



# FEI VAULTING WORLD CHALLENGE RULES

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The FEI Vaulting World Challenge (FEI WCHA-V event) is held from **January to December** in accordance with the FEI Vaulting Rules (please consult [www.inside.fei.org](http://www.inside.fei.org) > Rules > Vaulting), FEI General Regulations, FEI Vaulting Guidelines and the Veterinary Regulations currently in force.

**All articles in these rules must be read in conjunction with the FEI Vaulting Rules in effect and the FEI Vaulting Guidelines, published on the FEI Website.**

## ARTICLE 1 – GENERAL PRINCIPLES

- 1.1 The FEI WCHA-V event is open to National Federations, which in the opinion of the FEI, are still in the ongoing progression of Vaulting Development.
- 1.2 The Application Form must be submitted to the FEI before, 1<sup>st</sup> December of the year previous to that in which the Challenge will take place (all forms should be submitted to the FEI and can be downloaded from the website).
- 1.3 The FEI WCHA-V event can be organised a maximum of twice a year in the same country and the two events will receive financial support from the FEI as per article 10.2 of these rules.
- 1.4 The FEI WCHA-V event is open to athletes from the 1<sup>st</sup> January of the year in which they reach their 12<sup>th</sup> birthday. There are no maximum restrictions on the age of Athletes.
- 1.5 A Lunger must be at least 18 years of age to compete in The FEI Vaulting World Challenge. There are no maximum restrictions on the age of Lungers and may be of a different nationality to the Vaulters.

## ARTICLE 2 – TYPE OF COMPETITIONS

- 2.1 Individual Competition is open to Male and Female athletes who will compete against each other. No separate competition per gender will be allowed. The Individual Vaulters is accompanied only by the Lunger and the Vaulting Horse. In Beginner classes, a helper will be accepted if necessary.
- 2.2 Pas-de-Deux Competition is composed of two Vaulters of any combination of gender, the Lunger and the Vaulting Horse.
- 2.3 All Vaulters per level performing on the same Horse enter the arena together. No one else may enter the arena (refer to 4.10/2.1).
- 2.4 All tests must be performed on the same Horse with the same Lunger. Once the Competition has started, a Horse or a Lunger may not be replaced. The Horse may go to the right or to the left, in canter or walk depending on the test being shown.
- 2.5 The following levels of the FEI Vaulting World Challenge may be organised separately or together:
  - 2.5.1 **FEI Challenge I – Beginner:** is open to individual competition only. The competition consists of one Compulsory Test and one Free Test.

Compulsory Test in canter, includes the following exercises: mount without score (may be helped), basic seat, flag without arm, kneeling (arms to the side), swing forwards (legs closed), half mill, swing backwards (legs open) and off to inside.

Free Test in walk, consists of static and dynamic exercises. A static exercise must be held for three seconds.



- 2.5.2 **FEI Challenge II – Intermediate:** is open to Individual and Pas-de-Deux competitions. The competition consists of one Compulsory Test and one Free Test.

Compulsory Test in canter, includes the following exercises: mount on, basic seat, -flag without arm, kneeling (arms to the sides), swing forward (legs closed), half mill, swing backwards (legs open) and off to inside.

For the Pas-de-Deux, both Vaulters building a Pas-de-Deux enter the arena together. The second Vaulter must perform the Compulsory Exercises immediately without waiting for the bell.

Free Test in canter, consists of static and dynamic exercises. A static exercise must be held for at least three canter strides. For details, refer to Children 1\* Free Test in Vaulting Rules.

- 2.5.3 **FEI Challenge III – Advanced:** is open to Individual and Pas-de-Deux competitions. The competition consists of one Compulsory Test and one Free Test.

Compulsory Test in canter, includes the following exercises: vault on, basic seat, flag, stand, swing Forwards (legs closed), half mill, swing backwards (legs open) followed by dismount to inside.

For the Pas-de-Deux Compulsory Test, both Vaulters building a Pas-de-Deux enter the arena together. The second Vaulter must perform the Compulsory Exercises immediately after the first one without waiting for the bell.

Free Test in canter, consists of static and dynamic exercises. A static exercise must be held for at least three canter strides.

- 2.6 The description of the exercises can be found in the FEI Guidelines published on the FEI Website.

## ARTICLE 3 - FORMULA

### Day 1:

- Judges' arrival
- Horse Inspection (evening prior to the competition day **or** on the morning of the competition)

### Day 2/Day 3:

- Challenge Competition Classes, can be organised over one or two days.
- The tests within one Competition must be separated by an interval of at least 30 minutes.
- Video Session OR General Discussion (Guidelines for Judges available on the FEI Website)

**Note:** There is no set order in which the classes need to be scheduled. However, we suggest that the lower level be scheduled first so the participants can watch the performance of higher level of athletes, which would be beneficial for them. In any case, a progression through the levels is preferable.

### Day 3/Day 4:

- Judges' departure



## ARTICLE 4 – PARTICIPATION

- 4.1 As an exception to the FEI General Regulations, in the FEI Vaulting World Challenge “Athletes Living outside their country of nationality” (as defined in the FEI General Regulations) may compete for their country of residence.
- 4.2 Foreign Athletes from another Challenge NF or from a ‘non-Challenge’ NF may compete in the Vaulting World Challenge under the conditions of Art. 101.2, FEI General Regulations. Foreign Athletes may only compete for their country of sport nationality.
- 4.3 Whilst FEI Registration is not mandatory, it is highly recommended for Horses and Vaulters/Lungers. FEI Registration for Athletes under 18yo is free of charge.
- 4.4 The FEI WCHA-V event is open to all Horses of minimum 7 years old provided they have successfully passed the Veterinary Inspection.
- 4.5 The FEI Vaulting World Challenge event must take precedence over any National competition organised in its framework and, if applicable, Athletes and Horses entered should not take part in another national competition organised in the framework of the Challenge if organised on the same day (refer to 4.10).
- 4.6 Any Vaultler that has participated in FEI World/Continental Championships in Individual and/or Pas-de-Deux is no longer eligible to compete in the Challenge.
- 4.7 It is the responsibility of the National Federation to select the participants (Horses / Athletes) for the FEI WCHA-V event in strict accordance with the participation rules above and make sure that Athletes and Horses comply with these rules.
- 4.8 National Federations are responsible to declare that their athletes have the experience required to take part in the Level in which they have been entered and that their performances entirely satisfy the standards.
- 4.10 A Vaultler is allowed to start once in an Individual and once in a PDD and is not allowed to start in a national competition held at the same event prior to the Challenge tests.

Horse participation: refer to the FEI Vaulting Rules.

## ARTICLE 5 - OFFICIALS

- 5.1 Ground Jury: As an exception to Art. 723, only two Judges will judge the Competition. National Federations are responsible for the appointment of the two Judges. The Ground Jury must be composed of a President who must be an FEI Foreign Judge (minimum Level 2 from the FEI list of Vaulting Judges: [https://data.fei.org/OffListRpts/OfficialsByDisc\\_V.pdf](https://data.fei.org/OffListRpts/OfficialsByDisc_V.pdf)) plus a certified National Judge. The FEI Foreign Judge appointed by the NF **must be from the Region**, should this not be the case, the FEI may not contribute towards the travel expense of the FJ as indicated in art. 10.2.

The classes will be judged individually with the President placed opposite the entrance of the arena at table “A” (see Art. 715) and the Member at “C”.

- 5.2 After each competition, the President of the Ground Jury is responsible for establishing a score sheet as to the results and placing of the Vaulters for each class. This score sheet must be sent to the FEI immediately following the last class with the FEI Foreign Judge’s Report (report and other documents are available on the dedicated webpage: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/fei-world-challenge/vaulting/downloads>).



- 5.3 Conflict of interest: A Judge must avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. A Judge must have a neutral, independent and fair position towards Athletes, owners, trainers, OCs and other Officials and integrate well into a team. Financial and/or personal interest must never influence or be perceived to influence their way of judging.

It is the responsibility of the Judge to be in good health and fit to officiate throughout the duration of the Event.

Activities which will lead to or may lead to a "conflict of interest" when officiating at an FEI WCHA-V event, include but are not limited to:

- In any case coaching or training by all FEI Officials at the particular Competition must be avoided after arriving at the Event grounds.
- An FEI Official may not participate in any other capacity in any competition(s) taking place at an Event at which they are officiating. Exceptions to this rule may only be permitted if granted by the FEI further to a written request from the FEI Official. The request must be received by the FEI no later than three (3) months prior to the relevant Event and must set out the specific reason(s) for the exception request. The FEI shall be under no obligation to grant an exception and the decision of the FEI shall be final.
- Acting as Team Chef of National teams at international level or being responsible/co-responsible for selecting teams and/or individuals.
- To be owner/part-owner of Horses taking part in the Event.
- Being in a situation of financial dependence or gaining financial profit from owners, Athletes, trainers, OCs or other related persons or organisations.
- Having a close personal relationship with an Athlete or owner.
- Nationalistic judging.

A Judge has the responsibility to notify the FEI in writing of any of the above or other possible conflicts of interest or situations that may be perceived as such.

For more details: refer to the FEI Vaulting Rules and FEI GRs.

- 5.4 Stewards: for all competitions organised regardless of the Level, it is the responsibility of the organiser to appoint a Chief Steward. Additional Assistant Stewards may be appointed according to the size (number of overall competitors at the Event) of the Event, in consultation with the Chief Steward. It is the responsibility of each organising NF to make sure they have FEI Stewards in their country, consequently the appointed Chief Steward must be from the List of FEI Stewards, unless there are no FEI Stewards in the country, in which case a derogation to appoint an experienced National Steward may be requested. Derogations will be granted on a case by case consideration and are only meant as a temporary solution.

The Chief Steward reports to the President of the Ground Jury and is responsible for the coordination of the stewarding team, and is appointed to ensure a level playing field and Horse welfare in accordance with the FEI Rules and Regulations. The Stewards help stakeholders to prevent infractions and irregularities from taking place and intervenes when infractions or irregularities occur. If the appointed Chief Steward is not FEI, then sanctions (Warnings, Yellow Warning Cards, etc.) may only be issued by the President of the Ground Jury.

The Chief Steward is required to send a report to the FEI at the conclusion of the Event.

## ARTICLE 6 – DRESSCODE & EQUIPMENT

- 6.1 In order to be allowed to present their Horses during the veterinary inspection, the handler must be dressed in NF attire or club attire.



- 6.2 Vaulters dress must not hinder the movement of the Vaulters during the performance. Dress must in no way compromise the safety of either Vaulters or Horse. Dress must not conceal the form and line of the Vaulters' body during the performance in order not to hinder the judging of the exercises. Trousers must be secured to the foot and skirts may only be worn over tights or leggings.
- Dress must be formfitting and all articles of clothing, or parts thereof, must remain attached to the Vaulters' body at all times. All decorative Accessories must be made of soft or cloth-like and/or pliable material and must be attached to the dress. Props are strictly forbidden in the arena. See FEI Vaulting Guidelines for further details.
- 6.3 Dress must not give the effect of nudity. For athletes from 12 to 14 years old, the dress may not have any parts of skin coloured or transparent fabric, except for the arms and legs where this is permitted.
- 6.4 Shoes must be worn and only soft soled shoes are permitted.
- 6.5 Contravening to the articles above and Articles 713.2.3 to 713.2.8 in the FEI Vaulting Rules will result in a deduction from the artistic score (see guidelines).
- 6.6 The apparel of the Lungeur should harmonise with that of the Vaulters.
- 6.7 Individual Vaulters must wear a start number on the right arm or leg which are provided by the OC. Failure to comply will entail a Warning from Judge at A or President of Ground Jury.
- 6.8 In order to be allowed to participate at Prize Giving Ceremonies, Vaulters and Lungeurs must be dressed in NF attire or Club attire. Suitable closed toed shoes are obligatory for all prize givings. When Horses are presented at Prize Giving Ceremonies the equipment of the Horse must be according to Art. 719.2 of the FEI Vaulting rules.
- 6.9 For the Equipment of the horse: See Article 719 of the FEI Vaulting Rules.

## ARTICLE 7 - ARENA

- 7.1 The arena must be of a soft and springy material. In the case of a Competition held indoors the height to the ceiling must be at least 4 m. The public must be at least 11 m away from the centre of the Lungeing circle.
- 7.2 A practice arena is compulsory and must be as in the paragraph above, but it is recommended that there should be two or more practice circles. If the Competition takes place indoors the possibility for practicing indoors must be available to all Athletes.
- 7.3 There must also be at least one suitable area for riding, in close proximity to the competition/practice arenas, available during the times that Vaulting arenas are open to Athletes for practice and warm-up.
- 7.4 The Judges are placed on dais, about 50-60 cm above the ground in order to give them a good view of the arena.
- 7.5 The Judges' table should be at least 11 m away from the centre of the Lungeing circle. The public should be at an adequate distance from the Judges.
- 7.6 The Judge at A may demand a timekeeper, at least 18 years of age, who is to be placed next to him.



## ARTICLE 8 - HORSE INSPECTION

- 8.1 Any Horse participating must have previously passed a Horse inspection carried out by an FEI Veterinary Delegate to be appointed by the OC in accordance with Art. 1036 of the current FEI Veterinary Regulations and Art. 722 of the FEI Vaulting Rules. The Horse Inspection must be undertaken as much as possible in accordance with the FEI General Regulations and FEI Veterinary Rules (see VRs articles 1030-1042).
- 8.2 Art. FEI GR 137.2  
As an exception to the FEI General Regulations, Horses taking part in the FEI Vaulting World Challenge event in their own country do **NOT** need to be registered with the FEI and therefore are **NOT** required to have an official, valid FEI Passport, or a National Passport approved by the FEI accompanied by an FEI Recognition Card, as a mean of identification and to establish ownership.
- 8.3 All such Horses must be properly identifiable by diagram. Unless there is no national requirement for equine influenza vaccination in the host country and in the country of origin, all Horses must have a valid vaccination certificate. The Inspection must take place on a firm, level and clean but not slippery surface. The Horse must be walked and trotted on a loose rein. A Re-inspection is allowed (FEI Veterinary Regulations: <https://inside.fei.org/content/fei-veterinary-rules> > Article 1040).
- 8.4 At least one Member of the Ground Jury must be present and the Vet. Inspection must take place in principle on the day preceding the Competition. Please refer to FEI Veterinary Regulations, Art. 1036. (See FEI website: <https://inside.fei.org/content/fei-veterinary-rules>).

## ARTICLE 9 - THE CLASSIFICATION & PRIZES

- 9.1 **The Individual & Pas-de-Deux Classification** are decided as follows: the winner is the Athlete/PDD having the highest total score, the second the one with the next highest total and so on. **In case of equality** for the first, second and/or third places, the highest score attributed by the President of the Ground Jury (in "A") will be decisive for the placing. If a further tie exists, the highest mark from the last test will decide. If still tied, the artistic score of the last test will decide, then the technical score and last the performance score.  
In case of equality of points for places other than the first three, the Athletes concerned are given the same rank.
- 9.2 When equality of points for the first, second and/or third places, the FEI Judges are asked to give full details to the FEI.
- 9.3 The final score is the average of the 2 tests.
- 9.4 It is up to the NF to award a Special prize to the best presented Horse based on the Ground Jury & Veterinarian's decision.
- 9.5 The Organising Committee within each country is responsible for the distribution of prizes in the normal way (at least one prize for each four Athletes).
- 9.6 FEI World and Regional Challenge Rankings lists will be established in accordance with the Ranking calculation guidelines published on the FEI Vaulting World Challenge dedicated webpage. One for each class/technical level.





## ARTICLE 10 - THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

### 10.1 **TWO MONTHS prior to the competition:**

A. CONFIRMATION OF COMPETITIONS DATES

B. NAME & STATUS OF FEI PRESIDENT OF THE GROUND JURY (FEI FOREIGN JUDGE) AND GROUND JURY MEMBER

#### **BEFORE THE COMPETITION:**

NFs/OC must if necessary **create** the Athletes and Horses' profiles in the FEI World Challenges IT Platform (<http://worldchallenges.fei.org/login>) and then **enter** them in the corresponding Category. All names (Athlete and Horse) must be provided in English.

Entries will be **open** two (2) weeks prior to the Event and will **close** one (1) day prior to the Event.

Immediately after the competition: Results to be entered on the official FEI World Challenges IT Platform (<http://worldchallenges.fei.org/login>); Individual results of each Athlete that has started must be provided.

Results for each Competition will be available on the FEI Vaulting World Challenge dedicated webpage for the corresponding season (<https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/fei-world-challenge/vaulting>) and the FEI will establish the Regional and World Rankings which will also be published on the web site .

#### **No later than 14 days after the competition:**

- One copy of the competition programme, including start lists.
- Copy of the results signed by the official Judges
- The FEI Foreign Judge's report.
- Photographs of the competition **with the file names containing the full names of the persons featured on it, or with a separate list containing their full names.**
- Press clippings relating to the competition.

10.2 The National Federations are responsible for the travelling arrangements of the Judges, as well as for their per diem and accommodation (board and lodging) during their sojourn (as per Article 7 of the FEI Vaulting rules "General Conditions").

The FEI will reimburse the air travel expense in economy class for the President of the Ground Jury (Foreign Judge, see art. 1.3) up to a maximum amount of EUR 1'500.- and the PGJ per diem for three days at EUR 100.- (per day) to the National Federations upon receipt of the proper documentation (flight invoice).

10.3 While preparing publications for the competition (programs, flyers, etc.) the OC is requested to follow the FEI Brand Guidelines when using the FEI Logo, which you will find on the FEI website under: <http://www.inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/commercial/branding>.

## ARTICLE 11 - MISCELLANEOUS

11.1 Bell: A bell must be provided for the President of the Ground Jury.

11.2 Copy Rights: any Athlete entered by their NF in the FEI Vaulting World Challenge concedes the rights of any photographs of the Athlete and/or Horse and accepts their publication in the FEI website or relevant FEI publications.

11.3 The FEI Vaulting World Challenge must be organised strictly according to FEI Rules.

11.4 The FEI is entitled to make reasonable amendments to the present rules