

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

14 October 2022

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 2022;](#)  
and
- B.** [Proposed Rules changes that have been rejected or deferred to a future Rules revision.](#)

Sincerely,



Bettina De Rham,  
FEI Vaulting Director

13 November 2022, Cape Town (RSA)

## A. PROPOSED RULES CHANGES TO BE VOTED AT THE FEI GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2022

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| <b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>   |
| <b>Scoring</b>   |
| <b>Article Number – Article Name</b>   |
| <b>Chapter VII</b>   |
| <b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>   |
| The VTC had concluded that the proposed system needed further consideration before it could be implemented. This project had therefore been postponed to further review.   |
| <b>Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022</b>   |
| <del>As of 1 January 2022, the FEI can, with the prior agreement of the relevant Organising Committee, test a new scoring system on a trial basis at selected events, it being understood and agreed that the new scoring system will not be used to calculate the official results.</del>   |
| <del>The details/explanation of the new scoring system will be published on the Vaulting page of <a href="http://inside.fei.org">inside.fei.org</a>. The FEI, in consultation with the FEI Vaulting Committee, can make revisions to the new scoring system from time to time provided that any changes must also be published on the Vaulting page.</del> |
| <del>If the FEI Vaulting Committee and the FEI decides that the trial of the new scoring system has been successful, it will be proposed for inclusion in the FEI Vaultinnog Rules 2023.</del>   |
| <b>Comments received by 24 August 2022</b>   |
| The <b>USEF</b> strongly supports the postponement of this change because it was flawed and warrants extensive development.  |
| <b>FEI feedback</b>  |
| The VTC thanked the USEF for their support.  |
| <b>Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022</b>   |
| Wording remains as in proposal above.  |

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| <b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>   |
| <b>FEI</b>   |
| <b>Article Number – Article Name</b>   |
| <b>701 EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS</b>   |
| <b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>   |
| Repair: Clarification  |
| <b>Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022</b>   |
| <b>701.1.2</b> Male and Female Individual Vaulters may be classified together at 1* <del>level</del> <u>Competitions</u> and must be classified separately in all other <del>level</del> <u>Competitions</u> . |
| <b>Comments received by 24 August 2022</b>   |
| <b>GER</b> - Male and Female Individual Vaulters may be classified together at 1* level Competitions and must be classified separately in all other level Competitions.  |
| We do not support this proposal for three reasons:   |

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- o To keep the chances between male and female vaulters even
- o To take into account the different physiology of male and female vaulters
- o To ensure motivation of male vaulters which are still the minority. We should encourage them more until we have reached gender equality

**FEI feedback**

The VTC only proposed to change the word "level" by "Competitions". As per the status, no other amendments could be made at this stage.

**Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022**

Wording remains as in proposal above.

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

**FEI**

**Article Number – Article Name**

**701 EVENTS AND COMPETITIONS**

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

For Horse welfare reasons

**Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022**

**701.1.3** ~~In principle, the Horse must may canter left, exception for CVI1\* and CVIJ/Ch1\* where the Horse may canter to the right or to the left.~~

**Comments received by 24 August 2022**

**GER** - Proposed Wording

701.1.3 In principle, the Horse may canter to the left or to the right.

We support this wording. We just want to point out that the guidelines need some amendments. However, all exercises must be judged in a way that they mirror each other on the directions of going.

**FEI feedback**

The VTC thanked the GER NF for their support and they will make sure to align the Guidelines accordingly.

**Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022**

Wording remains as in proposal above.

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

**FEI**

**Article Number – Article Name**

**701.11 CVIO4\***

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

Repair: A consolation test should be possible for Squads not declared on a Nations Team so that they may compete the three tests at a CVIO

**Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022**

11.7 A Consolation test may be organised for Squads not declared on the official Team Competition. The results of this consolation test will count as a separate competition.

**Comments received by 24 August 2022**

The **USEF** and **GER NF** support these changes.

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| <b>FEI feedback</b>   |
| The VTC thanked the USEF and the GER NF for their support.  |
| <b>Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022</b>  |
| Wording remains as in proposal above.   |
| <b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>  |
| <b>FEI</b>  |
| <b>Article Number – Article Name</b>  |
| <b>702.2.4.1 Starting Possibilities</b>   |
| <b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>  |
| Correction of inconsistency – this was an oversight during the full rules revision and PDD should have been included in this article.   |
| <b>Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022</b>  |
| However, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the GRs, a Vaultler competing in a Junior Individual Championship competition or a Young Vaultlers Championship may compete in a Senior Squad <u>or Pas de Deux</u> Championship Competition in the same calendar year ( <del>this-these is-are</del> the only exceptions to the rule).  |
| <b>Comments received by 24 August 2022</b>  |
| The <b>USEF</b> supports these changes.   |
| <b>GER</b> - In general we support the exceptions, but we would like to adjust it to the age of the vaultlers in question, to match the spirit of the rule better (It was implemented to make sure Senior Squads would still be able to compete for a country, even with a championship Junior Vaultler). A Junior Vaultler should only be allowed to compete in a Squad at Senior Championships as an exception.<br>A Young Vaultler should only be allowed to compete EITHER in a Senior Squad OR in a Pas-de-Deux at Senior Championships as an exception. |
| <u>Proposed wording</u> of GER - However, and not withstanding anything to the contrary in the GRs, a Vaultler competing in a Junior Individual Championship competition may compete in a Senior Squad Championship competition, a Young Vaultler competing in a Young Vaultler Individual Championship may compete either in a Senior Squad or a Pas de Deux Championship Competition in the same calendar year (these are the only exceptions to the rule).   |
| <b>FEI feedback</b>   |
| The VTC thanked the GER NF for their comments. The VTC reviewed the proposed wording and agreed to add the following sentence "Young Vaultlers <b>competing in a Young Vaultler Individual</b> " to avoid any misunderstanding". The VTC is of the opinion that the other changes do not affect the clarity of this article and that no further change would be relevant at this point in time.   |
| <b>Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022</b>  |
| However, and notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the GRs, a Vaultler competing in a Junior Individual Championship competition or a Young Vaultlers <u>competing in a Young Vaultler Individual</u> Championship may compete in a Senior Squad <u>or Pas de Deux</u> Championship Competition in the same calendar year ( <del>this-these is-are</del> the only exceptions to the rule)   |
| <b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>  |
| <b>FEI</b>  |

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| <b>Article Number – Article Name</b>  |
| <b>714 SALUTE</b>   |
| <b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>  |
| For Horse Welfare reasons and to protect the image of the sport, the VTC suggests that the side reins may be unfastened straight after the Salute at the end of a test.   |
| <b>Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022</b>  |
| Immediately <u>after the salute, before</u> exiting the <del>arena</del> <u>competition circle</u> , the side reins <del>must</del> <u>may</u> be unfastened. <u>The Vaulters must run out first followed by the horse and lunger. At the latest, the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle and Failure-failure</u> to do so will entail a Warning from the Steward.   |
| <b>Comments received by 24 August 2022</b>  |
| <p>The <b>USEF</b> supports these changes.</p> <p><b>GER</b> - We only support the idea of unfastening the side reins immediately. But it is a contradiction to the intention of the rule, if the horse stays longer in the arena than the vaulters, that is longer than necessary (horse welfare!). Furthermore we should no longer make the horses go back to the centre of the competition circle in walk with side reins (that are being used for trot and canter) after the performance is done. Therefore we suggest that the side reins may be unfastened immediately when the lunger is back close to the horse and the salute of the lunger is being done from there. Only the vaulters go back to the middle of the competition arena for the salute. We have tested this format during national selection competitions and would be willing to share video footage with the FEI Vaulting Committee.</p> <p><u>Proposed wording GER</u> - For the final salute, the horse does not have to stand in the centre of the competition circle.</p> <p>After the last dismount, there should be a controlled and smooth transition finally to hold. After having collected the lunge, the lunger salutes in the direction of the judge at A from where the horse is standing.</p> <p>The side reins may be unfastened before or after the salute. After the salute, the horse and the lunger may directly leave the competition circle either in trot (if side reins are not unfastened) or in walk (if side reins are already unfastened). The final salute of the vaulters will be done from the centre of the competition circle at the same time with the lunger. Thus the horse and the lunger may leave the competition circle first while the vaulters may still run out on their final lap.</p> <p>At the latest, the side reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle and failure to do so will entail a Warning from the Steward.</p> <p><b>DEN</b> - We strongly agree with the proposal, and we would like to suggest that it is not a choice to unfasten the side reins immediately after the salute but a requirement. A question: We presume that the horse and lunger will leave the circle at a walk, but this is not clear from the wording?</p> |
| <b>FEI feedback</b>   |
| <p>The VTC thanked the USEF for their support and the DEN NF and GER NF for their comments.</p> <p>The VTC would not be in favour not to have the final "Salute" with the horse, the lunger and the Vaulters as this is the way they closed their performances. The VTC would like to keep it optional 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.</p>  |
| <b>Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022</b>  |
| Wording remains as in proposal above.   |

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| <b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>  |
| <b>FEI</b>  |
| <b>Article Number – Article Name</b>  |
| <b>719 EQUIPMENT</b>  |
| <b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>  |
| Repair - deleted as already under article 727.2   |
| <b>Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022</b>  |
| <del>Failure to wear such Protective Headgear where and when required after being notified to do so by an FEI Official, shall result in a Yellow Warning Card, being issued to the Athlete.</del> |
| <b>Comments received by 24 August 2022</b>  |
| The <b>USEF</b> supports these changes.   |
| <b>FEI feedback</b>   |
| The VTC thanked the USEF for their support.   |
| <b>Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022</b>  |
| Wording remains as in proposal above.   |

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| <b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>  |
| <b>FEI</b>  |
| <b>Article Number – Article Name</b>  |
| <b>719.2.1.7 EQUIPMENT</b>  |
| <b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>  |
| Due to an administrative error, the information concerning the use of sheepskin or other materials on the bridle was omitted from the 2022 Vaulting Rules. The omitted article is to be returned to the Rules for 2023. |
| <b>Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022</b>  |
| <del>Nosebands must be flat. Leather, sheepskin or similar material may be used on any part of the bridle providing the material does not exceed three centimetres in diameter measured from the Horse's skin.</del>    |
| <b>Comments received by 24 August 2022</b>  |
| The <b>USEF</b> and <b>GER NF</b> support these changes.  |
| <b>FEI feedback</b>   |
| The VTC thanked the USEF and the GER NF for their support.  |
| <b>Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022</b>  |
| Wording remains as in proposal above.   |

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| <b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b> |
| <b>FEI</b>   |
| <b>Article Number – Article Name</b>                           |
| <b>723 Officials</b>   |

**Explanation for Proposed Change**

Repair – to align with the Vaulting education system, the table of Ground Jury per Competition had to be amended to ensure the correct levels of Officials at each CVI and to ensure that Officials can earn the necessary experience to be transferred up in their levels.

**Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022**1.1. Minimum Ground Jury Requirements per Competition:

| CVI 1*  | CVI 2*  | CVI 3*-4*/Masterclass  | Championships  |
|---|---|--|--|
| CVI J 1*<br>CVI Ch 1*   | CVI J 2*<br>CVI Ch 2*<br>CVIYV 2*   |  |  |
| <u>Minimum two Judges</u><br><br><u>The PGJ shall be minimum Level 3</u><br><br><u>Maximum two Level 1</u><br><u>Minimum one Level 3 or above</u><br><br><u>For CVIs in Europe only:</u><br><br><u>One Level 3 or above has to be foreign</u> | <u>Minimum four Judges</u><br><br><u>The PGJ shall be minimum Level 3</u><br><br><u>Maximum one Level 1</u><br><u>Minimum one Level 3 or above.</u><br><br><u>For all CVIs</u><br><br><u>One Level 3 or above has to be foreign</u> | <u>Minimum four Judges,</u><br><u>The PGJ shall be minimum level 3</u><br><br><u>No Level 1</u><br><u>Minimum one Level 4</u><br><br><u>For CVIs in Europe only:</u><br><br><u>Two of the Level 3 and/or Level 4 have to be foreign</u><br><br><u>For CVIs outside Europe only: One Level 3 has to be foreign.</u> | <b>Continental &amp; World Championships:</b><br><br><b>Eight Judges</b><br><br><u>Minimum eight Judges</u><br><br><u>The PGJ shall be Level 4</u><br><br><u>No Level 1 and Level 2</u><br><u>Minimum three Level 4</u><br><br><u>max two from one country</u> |

*Note: "For the year 2022, FEI Level 1 judges may be replaced by National Judges"*

**Comments received by 24 August 2022**

The USEF supports these changes.

**DEN** - We agree with a need for alignment between the Education system and the Rules. However, we would like to propose that instead of changing the Rules to align with the Education system, that the FEI consider changing the Education system requirements to align with the Rules.

It is permitted to have more than one PGJ at an Event, but this will likely cause confusion for both the OC, Chief Steward, and Ground Jury with regards to who makes the actual decisions. But with only one PGJ per CVI (19 CVI3\* in 2022) of which many will likely choose a Level 4 as PGJ, the opportunities for Level 3 judges to obtain the requirements currently listed in the Education system will be limited even with the proposed rule change.

**FEI feedback**

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The VTC thanked the USEF for their support and the DEN NF for their comments.

The VTC thinks that if an OC wants to have two PGJ due to the size of their show it could be valuable to share the work between the two PGJ. This could serve the OC and new Judges officiating as PGJ for the first time. The VTC would like to emphasise that it is optional to have more than one PGJ and not mandatory. It would be under the responsibility of the OC to communicate properly with the Panel of Judges with regards to the responsibilities of each of them.

#### Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022

Wording remains as in proposal above.

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

**FEI**

#### Article Number – Article Name

**723 Officials**

#### Explanation for Proposed Change

Urgent repair: this article should be removed from the Rules. This is moved to the Judges Guidelines in a slightly different form which makes this article no longer valid.

#### Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022

Remove article 10:

#### ~~10 Evaluation of Competitions~~

~~The President of the Ground Jury and/or Foreign Judge must meet with the Judges for evaluation of the tests. The meeting must take place within twenty four (24 hours) of the competition, ideally at the end of the day at least on two of the three or four competition days. A short brief of each meeting should be added to the foreign Judge report.~~

#### Comments received by 24 August 2022

No comments were received

#### FEI feedback

N/A

#### Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022

Wording remains as in proposal above.

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

**FEI- Repair**

#### Article Number – Article Name

**724.4 Expenses and Privileges**

#### Explanation for Proposed Change

Contradiction in the rules and the list of invitations per NF for Championships.

#### Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022

Organising Committees of multi discipline Championships must accept responsibility for meeting the living expenses of Athletes, Horses, grooms, three attendants, one National Trainer and team Officials (Chefs d'Equipe and one Team Veterinarian) to be invited according to the rules from the day before the First Horse Inspection until the day after the end of the Championships. This must be published in the Schedule.

#### Comments received by 24 August 2022

No comments were received



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| <b>FEI feedback</b>  |
| N/A  |
| <b>Proposed Final Wording to be voted at the FEI General Assembly 2022</b> |
| Wording remains as in proposal above.                                      |

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

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| <b>Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)</b>   |
| <b>Swedish Equestrian Federation</b>   |
| <b>Article Number – Article Name</b>   |
| <b>ARTICLE 729 ELIMINATIONS</b>  |
| <b>Explanation for Proposed Change</b>   |
| <p><b>NF Explanation:</b></p> <p>1. Urgent repairs, i.e., changes in the Rules that cannot await because of their <b>impact on the welfare of the Horses</b> or the safety of the Athletes.</p> <p>It appears that bleeding from one or two nostrils is not covered in current regulations. Nose blood can occur from bleeding in upper and/or lower airways (in racing horses not unusual with even lung bleeding, Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage, EIPH, but usually after exercise).</p> <p>To distinguish from a suspected minor bleeding due to a small laceration of a nostril, the horse should be checked by an FEI Veterinarian after the performance.</p> <p>Nose blood should be a reason for elimination because of the impact on Horse welfare, but also for general perception, i.e., Social License to Operate (SLO).</p> <p><b>NF Proposal:</b></p> <p>2.6.2. If the FEI Steward discovers fresh blood in the Horse’s mouth <b>or nostril</b> during the check at the end of the test (Article 719.4), they inform the Judge at A, who will eliminate the Competitive Unit.</p> <p>2.6.3. If the FEI Steward discovers fresh blood anywhere else on the Horse’s body (i.e. other than the Horse’s mouth <b>or nostril</b>) during the check at the end of the test, the Competitive Unit is not automatically eliminated. The FEI Chief Steward shall inform the Judge at A whether the Horse is fit to continue in following competition(s) in the Event. The Judge at A will take a decision on the Horse’s fitness to continue, based on the FEI Veterinarian’s advice. If the Judge at A decides the Horse is not fit to continue, the Horse will not be permitted to take part in any further Competition(s) or tests at the Event, but the result(s) obtained by the Competitive Unit in any Competition(s) or tests already completed shall stand.</p> <p><b>FEI Feedback:</b></p> <p>This proposal was discussed with the FEI Veterinary Department and the conclusion is that more in-depth research is needed before we can amend the current rule.</p> |
| <b>Proposed Wording on 6 July 2022</b>   |
| N/A  |
| <b>Comments received by 24 August 2022</b>   |
| <b>GER</b> - We support the wording of the Swedish Federation.   |
| <b>FEI feedback</b>  |
| As explained in July, this proposal was discussed with the FEI Veterinary Department and the conclusion is that more in-depth research is needed before we can amend the current rule.   |

| Proposal from (National Federation, Stakeholder or FEI)   |
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| <b>BEL</b>  |
| Article Number – Article Name   |
| <p>2. Entries for CVIs and CVIOs<br/>           Entries for CVI Events must be made in accordance with the FEI General Regulations Art. 116. (entries):<br/>           Definite entries for CVIs and CVIOs must be made at the latest four (4) days preceding the beginning of the Event. These represent the final selection of Athletes and Horses that may participate in the Event. Substitutions of Athletes and/or Horses may only be made in accordance with article 707.</p> <p>3. Entries for Championships<br/>           3.1. Entries for Championships must be made in accordance with the FEI General Regulations.<br/>           3.2. Entries per NF – numbers for FEI Championships<br/>           3.2.1 Each NF may definitely enter the following for Seniors, Juniors and Young Vaulters Championships:<br/>           - Squad – chosen from the nominated entries list for Squads:<br/>             o 1 Squad of 6 Vaulters together with 1 Lunger and 1 Horse,<br/>             o Plus 2 reserve Vaulters, 1 reserve Horse and 1 reserve Lunger.<br/>           - Individuals– chosen from the nominated entries list for Individuals:</p>  |
| C Comments received by 24 August 2022   |
| <p>We have always had nominative and definitive registrations for the organisation of CVI competitions.<br/>           In present, only nominative registrations have to be made for championships.<br/>           This means that as an organiser you only know very late how many participants you are going to have. This is particularly difficult for the organising committee because you do not know in time whether you have to cancel or recruit judges. In the past we have had competitions with 200 solo voltigeurs and competitions with less than 100 solo voltigeurs and also sometimes up to 3 times more teams from one competition to another.<br/>           If you have to rent horse stables and sometimes also place them. How many do you have to provide?<br/>           Without nominative registrations you don't know if you have to place 100 or 200 stables.<br/>           If you place too many stables, who can pay for all the empty stables? Certainly not in voltige where everything has to be done voluntarily and there is very little income. How will you be able to cough up the money if you have ordered 100 stalls too many?<br/>           If this continues, it will discourage many organisers from starting.<br/>           For the rest, I have no comments.</p> |
| FEI feedback  |
| <p>The VTC thanked the BEL NF for their comment. The VTC would like to inform the BEL NF that as Vaulting is not yet in the FEI Entry System they can still add nominated entries dates in their FEI Schedule. The nominated entries dates would be further discussed internally within the FEI in 2023 to see what would suit best the Organisers across all disciplines which have the FEI Entry system.</p>  |