

## **FEI VAULTING FORUM 2025 7 February 2025**

The FEI hosted its fourth edition of the FEI Vaulting Forum which had become a significant milestone in the continued growth of the discipline. As a recurring event, this Forum provides a platform to share key insights, discuss developments, and foster collaboration among athletes, officials, and stakeholders worldwide. The 2025 edition provided updates on the following topics: Rules and Guidelines changes for 2025, FEI updates, history of Vaulting and Consideration of the Horse score. More than 130 participants joined the Forum with a worldwide representation, ranging from FEI officials to trainers, athletes, and support teams.

Pavla Krauspe, the Chair of the FEI Vaulting Technical Committee, opened the Forum and thanked attendees for joining. The Chair emphasised that 2024 had been an amazing year for Vaulting with a total of 33 CVIs organised; the highest number ever in a single season. This growth reflected not only the increasing number of events but also in the rising participation of FEI athletes and Officials. The Chair expressed that 2025 season had started well with a record number of 37 CVIs scheduled in 22 countries.

The Chair welcomed and presented the FEI Vaulting Department as well as the members of the Vaulting Technical Committee.

### FEI Vaulting Department:

- Ronan Murphy, Director
- Larissa Rossi, Sport Manager
- Thya Moritz, Education and Officials Administrator

### FEI Vaulting Technical Committee:

- Pavla Krauspe (SVK), Chair
- Alejandra Orozco Vizcaino (MEX)
- Lise Berg (DEN)
- Anna Andersson (SWE)
- Dietmar Otto (GER)
- Lambert Leclezio (FRA), Athlete Representative

## **1. FEI Update – Presented by Ronan Murphy**

### FEI Vaulting Strategy

Ronan Murphy provided an update on the FEI Vaulting Strategy developed with the FEI Vaulting Technical Committee. To this end, an analysis of the situation and a short- and long-term vision for the discipline were drafted. One of the main objectives of the strategy was to showcase Vaulting as a high-level sport as well as a basement for other equestrian disciplines. To do so, the FEI had produced a series of promotional videos than could be watched on the [FEI YouTube channel](#). Finally, the FEI and the Vaulting Technical Committee developed a Toolkit to promote the sport and give a short introduction on how Vaulting could be integrated in the portfolio of a National Federation. The Toolkit could be consulted on the FEI Vaulting Page [here](#).

## Update on major Vaulting events in 2025 and 2026:

- FEI World Cup Finals for Vaulting, Dressage and Jumping would be held in Basel (SUI) from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025. The schedule for Vaulting could be consulted on the [FEI Database](#).
- FEI Vaulting European Championships for Senior and FEI Vaulting World Championships for Juniors and Young Vaulters would take place in Stadl Paura (AUT), from 29<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2025. Qualification criteria could be found [here](#).
- FEI World Championships 2026 would be organised in Aachen (GER) from 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2026. Vaulting Competitions would be held in the Deutsche Bank Stadium which would be covered with a temporary roof for the occasion. Tickets for all disciplines could be purchased as from November 2023.

## FEI Internal updated:

- The FEI engaged an audit company to review its internal structure. The new structure was approved by the Board in November 2024 and internal changes would be implemented in the following months.
- The FEI Noseband Measuring Device would be used as of 1 May across all FEI Disciplines to check the tightness of the nosebands. The FEI would provide a protocol on how the check needed to be conducted with specific information for each discipline. The device would be sent to all National Federations and they would be responsible for providing the tool to all active FEI Stewards who would receive the device free of charge. Additional devices could be sourced at an agreed fee.

## **2. Rules and Guidelines changes for 2025 – Presented by Pavla Krauspe**

- Pavla Krauspe reminded the community about the timeline for the Rules and Guidelines revision process. For the periodical Rules Revision process (outside the full Rules Revision year), NFs and Stakeholders could share their comments, based on specific criteria, by 1<sup>st</sup> March. By end of June, the FEI would publish the first draft of proposed changes and NFs and Stakeholders would have until mid-August to send their comments. By end of October, the final proposed Rules changes would be published and voted at the FEI General Assembly in November. The detailed process was available on [this page](#). Changes in the 2025 Vaulting Rules were summarised in [this video](#). Finally, the next Full Rules Revision for Vaulting would take place in 2026 for implementation on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2027.
- For Vaulting Guidelines, the first draft would be published on the FEI website in September and NFs and Stakeholders could provide their comments to the FEI Vaulting Department until end of October. Guidelines would be finalised at the in-person VTC meeting (including Seminar conclusions). Guidelines would then be presented to the FEI Board for final approval in December.
- The Chair expressed that for the 2025 Guidelines, 6 NFs and Stakeholders provided comments. The detailed changes were summarised in the presentation published on the

[Vaulting Forum Hub](#). The main clarifications and updates were provided in the following chapters:

- Vault Ability of the Horse / Revision of reference scores (Chapter 2.3)
- Consideration of the Horse, and Harmony of the Horse / Revision of reference scores (Chapter 5, Section 5.4.2)
- Clarification of the variety of exercises for Squads and Pas-de-Deux (Chapter 5, Section 5.4.5 and 5.4.6)
- Adjustments of Degree of Difficulty in Squad Free Test 2 for Juniors (Annex 1)

### 3. Vaulting moving through time – Lise Berg

Lise Berg, member of the FEI Vaulting Technical Committee, Veterinarian and FEI Vaulting Judge, proposed a journey through the history of Vaulting since its creation. Vaulting had a long history dating back to cave paintings and Ancient Greece's bull-leaping. It gained popularity in Renaissance Europe, particularly in France and Italy, before becoming a military training tool for cavalry soldiers.

#### Key Milestones:

- **1920 Olympics:** Vaulting was an official Olympic discipline in Antwerp, with Belgium winning both team and individual events. Though not featured again in competition, vaulting was showcased in later Olympic ceremonies.
- **Post-WWII Shift:** As cavalry use declined, vaulting transitioned from military training to riding clubs, expanding globally.
- **1963 German Championships:** Marked the formalization of competitive vaulting, leading to international growth.
- **1980s Recognition by FEI:** The FEI accepted vaulting as an official discipline in 1983 after trial periods. The first World Championships were held in 1986, followed by European Championships in 1984.
- **1990s-2000s Evolution:** Artistic expression in free tests increased, equipment improved, and rule changes, such as introduction of the technical test (2005), the mandatory back pad (2006) and helmet ban (2011), were introduced.
- **2010s & Beyond:** The sport saw greater inclusivity with more countries participating, the rise of Pas de Deux (PDD) as a Championship category.
- **COVID-19 Impact:** The pandemic significantly affected vaulting clubs, with ongoing recovery efforts.

Nowadays, Vaulting continued to evolve with diverse styles, international collaborations, and growing recognition as a high-level equestrian discipline. The most recent Championships in Bern (2024) showcased this positive evolution, highlighting team spirit and adaptability. The presentation with video links could be consulted on the [FEI Vaulting Forum Hub](#).

### 4. Consideration of the Horse score

The Chair informed attendees that the FEI was offering two online judging sessions (training) on 25 February and 11 March 2025. Sessions were open to all FEI Judges (including national judges in a Transfer-up process) and one NF representative per nation. Sessions were limited to 20 participants and registrations should be made through the [FEI Course Calendar](#).

The Chair presented the clarifications that were brought to the Consideration of the Horse, and Harmony with the Horse score. As a reminder, this score addressed the partnership between the Vaulteer and the Horse as the reference scores addressed how the Vaulteer adapted to the training level and the current physical / mental / emotional state of the Horse. The original text from 2024 referred to horse's reactions. The VTC and the community wanted to provide more clarity on cases where the horse did not react, even when the Vaulteer was not in harmony with the horse and lacked absorption of the horse's movement. Complete presentation could be found on the [FEI Forum's hub](#).

The Chair closed the Forum by thanking all attendees for their active participation, the FEI Vaulting Technical Committee members, the panellists and the FEI Vaulting department for the preparation of the Forum.