

VaultCanada

Competition Policies

Updated January 2023



The purpose of this document is to provide clarification to Officials and Competition Management to facilitate fair play and ensure that the principles of the Long Term Equestrian Athlete Program are upheld in Canadian competition

Contents

1. Description of new Canadian competition levels
2. Eligibility Criteria
3. Specific policy pertaining to Beginner and Intermediate Levels
4. Policy regarding athletes with a physical disability
5. Championship Policies
6. Squad Competition

1. Description of new Canadian competition levels

In order to align our rules with the new FEI rules for the World Vaulting Challenge, we have created 3 lower competitive levels and 3 upper competitive levels. A vaulter's competition level is determined by their coach.

Lower Levels:

Beginner Level - former Division D compulsories. At trot and canter this level performs compulsories at a faster gait than the freestyle.

Intermediate Level - former Division D compulsories. Compulsories and freestyle at the same gait

Advanced Level - former Division C/B compulsories. Compulsories and freestyle at the same gait

Upper Levels:

1* - same as FEI 1*

2* - same as FEI 2*

2*Y – same as FEI 2* Y

3* - same as FEI 3*

Walk Divisions

- Beginner Walk (former FUNdamentals). This is a non-competitive class for beginning vaulters of any age. Former D level compulsories and a freestyle in walk. Spotting and coaching are permitted.
- Intermediate Walk – former D compulsories and a freestyle in walk
- Advanced Walk – former C/B compulsories and a freestyle in walk

Trot Divisions

- Beginner Trot – former D compulsories in trot and a freestyle in walk
- Intermediate Trot – former D compulsories and a freestyle in trot
- Advanced Trot – former C/B compulsories and a freestyle in trot

Canter Divisions

- Beginner Canter – former D compulsories in canter and a freestyle in walk
- Intermediate Canter – former D compulsories and a freestyle in canter
- Advanced Canter – former C/B compulsories and a freestyle in canter. (*This will be the BC Summer Games competition level*)
- 1* - former B canter. For vaulters who are at or near the FEI 1* level.
- 2* - former A canter. For vaulters who are at or near the FEI 2* competition level.
- 2*Y – former AA Modified. No age limit in Canadian competitions. For vaulters who are at or near the FEI 2*YV level. Modified technical test as per FEI rules.
- 3* - former AA canter. For vaulters who are at or near the CVI 3* competition level.

Vaulters competing at the upper canter levels are invited, but not required to compete in FEI competitions.

Pairs Divisions

- Walk Pairs – 1* compulsories and freestyle
- Trot Pairs – 1* compulsories and freestyle
- Beginner Canter Pairs - !* canter compulsories and a walk freestyle
- 1* Canter Pairs – FEI rules
- 2* Canter Pairs - FEI rules
- 3* Canter Pairs - FEI rules
- *Other pairs divisions (ie first year walk pairs are at the discretion of the competition organizer)*

Squad Divisions

- Walk Squad – 1* compulsories and freestyle
- Trot Squad – 1* compulsories and freestyle
- Beginner Canter Squad – 1* compulsories in canter and a walk freestyle
- 1* Canter Squad - FEI rules
- 2* Canter Squad - FEI rules
- 3* Canter Squad - FEI rules

2. Eligibility Criteria

In all national classes, male and female vaulters may participate in the same Pairs or Squad.

Male and female vaulters compete in individual classes together until the 2* level, at which time there are separate classes for male and female individual vaulters

There are no minimum or maximum age limits for any classes unless otherwise noted in the Competitions' Invitation. If there are a large number of entries, competition organizers may choose to split classes by age for prize giving purposes.

Competition organizers may allow cross entering of individual classes below 1* (i.e. a vaulter may enter Advanced Walk and Advanced Canter in the same competition).

Selection of an appropriate competition level for each vaulter is at the discretion of the coach.

3. Beginner and Intermediate Levels

These levels are intended to provide beginner vaulters with a safe and enjoyable introduction to the sport. This policy was developed to ensure that beginning vaulters at each gait are performing only exercises which safely provide the foundation for future athlete development.

Limitation on Intermediate Freestyles

Vaulters in Intermediate levels may not perform more than 2 (two) freestyle exercises rated as M (Medium) in the FEI Code of Points. All other exercises must be rated E (Easy). If more than two M exercises are shown there will be a deduction of 2.0 points from the Artistic Score for each exercise that violates this policy.

Beginner and Intermediate Compulsories

Although Canadian rules are generally aligned with the FEI rules, we are currently not adopting the Reverse Swing for the Beginner and Intermediate level compulsories (former D compulsories). While we explore the options for this level, we will continue to use our previous D level compulsories in which the Mill to reverse seat is followed immediately by a simple dismount to the inside. This policy may change during the 2023 season.

4. Vaulters with a Physical Disability

Although our rules provide for vaulters with a disability who require extra assistance, our rules do not offer guidance for accommodating vaulters with disabilities who do not require assistance, and yet who should be given special consideration. This policy is to offer guidance to show management and officials in dealing fairly with vaulters who have physical limitations that will impact on their ability to perform certain required movements, such as in specific compulsory exercises.

In the spirit of fair play, vaulters should not be penalized for errors in mechanics that are attributed to physical disabilities. For example, a vaulter with a fused ankle will not be able to point the toes on that foot and should therefore not have a deduction for that fault.

Vaulters who require such special consideration should be identified by their coach at the time of club entries so that the show management can properly alert the judge(es). It is recommended that a note be attached to the score sheet advising the judge of the physical limitations of the vaulter. These vaulters are to be judged in all other aspects according to the rules of the class.

5. Championships

National and Provincial Championships shall be held annually. National Championships will be held in EVEN years in Alberta and in ODD years in BC. In order to receive a championship or reserve championship title the vaulter/pair/team must have completed all of the required rounds for the class. Vaulters may change or use a different horse/lunger combination for each go.

Provincial championship titles shall be awarded to individuals, pairs and ~~teams~~ squads with the highest overall scores in the following divisions:

Advanced Walk Individual, Walk Pairs, Walk Squad

Advanced Trot Individual, Trot Pairs, Trot Squad

Advanced Canter Individual, Canter Pairs, Canter Squad

1* Individual, Pairs, Squad

2* Individual male and female, Pairs, Squad

2*Y Individual male and female

3* Individual male and female, Pairs and Squad

In addition, individual Zone championship titles shall be awarded to the vaulter with the highest overall score in Advanced Canter residing in each of the Zones established by the provincial sports organization.

National championship titles shall be awarded to individuals, pairs and squads with the highest overall scores in the following divisions:

1* Individual, Pairs, Squad

2* Individual male and female, Pairs, Squad

2*Y Individual male and female

3* Individual male and female, Pairs and Squad

National championship titles shall be awarded to individuals, pairs and squads with the highest overall scores in the following divisions:

1* Individual, Pairs, Squad

2* Individual male and female, Pairs, Squad

2*Y Individual male and female

3* Individual male and female, Pairs and Squad

6. Squad and Pairs Competition

Clarification of FEI Guidelines concerning Assisted Mounts and Dismounts in team competition

The FEI wording for 2018 is as follows:

In the Squad competition 1 assisted mount and 1 assisted dismount from the ground are allowed without penalty. Each additional occurrence of assisted mount and/or assisted dismount from the ground will incur 0.5 deduction from the overall artistic score. (Degree of difficulty will not be counted, see 4.5.2 Degree of Difficulty – FEI Judging Guidelines)

The following wording is adopted for use in Canada:

Squad

For Canter in the Squad competition, 1 assisted mount and 1 assisted dismount from the ground are allowed without penalty in the freestyle. Each additional occurrence of assisted mount and/or assisted dismount from the ground will incur 0.5 deduction from the overall artistic score. (Degree of difficulty will not be counted, see 4.5.2 Degree of Difficulty). If the assisted mount occurs in the compulsories, it will incur a deduction of 2 points off the mount. An assisted dismount will incur a deduction of 2 points off the final exercise.

For Walk and Trot in the Squad competition, 1 assisted mount and 1 assisted dismount from the ground are allowed without penalty in the freestyle. Each additional occurrence of assisted mount and/or assisted dismount from the ground will receive a deduction of at least 1 for that exercise and will not be counted in the number of moves for the calculation of the performance score. If the assisted mount occurs in the compulsories, it will incur a deduction of 1 point off the mount. An assisted dismount will incur a deduction of 1 point off the final exercise.

Pairs

In the Pairs competition, assisted mounts and dismounts from the ground will receive a deduction of at least 2 for that exercise and will not be counted in the number of moves for the calculation of the performance score. If the assisted mount or dismount occurs in compulsories, it will incur a deduction off the mount or off the final compulsory exercise. The deduction will be 1 point for walk and trot classes, and 2 points for canter.