

PROPOSALS FOR RULES CHANGES OF VAULTING RULES 2023

Introduction

Further to the approval of the FEI Periodical Rules Revision Policy at the 2019 General Assembly (available here: <https://inside.fei.org/fei/about-fei/governance/rules-revision-process>) the full revision of the Vaulting Rules took place in 2021. Consequently, for this year's revision process NFs and MOU stakeholders were invited to propose only modifications that fulfilled the following criteria:

1. 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;
2. Correction of inconsistencies, manifest errors, contradictions, etc.
3. New/recently introduced rule that has proven to be problematic in its implementation;
4. Implementation of new technology development(s) relevant to the specific set of Rules;
5. IOC, IPC, WADA, ASOIF and similar organisations' policies' implementation;
6. Other scenarios not foreseen by this Policy as considered and approved by the Board.

In addition, the FEI Headquarters and the Vaulting Committee have a number of proposals put forward based also on the above mentioned criteria.

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

- A. Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2023.** In this section you will find each of the Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders addressed by the FEI with the relevant feedback from the Vaulting Committee; and
- B. Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI**

Sincerely Yours,



Sabrina Ibáñez
FEI Secretary General

A. Rules Proposals received from NFs/MOU Stakeholders by 1 March 2023

Rules Proposal Submitted By
European Equestrian Federation (EEF) FRA NF GER NF SUI NF AUT NF
Article No.–Article Name
Article 702 ELIGIBILITY 2. Starting possibilities 2.1
Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria
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
Explanation for Proposed Change
To allow for a horse friendly familiarisation 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).
Proposed Wording
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 : <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1* is the beginner level and they should have the possibility to compete against vaulter 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 Secondly it will increase the number of starter in the categories which are already with the highest number and longest hours to judge, this will be un-managable in a CVI There is still the possibility to go with a new horse in a 3* competition, just with an easier routine. <p>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</p>
FEI Feedback
Following the approval of the Board on 2 May 2023 to propose new qualification criteria for Horses as of 2024 to compete at FEI Championships. As direct consequence, the VTC would like to allow Individual Vaulters to compete twice at an Event to give more opportunities to qualify Horses. The VTC is not in favour to allow Vaulters to compete with the same Horse in the same level of competition, nor to compete in different level of competition with the same Horse.
FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Vaulters may ~~only~~ start ~~once~~twice in any Individual Competition at an Event 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.

Rules Proposal Submitted By

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

Article No.–Article Name

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.

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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

Explanation for Proposed Change

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.

Proposed Wording

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

FEI Feedback

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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

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

Article No.–Article Name

Article 714 SALUTE
 5.

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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

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

FEI Feedback

The VTC agreed with the proposal above to allow athletes/lungers to unfasten the side reins as soon as the program is finished and as a repair, the VTC added back the Salute which was removed in the 2023 rules by mistakes.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

~~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.

Rules Proposal Submitted By

GER NF

Article No.–Article Name

Article 714 SALUTE
4. and 5.

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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

Explanation for Proposed Change

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

1. In all tests each Vaultler 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 Vaultlers 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 vaultlers 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 given.

FEI Feedback

The VTC is comfortable with what is currently in the rules as two options are offered but agreed to look into this at the next full rules revision if needed. As mentioned in the previous FEI Feedback, the VTC agreed to allow the side reins to be unfastened as soon as the program is finished but the VTC is in favour to keep the Salute in the centre of the circle.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

~~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.

Rules Proposal Submitted By

NED NF

Article No.–Article Name

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.

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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

Explanation for Proposed Change

Criterion 1 - welfare of the Horses Considering the welfare of the horse we recommend to have the sidereins 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.

FEI Feedback

The VTC preferred to keep the option to go out the centre line with or without the side reins, by walk or by trot as imposing one or the other could cause safety issues depending on the horse. This article will be monitored closely in 2023 and 2024.

The VTC agreed to look into this at the next full rules revision if needed. As mentioned in the previous FEI Feedback, the VTC agreed to allow the side reins to be unfastened as soon as the program is finished.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

~~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(s), the Lunger together with the Horse must Salute the Judge at A from the centre of the Competition circle.

Rules Proposal Submitted By
European Equestrian Federation (EEF) FRA NF IVOC SUI NF GER NF
Article No.–Article Name
Article 716 TIMING / BELL 2.
Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria
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
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>EEF/FRA/IVOC/SUI:</p> <p>Horse welfare To allow for a thorough monitoring of the Horses and an appropriate amount of time for them to familiarise with/adapt to the competition arena:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 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 Vaultler touches the handles shall be extended. <p>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...).</p> <p>GER:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Modification in item 2.1: Clarification</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Modification in item 5.2: Clarification</p>
Proposed Wording

Comments from EEF/FRA/IVOC/SUI:

3. 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 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 vaulters 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 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,

FEI Feedback

The VTC agreed that the above proposals could be interesting for the future but it might be too anticipated to put that in place as of 2024, as more consideration is needed. The VTC understood that the German NF is testing it at National level and the VTC is looking

forward to receiving the feedback from the German NF on that after the testing phase. The VTC's response to the Horse score, would like to emphasis that the criteria of A3 in the Guidelines would be reviewed for 2024.

The VTC is in favour of removing the word "immediately" from article 5.2, for clarification as it is after the Vault-Off and the "immediately" is not necessary here.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

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

Rules Proposal Submitted By

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

Article No.–Article Name

Chapter III – VAULTING HORSE
 New ARTICLE 718

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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

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 lunger 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.**

FEI Feedback

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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

NED NF

Article No.–Article Name

719.2.8 Bandages and/or brushing/overreach boots are optional. Hoofboots are authorised.

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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

Explanation for Proposed Change

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.

Proposed Wording

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.

FEI Feedback

The VTC asked the advice of the FEI EEG (Equipment expert group) on this particular topic. They agree that the use of bandages and boots can raise the temperature of the horses leg (worst is polo wraps) and could cause pressure. As Vaulting horses are worked in the circle, they could be more likely to cause themselves an injury and so overreach boots could be useful in protecting the horse from scratching itself. Research has not found a good boot that both protects the leg and also allows air to circulate. There is no research on Vaulting horses specifically.

Based on that, the VTC would like to keep it possible to wear them but the VTC would like to emphasize to use them appropriately and with caution.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

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

Article No.–Article Name

Article 722 HORSE INSPECTION
 5.

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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

Explanation for Proposed Change

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 lunge 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 rules 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 which ever 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.

FEI Feedback

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. This will be moderated at the 2023 Championships and based on that, the VTC would propose a new procedure for 2025.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

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

Article No.–Article Name

Article 729 ELIMINATIONS
 4.3.

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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

Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Linked to proposal for Article 716 TIMING / BELL</p> <p><u>GER Comments:</u></p> <p>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.</p>
Proposed Wording
<p>4.3. Taking more than 1 minute after the salute to commence the performance.</p> <p><u>GER Comments:</u></p> <p>4.3. Taking more than 30 seconds after the bell following the trot, to commence the performance.</p>
FEI Feedback
<p>Please refer to the FEI Feedback above of Article 716 TIMING / BELL</p>
FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)
<p>N/A</p>

Rules Proposal Submitted By
<p>European Equestrian Federation (EEF) FRA NF GER NF Italian Equestrian Federation IVOC SUI NF AUT NF</p>
Article No.–Article Name
<p>Article 734 SCORES</p>
Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria
<p>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.</p>
Explanation for Proposed Change
<p>Linked to proposal for Article 716 TIMING / BELL</p>
Proposed Wording
<p>1.3. If more than one Individual Vaulter or Pas-de-Deux is on one Horse, the Entry and Salute will be taken into account for all Vaulters on that Horse.</p> <p>Comments from AUT NF: do not understand that proposal, this was always the case !</p>
FEI Feedback

The VTC think that it is a misunderstanding as it was always the case and the VTC do not feel that the rules should be modified.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By

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

Article No.–Article Name

Article 731 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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.

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

FEI Feedback

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.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

N/A

Rules Proposal Submitted By
NED NF
Article No.–Article Name
Article 737.2 SQUAD FREE TESTS Time Limit: 4 minutes
Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria
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.
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
FEI Feedback
<p>Based on the proposal sent by the NED NF, the VTC investigated the impact of reducing the time limit of Squad with regards to performance, training, and the wellbeing of the horses and athletes.</p> <p>To guide VTC to make the best decision, an unofficial small survey was shared by Lambert Leclezio in Instagram. Based on this, the FEI and the VTC received letters from various stakeholders who questioned the reason for reducing the time limit. The VTC thoroughly reviewed each letter and the comments provided by the stakeholders helped the VTC formulate their final proposal. The majority of the VTC members agree that a comprehensive package should be proposed in the rules and guidelines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For Squads 1* - Free Test, the VTC proposes changing the time limit to 3 minutes instead of 4 minutes. VTC propose that <u>no triple exercises should be performed, and the artistic score should also be reviewed in the guidelines 2024.</u> • For Squads 2* and 3* - Free Test, the VTC proposes changing the time limit to 3 minutes 30 seconds instead of 4 minutes. <u>They recommend limiting the time for triple exercises and reviewing the artistic score as well in the 2024 Guidelines.</u> <p>The VTC reached these conclusions based on different factors. Since 1* is the first level to start in the international front, the VTC believes 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.</p> <p>The VTC is aware that the community has various perceptions regarding the impact of reducing the time limit for 2* and 3* Squads. The VTC does not intend to limit or diminish the performance of Squad competitions. However, they believe that reducing the time limit through the triple exercises by 30-second, would be the good way forward. The VTC believes these changes could have a positive impact on the sport and make Squad competitions more accessible.</p>
FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)

Article 737 Squad Free Tests

1. Each Vaultler must perform at least one exercise.

No more than three (3) Vaultlers may be on the Horse at one time. At least two of the Vaultlers 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.

Rules Proposal Submitted By

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

Article No.–Article Name

Article 739 INDIVIDUAL COMPULSORY TESTS
 4. Individual Comp Test 3

Periodical Rules Revision Policy Criteria

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.

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

FEI Feedback

The VTC support this clarification.

FEI Proposed Wording (if applicable)**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~~

B. Rules Proposals put forward by the FEI

Article No.–Article Name
703.1 – Qualification for FEI Championships
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
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 here .
Proposed Wording
National Federations will be responsible for ensuring that their Individual Vaulters , Pas-de-Deux Vaulters, Squad Vaulters and Horses 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.

Article No.–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
Please also refer to the FEI Tack, Equipment and Dress Database or the FEI TackApp.

Article No.–Article Name
719.2.1.5
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;
Proposed Wording
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.
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.

Article No.–Article Name

719.2.5 – Two side reins

Explanation for Proposed Change

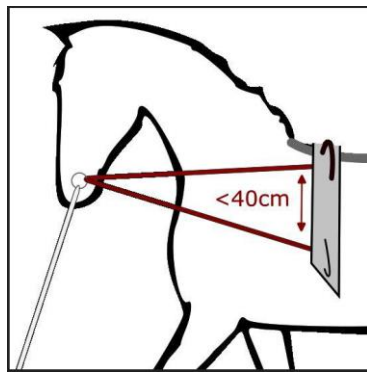
Urgent repairs; i.e., changes in the rules that cannot await because of their impact on the welfare of the Horses or the safety of the Athletes

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

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:



Article No.–Article Name

735 ROUNDS – SQUAD VAULTING COMPETITION

Explanation for Proposed Change

Please refer to FEI Feedback on article 737

Proposed Wording

		Round 1		Qualification for the final	Final
		Test 1	Test 2		
Senior	CVI 1*	Squad	Squad	Offering 2nd round is Optional number of starters according to schedule	Squad
	Squad Competition Senior 1*	Comp Test 1	Free Test 1		Free Test 1

		CVI 2* Squad Competition Senior 2*	Squad Comp Test 2	Squad Free Test 2	Number of starters according to schedule	Squad Free Test 2
		CVI 3* Squad Competition Senior 3*	Squad Comp Test 3	Squad Free Test 2	Number of starters according to schedule	Squad Free Test 2
		Championships Squad Competition Senior	Squad Comp Test 3		Open to all	Squad Free Test 2
	Junior	CVIJ 1* Squad Competition Junior 1*	Squad Comp Test 1	Squad Free Test 1	Offering 2nd round is Optional number of starters according to schedule	Squad Free Test 1
		CVIJ 2* Squad Competition Junior 2*	Squad Comp Test 2	Squad Free Test <u>2±</u>	Number of starters according to schedule	Squad Free Test <u>2±</u>
		Championships Squad Competition Junior	Squad Comp Test 2	Squad Free Test <u>2±</u>	15 best Squads *)	Squad Free Test <u>2±</u>