TESTING Procedures - Concept of the Free test 2023

Background of the system and Testing:
Currently, we evaluate the Free Test in Vaulting based on 4 Scores.
A: Horse score 25%
B+D: Technique score 50% (30% DoD, 70% Performance)
C: Artistic Score 25%
(D: Structure Score 15%-25% - depends on the category
Variety of exercises, Variety of Positions, Composition, Music interpretation)

The proposed New Concept is as follows:
A: Horse score 25%
B: Technique score 35%
C: Artistic Score 15%-25% - depends on the category
(Composition, Music interpretation, Roles in Pdd/Squads)
D: Structure Score 15%-25% - depends on the category
(Variety of exercises, Use of Space, Combinations) See the Calculation table below:

Currently, the Artistic Score is the one with the least guidance and the most differences between the judges. The new concept aims at providing a clear methodology and objective criteria to allow for more objective judging.
The FEI Vaulting Technical Committee (VTC) intended to implement this new system in the Rules for 2022. Some of the NFs and the EEF requested from the FEI and VTC to wait one year with the implementation for the proposal to be tested further within the community.

The following testing procedure is the answer to this request.

1. The VTC will ask Athletes and Trainers, through the FEI Athlete representative, for feedback on the rule proposal. The VTC created an Online Google Questionnaire to gather this feedback.

The FEI offers all FEI judges the opportunity to participate in the Testing process. The deadline to apply to be part of the process is February 20, 2022. Application can be found here.

The VTC will create groups of judges and either assigns them to an existing competition or to Mock Testing for those willing to participate.

The VTC has created:
- A description for C and D scores (see here in the Guidelines for Judges)
- Scoresheets for C and D scores for each category and class (will be available soon)
- An Online Google sheet with Scoresheets for recording the scores for C and D and copy scores from tables A and B/D at the relevant competition (end score) or in case Mock online competition the judges will scoring also A and B/D
- Online Google sheets to calculate end scores.
- A WhatsApp group for fast communication (all testers involved and VTC members)

Testing will be conducted in 2 formats:

A. testing on the actual competition:
- Judges present at the event (minimum of 2 for each test - score C and D) who are not judging some of the competitions will be asked to test the system from e.g. tribune or agree with the organizer for a special spot.
- A secretary will be necessary.
- The scores will be recorded in the Online Google sheet, which will calculate the end score. (scores can also be recorded on scoresheets and sent to VTC by e-mail (pavla.krauspe@gmail.com) and will then be uploaded in the Online Google sheet.
- Debrief sessions will take place after the competition with the VTC/FEI DPT and testing judges to gain feedback (WhatsApp/ZOOM or email).

B. Mock testing
- Group of judges (4 + 1 VTC member) will judge prepared videos for each category in advance. 2 judges will judge C and two judges D scores.
- Secretary for C and D judges is necessary
- A, B scores will be judged by VTC members.
The score will be recorded in the Online Google sheet, which will calculate the end score. (scores can also be recorded on scoresheets and sent to VTC by e-mail to upload them to the Online Google sheet).

Debrief sessions will take place after the Mock Testing with the VTC/FEI DPT and testing judges to gain feedback (WhatsApp/ZOOM or e-mail).

Based on the interest of the FEI judges, VTC will manage to have more groups of judges in both formats.

Testing period:
Testing will be held from March 2022 through April 2022.

Testing outcome:
The VTC will collect all feedback from the testing groups.
The VTC will prepare a summary with the feedback and organize a final Zoom meeting with all judges involved in the Testing by the end of May 2022 at the latest.

Disclaimer: FEI Vaulting Technical committee may at any time in its sole discretion change the rules set forth above.