

# VaultCanada

# Competition Policies

Updated January 2021 ~~2021~~ 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

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# 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 in Advanced Canter, 1\*, 2\* and 3\* divisions are invited, but not required, to compete in individual FEI competitions.

Other individual unrecognized classes (i.e. Masters' Classes) are at the discretion of the competition organizer.

## 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 also have the option of offering cross entering of individual classes if time permits. This is for classes up to the Advanced Canter level, (i.e. a vaulter may enter Advanced Walk and Advanced Canter in the same competition).

In squad competition, a vaulter may compete on two different squads as long as they are in different divisions. Also, a squad may not have more than 2 members who compete on another squad in the same competition.

In pairs competition, a vaulter may compete in two different pairs as long as they are in different divisions.

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

## Scoring Out

~~Compulsory scores received during an Equine Canada Sanctioned Competition, and any Provincially Recognized Competitions, will be used to determine which classes an Individual vaulter may enter in the future years. This does not apply to Pairs or Teams. On January 1st of each year, the compulsory scores attained in the previous year will be used to classify Individual vaulters for the new year. Vaulters who "score out" of a division at any time during the season are permitted to complete the season at the lower level.~~

- ~~• Vaulters may start in division D, if they have not yet reached a compulsory score of 5.2 or higher in any round at two competitions in division D~~
- ~~• Vaulters must start in division C, if they have reached a compulsory score of 5.2 or higher in any round at two competitions in division D.~~
- ~~• Vaulters must start in division B, if they have reached a compulsory score of 5.5 or higher in any round at two competitions in division C.~~

## Participation in CVIs

For Individual Vaulters who have competed in CVIs, the following criteria applies.

For CVI entries in Junior or Senior classes, the vaulter must enter the following required national class immediately.

- If a vaulter starts in a CVI 1\*, he/she must compete in Division B or higher nationally
- If a vaulter starts in a CVI 2\*, he/she must compete in Division A or higher nationally
- If a vaulter starts in a CVI 3\*, he/she must compete in Division AA or higher nationally.

For CVI entries in Children's classes

- If a vaulter starts in CVI 1\*, the vaulter must enter at least national Division C immediately, and must enter at least national Division B the following year.
- If a vaulter starts in CVI 2\*, the vaulter must enter at least national Division B immediately, and must enter at least national Division A the following year.

## Downgrading to Lower Divisions

Automatically Approved Downgrades

- From Division C, a vaulter may downgrade to Division D if he/she did not score out of Division D and has not yet scored above 5.0 in Division D
- From Division B, a vaulter may downgrade to Division C if he/she did not score out of Division C and has not yet scored above 5.0 in Division B.

Other Downgrades may be granted by request to the VaultCanada Sport Committee.

## 3. ~~Division D~~ Beginner and Intermediate Levels

These levels are intended ~~Division D was created~~ 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 ~~Division D~~ Intermediate Freestyles

Vaulters in ~~Division D~~ 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:

~~Division B Walk~~

~~Division B Trot~~

~~Division B Canter~~

~~Division A Canter~~

~~Division AA Canter~~

**Advanced Walk Individual, Walk Pairs, Walk Squad**

**Advanced Trot Individual, Trot Pairs, Trot 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 ~~Division C~~ **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**

~~In each championship class a Reserve Champion title shall be awarded to the vaulter/pair/team with the second highest overall score.~~

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

~~Division B Canter~~

~~Division A Canter~~

~~Division AA Canter~~

In each championship class a Reserve Champion title shall be awarded to the vaulter/pair/team with the second highest overall score.

## 6. Squad ~~Team~~ 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 ~~Team~~

For Canter in the **Squad ~~Team~~** 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).

For Walk and Trot in the **Squad ~~Team~~** 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 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.

### 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.

### SQUAD COMPOSITION (Composite Squads)

Recognizing that there is value to the sport in having vaulting squads comprised of members from more than one club/province/county, this policy is to clarify which vaulters are eligible to enter a championship squad competition.

For Provincial Championship classes, a squad may have one vaulter who is non-resident of the province. For National Championship Classes, a squad may have one vaulter who is a non resident of Canada.

## 7. Video Competitions

Although it is preferable for vaulters to compete in person at events, there are circumstances when it is desirable to conduct sanctioned video competitions. These may be stand alone video-only events organized in areas of the province where it is difficult to conduct in-person competitions, or competition managers may see value in offering video classes within the framework of an in-person sanctioned competition. Again, this is primarily to provide competition experience for vaulters in areas where in-person competitions are seldom available.

### VIDEO FORMAT

Video from the judge's viewpoint, as close to a normal judge's position as possible - ie. where Judge A would normally sit

At the beginning of the video, either before or during the run-in, an announcer must identify the Class, Name of

Athlete(s), and Club, as well as show the time and date for class(es), to confirm the video is being filmed at the correct time and date (a cell phone or computer works well for this).

The video must be stable, without shaking or bumps, or appear too distant in the video. Video should be captured using landscape perspective (not vertical). Camera must remain static vertically but may move with the horse's circle horizontally.

Footage should include all athletes on the horse as well as lunger, and horse. All elements of the routine within the circle and on the horse must be visible, with no body parts of the lunger, horse or vaulters cut off, or obstructed.

The video must be HD quality; standard HD (720 or 1080) works well. Video must include the athletes' run-in/out and salute at the beginning and end of their performance of the go, as well as the complete performance.

Video submissions cannot contain any editing or splicing and must be recorded from one angle. Any videos that are deemed edited will be automatically disqualified, with no refunds given. Judge may reject a video if the criteria above are not met.

## SCORING

Videos will be grouped into classes for ease of judging.

Judge may only watch the performance one time before giving the score

Class scores will be entered into the Vault Canada website