VAULTING
FEI TESTING OF THE FREE TEST CONCEPT EVALUATION
MAY 17th
Testing – process

• 11 Judges applied for testing
• 7 judges actively participated on the mock testing
• 3 judges actively participated on the testing at the competition
• Thank you to all of them
Testing – process

• 1 group was created with all 7 judges involved.

• **Mock Testing** - communication at Slack, Zoom meetings, GS sheets for scores.
  – We conducted 6 Zoom meetings:
    • 15th March   kick off meeting
    • 21st March  introduction to the scoresheets and guidelines
    • 28th March   evaluation of testing Individuals
    • 4th April    evaluation of testing Pas de Deux
    • 11th April   evaluation of testing Squads
    • 17th May     final evaluation VTC, FEI and all judges who were part of the testing

• **Testing at the competition** – national and international
Testing – feedback from judges

• To the concept in general
  – more negative than positive feedback

Things to improve:

– concept is not following needs of 1*, 2* and 3* levels. There is a need to adjust the concept/guidelines to each category with much easier requirements for 1*
– too many criteria to observe in D2/D3/C3. Demands for high level intellectual capacity of the judge to observe, analyze against specified criteria and articulate the observations of all criteria during the performances – mainly in PDD and Squads
– Concerns that smaller countries with less experienced judges won’t be able to assess the performances which can demotivate judges
– Need of having a good clerk, because the clerk must be able to enter all the new comments/scores very fast and efficient and therefore also he needs experience.
Testing – feedback from judges

The weighting (%) of the scores were not discussed
Testing – feedback from judges

• To the concept in general
  Positive
  – System and scoresheets for **Individuals** could work (if adjusted to the levels 1*/2*/3*)
  – The additional reward points in some of the criteria were well received, but the expectations and description of what belongs to those 2 points need to be more specific (there was also discussion if it should not be only 1 point)
  – The system makes the most sense for 3* level – where vaulters have the performance skills and the system allow us to differentiate between the good and the really good vaulters.
Testing – feedback from judges

• To the scoresheets
  • Better than ticking the boxes in PDD and Squads would be to have description with observation what we expect for certain reference score (similar system as we have in music interpretation, horse score or new description of the compulsory exercises)
  • If the boxes stay, do not make mandatory to tick the boxes
  • Or do not have a boxes at all and have everything only in guidelines
Testing – feedback from judges

• Artistic
  – C1 - categorize the requirements based on the 1*/2*/3* level in IND/PDD/SQUAD
  – C2 - clarification of wording (e.g purpose and nature of connection)
  – C3 - not understandable difference between PDD and Squads and the description of each role need more clarity. The focus should be on overuse.

• Structure
  – D1 - categorize the requirements based on the 1*/2*/3* level in IND/PDD/SQUAD
  – D2 - too demanding, too many criteria to capture. It’s not necessary to have that many criteria for directions and positions, it may happened that we got into minus score. Mathematically incorrect.
  – D3 - not really a meaningful score, almost everybody got the same score.
Testing – feedback from athletes/trainers

• 7 replies representing following countries:
  – Netherlands, United States of America, Canada, Uruguay, Belgium, Switzerland, Poland
Testing – feedback from athletes/trainers

Does the current scoring system provide you with the following information you expect and need to understand: "1. Why did you receive this Artistic score?"

7 responses

- YES: 5 (71.4%)
- NO: 2 (28.6%)
Testing – feedback from athletes/trainers

Does the current scoring system provide you with the following information you expect and need to understand: "2. How you can improve your Artistic score?"

7 responses

- YES: 71.4%
- NO: 28.6%
Testing – feedback from athletes/trainers

Does the current scoring system provide you with the following information you expect and need to understand: "3. The ranking of the vaulters in m... Artistic and the differences between their scores?"

7 responses

- **YES**
  - 4 (57.1%)

- **NO**
  - 3 (42.9%)
Testing – feedback from athletes/trainers

Do you think that the proposed new scoring will change your training?

7 responses

- YES: 7 (100%)
- NO: 0 (0%)
Testing – feedback from athletes/trainers

If yes, which training activities will you put more focus on?

1. As a country with mostly volunteer private clubs we have more focus on technique and exercises and less on artistic. In the artistic score itself we focus mostly on the structure groups and positions. In the new scoring I feel music interpretation will be more important. I do feel like this will give the top clubs at the moment more advantage as they already employ choreographers which we don’t really have the means for, but as to the engagement of the sport I do understand the benefit. I especially like the new defined positions and roles, both for team and pas de deux as I felt in the past you could also score high with 2 people doing mostly individual exercises in the pas de deux and a small vaulter only being a flyer. I am a bit sad that there was chosen tot do a maximum of 8 points if you hit all categories with 2 ‘free choice’ points. I think I would have preferred only 1 ‘free choice’ point to keep in line with maximum guidance for judges.
Testing – feedback from athletes/trainers

If yes, which training activities will you put more focus on?

2. Achieving the “bonus points” in D1 and D2
3. This will allow for more of a reflection of our scores. With this information I would be able to adjust my training to improve my score for future events.
4. Artistic
5. Checklist in every freestyle if all groups are done & lot more artistic training!
6. Artistic and Horse
7. no answer
Testing – feedback from athletes/trainers

Do you have any suggestions for the proposed new scoring system of the Free Test?

1. I would prefer a higher percentage on the roles in pdd and teams. Though I do feel music interpretation is important, I believe the diversity of the vaulters in the team/pdd deserves to be rewarded. I don’t think it would get the focus it deserves with the current percentage. I also believe music interpretation currently has too high a percentage in general. I would prefer to see the percentages of ‘artistic’ and ‘structure’ switched in individual, pas de deux and team. I also find composition more important the music interpretation. The essence of our sport is harmony with the horse. Harmony with the horse and fluidity of the performance is for me therefore more important then harmony with the music and should be a higher percentage in the category of artistic. Though music adds to the experience, I can watch a performance without music and still be stunned silent because of the gentleness of the exercise to the horse.
Testing – feedback from athletes/trainers

Do you have any suggestions for the proposed new scoring system of the Free Test?

2. It is just still hard to know how judges will count on 'music interpretation'. When is this part good or less good.

Others gave no suggestions.
Suggestions from the judges

- include the concept in the guidelines for education purpose (annex) and plan implementation over the years
- do not change the current % weighting of the scores, keep 25% for each judge. Necessity to review requirements for PDD and squads. Adapt requirements based on the level 1*/2*/3*.
- In general the new system can be used for the judging of Individuals (with good clerk and practise).
- System could work for 3* level, but need lots of terms to be described better.