



**EQUESTRIAN  
CANADA  
ÉQUESTRE**

**SECTION L  
VAULTING**

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Rules of Equestrian Canada  
2024

# CLEAN COPY EDITION

This document contains the final text effective January 1, 2024.

# EQUESTRIAN CANADA RULEBOOK

The rules published herein are effective on January 1, 2024, and remain in effect for one year except as superseded by rule changes or clarifications published in subsequent editions of this section. Section L as printed herein is the official version of *Vaulting* for 2024.

The Rule Book comprises eleven sections:

- A General Regulations
- B Breeds
- C Driving and Para-Driving
- D Eventing
- E Dressage and Para-Dressage
- F General Performance, Western, Equitation
- G Hunter, Jumper, Equitation and Hack
- J Endurance
- K Reining and Para-Reining
- L Vaulting

## **Section L: VAULTING**

is part of the Rulebook of Equestrian Canada  
and is published by:

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# EQUESTRIAN CANADA RULE BOOK

## SECTION L VAULTING

These Rules are to be used in conjunction with Equestrian Canada General Regulations.

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	Bronze	Silver	Gold	Platinum
Sport Licence *	<i>up to and including Division 3*, required for those entering a World Vaulting Challenge FEI competition</i>	FEI CVI 1*, 2*		FEI CVI 3*
<b>Horse Requirements</b>				
Passport / Horse Recording	No (Must provide proof of vaccinations)	FEI		FEI
Age requirements	5+ years for Walk & Trot, 7+ years for Canter	FEI		FEI
<b>Competition</b>				
Insurance Required	Mandatory			
Prize Money allowed	Yes – amount may affect the cost of event permit			
Event licence fee	Yes – as per EC Schedule of Fees *			
Event application	As per CAP guidelines			
Prize List (invite) Approval	VaultCanada	FEI		FEI
Rules	EC Sections A and L, or FEI	FEI		FEI
On Site Medical/Safety Plan	Mandatory			
Drug Fees collected	EC Schedule of Fees or FEI fee	FEI fee		FEI fee
Equine Medication Control	Requested or by random selection of any horse entered in the competition			
<b>Officials</b>				
Ground Jury	Provincial or National or FEI	FEI		FEI
<b>Stewards</b>	Recommended			
Veterinarian	Horse inspection and on call			

\* As per EC Schedule of Fees – see [www.equestrian.ca](http://www.equestrian.ca)

VaultCanada events may be multi-level sanctioned meaning that Bronze, Silver and Gold classes may be held in conjunction with each other over multiple days.

## **EQUESTRIAN CANADA**

Equestrian Canada is the national governing body for equestrian sport in Canada, with a mandate to represent, promote and advance the sport in Canada, and to represent, promote advocate for and advance all related equine and equestrian interests, including recreation, industry and equine health and welfare.

### **PATRON**

Her Excellency the Right Honourable Mary Jeannie May Simon CC., CMM., COM., OQ., CD., FRCGS., Governor General of Canada

## **THE EQUESTRIAN CANADA RULEBOOK**

Knowledge of the rules of any sport is required of each participant, and the competitor at an EC-sanctioned competition must accept this responsibility. Both a complete knowledge of and compliance with the rules are essential, and all participants must be fully cognizant of all rules as well as particular class specifications in the discipline/breed sport in which they compete.

It is not possible to provide for every conceivable eventuality in these rules. If there is no rule to deal specifically with a particular circumstance, or if the nearest interpretation of the pertinent rule would result in an obvious injustice, it is the duty of those responsible to make a decision based on common sense and fair play, thus reflecting as closely as possible the intention of the rules and regulations of Equestrian Canada.

### **Organization of the Rulebook**

The EC Rulebook is divided into multiple sections, grouped by disciplines and breed sports. Section A covers general regulations that apply to all EC members, competitors, officials, owners, equines, organizers and persons responsible unless superseded in other sections of the Rulebook.

### **Evergreen Rules Process**

The Equestrian Canada rulebooks are updated annually, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>. The official rulebook will be as published on the EC website and may be amended as follows.

### **Amendment of the Rules**

It is the right of every sport licence holder of Equestrian Canada to propose amendments to the rules, subject to the current policies, procedures and schedules. The deadline for Rule Change Suggestions (RCS) shall be May 31 each year in accordance with the procedures outlined on the EC Rule Change page. Suggestions will be reviewed by the appropriate discipline/breed sport EC committees who will consider all suggestions and put forward those they recommend as Rule Change Proposals (RCPs). RCPs will be posted on the EC website to allow for a 30-day review period. The EC committees will consider all comments and make any necessary revisions. Rule changes will be posted on the EC website in December to be effective January 1 the following year.

The amendment process will be strictly followed. Extraordinary rule amendments will be permitted only for FEI rule changes, safety, monetary, clarification, ethical

and equine welfare reasons at the discretion of the National Rules Committee using the following protocol. Extraordinary rule amendments will be effective when published by EC on its official website. FEI Rules, applicable to EC-sanctioned competitions, are effective upon publication by the FEI.

#### **Extraordinary Amendment Process**

1. **Proposal** – An Extraordinary Rule Amendment (ERA) is composed by the EC discipline/breed committee, EC staff or National Rules Committee (NRC) with supporting rationale.
2. **Authorization** – The applicable discipline or breed committee must authorize each ERA, note it in their minutes and forward it to the NRC.
3. **Approval** – The NRC is responsible for confirming the ERA criteria (FEI rule change, safety, monetary, clarification, ethical or equine welfare) have been satisfied
4. **Posting** – EC will translate and post the amendment and show changes to both change visible and clean copy online Rulebooks. The amendments display the date of the NRC approval for consistency.
5. **Effective** – An ERA is effective when published on the EC website. The file reference shall retain the original approval date.

#### **Interpretation of the Rules**

Please read all cross-references carefully and refer to the EC website for rule changes and/or clarifications. Should the English and French versions differ, the English version shall prevail. In the case of conflict between General Regulations and the regulations of the disciplines/breed sports, the discipline/breed sport rules will prevail.





# **CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION**

## **ARTICLE L101 PREAMBLE**

This document sets out Rules for equestrian vaulting events in Canada. Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Judge to make a decision in a sporting spirit, by approaching as nearly as possible the intention of these Rules and of the General Regulations of Equestrian Canada.

The VaultCanada Competition Policies are to be used in conjunction with the Vaulting Rules of Equestrian Canada. In the case of conflict between the Vaulting Rules of Equestrian Canada and the VaultCanada Competition Policies, the VaultCanada Competition Policies will prevail.

## **ARTICLE L102 VAULTING CODE OF CONDUCT**

All those involved in equestrian sport are expected to adhere to the Equestrian Canada and the FEI Code of Conduct and to acknowledge and accept that at all times the welfare of the horse must be paramount and must never be subordinated to competitive or commercial influences.

At all stages during the preparation and training of competition horses, welfare must take precedence over all other demands. This includes good horse management, training methods, farriery and tack, and transportation.

Horses and competitors must be fit, competent and in good health before they are allowed to compete. This encompasses medication use, surgical procedures that threaten welfare or safety, pregnancy in mares and the misuse of aids.

Events must not prejudice horse welfare. This involves paying careful attention to the competition areas, ground surfaces, weather conditions, stabling, site safety and fitness of the horse for onward travel after the event.

Every effort must be made to ensure that horses receive proper attention after they have competed and that they are treated humanely when their competition careers are over. This covers proper veterinary care, competition injuries, euthanasia and retirement.

## **CHAPTER 2 EVENTS**

### **ARTICLE L201 TYPES OF NATIONAL EVENTS**

In all Canadian vaulting events:

Classes of the following Individual Divisions may be offered:

3*	Advanced Trot
2*Y	Intermediate Trot
2*	Beginner Trot
1*	Advanced Walk
Advanced Canter	Intermediate Walk
Intermediate Canter	Beginner Walk
Beginner Canter	

Classes of the following Pairs and Team Divisions may be offered:

3*
2*
1*

### **ARTICLE L202 ELIGIBILITY FOR NATIONAL CLASSES**

For eligibility and downgrading criteria, see the VaultCanada Policy Document.

### **ARTICLE L203 CHAMPIONSHIPS**

See the Vault Canada competition policy document.

### **ARTICLE L204 ENTRIES**

All vaulters and lungers must have a valid EC sport licence. Exception: Beginner Walk.

In addition to the requirements of Chapter 6 of the Equestrian Canada General Regulations, the Invitation must specify the method and timing for submitting music to the Competition Organizers, ahead of the competition.

Once approved, as per Chapter 6 of the Equestrian Canada General Regulations, the Prize List must be posted as an Invitation on the VaultCanada website and in the Equestrian Canada Calendar as soon as possible.

If the VaultCanada Online Competition management system is not used by the Event Organizers for Entries, Scoring, and Results, the Competition Organizers will be responsible for entering the information within seven days after the completion of the competition.

By the Entry Deadline each club must provide the names of Individuals, Pairs, and Teams, along with the names of the horses and the lungers. The names of the vaulters constituting a Team may include up to eight vaulters. The names of the six definite team members, plus an optional seventh vaulter, must be supplied to the organizing committee by the Final Changes Deadline.

For Championship and Selection Classes in Divisions 2\* and 3\*, the vaulter(s), the horse, and the lunger form one competitive unit and cannot be changed after the start of the competition. In all other competitions and/or divisions, different Horses and/or Lungers may be used for each test.

Wherever possible, horse and/or lunger changes should be supplied to the organizing committee by the Final Changes Deadline.

## **ARTICLE L205 VAULTERS**

Vaulters may compete Individually, in Pairs and in Team at the same event. In Divisions 2\* and 3\* each vaulter may only compete for one Team and/or Pair. In all other Divisions a vaulter may enter with two Teams or two Pairs, provided they are in different Divisions (i.e. Walk and Canter) However, no more than two members of a Team may be entered in another Team.

Each class may not have more than two tests scheduled per day.

In contrast to Article A814 in the Equestrian Canada General Regulations, the use of competitor numbers for vaulters is at the discretion of the Event Organizers. When used, competitor numbers must not compromise the safety of the vaulter. When competitor numbers are not used, the announcer must name each vaulter prior to them mounting the horse.

## **ARTICLE L206 VAULTER'S ATTIRE**

Team vaulters must wear numbers on the right arm or leg or on the back. These numbers should be 10 to 12 cm in height and must be of plain design and easily visible.

The attire of Team vaulters should give the obvious effect of uniformity.

Attire of Team, Individual, and Pairs vaulters must not hinder the movement of the vaulter or the safe interaction between vaulters during the performance: the attire must in no way compromise the safety of either vaulter or horse.

Attire must not conceal the form and line of the vaulter's body during the performance in order not to hinder the judging of the exercises.

Attire must not give the effect of nudity. In Children competitions the dress attire may not have any parts of skin coloured or transparent fabric, except for the arms and legs where this is permitted. Athletes are considered Children until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 13.

Attire must be formfitting and all articles of clothing, or parts thereof, must remain attached to the vaulter's body at all times. Decorative accessories (not limited to but including belts, masks, jewellery) and props (not limited to but including hats, capes, canes, gadgets) are strictly forbidden in the arena.

Trousers must be secured to the foot and skirts may only be worn over tights or leggings.

Only shoes must be worn and only soft soled shoes are permitted.

Headgears are not permitted while vaulting. However, approved protective headgear\* is required at all times when riding (for example, but not limited to, during warm up, exercise, or schooling.)

In order to be allowed to participate at award presentations, the attire of vaulters and lungers must be neat, dignified and conservative. Overly casual attire (such as shorts, tank tops, faded/ripped jeans) are not appropriate. National Federation attire is only acceptable for International Events. Club attire should be worn if possible.

All vaulters and lungers are expected to attend the awards presentation unless excused by Judge A or the event organizer.

\* See Section A, Glossary – Headgear Standards.

### **ARTICLE L207 LUNGER**

Lungers must be a minimum of 16 years of age.

The lunger does not need to be from the same club as the vaulter(s).

For the Horse Inspection the handler must be dressed in a neat and dignified manner.

The lunger's attire should not distract from the performance, be safe, and be respectful.

### **ARTICLE L208 VAULTING HORSES**

Vaulting horses or ponies in Canter Divisions must be at least seven years old, and in Walk and Trot Divisions must be at least five years old.

In all classes, the horse may travel to the left or the right on the circle. Stallions are prohibited.

The horse does not need to be from the same club as the vaulter(s). As the length of vaulting competitions, and the type of classes offered each day may vary, rules governing permissible use of the horse stipulate the maximum number of times a horse may be used on a single day. These entries are accumulative per day and may be a combination of Team, Individual and Pairs.

Horses may be used for a maximum of 24 units each day. The following table shows how many units a single test uses for each particular type of test.

	Compulsories	Freestyle or Technical
Canter Team	8	8
Canter Pair	4	4
Canter Individual	2	2
Trot Team	6	6
Trot Pair	3	3
Trot Individual	1	1
Walk Team	4	4
Walk Pair	2	2
Walk Individual	.5	.5

A judge may eliminate any horse which shows signs of being overworked or overloaded at any time. These rules are not meant to suggest that every horse is capable of carrying the maximum number of competitors. Horse owners and lungers are compelled to make the welfare of the horse paramount when deciding on appropriate use during competition.

Competition organizers are encouraged where possible to schedule the classes in such a way that it will minimize the number of run-ins per day. This may involve scheduling classes so that a horse can carry more than one level during a single run-in, thereby reducing the total number of run-ins required each day.

All Horses will be assigned a Horse Number by the Event Organisers which must be worn and clearly visible on the outside of the bridle (as per the direction on the circle in the competition ring) at all times that the horse is in the exercise, warm up, or competition areas.

Horses may be excused from the Award Ceremony at the discretion of the Event Organizers.

**ARTICLE L209 INSPECTION OF HORSES**

Before the start of Championship competitions, the Competition Veterinarian, and it is recommended the President of the Ground Jury will inspect all horses entered in Canter Divisions plus any additional divisions declared by the Organizing committee in the invitation. Only horses that have passed the inspection may be used in any Classes during the competition. Horse inspections are recommended at all other competitions but not required. Horses that do not pass the inspection are not allowed to compete in any class.

For all competitions, horses in Divisions 2\* and 3\* must abide by Articles A402, A403, and A404 in the Equestrian Canada General Regulations. Horses entered in all Divisions must have been given an equine influenza vaccination within 6 months +21 days (and not within 7 days) of arrival at the Event. The OC must specify in the

Invite / Prize List how proof of vaccinations is provided, and may require further vaccinations and/or tests at their discretion.

During the competition, Judge A may inspect or eliminate a horse which appears lame or in bad condition. Each time the horse is presented in the competition arena it must be trotted on the circle until Judge A rings the bell.

When a horse has been eliminated and is scheduled to participate in further tests on the same day, or on a following day, it is at the discretion of Judge A to choose between the following options, and if the horse does not pass it will not be allowed to participate:

- To have the horse inspected, in the presence of Judge A, by either the Competition Veterinarian or the On-Call Veterinarian
- To have the horse be presented again to Judge A during a ring break
- To have the horse be presented again to Judge A at the beginning of the next test.

## **ARTICLE L210 HORSE EQUIPMENT**

It is recommended that all equipment be used in its manufactured state.

The equipment of the Horse in the Competition Arena will be as follows:

- Protective tack covering to improve the comfort of the horse ie: extra padding on bridle may be used.
- Bridle with smooth snaffle bit, with no more than two joints. Rubber bit guards are permitted. If an un-jointed rubber snaffle is used, the bit must be flexible. Minimum diameter of mouthpiece to be 12mm for horses and 10mm for ponies. The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the ring or the cheeks of the mouthpiece at the widest point. Nosebands must be flat. Leather, sheepskin or similar material may be used on any part of the bridle providing the material does not exceed three centimeters in diameter measured from the Horse's skin.
- The use of a lunge cavesson, with or without a bit, instead of a bridle is allowed.
- In Divisions 2\*, 2\*Y and 3\*, the lunge line must be attached to the inner ring of the bit (not over the head or to the outer ring of the bit) or attached to a lunge cavesson. In all other Divisions the lunge line may be attached in any manner that does not cause the horse discomfort.
- Two side reins. Standing reins or auxiliary reins are not permitted.
- Lunge line and lunge whip.
- Vaulting surcingle with underpad and girth. Under the girth, an underpad and/or pieces of sheepskin may be used for skin protection. The surcingle has two solid handles (grips, the shape of which is not defined) and with two loops (one on each side). One short extra strap made of leather may be fixed between the inner edges of the right and left handles.
- Bandages and/or brushing/overreach boots are optional.
- Ear hoods and plugs are allowed. Ear hoods must not be attached to the noseband.
- Back pad is mandatory and must be made out of a material which conforms itself to the Horse's back and reduces the impact of external forces (by the Vaulters). Gel pads are allowed in addition to the back pad.
- The Back Pad, which may be checked by the Steward and/or a Judge at any time on the horse must have the following dimensions :

- Max. 80 cm from the back edge of the surcingle to the back
- Max. 30 cm from the front edge of the surcingle to the neck
- Max. 90 cm from side to side the lowest point to the lowest point
- If checked on the Horse, the allowed tolerance may not exceed 3cm, i.e. 93 cm
  - Max. 3 cm thick including cover
  - Max. total length 1.10 m, with no more than 30 cm in front of the surcingle
- The surcingle and the back pad may be changed from test to test.

A steward and/or a judge is authorised to check the equipment of any horse at any time. If checked immediately after the horse leaves the arena any discrepancy could entail elimination after consultation with the Ground Jury.

The equipment of the horse in the warm-up arena will be as above with the following additions:

- Auxiliary reins are allowed.
- Double bridle is allowed when riding.

Side Reins must not be fastened in place for an excessive period. After such times they must be unfastened and the horse allowed to move freely for a period of time before the side reins are reattached.

When warming up, training or exercising horses under saddle, riding must only be in a designated riding ring. Suitable footwear and properly fitted, securely fastened approved protective headgear\* must be worn.

\*(See Glossary, Section A – *Headgear Standards*).

#### **ARTICLE L211 ENTRY AND EXIT**

Upon entering, and before exiting the competition arena, the vaulter(s) and lunger must salute Judge A as a matter of courtesy. Judge A shall acknowledge the salutes.

Entry, exit, and the formation of the salute are left to the discretion of the vaulters but should be dignified.

Entry and exit may be accompanied by music at the discretion of competition organizing committee.

Immediately after the salute, before exiting the competition circle, the side reins may be unfastened. The Vaulters must run out first followed by the horse and the lunger. At the latest, the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle and failure to do so will be deemed to be abuse of the Horse.

#### **ARTICLE L212 ARENA**

Footing in the arena for the competition space and the warm up circle(s) must be soft and may include springy material.

A warm up circle is required. It is recommended that there be three or more warm up circles. At championships there must be more than one warm up circle for classes in Canter Divisions. If the competition takes place indoors at least one indoor warm up circle must be available.

The judges are seated on raised judges' stands. It is recommended that these be about 50-60 cm above the ground in order to give the Judges a good view of the arena. The public should be at an adequate distance from the judges.

The center of the competition circle must be marked.

The competition space in the arena must meet the following criteria:

<b>Gait of Class</b>	<b>Minimum Diameter of Competition Circle</b>	<b>Minimum Distance from Edge of Competition Circle to Audience</b>	<b>Minimum Height to lowest point above Competition Circle</b>
<b>Canter</b>	20 metres	1 metre, 3 or more metres highly recommended	4.5 metres for Individual, 5 metres for Team/Pairs
<b>Walk or Trot</b>	17.5 metres		

**ARTICLE L213 ABUSE OF HORSES AND DOPING**

The General Regulations and Veterinary Regulations of Equestrian Canada apply.

**ARTICLE L214 OFFICIALS**

At all Championships it is desirable to have more than one judge for canter classes. At National Championships, for Divisions 2\* and 3\*, it is required that there be more than one judge. It is recommended that one of these Judges be selected from the FEI List for International Judges for Vaulting. At a minimum, both judges must have credentials allowing them to judge at national canter championship classes in their own country.

All other events and classes must be judged by at least one official having credentials allowing them to judge at events in their own country or province. It is recommended that classes in Canter have more than one judge; however, this decision is left to the discretion of the Competition's Organizing Committee.

Each Judge must be assisted by a secretary who speaks and writes the same official language as the Judge (either English or French).

When more than one judge is presiding over a class, the President of the Ground Jury will decide on the placing of the judges (A, B, C, D).

For tests that have a time limit, either a timekeeper is to be placed next to Judge A, or at the discretion of Judge A, Judge A may self-time using a countdown timer. A Steward approved by VaultCanada must be present at all Gold and Silver events, and is highly recommended for Bronze-only events.

A Competition Veterinarian must be present for the Horse Inspection.

A veterinarian and a farrier must be on site or on call for any emergencies during the event.



## **ARTICLE L215 FIRST AID**

One or more designated First Aid Attendants trained in emergency medical care ie: Standard First Aid, or Industrial First Aid, or Nurse, or Doctor, or First Responder (Paramedics may also be used) must be located at a First Aid station or be clearly identifiable at all times while classes are competing.

In case of an emergency, one of the designated First Aid Attendants is to take charge of the scene and become the Person in Charge.

Unless requested by the person in charge, the only other people who may approach the scene are other designated First Aid Attendants, one coach of the participant, and one member of the organizing committee. The coach and the member of the organizing committee in this case are to help by providing information and facilitating communication; they are under the direction of the Person in Charge.

## **ARTICLE L216 APPEAL COMMITTEE, OBJECTIONS AND COMPLAINTS**

The General Regulations of Equestrian Canada apply. See Chapter 12 – General Dispute Resolution and Protests at EC-sanctioned Competitions; EC Discipline, Complaints and Appeal Policy.

## **ARTICLE L217 PENALTIES**

The General Regulations of Equestrian Canada apply.

## **ARTICLE L218 COMPETITION ORGANIZER REQUESTS FOR EXEMPTIONS**

Competition Organizers may at their discretion request an exemption for any rules in chapters two through eight in Section L from the VaultCanada Sport Committee. Only rules that are under the authority of the VaultCanada Sport Committee may be considered. The Exemption for each rule may only be approved if the rule would prevent that competition from running, or if the rule would seriously impact the competition in a negative way. Any approved exemptions must be clearly identified in the competition Invite / Prize List.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **COMPETITION OVERVIEW**

#### **ARTICLE L301 GENERAL**

During the test the horse moves on a circle with a minimum radius of 7.5 metres for Canter and 6.25 metres for Walk/Trot, preferably more when space permits. The horse must remain a minimum of 2.5 metres from the edge of the competition space. All tests must be executed in the correct gait (for example, not in counter-canter).

The tests must be separated by an interval of at least one hour.

In the Compulsories the vaulters have to show defined exercises.

In the Freestyle the vaulters have the opportunity to show their artistry. They may plan an original program around their own capabilities, ideas and specialities.

The Technical Test consists of five prescribed technical exercises and additional freestyle exercises that are chosen by the vaulter.

It is recommended that the Compulsories be performed with music.

The Freestyle and Technical Test must be performed with music.

The music must be provided as stipulated in the Invitation.

The performance is to take place with the horse and therefore no exercises or dance moves on the ground are allowed. Elimination for noncompliance in this instance is at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

The criteria for scoring is explained in detail in the FEI Guidelines for Vaulting Judges which is published annually on the FEI Vaulting Website.

#### **ARTICLE L302 TYPES OF COMPETITION**

##### **1. Individual Vaulting Competition**

The Individual vaulter is accompanied only by the lunger and the vaulting horse. Classes where an assisted mount is allowed are listed in L304.

The Individual vaulting competition consists of different tests in one or two rounds. For Divisions 3\* and 2\*Y only, Round One includes Compulsories, Technical and Freestyle Tests. In Championship classes for Division 3\* only, Round One includes Compulsories Technical Test and Freestyle; in Round Two, if offered, it includes an optional Freestyle. For all other Divisions, Round One includes Compulsories and Freestyle; if Round Two is offered, it may include Compulsories and it must include Freestyle.

##### **2. Pairs Vaulting Competition**

The Pairs competition is composed of two vaulters, the lunger and the vaulting horse.

The Pairs competition for Divisions 2\* and 3\*, is a Free Test in one or two rounds. For Division 1\* the Pairs competition is Compulsories and Freestyle in one round.

In Pairs competitions any combination of gender is allowed.

##### **3. Team Vaulting Competition**

A vaulting Team is composed of the lunger, horse and six vaulters plus an optional seventh vaulter.

Six vaulters must perform the Compulsories. All Exercises not shown will receive a zero. In the Freestyle, six vaulters are to perform and only those six

may enter the arena. If less than six vaulters perform the Freestyle a deduction will be given (see FEI Handbook).

The Team vaulting competition consists of Compulsories and Freestyle in Round One. An optional Round Two includes only a Freestyle.

#### **4. Multiple Rounds**

When a competition offers two rounds, Round One may be a Qualifying Round for Round Two. In such cases the Qualification Criteria must be stipulated in the Invitation.

Squad championships at 2\* and 3\*, and Individual 1\* and 2\* must be offered with two rounds with second round being freestyle only. In order for a Championship title to be awarded, all prescribed tests must have received a score. If Walk and or Trot Championship classes are offered they may be in one round.

**ARTICLE L303 COMPULSORIES**

<b>Beginner/Intermediate</b>	<b>Advanced/1*</b>	<b>2*</b>	<b>3* Squad</b>	<b>3* and 2*Y</b>
Vault on	Vault on	Vault on	Vault on	Vault on
Basic Seat (arms out)	Basic Seat	Basic seat	Flag	Flag
Flag (leg only)	Flag	Flag	Mill	Mill
Kneel (body straight, slight bend at hip)	Stand	Mill	FW Scissors	FW Scissors
FW Swing (legs closed)	FW Swing (legs closed)	FW Scissors	BW Scissors	BW Scissors
FW Half Mill (inside, reverse) Leg pass Dismount to the inside	Half Mill (inside, reverse)	BW Scissors	Stand	Stand
	BW Swing (legs open) Leg pass Dismount to inside	Stand	Flank to inside seat (leg pass back to the seat astride)	Flank to inside seat
		First part of flank, push off to the inside.	Swing off from seat astride to the outside	Swing off from seat astride to the outside

Each static exercise (Basic Seat, Flag, Kneel, and Stand) must be held for at least four strides.

In Mill exercises, each leg pass must occur for exactly four strides.

**ARTICLE L304 PERMITTED ASSISTANCE**

Delivery of a reserve lunging whip

Any assistance from the outside necessary to avoid an accident.

Vaulters requiring an assisted mounts onto the horse in the compulsories will receive a deduction from the mount score as follows:

Intermediate Walk: 1 point	Intermediate Trot: 1 point	Intermediate Canter: 1 point	1*, 2*, 3* no assistance allowed
Advanced Walk: 1 point	Advanced Trot: 1 point	Advanced Canter: 2 points	

All assisted mounts in the freestyle are not counted towards the Difficulty score, but may be considered in the Performance and Artistry scores.

In Pairs and Team, the above deductions will occur when any assistance is provided from the ground. However, a vaulter who is already on the horse may assist another vaulter in mounting without a deduction.

Deductions or disqualification in case of doubt are left to Judge A and cannot be appealed.

#### **ARTICLE L305 ASSISTANCE FOR VAULTERS WITH A DISABILITY**

Vaulters with a disability needing extra consideration during a competition must identify themselves upon submitting their entry form. Vaulters with special needs may submit a letter to the show committee outlining their disability and the adaptations they will require. The show committee will contact them if necessary for clarification and proof of their disability may be required from a physician and submitted before the start of the competition.

#### **ARTICLE L306 ELIMINATION FROM A TEST**

Unless otherwise specified in the rules or in the conditions for the competition, elimination means that the vaulter and/or the horse in question may not continue in the current test.

The following paragraphs lay down the reasons for which vaulters and/or horses are eliminated in all vaulting tests.

During competition, the Judge at A in the following cases must apply elimination:

- Starting before the signal is given and touching the grips, the pad or the horse (eliminates the vaulter)
- Equipment other than what is permitted in these rules (eliminates the vaulter or the horse depending on if the equipment is on the vaulter or the horse.)
- Mounting the horse after an interruption signalled by the judge without waiting for the bell (eliminates the vaulter)
- Vaulter and/or horse leaving the arena without permission of the Ground Jury, including prior to starting (eliminates the vaulter and/or horse depending on who left)
- An accident to a vaulter or to a horse which prevents either from completing the test. In a Team test however, this does not apply when only a single Team member has been injured. (eliminates the vaulter and/or the horse depending on who is injured.)

Elimination of the vaulter and/or horse is left to the discretion of Judge A in the following cases:

- Not entering the arena within 30 seconds after the bell
- Taking more than 30 seconds after the bell following the trot, to commence the first exercise
- All physical unauthorised assistance
- Not stopping when the bell is rung during the test
- A misbehaving horse during a performance: elimination of the vaulter(s) currently on the Horse
- A misbehaving Horse before or after the performance: elimination of all vaulters who have run in together and not yet completed their test
- Taking more than 30 seconds to continue the test after a fall when all vaulters have lost the contact with the horse

- After an interruption of the test in unforeseen circumstances taking more than 30 seconds to continue the test after the signal to resume was given
- If the Ground Jury feels that for any reason the horse or the vaulter is unfit to continue the test.
- Exceeding the time limit and staying on the horse for more than 10 seconds.

### **ARTICLE L307 DISQUALIFICATION FROM EVENT**

Disqualification means that a vaulter and/or the horse or horses are disqualified for the entire Event. Disqualification may also be retroactive.

The Ground Jury may disqualify a vaulter and/or a horse in the following cases:

- Exercising horses in the arena without the permission of the Ground Jury
- All cases of abuse and/or ill treatment reported by a member of the Ground Jury or by a Steward
- All cases laid down in the FEI's Veterinary Regulations

The Judge at A may disqualify a horse in the following cases:

- Horse bleeding on the flank(s), in the mouth or nose or marks indicating excessive use of the whip anywhere on the Horse (in minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a Horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, officials may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the lunger to continue. If there is any further evidence of blood in the mouth the horse will be disqualified).

The Competition Organizer may disqualify a vaulter, lunger and/or horse in the following case:

Non-registered vaulters, lungers and/or horses will result in the disqualification of the competitive unit. Non-registered refers to all required memberships and/or licences outlined elsewhere in the rules, and may include any further requirements (e.g. waivers) indicated in the Competition Invitation.

### **ARTICLE L308 TIMING / BELL**

Within 30 seconds after the signal (bell) is given to enter the arena, the Vaulters and the Lunger must salute. However, if the competition is running ahead of schedule, the signal (bell) must only be given if the Vaulters, Lunger, and Horse are ready at the in-gate.

Before beginning the Performance, the Horse must be trotted on the Circle until the Judge at A rings the bell. At the latest 30 seconds after the bell following the Trot, the first exercise must be commenced.

The time allowed for the Test begins at the moment the first Vaulter touches the surcingle, the pad or the Horse and ends with the time limit. The judging ends when the last vaulter touches the ground after the final dismount. Only exercises (static or dynamic exercises or dismounts) already in progress when at the time limit may be finished and will be included in the evaluation for Technique and Artistic Scores. All following exercises and dismounts starting after the allowed time will be considered in the Performance Score, including deductions for falls, but not in the Degree of Difficulty and Artistic Score.

The time allowed for each test is listed in Chapters 5 to 7.

A bell is used by the Judge at A to signal the Athletes. It is used on the following occasions:

- to give the signal to enter the arena
- to give the signal to start the Test. If in the Compulsory Test more than one Individual Vaulters is starting on the same Horse, the next Vaulters begins his performance immediately after the Vault-Off of the previous Vaulters without waiting for a signal
- to announce the end of the time
- to signal that the time and music is stopped after a fall and the Vaulters is unable to continue immediately or to return to the line. The Test must be continued within 30 seconds after the signal to resume
- to give the signal to stop an Athlete or Performance when the Horse shows any signs of irregularity or lameness, is out of control or dangerous to the Vaulters
- to interrupt the Test to solve any issue with the music (music not starting, etc).
- to give the signal to stop an Athlete or Performance in unforeseen circumstance which includes repair or adjustment of equipment or any other situation requiring immediate attention. The timing and the music is stopped. The Test must be continued within 30 seconds after the signal to resume

After an interruption the clock is started again when the Vaulters touches the handle, the pad or the Horse.

In unclear situations the Judge at A and/or Lunge/Vaulters may communicate.

## **CHAPTER 4 SCORING**

### **ARTICLE L401 COMPULSORIES**

The Compulsory tests are scored with 25% assigned to the Horse Score, and 75% assigned to the Exercises.

The scores for the Exercises are added together then the sum is divided by the required number of Exercises.

For Pairs and Team, the number of Exercises is determined by the number of vaulters multiplied by the number of Exercises required to be shown. In Team, if a seventh vaulter competes, the seventh vaulter's scores are included and will not be removed at any time.

When there is more than one judge, the score inputs should be divided as follows:

Number of Judges	
2	1 Judge for Horse Score 1 Judge for Exercises
3	1 Judge for Horse Score 2 Judges for Exercises
4	1 Judge for Horse Score 3 Judges for Exercises

The exercises are essence of the Compulsories; thus when possible three judges will evaluate this aspect.

### **ARTICLE L402 FREESTYLE**

For scoring criteria see the FEI Guidelines.

### **ARTICLE L403 TECHNICAL TEST**

For scoring criteria see the FEI Guidelines.

### **ARTICLE L404 HORSE SCORE**

Judging of the Horse Score begins with entering the arena and ends with the final dismount.

If more than one Individual Vaulter or Pair is on one horse, the General Impression of the entry, salute and exit will be taken into account for all vaulters on that horse.

For criteria for scoring the Horse see FEI Guidelines for Judges.



## **ARTICLE L405 FINAL SCORE**

For each Round, the Round Score is the average of all tests in that Round.  
The Final Score is the average of all tests.

In case of a tie, the higher mark from the first test will be used to determine placing. If those marks are also equal, the mark from the Vault On (in Compulsories) or the Performance (in Freestyle / Technical) will be used. If those marks are also equal, a coin toss (or the electronic equivalent) will determine the placing.

## **ARTICLE L406 MARKING**

The maximum score is 10.0. Decimals are allowed.

The following marks are applicable for all marks:

10	excellent	4	insufficient
9	very good	3	fairly bad
8	good	2	bad
7	fairly good	1	very bad
6	satisfactory	0	not executed or "as a result of deductions"
5	sufficient		

All calculated intermediate and final results will be rounded off to the third decimal using the common "Round half up" tie-breaking rule: 0.0011-0.0014 down / 0.0015-0.0019 up.

See <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rounding> for more details.

## **ARTICLE L407 JUDGES' SCORE SHEETS**

Judges will give marks according to the test's score sheet.

Any corrected score must be initialled by the Judge having made the correction.

Judges' scores must be recorded in ink.

There is also a column for the Judge's comments which should be used by the Judge whenever possible; providing comments when the score is 5 or below is strongly recommended.

As the end of the Competition, the Competition Office must scan all score sheets and provide the originals to the vaulters. The electronic files of the scanned score sheets must be uploaded to the VaultCanada Online Competition Management system and may not be made publicly available. It is recommended to scan the score sheets into one file per club using a device that has a paper feeder.

The official VaultCanada score sheets can be printed directly from the VaultCanada Online Competition Management system.

## **CHAPTER 5**

### **INDIVIDUAL VAULTING COMPETITION**

#### **ARTICLE L501 GENERAL**

All Vaulters performing on the same Horse enter the arena together. If required and allowed by the rules of that Division, a booster may enter the arena with the vaulters. No one else may enter the arena.

#### **ARTICLE L502 COMPULSORIES**

The Compulsory exercises that will be shown are detailed for each Division in Article L303.

All vaulters must follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell. There is no Time Limit for the Compulsory test

#### **ARTICLE L503 FREESTYLE**

A Freestyle consists of static and dynamic exercises. A static exercise must be held for at least three strides.

Each vaulter must wait for the bell before beginning their performance.

There is a Time Limit of 1.0 minutes.

Note: These rules may be superseded by FEI rules. See [fei.org](http://fei.org).

#### **ARTICLE L504 TECHNICAL TEST**

The Technical Test is only performed in Division 3\* and 2\*Y.

The Technical Test for 3\* consists of five technical exercises and additional freestyle exercises, chosen by the Vaulter. The Technical Test for 2\*Y consists of three of the five technical exercises of the vaulter's choice and in any order, and additional freestyle exercises, chosen by the Vaulter. The Technical Exercises may be shown in any order.

For division 2\*Y see FEI guidelines and rules.

The Technical exercises are from the following categories of motor skills:

- Balance
- Timing/coordination
- Strength
- Jump force
- Suppleness

The exercises are described in FEI Guidelines for Judges and the FEI publishes on its own schedule which exercises are currently in use.

There is a Time Limit of 1.0 minutes.

Note: These rules may be superseded by FEI rules. See [fei.org](http://fei.org).

#### **ARTICLE L505 BEGINNER WALK**

In Beginner Walk, the participants are not placed, and there are no requirements beyond demonstrating a safe routine to the judge.

As classes of this Division are not placed, it is not a competition, and an EC Sport Licence is not required. A Provincial or Territorial (PTSO) Membership, inclusive of insurance, is required.

Spotting, prompting, and/or any other assistance may be used providing it is safe in the Judge's opinion.

The Judge's Score Sheets should be prepared the same as Division Intermediate Walk, and if the vaulter demonstrates the correct exercises for Intermediate Walk, accurate scores should be provided to help assess if this vaulter is ready to enter Intermediate Walk.

In all cases, Judge's comments are required and should focus on strengths more than any weakness.

There is a Time Limit of 1.0 minutes.

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **PAIRS VAULTING COMPETITION**

#### **ARTICLE L601 GENERAL**

All vaulters performing on the same Horse enter the arena together. If required and allowed by the rules of that Division, a booster may enter the arena with the vaulters. No one else may enter the arena.

#### **ARTICLE L602 COMPULSORIES**

The Compulsory exercises that will be shown are detailed for each Division in Article L303

As per Article L302, Divisions Intermediate, Advanced and 1\* include a Compulsory Test in the Pairs Competition.

The second Vaulters must perform the Compulsory Exercises immediately without waiting for the bell.

There is no Time Limit in the Compulsory test

#### **ARTICLE L603 FREESTYLE**

The Freestyle test consists of static and dynamic exercises. A static exercise must be held for at least three strides.

In Divisions Intermediate, Advanced, 1\* and 2\* there is a Time Limit of 1.5 minutes. In Division 3\* there is a Time Limit of 2.0 minutes.

## **CHAPTER 7 TEAM VAULTING COMPETITION**

### **ARTICLE L701 GENERAL**

All vaulters on the Team enter the arena together. If required and allowed by the rules of that Division, a booster may enter the arena with the vaulters. No one else may enter the arena.

### **ARTICLE L702 COMPULSORIES**

The Compulsory exercises that will be shown are detailed for each Division in Article L303.

The Vaulters with the number 1 begins, number 2 follows, etc. All six or seven vaulters show the Compulsories in one section.

The second Vaulters must perform the Compulsory Exercises immediately without waiting for the bell.

There is a Time Limit of 6.0 minutes.

### **ARTICLE L703 FREESTYLE**

No more than three Vaulters may be on the horse at one time. At least two of the Vaulters must remain in contact with the horses; otherwise these elements of the exercises are not scored.

The Freestyle test consists of static and dynamic exercises. A static exercise must be held for at least three strides.

A dynamic exercise should only be counted in the degree of difficulty if, in its execution, the Vaulters' center of gravity is displaced other than in the direction of the effect gravity.

There is a Time Limit of 4.0 minutes.

## **GLOSSARY**

### **AD**

Advanced

### **ADULT**

Individuals are adults from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of nineteen. For exceptions, see discipline/breed sport rules.

### **AFFILIATE ORGANIZATIONS**

Canadian equine or equestrian organizations with aims and objectives of national scope may apply to become affiliate members of EC. See Article A211, Affiliate Membership.

### **AGE OF A HORSE**

A horse is considered to be one year old on January 1 following the actual foaling date.

### **AGE OF A PARTICIPANT**

Except as modified by discipline/breed sport rules, a participant is considered to be a certain age until the end of the calendar year in which he or she turns that age. For example, riders remain Junior A until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18.

### **AGENT**

Any adult or group of adults acting on behalf of an owner or lessee.

### **AM**

Amateur

### **AMATEUR**

For the purposes of these rules, an amateur is an adult Sport Licence holder who is eligible to compete in EC amateur classes as per EC regulations. See Article A902, Amateur Competitors, and specific discipline/breed sport rules.

### **APPEALS**

An appeal may be made against the decision of a competition organizing committee or against the decision of a hearing panel, provincial, territorial or national, regarding a protest or complaint. See Articles A1211 and A1212.

### **“B”**

Basic (Judge or Steward)

### **BOARD/BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors of Equestrian Canada.

### **BORROWED HORSE**

A horse not owned by the rider competing in a Para-Equestrian Canada class.

### **CALENDAR YEAR**

The calendar year starts on January 1 and ends on December 31.

## **CANADIAN OLYMPIC COMMITTEE (COC)**

The Canadian Olympic Committee, the governing body for all Olympic disciplines in Canada. EC is a member of the COC.

## **CANADIAN PARALYMPIC COMMITTEE (CPC)**

The Canadian Paralympic Committee (CPC) National Paralympic Committee for Canada and is a member of the International Paralympic Committee (IPC). Equestrian Canada is a member of the CPC.

## **CAP**

See “Competition Administration Policy”.

## **CARDED ATHLETES**

Carded Athletes refers to athletes who are approved for funding and are directly financially support by Sport Canada through the Athlete Assistance Program (AAP). AAP support is referred to as CARDING.

## **CATEGORY**

Refers to the eligibility of the athlete defined by age, amateur status, open, etc.

## **CDI**

Concours Dressage Internationale

## **CDN**

Canadian

## **CERTIFIED COACH**

Equestrian Coaches who have completed an evaluation and are certified by EC in partnership with the Coaching Association of Canada. The following designations are available: Instructor, Competition Coach, Competition Coach Specialist, High Performance 1.

## **CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR**

Equestrian Instructors who have completed an evaluation and are certified by EC in partnership with the Coaching Association of Canada.

## **CET**

Canadian Equestrian Team

## **CHILDREN**

Juniors competing in classes designated as children’s classes. See discipline/breed sport rules for cross-entry restrictions.

## **CLASSES**

1. Amateur/Amateur-Owner Class. For adult riders/drivers who hold a valid Sport Licence and EC amateur card or, when competing in their own breed divisions or classes, a valid amateur card from their breed or discipline affiliate organization. Riders/drivers from other countries must have a valid amateur card from their national federation. In amateur-owner classes, riders/drivers or members of their immediate family must own the horse. See also 13. Owner Classes

2. Canadian-Bred Class. A Canadian-bred class is limited to entries of horses bred and foaled in Canada.
3. EC Point Classes. Classes in which competitors accumulate points at EC competitions towards annual EC awards.
4. Family Class. A class for two or more members of a family.
5. Gentlemen's Class. A class for gentlemen which may be restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as juniors, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules.
6. Ladies' Class. Class for ladies which may be restricted to riders, drivers or handlers who are no longer eligible to compete as juniors, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules.
7. Limit Class. Limit classes are for horses or competitors that have not won six first place ribbons at EC Gold competitions or at USEF competitions in the particular performance classes in which they are being shown excepting winnings in four-in-hands, tandems, teams, unicorns, and pairs, and winnings in combined driving, local, model and breeding classes, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules. A limit entry is such from the closing date of entries.
8. Local Class. A class held at an EC-sanctioned competition, which is restricted by geographic area but which is run according to all other EC rules. Local classes are not eligible for national or regional championships nor shall they count towards EC awards. See EC Competition Administration Policy, Local and Miscellaneous/Additional Classes.
9. Maiden Class. A class open to horses or competitors that have not received one first place ribbon at EC Platinum, Gold or Silver competitions or USEF competitions in the particular performance classes in which they are shown. A maiden entry is such until the closing date of entries.
10. Miscellaneous Class. A class which meets the particular requirements of a competition and is beneficial to the area but does not conform to the specifications for any class or division included in these rules. Entries in these classes will not accumulate points towards EC awards. Such classes or divisions must be identified in the prize list as "not rated for EC awards".
11. Novice Class. A novice class is open to horses or competitors that have not won three first place ribbons at EC Platinum, Gold or Silver competitions or USEF competitions in the particular performance classes in which they are shown, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules. A novice entry is such until the closing date of entries.
12. Open Class. A class that is open to all horses of any age or breed, irrespective of ribbons previously won, and in which there is no qualification for the rider or driver.
13. Owner Classes. Open to adult riders/drivers who are owners or members of the owner's immediate family. Leased horses are not eligible and



multiple ownership is not permitted unless all owners are members of the same immediate family and members of EC. See discipline/breed sport rules for specific restrictions.

14. Parent and Child Class. For a parent and child. The age of the child may be specified. To be judged as a Family or Pair class using specifications in the discipline/breed sport rules.
15. Restricted Class. A class in which entries are restricted or limited in any way (i.e. according to money or ribbons won, years of competition, age, etc.)

Note: Classes restricted by geographic area are Local Classes.

### **CLASSIFIER**

A Para Equestrian Classifier is an individual trained and qualified to administer athlete classification nationally and/or internationally.

### **CLASSIFICATION**

Classification is undertaken to ensure that an Athlete's impairment is relevant to performance on the horse. Classification aims to place athletes into classes or Grades according to how much their impairment impacts on the core determinants of success in the sport. Classification ensures the Competition within each Grade can then be judged on the functional skill of the rider regardless of impairment.

### **CLIENT**

Any person who pays a fee for equestrian and/or equine-related services.

### **COACH**

An adult who instructs and educates riders or drivers. See also CERTIFIED COACH

### **COC**

See "Canadian Olympic Committee".

### **COMPETITION**

1. For the purposes of these rules, the term competition includes all shows, events, horse trials and any other form of equestrian competition that is covered by these rules.
2. Platinum Competition. A term for a competition that is operating a Gold EC-sanctioned competition and an FEI sanctioned competition at the same time and venue.
3. Gold Competition. This category of competition formerly called a National Competition is subject to the rules set out in the Rules of Equestrian Canada. Points accumulated at EC Gold sanctioned competitions apply towards the EC awards programs.
4. Silver Competition. A category of competition sanctioned by Equestrian Canada, organized and named by the province subject to the rules set out in the Rule Book. Competitors in this category of competition are not eligible to accumulate points for annual EC championship awards.

Provinces may establish their own awards program for these competitions.

5. **Bronze Competition.** A grass-roots category competition (similar to the former Primary Competition) sanctioned by EC and subject to the rules set out in the Rules of Equestrian Canada, subject to discipline-specific restrictions. Competitors in this category of competition are not eligible to accumulate points for annual EC championship awards. Provinces may establish their own awards program for these competitions.
6. **Sanctioned Competitions.** Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum competitions are all sanctioned by Equestrian Canada and are subject to the rules set out in the Rules of Equestrian Canada.

### **COMPETITION ADMINISTRATION POLICY (CAP)**

This policy outlines the three-stage process for obtaining an EC-sanctioned competition sanction/licence, and the responsibilities of the competition organizing committee, the Participating Provincial or Territorial Sport Organization (PTSO) and Equestrian Canada regarding sanctioned competitions.

### **COMPETITION EMPLOYEES AND OFFICIALS**

All persons directly employed by the competition, and all individuals officiating at a competition including but not limited to judges, stewards, course designers, technical delegates, veterinarians, timekeepers, announcers and ringmasters. See also Licensed Officials.

### **COMPETITION MANAGER**

A person designated to manage a competition (see Competition Administration Policy 5.1.2). This person must hold a valid EC Sport Licence at or above the level of the competition, and must be in good standing.

### **COMPETITION ORGANIZING COMMITTEE OR MANAGEMENT**

All persons who are responsible for all or part of the management and organization of a sanctioned competition including but not limited to members of a competition's Board of Directors, the officers, competition committee chairperson or president, manager and secretary.

### **COMPULSORY TURNING FLAG (CTF)**

*In driving*, a pair of markers used to define the required track of the Marathon course. Each CTF must be numbered consecutively within the section and placed so they are clearly visible to be passed with the red marker on the right and white on the left. Numbering shall be affixed to the right hand marker using the shapes and colours defined for each division (Article C960.5)

### **COMPETITION YEAR**

The competition year is the calendar year.

### **COMPETITOR**

The person entered in a competition as a rider, driver, vaulter or handler.

1. **Rider** – directs the movement of or controls the horse from a saddle.

2. Driver – directs the movement of or controls the horse from either the ground or on a vehicle using a lead, lunge or reins augmented by whip and voice as the primary aids.
3. Vaulters – performs gymnastic and dance exercises on the back of a moving horse. A vaulter is not a rider, as the horse's movement is directed and controlled by a lunger using a lunge line, a lunge whip, and static side reins.
4. Handler – directs and controls the movement of the horse other than as specified above.

### **COMPLAINT**

A formal submission in writing on the required form stipulated within the EC Discipline, Complaints and Appeal Policy setting out the details of an alleged complaint, violation, breach, or grievance.

### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

A substantial appearance of a conflict of interest exists whenever others may reasonably infer from the given circumstances that a conflict exists. A conflict of interest is defined as any personal, professional or financial relationship, including, but not limited to, relationships of family members that could influence or be perceived to influence objectivity when representing or conducting business or other dealings for, or on behalf of EC. For example, a person is considered to be in conflict of interest if that person or that person's family stands to benefit from a decision or from information obtained in the course of official duties and responsibilities which is not generally available to the membership or the public. See Chapter A14, Conflict of Interest Provisions.

### **CPC**

Canadian Pony Club

### **DISMOUNTING**

The deliberate departure of a person from the horse/carriage or the accidental leaving (falling off) of the horse/carriage .

### **DISQUALIFICATION**

Disciplinary action, prohibiting a competitor and/or entry from any further participation for the duration of a competition, and usually requiring the forfeiture of all winnings and the loss of entry fees.

### **DIVISION**

A grouping of entry based on competition criteria. Example: Training, Preliminary, Intermediate, Intermediate II, Advanced.

Blocks of FEI tests written by FEI and used by EC. Always prefaced by the abbreviation "FEI ...".

### **DRP**

Dispute Resolution Path/Process

**DRR**

Dispute Resolution Request

**EC DRESSAGE COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of Dressage in Canada.

**EC DRIVING COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of driving in Canada.

**EC EVENTING COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of Eventing in Canada.

**EC JUMPING COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of the hunter, jumper and equitation divisions of equestrian sport in Canada.

**EC NATIONAL PASSPORT**

The EC national passport is for use in FEI CIM-level competitions within Canada by Canadian owned horses. Please note that Canadian owned horses competing outside of Canada will require an FEI Passport or FEI Recognition Card. Horses competing with the EC National Passport in FEI competitions must also have an annual FEI Registration. Horses competing in CI-level competitions or FEI competitions outside of Canada, must upgrade to an FEI Recognition Card.

**EC PARA-DRESSAGE COMMITTEE**

The National Committee responsible for the development of Para-Dressage in Canada.

**EC**

Equestrian Canada

**EC/USEF RECIPROCAL AGREEMENT**

An agreement between EC and USEF on the recognition and suspension of officials, amateur certification and jointly recognized competitions.

**ELIMINATION**

Exclusion from any further participation in the class in which the elimination occurs.

**ENTRY**

Horse or pony entered in competition, or, in equitation, horsemanship or reinsmanship classes, the rider or driver respectively.

**ENTRIES**

1. Applications to compete in an EC-sanctioned competition, which must be signed by an individual who holds a valid EC Sport Licence or member of the national federation of another country, excepting parents or guardians signing an entry for a junior. See Chapter A9, Entries.
2. Late entry. An entry made and accepted after the closing date of entries and before the commencement date of the competition.

3. Post-entry. An entry made after the commencement of the competition or after the closing of entries, depending upon the rules of each competition.
4. Regular entry. An entry made before the closing date for regular entries.

### **EQUESTRIAN CANADA (EC)**

Equestrian Canada is the national governing body for all equine and equestrian sporting and recreational activities and interest (except racing) in Canada. If the name of EC changes at any time, any reference to EC will refer to its replacement name or organization.

### **EVENT**

The entirety of activities, classes, competitions or combinations thereof, commencing and concluding as defined by the Organizer in the Prize List and which is covered by these rules. Also see “Competition”.

### **EVENT LOCATION**

All lands used by the competitions comprising the event. The competition rings, arenas, warm-up areas, stabling, parking and all grounds available or used for an event or competition owned, leased or rented by the Organizing Committee for the purposes of holding an EC-sanctioned event.

### **EVENTING**

EC rules for the discipline of Eventing, formerly called Combined Training, cover Horse Trials, Two-Day Events and Three-Day Events.

### **FALLS**

Competitors are considered to have fallen when, either voluntarily or involuntarily, they are separated from their horse, which has not fallen, in such a way that they touch the ground or find it necessary, in order to get back into the saddle, to use some form of support or outside assistance.

1. A horse is considered to have fallen when at the same time both its shoulder and quarters have touched either the ground or the obstacle and the ground.
2. See also discipline/breed sport rules.

### **FEDERATION**

For the purposes of these rules, the “Federation” means Equestrian Canada or the replacement organization should its name change.

### **FÉDÉRATION EQUESTRE INTERNATIONALE (FEI)**

The Fédération Equestre Internationale is the international equestrian sport governing body, of which EC is a member.

### **FEES, NOMINATION AND START**

1. Nomination Fee. A fee, usually non-refundable, which is levied by the competitions and, in some cases, organizations sponsoring special competitions such as futurities, to establish eligibility and intent to enter classes or divisions or special events. The fee constitutes a part of the total entry fee and allows the competitor the option to compete, usually

upon payment of an additional fee, in the classes or divisions or special events for which the nomination fee was paid.

2. **Start Fee.** An additional fee levied by the competition applied to previously nominated entries and paid before commencement of a class. Payment of the fee allows the entries to compete in the class for which they have been nominated.

## **FEI**

See Fédération Equestre Internationale

## **FEI SCHEDULE**

An official document approved by the FEI outlining relevant information of an Event, including but not limited to the dates and location of the Event, the dates by which entries must be received, the Disciplines in which Competitions will be held, the programme of Competitions, the categories, nationalities and other relevant details of invited Athletes and Horses, the stabling and accommodation available, the value of the prizes and their distribution, and any other relevant details.

## **FEI 1\*2\*3\* 4\* 5\***

Categories of FEI sanctioned competition and certification classification of FEI Officials.

## **GATE**

*In driving:* A pair of lettered or unlettered markers used in an obstacle to define the route.

## **GENERAL PERFORMANCE DIVISION**

A multi-performance division open to all horses, with classes conducted according to the General Performance rules. See Section F, General Performance.

## **GOOD STANDING**

Participants in good standing are individuals who hold sport licences with Equestrian Canada who have paid their current licence dues, are not currently suspended and/or are not subject to any form of disciplinary action as described in these rules.

## **GP**

Grand Prix

## **GPS**

*In dressage;* Grand Prix Special

## **GPF**

*In dressage;* Grand Prix Freestyle

## **GROOM, ATTENDANT OR ASSISTANT**

A person who assists a competitor.

## **GUEST CARD**

A guest card is a temporary licence issued by EC for officials not listed in the current EC Officials Roster or not listed in the capacity or with the qualifications which the competition requires.

## **HAND**

A hand is a unit of measurement that may be used to determine the height of a horse or pony. A hand measures four inches. Equines may also be measured in centimetres.

## **HANDLER**

See “Competitor”.

## **HEADER**

*In driving*; A groom or passenger, who “heads” a horse in a lineup in a driving class.

## **HEADGEAR STANDARDS**

Protective headgear must be certified under one of the following standards: ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.); BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards); or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are BSI Kitemarked).

## **HORS CONCOURS**

Non-competitive entry, entered in a competition with the permission of the organizing committee. Not eligible for any winnings at that competition from the time it performs hors concours. See discipline/breed sport rules.

## **HORSE**

The term “horse” in this Rule Book, unless otherwise stated, denotes a horse, pony, mule, donkey, zebra or Very Small Equine (VSE). For competition purposes, a horse is over 14.2 hands high. For exceptions, see discipline/breed sport rules.

## **HORSE RECORDING**

A Horse Recording is a digital identification document for horses competing at EC Silver, Gold and Platinum competitions. The purpose of a Horse Recording is to enable EC to create a database profile for every horse competing at EC-sanctioned competitions. This allows EC to:

- Track the number of competitions, and classes per competition, that a horse is entered in to protect horse welfare.
- Record competition results to aid owners in the marketing and sale of horses, and to identify successful bloodlines.
- Assist in horse identification and safeguard against horse misrepresentation.
- Track eligibility of all horses and ponies, and record official pony measurements, to ensure fair play.
- Accurately track horses throughout their lifetime, regardless of ownership and/or horse name changes.

## **I1**

*In dressage*; abbreviation for the Intermediate 1 test

## **I2**

*In dressage*; abbreviation for the Intermediate 2 test

## **IMMEDIATE FAMILY / FAMILY**

The words “immediate family” and “family” include the following: husband, wife, spouse, common law, same- or opposite-gender partner, parent, child, step-child, brother, sister, half-brother and sister, step-brother and sister, in-laws of the same relation stated above, grand-parents and grand-children, unless otherwise stipulated in discipline/breed sport rules.

## **JR**

Junior

## **JUDGING PANEL**

Two or more judges on the ring at the same time

## **JUNIOR/YOUTH**

1. Except as modified by discipline/breed sport rules, individuals are juniors until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.
2. Junior “A”. Riders/drivers are classified as Junior “A” from the beginning of the calendar year in which they turn 16 until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 18.
3. Junior “B”. Riders/drivers are classified as Junior “B” from the beginning of the calendar year in which they turn 13 until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 15.
4. Junior “C”. Riders/drivers are classified as Junior “C” such until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 12.

In Western classes, individuals are youths until the end of the calendar year in which they turn 19. See also discipline/breed sport rules.

## **JURY**

For the purposes of these rules, a jury is deemed to be one judge or any number of judges as required by the class or event rules.

## **LAMENESS CATEGORIES**

**Grade I:** is defined as lameness difficult to observe. Not consistently apparent regardless of whether the horse is circling, going up or down a hill, trotting on a hard surface, etc.

**Grade II:** is defined as lameness difficult to observe at a walk or trot on a straight line.

**Grade III:** is defined as a consistently observable lameness at a trot.

**Grade IV:** is defined as an obvious lameness with marked nodding.



**Grade V:** is defined as minimal weight bearing on one leg, or inability to move.

*In endurance;* Grades III to V are automatically excused from BC judging; Grades I and II usually are not. The "soundness" score should reflect the significance of the gait impairment as well as the degree of impairment at that moment. A horse that merely has a peculiar way of going may appear slightly "off" so it is very important for the vet to have made notes, whether mental or otherwise, about how each horse moved at the pre-ride exam.

**LESSEE**

An individual or group of individuals leasing a horse; to be official the lease must be registered with EC.

**LEVEL**

Blocks of EC national dressage tests written by the USEF and used by EC. Refers to Training through Fourth Level and all Freestyles.

**"M"**

Medium (Judge or Steward)

**MEMBER**

Members of Equestrian Canada, including Category A, Category B and Category C members; see Equestrian Canada Bylaws, Article 3 – Membership. The term “member” may also be used in these rules to refer to a member of an organization such as FEI / USEF. See also Registered Participant

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

Any national competition may apply for National Championships through the EC National Office and pay the required fees.

**NATIONAL FEDERATION (NF)**

The national sport governing body of a country, which is a member of the FEI.

**NATIONAL OFFICE (EC)**

The administrative office of EC.

**NATIONAL ORGANIZATION**

A Canadian equine or equestrian society or organization, which has objectives and aims with Canadian scope, is registered in Canada, has a Canadian head office and a Canadian Board of Directors.

**NF**

See National Federation

**O**

Open

**OFFICIALS**

Officials, including judges, stewards, course designers and technical delegates, who are recognized and certified by Equestrian Canada to officiate at EC-sanctioned competitions.

## **PARTICIPANT**

Any person involved with, competing in, taking part in, in any capacity with regards to the said event. Said “event” is not restricted to competition and could include but is not limited to clinics, shows, competitions, demonstrations and training sessions. See also Registered Participant.

## **PARTICIPATING PTSO**

A Provincial or Territorial Sport Organization that has a current Affiliation Agreement with Equestrian Canada to provide various services and products and represents the aims and objectives of the national federation in its region.

## **PERSON(S) RESPONSIBLE**

The Person(s) responsible (PR) for a horse must be an adult who has, or shares responsibility for the care, training, custody, and performance of the horse and who has official responsibility for that horse under EC Rules. The PR is liable under the penalty provisions of the applicable EC Rules for any rule violations.

Every entry form for an EC sanctioned competition must identify the PR and be signed by the PR.

The Person(s) responsible is ultimately responsible for the condition, fitness and management of the horse and is alone responsible for any act performed by himself/herself or by any other person with authorized access to the horse in the stables, elsewhere on the grounds, or while the horse is being ridden, driven or exercised.

**A:** For adult entries into EC sanctioned competitions the PR shall be either the trainer, the owner of the horse or the competitor who rides or drives the horse during the EC sanctioned competition.

**B:** For Junior entries into EC sanctioned competitions the Junior competitor cannot be the PR. For Junior entries the PR may be either the trainer, the owner of the horse, or a parent/guardian of the Junior competitor.

## **PONY**

1. Ponies are animals that do not exceed 14.2 hands, unless otherwise specified in discipline/breed sport rules.
2. “A” ponies exceed 13.2 hands but do not exceed 14.2 hands
3. “B” ponies exceed 12.2 hands but do not exceed 13.2 hands
4. “C” ponies do not exceed 12.2 hands

## **PRIZE LIST**

Required for all EC-sanctioned competitions. A publication which serves as an invitation to compete and provides all information required by the officials and the competitors in the competition. See Chapter A6, Prize Lists and Entry Forms.

## **PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR**

1. Protective headgear must be:
  - a) approved by an accredited certification organization (HEADGEAR STANDARDS).

- b) properly fitted; and
  - c) securely fastened by a permanently affixed safety harness.
2. Any competitor may wear approved protective headgear in any division or class without penalty from the judge.
3. Equestrian Canada makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any approved protective headgear. Equestrian Canada cautions riders and Athletes that serious injury or death may result despite wearing such headgear, as all equestrian sports involve inherent risk, and no protective headgear can protect against all foreseeable injury.

### **PROTECTIVE VEST (BACK PROTECTORS)**

1. Protective vest must be:
  - a) properly fitted; and
  - b) securely fastened.
2. Any competitor may wear a protective vest in any division or class without penalty from the judge.
3. Equestrian Canada makes no representation or warranty, expressed or implied, about any protective vest and does not imply protective vests may protect against all foreseeable injury.

### **PROTEST**

A formal process, expressed in writing, to the Competition Organizing Committee (OC) to lodge a dispute, disagreement or grievance regarding the conduct of the EC-sanctioned competition or an alleged rule or policy violation on the part of the OC or official(s) at an EC-sanctioned competition. See Article A1204 – Filing a Protest.

### **PROVINCE (PARTICIPATING PTSO)**

For the purposes of these rules, the term “Province” refers to the Provincial or Territorial Equestrian Sport Organization,

### **PSG**

*In dressage; Prix St. Georges*

### **PTSO**

Provincial/Territorial Sports Organization (provincial or territorial organization overseeing equestrian activities)

### **“R”**

Recorded (Judge)

### **RAPPING**

The term “rapping” is construed to include all of the artificial techniques intended to induce a horse to jump higher or more carefully in competition. It is not practical to list every possible means of rapping, but in general it consists of the competitor — and/or dismounted assistants, for whose behavior the competitor is responsible — either hitting the horse’s legs manually with something (no matter with what or by whom) or deliberately causing the horse to hit something itself, whether by building fences too large and/or too wide, setting false ground lines, placing trot

poles or elements of a combination at a false distance, intentionally pushing the horse into a fence or otherwise making it difficult or impossible for the horse to negotiate the practice obstacle without hitting it.

### **REGISTERED LEASE**

A lease registered with EC or the FEI. See Article A817, Registered Leases.

### **REGISTERED PARTICIPANT**

Any Person registered with Equestrian Canada, including Sport Licence Holders, and paying dues to obtain some benefit from Equestrian Canada. Registered Participant status is included with a PTSO membership.

### **REMUNERATION**

For the purposes of these rules, remuneration is defined as any payment, either in cash or in kind, with the exception of gifts of token value.

1. Remuneration does NOT include:
  - a) payment made to any competition official
  - b) reimbursement for expenses without profit
  - c) winnings paid to a horse's owner

### **RULE BOOK/RULES**

“Rule Book” refers to the Rules of Equestrian Canada and all its parts. “Rules” refer to the rules and regulations of EC contained in the Rule Book.

### **“S”**

Senior (Judge or Steward)

### **SENIOR**

Individuals are adults or seniors from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of nineteen. For FEI rules visit [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org)

### **SHOWN AND JUDGED**

To be “shown and judged” in a class, an animal must perform the prescribed routine and must remain in the ring until excused by the judge.

### **SOUNDNESS**

Must be serviceably sound. See also Unsoundness.

### **SPORT LICENCE**

EC Sport Licences are required by competitors, owners or lessees, and individuals/corporations accepting responsibility for entries in EC-sanctioned competitions.

### **START OF A COMPETITION**

The official start of a competition relates to the same day that officials are required to be on duty. For exceptions, see discipline/breed sport rules.

### **SUSPENSION**

Disciplinary action resulting in the suspension of a horse and/or owner, lessee, rider, driver, handler or any other responsible party from further participation in EC-sanctioned competition until the term of the suspension has expired.

## **TRAINER**

An adult who has the responsibility for the care, training, custody and performance of the horse.

## **TROPHY**

1. Challenge Trophy - A challenge trophy has to be won a specified number of times for outright possession.
2. Perpetual Trophy - A perpetual trophy remains in the possession of the winner for a period of 11 months, at the end of which time it is to be returned to the competition organizing committee. A replica may be given instead of a perpetual trophy.

## **TURNOUT**

*In driving*; The assemblage including the Athlete (Athlete), required groom(s), horse(s) with harness and carriage appropriate to the competition. Description includes configuration – single, pair, tandem, unicorn or four-in-hand. Examples: Horse single; pony pair; VSE unicorn; Small pony tandem

## **UNSOUNDNESS**

Unsoundness is:

- a) consistently observable at any gait under all circumstances;
- b) marked nodding, hitching or shortened stride; or
- c) minimal weight-bearing in motion and/or rest and inability to move.
- d) Any manifestation of pain, inability, disability or deformity in the act of motion is considered an unsoundness.

## **UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION (USEF)**

The equestrian sport governing body of the United States.

## **USDF**

United States Dressage Federation

## **USEF**

United States Equestrian Federation

## **VALID SPORT LICENCE**

A Sport Licence is considered valid when it is current and the holder is in good standing.

## **VETERINARIAN**

Veterinarian: the veterinarian must be licensed to practice in the province/territory in which the competition is being held or in the home province/territory of the horse that is in competition and owner of or employed by a practice that is approved by its province/territory to participate in equine practice.

## **VIOLATION**

For the purpose of these rules, a violation is deemed to be any act prejudicial to the interests of EC. See Article A1207 – Violations.

**WINNINGS**

All ribbons, prizes, prize money, trophies and points won by a horse.

**YELLOW WARNING CARD**

An alternative to other options in the EC legal system, (eg. fines or disqualification) and is for cases of violations deemed to be minor in nature.

**YR**

Young Rider

**YOUNG RIDER/DRIVER**

Young riders/drivers are such from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of sixteen until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21.

**METRIC CONVERSION**

<u>WHEN YOU KNOW .....</u>	<u>MULTIPLY BY .....</u>	<u>TO FIND</u>
Hands .....	4.....	inches
Inches.....	2.54.....	Centimeters
Centimeters.....	0.3937.....	Inches
Yards.....	0.9.....	Meters
Meters.....	3.281.....	Feet
Feet.....	0.3048.....	Meters
Miles.....	1.609.....	Kilometers
Kilometers.....	0.6214.....	Miles
Pounds.....	0.4536.....	Kilograms
Kilograms.....	2.205.....	Pounds

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