

FEI VAULTING FORUM 2023 3 February 2023

The FEI hosted its second FEI Vaulting Forum dedicated to the future of the sport, on the counting of strides and on the fluency as performance criteria. 120 participants joined the Forum with a worldwide representation.

Pavla Krauspe, the Chair of the FEI Vaulting Technical Committee and Sabrina Ibáñez, the FEI Secretary General, opened the Forum by thanking the participants for attending. The Chair emphasised that organising a Forum once a year was a good way forward to keep the community informed and to receive feedback from them.

Laetitia Gilliéron, FEI Vaulting Sport Manager took this opportunity to give an update on the side reins research and on FEI Vaulting World Cup™ Finals:

- The FEI in partnership with the IFCE and the French Federation were conducting a study on the side reins of Vaulting horses. The aim of the study was to measure the tension of side and draw reins., The Team found out that they might be able to have more information not only on the tension of the reins but of many other aspects that would be very helpful to work on in the future.

For each testing session, the Team had between 7 to 10 horses who tested the defined 6 side and draw reins in random mode, always with and without the Vaulters. During those sessions a questionnaire was given to the lungers and the vaulter to receive their feedback on each of the side and draw reins tested as this study would have results from the scientific side, the human feeling and the judging part.

By the end of February 2023, the Team would have had the chance to go to six different venues, in 4 countries. The FEI was thankful to the organisers, to the Vaulters, lungers and owners who had gave their times to conduct those sessions. At the end of the testing phase 40 horses would had been tested. The final report would be published in spring 2023, the exact date was still to be confirmed. The report would be analysed by the FEI and by the FEI Vaulting Technical committee and the FEI would keep the community informed of any further steps.

- Laetitia Gilliéron informed the community that the FEI was extremely happy to have, for the first time, a FEI Vaulting World Cup Final to take place in the United States of America this year in Omaha. There were some challenges but the FEI and the organiser were doing their best in term of financial support, transportation of horses, transportation of Athletes, lungers and grooms to make it the best of it. The FEI was also very pleased to have a panel of Vaulters for this final from Europe, from North and South America and from Australia.
- In 2024 the Final had been allocated to Basel in Switzerland and would take place from the 10th to the 14th of January 2024 as standalone Final but in 2025 Jumping and Dressage would join Vaulting to have the three World Cup Finals together from 2nd to the 6th of April in Basel (SUI).

The Chair reminded the community that the FEI Vaulting World Challenge had been launched a few years previously and it was a great tool to develop the sport of Vaulting. Three different performance levels were available, Challenge I “Beginner”, Challenge II “Intermediate” and Challenge III “Advanced”. In 2023, the FEI World Challenge Events in Vaulting had been confirmed to take place in Mauritius, Uruguay, Ecuador, Argentina and Brazil.

The Chair explained that the session on the future of the sport was based on the survey that had been distributed to different channels to receive as many answers as possible from the community. As a result, 165 surveys had been filled in. The survey was a mixture of questions with ratings and open questions (please refer to the presentation which is available on the dedicated page of the [FEI Website](#)).

The Chair emphasized that even though in the presentation only some comments had been highlighted, the FEI Vaulting Committee would go through all of the comments received to analyse them and would take actions if needed. Based on the survey, it seemed that the main priority of the community was the welfare of the Horses, to conduct more research. The second priority was to work on the Guidelines with a clear approach and pathway for changes.

Dietmar Otto, member of the FEI Vaulting Technical Committee, gave a presentation on the “Counting of canter strides”. This was an educative session to give clear input to the community on how to count the strides. When to start counting the first stride, how to count the strides and until when the last stride should count for static exercises. The [presentation](#) would be shared as it would be a great tool to show how to count.

Lambert Leclezio, Athlete Representative for Vaulting and member of the FEI Vaulting Technical Committee, gave a presentation on “Fluency as a performance criteria”. This session was also an educative session as fluency was used so many times in the Guidelines it had been identified as a good word to analyse and give example of what fluency was. The very detailed presentation of Lambert Leclezio with video links could be found published on the FEI Website.

The Chair closed the Forum by once again thanking the attendees for their participation and also the FEI Vaulting Technical Committee members and FEI Vaulting department for the preparation of the Forum.