

**PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF  
VAULTING RULES 2023**

24 October 2023

Dear National Federations,

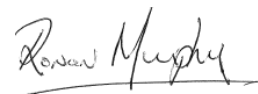
Please find below a summary of the proposed changes to the Vaulting Rules together with the corresponding explanations, the comments received as well as the reasoning for accepting or not accepting each proposal.

In the following document you will find 2 sections as follows:

- A.** [Proposed Rules changes to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023;](#)  
and
- B.** [Proposed Rules changes that have been rejected or deferred to a future Rules revision.](#)

Sincerely,

SIGNATURE



Ronan Murphy,  
Vaulting Director

**A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023**

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
European Equestrian Federation (EEF) FRA NF GER NF SUI NF AUT NF
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
Article 702 ELIGIBILITY 2. Starting possibilities 2.1
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
To allow for a horse friendly familiarization with the context of international competitions, Individuals should have the possibility to start in two Competitions of different levels at an Event (without restrictions). This would, for example, allow a vaulter to start in the 1* Competition with a new Horse, showing less demanding programs, and with their experienced Horse in the 3* competition (similar to other disciplines).
<u>Proposed wording:</u>
2.1. Vaulters may start in up to two Individual Competitions at an Event. When they start in a 1* competition and earn the qualifying score to start in the 2* competition, they can compete with the same Horse in both. In all other cases, they need to compete with two different Horses, to be entitled to start in two competitions. 2.2. ... Comments from AUT: We are against this proposal for the following reasons: 1. 1* is the beginner level and they should have the possibility to compete against vaulter’s of their level. Even with a new horse a 3* vaulter is able to show his skills. We do not need 3* vaulter winning in 1* competitions. 1* should motivate our beginners to continue with that sport. Competing against 3* is not motivational 2. Secondly it will increase the number of starter’s in the categories which are already with the highest number and longest hours to judge, this will be un-manageable in a CVI. 3. There is still the possibility to go with a new horse in a 3* competition, just with an easier routine. There would be other ways to support welfare of the horse like having a vaulting horse competition without vaulter or with vaulter which will not be judged, to check on vaultability and correct education, this would be more beneficial and give an even chance for everybody
<b>Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023</b>
Vaulters may <del>only start once</del> <u>start twice</u> in any Individual Competition at an Event <u>across all star levels, and each start must be with a different Horse. To regulate the number of entries, Organisers can limit the number of starts of Individual Athletes to one instead of two, this must be mentioned in the FEI approved schedule., with the following exception: When vaulters compete in a 1* competition and earn the qualifying score to compete in the 2* competition, this is allowed.</u>
<b>Comments Received by 16 August 2023</b>
HUN Comments: we are against this proposal, we agree with the AUT NF in all three of their comments. 1* is a beginner level to enter the international competitions, and allowing 3* vaulters would undermine this benefit of this category. Even on a newer horse, 3* vaulters are able to do things most 1* vaulters are not, this would make them lose their motivation, therefore decrease the number of vaulters even further. Having a separate, probably non-competitive category for new horses could be an option to solve this problem, however, as the AUT NF mentioned, this also means longer judging hours.

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ITA Comments: we agree with the proposal to start with a new/inexpert horse in CVI 1\* competition with a 3\* vaulter, but this horse must only participate in this level competition and not in any other level competition.

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NED Comments: we agree with AUT. In order to not discourage 1\* vaulters we advise the FEI to exclude vaulters qualified for 3\* competition from the 1\* competition.

Proposed wording from NED NF:

*"1\* and 2\* Vaulters may start twice in any Individual Competition at an Event across all star levels, and each start must be with a different Horse. 3\* Vaulters may start twice in any Individual Competition at 2\* and 3\* level and each start must be with a different Horse. To regulate the number of entries Organisers can limit the number of starts of individual Athletes to one instead of two. This must be mentioned in the FEI approved schedule."*

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USA Comments: the USA is in favor of allowing a Vaulter to compete at the Individual event twice, but they must start in the same level of competition with a different horse. This will allow for a fair playing field for Vaulters, especially at the 1\* and 2\* levels. The USA points to AUT's first comment point.

Proposed wording from USA NF:

*"Vaulters may only start onctwice in any Individual Competition at an Event across all star Levels at the same star level, and each start must be with a different Horse. To regulate the number of entries, Organisers can limit the number of starts of Individual Athletes to one instead of two, this must be mentioned in the FEI approved schedule., with the following exception: When vaulters compete in a 1\* competition and earn the qualifying score to compete in the 2\* competition, this is allowed."*

### FEI Feedback

The VTC thanked the NFs who sent their comments. Based on the comments received, the VTC had rewritten the proposed wording to remove the participation of 3\* Vaulters in 1\* for the reasons mentioned in the comments above and that 1\* Vaulters can compete one more time to facilitate the qualification to 2\*.

### Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

1\* and 2\* Vaulters may ~~only~~ start ~~onctwice~~ in any Individual Competition at 1\* and 2\*an Event and each start must be with a different Horse. 3\* Vaulters may start twice in any Individual Competition at 2\* and 3\* level and each start must be with a different Horse. When ~~v~~Vaulters compete in a 1\* competition and earn the qualifying score to compete in the 2\* competition, Vaulters can compete one more time on the same Horse in the 2\*. 1\* Vaulters can compete up to three times in total if they competed twice in the 1\* event on two different Horses to earn a qualification score for 2\*. To regulate the number of entries, Organisers can limit the number of starts of Individual Athletes to one instead of two, this must be mentioned in the FEI approved schedule., with the following exception: ~~When vaulters compete in a 1\* competition and earn the qualifying score to compete in the 2\* competition, this is allowed.~~

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
703.1 – Qualification for FEI Championships
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<b>Urgent repairs; i.e., changes in the rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes</b>
<p>The VTC has taken into consideration the feedback from the Forum and survey and proposes new qualification criteria for Squad members and Horses to compete at FEI Championships. These changes aim to address concerns raised regarding safety and horse welfare. It is important to ensure that all participants meet the new criteria to ensure fair competition and the well-being involved. The VTC went through and discussed each letter sent by several stakeholders and have adapted the qualification criteria. The qualification criteria for the 2024 Championships are published <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023</b>
<p>National Federations will be responsible for ensuring that their Individual <a href="#">Vaulters</a>, Pas-de-Deux Vaulters, <a href="#">Squad Vaulters and Horses</a> meet the qualification requirements as laid down below. Certificates of Capability, providing proof of qualification results must be sent by each NF to reach the FEI no later than the closing date for Nominated Entries.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 16 August 2023</b>
<p><u>DEN Comments</u>: we strongly support the implementation of qualification criteria for horses and squads.</p> <p>***</p> <p><u>HUN Comments</u>: we partially support this change. The principals are very good, but at some points we feel the qualification scores very high:</p> <p>- 1x compulsory score of 6,5 per vaulter at CVICH2*/CVIJ2*/CVIY2*/CVI2* CVI3*/CVI4* or at any FEI Championships in Squad or Individual – for younger vaulters, even for some juniors this may be very hard to reach in compulsories.</p> <p>***</p> <p><u>ITA Comments</u>: we agree with the FEI proposed wording.</p> <p>***</p> <p><u>USA Comments</u>: The USA is in support of the proposed new qualification requirements for Squad Vaulters and Horses.</p>
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
<p>The VTC thanked the NFs who sent their comments and support. In response from the comment sent by HUN, the VTC is of the opinion that with the three different ways to qualify Squad members, through Squad competition, through Individual competition and upon request through <a href="#">video Judging</a>, that NFs could find a way to qualify their Athletes to compete at FEI Championships if they had the necessary level.</p>
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023</b>
<p>Wording remains as in proposal above.</p>

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

European Equestrian Federation (EEF)  
 FRA NF  
 Italian Equestrian Federation  
 IVOC  
 SUI NF  
 AUT NF

**Article Number – Article Name**

Article 714 SALUTE  
 5.

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

In order to release the tension as soon as possible, respectively to avoid keeping it up longer than necessary, and to display the relationship between Horse, Lunger and Vaulters, it should be allowed to unfasten the side reins as soon as the program is finished.

More guidance regarding the exact process would be added in the Vaulting Guidelines.

Proposed wording:

5. Once the Horse comes to a halt after the final dismount, the side reins may be unfastened. At the latest, the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle, and failure to do so will entail a Warning from the Steward.

Comments from AUT: As far as I know we already have that in the rules, there is nothing to accept here

GER Comments:

Clarification:

Addition in item 4 to clarify the Run-In and first salute.

Horse Welfare and Clarification:

Additional item 5 to clarify the second salute and the Run-Out in the interest of the Horse so that the lunger can decide what is best for the Horse in question.

We should use positive images and make it possible that we show Vaulting Horses exiting the arena that are relaxed.

Proposed wording from GER NF:

1. In all tests each Vaulters and Lunger must salute the Judge at A as a matter of courtesy before and after the test and in accordance with the FEI General Regulations.

2. Elimination for failure to salute is at the discretion of the Judge at A.

3. The Judge at A, shall acknowledge the salutes.

4. **The Run-In of the Horse and Lunger in trot goes directly to the centre of the arena with stopping in the middle of it in direct line of sight of the Judge at A, followed by the salute.**

While entry, exit and the formation of the salute are left to the discretion of the Vaulters they must be dignified and in keeping with International Competition standard.

5. **After the last dismount the horse should be brought to halt in a controlled manner. Thereafter the lunger approaches the horse whilst taking in the lunge line, then the side reins may be unfastened immediately and either be attached to the vaulting surcingle or**

be put safely over the withers. The horse does not have to line-up in the center of the circle. The Lunger, whilst standing beside the horse gives a salute in the direction of the judge at A. The horse may be led out of the competition arena via the exit at the walk. However, if the side reins stay buckled at the bit, a horse can also leave the circle in the direction of the exit immediately after the salute from the halting point in walk or trot. The final salute of the vaulters takes place from the middle of the circle either at the same time with the lunger or during the horse is leaving the arena or after the horse has left the arena.

~~5. 6. Immediately after salute, before exiting the competition circle, the side reins may be unfastened.~~ At the latest, the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle, and failure to do so will entail a Warning from the Steward.

~~6.7.~~ Immediately after ringing the bell for the signal to enter the arena, the Judge at A should stand up to wait for the salute, so that the Athletes can see that the signal was

NED:

Article 714.5 Immediately after salute, before exiting the competition circle, the side reins may be unfastened. At the latest, the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle, and failure to do so will entail a Warning from the Steward.

Criterion 1 - welfare of the Horses Considering the welfare of the horse we recommend to have the side reins unfastened immediately after salute.

Proposed wording:

Article 714.5 Immediately after salute, before exiting the competition circle, the side reins must be unfastened. Failure to do so will entail a Warning from the Steward.

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

~~Immediately after salute, before exiting the competition circle~~ Once the Horse comes to a halt after the final dismount, the side reins may be unfastened. At the latest, the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle, and failure to do so will entail a Warning from the Steward. The Vaulters and, the Lunger, together with the Horse, must Salute the Judge at A from the centre of the Competition circle.

**Comments Received by 16 August 2023**

AUT Comments:

Proposal Point 4: Agree to proposal for point 4, since it clarifies what the expectation.

Proposal Point 5: We agree that we have to add a clarification on what is the expected behavior after the last dismount. We do not agree with the proposal that the Salute is now places anywhere on the circle, even worse for a squad competition. The experience of this year has indicated that the way it was done in Flyinge was the best version. In respect of media, it is not against the welfare of the horse to come to the middle and then after the Salute unfasten the side reins if wanted.

We agree with the VTC to keep the rules to come back to the center and after salute unfasten the side reins. We nevertheless propose to add text to clarify this.

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DEN Comments: we really like the new rule about final salute for horses, where the side reins can be taken off. We have no opinion on whether the horse needs to return to the

center of the circle, but we think that the vaulters should salute judge at A from the center of the circle. This has looked nice all season regardless of where the horse was.

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HUN Comments: many have already done it so, before they were warned to unfasten the side reins only after the salute. We support allowing to do it after the last dismount, but there is a need for clear instructions when exactly the lungers are allowed to and required to do it (this wording seems clear to us).

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ITA Comments: We support and prefer this solution - which makes it clear and easy for everyone, judges included. Horse with or without unfastened side reins.

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USA Comments: the USA suggests a rewording of the current proposed rule for the Salute. The USA feels that it provides for clarity and order to the Salute and allows for the Horse to be given an opportunity to relax soon after the performance.

Proposed wording from the USA:

*"The Vaulters and the Lunger together with the Horse must salute the Judge at A from the centre of the competition circle. Immediately after salute, before exiting the competition circle, the side reins may be unfastened. At the latest, the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle, and failure to do so will entail a Warning from the Steward."*

### FEI Feedback

The VTC thanked the NFs who sent their comments. Based on the comments received, the VTC has adjusted the proposed wording to clarify the flow, that first the unit must stop in the center line, either Salute the Judge at A or remove the side reins first and then Salute the Judge at A.

### Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

~~Immediately after salute, before exiting the competition circle~~ The Vaulters and, the Lunger, together with the Horse, must Salute the Judge at A from the centre of the Competition circle. comes to a halt after the final dismount, ~~the side reins may be unfastened before the Final Salute from the centre of the Competition circle; or At~~ at the latest, the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle, and failure to do so will entail a Warning from the Steward.

### Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)

European Equestrian Federation (EEF)  
 FRA NF  
 IVOC  
 SUI NF  
 GER NF

### Article Number – Article Name

Article 716 TIMING / BELL  
 2.

### Explanation for Proposed Change

EEF/FRA/IVOC/SUI:

Horse welfare

To allow for a thorough monitoring of the Horses and an appropriate amount of time for them to familiarize with/adapt to the competition arena:

- the Horses shall be checked before entering the competition Circle (communication to be defined along the lines of Article 722.5. – see below)
- the time allocated before the first Vaulters touches the handles shall be extended.

The Vaulting Guidelines will specify in which way this time can be used (use of circle line, paces, possibility to change length of side reins, impact on scoring for potential deviations such as leading the Horse to/on the circle, etc...).

GER:

Modification in item 2:

For Horse Welfare; to make sure that the lunger can work the horse more individually in a way that is appropriate for the horse in question with a free choice of in which gates the lunger would do that.

Modification in item 2.1: Clarification

Modification in item 2.2 and 3.1: Horse Welfare and Clarification

Such a countdown will give everybody more than enough time. Good to plan for OCs and a fair way to ensure that everybody is treated equally before the performance begins. And there would not be any elimination needed anymore. The timing of the test would just start. Thus, the competitors could give their horses more time, if needed, but would still have chance, not to be forced to act nervously because of a possible elimination.

Modification in item 5.2: Clarification

Proposed wording:

Comments from EEF/FRA/IVOC/SUI:

1. Following the Salute, the Horse can be worked on the Circle in walk, trot and canter for a maximum of 1 minute. If the performance has not started after 1 minute, the Judge at A rings the bell to give the signal to begin: the first Vaulters must approach the Horse immediately and the first exercise must be commenced. In exceptional situations, the Judge at A can decide to extend the time before ringing the bell.

Comments from GER:

1. Within 30 seconds after the signal (bell) is given to enter the arena, the Vaulters(s) and the Lunger must salute.

2. Immediately after the first salute, the permission to start is being given by the Judge at A with ringing the bell. With that signal, a 90 seconds countdown starts. Before beginning the performance, the lunger is free of choice in what gaits the horse is to be exercised on the circle in that time frame.

2. 1. If the competitor is unable to see the countdown clock, the judge at A will provide suitable information for the competitor.



2. 2. The Judge at A may ask the lunger at any time, if it might become necessary, to show at least one round in trot (the 90 seconds countdown may be stopped and should be started from where it stopped after the judge's assessment).

3.

3.1. The time allowed for the Test begins at the moment the first Vaulters touches the surcingle, the pad or the Horse or when the 90 seconds countdown is over. The time allowed for the Test ends with the time limit. The judging ends when the last vaulter touches the ground after the final dismount.

3.2. Only exercises (static or dynamic exercises or dismounts) already in progress when at the time limit may be finished and will be included in the evaluation for Technique and Artistic Scores. Only exception is the Artistic Score in Technical Test, see guidelines.

3.3. All following exercises and dismounts starting after the time limit will be considered in the Performance Score, including deductions for falls, but not in the Degree of Difficulty and Artistic Score. Only exception is Artistic Score in Technical Test, see guidelines.

4. The time allowed for each test is listed in Chapter VIII to X.

5. A bell is used by the Judge at A to signal the Athletes. It is used on the following occasions:

5.1. to give the signal to enter the arena;

5.2. to give the signal to start the 90 seconds Countdown. If in the Compulsory Test more than one Individual Vaulters is starting on the same Horse, the next Vaulters begins their Test immediately after the Vault-Off of the previous Vaulters without waiting for a signal;

5.3. to interrupt the Test to solve any issue with the music (music not starting,

#### Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023

5.2 to give the signal to start the Test. If in the Compulsory Test more than one Individual Vaulters is starting on the same Horse, the next Vaulters begins their Test ~~immediately~~ after the Vault-Off of the previous Vaulters without waiting for a signal;

#### Comments Received by 16 August 2023

##### AUT Comments:

We agree with the VTC to NOT add this proposal to the rules 2024 before thorough considerations. There are too many open and undiscussed questions within this proposal, as example:

- Horse shall be checked before the competition: this was already done in Flyinge and caused a lot of distress and irritation on everybody, A clear guidance and through understanding of its impacts need to be discussed.
- Allocate more time – we can see in each competition that already more time is allocated by judge A to give the horse a change to adjust but we can also see that we have reached max to run competitions on a day or weekend. This would add to the used time. We have already had issues that classes are starting at 22:00pm and that judges are judging over 10 hours a day!
- Countdown – We are and will be against a countdown for a lot of reasons. First so far, we have nearly no occasions where we disqualify a vaulter because he/she has taken more time. It is to the discretion of judge A to give more time and we do so in accordance to the well fare of the horse and to give them a chance to calm down their horse in a reasonable timeframe – so no issue to fix.

Secondly a judge would need to stop the countdown if the horse needs to pee or poo! How do I know when that process starts? A freestyle is composed to the second, if the judge is stopping too late, you are impacting maybe even who wins at a Championship, the impact would be one full point off! There is more subjectiveness in a countdown than you think. The time has to start when the vaulter touches the grip, that cannot be touched, that gives everybody the same chance.

Overall, we do not see any problems currently which would need a resolution – More time is already given and if a horse is taken out then because it has become too dangerous.

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HUN Comments: We agree with this proposal, but there should be a clear and transparent protocol on how it is done and what is required, which should be very clear to vaulters and lungers (there have been some confusions on this topic before)

We also agree with the proposal of Germany to extend the time before starting the test, however, this may cause issues to organizers, as it makes the calculation with times harder. Depending on whether lungers use the 90 seconds or not, at 30 competitors this can already cause more than 30 minutes difference in the time of the end of the competition. We support the proposal, but practical solutions on this topic should also be developed.

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ITA Comments:

We do not agree with the following point proposed by the GER NF which makes it unclear of the intention. In this way it means that the lungeur has more time before the start, but still has to do a round at trot:

*"2. 2. The Judge at A may ask the lungeur at any time, if it might become necessary, to show at least one round in trot (the 90 seconds countdown may be stopped and should be started from where it stopped after the judge's assessment)."*

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USA Comments:

The USA agrees and supports the VTC's proposal that this change be tested before it is reviewed again. The USA believes that it is very important to investigate, in the interest of horse welfare, vaulter safety, and the overall positive presentation of the sport. A similar practice has been utilized at the National level in the USA and has seen positive benefits. The USA does support changing the 5.2 in removing the word immediately.

### **FEI Feedback**

The VTC thanked the NFs who sent their comments.

As previously mentioned in June, the VTC agreed that the above proposals and comments should be discussed further as more consideration of the technical impact of any change is required. The VTC understands that the German NF is testing their proposal at National Level and the VTC is looking forward to receiving feedback from the German NF after their testing phase.

The VTC would like to emphasise that the criteria of A3 in the Guidelines for the Horse score would be reviewed for 2024. The VTC is in favour of removing the word “immediately” as it is not necessary here.

**Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023**

Wording remains as in proposal above.

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

FEI

**Article Number – Article Name**

719 - Equipment

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

**Urgent repairs; i.e., changes in the rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes**

With the release of the FEI TackApp and FEI Tack, Equipment and Dress database, the following proposed wording will be added to article 719.1 of the FEI Vaulting rules.

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

Please also refer to the FEI Tack, Equipment and Dress Database or the FEI TackApp.

**Comments Received by 16 August 2023**

No comments were received.

**FEI Feedback**

N/A

**Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023**

Wording remains as in proposal above.

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

FEI

**Article Number – Article Name**

719.2.5 – Two side reins

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

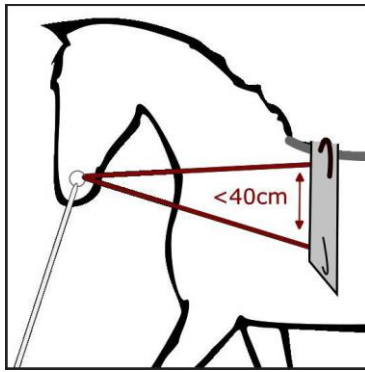
**Urgent repairs; i.e., changes in the rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes**

Based on the interim report of the “side reins study” conducted by the IFCE (Institut français du cheval et de l’équitation) in partnership with the FFE (Fédération Française d’Equitation) and the FEI, the VTC would like to allow draw reins in competition only as described in the below proposed wording.

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

Either ~~Two side reins.~~ (Standing reins or auxiliary reins are not permitted) or ~~Draw reins,~~ are permitted. Draw reins are attached from the surcingle through the bit rings back to the surcingle on the same side. The distance between the two attached points (top and bottom) on each side of the surcingle must not be greater than 40 centimeters. (Standing reins or auxiliary reins are not permitted).

\* pictogram of allowed draw reins:



## Comments Received by 16 August 2023

DEN Comments: we look forward to seeing how the new side reins option will work in competition.

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ITA Comments: we fully agree with the proposed wording.

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USA Comments: the USA supports this proposal to allow draw reins but would like a definition of the materials the draw reins are made of to be included. The USA does strongly encourage further analysis and ways to improve the horsemanship involved in the sport.

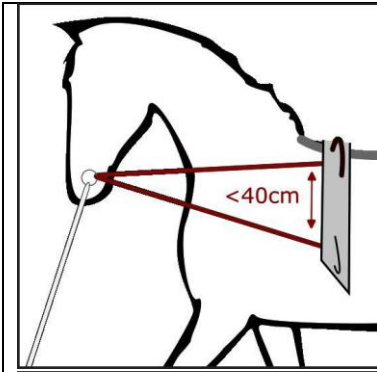
## FEI Feedback

The VTC thanked the NFs for their comments and support. The VTC has ~~s~~ slightly adapted the proposed wording to include that draw reins must be adjustable as per manufacture and any homemade modification on the adjustments of the draw reins were not permitted. The VTC would like to emphasise that, if approved, the new rules on draw reins ~~would~~ will be monitored in close collaboration with FEI Stewards. The final report ~~one~~ of the "side reins study" will be available and published before the end of the year 2024 and some more actions might be proposed for future rules revision.

## Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023

Either ~~two~~ side reins, or Draw reins, are permitted. Draw reins are attached from the surcingle through the bit rings back to the surcingle on the same side. The distance between the two attached points (top and bottom) on each side of the surcingle must not be greater than 40 centimeters. The draw reins must be adjustable only as per manufacture and any homemade modification of the adjustments of the draw reins (for example making a knot) is not permitted. (Standing reins or auxiliary reins are not permitted).

\* pictogram of allowed draw reins:



<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
FEI
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
719.2.1.5
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes;
<b>Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023</b>
<p>Please refer to the memo on the Proposed Changes to the FEI General Regulations for the explanation of the proposed new rule in relation to Nosebands.</p> <p>If you have comments on the proposal in relation to nosebands, please include them as part of your NF's feedback on the General Regulations.</p>
<b>Comments Received by 16 August 2023</b>
Please refer to the General Regulations memo.
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
Please refer to the General Regulations memo.
<b>Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023</b>
Please refer to the General Regulations memo.

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

FEI

**Article Number – Article Name**

735 ROUNDS – SQUAD VAULTING COMPETITION

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

Please refer to FEI Feedback on article 737

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

		Round 1		Qualification for the final	Final
		Test 1	Test 2		
<b>Senior</b>	CVI 1* Squad Competition Senior 1*	Squad Comp Test 1	Squad Free Test 1	<i>Offering 2nd round is Optional number of starters according to schedule</i>	Squad Free Test 1
	CVI 2* Squad Competition Senior 2*	Squad Comp Test 2	Squad Free Test 2	<i>Number of starters according to schedule</i>	Squad Free Test 2
	CVI 3* Squad Competition Senior 3*	Squad Comp Test 3	Squad Free Test 2	<i>Number of starters according to schedule</i>	Squad Free Test 2
	Championships Squad Competition Senior	Squad Comp Test 3		<i>Open to all</i>	Squad Free Test 2
<b>Junior</b>	CVIJ 1* Squad Competition Junior 1*	Squad Comp Test 1	Squad Free Test 1	<i>Offering 2nd round is Optional number of starters according to schedule</i>	Squad Free Test 1
	CVIJ 2*	Squad Comp	Squad Free	<i>Number of starters according to</i>	Squad Free

		Squad Competition Junior 2*	Test 2	Test <u>2±</u>	<i>schedule</i>	Test <u>2±</u>
		Championships Squad Competition Junior	Squad Comp Test 2	Squad Free Test <u>2±</u>	<i>15 best Squads *)</i>	Squad Free Test <u>2±</u>

**Comments Received by 16 August 2023**

No comments were received.

**FEI Feedback**

N/A

**Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023**

Wording remains as in proposal above.

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

NED NF

**Article Number – Article Name**

Article 737.2 SQUAD FREE TESTS Time Limit: 4 minutes

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

We propose to limit the time for the Squad free test to 3 minutes to put less strain on the horse. The time frame still gives the vaulters enough time to show static and dynamic exercises, as well as transitions.

Proposed wording:

Article 737.2 SQUAD FREE TESTS Time Limit: 3 minutes

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

**Article 737 Squad Free Tests**

1. Each Vaultler must perform at least one exercise.

No more than three (3) Vaulters may be on the Horse at one time. At least two of the Vaulters must remain in contact with the Horse, otherwise these elements of the exercises are not scored.

A Free Test consists of static and dynamic exercises, as well as transitions.

Mounts and dismounts carried out with assistance from the ground will receive a deduction (see Guidelines).

2. Time Limit: 1\*: 3 minutes. 2\* and 3\*: 3 minutes 30. 4 minutes

3. **Squad Free Test 1**

A Squad Free Test 1 applies to all Squads 1\* and may include single and, ~~double and triple exercise, with a maximum of 6 static triple~~ exercises.

4. **Squad Free Test 2**

A Squad Free Test 2 applies to all Squads 2\* and 3\* and includes single, double and triple exercises.

**Comments Received by 16 August 2023**

AUT Comments: First, can we base anything on “unofficial small survey was shared by Lambert Leclizio in Instagram”? I find them very limited and give a false impression on the general opinion on very important topics!!

The IVOC would be a better platform, unfortunately there is no sharing of what has been proposed and therefore is limiting as well.

A general problem which needs a resolution soon

We agree to proposal:

For Squads 1\* - Free Test, the VTC proposes changing the time limit to 3 minutes instead of 4 minutes. VTC propose that no triple exercises should be performed, and the artistic score should also be reviewed in the guidelines 2024.

We have reservations for proposal



For Squads 2\* and 3\* - Free Test, the VTC proposes changing the time limit to 3 minutes 30 seconds instead of 4 minutes. They recommend limiting the time for triple exercises and reviewing the artistic score as well in the 2024 Guidelines.

The expectation is that this will increase the dynamic exercises since they are faster to perform and will keep them higher in performance and degree of difficulty but is much more heavy on the horse than static exercises!!

Next to the triple there is the question if we should reduce the increasing dynamic of freestyles. A static exercise well in balance is easier to balance out for a horse than jumping up and down right and left!!

\*\*\*

DEN Comments: we also strongly support the changes in time limit for squads, and would like to propose that even 2\* and 3\* could be shortened to 3 min. Also, removing triples from 1\* is a really good idea. In future, maybe even smaller squads of 5 members should be considered, so that all vaulters have time to show their ability in the shorter free test.

\*\*\*

HUN Comments: we partially support this proposal. Horse welfare is the most important in our sport, so we support the limitations on triple exercises (we could already see a good example from GER Senior squad this year at the championships), but we do not support taking them out of 1\* squads. There the vaulters are generally younger and lighter; therefore, it is not so much weight as a 3\* squad. Also, sometimes in 3\* triples are more secure due to the number of supporting points. Taking these opportunities away would harm the welfare of vaulters, which is another important factor to be considered.

\*\*\*

ITA Comments: we do not agree with proposal squad 2\*/3\*. Stronger squads will do their difficult program in 3 minutes instead of 4, with more dynamic exercises which are even more difficult for the horses.

\*\*\*

USA Comments: the USA supports the proposed rule change to reduce the time limit for Squad performances, and the elimination of triples at the 1\* level, to go into effect as soon as possible. The USA further strongly encourages the VTC to explore options to reduce the time and number of triple exercises at the 2\* and 3\* level.

### FEI Feedback

The VTC thanked all NFs for their comments. As mentioned in the memo published in June, a comprehensive package would be proposed in the rules and in the Vaulting Guidelines. The VTC had reviewed the comments received and the draft of the 2024 FEI Vaulting Guidelines is now available on the [FEI Website](#), and comments if any should be sent to the [FEI Vaulting Department](#) before the end of October, to be further discussed during the FEI Vaulting Seminar that will take place in Salzburg (AUT) – 03-05 November 2023.

The VTC believes that concerns from NFs mentioned in their comments would be answered in the Draft of the 2024 FEI Vaulting Guidelines. We invite all NFs to go through the document and send comments if any by the deadline mentioned in the above paragraph.

In response to AUT NF, the main goal of the VTC was to receive the opinion of a maximum of Athletes and coaches through the digital platform of the Athlete representative on the

“time limit” which had achieved the objective as a high number of responses had been sent which helped the VTC to finalise their proposals.

As mentioned in June, since the 1\* is the first level to start in the international front, the VTC believes that it would be more beneficial to remove the triple exercises for a smoother transition through the star levels. Therefore, reducing the time limit to 3 minutes makes sense.

The VTC believes these changes could have a positive impact on the sport and make the Squad competition more accessible and less demanding.

**Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023**

Wording remains as in proposal above, except that The VTC have added “seconds” to the following sentence for clarification:

- 2. Time Limit: ~~1\*: 3 minutes. 2\* and 3\*: 3 minutes 30 seconds. 4 minutes~~

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

European Equestrian Federation (EEF)  
 FRA NF  
 GER NF  
 Italian Equestrian Federation  
 IVOC  
 SUI NF  
 AUT NF

**Article Number – Article Name**

Article 739 INDIVIDUAL COMPULSORY TESTS  
 4. Individual Comp Test 3

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

Clarification to match the description of the exercises.

Proposed wording:

- 7. First part of Flank (back to the seat astride)
  - 8. Swing off to the outside from the seat astride
- Comments from AUT NF: We accept that change

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

**Individual Comp Test 3**

Exercises to be shown:

- 1. Vault on
- 2. Flag
- 3. Mill
- 4. Scissors Forwards
- 5. Scissors Backwards
- 6. Stand
- 7. ~~First part of Flank (back to the seat astride)~~~~1st part~~
- 8. ~~Swing off to the outside from the seat astride~~~~Flank 2nd part~~

**Comments Received by 16 August 2023**

ITA Comments: the ITA agree with the FEI proposed wording.

\*\*\*

USA Comments: the USA supports this clarification.

#### **FEI Feedback**

The VTC thanked the ITA and the GER NF for their support.

#### **Proposed Final Wording to be Voted at the FEI General Assembly 2023**

Wording remains as in proposal above.

**B. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES THAT HAVE BEEN REJECTED OR DEFERRED TO A FUTURE RULES REVISION**

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
European Equestrian Federation (EEF) FRA NF GER NF Italian Equestrian Federation AUT NF
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
Article 708 THE ORDER OF START 7.2.1.1 In the last test or second round ... In this case, the starting place will be determined by the score of the lowest ranked Vaulters(s), with the lowest ranked Vaulters(s) starting first.
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
Clarification mentioning how to proceed when several Competitions take place in conjunction (several levels, or male/female running in together), to provide some guidance for the OCs.  <u>Proposed Wording:</u> Option 1 – starting order according to level: 7.2.1.1 In the last test or second round, more than one Individual or Pas-de-Deux may be on the Horse at one run-in. In this case, the starting place will be determined by the score of the lowest ranked Vaulters(s) of the highest Competition Level (Male/Female TBD by the OC); the Vaulters(s) starting in the lowest Competition Level will start first; within the same Level the lowest ranked Vaulters(s) will start first (Male/Female TBD by the OC).  Option 2 – starting order according to placing, never mind the level: 7.2.1.1 In the last test or second round, more than one Individual or Pas-de-Deux may be on the Horse at one run-in. In this case, the starting place will be determined by the score of the lowest ranked Vaulters(s) never mind the Competition Level (Male/Female TBD by the OC); the lowest ranked Vaulters(s) will start first (Male/Female TBD by the OC).  Comments from AUT: we are supporting option 1 ITA proposed option 2
<b>Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023</b>
<b>N/A</b>
<b>Comments Received by 16 August 2023</b>
<u>HUN Comments:</u> we support Option 2 from the original proposal, it is less complicated for the show office to organize.  *** <u>USA Comments:</u> the USA supports the VTC’s feedback. This should be revisited for the next full rules revision.
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
The VTC thanked the USEF for their support and the HUN NF for their comments.  As previously explained in June, the VTC agreed to look into this at the next full rules revision, as it did not fulfil the criteria to be changed this year. To be monitored in 2023/2024 and it might be considered in the future if needed.

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

European Equestrian Federation (EEF)  
 IVOC  
 SUI NF  
 AUT NF  
 GER NF

**Article Number – Article Name**

Chapter III – VAULTING HORSE  
 New ARTICLE 718

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

Horse Welfare – for some Horses the presence of another Horse close to the competition circle lowers their stress level significantly.

IVOC suggested:

Horse Welfare – for some Horses the presence of another Horse close to the competition circle lowers their stress level significantly. This would also ensure more serene performances, allowing for a clear assessment.

GER NF: for the horse welfare to make sure that the horse has a companion that he can see. Horses can give each other social confidence and we should make it possible that one horse does not need to be forced to go in a big arena all alone. If this might help only a few horses, such a rule is worth it.

In international Para sports, it is possible, and in Jumping, sometimes the next horse can enter the arena already. It is at the discretion of the competitor if they would want to use such an opportunity.

HORSE WELFARE

Proposed wording:

Comments from EEF/IVOC/SUI:

719 COMPANION HORSE

1. If required by the lunge of a competitive unit, another Horse can be positioned near the entrance/exit of the competition Circle, during the performance.
2. A specific area needs to be available for this purpose.
3. The Companion Horse needs to have passed the Horse Inspection.
4. Equipment: a competition bridle as per Article 719 with reins or a lunge line is mandatory; the rest of the allowed competition equipment may be in place; however, the girth shall not be fully tightened, and the side reins shall not be fastened to the bit. A rug without advertising is also allowed.
5. The Companion Horse is led by a person with a minimum age of 18 years, accredited by the responsible NF, with access to the competition arena.
6. The Companion Horse can be asked by an official to leave the area, if it gives the impression to be uncomfortable or anxious.

Comments from AUT: we are objecting this proposal for the following reason:

Although in principle a good idea, it is not possible in most of the event arena to prepare a separate area for the companion horse. In principle it has to be close to the ring, the only space is normally the run in or run out which is not possible. There is mostly not enough space to do so, it would represent a bigger risk for the current competitors who also have to be in the arena to prepare. The whole, very limited, space gets too crowded. Even if you have a big arena like in Herning, the area was visual protected which is also done for the horse welfare to be not distracted by the warm up area.

So far the only issue is maybe for the last competitor who can ask somebody to stay in the arena with their horse in the warm up area, otherwise the horse is never alone in the arena.

Comments from GER:

1. At International Events, Vaulting Horses must be at least seven years old.
2. If a competitor wishes for another horse to be positioned near the entrance/exit of the competition circle in sight of the competing horse, this is permitted. This must be arranged by the competing person responsible (vaulter or lunger). The horses in question need to be horses entered in the event/competition, must have passed the Vet-Check and at least provided with a snaffle bit, led by one person with reins or a lunge. Leg protection is recommended. Competition equipment is allowed with the side reins/draw reins not buckled to the bit.

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

**N/A**

**Comments Received by 16 August 2023**

AUT Comments: as clarification – this was not a proposal from AUT! We gave a comment to this proposal way before somehow! This was also not discussed within the IVOC.

We are against to regulate a specific outlines area where to place a companion horse since most of the arenas do not have the space to accommodate another area for an additional horse.

We are not against the concept of a companion horse but would leave it to the discretion of the Chief Steward to allow it close to the run in and run out as long as the security for everybody is secured. We agree therefore with the VTC.

\*\*\*

DEN Comments: we worry that companion horses would make the warm up area even more crowded than it already is. However, it is important that the stewards make sure that there is a horse left in the warm up area when the last horse is in the main arena, so that the final horse is not left all alone.

\*\*\*

HUN Comments: we absolutely support this proposal. We understand the concerns of AUT NF, but we are sure suitable solutions may be worked out for different kinds of arenas, and officials still have the option to ask the horse to leave in case of any problems.

\*\*\*

ITA Comments: we agree with the comments from AUT.

\*\*\*

USA Comments: the USA Supports the VTC's feedback.

**FEI Feedback**

The VTC thanked all NFs for their comments.

As previously mentioned in the memo published in June, the VTC is not in favour to allow companion horses in the field of play, but upon request to the Organiser and Chef Steward, a companion horse could stay in the last warm-up ring where he doesn't disturb the next horse and Vaulter. The VTC is of the opinion that it doesn't need to be added to the rules.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
NED NF
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
719.2.8 Bandages and/or brushing/overreach boots are optional. Hoofboots are authorised.
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
<p>Criterion 1 - welfare of the Horses We propose to change the rule and not allow bandages during the competition. The use of bandages without padding can restrict blood flow to the limb or cause damage to the tendons. And covering the horse’s legs with thick bandages or bandages with padding underneath increases the temperature of the area covered too much.</p> <p>Proposed wording:</p> <p>719.2.8: Brushing/overreach boots are optional. Hoofboots are authorised. Bandages are not allowed. Furthermore, we recommend to develop a document Guidelines on Use of Tack, Equipment and Dress.</p>
<b>Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023</b>
<b>N/A</b>
<b>Comments Received by 16 August 2023</b>
<p><u>NED Comments</u>: we agree that the use of bandages without padding can restrict blood flow to the limb or cause damage to the tendons, and that covering the horse’s legs with thick bandages or bandages with padding underneath increases the temperature of the area covered. However, this problem is relevant not only for the few minutes of the performance, but even more during the warm-up and across disciplines (and when horses are worked at home). Most riders seem to believe that bandages are necessary for protection at all times. Research is needed to give good advice on the pros and cons on the use of bandages on horses’ legs in general.</p>
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
<p>The VTC thanked the NED NF for their comments. The VTC asked the advice of the FEI EEG (Equipment expert group) and the Veterinary Department. The EEG agree that the use of bandages and boots can raise the temperature of the horses leg, however researchers have not found a solution that both protects the leg and also allows air to circulate. There is no research available on the risk level for vaulting horses, but vaulting horses are worked on a circle, and they could be more likely to cause themselves injury. Based on that, the VTC would like to keep it possible for horses to wear leg protection as specified, but the VTC would like to emphasize the importance of using them appropriately and with caution. The FEI would welcome a literature review of the published science on the impact of bandages.</p>
<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
<p>European Equestrian Federation (EEF)          FRA NF          GER NF          IVOC          SUI NF          AUT NF          NED NF</p>
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
Article 722 HORSE INSPECTION 5.
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>

Linked to proposal for Article 716 TIMING / BELL

NED Comments: Criterion 1 - welfare of the Horses Considering the welfare of the horse we recommend a second Horse Inspection before the start of the final Competition to build in an extra guarantee that the horses are still fit to compete. Preferably at all CVI3\* but at least at FEI World Cup™ Finals, World and Continental Championships.

Proposed wording:

5. When a Horse shows any signs of irregularity in the warm-up arena, the lunger must be informed and the Veterinary Delegate and/or the Chief Steward report to the President of the Ground Jury and Judge at A; if during a Test, appropriate and timely communication has to be planned for.

On the last warm-up circle preceding the competition circle, each Horse is required to show at least one round of trot. Failure to do so will be reported according to the process above.

Comments from AUT: We only accept that change for Championships where there is a Vet commission and a higher number of Stewards present, in any normal CVI this is not manageable with the people on site and to raise the number of people for a CVI is not possible for cost reason. It is still possible during a CVI to ask the VET to check a particular horse if needed but not every horse (also a timing problem). If the rule change is limited "on request of the VET or Steward the horse in question must show a trot round in the warm up" then fine otherwise we can still handle it outside a rule and ask the VET to check a particular horse in the warm up. Logistically and from the time available at a CVI that is already possible and is also done

NED Comments: Article 722 HORSE INSPECTION 1. Before the first Competition or official training whichever is the earliest (and in principle not more than 24 hours before either of them) and before the start of the final Competition at FEI World Cup™ Finals, World and Continental Championships the Veterinary Delegate (at Championships, the Veterinary Commission), and a Member of the Ground Jury, preferably the President, will inspect the Horses, in accordance with the FEI Veterinary Regulations. Or change article 1033 Horse Inspection Timings in the VR and change Article 722 HORSE INSPECTION Horse inspections and Examinations must be conducted in accordance with the Veterinary Regulations.

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

**N/A**

**Comments Received by 16 August 2023**

AUT Comments: clarification – again AUT did not put forward this proposal but somehow commented on it before everybody else!

Despite the costs and organizational limitations on a CVI for example, we think it something we should discuss in detail. There was the question why a horse who is starting the first time on a Friday needs to go to a vet check on a Monday (Championships!). There are 4 days where something could happen and the horse is not fit to compete on the day of competition. Also, with a Championship which is 5 or more days long and horses which just about passed the Vet check and then are going every day, there is the potential that on the 3rd day it might not be fine again.

We agree to discuss Vet checks, in between checks, checks on the circle without side reigns again. Checks during warm up is really also very distracting for the vaulter and can impact their performance, is that not influence on the outcome?

\*\*\*



DEN Comments: we realise that the focus on horse welfare is partly due to the fact that the FEI does not allow any other changes this year, but we would like to express our strong support for all the emphasis on protecting and helping our horses.

Unhappy horses in the arena are really bad for our sport regardless of whether it is because of lameness or stress, and anything we can do to prevent this from happening should be explored both in the warm up and entry/trot round.

\*\*\*

HUN Comments: we support this proposal, but we would also like to draw the attention to issues related to this matter:

- with the Nations Team Event and young vaulter categories joint championships have become extremely long, so we are not sure many of the horses would be considered fit to compete before the finals, after working for even 6 days in some cases

- the necessary number of stewards (which may be a problem in this case too) should probably be determined according to the characteristics of the venues. At the moment at some CVIs the number of stewards in the rules are there, but they are not able to supervise all the areas.

\*\*\*

ITA Comments: Italy does not fully agree with the first comments from AUT. Italy is not ok with a 2nd vet-check before the 2nd manche. Re-inspection, only when requested by Vet or President of Jury, but no interference during warm up (side reins in, trot right/left hand, side reins out etc. That compromises the preparation of the competitors).

\*\*\*

NED Comments: we understand that more time is needed to determine which option would be the best way forward but it's regrettable that it takes another two years to implement a second veterinary check. It is noticeable that horses struggle more with being fit to compete as the competition progresses.

Proposed wording:

*"Article 722 HORSE INSPECTION*

*1. Before the first Competition or official training whichever is the earliest (and in principle not more than 24 hours before either of them) and before the start of the final Competition at FEI World Cup™ Finals, World and Continental Championships the Veterinary Delegate (at Championships, the Veterinary Commission), and a Member of the Ground Jury, preferably the President, will inspect the Horses, in accordance with the FEI Veterinary Regulations.*

*Or change article 1033 Horse Inspection Timings in the VR and change Article 722 HORSE INSPECTION*

*Horse inspections and Examinations must be conducted in accordance with the Veterinary Regulations."*

\*\*\*

USA Comments: the USA supports the VTC's feedback. The USA encourages the VTC to investigate a second vet check solution.

The VTC thanked all NFs for their comments and support.

As previously mentioned in June, the VTC agreed that a second and/or a warm up Vet check would be necessary in the future but the VTC would like to have more time to think of the best solution, as more consideration is required to determine which option would be the best way forward. Different workshops on that subject would take place and NFs would be invited to join those meetings online or in person.

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

European Equestrian Federation (EEF)  
 FRA NF  
 ITA NF  
 IVOC  
 SUI NF  
 GER NF

**Article Number – Article Name**

Article 729 ELIMINATIONS  
 4.3.

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

Linked to proposal for Article 716 TIMING / BELL

GER Comments:

This article would not be needed anymore. The 90 seconds countdown would clarify the situation, because an elimination would not be necessary anymore. After the countdown is over, the time of the test would start, regardless of whether the first vaulter would have touched the horse or not.

Proposed wording:

4.3. Taking more than 1 minute after the salute to commence the performance.

GER Comments:

~~4.3. Taking more than 30 seconds after the bell following the trot, to commence the performance.~~

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

**N/A**

**Comments Received by 16 August 2023**

No comments were received.

**FEI Feedback**

N/A

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

European Equestrian Federation (EEF)  
 FRA NF

GER NF  
 Italian Equestrian Federation  
 IVOC  
 SUI NF  
 AUT NF

**Article Number – Article Name**

Article 731 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

We encourage the VTC to finalise the proposal of introducing a new Structure Score and amending the Artistic Score to help driving horse friendly programs, as scheduled last year.

Comments from IVOC:

We strongly encourage the VTC to finalise the proposal of introducing a new Structure Score and amending the Artistic Score, as scheduled last year.

This will not only help driving horse friendly programs, but also allow for a more transparent, objective and precise assessment by the judges, with adequate criteria for all competition levels.

Proposed wording:

To be submitted by VTC.

Comments from AUT NF: that is no rule change that is a request to the VTC – there is nothing to approve. There should not be « an encouragement » in a Rules book! you have a rule or you don't.

**Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023**

**N/A**

**Comments Received by 16 August 2023**

ITA Comments: the ITA agree with the AUT comments.

**FEI Feedback**

As previously mentioned in June, the VTC agreed to postpone the new proposition of the Artistic concept proposed by the Artistic working group as it would be too sensitive to implement such big changes as of 2024 without a testing phase. The VTC would like to see the updated concept tested and they would like to evaluate the impact through the rules, the Guidelines and the Education materials. The VTC once again thanked the working group for their impressive work and they will meet with them all during the summer to discuss the testing phase etc...

The VTC agreed that the Guidelines on the judging for Pas-de-Deux and Squad would be reviewed and the VTC would see what could be adapted for 2024 to have better criteria.

**Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)**

European Equestrian Federation (EEF)  
 FRA NF  
 GER NF  
 Italian Equestrian Federation  
 IVOC  
 SUI NF  
 AUT NF

<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
Article 734 SCORES
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
Linked to proposal for Article 716 TIMING / BELL  <u>Proposed changes:</u> 1.3. If more than one Individual Vaultler or Pas-de-Deux is on one Horse, the Entry and Salute will be taken into account for all Vaultlers on that Horse.  Comments from AUT NF: do not understand that proposal, this was always the case!
<b>Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023</b>
<b>N/A</b>
<b>Comments Received by 16 August 2023</b>
<u>ITA Comments:</u> We agree with AUT comment
<b>FEI Feedback</b>
As explained in June, the VTC think it is a misunderstanding as it was always the case and the VTC do not feel that the rules should be modified.

<b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>
HUN NF
<b>Article Number – Article Name</b>
OFFICIALS – Welfare of officials
<b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>
n/a
<b>Proposed Wording on 28 June 2023</b>
n/a
<b>Comments Received by 16 August 2023</b>
<p>Hereby we would also like to draw the attention to the increasing working hours (sometimes 10+ hours a day) for officials, and the longer CVIs (sometimes almost a week). We understand that the FEI has a rule on not allowing categories to start after 10pm in the evening, however, we feel that it cannot be expected from a judge to concentrate from 8-9 in the morning till 8-9-10 in the evening, sometimes with only a few/short breaks, and give high quality scores all the time. Also, very long CVIs and joint championships are both highly demanding (judging 6 days in a row is longer than a normal workweek) for judges, and problematic for many people in terms of day jobs.</p> <p>For stewards the times are even longer, since they normally start 1 hour before and finish 1 hour after the competition (at least), and have to be there by the opening of the stables and the trainings, which again means over 10 hours of work a day, and almost week-long CVIs.</p> <p>We would like to ask the VTC to address this problem in the future as well.</p>

**FEI Feedback**

The VTC thanked the HUN NF and agreed that this comment will be discussed at the FEI Vaulting Seminar that will take place in November.