AVA Executive Board of Directors
Thursday, February 28, 2013

- Meeting call to order
- Roll call
- Approval of the agenda
- Approval of the minutes from February 11, 2013 AVA Executive Board Meeting

AGENDA
1. Revisions By-laws Article III- Board Member Voting  *Kelley Holly*
2. Conflict of Interest and Duality of Interest – new Article VI  *Kelley Holly*
3. On-Line Rule Book  *Craig Coburn*
4. Technical Committee Proposed Rule and Guideline Changes Change  *Kelley Holly*
5. Approval Grievance Committee members  *Jill Hobby*
6. Approval Nominations Committee Chair and members  *Jill Hobby*
7. Other Pending Business
8. Motion to Adjourn
**Agenda Item:**

*Topic:*_ By-laws Revision – Article III – Board of Directors - Section 4

*Applicable Committee:* Constitution & By-laws

**Presenter:**

_Name:_

**Position:**

(AVA Board Member, AVA Officer, Regional Supervisor, Committee Chair)

**Select:**

This agenda item is:

___ informational

_X__ needs approval

_X_ needs discussion

**Complete:**

*Background*

For the 2012 Annual Meeting, the Constitution & By-laws Committee submitted a proposed Constitution & By-laws revision prohibiting Board members from holding two positions at the same time (i.e. Regional Supervisor and Board Member; Officer and Board Member). This proposal was submitted at the request of the Board, but was defeated at the Annual Meeting.

The Constitution & By-laws Committee was asked to revisit this issue to address clarifying voting privileges for Board members who hold more than one position. Therefore, the following change to Article III, Section 4 is presented for consideration. This item requires discussion and approval by the Board and, if accepted at the Board level, requires approval by the General Membership at the Annual Meeting.

*Recommendation:*

Revise By-laws Article III as follows:

Revise Section 4. to read:

Section 4. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, one-third of its members shall constitute a quorum. Directors shall, in case of absence from the meeting, wherever possible, communicate their positions in writing on the basis of the advanced agenda. **Regardless of the number of positions held by any individual serving on the Board (i.e. Board Member and Regional Supervisor; Board Member and Officer) no individual will be counted more than once toward the quorum and no individual has more than one vote on the Board of Directors.**
**Agenda Item:**
Topic: By-laws Revision – New Article VI – Conflict of Interest and Duality of Interest

**Applicable Committee:** Constitution & By-laws

**Presenter:**
Name:

Position: 
(AVA Board Member, AVA Officer, Regional Supervisor, Committee Chair)

**Select:**
This agenda item is:
___ informational
_X__ needs approval
_X__ needs discussion

**Complete:**

Background

The committee established for developing a Code of Conduct/Ethics for the AVA has drafted a policy for consideration at the 2013 Annual Meeting. The Constitution & By-laws Committee was asked to determine how to best address this policy in the By-laws or Standing Rules. The proposed policy is based on language from the United States Equestrian Federation. Therefore, the Constitution & By-laws Committee has also used language from the USEF for this recommendation.

The committee recommends that the policy be addressed in the By-laws, as it is in the USEF. This makes the policy stronger and prevents dropping the policy by the Board without membership approval. Note that the policy itself is not in the By-laws and can be modified as necessary by the Board.

Recommendation:

Add a new article to the By-laws, Article VI – Conflict of Interest Duality of Interest. Renumber the subsequent Articles in the By-laws.
ARTICLE VI – CONFLICT OF INTEREST AND DUALITY OF INTEREST

Section 1. Generally. If any officer, Director or member of any other committee has a financial interest in any contract or transaction involving the Federation, such individual shall not participate in the evaluation or approval of such contract or transaction unless the material facts of the relationship or interest are disclosed or known to the other officers, Directors, or other committee members, but he or she shall be counted in determining the quorum for the meeting relating to the matter. If such disclosure is made, the contracts or transaction shall not be voidable if the officers, Directors, or committee members in good faith authorized the contracts or transaction by the affirmative vote of the majority of the disinterested officers, Directors, or committee members and the contract or transaction is fair to the Federation at the time it is authorized.

Section 2. Duality of Interest. Any duality of interest on the part of any Director shall be disclosed to the Board of Directors, and made a matter of record through an annual procedure and also when the interest becomes a matter of Board action. Any Director having a duality of interest shall not vote or use his or her personal influence on the matter, but he or she shall be counted in determining the quorum for the meeting relating to the matter for which the duality exists. The minutes of the meeting shall reflect that a disclosure was made, the Director abstained from voting, and a quorum was present with the inclusion of the affected Director. Any new Director will be advised of this policy upon entering the duties of his or her office.

Section 3. Conflict of Interest Policy. The Board of Directors shall adopt a Conflict of Interest Policy including minimizing conflict of interest situations regarding the selection of athletes, horses, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, veterinarians, officials and others for competitions. All Officers, Board members, Committee members, staff, and other volunteers as determined by the Board of Directors shall be required to sign the policy before taking office or assuming their duties.
Results from the survey-monkey for the Code of Ethics survey.

There was 17 people that responded to the survey.

1) Can you support this Code of Conduct as presented?

YES— 64.7%  11 people
NO--- 35.3%     6 people

4 comments/suggestions:

The zip file opens to empty files. I was unable to read anything. Can you create a link to a pdf file instead?

10/25/2012 12:20 AM

Having been party to many mission, value and ethics statements through the years, it is my experience that even the best will be watered down and fade into the background over time, without constant reinforcement and vigilance. This code appears so vague and toothless that I cannot imagine where it will make a real difference. I was eager to see what types of behaviors are viewed as inappropriate or outside the norm, but from this code I think one could justify almost anything except outright cheating, theft or privacy violations. In other words, if it's possibly construed as legal, it's ok.

10/25/2012 11:31 AM

I feel if we are going forth with a vide if ethics and conduct.. It should also include a code of conduct and ethical treatment of the vaulting horse. I would like to see the FEI code of conduct also adapted.

10/24/2012 11:39 PM

There should also be a means of enforcement. This might be an Ethics Violation Committee with a review process
and appropriate actions available.

10/24/2012 10:55 PM

2) Could you support this Code of Conduct if the following changes were made as suggested below?

YES--66.7%  2 people
NO---33.3%    1 person
Skipped question--14 people

2 responses

I think the code needs to be re-thought in entirety. Honesty, fair access, no profiting from AVA resources etc should be viewed as the floor. What else constitutes ethical behavior? How about coaches mutually respecting rights of other coaches and teams? How about rules on non-pilfering of competing team members to round out one's own squad? How about standards for offensive or abusive language toward vaulters, coaches or anyone else at competition sites? How about ethical treatment of horses (and vaulters)? Something that has teeth that can be ENFORCED is useful; something like "be honest, play fair" seems like a waste of time.

10/25/2012 11:31 AM

I think this is a great start! Couple of suggestions: it appears from the heading it applies only to AVA leadership positions - I'm sure you mean all members? Also, there's almost no mention of our duty to the horses - having seen some very poor/disturbing horsemanship recently, I would be much happier if there were language about strict standards of the humane care and use of our horses, both at home and at competitions. Again, congratulations on undertaking this!

10/25/2012 1:50 AM

3) The following Code of Conduct/Ethics cannot be supported for the following reasons..

2 responses
15 skipped question

I was unable to read anything. There was no files in the zip folder that were readable.
10/25/2012 12:20 AM

It seems pointless. There is nothing here that will stop whatever behaviors you seek to prevent.
10/25/2012 11:31 AM
As the guardians of the sport of equestrian vaulting in the United States, and because we operate in the public spotlight, we are expected to conduct our affairs in a manner consistent with the great trust that has been placed in us. This requires our behavior to conform to the highest ethical principles. For these reasons, the American Vaulting Association requires its volunteers, committee members, Board of Directors, and employees to conduct business with integrity, to maintain a standard of ethical conduct consistent with the regulations of all countries and jurisdictions in which AVA conducts business, and to be guided by the knowledge that we are guardians of the equestrian sport of vaulting and must maintain the values, spirit, and ideals of the sport. Furthermore, because the appearance of impropriety can be just as damaging as actual impropriety, conduct which appears to be improper is also unacceptable. (See definitions below.) Accordingly, volunteers, committee members, Board of Directors and employees are required to sign the AVA Code of Conduct and comply with the following AVA Code of Ethics when representing or participating in AVA activities, selection procedures, or events:

1. Conduct all dealings with honesty and fairness.
2. Respect the rights of all employees and volunteers to fair treatment and equal opportunity, free from discrimination or harassment of any type.
3. Know, understand and comply with the laws, regulations, and codes of conduct governing the conduct of AVA competitions and business - both domestic and foreign.
4. Ensure that all transactions are handled honestly and recorded accurately.
5. Protect information that belongs to the AVA, its donors, sponsors, suppliers, employees, and volunteers.
6. Avoid conflict of interest, both real and perceived.
7. Never use AVA assets or information for personal gain.
8. Recognize that even the appearance of misconduct or impropriety can be very damaging to the reputation of the AVA, and act accordingly.
CONFLICT OF INTEREST POLICY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE MEMBERS, AND STAFF

Conflict of Interest

This Conflict of Interest Policy provides a framework of integrity for interactions with or on behalf of the American Vaulting Association “AVA”. However, given the unique characteristics of the AVA, more in-depth questions may arise regarding conflicts of interest. For this reason the following guidance is provided:

- AVA defines a conflict of interest as any personal or financial (both direct and indirect) relationship including relationships of family members (see definition below) that could influence or be perceived to influence your objectivity when representing or conducting business for, or on behalf of, the AVA or participating in an AVA selection process.

- AVA defines “family” for these purposes as follows: spouse, parent, child, or spouse of a child, brother, sister, spouse of a brother or sister, a cohabiting companion, or any other individual with a significant familial or familial-like relationship. Both parent and child shall include step-parent and step-child.

- AVA defines a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest as whenever others may reasonably infer from the circumstances that a conflict exists. Because the appearance of impropriety can be just as damaging to the AVA as actual impropriety, conduct that may reasonably appear to others to be improper must be disclosed so that the appropriate AVA board or committee entity may determine whether such the situation presents a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest such that a prohibited conflict of interest may be deemed to exist. For these reasons, an individual must recuse himself/herself from participating in the AVA activity giving rise to the substantial appearance of a conflict of interest unless and until it is determined that no conflict exists.

- Each AVA Board member, volunteer, committee member, selector, and employee shall fulfill his/her obligation to disclose any conflict of signing this Policy and submitting Exhibits A and B. This must be done within 14 days of acceptance of the position or the individual cannot participate in any relevant meetings. Once an individual has signed this Policy, it is incumbent upon him/her to update the Exhibits as appropriate. This is a continuing obligation upon the individual.
- This policy also covers duality of interests and the selection of athletes, horses, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, veterinarians, officials and others for competitions.

If a dispute arises as to whether a particular situation is indeed a conflict of interest the Grievance Committee makes the determinations. The question is posed to the committee and a majority vote prevails. The individual at issue must excuse himself during the discussion and vote on the issue.

If personal or financial interests exist with any person or concern with whom the AVA has a business or other relationship or you have a personal or financial relationship with a candidate (horse or human) for a team or individual chosen by a selection procedure or a substantial appearance of a conflict or interest exists (see definition above) and the other relationship or interest could influence or be perceived to influence the objectivity of your decisions, or if a committee determines that a conflict of interest exists, or if a duality of interest exists, you must:

1. **Disclosure of Actual or Potential Conflict.** The individual with the conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest shall immediately disclose the existence of a conflict or potential conflict when the issue for which the conflict exists is brought up at the meeting. This disclosure should include the nature of the conflict and why the individual believes it may be considered to be a conflict.

2. **Provision of Information.** The individual with the actual or potential conflict should provide to the board or committee any information relevant to the subject that he might have. In the case of a potential conflict, the board or committee will determine whether a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest exists; if so, the following procedures apply:

   a. **Leave Meeting.** The individual with the conflict should then leave the meeting and not participate at all in the deliberations on the matter and any vote that might be taken. If, after the person has left the room, the deliberating body has questions that he could answer, he can be brought back into the meeting for the sole purpose of answering those questions. Once the questions have been resolved, he should vacate again until the deliberations have been completed and the vote has been taken.
b. **Deliberation and Vote.** The remainder of the committee or board should conduct the deliberation on the matter at hand and, if appropriate, proceed to a vote.

At all times, the conflicted person does count for determination of a quorum.

Inappropriate hospitality or gift giving between individuals can also create a conflict of interest. Gifts, cash, travel, hotel accommodations, entertainment or favors are neither to be given nor received except those of nominal value exchanged in the normal course of business. Favors or other assets or gifts may be accepted if they are part of open and generally accepted practices and serve to promote the best interest of AVA and would not embarrass the individual or AVA if publicly disclosed and do not compromise the objectivity and integrity of the recipient or donor.

**Enforcement**

Any person who violates or condones the violation of this Policy is subject to disciplinary measures, which may include termination of membership and expulsion from the board, working group, committee, or task force. Allegations of violations should be submitted to the **Grievance Committee** for an investigation and report. If the **Grievance Committee** deems it appropriate, the matter must be referred to the AVA Board for determination of what, if any, disciplinary action should be taken.

Any questions concerning this Policy should be addressed to the **AVA Executive Board**.
EXHIBIT A

AMERICAN VAULTING ASSOCIATION

DISCLOSURE AND AFFIRMATION STATEMENT

Disclosure

I have read carefully and fully understand the attached Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policies of the American Vaulting Association (AVA).

I am aware that if, because of any relationships, positions, or circumstances concerning me, I may have or appear to have a potential conflict of interest, I am required to list such relationships, positions, or circumstances on the annexed Exhibit B as the case may be, and to return the appropriate completed Exhibit(s) with this Disclosure and Affirmation Statement.

I understand that if I have any question in my mind whether I may have a potential conflict of interest, I should disclose that interest to the AVA on the annexed Exhibit B. Any questions concerning AVA’s Conflict of Interest Policy shall be referred to the AVA Grievance Committee.

Affirmation

I hereby affirm that I have received a copy of the AVA Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy (Policies), that I have read and understand the Policies, and that I agree to comply with the Policies. I further understand the duty to list all individuals, businesses and/or other entities that create or represent a potential conflict of interest on Exhibit B and, if applicable, C and to promptly update and amend Exhibit B.

I affirm that I have a continuing obligation to update Exhibit B.

___________________________________
Signature

___________________________________  ____________________
Print Name                                                        Date

EXHIBIT B
AMERICAN VAULTING ASSOCIATION

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

This Disclosure Statement must be submitted and updated as often as necessary to AVA. Refusal to provide the requested information or providing incomplete or inaccurate information may result in removal from office or Board membership, committee membership or employment.

1. If you or any member of your immediate family is an officer, partner, director, trustee, owner, or employee of any person or any entity which does business with AVA; please list the name and address of the entity(ies) and the nature of your relationship with said person or entity(ies), and describe the dealings. If none, please state “none”.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

2. If you or any member of your immediate family holds an ownership interest in a closely-held company or other business entity, or at least a five (5%) percent ownership interest in any public company which does business with AVA, please list the name and address of the entity(ies), the nature of your relationship with said person or entity(ies) and describe the dealings. If none, please state “none”.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

3. If you have any reason to believe that any of the persons or entities with which you or immediate members of your family are affiliated may have business dealings with AVA the future, please list those entities and the nature of such dealings. If none, please state “none”.

____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

4. Are you an employee or employer of another AVA member or do you have any other business dealings or financial dealings with another AVA member or any company or concern with which that member is involved?

___________ Yes  ____________ No
If you have answered yes to the above, please provide the details as follows:

If you or any member of your immediate family is an officer, partner, trustee, owner, or employee of a member of the AVA or the entity owned or in which said member has at least five (5%) percent ownership interest, please list the name and address of the member, the nature of your relationship with said member and describe the dealings. If none, please state “none”.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

5. If there is any relationship or matter not disclosed above which might be perceived to compromise your obligations to AVA under its Conflict of Interest Policy or which may raise questions of a conflict between your duty and loyalty to AVA, our loyalty to any other entity and/or your economic self-interest, please indicate here what that relationship or matter is. If none, please state “none”.

______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

______________________________________________________________________________

Signature

______________________________________________________________________________

Print name

______________________________________________________________________________

Date
AMERICAN VAULTING ASSOCIATION

CODE OF CONDUCT

As a member of the American Vaulting Association (AVA), I acknowledge my obligation to uphold and adhere to the highest standards of horsemanship, sportsmanship, and citizenship whenever I am representing the AVA or my country whether as a team member, individual competitor, or horse owner, and whether during actual competition of not.

As a horseman, I will place my horse's welfare above all other considerations and faithfully observe the AVA Code of Conduct.

As a sportsman, I will know and comply with all pertinent rules of the AVA and honor the principles of fair play inherent in them. I will place the interests of the organization above my own, and respect the decisions of its duly appointed/elected officials, made in the organization's best interest.

As a citizen, I will respect the laws of my own country as well as those of foreign countries in which I or my horse may compete. Knowing that as an AVA member, I also serve as an Ambassador for my sport, the AVA, and my country. I will endeavor at all times to reflect credit on them through my conduct, dress, and behavior.

I clearly acknowledge my responsibility to ensure that my employees and volunteers who accompany me whenever I am competing and/or representing my country will also abide by this Code of Conduct.

I understand and accept that serious or repeated transgressions of these Codes may be grounds for suspension from the AVA, or other appropriate disciplinary action. In addition, I agree to abide by selection procedures established by the AVA wherever applicable.

I have read and understand the AVA Code of Ethics

___________________________     __________________________
AVA Member printed name             AVA member signature                          AVA #                     Date

__________________________________      _________________________________________
Parent.Guardian printed                Signature if member is under 18 years                               Date
Please provide the information below for placing a topic on the Agenda

- **Agenda Item:**
  
  **Topic:** Discussion of Rule Changes and Maintaining the On-line Rule Book Fully Up-to-Date

  **Applicable Committee:** Constitution & By-laws

- **Presenter:** Drafted by:

  **Name:** Charles Bittenbring

  **Position:** Chair, Constitution & By-laws Committee

- **Select:**
  
  This agenda item is:
  ___ informational
  ___ needs approval
  _X_ needs discussion

- **Complete:**

  **Background**
  The AVA currently updates its printed Rule Book every other year, in even numbered years. The on-line version is also updated every other year and maintains a separate link for Rule Changes that between printings. The Board of Directors can make rule changes at every board meeting, or five opportunities for rule changes between each printing/on-line update. This means that members must manually update their printed version for any changes and remember and make the effort to check two different locations on-line to assure they have the most current Rules. This introduces the risk of members becoming confused about the correct and current rules. I know that this used to happen fairly frequently at competitions and Board meetings prior to the on-line Rule Book being available.

  It should be possible to eliminate this potential confusion by maintaining a single, up-to-date Rule Book, at least on-line. Below, for discussion are three options for addressing this issue; there could certainly be more. Options 1 and 2 were shared with the National Office, which preferred Option 1.

  **Option 1 – Maintain the On-line Rule Book Up-to-Date at all Times**

  Update the on-line version of the Rule Book following each rule change.

  **Advantages**
  1) Permits the board to continue to change or update rules at each board meeting.
  2) Provides a single source for members to check for the most current and up-to-date rules (eliminates the need to double check the updates link and compare it to the Rule Book).

  **Disadvantages**
  1) Creates two versions of the Rule Book - one printed and one on-line.
  2) Still requires a printed rules update list to be available to members.
  3) Constitution & By-laws Committee, Technical Committee, National Office, Rule Book formatter, and web manager to make updates up to three times per year (following each board meeting).
Option 2 – Limit Implementation of Rule Changes to Every Other Year When the Rule Book is Re-printed

This option would require a change in current Board practice. Rule changes could still be approved at each Board meeting, but implementation would be deferred until the Rule Book is printed. An except for emergency changes would be provided for the safety of vaulters, horses, etc. and for critical items required to protect the organization (a clear exceptions procedure would need to be drafted). Emergency changes should be very limited. Although rule changes could be approved at each board meeting, if this option were selected, it would be prudent to require every rule change to be approved (even if it is a second vote) at the Annual Meeting prior to the Rule Book being printed (even numbered years). Limiting implementation of rules until the rule book is printed should be an adverse impact as it is not unlike the limit to By-law changes which can only occur once per year at the Annual Meeting.

Advantages
1) Keeps both the current and on-line Rule Book current, with the exception of emergency changes.
2) Does not change the current schedule of Rule Book printing.
3) Introduces some additional discipline to the Board by discouraging making rule changes to easily and frequently. Delaying implementation until the next Rule Book printing and possibly requiring a final vote at the last meeting before the Rule Book is updated, provides time for additional reflection and discussion.

Disadvantages
1) May be perceived as limiting the board’s ability to act.
2) Requires Constitution & By-laws Committee and Technical Committee to more closely track on-going discussions and/or approved but not implemented rule changes for up to two years before changes are finally adopted and printed.

Option 3 – Limit Implementation of Rule Changes to Once per Year and Re-print the Rule Book Annually

This option is the same as option 2, except that it requires changing the frequency of printing the Rule Book to annually, following each Annual Meeting.

Advantages
1) Keeps both the current and on-line Rule Book current, with the exception of emergency changes.
2) Introduces some additional discipline to the Board by discouraging making rule changes to easily and frequently. Delaying implementation until the next Rule Book printing and possibly requiring a final vote at the last meeting before the Rule Book is updated, provides time for additional reflection and discussion.
3) Coordinates with By-laws changes that can only be made annually at the Annual Meeting.

Disadvantages
1) May be perceived as limiting the board’s ability to act.
2) Requires Constitution & By-laws Committee and Technical Committee to more closely track on-going discussions and/or approved but not implemented rule changes for up to one year before changes are finally adopted and printed.
3) Requires re-printing the Rule Book annually which may add to costs (there would be an additional cost to print annually, but presumably the quantity being printed could be reduced since only a one year supply would be required).

While there is no specific recommendation or proposed language for the By-laws or Standing Rules, as appropriate, the Constitution & By-laws Committee can draft appropriate language for the Rule Book if the Board and membership vote on a specific change. The Executive Committee should request authorization from the membership to approve the final language for any approved changes.
Technical Committee Report:

We received the following items this past year and would like to move forward to the board with the following recommendations:

1. This will not be a rule but will be a recommendation for competitions to allow 4 minutes per individual freestyle with an additional minute per go in calculating times for order of go. This will allow for the necessary time to complete all of the calculations that go into the freestyle scoring.

2. The following rule change is recommended. The technical committee did change the wording of the original request which used the word team to club but otherwise it is recommended forward as it was presented.

Section X, subsection A, article 3, on page 79 of the 2012 rulebook currently reads:

“Composite teams are not eligible for Team of the Year Award.”

During 2012, Mile High competed as part of two composite teams: A Trot Team with Golden Gate/Albuquerque and a C-Team with Technique. Doing so enabled us to compete in team events despite not having enough members in our own club to comprise a full team. It also fostered wonderful partnership across several of the teams inside and outside of our region. As the rule is written today, it has the potential to drive vaulters to switch teams, or for larger, more competitive teams to recruit vaulters away from smaller, growing clubs so that those can be part of a team that is eligible for year-end awards.

We respectfully request that the rule be changed to allow composite team eligibility for Team of the Year awards. The following is our recommended wording:

“Composite teams are eligible for Team of the Year Award as long as the composite team consists of members from the same teams throughout the competition year.”

3. The following has all ready been discussed for input from the board and at the time was given a favorable response. This has now been passed by USEF and we are recommending that the AVA also adopt this language.

Proposed Rule Change: Page 35, Chapter I, General, Article 106 Horse Use:

“1. Canter: Horses may be used for a maximum of 36 32 units each day.

…

…

“Exceptions:
If a horse is used at BOTH trot and canter on the same day, a maximum of 36-32 units is allowed.”

…

…

[Remainder of wording stays the same.]

Reason for Requested Rule Change:  This wording has been proposed to the USEF for all competitions governed by USEF rules. It has been approved by the USEF and will go into effect at the end of 2013. In addition, the wording and proposed change was shared with the AVA Board of Directors at their August meeting, wherein the wording was agreed upon and supported by the board members.  I would like to see the AVA Board of Directors vote on this change for the 2013 AVA Rules so the two sets of vaulting rules will be the same regarding horse use.

4.  This rule too is recommended to move forward from the technical committee

Proposed Rule Change:  Page 42, Chapter II, Team Event, Article 203. Team Compulsories.

…

"Time Allowed:
In Team Canter Events, if a **A** team does not include a substitute, the maximum time allowed for the performance of the Compulsory Test is six (6) minutes.  If a substitute enters the arena with the team, he must perform the Compulsory Test and the maximum time allowed for the performance is seven (7) minutes.  **If a B or C Team does not include a substitute, the maximum time for the performance of the Compulsory Test is five (5) minutes.  If a substitute enters the arena with the B or C Team, he must perform the Compulsory Test and the maximum time allowed for the performance is six (6) minutes.** The Chief Judge will ring a bell signifying the end of time allowed. Compulsory exercises performed **begun** after the time limit will receive a score of zero (0).

Reason for Requested Rule Change:  This wording has been proposed to the USEF for all competitions governed by USEF rules. It has been approved by the USEF and will go into effect at the end of 2013. In addition, the wording and proposed change was shared with the AVA Board of Directors at their August meeting, wherein the wording was agreed upon and supported by the board members.  I would like to see the AVA Board of Directors vote on this change for the 2013 AVA Rules so the two sets of vaulting rules will be the same regarding timing for team compulsories.
5. This rule change too is unanimously agreed upon to move forward

Proposed Rule Change: Page 55, Chapter III, Individual Event, Article 310. Copper Freestyle. 2.a) :

a) Content (x2)
   1) Originality
   2) Complication of movements
   2) Demands of suppleness, stretch and timing
   ...
   ...
   [Remainder stays the same – with new numbering.]

Reason for Requested Rule Change:

The deletion of “Complication of movements” reflects the new methodology we agreed upon last year. We removed difficulty, height and complication of movements from Copper, Trot and lower level events. This deletion reflects more accurately how the event will be judged.
6. This rule change too is unanimously agreed to move forward

**Proposed Rule Change:** Page 61, Chapter V Two-Phase Event, Article 503. Phase 2 – Barrel.

Article 503. Phase 2 – Barrel – Page 61

“4. Judged on:
   a) Content (x1):
      1) Variety
      2) Composition
      3) Originality
      4) Difficulty
      5) Use of static, dynamic, stretch and balance exercises
      6) Time used
      7) Use of barrel
   b) Performance (x1):…
   c) General Impression (x1)
      1) Turnout
      2) Entry
      3) Exit
      4) Salute
      5) Comportment
      6) Style
      7) Presentation
      8) Flow of program
      9) Suitability of music
     10) Appropriateness of exercises

5. See AVA Rules Chapter VI Scoring for final score and penalties and deductions.”

**Change to read:**
“4. Judged on:
  a) Content (x1):
     1) Use of space/direction
     2) Variety of exercises
     3) Development
     4) Artistic merit
     5) Difficulty
     6) Appropriateness of exercises
     7) Time used
  b) Performance (x1): …
  c) General Impression (x1)
     1) Turnout
     2) Entry
     3) Exit
     4) Salute
     5) Comportment

5. See AVA Rules Chapter VI Scoring for final score and penalties and deductions.

Reason for Requested Rule Change: General Impression should be separate and distinct from Content. Currently the words in 6) through 10) are addressed under Content. The two categories should not bleed together. This new wording should be more understandable by the membership.

This proposed change further reflects the methodology that has been developed and presented at the Annual Forum 2012 to assist the judges in giving consistent and understandable scores for both Content and General Impression.

7. This next rule was discussed for input at the board level but has been brought back to us again by membership. The technical committee agrees with going forward with the recommendation. This too has been adopted by the USEF
to add the language specifying armband/number sizes. See: Page 38, Chapter I, Article 111.7. USEF has adopted this language, effective immediately. The wording could be as follows:

“7. Individual vaulters must wear a number which has been assigned to them by the AVA National Office. Numbers may be worn on the right arm or right leg and must be easily visible to the judge(s). (Suggested dimensions and contrasts: Number band 2”-2.5” (5-6.5 cm) and numbers 1.5”-2” high (4-5 cm); dark numbers on light band or light numbers on dark band).”

Reason for Requested Change: To give information to the membership so they can more easily meet the expectations; and so judges do not have to interrupt the competition to ask for a vaulter’s number. This is not a mandatory rule – but simply a suggestion to help with a problem that we now have.

8. This last rule is an addition to the judges code and deductions.

Up to -2 points for not pushing back (PB) on Swing Dismounts in the Compulsories.

We did receive these additional requests that we will not be recommending to move forward

1. The reasoning behind our unanimous decision to not move forward with this request is that we strongly believe that there must be a mandated closing date to ensure that insurance, memberships and all other necessary documents are procured.

AVA 2012 Rule Book Page 22
Standing Rules Section VIII Recognized Competitions
LEVEL II Limited:
3. Application must contain the following:
   a. Date
   b. Place
   c. Events, divisions and classes offered
   d. Name and address of secretary or manager
e. Entry closing date (must be a minimum of two weeks before competition date)
f. Description of facilities, including dimensions of arena and height, if indoor or covered
g. Judge(s)
I am suggesting the following for recommended new wording to letter “e”:

   e. Entry closing date (recommended at least 3 weeks before competition date)

Reasons: The current wording was originally in place to allow adequate time for the National Office to get current membership lists to the competition secretary. This time frame is no longer needed as an immediate report is generated by Comp Web and when the office sends out its list any discrepancies can be auto checked on the AVA website. Competition Secretaries need to be held accountable for making sure all memberships are current before close of entries whenever that entry may occur.

I believe that Competition Management should be allowed to choose when they want their close of entries. I put 3 weeks in this recommendation (longer than is current) as it is a recommendation and is generally going to be looked at more closely by new managers and 3 weeks is comfortable time frame to get ribbons ordered, make your order of go etc. However, for those times when a venue’s availability and AVA registration deadlines collide, or when any other circumstance that may cause a shorter time frame to be a positive for the competition; management should be able to shorten the time frame recognizing they are making their job harder and they need to be vigilant on the active AVA memberships. I know I send out letters to coaches the week before close of entries notifying them of any vaulters that are not showing as registered so they can correct it BEFORE close of entries. I do this off the comp web report and I send it out before I get the list from the National Office. That list comes after close of entries of course to be accurate, but it is too late to do anything proactive anyway.

The remaining Technical Committee Meeting dates for the year are as follows

May 20th
   For requests to be considered for this meeting they must be submitted to Kelley prior to May 6th

Aug. 19th
   Submissions must be received prior to August 5th

Nov 9th
   Submissions must be received prior to October 26th
Respectfully Submitted, Kelley Holly
APPENDIX A

CHAPTER XI.

Unless otherwise specified, all applicable rules (including Horse Use), point deductions and penalties from the rules for AVA National Recognized Events apply.

Article 1101. Eligibility.
1. At AVA Recognized Competitions, vaulters, coaches and longeurs must be registered members of the AVA in good standing.

Article 1102. Awards.
1. Appendix A classes may be offered at AVA National Championships.
2. All Appendix A classes must be judged by an AVA Recognized Judge in order for scores to count towards high point or other Association Awards.

CHAPTER XII. BARREL INDIVIDUAL CANTER BARREL EVENT

Article 1201. Individual Barrel Event Requirements.
1. Must be divided into Open and Preliminary
   a) Open — Must hold a silver medal or above canter medal
   b) Preliminary — Bronze medalist or below only
2. Must be divided into Men’s and Women’s divisions

Article 1202. Barrel Freestyle.
1. Sixty (60) second Freestyle routine, after which time judging ceases
2. Judged on:
   a) Content (x1) — Use of space/direction, Variety of exercises, development, artistic merit, composition, originality, difficulty; appropriateness of exercises and time used, use of static, dynamic and stretch exercises, time used and use of barrel
   b) Performance (x1) — Form, balance, security, stretch and scope, falls and failures
   c) General Impression (x1) — Turnout, entry, exit, salute and comportment — style, presentation, flow of program, suitability of music and appropriateness of exercises
3. Scored as follows:
   — Content (x1)
   — Performance (x1)
   — General Impression (x1)
4. Total is divided by 3 for final score.
5. See AVA Rules, Chapter VI, Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER XIII. INDIVIDUAL PRELIMINARY TROT HORSE EVENT

Article 1301. Requirements.
1. Consists of one round of compulsories and a Freestyle performed in separate sections at the trot to the left.
2. Women’s and Men’s divisions shall be offered Open to non-medaled vaulters. Novice pin holders allowed.
3. Open to non-medaled vaulters. Novice pin holders allowed. Women’s and Men’s divisions shall be offered.

Article 1302. Preliminary Trot Horse Compulsories.
1. All compulsory exercises are performed without dismounts.
   1) Mount
   2) Basic Seat
   3) Flag
   4) Stand
   5) Swing Frontways legs closed
   6) 1/2 Mill
   7) Swing Rearways legs open, followed by dismount to inside (quarter mill around to inside off)
2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
3. No time limit
4. Judged on:
   a) Performance
1) Mechanics
2) Essence
3) Form
4) Scope
5) Security
6) Balance
7) Continuity
8) Harmony with the horse

b) Horse/General Impression

Horse (90%):
1) Quality of the gait
2) Submission
3) Behavior
4) Way of going
5) Circle size

General Impression (10%)
1) Entry
2) Exit
3) Salute
4) Circle Size
5) Longeing and presentation
6) Comportment
7) Turn out of vaulter and lunger

5. Falls:
   a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise.
   b) The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.

6. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

**Article 1303. Preliminary Trot Horse Freestyle.**

1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
   a) A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
   b) Static exercises must be held for three (3) full trot strides.
   c) Vaulter must stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse (including hop from knees to feet) are NOT allowed.
   d) Two points are deducted from the Composition score for ground jumps or leaps above the horse.
   e) Only dismounts chosen from the List of Dismounts shown in Appendix D of this Rule Book are allowed.
   f) Repetitions of Freestyle exercises and compulsory exercises will not be counted.

2. Judged on:
   a) Content (x1) - Use of space/direction, Variety of exercises, development, artistic merit, difficulty, appropriateness of exercises and time used.
   b) Performance (x2) – Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include: Mechanics, essence, form, scope _______(elevation, width, amplitude of movement), security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse.
   c) Horse/General Impression (x1) – Quality of the trot, submission, behavior, way of _______going, circle size, longeing and presentation.

3. Falls:
   a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise.
   b) The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
   c) The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the vaulter touches the grips or the horse.

4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

**CHAPTER XIV. TROT PAIRS PAS DE DEUX HORSE EVENT**

**Article 1401. Requirements.**

1. This is a pairs event consisting of one round of Freestyle.
2. Open to Trot medal holders or below
Article 1402. Trot Pairs Free Style.

1. Free Style is a 2-minute, 90-second free-style routine consisting of static and dynamic exercises performed to music at trot to the left.
   a) A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
   b) Static exercises must be held for three (3) full trot strides.
   c) Both vaulters must stay in contact with the horse, surcingle or each other.

2. Time:
   a) A bell will signal vaulters to begin the routine.
   b) Begins when first vaulter touches the surcingle
   c) A bell will signal the end of time allowed.
   d) Vaulters must begin dismount within three (3) strides after the bell or incur a deduction from Content score.

3. Falls:
   a) Vaulter(s) may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
   b) The clock will be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be started when the first vaulter touches the grips.

4. Judged on:
   a) Content (x2) — Use of space/direction, variety of exercises, development, artistic merit, difficulty, appropriateness of exercises and time used.
   b) Performance (x3) — Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse
   c) Horse/General Impression (x1) — Quality of the trot, submission, behavior, way of going, circle size, longeing and presentation

5. See AAVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER XV. TROT TEAM 2-PHASE EVENT
A two-section event performed in separate sections

Article 1501. Phase 1 — Horse.

1. Four (4) team members must perform all seven (7) compulsories at trot to the right. No time limit. If a substitute enters the ring, he/she must also perform the compulsories. No time limit.
2. Each of the exercises are performed as in Trot Team Event, except that the exercises are mirror-images of the exercises to the left.
3. All rules which apply to the Compulsory section of Trot Team Event also apply to this phase.
4. Judged on:
   a) Performance — Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse
   b) Horse/General Impression: Horse (90%): 1) Quality of the gait
   2) Submission
   3) Behavior
   4) Way of going
   5) Circle size
   General Impression (10%)
   1) Entry
   2) Exit
   3) Salute
   4) Circle Size
   5) Longeing and presentation
   6) Comportment
   7) Turn out of team and lunger

Article 1502. Phase 2 — Barrel.

1. Three-minute Free Style routine
2. All applicable rules as for 2-Phase Team Free Style will apply.
   a) No other equipment or attachments to the barrel are allowed.
      — No spotters are allowed.
      — No trampolines are allowed.
      — No more than three (3) vaulters may be in any exercises at any time.
3. Time:
   a) Begins when the first vaulter(s) touches the barrel
   b) Judging ends after three (3) minutes, at which time a bell will sound; the vaulters must finish the exercise in progress and dismount or incur a deduction from Content score.

4. Judged on:
   a) Content (x1) — Use of space/direction, variety of exercises, development, artistic merit, difficulty; appropriateness of exercises and time used
   b) Performance (x1) — Form, balance, security, stretch and scope, expression and presence; falls and failures
   c) General Impression (x1) — Turnout, entry, exit, salute and comportment

5. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER XVI. INDIVIDUAL TROT BARREL EVENT

Article 1601. Eligibility.
1. Consists of one round of Freestyle
2. Women’s and Men’s divisions shall be offered
3. Open to trot medaled vaulters or below. Must be divided into Men’s and Women’s divisions

Article 1602. Barrel.
1. Sixty (60) second Freestyle routine
2. Judged on:
   a) Content (x1) — Use of space/direction, variety of exercises, development, artistic merit, difficulty; appropriateness of exercises and time used
   b) Performance (x1) — Form, balance, security, stretch and scope, expression and presence, flow of performance, falls and failures
   c) General Impression (x1) — Turnout, entry, exit, salute and comportment

3. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.
APPENDIX B

CHAPTER XVII.
1. Unless otherwise specified, all applicable rules (including Horse Use), point deductions and penalties from the AVA Rules for National Recognized events apply.
2. Competitors must be Vaulter or Individual Members of the AVA in good standing.
3. Competitor’s scores from AVA Recognized Competitions are qualifying scores for regional awards.
4. Appendix B classes are not offered at AVA National Championship Fest.
5. Show management may allow assisted Mounts. Assisted Mounts can be scored (with or without a deduction) if management chooses or receive a zero.

CHAPTER XVIII. “D” TEAM EVENT

Article 1801. Requirements.
1. Consists of one round of Compulsories and Freestyle performed at the trot or canter to the left in separate sections.
2. Only scores from teams of 6 vaulters performing both Compulsories and Freestyle will count toward Regional Awards.

Article 1802. Eligibility.
1. Teams comprised of 4-6 vaulters, a substitute and longeur must be members of a registered AVA Club in good standing.
2. Vaulters may not hold a canter medal.
3. Vaulters may compete at the same competition in Individual Trot, Trot Pairs, or Individual Trot Barrel events but may not compete in Trot Team Events, Individual Canter Events or other Canter Team Events.

Article 1803. Compulsories.
1. Each vaulter performs the first block of modified compulsories as follows:
   a) Mount to astride
   b) Basic Seat with relaxed arms and hands placed on the vaulter’s upper thighs
   c) Half Flag with right leg stretched backward and upward, both hands on grips
   d) Leg Passes:
      — Right leg swings in semi-circle over horse’s neck to inside side seat, then back to astride.
      — Left leg swings over horse’s neck to outside side seat, then back to astride.
      — Right leg swings over horse’s neck for simple dismount to inside.
   — All leg passes are done in a 4-count rhythm.
   2. Each vaulter then performs the second block of modified compulsories as follows:
      a) Mount to astride (this second mount not scored)
      b) Back Swing (click)
         — From astride, legs swing forward for impulsion and then come together as high as possible over horse’s croup, landing softly back into astride (one time only).
      c) Free Kneel on both knees behind girth with straight line from shoulders through hips to knees. The vaulter’s arms and hands are relaxed and hanging down alongside of the vaulter’s thighs.
      d) Half Flank off dismount to inside
   3. Time allowed:
      a) The maximum time allowed for the performance of the modified compulsories is 7-1/2-minutes for 6 person teams.
      b) Exercises performed after the time limit will receive a score of zero (0).
      c) Time for the modified compulsories is taken from the moment the first vaulter touches the grips until the last vaulter to perform touches the ground in the dismount.
      4. Each of the six (6) members must perform all seven modified compulsories in one section before the team’s Freestyle begins.
      5. Each vaulter must vault in order according to his number, with the exception of the substitute who vaults in the position of the person he replaces.
      6. Each static exercise must be held for four full canter strides.
      7. No spotters or unauthorized assistance is allowed.
      8. Judged on:
         a) Quality of mount
         b) Posture and head carriage
         c) Harmony with horse (quietness of legs, softness of landings)
         d) Form and stretch


e) Balance and security
f) Timing of leg passes
g) Mechanics
h) Horse/General Impression — gaits, behavior, way of going, circle size, longeing and presentation

9. Penalties and Deductions:
   a) One (1) point off for each timing failure in leg passes
   b) One (1) point off for each stride less than 4 (Basic Seat, Half Flag, Knee)
   c) Two (2) points off for starting with incorrect leg in leg passes
   d) Two (2) points off for repeated clicks
   e) If vaulter is assisted in mount, the mount receives a zero.
   f) See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

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Article 1804. Freestyle.
1. A Freestyle routine of three (3) minutes is performed by all members of the team. The Freestyle begins when the first vaulter touches the grips and ends when the bell rings or when the last vaulter touches the ground in the dismount.
2. Each member of the team must perform in the Freestyle or the team will be penalized under Horse/General Impression score.
3. No more than two (2) vaulters may be on the horse at any time or in any exercise whether actually on the horse or not.
4. Both vaulters must be in contact with the horse in any double exercise.
5. No spotters are allowed. No assisted mounts are allowed in the Freestyle routine.
6. Judged on:
   a) Content (x1) — Use of space, pace, development, variety, music interpretation, artistic merit, appropriateness of exercises and difficulty
   b) Performance (x2) — Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security and head carriage, balance, consideration for the horse, falls and collapses
   c) Horse/General Impression (x1)
      Horse (90%):
      1) Quality of the gait
      2) Submission
      3) Behavior
      4) Way of going
      5) Circle size
      General Impression (10%)
      1) Entry
      2) Exit
      3) Salute
      4) Circle Size
      5) Longeing and presentation
      6) Comportment
      7) Turn out of team and lunger
6. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

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CHAPTER XIX. NOVICE PRELIMINARY TROT TEAM HORSE COMPULSORIES EVENT

Article 1901. Requirements.
1. Consists of one round of modified compulsories as per Trot Team -performed at trot to the left.

Article 1902. Eligibility.
1. Teams may be comprised of 4 to 6 vaulters and a longeur. They all must be members of a registered AVA club in good standing.
2. Vaulters may not hold a trot or canter medal. A Novice pin is allowed.

Article 1903. Compulsories.
1. The compulsory exercises are performed in one block as per Individual Trot (see Article 312). Each vaulter performs the compulsories as follows:
   1) Mount
   2) Basic Seat
   3) Flag
   4) Stand
   5) Swing Frontways legs closed
6) 1/2 Mill
7) Swing Rearways legs open, followed by dismount to inside (quarter mill around to inside off)
2. No spotters or unauthorized assistance (other than the mount)
3. No time limit
4. Each member of the team must perform all compulsories.
5. All static compulsory exercises must be held four full trot strides.
6. Judged on:
   a) Form
   b) Posture and head carriage
   c) Harmony with horse (quietness of legs, softness of landings)
   d) Stretch and essence
   e) Balance and security
   f) Timing of leg passes
   g) Mechanics
   h) Horse/General Impression — Quality of the trot, submission, behavior, way of going, circle size, longing and presentation

7. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

**Article 1904. Horse/General Impression.**

1. One score is given for Horse/General Impression.
2. Judged on:
   Horse (90%):
   1) Quality of the gait
   2) Submission
   3) Behavior
   4) Way of going
   5) Circle size
   General Impression (10%)
   1) Entry
   2) Exit
   3) Salute
   4) Circle Size
   5) Longeing and presentation
   6) Comportment
   7) Turn out of team and lunger

**CHAPTER XX. NOVICE BARREL PAIRS BARREL EVENT**

**Article 2001. Requirements.**

1. A 90-second Free-Style barrel routine performed on one the barrel

**Article 2002. Eligibility.**

1. Vaulters may not hold a trot or canter medal. A Novice pin is allowed.

**Article 2003. Restrictions.**

1. No aerial exercises are allowed.
2. No trampolines are allowed.
3. No spotters are allowed.

**Article 2004. Judged on:**

1. Content (x1) — Use of space/direction, variety of exercises, development, artistic merit, difficulty, appropriateness of exercises and time used, use of static, dynamic, stretch, strength and balance exercises, synchrony, originality, time used, use of barrel and music interpretation
2. Performance (x1) — Good form, good posture, balance and security, style, presence, flow of program
3. General Impression (x1) — Turnout, entry, exit, salute and comportment, Appropriateness of exercises, safety, choice of music and harmony with music, turnout, entry, salute, comportment, and exit
4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties, deductions.

**APPENDIX C**
CHAPTER XXI. NOVICE EVENTS

The following guidelines are set up to allow vaulters of all levels and capabilities to compete in a constructive manner at all competitions. Abilities only will classify the vaulters into the particular levels. There are no age limits. These guidelines follow American Vaulting Association rules and Guidelines as closely as possible in these specially titled classes. They are designed to help and encourage handicapped or special needs vaulters who are unable to vault onto the horse without assistance, to vault and to eventually graduate into AVA recognized vaulting levels, if possible. These “specially titled” classes have been identified according to the specific abilities of each vaulter.

Article 2101. General Requirements for all events in Appendix C:
1. Vaulters must need an assisted mount onto the horse or onto the barrel. The assisted mount receives no score.
2. Vaulters may have spotters present during compulsories and freestyle, but will receive a deduction from any exercise in which the vaulter receives assistance. Exception: In Novice Walk and Novice Modified Walk level, assistance is allowed, and will receive no deduction. (See Article 2103 through 2106 for specifics).

Article 2102. Eligibility for all events in Appendix C:
1. Competitors must be a Youth or Adult Member of the AVA.
2. Competitors may not hold any medals with the exception of the novice pin.
3. Competitors must be handicapped or have special needs and must be unable to vault onto the horse or barrel without assistance.
4. Competitors may not be entered in any higher level events at the same competition.

Article 2103. Individual Novice Trot Event:
1. This event consists of one section of compulsory exercises and one section of freestyle performed on the trotting horse.
   a) The vaulter must have an assisted mount which is not scored.
   b) Compulsories are performed in the same order as the Individual Trot event.
   c) Freestyle is a one-minute routine of static and dynamic exercises.
   d) Exercises chosen for freestyle should be limited to Level M or Level E (as defined in the current FEI Vaulting Guidelines for Judges).
   e) Assistance of any compulsory exercise (with the exception of the mount) will result in a zero for the assisted exercise. Assistance of any freestyle exercise will result in a deduction of two points from the total performance score.

Article 2104. Individual Advanced Novice Walk Event:
1. This event consists of one section of compulsory exercises and one section of freestyle performed on the walking horse.
   a) The vaulter must have an assisted mount which is not scored.
   b) Compulsories are performed in the same order as the Individual Trot event.
   c) Freestyle is a one-minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
   d) Exercises chosen for freestyle should be limited to Level M or Level E (as defined in the current FEI Vaulting Guidelines for Judges).
   e) Assistance of any compulsory exercise (with the exception of the mount) will result in a zero for the assisted exercise. Assistance of any freestyle exercise will result in a deduction of two points from the total performance score.

Article 2105. Individual Novice Walk Event:
1. This event consists of one section of compulsory exercises performed on the walking horse, and one section of freestyle performed on the barrel. (There is no freestyle on the horse).
   a) The vaulter must have an assisted mount which is not scored.
   b) Compulsories are performed in the same order as the Individual Trot event.
   c) Freestyle is a 60-second (maximum) routine.
   d) Vaulters may have spotters present and no deductions will be taken for any assistance and/or spotting.

Article 2106. Individual Modified Novice Walk Event:
1. This event consists of one section of the first 3 compulsory exercises.
   Compulsories are performed in order after assisted mount; Basic Seat, Flag and Mill.
   2. Three exercises are judged/Scored on form only.
   3. No freestyle is allowed at this level.
   4. Vaulters may have spotters present and no deductions will be taken for any assistance and/or spotting.

Article 2107. Individual Novice Barrel Event.
1. A 60-second freestyle barrel routine

2. Competitions may offer corresponding barrel events for the levels described in Articles 2103 through 2106.

3. All guidelines in Articles 2103 through 2106 apply to the barrel events.

CHAPTER XXII. SPECIAL PAIRS EVENT

Article 2201. Requirements

1. This is a pairs event consisting of one round of freestyle performed either on the horse at the walk or on the barrel.

2. The freestyle is a 90-second routine (maximum).

3. The pair consists of one handicapped/special needs vaulter and one AVA trot or canter vaulter.

4. If performed on the barrel, the footing in the barrel arena must be suitable for vaulting.

Awards—Special Needs Events

For awards, it is suggested that each compulsory class and each freestyle class in the above listed articles should be set up to accommodate the number of novice vaulters in each particular class, in groups of five. Awards should be given out 1st through 5th. For example, if there are 15 vaulters in Novice Walk Competitions, there should be a Division A, Division B and Division C, with awards 1st through 5th for each division.

Glossary of Terms—Special Needs Events

Award Division: All Novice entrants must be divided into groups of five and placed into Division “A” through “Z” according to score. Awards of 1st through 5th are awarded to each division in each class.

Class: A competition event, which will be subdivided by level or division.

Compulsory Exercises: Required exercises for all vaulters on the horse. These exercises are Basic Seat, Flag, Mill, Scissors, Stand and Flank. To be performed in that order. Exception: The Novice Modified Walk class consists of the first three compulsory exercises only. Basic Seat, Flag and Mill. In all Novice levels, the mount is assisted.

Event: A particular class at a competition.

Freestyle: Routine consisting of exercises chosen by the vaulter to show artistic abilities and originality.

Gait: For these levels, either walk or trot. (No canter work)

APPENDIX D

DESCRIPTION OF GOLD/SILVER/BRONZE AND A/B TEAM COMPULSORY EXERCISES (2* and 3*)

MOUNT: Vaulter runs along the longe line out to the horse’s shoulder. Before taking the grips, the vaulter’s hips and shoulders should be parallel with the horse’s shoulders. After taking the grips, the vaulter jumps forward onto both feet, lowers his head and upper body and swings his right leg up immediately, as high as possible, lifting the pelvis higher than the head. The left leg should remain stretched down, and the body should remain facing forward (not turned in to the horse). When the pelvis is at its highest possible point, the vaulter should lower the stretched right leg and land softly centered on the horse’s back, upper body vertical, ready to perform the Basic Seat.

BASIC SEAT: Vaulter sits astride, erect and centered immediately behind the surcingle. The vaulter’s legs are stretched down and in contact with the horse, forming a straight vertical line through the shoulder, hip and heel. The vaulter’s shoulders should be parallel to the handles of the surcingle. The vaulter’s arms are extended outward along the frontal plane, with the tips of the fingers at eye level. Legs are down and the front of the knees, ankles and toes form a straight line facing nearly forward. The vaulter should be looking straight ahead and sitting comfortably on the horse’s back. This position must be held a minimum of four strides. Upon completion of the exercise, the vaulter takes the grips with both hands simultaneously.

FLAG: From seat astride, the vaulter comes to a kneeling position with both legs simultaneously and diagonally across the horse’s back to perform the Flag. Vaulter’s weight is spread evenly over the lower leg. The lower leg, from knee to toes, remains in permanent contact with the horse’s back. The vaulter’s head should remain up and looking forward, the right leg and left arm are raised simultaneously and stretched to an even horizontal line (at least above the vaulter’s shoulder and hip), ideally a horizontal line from fingertip to head level and toes. There is an even arc in the vaulter’s body from the hand through the foot. Right hand holds the grip; the shoulders are directly above the grip and the vaulter’s hips and shoulders are parallel to the ground. Upon completion of the Flag (held a minimum of 4 strides), the vaulter simultaneously brings his right leg and left arm down, takes the grips, pushes weight onto his arms and stretches the left leg down and slides softly into seat position.

MILL: The Mill is an exercise in which the vaulter must remain seated throughout the exercise. In no phase may he/she abandon the seat position.
From forward seat astride, the vaulter makes a complete rotation on the horse’s back in 4 evenly-timed phases. Each leg is stretched and carried over the horse in a high, wide arc, like a semi-circle. The down leg remains stationary and in contact with the horse. The upper body stays upright, centered and nearly vertical in each phase. Head and body rotate with each leg pass. The Mill has four phases and is performed in a four-stride count.

Phase 1: The vaulter carries his/her right leg over the horse’s neck. Each grip is released and retaken as the leg passes. Phase 1 ends with the vaulter sitting in a sideways seat, facing the longeur, legs together and in contact with the horse.

Phase 2: The left leg is carried over the horse’s croup. Phase 2 ends with the vaulter sitting rearways. The hands change position on the grips.

Phase 3: The right leg is carried over the croup. Phase 3 ends with the vaulter sitting in a sideways seat, facing the outside of the circle, legs together and in contact with the horse. The hands change position on the grips.

Phase 4: The left leg is carried over the horse’s neck. Each grip is released and retaken as the leg passes. Phase 4 ends with the vaulter sitting in forward seat astride.

SCISSORS 1st PART: From seat astride, the stretched legs are swung upward (back) to reach nearly a handstand position with arms extended to attain maximum elevation. Without interruption in this movement, and at nearly the point of maximum elevation, the hips are turned to the left by a quarter of a turn so that the legs pass closely at an equal distance from the ground. The exercise is fulfilled by landing softly, upright and centered in reverse seat.

SCISSORS 2nd PART: The rotation of the body is finished before the vaulter lands softly, upright and centered in seat astride. From reverse seat, the vaulter swings the stretched legs upward, with the hips and feet reaching the highest possible point at the same time. The arms are extended to attain maximum elevation. The angle between the arms and torso is as great as possible. Without interruption of movement, the hips are turned to the right so that the legs pass closely and cross at nearly the point of maximum elevation. The legs show a high arc with both feet an equal distance from the ground. The exercise is completed by landing softly, upright and centered in forward seat.

STAND: From seat astride, the vaulter comes softly to both knees simultaneously and immediately hops softly to both feet. Head remains up, eyes looking forward. The feet remain stationary with the vaulter’s weight evenly distributed over the entire sole of the foot throughout the exercise. Feet are close at hip width and point forward. The grips are released simultaneously, as the vaulter rises to a high standing position, forming a straight line through the shoulder, hip and heel. The arms are immediately extended and stretched outward along the frontal plane, with the tips of the fingers at eye level. Upon completion of the static exercise (held for 4 strides), the arms are lowered alongside the body, and the vaulter reaches down to take the grips simultaneously with both hands. The head remains up, looking forward, while the vaulter slides smoothly with straight legs into astride position.

FLANK FIRST PART, BACK TO SEAT ASTRIDE (GOLD & A TEAM [3*] ONLY): A straight axis of the body which reaches nearly the vertical is the essence of the optimal mechanics of the Flank. A straight line continues throughout the body from the arms to the feet. A straight body axis is the main criteria for judging. An arched back can be deceiving and can simulate a higher elevation.

From seat astride, the stretched legs are swung upward (back) to reach a handstand position with arms extended to attain maximum elevation. Without interruption in the movement, at the point of maximum elevation, the hips are bent sharply so that the legs come down to a near vertical position (creating a pike) during which the hips are momentarily over the surcingle. The vaulter slides softly into an upright sideways seat inside position, making contact with the horse first with the outside of the lower right leg.

SWING OFF TO OUTSIDE FROM SEAT ASTRIDE (GOLD, A TEAM [3*] ONLY): From seat astride, the stretched, closed legs are swung upward (back) to reach a handstand position with the arms extended to attain maximum elevation. As the maximum arm extension, the vaulter pushes against the grips (pushing back toward the rear of the horse) and as a result of shoulder repulsion attains additional elevation and maximum flight. The vaulter lands to the outside, facing forward, on both feet.
SWING OFF TO INSIDE FROM SEAT ASTRIDE (SILVER, BRONZE, B & C TEAM [2*] ONLY):

From seat astride, the vaulter swings to handstand position with closed legs, arms extended to attain maximum elevation. At maximum arm extension, the vaulter pushes against the grips, (pushing back toward the rear of the horse), and as a result of shoulder repulsion, attains additional elevation and maximum flight, landing to the inside of the horse, facing forward, on both feet.

DESCRIPTION OF COPPER/TROT AND C/TROT TEAM, PRELIMINARY 2-PHASE TEAM COMPULSORY EXERCISES (1*)

MOUNT: See Compulsory 2* and 3* Mount

BASIC SEAT: See Compulsory 2* and 3* Basic Seat

FLAG: See 2* and 3* Compulsory Flag, except (1*): upon completion of the static exercise (Flag), the vaulter lowers the right leg to a bench position. The 1* Flag completes in the bench position.

STAND: The 1* Stand begins from bench position. The remainder of the exercise is performed as the 2* and 3* Compulsory Stand.

SWING FRONTWAYS LEGS CLOSED: From seat astride, the stretched legs are swung upward (back) to reach a handstand position. The vaulter’s arms are extended to attain maximum elevation. The vaulter’s legs are closed and stretched at maximum elevation. Without interruption in the movement, and at the point of maximum elevation, the vaulter returns softly to seat astride.

A straight axis of the body which reaches nearly the vertical is the essence of the optimal mechanics of this exercise. A straight line continues throughout the body from the arms to the feet. A straight body axis is the main criteria for judging. An arched back can be deceiving and can simulate a higher elevation.

HALF-MILL: The Half-Mill has 2 phases. The vaulter may not abandon his/her seat position during either phase. The first phase is performed in a four-count turn, followed immediately by the second phase.

Phase 1: See 2* and 3* Compulsory Mill Phase 1
Phase 2: See 2* and 3* Compulsory Mill Phase 2.

SWING REARWAYS LEGS OPEN FOLLOWED BY DISMOUNT TO INSIDE: From reverse seat, the vaulter swings his/her stretched and opened legs (hip width) upward, with the hips and feet reaching the highest possible point at the same time. The arms are extended to attain maximum elevation and the angle between arms and torso is as great as possible. Then the vaulter softly returns to reverse seat.

The vaulter then performs a reverse ¼ mill by carrying the stretched left leg over the horse’s croup, in a high wide arc to inside seat. The vaulter, while holding the inside grip, rotates to facing forward. With closed legs and stretched hips, the vaulter pushes against the grips upwards and away from the horse. He releases the grips and lands with nearly closed legs and continues in the same direction as the horse.

Note:
There is no separate score for the dismount. Faults in the dismount shall be deducted from the swing rearways.

PROPOSED DISMOUNTS FOR INDIVIDUAL COPPER AND INDIVIDUAL TROT:
1. Simple Vault off (leg over neck, to inside or to outside)
2. V-Sit off (any direction) landing facing frontways
3. Slide off out of inside or outside press—landing facing frontways
4. Sliding off any seated, kneeling or lying exercise landing facing—frontways
5. Roll over shoulder to outside (from forward facing kneeling position)

Note: Deviations from described dismounts may incur deductions from Content score. Performing dismounts that are Level R, D, or M (with exception of 5 above) will incur a 1 point deduction from Content.
a. **Nominations Committee** - The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee Chairperson shall be the immediate Past President. If the immediate Past President is unable or unwilling to serve, the President shall appoint a chair. The Nominations Committee shall consist of members from at least three regions and will include two directors (but not the President) whose terms do not terminate in the current year, and two eligible Individual Members in good standing who are not directors. The Nominations Committee and the Nominations Committee Chairperson shall be ratified by the General Membership at the Annual Meeting.

b. **Ballot Committee** - A Ballot Committee of three members plus two (2) alternates of eligible Individual Members who are not members of the Board of Directors or Nominations Committee shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board to count the ballots. No more than two (2) members of this committee (including alternates) may be members of the same Region and no two (2) members may be affiliated with the same Club. No one shall serve on the Ballot Committee for two (2) consecutive years.

c. **Grievance Committee** - A Grievance Committee, composed of five (5) Individual Members, will be elected each year at the Annual Meeting of the Membership. No member of the Executive Board may serve on this Committee. Any given club may be represented by only one (1) member on this Committee. This Committee shall elect a chairman from its members.