

VaultCanada Competition Policies

Updated November 2025



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

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1. DESCRIPTION OF CANADIAN COMPETITION LEVELS

A vaulter's competition level is determined by their coach.

Divisions other than those identified below may be offered at the discretion of the competition organizer.

Walk Divisions

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

Trot Divisions

- Beginner Trot – Beginner compulsories in trot and a freestyle in walk
- Intermediate Trot – Intermediate compulsories in trot and a freestyle in trot
- Advanced Trot – Advanced compulsories in trot and a freestyle in trot

Canter Divisions

- Beginner Canter – Beginner compulsories in canter and a freestyle in walk
- Intermediate Canter – Intermediate compulsories in canter and a freestyle in canter
- Advanced Canter – Advanced compulsories in canter and a freestyle in canter.
- 1* - FEI rules.
- 2* - Same as FEI 2*, FEI rules.
- 2*Y – FEI rules. No age limit for this level in Canadian competitions.
- 3* - FEI rules.

Pairs Divisions

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

Squad Divisions

- Walk Squad – 1* compulsories at walk and freestyle at walk
- Trot Squad – 1* compulsories at trot and freestyle at trot

- Beginner Canter Squad – Beginner compulsories in canter and freestyle at walk
- 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*.

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

3. BEGINNER AND INTERMEDIATE COMPULSORIES

Beginner and Intermediate Compulsories

Although Canadian rules are generally aligned with the FEI rules, VaultCanada has not adopted the Reverse Swing for the Beginner and Intermediate level compulsories

Refer to the Canadian National Vaulting Rules (Equestrian Canada Rulebook, Section L, Vaulting, Article L303 Compulsories) for current compulsories for each level.

4. VAULTERS WITH A PHYSICAL DISABILITY

Although Canadian National Vaulting Rules provide for vaulters with a disability who require extra assistance, the 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 and Walk Squad
- Advanced Trot Individual, Trot Pairs and Trot Squad
- Advanced Canter Individual, Canter Pairs, and Canter Squad
- 1* Individual, Pairs, and Squad
- 2* Individual male and female, Pairs, and 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, and Squad
- 2* Individual male and female, Pairs, and Squad
- 2*Y Individual male and female
- 3* Individual male and female, Pairs and Squad

6. ASSISTED MOUNTS AND DISMOUNTS IN PAIRS AND SQUAD COMPETITION

Penalties for assisted mounts in squad and pairs compulsories should follow Article L304 - Permitted Assistance in the Canadian Vaulting Rules. Deductions are as follows:

Walk, Trot, Beginner Canter: no deduction

Intermediate Canter: 1 point deduction

Advanced Canter: 2 point deduction

1*, 2*, 3*: no assistance allowed

Squad

Walk, Trot, and Beginner Canter squad: no penalties for assisted mounts from the ground in freestyle. Current FEI rules regarding assisted dismounts in the freestyle should be followed. An assisted dismount in the compulsories will incur a deduction of 1 point off the final exercise.

1*, 2*, and 3* squad freestyle: follow current FEI rules regarding assisted mounts and dismounts.

Pairs

Walk, Trot, and Beginner pairs: no penalties for assisted mounts from the ground in freestyle. Current FEI rules regarding assisted dismounts in the freestyle should be followed. An assisted dismount in the compulsories will incur a deduction of 1 point off the final exercise.

1*, 2*, and 3* pairs freestyle: follow current FEI rules regarding assisted mounts and dismounts.