SASCOC, or South Africa into public disrepute from the beginning of 2025 onward.
- Understand that selection is based on merit and that team positions are a privilege, not a right.
- Accept that while performance at stipulated selection shows is a major criterion, the final decision will also depend on the experience and judgment of the Selectors.
- Exhibit sportsmanship, consistency, and team player potential.
- Make an irrevocable commitment to be available for the competition.
- Acknowledge that decisions made by the Selectors are final and subject only to ratification by the SASJ Executive.
- Accept that Selectors reserve the right to amend or change selection policies as necessary, provided such changes are approved by the SASJ Executive Committee and communicated to all relevant parties.

- Understand that the Chef d'Equipe is responsible for the final selection of the South African Team for the Championships.
- Comply with all SASJ, SAEF, SASCOC, and FEI regulations applicable to the 2026 FEI Jumping World Championships.

9. TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL SELECTION CRITERIA

The following criteria apply to the selection of the SASJ Team:

- A team consists of a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) Athletes and up to ten (10) horses.
- Selection will be conducted per the rules of the FEI Jumping Championships.
- A team of one (1) or (2) individual athletes, each with up to two horses, may be sent instead of a team.
- The 5th Athlete and their horses, as well as horses of team members or individual riders not competing in the Championship competitions, may participate in the non-Championship competitions.
- The selectors reserve the right to determine whether additional athletes and/or horses will be selected and whether South Africa will compete as a team or with individual riders.
- Achieve FEI Qualification by meeting the Minimum Eligibility Requirements for a World Championship pursuant to ANNEX VII of the Rules for Jumping Championships.
- Annex A = Annex VIII Qualification Procedure for Jumping World Championships 2026.
- Annex B = FEI Jumping World Championships 2026 Eligibility Criteria.

Both of which are attached.

In the event of any contradictions between this Selection Policy and any other applicable policy referenced above, the selectors shall determine which policy prevails.

10. TIMELINE

The Selection Process will follow a reducing-participation format as outlined below:

- 2026 FEI World Jumping Championship qualifying period: 1 January 2025 until the closing date of nominated entries.
- Deadline for submission of signed Expression of Interest forms: 30 April 2025
- SASJ Squad long list announced: 31 October 2025
- Confirmation that the horse is in Europe/UK: 1 January 2026
- SASJ Squad short list announced: 30 April 2026
- The final announcement of the selected team or individuals: 31 July 2026
- Deadline for submission of signed SASJ Athlete Agreements: 4 August 2026

11. SASJ SQUAD LONG LIST

Eligible athletes and horses must meet the following criteria by the specified deadline to be considered for the SASJ Squad Long List (up to 15 athletes/horses):

- Athletes and Horses must have met the FEI eligibility criteria set forth for the FEI Jumping World Championship 2026 for Seniors. <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/jumping/main-events/world-seniors-2026>
- If more than 15 athlete/horses meet these requirements, the Selectors will use their discretion to select the 15 most appropriate candidates.
- The SASJ Squad Long List will be announced by 31 October 2025.

12. SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT/LATE ADDITION OF ATHLETES OR HORSES

If, after selection of the SASJ Squad, Team, or Individual positions:

- In the opinion of the selectors (in consultation with the Team Vet) there has been a loss of form or fitness by an athlete or horse, and the loss of form is assessed as being likely to be sustained and affect performance at the FEI Jumping World Championships; or
- In the opinion of the Selectors (in consultation with the Team Veterinarian), there is a sustained loss of form or fitness by an athlete or horse that may affect performance at the Championships; or An Athlete contravenes the Athlete Agreement, FEI Veterinary Regulations, SASJ Rules and Regulations, Policies or Constitution.
- That Athlete or Horse may be replaced by another Athlete or Horse selected in terms of the SASJ Selection Process.
- Additional candidates may be added if:
- The candidate has submitted an Expression of Interest form by the closing date and signed the Athlete Agreement by the specified deadline.
- The Selectors may initially consider candidates listed on the relevant Long or Short Lists, but may also, at their discretion, consider candidates not previously listed provided all documentation was submitted by the deadline.

13. EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES

In cases of injury, illness, or other unforeseen circumstances, the Selectors may, at their discretion, modify selection criteria to uphold the objectives of this policy.

14. CODE OF CONDUCT

- When selecting the team, the Selectors will consider not only performance statistics but also the athlete's willingness to:
- Contribute to the development and reputation of the SASJ Team.
- Comply with SASJ, SAEF, FEI, and WADA regulations, including those governing doping and veterinary medication.
- Follow the SASJ social media policy.
- Participate in training sessions, provide feedback, and engage in effective communication to maximize both individual and team potential.

15. CONFIDENTIALITY

To safeguard the integrity of the Selection Policy and the interests of all parties (including riders, owners, Selectors, and officials), all information that may impact selection must remain strictly confidential.

16. COMMUNICATION

This Selection Policy will be published on the SASJ website and is available from the SASJ National Office. All matters relating to SASJ Team selection should be directed to the convenor of the Selectors.