



# COMPETITION VARIANCE 2021

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COVID-19 Recommendations

# COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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- Katherine Ray - AVA President
- Linda Bibbler – USEF Liaison
- Emma Seely – Director of Competitions
- MacKenzie Waro – Region IX
- Lisa Zielenske – Region IX
- Kylynn Cooper – Youth Ambassador Liaison
- Monica Giffing – Region I
- Jill Hobby – AVA Treasurer
- Carolyn Bland – VP of Education
- Sarah Phelps – Region IX Supervisor
- Advisor: Julie Divita – VP Membership

# COVID-19

## AN UNPRECEDENTED YEAR BROUGHT OUR SPORT TO A HALT

Amidst the on going Covid-19 pandemic  
no one can predict what the pandemic looks like in 2021.

In unusual and challenging times necessity dictates how we can serve our members better and approach Championship competitions **in a new light.**

# COMPETITION BUSINESS MODEL

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- The goal is to populate as many competitions as possible and the ability to have all regionals and East/West Festivals flourish.
- This is a baby step - eventually with more and more members, a pyramid of competitions starting with recognized barrel fest at grassroots level to an invitational Nationals is a business model that works.
- A thought to consider for the future – USEF/AVA Regional Championships would be a qualifier for East/West Festivals (Recognized classes only).
- Other disciplines have used this proven paradigm business model and it works to build membership.



# INTRODUCE EAST AND WEST FESTIVALS

# BROADENING ACCESSIBILITY – LOCATIONS AND DATES

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## EAST FESTIVAL

MOUNT HOLYOKE, MA ~ JULY 28 – AUG 1, 2021

## WEST FESTIVAL

RANCHO MURIETA CA ~ AUGUST 12-15, 2021

## **NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**

UTAH (LOCATION TBA) 4<sup>TH</sup> WEEK OF SEPTEMBER, 2021

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# LOCATIONS/FACILITIES

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- In the future AVA would like to look at holding East/West Festivals in 1/3 - 2/3 (on USA map) centralized facilities to better serve more clubs.
- Nationals locations – ideally would like to find a facility in Omaha or Kansas City to be more centralized (the committee has reached out to numerous facilities in both of areas including northern Texas, but nothing was available for 2021 dates and/or cost were prohibitive).

# EAST AND WEST FESTIVAL (E/W) PARAMETERS

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- Organized and recognized by the American Vaulting Association
- All recognized USEF/AVA classes to be held in conjunction with a fun fest
- Will be held prior to the USEF/AVA National Championship
- E/W are required qualifying competitions for individuals for Nationals
- Competitors can enter either and/or both E/W Festival
- **Individual** competitors with qualifying scores from E/W Festivals will be **ranked** on an eligibility list for the National Championships
- Invitations to enter and compete at a National championships will be based on the national championships ranking list
- The AVA will seek sponsorship for these two new events' trophies



# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

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AVA/USEF Recognized Championship Classes.

- **Individual** competitors must have a ranking score earned at an E/W Festival.
- Pas De Deux\* needs one score from an E/W Festival.
  - Pas de Deux must have the same partners(No substitutes)
- All Squads (including 2-Phase Teams)\* need one score from an E/W Festival.
  - A/B/C/Trot Squads are allowed up to two substitutes
  - 2- Phase Teams are allowed up to one substitute

*\*All PDD, Squads and 2-Phase Teams that compete in an E/W Festival will be invited to the National Championship.*

# PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS FOR 2021 E/W FESTIVALS

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## **Vaulter, Lunger, Coach and Horse Owner**

- ✓ Current Participation Membership of the AVA
- ✓ Current USEF Membership required for USEF classes

## **Horse Registration \* New for 2021 (Optional)**

- ✓ AVA Annual or Lifetime Horse Registration (New for Awards)
- ✓ USEF annual or lifetime horse recording
- ✓ AVA registration and USEF recording must be in the names of owners or lessee's.

*\*Carolyn Bland has single handedly garnered sponsorship each year to cover the cost of horse awards, this new option will help to cover future horse award costs.*

# 2021 AVA HORSE AWARDS AND HORSE REGISTRATION

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- ✓ To be eligible for yearly AVA horse awards starting in 2021, an additional fee of \$20/annual registration or \$85/lifetime registration must be paid to the AVA by start of the competition.
- ✓ Horses may compete in E/W Festival and Nationals events without selecting to be eligible for annual AVA horse awards



# AVA/USEF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

2021



# HOW YOUR SCORE WILL COUNT FOR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Competitors entering Individual classes in E/W Festivals with the intent to compete at Nationals:

- When entering their class - select and pay an additional \$15 fee for their overall score to be considered for Nationals
- Scores meeting or exceeding the minimum qualifying scores will be placed on the Nationals Ranking list in numerical order, highest to lowest for purposes of invitation to compete at Nationals. (Note: number of Nationals participants will be limited due to the 2-day schedule)
- Tie scores will be ranked in accordance with Paragraph 3, Article 302 of Chapter III in the AVA Rules for Vaulting
- Ranking list will be posted on-line at [www.americanyvaulting.org](http://www.americanyvaulting.org)
- Technical Committee will appoint the same two Judges for both E/W Festivals for consistent scoring results.

# NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS INDIVIDUAL QUALIFYING SCORES

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□ 3*	7.00 Overall Score
□ 2* Young Vaulter/Gold	7.00 Overall Score
□ 2* Silver	6.20 Overall Score
□ 2* Bronze	5.50 Overall Score
□ 1* Copper	5.70 Overall Score
□ 1* Trot	5.50 Overall Score

\*These qualifying scores were derived from the top 15 to top 20 finishing scores at the last three National Championships\*

# MORE ABOUT QUALIFYING....

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- Competitors **may choose** to compete at an E/W Festival event **without** selecting to be eligible for Nationals
- Invitations to compete at Nationals would go out based on the Nationals Ranking List composed of qualifying scores from the E/W Festival events
- Top 15 qualifiers in each division (men and women combined proportionally)—  
3\*, 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold, 2\* Silver and 2\*Bronze
- Top 20 qualifiers in each division (men and women combined proportionally) —  
1\*Copper and 1\*Trot
- Invitations will include a form to accept the invitation
- Invitations must be accepted/declined within a stated deadline (prior to close of entries for Nationals)
- If the invitation is declined, the invitation goes to the next person qualified in the same class on the National Ranking list

# Proportional Opportunity for Women and Men

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- Nationals invitations for Men and Women will be the same proportion of overall total men and women entries in the qualifiers.
- The scenario below explains how the Top 15 qualifiers for Nationals in 3\*, 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold, 2\* Silver and 2\* Bronze and the Top 20 qualifiers for Nationals in 1\* Copper and 1\* Trot will be selected.

## **SCENARIO:**

- East and West Festival have a combined total of 100 - 1\* Trot vaulters competing
- 90 vaulters are Female and 10 are Male - 90% female and 10% male of total vaulters competing
- The 20 available Nationals invitations for 1\* Trot would be proportioned as follows
  - 18 Invitations (90% of 20 total available invitations) to females, and
  - 2 invitations (10% of 20 total available invitations) to males
- ✓ In order to receive an invitation to Nationals, vaulters still must select the box indicating they want their score to be considered for Nationals; however, the percentages will come from the overall number of competitors in a class.
- ✓ All competitors invited to Nationals, must receive their qualifying score.





- Qualifying Fees at E/W Festivals is a pathway to ensure funds are in the Nationals budget prior to the event.
  - The additional Qualifying fee is entirely voluntary!!
  - Qualifying fee is only for those who want the opportunity to be ranked for the National Championship.
  - This type of pathway creates a Prestigious National Championship where you are qualified and invited to participate.
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# OVERALL BENEFIT

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## MORE COMPETITIONS

- Memberships and competitions income
- Three prestigious annual competitions
- Enhancement for securing endowments and long-term sponsorship

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- Addition of the qualifying fee \$15.00 of per competitor
- **All Squads, 2-Phase Teams and PDD** that participate in an E/W Festival will get an invitation to National Championships
- Reduced Costs - Run over one weekend – warm-up/Vet check Friday

## MOST IMPORTANTLY:

*Reinvigorate membership with championship level competitions across the US with a finale of a prestigious Nationals Championship.*