

Discipline-specific guidelines for FEI Vaulting Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic (updated 23 March-7 December 2021)

Note: for ease of reading, all updates made since the last version of this document appear in mark-up. Previous updates are shown in red. The links are updated from time to time without this being shown as a change to the document.

Purpose

This document provides OCs (“OCs”) and the Vaulting community with detailed guidance for the management of FEI Vaulting Events during the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures outlined aim to apply to all aspects of the Event the hygiene and social distancing principles necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

This document must be read and used in conjunction with:

- FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic and in particular article VII “Recommended Best Practice for FEI Event Organisers”, which provides general guidance for all FEI Events.
- The Veterinary-specific guidelines for FEI Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic which outline the veterinary processes applicable in each FEI discipline

These guidelines are best practice recommendations. They do not intend to replace the regulations and policies imposed by the national and local health authorities, but to supplement them with considerations that are unique to Vaulting.

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I. Social distancing for Athletes and their support personnel

1. Rules of engagement

In Vaulting, Squad and Pas-de-Deux are both considered as “contact sports”, and training will also require intermittent high levels of physical contact making it impossible to maintain social distancing. If an Athlete or Team member/staff becomes an infected person all other Athletes and staff member in the Team will be considered as close contacts and will require testing and quarantine. Training in contact sports should be planned in compliance with the requirements imposed by the local public health authorities.

During the Covid-19 pandemic OCs are not obliged to organise Squad competitions.

Every person involved in Vaulting Events will have the responsibility to prevent the spread of the virus. Wearing masks, observing hand and respiratory hygiene, social distancing and self-isolating if symptoms appear are the most effective means of prevention of the spread.

If an Athlete or team member knows, or thinks they are infected they should stay at home to self-isolate and contact their team doctor or primary care doctor. Outlined below are measures to be observed consistently during the Covid-19 pandemic:

These rules should be enforced in daily life by all members of the Team and not only in training or Events:

- Frequent hand washing, regular disinfection of shared equipment, especially, surcingle, whips, barrels etc...
- The use of face masks is highly recommended except during training and performance. If the team members are considered to be part of the same household in their home country they may be exempted from using a face mask when only amongst themselves. By entering CVIs, all team members by default confirm that they have respected the above measures in their daily life and will continue to enforce them while present at the Event.

All Athletes, support personnel and entourage have the responsibility to bring enough face masks and sanitising products for hands and surfaces (to be used for teams’ own equipment shared within the team).

The OC should have enough face masks to be delivered to the team members in case of need. It is up to each OC to give them free of charge or at the cost on the market.

2. Lungers

All Lungers lunging more than one unit at CVIs should wear a face mask during their performances in the training, warm-up arena and in the field of play.

Lungers should wear gloves all the time when handling the whip, surcingle and pad. It is highly recommended to have a couple of spare gloves available in order to change between tests when lunging more than one unit.

II. Show office & administration

Taking into account the Recommended Best Practices for FEI Event Organisers in the [FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), a plan must be devised and implemented to ensure social distancing and adequate hygiene:

- At the various steps of the event administration (such as invoicing, orders etc.)
- In the show office
- During staff, volunteers and Officials briefings
- For shuttles and all venue vehicles

Regular cleaning and disinfection schedules must be established for all areas and equipment in the venue, including Judges tables, score box(es), press & commentator box(es), volunteers material.

Pre-packaged individual food and bottled drink should be made available to personnel, Officials and volunteers if necessary.

III. Consequences of the removal of a Squad/Pas-de-Deux or Official Team member due to Covid-19

If a Squad or Pas-de-Deux member has to leave the event due to SARS-CoV-2 contamination or suspected contamination (positive test, Covid-19 diagnosis, notification of close contact with an infected person by the relevant health authorities), the removal of the entire unit will be considered, due to the contact sport nature of Squad and Pas-de-Deux (see section I.1 "Rules of engagement").

If Individual Athletes who are part of the Official Team have to leave the event due to SARS-CoV-2 contamination or suspected contamination (positive test, Covid-19 diagnosis, notification of close contact with an infected person by the relevant health authorities), the removal from the Official Team will be considered as due to medical reasons and the consequences for the Official Team will be determined as prescribed in article 707 of the [FEI Vaulting rules](#) under substitution if applicable. If at the time of the removal, substitution is not possible, the concerned Official Team will be removed.

IV. Equipment

Whenever sharing material, unless within the same Squad or same Pas-de-Deux, the equipment used should be cleaned, disinfected or changed before and after each use.

V. Competition areas

1. Warm-up and changing rooms

1.1 Warm-up Arena

- All accredited persons should wear a face mask and wash their hands with soap and water or with hydro alcoholic gel before entering the warm-up zone.
- Hand sanitising product should be available when entering and leaving arenas. Each individual should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit.
- Social distancing should be observed as much as possible.
- Vaulters can temporarily remove their mask when exercising and warming up.
- If Athletes use specific devices to warm-up, the OC should provide clear instructions on the necessary process to clean the devices after each use.
- The required cleaning products must be available at all times.
- Shared mats is not recommended. Personal equipment such as water bottles, towels, etc... should not be shared.
- It is important that Athletes are given the time and opportunity to clean their hands after coughing, sneezing, using tissues, or after possible contact with respiratory secretions or objects or surfaces that might be contaminated.
- To facilitate these process the OC should set-up the warm-up area so that the crowd is evenly distributed over the entire surface of the warm-up zone.
- Duplicating the warm-up area is a possible alternative.

1.2 Before entering the field of play:

- In addition to the above listed measures in section 1.1, when leaving the warm-up area, Vaulters and Lungers should directly enter the field of play through the dedicated one-way pathway.
- When leaving the field of play, Athletes should directly exit the field of play through the dedicated one-way pathway.
- An additional sanitary station should be located before entering the field of play and Athletes should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands before entering the field of play and before taking the whip from the Lunger if requested. Lungers should be asked to clean their hands if they do not wear gloves.

1.3 Changing rooms

Dedicated rooms for Athletes to recover and get changed between tests/competitions should be available and must be large enough to allow social distancing.

These changing room should be clearly marked and be accessible only to accredited Vaulters and Lungers. A cleaning procedure must be put in place by the OC, ensure these zones are cleaned several times a day and at the end of the day.

Hand sanitising product should be available at the changing room entrance. Athletes will be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit.

2. Competition Arena

All seats, and all other materials which have been in contact with people should be cleaned with sanitary solution at the end of each day. A clear cleaning procedure must be put in place by the OC.

3. Ground Jury tables

- Hand sanitising product should be available at the arenas entry and exit points.
- Each accredited person should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit.
- Vaulting Judges and their scribes should bring their own pens, notebooks etc... Sharing of equipment should not be permitted.
- Face masks and hand sanitiser should be provided to each judge and scribe.
- The OC may consider installing a Plexiglas or heavy plastic divider and providing headsets for the judges to communicate with the two scribes (the secretary and the E scribe).
- If no Plexiglas is installed at the Judges' table, everyone present should wear masks.
- At each rotation of the Judges/scribes, the table, chairs and all materials should be carefully cleaned with sanitising solution.

4. Score sheets

- Where possible, paperless judging should be favoured.
- Volunteers in charge of collecting scores after each test should wear, mask and gloves when collecting these scoresheets.
- Scoresheets should be placed in a folder which will be cleaned after changing hands, and brought to the competition or scoring office (place in receptacle outside).
- No paper scoresheets should be given out at the competition. Vaulting scoresheets may be requested following the competition and will be provided by email.

- In order to discourage physical gatherings, there should be no main score board at the competition. Post scores online and circulate by email.

5. Stewards and Technical Delegate

Stewards or Technical Delegate should wear a mask, sanitise hands frequently and maintain adequate distance whenever possible.

For the equipment check, Stewards should wear one use gloves and change after each check (as required by the Steward Manual).

VI. Competition time

A time table with precise start times for each unit should be provided for each test.

VII. Falls & injured Athletes

Medical service providers must always wear mask and gloves when tending injured Athletes.

Anyone else providing help must wear a mask, sanitise hands frequently and maintain adequate distance whenever possible.

The Athlete must be given a mask (unless in medical distress).

The medical facility and ambulance will be managed in accordance with the requirements from the local health authorities.

VIII. Prize giving, awards and end of competition

As of 1 September 2020, the Covid-19 guidelines for prize giving protocols and media activities at FEI Events apply to all FEI Events. ~~Under these guidelines, the wearing of face masks is mandatory for everyone involved in prize givings, including Athletes unless they are mounted on a horse or driving a carriage. There is also a specific protocol for podium presentations.~~