



FEI™ VAULTING

RULES 2025 + GUIDELINES 2025

18 – 20 October 2024

Saumur (FRA)

Pavla Krauspe – Chair of the FEI Vaulting Technical Committee

FEI Vaulting Technical Committee (VTC)

- Pavla Krauspe (SVK) Chair VTC, Board Member
- Dietmar Otto (GER) Deputy Chair VTC
- Alejandra Orozco Vizcaíno (MEX) Member VTC
- Anna Anderson (SWE) Member VTC
- Lise Berg (DEN) Member VTC
- Lambert Leclezio (FRA) Member VTC – Athlete representative



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2025 Vaulting Rules

Only 5 minor changes

- mainly inconsistencies, wrong wording or harmonisation with other disciplines

Article 703 QUALIFICATION PROCEDURE AND CERTIFICATES OF CAPABILITY

- 1.2. FEI World (CH-M-V J) & Continental Championships (CH-EU-J -V) for JuniorsYouth

2025 Vaulting Rules

Article 719 EQUIPMENT

2.1.5. ~~At any level of competition, a noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes harm to the horse and must be checked as per the Stewards Manual noseband protocol.~~

Article Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations applies in relation to the permitted tightness of the noseband

2.5 Either two side reins, ~~or Draw~~ Three points reins, are permitted. Three points ~~Draw~~ reins are attached from the surcingle through the bit rings back to the surcingle on the same side. The distance between the two attached points (top and bottom) on each side of the surcingle must not be greater than 40 centimeters. The Three points draw reins must be adjustable only as per manufacture and any homemade modification of the adjustments of the Three points draw reins (for example making a knot) is not permitted. (Standing reins or auxiliary reins are not permitted).

*pictogram of allowed Three points draw reins:

2025 Vaulting Rules

Article 736 SQUAD COMPULSORY TESTS

Article 739 INDIVIDUAL COMPULSORY TESTS

Squad Comp Test 1

Exercises to be shown:

1. Vault On
2. Basic Seat
3. Flag
4. Stand
5. Swing Forwards ~~legs closed~~
6. Half Mill
7. Swing Backwards ~~legs open~~, followed by dismount to inside

2025 Vaulting Rules

Article 737 SQUAD FREE TESTS

1. Each Vaultler must perform at least one exercise.

No more than three (3) Vaulters may be on the Horse at one time. At least two of ~~the~~ three Vaulters must remain in contact with the Horse, otherwise these elements of the exercises are not scored.



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2025 Vaulting Guidelines

- Effective date - January 1, 2025

- **Guidelines change Timeline:**

- Final version 2025 must be approved by FEI Board (December, 2024)
- Any future change (after Dec,2024) is subject to FEI Board approval

- **12 September 2024**
 - Published Draft version
- **09 October 2024**
 - Feedback from NFs
- **21 October 2024**
 - Finalization of Guidelines at in-person VTC meeting (including Seminar conclusions)
- **17 December 2024**
 - Approval of the FEI Board

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

- Effective date - January 1, 2025

- By 9th October we have got feedback from 4 NF
 - AUT
 - NED
 - USA
 - ARG
 - HUN
 - EEF
- Altogether, we received comments on 10 word pages

2025 Vaulting Guidelines - Changes

- **Distribution of the Ground Jury** – less strict conditions
- **Horse score** – minor wording clarifications and improved description of A2 and A3
- **Type of Elements** – reworked text of static and dynamic + transitions are also called exercises
- **Free Test – major changes, such as:**
 - Clarification on deduction for repetition in mount-on
 - Reworked meaning for increase in difficulty; E/M can now become a more difficult exercise
 - Artistic score
 - New tables for an overview of each class – Artistic summary (tables are not scoresheets; scoresheets are published on the FEI website)
 - Minor clarification and examples for setting up the A1 score
 - Reworked some Direction groups for clarity, including examples
 - Simplified wording in Squad/PDD C1 Variety of Exercises (artistic involvement in Roles moved to C4)
 - CoH included in the Technical Test – judged the same as in the Free Test

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

1.2. Ground Jury

Ground Jury may consist of 2, 4, 6 or 8 judges. (see Vaulting Rules Chapter IV – Officials)

If the Jury consists of 2 judges they must be Level 2 and higher.

At Championships, the Jury must consist of eight Members.

The President of the Ground Jury and/or Technical Delegate is responsible to distribute the judges at CVIs and higher level events based on following rules:

- A judge Level 1 is eligible to judge only Horse Score, Exercise Score (Test 1, 2, 3) and Technique Score (Performance, Degree of Difficulty)
- Each Judge should be assigned evenly to all of the scores during the event, if possible
- ~~In all tests of one competition the judges need to remain the same. (e.g. the same judges judge all Tests in the Female Individual competition)~~

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

- **Horse score – A2 Vault ability of the Horse**

The score for Vault Ability looks at the cooperation and the specific skills of a vaulting horse. This partial score includes attention and confidence, harmony, lightness and ease of movement, and acceptance of aids. The horse should give the impression of being comfortable and carrying out the test of its own accord. That means that a vaulting horse is assessed not only by its movement quality, its level of training and its condition, but also by how it carries out the task in relation with vaulting athletes and their exercises. That reflects the harmony between the lunger, the vaulters and the horse on the one hand, and on the other hand it is also a sign of the horse's overall suppleness and willingness to perform with the vaulter(s) as a vaulting horse.

Regardless of the exercises shown, the horse canters with a secure balance and constant pace, gives the impression of working independently, willingly and obediently, and handles the requirements both with ease and in good coordination with the vaulters and lunger while maintaining a constant circle line.

The core areas are:

- **Willingness and obedience**
- **Balance in tempo and consistency (forwards/backwards)**
- **Balance in circling (left/right)**

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

Lunging includes the technique of lunging, the coordination of the aids, the posture of the lunger and the lungers 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

- Confident in the technique of lunging
- Confident coordination of giving aids
- Appropriate, correct, and sensitive use of aids
- Framing the horse with the aids
- Appropriate use of aids: lunge, whip, and voice

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
- Confident in handling horse, lunge, and whip
- Appropriate, professional use and application of equipment
- Appropriate clothing

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

● 3.1. – Type or Elements in Vaulting

Static exercise:

- A significant part of the body mass doesn't move/is not displaced relatively to the Horse.
- A static exercise can include a movement part (e.g. moving legs in handstand, prince with moving upper body).
- The Center of Gravity should have nearly the same distance to the ground as parts of the body absorb the up and down movement of the Horse.
- The exercise is held for at least one complete canter stride or more (in the required canter).
- Exercise is to be held:
 - in Compulsory for four canter strides or more
 - in all other tests for three canter strides or more

Dynamic exercise:

- A significant part of the body mass (vast majority of points of mass) is in motion/moves along an identifiable trajectory (motion path).
- The movement is independently of any velocity.
- The movement is intentional and controlled .
- A dynamic exercise can include a short static part (building up the press handstand where part of the dynamic exercise is held for 1 or two canter strides).

2025 Vaulting Guidelines – REWORKED – SEE CONCLUSIONS

- 3.1. – Type or Elements in Vaulting

Transition exercise:

- Is a dynamic element connecting 2 exercises.

Elements which are not counted as an exercise:

- Element who connects 2 exercises in the most easy way.
- In free test, static exercises held for less than the required canter strides.
- Exercises started after a time limit.
- An exercise performed in other pace than canter.

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

- 5.3.2 – Degree of Difficulty

Increase of the difficulty :

- If the shown exercise is a variation of a described exercise, but performed with considerably higher difficulty (higher demand on general criteria). (e.g.: A somersault is a D-Exercise, a somersault with two turns becomes a R-Exercise.)
- If two or more exercises are performed in immediate succession making one or more of them more difficult, then the exercise(s) can get a higher difficulty.

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

- 5.4.1. – Artistic score – General
- SQUADS

	Test 1	Test 2-2*	Test 2-3*
CoH	CoH - Consideration of the Horse		
	20%	20%	20%
	Selection of elements and sequences to be in Harmony with the Horse based on weight, composition, balance, and contact/liaison. Exercises not overloading the Horse.		
Structure	C1 Variety of Exercises		
	25%	20%	10%
	A ratio between static and dynamic exercises.		
	Selection of combinations. Selection of exercises, positions, and transitions from different structure groups.		
	Use of single and double exercises.		
	Triple exercises are not allowed.	Triple exercises are allowed.	
	Selection of combinations		
	Selection of exercises, positions and transitions from different structure groups		
	C2 Variety of Position, Space and Roles		
	20%	10%	10%
Variety in positions	Variety in positions, directions and levels		
Balanced use of areas	Balanced use of areas and levels		
-	Ground jumps included		
Fairly even participation of all vaulters			
Fairly even participation in roles			
Choreography	C3 Unity of Composition & Complexity		
	20%	25%	30%
	Smooth transitions and movements demonstrating flow, control, and connection.		
	Elements, sequences, transitions, positions, direction, and combinations of exercises demonstrating freedom of movement.		
	-	Demonstrating Complexity	
	Avoidance of an empty Horse.		
C4 Music Interpretation / Body Language / Expression			
15%	25%	30%	
Deep engagement to a fully developed musical concept			
Captivating Interpretation of music			
High variety of expression in answer to different and changing musical elements			
Complexity of body language and multi-directional gestures and moves			

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

- 5.4.1. – Artistic score – General
- INDIVIDUALS

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2025 Vaulting Guidelines

- 5.4.1. – Artistic score – General
- PAS DE DEUX

	Test 1	Test 2-2*	Test 2-3*
CoH	CoH - Consideration of the Horse		
	20%	20%	20%
	Selection of elements and sequences to be in Harmony with the Horse based on weight, composition, balance, and contact/liaison. Exercises not overloading the Horse.		
Structure	C1 Variety of Exercises		
	25%	20%	10%
	A ratio between static and dynamic exercises. Selection of combinations. Selection of exercises, positions, and transitions from different structure groups.		
	C2 Variety of Position, Space and Participation		
	20%	10%	10%
	Variety in the position of exercises in relation to the Horse and in the direction of the movements Balanced use of space; use of all areas of the Horse's back and neck Fairly even participation in roles		
Choreography	C3 Unity of Composition & Complexity		
	20%	25%	30%
	Smooth transitions and movements demonstrating flow, control, and connection. Elements, sequences, transitions, positions, direction, and combinations of exercises demonstrating freedom of movement.		
	no complexity necessary	demonstrating complexity	
	Avoidance of an empty Horse.		
	C4 Music Interpretation / Expression / Artistic Involvement		
	15%	25%	30%
	Deep engagement to a fully developed musical concept Captivating Interpretation of music High variety of expression in answer to different and changing musical elements Complexity of body language and multi-directional gestures and moves Fairly even participation in artistic involvement.		

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

- 5.4.3. – Variety of Positions

Required Directions:

	Direction	Definition as of Code of Points	Comment	Relates to
1	Forward	Vaulter is facing in same direction as the Horse Horse and Vaulter face the same way	<u>Unless you are in head-down position</u>	Static exercise
2	Backward	Vaulter is facing in the opposite direction of the Horse Vaulter faces the opposite way than the Horse	<u>Unless you are in head-down position</u>	Static exercise
3	Sideways In	Vaulter is facing towards the center of the circle Vaulter faces towards the middle of the circle		Static exercise
4	Sideways Out	Vaulter is facing towards the outside of the circle Vaulter faces to outside of the Horse/circle		Static exercise
5	Forward/Backward	Movement along the spine of the Horse	e.g. roll forward or backward	Dynamic exercise
6	Inward/Outward	Movement across the spine of the Horse.	e.g. cartwheel on the grip from the outside to the inside, jump with half a turn in or out	Dynamic exercise

VAULTING GUIDELINES 2024

Examples:

When the Vaulter is in a "head-down" position (shoulderhang, shoulderstand, handstand...), the opposite is the case.

Sideways in/out: the static direction of the Vaulter is determined by the part of the body that is supported by the limbs linked to the supporting surface: e.g. shoulder axis in handstand, or hip axis in stand.

When the Vaulter is lying: the position of the head indicates the direction.

In Freestyle and in the additional exercises in Technical Test, other directions can be chosen (for example standing in a 45° angle to the spine of the Horse); this does not automatically entail a deduction for performance, unless there is a deviation according to the General Criteria for Execution.

2025 Vaulting Guidelines

- 6.5. – Artistic score TT

COH	<p>Consideration of the Horse</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Selection of elements to be in Harmony with the Horse based on weight, composition, balance and contact/liaison. • Exercises not overloading the Horse. 	COH	20%
STRUCTURE	<p>Selection of Elements/Sequences/Transitions</p> <p>Use of unique, original elements, sequences, transitions and/or high complexity of elements, sequences, transitions or a combination of them within the sequences of the technical exercises.</p>	T1	40%
CHOREOGRAPHY	<p>Unity of Composition</p> <p>Smooth transitions and movements demonstrating connection and fluidity of all exercises (technical exercises and additional exercises) shown within the technical test.</p> <p>Seamless integration of technical exercises into the technical test overall demonstrating efficiency, connection and fluidity.</p> <p>Balanced use of space and directions.</p>	T2	10%
	<p>Music Interpretation</p> <p>Deep engagement to a fully developed musical concept.</p> <p>Captivating Interpretation of music.</p> <p>High variety of expression in answer to different and changing musical elements.</p> <p>Complexity of body language and multi-directional gestures and moves.</p>	T3	30%



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THANK YOU 😊