



FEI™

VAULTING

Conclusion of Changes from the Seminar

Saumur 2024

Degree of Difficulty - SQUADS - Junior

Degree of Difficulty - Squads

The exercises are divided, into three Degrees of Difficulty.

Squads Free Test 2 – JUNIORS

Only the 20 exercises with the highest Degree of Difficulty will be scored as follows:

Difficult exercise	(D)	0,5 points - 0,5
Medium exercise	(M)	0,3 points - 0,4
Easy exercise	(E)	0,1 points - 0,2

Squads Free Test 2 – SENIORS

Only the 25 exercises with the highest Degree of Difficulty will be scored as follows:

Difficult exercise	(D)	0,4 points
Medium exercise	(M)	0,3 points
Easy exercise	(E)	0,1 points

Artistic - C1 - Individuals 1*

Deductions for missing group in C1 - Individual/ 1*

1* individual - deduction for missing structure group changed from 1 point to 1,5

Reason:

The current system inflates the overall artistic score for 1* vaulters.

Vaulters only need to perform 7 exercises to achieve a score of 10 in C1.

Performing exercises from just 3 structure groups results in a "satisfactory" score of 6, but a Free Test with only 3 exercises does not adequately demonstrate structure group usage.

The high weighting of C1 for 1* vaulters further exaggerates their scores.

Example:

Vaulter performs exercises from 6 structure group and one will be missing. Currently the score for C1 will be 9, with new deduction 8,5.

If only 3 structure groups will be shown, the 4 missing will results in deduction of 6 points = end score 4 instead of current 6

Artistic

Overall Deductions - Individual/Squads/PDD

To scratch deduction:

“Not mounting again after a fall where the contact with the Horse is lost (no final dismount)”

Reason:

Prevent Judging Errors: By removing this deduction, we aim to avoid mistakes by judges when assessing situations where the final dismount is missing (e.g., not remounting after a fall, dismounting while trotting, or sliding off the horse - often in Squads).

Ensure Athlete and Horse Safety: We want to avoid pressuring athletes to remount the horse when either they or the horse are not in a proper condition to complete the routine, which could compromise safety. This ensures that athletes are not forced to remount solely to avoid deductions.

Transitions

Reworked description of transitions.

Transition:

- Is a dynamic element connecting 2 exercises.

A transition is counted for DOD and number of exercises used for average system unless it connects two elements in a very easy/basic/simple way

Horse Score

2.4.2. Lunging Aids

All vaulting aids should be applied correctly and discretely.

Lunge Line

The lunge line takes the place of the rider's rein aids. It may be held with the line running to the Horse held between the fourth and fifth finger (as a rider) or between the thumb and second finger (as a driver). The lunger's elbow should be softly bent.

Like rein aids while riding, signals should be given smoothly and as softly as possible to get the desired response. The aids should be given by squeezing or turning the hand (half-halts) - not pulling or hanging on the lunge line.

Lunge Whip

The lunge whip takes the place of the rider's legs. When the whip is not used for the purpose of giving the necessary aids, it should be held at an angle of about 45 degrees or higher, pointing towards the Horse's croup. The Horse should accept the whip as an aid without showing fearful reactions, while remaining alert and responsive to the aids. The Horse must be encouraged to have freedom of forward movement. The whip should not be used to drive the Horse forward continuously, as aids are intended for changing the way of going and should not constantly impact the Horse.

If the lunger goes toward the Horse to adjust equipment, the lash should be gathered, and the whip turned backward, so that it does not interfere with the Horse.

Lunger's Voice

The voice is mainly used for transitions, praise, to call the Horse's attention, and/or to express mild corrections. The voice is an important aid in lunging and should be used (as described above) to change the way of going without constantly impacting the Horse.

Lunger's Body Posture

The body posture is mainly used to portray support and for adjustments in speed and circling.

Horse Score - A2

Willingness and obedience

- Attentive, willing to cooperate, obedient throughout the test
- The horse is performing the test of its own accord
- Consistent in all exercises
- Concentrated in reacting to the aids/responsive to the aids
- In harmony with the vaulter and, longer and external influences, showing ease/lightness
- Consistent regardless of external influences
- No adverse reactions or indicators of stress

Horse Score - A2

Reference Score	Description
Up to 10 Points	Optimal fulfillment of the criteria or with slight deviations. The horse appears relaxed, focused, and willing to cooperate. It shows absolute willingness to perform in harmony with the lunger and the vaulter(s) and gives the impression of carrying out the Test of its own accord throughout the entire duration. It reacts attentively to the aids, completes each the task given by the vaulter(s) with the impression of excellent harmony and lightness while maintaining optimal self-carriage.
Up to 8 Points	Most of the time the horse is relaxed, focused and willing to cooperate and is alert and responsive to the lunger's aids and the vaulters exercises with no reluctance. Mostly in good harmony and lightness with good self-carriage.
Up to 6 points	Some clear resistance or hesitation. Loss of lightness and harmony. The Horse is not always responsive to the lunger's aids. Some nervousness or minor reactions of the horse to external influences
Up to 4 Points	Several clear moments of resistance. The Horse is clearly unwilling to move forward, disobedient, or uneducated. It does not always accept the aids of the lunger or lacks confidence and understanding of the requirements of a vaulting horse and the given aids. Clear nervousness or major reactions of the horse to external influences
Up to 2 Points	Very disobedient with clear and constant resistance. Out of the lunger's control. The Horse is very unwilling, disobedient, or uneducated. It does not accept the aids of the lunger and the vaulters throughout the entire Test.

Horse Score - A2

Balance in tempo and consistency (forwards/backwards)

- Constantly appropriate and consistent tempo in relation to the exercises performed by the vaulters (without “slowing down” or “rushing away”)
- Consistent engagement, pace, and energy regarding the performance

Reference Score	Description
Up to 10 Points	Optimal fulfillment of the criteria or with slight deviations. The horse shows outstanding balance through a consistent pace and energy in all situations and maintains its self-carriage in an absolute regular tempo under the different exercises of the vaulter(s) throughout the entire test.
Up to 8 Points	The horse shows good balance through a mostly consistent pace, tempo and energy in most situations and mostly maintains its self-carriage in a regular tempo under different exercises of the vaulter(s) . The horse may slow down or speed up marginally while reacting only on specific exercises .
Up to 6 points	The horse is reluctant to move forward or slows down significantly while reacting on some exercises and shows some changes in tempo (pace and energy).
Up to 4 Points	The horse is reluctant to move forward or slows down significantly while reacting on several exercises of the vaulter(s) and shows several changes in tempo (pace and energy).
Up to 2 Points	The horse is unable to keep the same pace and energy and is constantly clearly compensating its lack of balance related to the exercises of the vaulter(s) in significant changes in tempo (pace and energy).

Horse Score

A2

Balance in circling (left/right)

- Maintaining the balance on both sides in relation to e.g. the exercises shown by the vaulter(s) and/or external influences
- Keeping a constant circle line (without fluctuations inwards or outwards) demanded by the performance
- Constant length of lunge, without sagging unsteady lunge with a circle diameter of at least 16m

Reference Score	Description
Up to 10 Points	Optimal fulfillment of the criteria or with slight deviations. The horse canters on an absolute constant circle line that appears to be not less than 16m diameter. It balances out all occurring weight shifting related to the vaulting exercises and maintains the same track throughout the entire test.
Up to 8 Points	Most of the time the horse canters on a constant circle line that appears to be not less than 16m diameter. It balances out most of the occurring weight shifting related to the vaulting exercises and mostly maintains the same track in the test. The horse may leave the circle line marginally while compensating and balancing out only specific exercises.
Up to 6 points	The horse sometimes needs to compensate in some exercises of the vaulter(s) by moving away from the circle line . While generally showing a circle line, some changes of the circle line are clearly visible.
Up to 4 Points	The horse is clearly compensating in several exercises of the vaulter(s) by moving in and out of the circle and thus is not showing a constant circle line. Or the circle appears to be smaller than 16m diameter throughout the entire test.
Up to 2 Points	The horse is unable to maintain the same circle line and keeps losing track while compensating its lack of balance related to the exercises of the vaulter(s) thus is constantly moving in and out of the circle. Or the circle appears to be smaller than 15m diameter throughout the entire test.

Horse Score

A3

Lunging includes the technique of lunging, the coordination of the aids, the posture of the lunger and the lunger's position on the circle. The run-in, the salute, the release onto the circle, the trot round and the lunging throughout the performing of the test should be carried out correctly, appropriately, fair to the horse and in harmonious cooperation with the horse and the vaulter.

Core areas are:

- **Giving aids**
- **Posture and location**
- **Appearance**

Giving aids

- Competent in the technique of lunging
- Excellent coordination of giving aids
- Appropriate, correct, and sensitive use of aids: lunge, whip, voice and body posture
- Framing the horse with the aids
- Appropriate use of aids: lunge, whip, and voice
- Harmonious and trusting communication between lunger, horse and vaulter

Posture and location

- Upright posture with bent elbows, upper arms close to the upper body
- Optimal centering and position of the lunger
- Natural, relaxed, and appropriate movements while turning

Appearance

- Harmonious and trusting communication between lunger, horse and vaulter
- Correct in handling of horse, lunge, and whip
- Appropriate, professional use and application of equipment
- Appropriate clothing


Horse Score

A3

Reference Score	Description
Up to 10 Points	Optimal fulfillment of the criteria or with slight deviations. Correct, sensitive and appropriate use of the aids throughout the entire test with the lunge line always in place (slight deviation may depend on the weight and material of the lunge line), centered lunging, guidance with excellent posture, absolutely correct confidence in appearance and appropriate clothing.
Up to 8 Points	Mostly correct, sensitive use of the aids with the lunge line mostly in place, mostly centered position, mostly correct posture, mostly confident appearance, and appropriate clothing. Lunger walks during a part of the performance (approx. 1m diameter).
Up to 6 points	Posture and handling of the aids and equipment not always correct. Some ineffective aids or clearly inappropriate use of the whip. Lunge line is often loose and/or twisted. Lunger walks during the entire performance (approx. 2 m diameter). Posture several times not correct and several times not efficient.
Up to 4 Points	Significant deviations in the correct use of the lunging aids. Imprecise and/or poorly responsive aids from the lunger. Lunger disturbs the horse. Constant excessive use of the whip or aids not used when required. Lunge is loose/on the ground throughout the entire test. Hard contact or hard lunging hand is used as punishment or as a false aid. Lack of harmony between the lunger and the horse and/or the vaulter(s). Nervousness or unnatural movements of the lunger that do not serve the purpose to give any lunging aids. Inappropriate, insecure behaviour. Or if one of the following occurs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small circle throughout (under 15m diameter) • 4-beat-canter throughout • Lunger walking excessively or constantly (approx. 3m)
Up to 2 Points	Result of several faults

Horse Score - A3

Deductions for A3 (regarding Entry, Salute and Trot Round)

	Deduction
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minor interruption (minor disobedience/reaction from the Horse, salute not centred, Horse not standing straight/still, etc.)	0.1-0.2 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medium interruption (medium disobedience/reaction from the Horse, circle not entered in trot, lunge line and equipment not tidy, inappropriate use of aids, )	0.2-0.5 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major interruption (major disobedience/reaction from the Horse trot round clearly too small or not even, etc.)• The lunger leads the Horse onto the circle after the salute	0.5-1 points
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The lunger does half a circle or moves around the arena before he/she and the Horse arrive at the centre of the circle	1 point

A deduction is given each time an error occurs in the Test. If a deduction is given, it should be mentioned on the score sheet. The same penalty may be given several times. If multiple errors occur in one incidence (e.g. Horse bucking in trot round followed by the circle becoming clearly too small ~~several canter strides before transition back into trot~~) then they will be scored as one deduction.

Artistic - COH

Reworked description for more clarity.

Reference scores:

<p>Up to 10 Points</p>	<p>Excellent consideration</p> <p>The criteria is applied whether the horse visibly reacts or not.</p>	<p>✓ Weight: the weight carried by the Horse, positions and movements of the Vaulters match the Horse all the time.</p> <p>✓ Composition: test conceived and presented in full harmony with the Horse's build, training level and canter quality on the circle.</p> <p>✓ Balance: static combinations and dynamic exercises elements should be in equilibrium not affect be in balance of with the Horse.</p> <p>✓ Contact/Liaison/Collaboration: The Vaulters' movements do not affect the Horse's balance, canter movement, body alignment or ability to remain on the chosen circle line. Vaulters' movements are seamlessly in sync with the horse, creating a sense of unity where they appear to move as one. Each movement complements the horse's rhythm resulting in a partnership that appears excellently connected.</p>
<p>Up to 8 Points</p>	<p>Good consideration</p> <p>The criteria is applied whether the horse visibly reacts or not</p>	<p>✓ Weight: the weight carried by the Horse, positions and movements of the Vaulters match the Horse at any time.¶</p> <p>✓ Composition: test conceived and presented in full harmony with the Horse's build, and training level. and canter quality on the circle:</p> <p>– Balance: static combinations and dynamic exercises elements are mostly in equilibrium with the horse balanced and mostly not affecting balance of the Horse and matching the training level of the horse and vaulter</p> <p>– Contact/Liaison/Collaboration: While there is a strong sense of partnership, occasional lack of absorption can be observed. though they may not visibly disrupt the horse's rhythm. The Vaulters' movements do not significantly affect the Horse's balance, canter quality, body alignment or ability to remain on the chosen circle line</p>

Artistic - COH

<p>Up to 6 Points</p>	<p>Satisfactory consideration</p> <p>The criteria is applied whether the horse visibly reacts or not</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weight: the weight carried by the Horse, position and movement of the Vaulters mostly matches the Horse’s training level, but during a short amount of time, the Horse is somewhat overloaded and/or struggles to maintain a consistent canter. – Composition: test contains some exercises/combinations that may not match the Horse’s build or training level and affect its canter movement on the circle. – Balance: static combinations and dynamic exercises sometimes affect balance of the Horse. Elements sometimes are in equilibrium with the horse. – Contact/Liaison/Collaboration: The Vaulters’ movements sometimes affect the Horse’s balance, canter quality, body alignment or ability to remain on the chosen circle line. The Horse reacts to an exercise at least once. Vaulters’ movements appear somewhat disjointed, sometimes tense or against the movement of the horse. Repeated lack of absorption can be observed. There are medium indicators suggesting that the vaulter is not fully in harmony with the horse.
<p>Up to 4 Points</p>	<p>Insufficient consideration</p> <p>The criteria is applied whether the horse visibly reacts or not</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Weight: the weight carried by the Horse, position and movement of the Vaulters often does do not match the Horse. The Horse is overloaded several times by the test and struggles to maintain a consistent canter several times. – Composition: test contains many exercises/combinations that do not match the Horse’s build or training level. and affects canter quality and circling. – Balance: static combinations and dynamic exercises frequently affect the balance of the horse. Elements are frequently out of balance. – Contact/Liaison/Collaboration: The Vaulters’ movements clearly disturb the Horse’s balance, canter quality, body alignment or ability to remain on the chosen circle line. The Horse reacts to exercises several times. Prolonged lack of absorption. Movements of the vaulter during multiple exercises and sequences appear forced or laboured, lacking the smoothness necessary for true collaboration and harmony, which detracts from the natural movement of the horse’s canter.

Artistic - COH

<p>Up to 2 Points</p>	<p>Bad consideration</p> <p>The criteria is applied whether the horse visibly reacts or not</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Weight: the weight carried by the Horse, positions and movements of the Vaulters constantly do not match the Horse during most of the test. The Horse is overloaded. by the test and struggles to maintain a consistent center throughout the test.– Composition: test contains numerous exercises/combinations that do not match the Horse's build or training level. and significantly affects center quality and circling.– Balance: static combinations and dynamic exercises affect balance of the Horse. Elements are constantly out of balance.– Contact/Liaison/Collaboration: Almost CoConstant lack of absorption. Movements of the vaulter constantly appear forced or laboured. The Vaulter's movements often disturb the Horse's balance, center movement, body alignment or ability to remain on the chosen circle line. The Horse repeatedly reacts to exercises.
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Big topics (for the future)

- Testing of the Free Test concept with aim to be implemented in 2027
- Scratch the swing off to the outside in 3* in squads (avoid injuries for smaller members of squads) - 2026 or 2027