American Vaulting Association

2021 RULE BOOK

The American Vaulting Association is a member of the United States Equestrian Federation.

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AVA RULES FOR VAULTING

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AVA RULES FOR VAULTING

Rules for Vaulting are the rules for the performance of the sport of vaulting. Rules for Vaulting are developed by the Technical Committee and presented to the Board of Directors for consideration and, upon concurrence, adoption.

CHAPTER I. GENERAL

Article 101. Introduction.
1. **Vaulting**: The art of gymnastics/dance on the moving horse. The competition is judged on the smooth and correct execution of the compulsory exercises, freestyle programs and technical tests by the vaulters in sympathy and harmony with the horse working on the lunge line.
2. **Harmony with the Horse**: is achieved by performing every movement, compulsory or freestyle, in unity with the horse. A horse’s movement produces significant power and inertia, and harmony is achieved when a vaulter balances their strength and suppleness to synchronize with that movement. The objective is to create a cohesive unit consisting of the Lunger, Horse and Vaulter(s) working as one, with vaulter(s) moving in accord with and causing no adverse effect on the horse. The horse should be a willing partner totally accepting of the vaulter(s) with uninterrupted balance and free flowing movement.

CHAPTER II. COMPETITION

Article 201. Competition Recognition.
1. All A V A Recognized Competitions must have completed procedures for recognition as per Standing Rules. (See Standing Rules, Section VIII – Recognized Competitions).
2. All A V A Recognized Competitions must be held according to current A V A rules. If a competition is USEF and A V A recognized, USEF rules shall take precedence.
3. Recognition may be granted to any competition offering at least one (1) A V A Recognized National Event. All Recognized National Events must be held according to current A V A rules.
4. Recognized National Events:
   a) Individual: 3*, 2* Young Vaulter/Gold, 2* Silver, 2* Bronze, 1* Copper (Canter) or 1* Trot
   b) Pas de Deux: 3* Open Pas de Deux, 2* Canter Pas De Deux, 1* Preliminary Canter Pas de Deux, 1* Trot Pas de Deux
   c) Team Two-Phase: Open Canter, Preliminary Canter, Trot
   d) Team: 3* A, 2*B, 1*C, 1* Trot

Article 202. Eligibility.
1. All clubs, vaulters, coaches and lungers must be registered members of the AVA in good standing in order to compete in an AVA Recognized Competition. For purposes of competition, a member in good standing is one:
   a) Who has paid his current AVA dues
   b) Who has paid the club registration fee
   c) Who meets eligibility requirements per AVA By-laws and Standing Rules
   d) Who has no outstanding debts to the AVA, judge or competition
2. At National Championships, foreign individual competitors are allowed to compete but are ineligible for National Championship titles.
   a) A foreign individual competitor may compete for scores and may be awarded ribbons and placings (See Standing Rules, Section VIII.C.3 and 4).
   b) A team may have up to two (2) foreign vaulters as members and be eligible for awards provided that each of the foreign competitors has complied with United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) membership requirements. Foreign competitors and lungers who desire to compete in National Championships must have proof, in English, of membership in good standing from their National Federation or must be members in good standing of the American Vaulting Association and the United States Equestrian Federation. These documents must be made available to Competition Management prior to the start of the first day of competition for any USEF competition.
   c) A team with more than two (2) foreign vaulters as members, whether or not they have met the above requirements, or a team with any number of foreign vaulters who have not met the above requirements may compete for scores only.
Article 203. Competitors.
1. A vaulter may enter the same event only once at any competition.
2. There are no age restrictions for Recognized National Events.
3. A vaulter’s classification for Recognized National Events is determined as of the closing date of entries of the competition.
4. Vaulters who hold a canter medal may vault in a higher division than their medal level in individual competition in Recognized National Events.

Article 204. Substitution.
1. Recognized National Team Event:
   a) One (1) substitute is allowed. In order for a substitute to vault, he must enter the ring with the team as its seventh member at the start of Compulsories. The substitute must be a member of that club.
   b) The substitute vaults in the seventh position.
   c) A vaulter may not be entered as the substitute in more than one (1) division of Team Canter Event.
   d) Using a substitute other than is stated is illegal and results in elimination.
2. Team 2-Phase Event:
   a) One (1) substitute is allowed. In order for a substitute to vault, he must enter the ring with the team as its fifth member at the start of Compulsories. The substitute must be a member of that club.
   b) The substitute vaults in the fifth position.
   c) A vaulter may not be entered as the substitute in more than one (1) division of Team Two-Phase Event.
   d) Using a substitute other than is stated is illegal and results in elimination.
3. Individual Event, Pas de Deux Event: No substitution is allowed in Individual or Pas de Deux Events.
4. Lungers:
   a) Recognized National Events: Substitution is permitted between sections in all events.
5. Horses:
   a) Recognized National Events: Substitution is permitted between sections in all events.
6. Equipment: Substitution is permitted between sections in all events

Article 205. Facilities.
1. For Level I Recognized Competitions: The vaulting arena must be at least 22 meters (72.5 feet) in diameter with suitable footing. If the competition is held indoors or under cover, the ceiling height must be at least 5 meters (16.5 feet).
2. For Level II Recognized Competitions: The vaulting arena must be at least 20.5 meters (67.5 feet) in diameter with suitable footing. If the competition is held indoors or under cover, the ceiling height must be at least 4.7 meters (15.5 feet).
3. The diameter of the lungeing circle must be between 13 and 15 meters (42.5 to 50 feet). The center of the circle must be clearly marked.
4. If the entire vaulting arena is not suitable vaulting surface, then the suitable vaulting surface must extend from 2 meters (6.6 feet) from the center point of the circle to at least 11 meters (36 ft) from the center point of the circle for Level I Recognized Competitions and to at least 10.28 meters (33.75 feet) from the center point of the circle for Level II Recognized Competitions.
5. The judge’s booth(s) should be at least 12 meters (40 feet) from the center of the vaulting arena elevated at least .5 meter (1.5 feet) above the competition arena. Steps and protection from the elements must be provided.
6. Spectators must be located at a reasonable distance from the vaulting circle and judge’s booth(s).
7. A suitable warm-up arena must be provided. An additional area for horse warm up must also be provided.
8. A ring steward must be present at each competition arena at all times during the competition.
9. For Team Two-Phase Event, an AVA regulation barrel is required. The handles are placed to the judge’s left. The footing in the barrel arena must be suitable for vaulting. (See Standing Rules, Section VIII.D.4).
10. A countdown clock and one (1) stop watch must be provided at the Chief Judge’s (Judge A) stand in each arena, or an official timer must be appointed, who shall sit next to the Chief Judge in each arena. If an official timer is needed, two (2) stop watches must be provided; one (1) to be used to time the performance and the other for timing entry, falls, time-outs, etc.
11. A bell must be provided for the Chief Judge.
Article 206. Format.

1. Competitors are to salute the Chief Judge upon entering and before exiting the arena, unless excused by the judge (see article 504.3.f-g).

2. Before beginning the performance, the horse must be trotted on the circle until the judge rings the bell to proceed. At this time, one (1) minute is allowed for horse warm-up, if requested. Vaulters are not allowed to approach or mount the horse during this warm-up. Vaulter may begin immediately (if no warm-up was requested) or wait for the bell to indicate the end of the warm-up at which time vaulter MUST begin the performance. (see article 504.3.h)

3. Judging of General Impression begins with entry into the ring and ends with the exit from the ring. Judging of the horse begins when the first vaulter touches the grips and ends when the last vaulter touches the ground in the final dismount, or at the end of the time limit.

4. In all events, sections of the event(s) must be scheduled with a break between sections.

5. All competition at the canter must be performed on the correct lead, not in counter canter.

6. Order of go for all events must be determined by draw, by club, for each section of the event. Management may draw for all entrants. For Individuals the coach must specify order of vaulters.
   a) Time of draw must be at least one (1) hour before the start of the competition.
   b) Time and place of draw shall be announced in the prize list.

7. Music is recommended during all performances. It is preferred that music be continuous for all competitors on the same horse during Individual compulsories.
   a) Music to be provided by the competitor, according to the equipment available.
   b) Management must state in the prize list which system(s) will be available.

Article 207. Timing.

1. The time allowed for each event begins the moment the first vaulter touches the surcingle, the pad or the horse and ends with the time limit (the bell). Only exercises (static or dynamic, including dismounts) already in progress when the bell rings will be included in the evaluation for degree of difficulty, performance and Artistic. All exercises and dismounts starting after the bell will be considered in the performance score (deductions only), but not in the degree of difficulty and Artistic scores. For timing requirements of specific events, please refer to the chapter for that event.

2. A bell is used by the Chief Judge to signal the competitors on the following occasions:
   a) To give the signal to enter the arena
      • within one (1) minute after the bell, the vaulter(s) must salute the Chief Judge.
   b) To give the signal at the end of the trot requirement to start the Compulsory test, the Freestyle test, and the Technical Program
      • within thirty (30) seconds after the bell, the vaulter(s) MUST start the performance.
   c) To signal the end of time
   d) To signal the competitor(s) to stop in case of unforeseen circumstances
      • the clock will be stopped and judging will cease.
   e) To signal that time is stopped after a fall when the vaulter has lost contact with the horse or surcingle in Individual Freestyle or Individual Technical Program.
   f) To signal that time is stopped after a fall where the vaulter(s) is unable to continue immediately or return to the line in Team Freestyle.
   g) To signal the competitor(s) to continue after an interruption.
      • The clock is started and judging begins when the vaulter touches the grip.
      • The test must be continued within thirty (30) seconds after the signal to resume.
   h) To signal time-out in all events

3. Time-out in all events:
   a) In case of an injury or illness, the event and the clock will be stopped. The judge will indicate when the event and the clock will resume.
   b) In the event of a horse casting a shoe or the breakage of equipment, the clock will be stopped for a maximum of seven (7) minutes.
   c) The lunger may request one (1) time-out per performance to adjust equipment. The clock will be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute. At the lunger’s request, the judge may give permission for outside assistance. The lunger may also adjust the equipment, if necessary, in between vaulters during individual freestyle, while the judge is scoring the previous freestyle.
d) In the event that the freestyle music is not correct or malfunctions, the lunger may request a time out. The clock will be stopped for a maximum of two (2) minutes. If the malfunction occurs during the performance, and the clock is stopped, the vaulter(s) begin where they left off.

e) In the case of unforeseen circumstances, the bell will be sounded to indicate to the vaulter(s) to stop. The clock will be stopped and judging will cease. A bell will sound to indicate that the vaulter(s) is/are to recommence the performance. The clock will resume when the vaulter(s) retake the grips.

4. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

**Article 208. Unauthorized Assistance. (See also Article 504.3.j)**

1. No one other than the lunger may give any directive to the horse.
2. No one is permitted to approach the horse without the intention of mounting.
3. In AVA Recognized classes no Spotting/boosting of vaulters is permitted.
4. In Recognized National Team Events, no one other than a lunger, a team of six (6) members and one (1) substitute may be in the arena for Team Compulsories. The substitute as declared by the team coach may not enter the arena for Team Freestyle.
5. In Individual Event, no one other than a lunger and individual(s) who are scheduled to compete at that specific time may be in the arena.
   a) Only one (1) vaulter may be in the vaulting circle at a time.
   b) Other competitors shall line-up outside the vaulting circle.
   c) The next competitor may enter the vaulting circle when the previous vaulter begins the vault-off. An earlier entry entails elimination of the incoming vaulter.
6. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

**Article 209. Vaulter Identification and Attire.**

1. In recognized national team events, each team member must wear a number from 1 through 7, and must vault in that order for the compulsory section. Numbers must be easily visible to the judge(s).
2. Individual vaulters must wear a number which has been assigned to them by the AVA National Office. Number 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”-2.0” (4.5 cm) high; dark numbers on light band or light numbers on dark band.
3. The dress for vaulters must be suitable for equestrian sport. It must not hinder the movement of the vaulter or the safe interaction between vaulters during the performance. The dress must in no way compromise the safety of either vaulter or horse.
   a) The dress 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.
   b) The dress must not give the effect of nudity.
   c) The dress must be form-fitting and all parts of the uniform must remain attached to the vaulter’s body at all times (i.e. vests, belts, decorative designs, etc. must be sewn directly to the uniform).
4. Decorative accessories (not limited to but including belts, masks, jewelry) and props (not limited to but including hats, capes, canes, gadgets) are strictly forbidden in the arena.
5. Soft-soled shoes are required.
6. Trousers must be secured to the foot and skirts may only be worn over tights or leggings.
7. The apparel of the lunger should be harmonious with that of the vaulter(s) and must be clean, neat and professional. Lungers may wear belts, hats and/or scarfs, but should restrict their use of decorative accessories and adhere to the suitability for equestrian sport.

**Article 210. Officials.**

1. Judges:
   a) At least one (1) AVA Recognized Judge is required at each Recognized National Event, except at National Championships where at least two (2) AVA Recognized Judges are required for each Recognized National Event.
   b) If two (2) or more Judges are hired please reference the table in Appendix E for distribution of responsibilities.
2. Ground Jury:
a) The invited judge(s) comprise the Ground Jury and must be selected from the current roster of AVA Recognized Vaulting Judges.
b) The President of the Ground Jury will be appointed by the organizing committee from the officiating judges.

3. Steward/Technical Delegate:
   a) At National Championships, there must be a USEF licensed steward or technical delegate selected by the organizing committee.
   b) At AVA Recognized Competitions where there is no technical delegate, the Chief Judge acts as the technical delegate.

CHAPTER III. HORSES

Article 301. Horses.
1. Vaulting horses must be at least six (6) years old, of any breed or suitable size.
2. Stallions are prohibited.

Article 302. Horse Use.
1. Canter: Horses may be used for a maximum of 32 units each day.
   a) Team Canter Event:
      • 1 Team Compulsories = 8 units
      • 1 Team Freestyle = 8 units
   b) Individual Canter Event:
      • 1 Compulsories = 1 unit
      • 1 Freestyle = 1 unit
      • 1 Technical Test = 1 unit
   c) Pas de Deux Events:
      • 1 Freestyle = 2 units
   d) Team Two-Phase Event:
      • 1 Team Compulsories = 5 units
2. Trot: Horses may be used for a maximum of 48 units each day.
   a) Team Trot Event:
      • 1 Team Compulsories = 8 units
      • 1 Team Freestyle = 8 units
   b) Individual Trot Event:
      • 1 Compulsories = 1 unit
      • 1 Freestyle = 1 unit
   c) Pas de Deux Events:
      • 1 Freestyle = 2 units
   d) Team Two-Phase Event:
      • 1 Team Compulsories = 5 units

   Exception: If a horse is used at BOTH trot and canter on the same day, a maximum of 32 units is allowed.
3. In All Recognized National Events, horses may be changed between sections of the event.
4. After the maximum number of units allowed, additional vaulters will be disqualified. The club which entered the horse in violation will be fined $50 per violation.
5. Competitors may start on their own horse or another horse that is loaned to them.
6. Horses may be substituted until one (1) hour before the start of the competition, or at the discretion of competition management.

Article 303. Horse Inspection.
1. At National Championships, before the start of competition, there will be a vet check. The veterinarian, accompanied by at least one (1) member of the Ground Jury, preferably the President of the Ground Jury, will inspect the horses. (See Article 210.2 for definition of Ground Jury).
   a) The horses will be presented in hand in a bridle with an easily visible number on the right side of the bridle. The veterinarian has the right to eliminate a horse for being lame or in bad condition. In case
of disagreement, the member of the Ground Jury will make the final decision, which will be announced immediately.

b) There may be no objection against the decision of the Ground Jury. A reason for elimination must be given.

2. In addition, the Chief Judge in each arena has the authority at any time during a competition to eliminate a horse which is uneven and/or un-level, in bad condition, or which shows signs of discomfort or fatigue.

**Article 304. Equipment.**

1. **Required:**
   a) Bridle with smooth snaffle bit, with no more than two (2) joints or lungeing cavesson with or without bit.
      • Rubber bit guards are permitted.
   b) Two (2) side reins with or without rubber rings
      • Side reins are to be attached to the bit or cavesson and one (1) point of contact on the surcingle.
   c) One (1) back pad, with or without a cover, maximum two (2) inches thick.
      • No hand or foot holds may be attached to the pad.
      • Pad may not extend more than eight (8) inches in front of the surcingle nor past the point of the croup.
   d) Vaulting surcingle (preferably with wither and girth padding)
      • No more than two (2) grips
      • No more than one (1) cossack strap/loop on each side below the grip
      • The surcingle may have one (1) loop between grips.
   e) Lunge line
   f) Lunge whip

2. **Optional:**
   a) Bandages, protection boots
   b) Breast collar or breast plate
   c) Earmuffs and plugs

3. No auxiliary equipment is allowed.
   a) Standing reins or auxiliary reins are not permitted.
   b) The use of any equipment other than described above will entail elimination.

**CHAPTER IV. RECOGNIZED NATIONAL EVENTS**

**Article 401. Definitions.**

1. **Compulsories:** A set of required vaulting exercises judged on: Mechanics, Essence, Form, Scope, Security, Balance, Continuity, and Harmony with the Horse. Compulsory exercises are described in the current FEI Guidelines for Judges ([https://www.americanvaulting.org/rulebooks/](https://www.americanvaulting.org/rulebooks/))

2. **Freestyle:** A routine of static and dynamic exercises. The allotted time varies and is defined in each class section.

3. **Technical Test:** The Technical Test is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine consisting of five (5) technical exercises and additional freestyle exercises chosen by the vaulter. For deductions and scoring of the Technical Test, see the current FEI Guidelines for Judges.

4. **Modified Technical Test:** The Modified Technical Test is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine consisting of any three (3) of the five (5) current technical exercises and additional freestyle exercises chosen by the vaulter. For deductions and scoring see the current FEI Guidelines for Judges.

5. **Performance:** Mechanics, Essence, Form, Scope, Security, Balance, Continuity, and Harmony with the Horse

6. **Degree of Difficulty:**
   a) Height off horse
   b) Complication of the movements
   c) Demands of suppleness, stretch, and timing
   d) Number and security of holding points
   e) Changes in direction (forward, backward, across)
   f) Changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside)
For more information regarding DOD, please refer to the FEI Code of Points.

7. **Artistic**: The Artistic score is comprised of:
   a) Exercise variety:
      - Use of varied structure groups (ex. lying, standing, strength exercises, flexibility exercises, rolls, swings, etc.).
      - Use of both static and dynamic exercises.
   b) Space/Position variety:
      - Balanced use of location (ex. back, neck, croup, grips, etc.)
      - Balanced use of direction (ex. inside facing, backward facing, rolling across the horse, etc.)
   c) Unity:
      - Balanced and smooth transitions and movements
      - Selection of exercises are appropriate for the horse and vaulter
      - Movements and exercises are controlled and harmonious
      - Complexity of exercises, sequences, transitions, and combinations (2* Bronze and above).
   d) Music Interpretation:
      - Ability to engage and captivate using a musical platform
      - Expression of the musical elements
      - Complexity of body language

For more information regarding the Artistic score, please refer to the FEI Guideline for Judges.

8. **Horse Score**:
   a) Quality of the gait
   b) Submission
   c) Behavior
   d) Way of going
   e) Circle size

9. **General Impression**
   a) Entry, Exit and Salute
   b) Circle Size
   c) Lunging and presentation
   d) Comportment
   e) Turn out of team and lunger

**INDIVIDUAL EVENTS**

**Article 402. Individual Event Requirements - Compulsories.**
1. All compulsories are performed as a unit.
2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
3. There is no time limit.
4. Judged on:
   a) Performance
   b) Horse (90%)/General Impression (10%)
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 A V A Rules Chapter V. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

**Article 403. Individual Event Requirements – Technical Test & Modified Technical Test**
1. The technical exercises are from the following categories of motor skills:
   a) Balance
   b) Timing/Coordination
   c) Strength
   d) Jump Force
e) Suppleness

2. The exercises included in each category are described in the current FEI Guidelines for Judges.
3. All static technical exercises must be held three (3) canter strides or will receive a deduction of one (1) point for each stride held less than three (3).
4. 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) If the fall is during a technical exercise, the unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.

**Article 404. Individual Event Requirements – Freestyle.**

1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
2. Static exercises must be held for three (3) full canter strides in order to be counted in Degree of Difficulty. A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
3. For 3*, 2* Young Vaulter/Gold, 2* Silver, and 2* Bronze:
   a) The vaulter must stay in contact with the horse or surcingle except for leaps above the horse.
4. For 1* Copper and 1* Trot:
   a) Vaulter must stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse are NOT allowed and will receive a deduction if performed; hop from forward facing kneel to forward facing feet is allowed.
   b) Only dismounts chosen from the list of dismounts shown in Appendix D of this Rule Book are allowed, all other dismounts will receive a deduction if performed.
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 may be repeated.
6. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

**Article 405. 3* Individual Requirements.**

1. 3* consists of one (1) round: Compulsories, Technical Test and Freestyle performed in separate sections.
2. Competition is at the canter to the left for Compulsory, Technical Test and Freestyle sections.
3. Women’s and Men’s division must be offered.

**Article 406. 3* Individual Compulsories.**

1. 3* Compulsories:
   1) Vault On
   2) Flag
   3) Mill
   4) Scissors 1st Part
   5) Scissors 2nd Part
   6) Stand
   7) First Part of Flank
   8) Second Part of Flank

**Article 407. 3* Individual Technical Test.**

1. Judging:
   a) The maximum score is 10.0. Decimals are allowed
   b) The Technical Test receives ten (10) scores:
      • Five (5) separate performance scores for the designated Technical exercises are averaged and then (x50%).
      • Artistic (x25%)
      • Performance (x10%)
      • Horse/General Impression Score (x15%)
   c) The four (4) scores are totaled.
Article 408. 3* Individual Freestyle.
1. Degree of Difficulty (DOD):
   a) Only the ten (10) most difficult exercises with a DOD of R, D or M will be counted in the DOD score.
   b) The maximum score for DOD is 10.0.
   c) Value is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk (R)</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult (D)</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (M)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Difficulty</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Article 409. Individual 2* Young Vaulter/Gold Requirements.
1. 2* Young Vaulter/Gold Level consists of one (1) round: Compulsories, Modified Technical Test and Freestyle performed in separate sections.
2. Competition is at the canter to the left for Compulsory, Modified Technical Test and Freestyle sections.
3. Women’s and Men’s division must be offered.

Article 410. 2* Young Vaulter/Gold Compulsories
1. 2* Young Vaulter/Gold Compulsories
   1) Vault On
   2) Basic Seat
   3) Flag
   4) Mill
   5) Scissors 1st Part
   6) Scissors 2nd Part
   7) Stand
   8) First Part of Flank, Push off to Inside

Article 411. 2* Young Vaulter/Gold – Modified Technical Test
1. The modified technical test is a one (1) minute routine consisting of any three (3) of the five (5) Technical exercises and additional Freestyle exercises chosen by the vaulter. The Technical exercises may be shown in any order. Only the first three (3) Technical exercises shown will be scored. Any other Technical exercises shown after the first three (3) will be scored as additional freestyle exercises.
2. The technical exercises are described in the current FEI Guidelines for Judges.
3. All static technical exercises must be held three (3) canter strides or will receive a deduction of one (1) point for each stride held less than three (3).
4. 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) If the fall is during a technical exercise, the unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.
Article 412. 2* Young Vaulter/Gold Freestyle

1. Degree of Difficulty (DOD):
   a) Only the ten (10) most difficult exercises with a DOD of R, D or M will be counted in the DOD score.
   b) The maximum score for DOD is 10.0.
   c) Value is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk (R) Exercises</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult (D) Exercises</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (M) Exercises</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Difficulty</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Article 413. 2* Silver Event Requirements.

1. 2* Silver Level consists of one (1) round, Compulsories, Freestyle and Compulsories to the Right performed in separate sections.
   a) Women’s and Men’s divisions must be offered.
   b) Vaulters who hold AVA Gold medals may not compete in the 2* Silver division.
2. For 2* Silver, competition is at the canter to the left for the Compulsory and Freestyle and to the right for Compulsories to the Right.
3. Women’s and Men’s divisions must be offered at each level.
4. In the event there are more than thirty (30) competitors in the 2* Silver Event, Competition Management, at its discretion, may limit the number of competitors who compete in Compulsories to the Right section. In this instance, the top fifteen (15) highest scoring women and the top fifteen (15) highest scoring men will advance to compete in the Compulsories to the Right section.

Article 414. 2* Silver Compulsories.

1. 2* Silver Compulsories
   1) Vault On
   2) Basic Seat
   3) Flag
   4) Mill
   5) Scissors 1st Part
   6) Scissors 2nd Part
   7) Stand
   8) First Part of Flank, Push off to Inside

Article 415. 2* Silver Freestyle.

1. Degree of Difficulty (DOD):
   a) Only the ten (10) most difficult exercises with a DOD of R, D or M will be counted in the DOD score.
   b) The maximum score for DOD is 10.0.
   c) Value is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Risk (R) Exercises</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Difficult (D) Exercises</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (M) Exercises</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
judged on:

Degree of Difficulty | 15%
Artistic             | 25%
Performance          | 40%
Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%) | 20%

**Article 416. 2* Bronze Event Requirements.**
1. Consists of one (1) round: Compulsories, Freestyle and Compulsories to the Right performed in separate sections.
   a) Women’s and Men’s divisions must be offered.
   b) Vaulters who hold AVA Gold or Silver medals may not compete in the 2* Bronze division.
2. Competition is at the canter to the left for Compulsory and Freestyle and to the right for Compulsories to the Right.
3. In the event there are more than thirty (30) competitors in the 2* Bronze Event, Competition Management, at its discretion, may limit the number of competitors who compete in the Compulsories to the Right section. In this instance, the top fifteen (15) highest scoring women and the top fifteen (15) highest scoring men will advance to compete in the Compulsories to the Right section.

**Article 417. 2* Bronze Compulsories.**
1. Bronze Compulsories:
   1) Vault On
   2) Basic Seat
   3) Flag
   4) Mill
   5) Scissors 1st Part
   6) Scissors 2nd Part
   7) Stand
   8) First part of Flank, Push off to Inside

**Article 418. 2* Bronze Freestyle.**
1. Degree of Difficulty (DOD):
   a) All exercises with a DOD of D, M or E will be counted in the DOD score. Note: Bronze vaulters may perform R exercises but will only be given D credit for them.
   b) The maximum score for DOD is 9.0.
   c) Value is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise Level</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficult (D) Exercises</td>
<td>0.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (M) Exercises</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy (E) Exercises</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Difficulty</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Article 419. 1* Copper Event Requirements**
1. Consists of one (1) round: Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections.
   a) Vaulters who hold any canter medal higher than the Copper medal may not compete in the 1* Copper division.
2. Competition is at the canter to the left for Compulsory and Freestyle sections.
3. Woman’s and Men’s divisions must be offered.

**Article 420. 1* Copper Compulsories.**
1. Copper Compulsories:
1) Vault On  
2) Basic Seat  
3) Flag  
4) Stand  
5) Swing Forward legs closed  
6) 1/2 Mill  
7) Swing Backward legs open, followed by dismount to inside (quarter mill around to inside off)

**Article 421. 1* Copper Freestyle.**

1. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artistic</th>
<th>X2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>X3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>X1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Article 422. 1* Trot Event Requirements.**

1. Consists of one (1) round: Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections at the trot to the left.  
   a) Open to trot medal holder or below  
2. Competition is at the trot to the left for Compulsory and Freestyle sections.  
3. Women’s and Men’s division must be offered.

**Article 423. 1* Trot Compulsories**

1. Trot Compulsories:  
   1) Vault On  
   2) Basic Seat  
   3) Flag  
   4) Stand  
   5) Swing Forward legs closed  
   6) 1/2 Mill  
   7) Swing Backward legs open, followed by dismount to inside (quarter mill around to inside off)

**Article 424. 1* Trot Freestyle**

1. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artistic</th>
<th>X2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>X3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>X1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PAS DE DEUX EVENTS**

**Article 425. Pas de Deux Event Requirements.**

1. Pas de Deux event is composed of two (2) vaulters of any combination of male and female.  
2. All Pas de Deux divisions offered consist of one (1) or two (2) rounds of Freestyle (at discretion of competition management).  
3. Pas de Deux Division requirements and vaulter restrictions:  
   a) 3* Open and 2* Canter - No restrictions apply, any level vaulter may compete in this division.  
   b) 1* Preliminary – Neither vaulter may hold a Gold medal, nor compete or ever have competed at 2* Young Vaulter/Gold at any AVA Recognized competition. No more than one (1) vaulter may hold a Silver medal nor compete or ever have competed at 2* Silver at any AVA Recognized competition.  
   c) 1* Trot – Open to vaulters who do not hold any canter medals nor are vaulting at the same competition in any AVA Recognized canter classes.  
4. Falls:  
   a) Vaulter(s) may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue. Time will be restarted when the first vaulter touches the grips.  
   b) The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.  
5. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring for penalties and deductions.
Article 426. Open and Preliminary Pas de Deux Event Requirements
1. Static exercises must be held for three (3) full strides at the appropriate gait. A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
2. Both vaulters must stay in contact with the horse, surcingle or each other. Ground jumps, leaps and exercises above the horse are allowed.
3. Exercises to be counted in Degree of Difficulty (DOD) are:
   a) The mount and dismount of each vaulter
   b) Double exercises.
   c) If two (2) static exercises are performed simultaneously, only the most difficult one is scored.
   d) If one (1) static and one (1) dynamic exercises are performed simultaneously, and the vaulters are not in contact with each other, each exercise receives a score.
   e) If two (2) dynamic exercises from different structure groups are performed, each exercise receives a score.
   f) Aside from the mount and dismount, no exercise with only one (1) vaulter on horse receives a score.

Article 427. 3* Open Canter Pas de Deux Freestyle.
1. Freestyle is a two (2) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises with no requirements or limitations.
2. Degree of Difficulty (DOD):
   a) Only the thirteen (13) exercises with the highest DOD of D or M will be scored.
   b) Maximum DOD is 10.0.
   c) Value is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficult (D)</td>
<td>0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (M)</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy (E)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Judge on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Difficulty</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Article 428. 2* Canter Pas de Deux Freestyle.
1. Freestyle is a one and a half minute (90 seconds) (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises with no requirements or limitations.
2. Degree of Difficulty (DOD):
   a) Only the ten (10) exercises with the highest DOD of D or M will be scored.
   b) Maximum DOD is 10.0.
   c) Value is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Exercise Type</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficult (D)</td>
<td>1.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (M)</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy (E)</td>
<td>0.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Judge on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Difficulty</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Article 429. 1* Preliminary Canter and 1* Trot Pas de Deux Event Requirements
1. Freestyle is a one and a half (90 seconds) (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
2. Only E dismounts which land facing forward are allowed. (See Article 503.2)
3. Vaulter must stay in contact with the horse or each other.
   a) Ground jumps and unsupported leaps are not allowed and will receive a deduction in the Artistic score. (See Article 503.2)

**Article 430. 1* Preliminary Pas de Deux Freestyle**

1. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>X2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>X3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>X1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Article 431. 1* Trot Pas de Deux Freestyle**

1. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>X2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>X3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>X1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**TWO-PHASE TEAM EVENTS**

**Article 432. Two-Phase Team Event Requirements.**

1. This event is performed in two (2) separate sections.
2. Phase 1 is compulsories and is performed on the horse to the right; Phase 2 is a Freestyle and is performed on the barrel.
3. Teams shall consist of four (4) vaulter with an optional substitute and lunger.
4. Divisions requirements and vaulter restrictions:
   a) Open Canter
      • No restrictions apply.
   b) Preliminary Canter
      • No vaulter may hold a Gold or Silver medal nor compete at or ever have competed at Individual 3*, 2* Young Vaulter/Gold or 2* Silver level at any AVA Recognized Competition.
   c) Trot
      • No vaulter may hold a canter medal nor compete at or ever have competed at canter at any AVA Recognized Competition.

**Article 433. Two Phase Team Event: Phase 1 — Horse.**

1. Each vaulter, including the substitute, must perform all compulsory exercises to the right. There is no time limit.
2. Each exercise is performed as in Team Event except that the exercises are mirror images of the exercises to the left.
   a) For Open Canter Division, the compulsory exercises are as in 2* B Team.
   b) For Preliminary Canter Division, the compulsory exercises are as in 1* C Team.
   c) For Trot Division, the compulsory exercises are as in 1* Trot Team.
3. All rules which apply to the Compulsory section of Team Canter Event also apply to this phase.
4. Judged on:
   a) Performance
   b) Horse/General Impression: Horse (90%)/General Impression (10%)

**Article 434. Two Phase Team Event: Phase 2 — Barrel.**

1. Three (3) minute Freestyle routine performed on the barrel.
2. Only four (4) vaulters are allowed to enter the arena for the freestyle. The team coach must declare to competition management, by the time specified by competition management, which members of the team will perform in the Freestyle. All team members, as declared by the coach, must perform in the Freestyle or the team will be penalized under General Impression.
3. All applicable rules for Team Freestyle will apply. No other equipment or attachments to the barrel are allowed. No more than three (3) vaulters may be in an exercise at any time.
4. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>X2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
5. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

TEAM EVENTS

1. Consists of one (1) round of Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections
2. Team Canter Event:
   a) For 3* A and 2* B Teams the Compulsory section is performed at canter to the left. For 1* C, the compulsory section is performed at canter to either the left or to the right.
   b) The Freestyle section is performed at canter to the left.
3. Team 1* Trot Event:
   a) The Compulsory section is performed at trot to either the left or to the right.
   b) The Freestyle section is performed at trot to the left.

Article 436. Team Eligibility.
1. Teams are comprised of six (6) vaulters, an optional substitute, and a lunger. All vaulters, including the substitute, must be members of registered AVA clubs in good standing. Lungers must be registered members of the AVA in good standing.
2. Canter Divisions: May be divided into 3* A, 2* B and 1* C divisions. A vaulter may not compete at the same competition at more than one (1) level of National Team Event.
   a) For purposes of Team Canter Event, vaulters shall carry the following classification:
      Class A
      i. A vaulter who holds a Gold medal
      ii. A vaulter who competes at or who has ever competed at Individual 3* or 2* Young Vaulter/Gold level at an AVA Recognized Competition
      Class B
      i. A vaulter who holds a Silver medal
      ii. A vaulter who competes at or who has ever competed at Individual 2* Silver level at an AVA Recognized Competition
      Class C
      i. A vaulter who holds a Copper or Bronze medal
      ii. A vaulter who is unrated
   b) No Class A vaulter may compete on a 1* C Team nor be the substitute.
   c) No more than two (2) Class A vaulters may compete on a 2* B Team, including the substitute.
   d) No more than two (2) Class B vaulters may compete on a 1* C Team including the substitute.
   e) A vaulter’s team classification (A, B or C) is as of the closing date of entries of the competition.
3. 1* Trot Division: No vaulter may hold a medal higher than a Trot medal, including the substitute. Vaulters may not compete elsewhere in the same competition at the canter.

Article 437. Team Compulsories.
1. In all team compulsories, each vaulter, including the substitute, must perform the Compulsories together.
2. Judged on:
   a) Performance
   b) Horse/General Impression Horse (90%)/General Impression (10%)
3. Time for the Compulsories is taken from the moment the first vaulter touches the grips, until the last vaulter to perform touches the ground in the dismount or at the end of the time limit. The Chief Judge will ring a bell signifying the end of time allowed. Compulsory exercises begun after the time limit will receive a score of zero (0).
4. Each of the six (6) team members plus the substitute must perform all compulsory exercises.
5. Each vaulter must vault in order, according to his number.
6. Each static compulsory exercise must be held for four (4) full strides.

Article 438. 3* A Team Compulsories
1. Time Limit: If a 3* 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.
2. Exercises:
   1) Vault On
   2) Flag
   3) Mill
   4) Scissors 1st Part
   5) Scissors 2nd Part
   6) Stand
   7) First Part of Flank, Mill back to seat a stride
   8) Swing off to Outside from seat astride

Article 439. 2* B Team Compulsories
1. Time Limit: If a 2* B 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.
2. Exercises:
   1) Vault On
   2) Basic Seat
   3) Flag
   4) Mill
   5) Scissors 1st Part
   6) Scissors 2nd Part
   7) Stand
   8) First Part of Flank, Push off to Inside

Article 440. 1* C Team Compulsories
1. Time Limit: If a 1* 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 a 1* C Team, he must perform the Compulsory Test and the maximum time allowed for the performance is six (6) minutes.
2. Exercises:
   1) Vault On
   2) Basic Seat
   3) Flag
   4) Stand
   5) Swing Forward legs closed
   6) 1/2 Mill
   7) Swing Backward legs open, followed by dismount to inside (quarter mill around to inside off)

Article 441. 1* Trot Team Compulsories
1. Time Limit: If a 1* Trot 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.
2. Exercises:
   1) Vault On
   2) Basic Seat
   3) Flag
   4) Stand
   5) Swing Forward legs closed
   6) 1/2 Mill
   7) Swing Backward legs open, followed by dismount to inside (quarter mill around to inside off)

Article 442. Canter Team Freestyle.
1. A Freestyle routine of four (4) minutes maximum is performed by the team of six (6) vaulters. Only six (6) vaulters are allowed to enter the arena for Team Freestyle.
2. The team coach must declare to competition management, by the time specified by competition management, which members of the team will perform in Freestyle. The vaulters team numbers for Freestyle must remain the same as their numbers used for Compulsories.
3. All team members as declared by the coach must perform in the Freestyle or the team will be penalized under Artistic and General Impression. (See Article 503.2 and 503.4)
4. Freestyle time begins when the first vaulter touches the grips and ends when the bell rings to indicate the end of time allowed, or when the last vaulter touches the ground.
5. Over weighting or overloading the horse will be penalized under Artistic. (See Article 503.2)
6. No more than three (3) vaulters may be on the horse at any time, or in any exercise whether actually on the horse or not. (See Article 504.2.i)
7. There must be at least two (2) vaulters in contact with the horse during any triple exercise for the exercise to be counted.
8. Each static Freestyle exercise must be held for three (3) full strides in order to be counted in Degree of Difficulty. A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change. The count for each exercise commences when the final position is attained.
9. Falls:
   a) Vaulter(s) may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue.
   b) The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
   c) The clock will be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the first vaulter touches the grips.
10. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

**Article 443. Trot Team Freestyle.**
1. A Freestyle routine of three (3) minutes maximum is performed by the team of six (6) vaulters.
2. Vaulters must stay in contact with the horse or each other. Ground jumps and unsupported leaps are not allowed and will receive a deduction in the Artistic score. (See Article 503.2)
3. Only E dismounts which land facing forward are allowed (See Article 503.2)
4. All other rules from Canter Team Freestyle apply.
5. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

**Article 444. 3* A Team Freestyle:**
1. Degree of Difficulty (DOD):
   a) Only the twenty-five (25) exercises with the highest DOD will be scored.
   b) Value is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficult (D) Ex.</td>
<td>0.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (M) Ex.</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy (E) Ex.</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Difficulty</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Article 445. 2* B Team Freestyle:**
1. A maximum of six (6) static triples are allowed. (See Article 503.2).
2. Degree of Difficulty (DOD):
   a) Only the twenty (20) exercises with the highest DOD will be scored.
   b) Value is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Difficulty</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficult (D) Ex.</td>
<td>0.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (M) Ex.</td>
<td>0.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easy (E) Ex.</td>
<td>0.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. Judged on:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Difficulty</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Article 446. 1* C Team Freestyle**
1. A maximum of six (6) static triples are allowed. (See Article 503.2).
2. There is no Degree of Difficulty score.
3. The performance of all freestyle exercises will be evaluated.
4. Judged on:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Article 447. 1* Trot Team Freestyle**

1. A maximum of six (6) static triples are allowed. (See Article 503.2).
2. There is no Degree of Difficulty score.
3. The performance of all freestyle exercises will be evaluated.
4. Judged on:

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
<td>X2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>X3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>X1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER V. SCORING


AL - Alignment
A/L - Arm & Leg
AB - Arched Back
A - Arms
B - Balance
C - Collapse
CD - Come Down
CT - Control
D - Dismount
DL - Down Leg
E - Elevation
X - Extension
O - Fall
OD - Fall on Dismount
FT - Feet
FL - Flight
F - Form
FK - Frog Kick
FH - Front High
GJ - Ground Jump
HZ - Hands
HM - Harmony
H - Head
HH - Hit Horse
HK - Hook
INT - Interruption
K - Kneel
KZ - Knees
LH - Lands Heavily
LD - Late Dismount
LT - Late Turn
L - Legs
LA - Legs Apart
LF - Legs Forward
MX - Mechanics
M - Mount
NT - No Turn
NC - Not Clear of Horse
NH - Not Held
OC - Off Center
OH - Off Horse
PD - Pad
PT - Partial Turn
PK - Pike
PL - Poor Landing
P - Posture
PB - Push Back
Q - Quick
R - Repeat
SC - Scope
SK - Security
SH - Shoulders
SS - Side Seat
SL - Slow
ST - Stiff
SX - Stretch
SP - Suppleness
TW - Time Wasted
T - Timing
TZ - Toes
TG - Touched Ground
TH - Touched Horse
TI - Turned In
UE - Uneven Elevation
UR - Uneven Rhythm
W - Wrap

COMMENTS FOR HORSE SCORE:

BH - Behavior
LW – Lunger Walking
CS - Circle Size
SB - Submission
GT – Gait
TM - Tempo

Article 502. Points and Values.

10 - Excellent
9 - Very Good
8 - Good
7 - Fairly good
6 - Satisfactory
5 - Marginal
4 - Insufficient
3 - Fairly Poor
2 - Poor
1 - Very Poor
0 - Not Performed (or as a result of deductions)

1. Scoring may be in tenths for all events including medal examinations. The maximum score is 10.0
2. Scores are rounded to the third decimal.
3. For further information about scoring particular events, see Section 503 – 504 of this chapter. See also Standing Rules, Section VIII Recognized Competitions – E. Scoring.
**Article 503. Penalties and Deductions.**

1. **Compulsory Penalties and Deductions:**

**Applies to All Compulsory Exercises**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Penalty Type</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 point deduction</td>
<td>• Interfering with the lunge line or side reins.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Up to 2 point deduction | • Time wasted: more than two (2) strides between taking grips and vaulting on, before commencing an exercise, and between parts of an exercise.  
• Landing heavily on horse’s back |
| 2 point deduction | • Exercise fails, repeating an exercise or part of an exercise          |
| Score of Zero (0) | • Coming off horse during a compulsory exercise                        
• Retaking the grips twice  
• A compulsory exercise, no part of which is performed at the required gait  
• Each compulsory exercise not performed  
• A compulsory exercise shown out of order.  When two compulsories are transposed, the first exercise out of order receives the zero  
• In Team Events, exercises begun after the time limit.  |

**Mount**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Penalty Type</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 point deduction</td>
<td>• Repeating Mount (first attempt unsuccessful, second attempt successful)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Score of Zero (0) | • Repeating Mount (attempting to mount twice but not successful; third attempt is successful, but receives the zero)  
• In Team Events, after third unsuccessful attempt to mount, the vaulter returns to the line and receives a zero for all compulsory exercises. The next team member proceeds |

**Elimination**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• In Individual Events, after third unsuccessful attempt to mount, the vaulter is excused from the ring.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Flag**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Penalty Type</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 point deduction | • Each stride less than four (4)                                         
• Touching neck without loss of form  
• No kneel (both knees) before Flag.  
• Arm and leg not raised simultaneously in flag. |
| 2 point deduction | • Retaking the grips                                                    |

**Mill and Half Mill**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Penalty Type</th>
<th>Actions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1 point deduction | • Each passing of the leg out of a 4-count rhythm in the Mill, including the dismount.  
• Rhythm failure between the first and second leg pass in Half-Mill |
| Up to 2 point deduction | • Buttocks leaving horse during any phase of the Mill or Half Mill |
| 2 point deduction | • Touching horse with hand behind surcingle in Mill or Half-Mill’ |
**Scissors 1st Part and 2nd Part**

| Score of Zero (0)                          | • Turning wrong way in the Scissors 1st part or Scissors 2nd part. |
| 2 point deduction                        | • Repeating the exercises after failed attempt |

**Stand**

| 1 point deduction                        | • Each stride less than four (4)   |
| 2 point deduction                        | • No kneel (both knees) before Stand. |

**Flank**

| Up to 1 point deduction                  | • Each landing other than on both feet. |
| 2 point deduction                        | • Repeating the exercises after failed attempt |

**Swing Forwards and Swing Backwards**

| 1 Point deductions                       | • Legs not closed in Swing Forwards   |
| 2 point deduction                        | • Legs not open in Swing Backwards   |

| 2 point deduction                        | • Repeating the exercises after failed attempt |

2. Freestyle and Technical Test Penalties and Deductions:

**Performance**

| Up to 1 point deduction                  | • In Team Events, for each landing other than on both feet (See FEI Guidelines 4.5.1 Performance Falls for definition and deductions). |
| 1 point deduction                        | • In 3* Individual Technical Test and 2* Young Vaulter/Gold, each stride held less than three (3) for Technical Exercises. |
| Up to 2 point deduction                  | • Falls (See FEI Guidelines 4.5.1 Performance Falls for definition and deductions). |
Artistic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Up to 1 point deduction</th>
<th>• In all Events, any Freestyle and/or Technical Test that is at least 6 seconds short.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| 1 point deduction       | • In all Events, any exercise (including the dismount) commenced after the time limit (Article 207.1)  |
|                        | • In Individual 1* Copper, 1* Trot, 1* Preliminary Pas de Deux, 1* Trot Pas de Deux, and 1* Trot Team for performing a dismount with a DOD or R, D, or M.  |
|                        | • In 2* B Team, 1* C Team, and 1* Trot Team for performing more than six (6) static triples. |

| Up to 2 point deduction | • In Team Event, overweighting and/or overloading the horse. |

| 2 point deduction       | • In Team Event, each vaulter not performing at least one (1) exercise in addition to the vault-on in Team Freestyle.  |
|                        | • Ground jumps and leaps in Individual 1* Copper, Individual 1* Trot Event, 1* Canter Pas de Deux, 1* Trot Pas de Deux, and 1* Trot Team. |

| Not scored              | • Each static exercise held for less than three (3) strides at the required gait  |
|                        | • Compulsory exercises  |
|                        | • An exercise no part of which is performed at the required gait  |
|                        | • Repetition of any exercise  |
|                        | • In Team Event, a triple exercise in which two (2) vaulters are not in contact with the horse |

Horse Penalties and Deductions

| Judges Discretion       | • Lack of balance  |
|                        | • Not straight on the circle  |
|                        | • Impure gaits  |
|                        | • Uneven and/or unlevel  |
|                        | • Poor condition  |
|                        | • Overloading, laboring, signs of discomfort  |
|                        | • Circle size |

General Impression Penalties and Deductions

| Up to 1 point deduction | • Audible instruction to vaulters  |
|                        | • Lunging and presentation |

| 1 point deduction       | • In Team Event, each team member not wearing a number. |

| Up to 2 point deduction | • Lunging on a circle significantly deviant from 13 to 15 meters (circle size) |

| Up to 4 point deduction | • Vaulter, lunger or horse inappropriately turned out  |
|                        | • Side reins forcing a horse’s head behind the vertical  |
|                        | • All six (6) vaulters on a team not performing in the Freestyle  |
|                        | • Manes not braided or roached |

**Article 504. Elimination. Team, Individual and Pas de Deux Events**

In the event of elimination, the judge should state his reason on the score sheet.

If a team or individual vaulter is eliminated for an infraction of the rules during any section of the event, that team or individual(s) may compete in the other sections of the event and receive awards and placings in those sections. However, they may not receive overall awards or placings.
In individual competition, if a horse is excused for misbehavior, and a vaulter has touched the horse or grips to begin his performance, the vaulter is eliminated. Vaulters also in the arena waiting to perform on that horse may be allowed to compete at a later time, on a different horse, at the discretion of the competition management and in accordance with the rules. The horse is excused from that class only, and may return if entered in later classes.

1. Individual
   a) In Individual Event, if vaulter enters circle before previous vaulter begins vault off, entering vaulter will be eliminated.

2. Team
   a) In National Team Event, entering the ring with more or less than a lunger, team of six (6) and one (1) substitute for the compulsory section.
   b) In Team Event, entering the ring with more or less than a lunger and a team of six (6) for the freestyle section.
   c) In Team Event, the substitute enters the ring but does not perform the Compulsories.
   d) In Team 2-Phase Event, entering the ring with more or less than a lunger, team of four (4) and one (1) substitute for the compulsory section.
   e) In Team 2-Phase Event, entering the ring with more or less than a team of four (4) for the barrel freestyle section.
   f) In Team 2-Phase Event, the substitute enters the ring but does not perform the Compulsories.
   g) In Team Event, approaching the horse without the purpose of mounting.
   h) Illegal use of substitute.
   i) More than three (3) vaulters on the horse at any one time or in any exercise whether actually on the horse or not.

3. All Events
   a) Horse that is uneven and/or un-level, in bad condition or which shows signs of discomfort or fatigue
   b) Abuse of the horse
   c) An unforeseen circumstance
   d) After the maximum number of vaulters allowed to use the horse in any day, all additional vaulters who performed on the horse will be disqualified from the class(es) in which the violation occurred
   e) Use of non-allowable equipment
   f) Team or vaulter not saluting the Chief Judge within one (1) minute of the judge’s signal to enter
   g) Vaulter leaves the arena without saluting the Judge at A (unless excused by judge).
   h) Team or vaulter not commencing the performance within thirty (30) seconds of the judge’s signal to begin
   i) Spotting and/or boosting from the ground
   j) Unauthorized assistance not specified elsewhere
   k) Use of dress other than defined

Article 505.  3* Individual, 2* Young Vaulter/Gold, 2* Silver and 1* Bronze Event Scoring.
1. 3* Individual:
   a) Compulsory section (Score 1):
      • The eight (8) compulsory scores and the Horse/General Impression score are added and the total is divided by nine (9).
   b) Technical Test Section (Score 2)
      | Five (5) Performance Scores added together and divided by 5 | 50% |
      | Artistic | 25% |
      | Performance | 10% |
      | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%) | 15% |
      • The four (4) scores are totaled.
   c) Freestyle section (Score 3):
      | Degree of Difficulty | 15% |
      | Artistic | 25% |
      | Performance | 40% |
      | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%) | 20% |
      • The four (4) Freestyle scores are totaled.
d) Final score:
   • All three (3) scores are added together and divided by three (3) to produce the final score.

2. 2* Young Vaulter/Gold
   a) Compulsory section (Score 1):
      • The eight (8) compulsory scores and the Horse/General Impression score are added and
        the total is divided by (9).
   b) Technical Test Section (Score 2)
      | Three (3) Performance Scores added together and divided by 3 | 50% |
      | Artistic                                                  | 25% |
      | Performance                                                | 10% |
      | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)                    | 15% |
      • The four (4) Freestyle scores are totaled.
   c) Freestyle Section (Score 3)
      | Degree of Difficulty                                       | 15% |
      | Artistic                                                  | 25% |
      | Performance                                                | 40% |
      | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)                    | 20% |
      • The four (4) Freestyle scores are totaled.

3. 2* Silver and 2* Bronze:
   a) Compulsory section (Score 1 and Score 3):
      • The eight (8) compulsory scores and the Horse/General Impression score are added and the total is divided by nine (9).
   b) Freestyle section (Score 2):
      | Degree of Difficulty                                       | 15% |
      | Artistic                                                  | 25% |
      | Performance                                                | 40% |
      | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)                    | 20% |
      • The four (4) Freestyle scores are totaled.
   c) Final score:
      • All three (3) scores are added together and divided by three (3) to produce the final score.

Article 506. Individual 1* Copper and Individual 1* Trot Event Scoring
1. Compulsory section (Score 1)
   a) The seven (7) Compulsory scores and the Horse/General Impression score are added and the total is divided by eight (8).
2. Freestyle section (Score 2)
   | Artistic                                                  | X2  |
   | Performance                                                | X3  |
   | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)                    | X1  |
   • Total is divided by 6.
3. Final score:
   d) Scores 1 and 2 are added and divided by two (2) to produce the final score for the event.

Article 507. Pas de Deux Event Scoring–3* Open, and 2*.
1. 3* Open and 2* Freestyle I and II (Score 1 and 2 if offered):
   | Degree of Difficulty                                       | 15% |
   | Artistic                                                  | 25% |
   | Performance                                                | 40% |
   | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)                    | 20% |
   • The four (4) freestyle scores are totaled, and this is the score for the Freestyle section.
2. Final score (3* Open and 2*):
   a) Scores 1 and 2 (if offered) are added and divided by two (2) to produce the final score for the event if two (2) rounds are offered.
   b) If only one (1) round is offered the final score is the score for Freestyle I.

**Article 508. Pas de Deux Event Scoring—1* Preliminary and 1* Trot.**

1. Freestyle I and II (if offered):

   | Artistic | X2 |
   | Performance | X3 |
   | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%) | X1 |
   • Total is divided by six (6).

2. Final score:
   a) Scores 1 and 2 (if offered) are added and divided by two (2) to produce the final score for the event if two (2) rounds are offered.
   b) If only one (1) round is offered the final score is the score for Freestyle I.

**Article 509. Team Two-Phase Event Scoring.**

1. Compulsory section (Score 1):
   a) The compulsory scores of the four (4) vaulters are added creating a single score for each of the compulsory exercises.
   b) Open Team: the eight (8) compulsory score sums are averaged for the four (4) vaulters by adding each of the 8 scores together and dividing by four (4). The Horse/General Impression score is added to the resultant value and then the sum is divided by nine (9). This is the team’s score for the compulsory section.
   c) Preliminary Team: the seven (7) compulsory score sums are averaged for the four (4) vaulters by adding each of the seven (7) scores together and dividing by four (4). The Horse/General Impression score is added to the resultant value and then the sum is divided by eight (8). This is the team’s score for the compulsory section.

2. Barrel section (Score 2):

   | Artistic | X2 |
   | Performance | X3 |
   | General Impression (10%) | X1 |
   • Total is divided by six (6).

3. Final score:
   a) Scores 1 and 2 are added and divided by two (2) to produce the final score for the Event.

**Article 510. Team Event Scoring**

1. Compulsory section for all team events:
   a) The compulsory scores of the six (6) vaulters are added creating a single score for each of the compulsory exercises. In Recognized National Team Event, the vaulters whose scores are included are those declared by the team coach to perform in the Freestyle. The score for the vaulter who does not perform in the Freestyle is dropped.
   b) The compulsory score sums are averaged for the six (6) vaulters by adding each of the scores together and dividing by six (6). The Horse/GI score is added to the resultant value and then the sum is divided by seven (7). This is the team’s score for the compulsory section.

2. Freestyle section: 3* A Team

   | Degree of Difficulty | 15% |
   | Artistic | 25% |
   | Performance | 40% |
   | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%) | 20% |
   • The four (4) Freestyle scores are totaled. This is the team’s score for the Freestyle section.

3. Freestyle section: 2* B Team

   | Degree of Difficulty | 15% |
   | Artistic | 25% |
   | Performance | 40% |
   | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%) | 20% |
   • The four (4) Freestyle scores are totaled. This is the team’s score for the Freestyle section.
4. Freestyle section: 1* C Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artistic</th>
<th>25%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The three (3) Freestyle scores are totaled. This is the team’s score for the Freestyle section.

5. Freestyle section: 1* Trot Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Artistic</th>
<th>X2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>X3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>X1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- The three (3) Freestyle scores are totaled and divided by six (6). This is the team’s score for the Freestyle section.

6. Final score:
   a) The team’s Compulsory score and Freestyle score are added and divided by two (2). This is the team’s final score for the event.

Article 511. Tie breakers.

1. 3* Individual, Gold, 2* Silver and 2* Bronze Events:
   a) Compulsory: Score for Basic Seat, Flag, etc. (3* Individual does not perform Basic Seat; therefore, the tie breaker begins with Flag).
   b) Freestyle: Score for Artistic then Performance;
   c) Technical Test: Score for Artistic, then Performance;
   d) Overall: Compulsory score

2. Individual Copper and Trot Events:
   a) Compulsory: Score for Basic Seat, Flag, etc. The Mount and Horse scores are not used.
   b) Freestyle: Score for Artistic then Performance.

3. Team Event (A and B)
   a) Compulsory: Sum of the six (6) vaulters’ scores for Basic Seat, then the sum for the Flag, etc. The mount and horse scores are not used.
   b) Freestyle: Score for Artistic then score for Performance;
   c) Overall: Compulsory score.

4. Team Event (1* C and 1* Trot)
   a) Compulsory: Sum of the six (6) vaulters’ scores for Basic Seat, then the sum for the Flag, etc. The mount and horse scores are not used.
   b) Freestyle: Score for Artistic then score for Performance;
   c) Overall: Compulsory score.

5. Pas de Deux Event:
   a) Freestyle: Score for Artistic, then score for Performance;
   b) Overall: Score for Artistic, then score for Performance.

6. Two Phase Team Event:
   a) Open Canter Compulsory: Sum of the four (4) vaulters’ scores for Basic Seat, then the sum for Flag, etc. The mount and horse scores are not used.
   b) Preliminary Canter Compulsory: Sum of the four (4) vaulters’ scores for Basic Seat, then the sum for Flag, etc. The mount and horse scores are not used.
   c) Barrel: Score for Artistic and then score for Performance.

7. Ties that cannot be broken as stated, remain ties.

8. For all events with two (2) or more judges, each judge’s scores shall be carried forward per the above.
CHAPTER VI. MEDALS

Article 601. General Rules. (See also Standing Rules, Section IX.)

1. Eligibility:
   a) Only registered vaulters of AVA and Individual Members in good standing may take medal exams.
   b) Affiliate members may take the Novice award only.
   c) All medal exam fees for each examinee must be paid prior to the start of the medal exam. No vaulter will be tested whose fee has not been received by the Medal Test Secretary or the examiner.

2. Examiner:
   a) All medal exams must be given by an AVA Recognized Judge.
   b) The Gold medal exam must be given by an International “I” Judge.

3. Format:
   a) Exams may be taken in any order.
   b) Full requirements for each exam must be taken regardless of how many exams are taken in one (1) day.
   c) Only the medal for the exam that was applied for may be awarded. (For example, Novice pins may not be awarded in lieu of failed Trot exams).
   d) When exams are taken to the right, all Freestyle moves must also be performed to the right.
   e) Horses may be changed at the discretion of the examiner. If a horse misbehaves or is uneven and/or un-level, in bad condition, or shows signs of discomfort or fatigue the examiner may stop the exam.
   f) Horses and/or lungers may be substituted between Compulsories and Freestyle, but not at any other time.
   g) Scoring, penalties and deductions are the same as in competitive events. The maximum score of each exercise is 10. Decimals are allowed.
   h) A vaulter may have two repeats to receive a passing or higher score. For all repeats a simple dismount (leg over neck to inside) is the proper dismount to use.
   i) If a vaulter passes an exam, the exam may not be retaken for a higher score. If a vaulter fails an exam, the exam may be retaken only once in the next 30-day period. An examination may be retaken the same day if the fees are paid there will be no late fee assessed.
   j) Compulsories are performed in the same format as in Individual Event.
   k) The Mount is not scored in any medal exams. Assisted Mounts are allowed only in Novice exams.
   l) In Bronze, Silver and Gold exams, not more than two (2) Freestyle exercises may be performed together without dismounting.
   m) Many freestyle exercises and their assigned Degree of Difficulty are listed in the current FEI Code of Points. If the exercise to be performed is not listed, contact the Medal Test Secretary for approval of the exercise.

NOTE: Until the AVA Rulebook indicates otherwise, the AVA will allow Trot, Copper and Novice pin tests to be done virtually. Tests may be conducted as live video session, or may be pre-recorded. For pre-recorded sessions if a vaulter needs to use any of the repeats available a new video must be submitted with the repeated exercises. Tests must be conducted (if live) or submitted (if recorded), including any repeats, no more than 30 days after the indicated test date. If pre-recorded, the video must have been recorded within one year prior to the test date, and may be either recorded specifically for the medal test or may be video from a previous competition or event. All other rules for Medal Tests still apply.

Article 602. Novice Award Requirements. Performed at walk, trot or canter to the left or to the right.

1. May be taken at three (3) gaits: Walk, trot and canter to the left and to the right.
2. The compulsory exercises to be performed are as in Trot Individual (see Art. 219).
3. The Mount is not scored for Novice award. An assisted mount is allowed for Novice award at all gaits. Vaulter must then perform the remaining six (6) compulsories with a minimum score of three (3) for each exercise.
4. Judged on:
   a) Correct mechanics: Half-Mill performed in the correct direction with attempted rhythm; Basic Seat, Flag and Stand held four (4) strides with arms out
   b) Demonstrate awareness of safety
5. Two (2) repeats allowed as for other medal exams.
6. Spotters are allowed, but if the spotter assists the vaulter in any way, except for the Mount, the exercise will fail. Exercise may be repeated as in (4) above.
7. If the form is so bad as to affect the basic mechanics, the exercise will fail.
8. Award may not be given commended or with honors.
9. Minimum passing score: 30%.
10. All other rules for medal exams apply.

**Article 603. Trot Medal Requirements. Performed at trot to the left or to the right.**
1. Trot medal may be taken in both directions.
2. The compulsory exercises to be performed are as in Trot Individual Event. (See Article 219)
3. The Mount is not scored for Trot exam. Vaulters must perform the six (6) remaining compulsory exercises.
4. The minimum score for all exercises is 5.0, except the minimum score for the Swing Forward is 4.5.
5. The total score of all exercises must average 50%.
6. No spotters allowed.
7. Minimum Passing Score: 50.00%
8. Award may not be given commended or with honors.

**Article 604. Copper Medal Requirements. Performed at canter to the left or to the right.**
1. Copper medal may be taken in both directions.
2. The compulsory exercises to be performed are as in Copper Individual Event. (See Article 216)
3. The Mount is not scored for Copper exam. Vaulters must perform the six (6) remaining compulsory exercises.
4. The minimum score for all exercises is 5.0, except the minimum score for the Swing Forward is 4.5.
5. The total score of all exercises must average 50%.
6. No spotters allowed.
7. Minimum Passing Score: 50.00%
8. Award may not be given commended or with honors.

**Article 605. Bronze Medal Requirements. Performed at canter to the left or to the right.**
1. Bronze medal may be taken in both directions.
2. The compulsory exercises to be performed are as in Bronze Individual Event (See Article 213).
3. The Mount is not scored for Bronze exam. Vaulters must perform the seven (7) remaining compulsory exercises and any four (4) Freestyle exercises having an assigned Degree of Difficulty M or E. (No Degree of Difficulty D’s are allowed.)
4. The minimum score for all exercises is 5.0.
5. Final score:
   - Satisfactory: 50.0% — 59.9%
   - Commended: 60.0% — 69.9%
   - With Honors: 70.0% — 100.0%

**Article 606. Silver Medal Requirements. Performed at canter to the left or to the right.**
1. Silver medal may be taken in both directions.
2. The compulsory exercises to be performed are as in Silver Individual Event (See Article 210.2)
3. The Mount is not scored for Silver exam. Vaulter must perform the remaining seven (7) compulsory exercises, and any six (6) Freestyle exercises having an assigned Degree of Difficulty R, D or M.
4. The total score of all exercises must average 65.0% with no exercise receiving less than a 6.0.
5. Final score:
   - Satisfactory: 65.0% — 69.9%
   - Commended: 70.0% — 79.9%
   - With Honors: 80.0% — 100.0%

**Article 607. Gold Medal Requirements. Performed at canter to the left or to the right.**
1. Gold medal may be taken in both directions.
2. The compulsory exercises to be performed are as in Gold Individual Event (See Article 210.1)
3. The Mount is not scored for Gold exam. Vaulter must perform the remaining eight (8) compulsory exercises and any eight (8) Freestyle exercises having an assigned Degree of Difficulty R or D.
4. The total score of all exercises must average 80.0%, with no exercise scoring less than 7.5.
5. Final score:
   - Satisfactory: 80.0% — 82.9%
   - Commended: 83.0% — 85.9%
   - With Honors: 86.0% — 100.0%
CHAPTER VII. JUDGES

1. International Judge “I”:
   a) International Judges “I” may judge all levels of medal exams.
   b) International Judges may judge all recognized competitions.
2. Registered Judges “R”:
   a) Registered “R” Judges may judge all levels of medal exams except Gold.
   b) Registered “R” Judges may judge all recognized competitions.
3. Recorded Judges “r”:
   a) Recorded “r” Judges may judge all levels of medal exams except Gold.
   b) Recorded “r” Judges may judge all recognized competitions.

1. Active status:
   a) Recognized Judges must maintain Individual Membership in good standing throughout the calendar year.
   b) Judges must attend the AVA Judges Forum each year and a minimum of one (1) additional training each year, and/or the equivalent as determined by the Technical Committee.
   c) A judge may not have outstanding debts to the AVA.
2. Inactive status:
   a) A judge who does not fulfill the above requirements will be placed on inactive status and may not judge until reinstated.
   b) A notice will be sent to the judge placed on inactive status.
   c) A judge placed on inactive status may be required to take a written test before reinstatement.
   d) The judge may be reinstated upon fulfillment of the above requirements.

Article 703. Promotion to International Judge “I”.
1. Eligibility:
   a) Advancement to International Judge “I” requires the approval of the AVA Technical Committee.

Article 704. Promotion to Registered Judge “R”.
1. Applicant must attend a minimum of eight (8) judges’ general training sessions, after their promotion to Recorded “r” status, two (2) of which must be AVA Judges Forums. In addition, special training sessions may be assigned to any or all applicants depending on experience.
2. Applicant must have judged a minimum of six (6) AVA Recognized Competitions, four (4) of which he/she must have served as Chief Judge for the entire competition;
3. Applicant must have judged a minimum of four (4) USEF Recognized Competitions, two (2) of which he/she must have served as Chief Judge for all USEF Recognized Events offered.
4. Advancement to Registered Judge “R” requires approval of Technical Committee.
5. Applicant must pass a written and or practical exam, generally given at Annual Judges Forum.
6. A fee is required on promotion to Registered Judge “R”.

Article 705. Certification as an AVA Recorded Judge “r”.
1. Applicant must attend a minimum of eight (8) judges general training sessions, two (2) of which must be AVA Judges Forums. In addition, special training sessions may be assigned to any or all applicants depending on experience.
2. Applicant must clerk or time with a Recognized Judge for all types of recognized events. Applicant must fulfill this requirement with a minimum of three (3) different Recognized Judges. Applicant is responsible for maintaining and submitting a record of the clerking and timing hours to the Technical Committee Chair.
   a) Recognized Team Events
   b) Recognized Individual Events
   c) Recognized Pas de Deux Events
3. Applicant must have experience as a clerk during medal exams.
4. Applicant must pass a written and/or practical exam.
5. A fee is required on promotion to Recorded Judge “r”.
Article 706. Apprentice Program.

1. Eligibility:
   a) Applicant must be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
   b) Applicant must have been an active Individual Member, in good standing for at least two (2) years.
   c) Applicant must have attended at least one (1) National Championships, two (2) Open Board Meetings, and one (1) designated Open Judges Forum, prior to application. Technical Committee shall make every attempt to offer an Open Judges Forum at the Education Symposium each year. Additional Open Forums may also be offered by the Technical Committee during the year.
   d) Applicant must have experience as
      • A clerk at an AVA Recognized Competition
      • A timer at an AVA Recognized Competition

2. Application:
   a) Applicants must submit a completed application form to the Chairman of the Technical Committee along with the required application fee of $100.00. This application must be on the official form and may be submitted by email, mailing or hand delivery.
   b) The following information is requested of the applicants:
      i. Reason for wanting to be a judge
      ii. Opinion of a judge’s responsibilities
      iii. Length of time involved in the sport and in what capacities
      iv. Basic experience:
         • As a vaulter
         • As a coach or instructor
         • As a worker/administrator at competitions, fests, medal exams, annual meetings (committee work) and judges forums
         • As a clerk or timer
         • Judging experience in any other field
      v. Names and addresses of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) character references, three (3) Registered “R” or “I” Judges, and a minimum of three (3) and a maximum of five (5) other AVA Individual Members who are not affiliated with the applicant’s club (if any). Nine (9) references, including all three “R” or “I” Judge references, a minimum of three (3) character references and a minimum of three (3) AVA Individual Member references must be completed and returned before the application will be considered.
   c) If candidate is unknown to any Registered “R” Judge (for reasons such as residence in an inactive region), their application will be given special consideration by the screening panel.

3. Procedure:
   a) Applications will be accepted anytime during the calendar year.
   b) The Technical Committee will review applications when received.
   c) Applicants will be notified of the decision by the Technical Committee Chair within sixty (60) days of receipt.
   d) Applicants must then pass a written exam prior to attending any official judge’s training.
   e) Applicants who are not accepted into the program may reapply the following year.

4. Rules for Apprentice Judges:
   a) Apprentices must maintain Individual Membership in good standing throughout the calendar year. A member in good standing is one:
      i. Who has paid current AVA dues by February 1st
         • Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the Apprentice Program.
      ii. Who has no outstanding debts to the AVA
   b) Must attend training sessions
   c) Must complete the Apprentice Judge Program in three (3) years; one (1) request for a one-year extension of time may be granted by Technical Committee upon written request of the Apprentice Judge.
   d) May not judge any medal exams
   e) May not judge recognized national events, except at non recognized competitions.

CHAPTER VIII. PROTESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Article 801. Protests.

1. Rules:
a) May be concerned only with infractions of the rules as published in the AVA Rule Book
b) May not be made against the judge’s scoring or judging
   • The judge’s decision, representing his individual preference, is final.
c) May be submitted only by members of the AVA in good standing
   • If the protesting party is other than a team coach, and is affiliated with a team, the protest
     must be co-signed by the coach of that team.
d) The protest must be submitted prior to the close of the competition.

2. Procedures:
   a) Must be submitted on an official AVA Protest form, available from the show manager
   b) Must be completely filled out, signed and returned to the show manager in a sealed envelope
   c) Must be accompanied by a fee, refundable only if the protest is upheld
   d) The protest will be submitted (sealed) to the President of the Ground Jury, who is the Chief Judge.
   e) The Ground Jury shall make an on-the-spot ruling. In the absence of a Ground Jury, the Chief
      Judge may, in their best judgment, do one (1) of the following:
      • Make an on-the-spot ruling
      • Refer the protest to the Technical Committee within seventy-two (72) hours for a ruling
   f) On-the-spot decisions by the Ground Jury or the Chief Judge are final and may not be protested.
   g) On-the-spot decisions will not be negated by later rules; however, these decisions do not establish
      a precedent for later rulings.
   h) The decision of the Ground Jury or Chief Judge will be recorded on the AVA Official Protest form,
      signed and the show manager will be notified of the decision.
   i) All protests will be mailed by the Chief Judge or the President of the Ground Jury to the Chairman
      of the AVA Technical Committee.
   j) The protesting party will be notified of the decision.
   k) All protests will be kept on file.

Article 802. Grievances.
1. Rules:
   a) May be concerned only with a complaint which is not governed by a rule
   b) May be submitted only by a Individual Member of the AVA in good standing
   c) May pertain only to incidents which occur during an AVA activity
   d) May not be made against the judge’s scoring or judging
      • The judge’s decision, representing his/her individual preference, is final.

2. Procedures:
   a) Must be submitted on an official AVA Grievance form, available from the Show Manager
   b) Must be completely filled out, signed, and filed with the President of the AVA within seventy-two (72)
      hours of the alleged incident
   c) Must be accompanied by the required fee; half of which will be refunded if the grievance is upheld
   d) Within fifteen (15) days of the receipt of the official grievance, the President shall:
      • Notify, in writing, the parties accused in the alleged incident
      • Submit the grievance to the Chairman of Grievance Committee for investigation
   e) The Grievance Committee shall have prepared within sixty (60) days or by the next Board of
      Directors meeting, whichever comes first, a written review of the alleged incident which shall
      include:
      • Signed statements of witnesses
      • Any written documentation
      • All facts garnered
   f) The written review, including all statements and documents, and the recommendation of the
      Grievance Committee, shall be submitted to the President of the AVA for presentation to the Board
      of Directors for a decision.
   g) The parties accused of the alleged incident shall be notified in writing at least thirty (30) days prior
      to the Board of Directors meeting that the Board will be reviewing the matter of the Grievance in a
      closed session, and that they may be present and be heard by the Board during the Board’s review.
      The parties accused may also submit a written statement to the Board via the President of the AVA,
      if they so choose.
   h) If the grievance lacks sufficient merit, or the Grievance Committee is unable to garner sufficient
      supporting evidence, the Board may move to dismiss the allegation and take no action.
   i) The accused parties and the parties filing the grievance shall receive written notification of the
      decision of the Board within ten (10) days after the Board of Directors meeting.
   j) The matter of the grievance and the decision of the Board may be published in Equestrian Vaulting
      Magazine within ninety (90) days.
CHAPTER IX. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULE BOOK

Article 901. Procedures.

1. Any registered member of the AVA in good standing may submit recommendations for amendments to the AVA Rule Book to the Chairman of the Technical Committee.

2. All recommendations must be submitted in writing and include the following information:
   a) Page and section(s) to be amended
   b) Suggestions for recommended wording
   c) Specific reason for the requested amendment, including examples, if possible

3. All recommendations will be reviewed by the Technical Committee.

4. Action taken by the Technical Committee to amend the AVA Rule Book will be submitted to the Board of Directors for review and approval.

5. All rule changes will be published in Equestrian Vaulting Magazine and/or the AVA Blast and will become effective on the date specified.
The following guidelines are suggestions only for conduct of unrecognized events, not rules to which competition management must adhere. The AVA does not govern unrecognized events. Competition management may alter events to meet local or regional needs and interests.

Unrecognized classes that are offered at AVA Recognized Competitions, during the recognized competition hours, must adhere to certain AVA Rules (see Standing Rules, Section VIII.F.1). Unless otherwise specified, all applicable rules (including Horse Use), deductions and penalties from the rules for AVA National Recognized Events apply.

Work on the Barrel is considered to be preparation for work on the Horse and all barrel classes should follow the rules of the corresponding horse event, unless specified differently in the Prize List.

CHAPTER X. ELIGIBILITY AND AWARDS

Article 1001. Eligibility.
1. At AVA Recognized Competitions, vaulters, coaches and lungers must be registered members of the AVA in good standing.

Article 1002. 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 XI. INDIVIDUAL BARREL EVENTS

Article 1101. Individual Canter Barrel
1. May be divided into Open and Preliminary.
   a) Open—Any Canter vaulter.
   b) Preliminary—May not hold a Silver or Gold medal or be competing at the 2* Silver, 2* Young Vaulter/Gold or Individual 3* level.
2. Consists of one (1) round of Freestyle
3. May be divided into Men’s and Women’s divisions.

Article 1102. Individual Trot Barrel
1. Consists of one (1) round of Freestyle
2. Open to trot medaled vaulters or below
3. May be divided into Men’s and Women’s divisions.

Article 1103. Canter and Trot Barrel Freestyle.
1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
2. Judged on:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tr>
<td>Artistic</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>X3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Impression</td>
<td>X1</td>
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3. Falls:
a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute.
b) The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
3. See AVA Rules, Chapter V, Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER XII. PRELIMINARY HORSE EVENTS

Article 1201. Individual Preliminary Canter Horse
1. Consists of one (1) round of Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections at the canter to the left.
2. Open to non-medaled vaulters; Novice Canter pin holders allowed.
3. May be divided into Men’s and Women’s divisions.

Article 1202. Preliminary Canter Horse Compulsories.
1. There is no score for the mount and assisted mounts are REQUIRED, with no deductions. The assisted mount may be given at any gait, including the standstill. All compulsory exercises are performed without dismounts.
2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
3. No time limit
4. Preliminary Canter 1* Compulsories:
   1) Basic Seat
   2) Flag
   3) Stand
   4) Swing Forward legs closed
   5) 1/2 Mill
   6) Swing Backward legs open, followed by dismount to inside (quarter mill around to inside off)
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.

Article 1203. Preliminary Canter Freestyle
1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises. There is no score for the mount and assisted mounts are REQUIRED, with no deductions.
   a) Vaulter MUST stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse (including hop from knees to feet) are NOT allowed.
      * Two (2) points are deducted from the Artistic score for ground jumps or leaps above the horse.
   b) Only dismounts chosen from the List of Dismounts shown in Appendix D of this Rule Book are allowed.
      * One (1) point is deducted from the Artistic score for any dismount that is not an E that lands facing forward.
2. Judged on:
   | Artistic      | X2 |
   | Performance   | X3 |
   | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%) | X1 |
3. Falls:
   a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute.
   b) The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
4. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring, for penalties and deduction

Article 1204. Individual Preliminary Trot Horse
1. Consists of one (1) round of Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections at the trot to the left.
2. Open to non-medaled vaulters; Novice Trot pin holders allowed.
3. May be divided into Men’s and Women’s divisions.
Article 1205. Preliminary Trot Horse Compulsories.

1. There is no score for the mount and assisted mounts are REQUIRED, with no deductions. The assisted mount may be given at any gait, including the standstill. All compulsory exercises are performed without dismounts.
2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
3. No time limit
4. Preliminary Trot 1* Compulsories:
   1) Basic Seat
   2) Flag
   3) Stand
   4) Swing Forward legs closed
   5) 1/2 Mill
   6) Swing Backward legs open, followed by dismount to inside (quarter mill around to inside off)

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.

Article 1206. Preliminary Trot Freestyle

1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises. There is no score for the mount and assisted mounts are REQUIRED with no deductions. The assisted mount may be given at any gait, including the standstill.
   a) Vaulter MUST stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse (including hop from knees to feet) are NOT allowed.
      i. Two (2) points are deducted from the Artistic score for ground jumps or leaps above the horse.
   b) Only dismounts chosen from the List of Dismounts shown in Appendix D of this Rule Book are allowed.
      i. One (1) point is deducted from the Artistic score for any dismount that is not an E that lands facing forward.

2. Judged on:

   | Artistic  | X2 |
   | Performance | X3 |
   | Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%) | X1 |

3. Falls:
   a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute.
   b) The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
4. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

Article 1204. Preliminary Trot Team 2-Phase

1. This event is performed in two (2) separate sections.
   a) Two-Phase Phase 1 is 1* compulsories and is performed on the horse to the right; Phase 2 is a Freestyle and is performed on the barrel.
   b) Teams shall consist of four (4) vaulters plus a substitute and lunger.

Article 1205. Phase 1 — Horse.

1. Four (4) team members must perform all six (6) 1* compulsories at trot to the right. If a substitute enters the ring, he/she must also perform the Compulsories. There is no score for the mount and assisted mounts are REQUIRED, with no deductions. The assisted mount may be given at any gait, including the standstill. All compulsory exercises are performed without dismounts.
2. Each of the exercises are performed as in 1* Trot Team Event, except that the exercises are mirror-images of the exercises to the left.
3. No time limit.
4. All rules which apply to the Compulsory section of Trot Team Event also apply to this phase.

Article 1206. Phase 2 — Barrel.

1. Three (3) minute Freestyle routine
2. All applicable rules as for 2-Phase Team Freestyle will apply. No other equipment or attachments to the barrel are allowed.
   a) Assisted mounts are allowed.
   b) No trampolines are allowed.
   c) No more than three (3) vaulters may be in any exercises at any time.
3. Judged on:

<table>
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<th>Artistic</th>
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<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>X3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Impression</td>
<td>X1</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring, for penalties and deductions

APPENDIX B

CHAPTER XIII. ELIGIBILITY AND AWARDS

Article 1301. Eligibility.
1. At AVA Recognized Competitions, vaulters, coaches and lungers must be registered members of the AVA in good standing.

Article 1302. Awards.
1. Appendix B classes are not offered at AVA National Championships.
2. All Appendix B classes that are judged by an AVA Recognized Judge may count towards high point or other Association Awards if offered.

CHAPTER XIV. D TEAM AND INDIVIDUAL EVENT

Article 1401. Requirements.
1. Consists of one (1) round of Compulsories and Freestyle performed at the walk, trot or canter to the left in separate sections.
2. The mount is not scored and assisted mounts are REQUIRED, with no deductions. The assisted mount may be given at any gait, including the standstill.

Article 1402. Eligibility.
1. Teams are comprised of 4-6 vaulters and lungers, must be members of a registered AVA Club in good standing.
2. Vaulters may not hold a canter medal for Canter D or trot medal for Trot D. Novice medals are allowed.

Article 1403. “D” Compulsories.
1. All seven (7) compulsory exercises are performed together as a unit each static position must be held four (4) strides.
   1) Modified Basic Seat
   2) Box
   3) Quarter Mill with Inside Side Seat
   4) Quarter Mill with Outside Side Seat
   5) Swing to Plank
   6) Modified Kneel, Scissor Down to Reverse Seat
   7) Swing to Reverse Plank with Quarter Mill Dismount to Inside
2. Team vaulters must vault in the order of their numbers.
3. Individual vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
4. No time limit for teams or individuals.
5. Judged on:
   a) Performance
5. Falls:
   a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.
6. Penalties and Deductions for D Compulsories:
   a) 1 point
      • Holding wrong handle in side seats
   b) Up to 2 points -
      • Little to no swing into box, plank and reverse plank.
   c) 2 points -
      • Wrong arm position in basic seat, side seats and kneel
      • Turning wrong way in scissors down from kneel
      • Performing an exercise out of order
      • Touching pad behind the horse with hand in Quarter Mill
   d) See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring for additional penalties and deductions.

Article 1404. D Freestyle
1. Team-
   a) A team consists of 4-6 members. All team members must perform at least one exercise.
   b) The time limit is three (3) minutes. Time begins when the first vaulter touches the handles and ends when the last vaulter touches the ground.
   c) The routine will consist of only single and doubles exercises.
   d) The routine may only consist of E and M exercises. Any R or D exercises performed will result in a two (2) point deduction from the Artistic score.
   e) Only E dismounts that land facing forward are allowed. D or M dismounts will result in a one (1) point deduction from the Artistic score.
2. Individuals-
   a) The time limit is (1) minute. Time begins when the vaulter touches the handles and ends when the vaulter touches the ground in the dismount.
   b) The routine may only consist of E and M exercises. Any R or D exercises performed will result in a two (2) point deduction from the Artistic score.
   c) Only E dismounts that land facing forward are allowed. D or M dismounts will result in a one (1) point deduction from the Artistic score.
3. Judged on:

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<tr>
<th>Artistic</th>
<th>X2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Performance</td>
<td>X3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse (90%) / General Impression (10%)</td>
<td>X1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHAPTER XV. PRELIMINARY TROT TEAM HORSE EVENT

Article 1501. Modified Preliminary Trot Team.
1. Consists of one (1) round of 1* compulsories as per Trot Team performed at trot to the left.
2. Teams may be comprised of four (4) to six (6) vaulters and a lunger.
3. Vaulters may not hold a trot or canter medal. A Novice pin is allowed.

Article 1502. Compulsories.
1. The compulsory exercises are performed in one block as per Individual Trot. There is no score for the mount and assisted mounts are REQUIRED, with no deductions. The assisted mount may be given at any gait, including the standstill.
2. Each vaulter performs the 1* Compulsories as follows:
   1) Basic Seat
   2) Flag
   3) Stand
   4) Swing Forward legs closed
   5) 1/2 Mill
   6) Swing Backward legs open, followed by dismount to inside (quarter mill around to inside off)
3. No spotters or unauthorized assistance (other than the mount)
4. No time limit
5. All static compulsory exercises must be held four (4) full trot strides.
6. Judged on:
   a) Performance
   b) Horse/General Impression
   c) Horse 90%
   d) General Impression 10%
7. AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

APPENDIX C

CHAPTER XVI. INDIVIDUAL NOVICE EVENTS

These guidelines follow American Vaulting Association rules as closely as possible for
novice classes. They are designed to help and encourage vaulters who are unable to vault
onto the horse without assistance. This may include, but is not limited to, handicap /special
needs vaulters. There are no age limits.

Article 1601. Eligibility for all events in Appendix C:
1. Vaulters must be a Youth or Adult Member of the AVA.
2. Vaulters may not hold any medals with the exception of the novice pin.

Article 1602. General Requirements for all events in Appendix C:
1. Vaulter must need an assisted mount onto the horse or onto the barrel. The mount is not scored.
2. Vaulters may have spotters present during compulsories and freestyle. Vaulters in Novice Trot and
   Advanced Walk will receive a deduction for assistance (other than the mount). No deductions will be given
   in Novice Walk and Novice Modified Walk for any assistance.

Article 1603. Novice Trot:
1. This event consists of one (1) round of 1* Compulsories and Freestyle performed at the trot to the left.
   a) 1* Compulsories are the same as the Individual 1* Trot event with the exception of the required
      assisted mount, which is not scored. Assistance of any compulsory exercise (with the exception of
      the mount) will result in a zero (0) for the assisted exercise.
   b) Freestyle is a one (1) minute routine of static and dynamic exercises. An assisted mount is
      required with no penalty. Assistance of any freestyle exercise will result in a deduction of two (2)
      points from the total performance score. Exercises chosen for freestyle should be limited to Degree
      of Difficulty M or E only (as defined in the current FEI Code of Points). Freestyle exercises other
      than M or E will result in a two (2) point deduction from Artistic.

Article 1604. Advanced Novice Walk:
1. This event consists of one (1) round of 1* compulsory and freestyle performed at the walk to the left.
   a) 1* Compulsories are the same as the Individual 1* Trot event with the exception of the required
      assisted mount, which is not scored. Assistance of any compulsory exercise (with the exception of
      the mount) will result in a zero (0) for the assisted exercise.
   b) Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises. An assisted
      mount is required with no penalty. Assistance of any freestyle exercise will result in a deduction of two (2)
      points from the total performance score. Exercises chosen for freestyle should be limited to Degree
      of Difficulty M or E only (as defined in the current FEI Vaulting Guidelines for Judges). Freestyle exercises other
      than M or E will result in a two (2) point deduction from Artistic.

Article 1605. Novice Walk:
1. This event consists of one (1) round of 1* Compulsories and Freestyle performed at the walk to the left.
   a) 1* Compulsories are the same as the Individual 1* Trot event with the exception of the required
      assisted mount, which is not scored. Vaulters may have spotters present and no deductions will be
      taken for any assistance and/or spotting.
b) **Freestyle** is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises. An assisted mount is required with no penalty. Vaulters may have spotters present and no deductions will be taken for any assistance and/or spotting. Exercises chosen for freestyle should be limited to Degree of Difficulty M or E only (as defined in the current *FEI Code of Points*). Freestyle exercises other than M or E will result in a two (2) point deduction from Artistic.

**Article 1606. Modified Novice Walk:**
1. This event consists of one (1) section of the three (3) compulsory exercises. Compulsories are performed in order after assisted mount: Basic Seat, 1/2 Flag and Free Kneel.
2. No freestyle is allowed at this level.
3. Vaulters may have spotters present and no deductions will be taken for any assistance and/or spotting.

**Article 1607. Novice Barrel.**
1. This event consists of compulsories and/or a one (1) minute Freestyle routine performed on the barrel.
   a) Vaulters may not hold a trot or canter medal. A Novice pin is allowed.
   b) No aerial exercises are allowed.
   c) No trampolines are allowed.
   d) No spotters are allowed.
   e) Judged on:

   | Artistic   | X2 |
   | Performance| X3 |
   | General Impression | X1 |

f) See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

**CHAPTER XVII. NOVICE PAIRS BARREL EVENT**

**Article 1701. Requirements**
1. This is a pairs event consisting of one (1) round of Freestyle performed on the barrel.
2. The freestyle is a two (2) minute routine (maximum)
3. The pair consists of one (1) handicapped/special needs vaulter and one (1) AVA trot or canter vaulter.
4. Judged on:

   | Artistic   | X2 |
   | Performance| X3 |
   | General Impression | X1 |

5. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.
ALLOWED DISMOUNTS FOR INDIVIDUAL 1* COPPER AND 1* TROT:
1. Simple Vault off (leg over neck to inside or to outside)
2. V-Sit off (any direction) landing facing forward
3. Slide off of inside or outside press – landing facing forward
4. Sliding off any seated, kneeling or lying exercise landing facing forward.
5. Any other Level E dismount that lands facing forward. Any Level E dismount landing in any other direction than forward will incur a deduction from the Artistic score.
6. Any R, D or M level dismount will incur a deduction from the Artistic score.
7. See AVA Rules Chapter V. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

DESCRIPTION OF “D” COMPULSORIES

MODIFIED BASIC SEAT
Essence:
• Harmony, balance, seat and posture
The vaulter sits astride, erect, and centered directly behind the surcingle, with legs down and in contact with the horse, forming a straight vertical line through the ear, shoulder, hip, and heel. The arms are extended and stretched forward with the tips of the fingers at eye level, keeping shoulders back (good posture). The vaulter should establish a seat, where two-thirds of the weight is distributed equally on the two seat bones and one-third is distributed down the legs.

Basic Scoring:
• Score of 10 - Three-point seat with torso upright, legs down and in contact with the horse, forming a straight vertical line through the ears, shoulders, hip and heel and following the horse’s movement perfectly. Arms out front, fingers at eye level.
• Score of 6 - Three-point seat with torso upright but with slight posture issues. The horse’s movement is absorbed satisfactory.
• Score of 5 - Extreme legs forward or “Chair Seat”
• Score of 4 - Extreme arched back and no weight on seat bones. Bracing of legs to keep from falling forward (Remember arms are forward). Classic forked seat.

Deductions –
• -2 Points: Wrong arm position in basic seat, side seats and kneel

BOX
Essence:
• Establishing good base of support for flag
From seat astride, the vaulter swings into box, with both legs simultaneously, landing first on the tops of the ankle and slowly lowering to the shin and knees. Legs are on either side of the horse’s spine with weight distributed evenly. Toes are pointed and conforming to the horse’s back. Shoulders are directly over the hands and at the same height as the hips, with the elbows close to the torso. Hips are nearly at a 90-degree angle from the torso to the upper leg and are directly above or slightly behind the knees. Head remains up facing forward.

Basic Scoring:
• Score of 10 - Vaulter swings upward, landing softly into box. Lower legs are completely against the pad and horse. Shoulders are at same level as hips and back is straight. Elbows are tucked in and head is lifted.
• Score of 8 - Shoulders are slightly higher than hips but back is still straight. Score of 6 - Shoulders clearly higher than hips with slight arching or rounding of the back. Some air under lower leg.
• Score of 4 - Shoulders well above hips. Arched back with lower legs off the horse. Elbows turned outward.

Deductions –
• Up to -2 Points: For little to no swing into Box, Swing to Forward Plank and Reverse Plank

QUARTER MILL TO INSIDE SIDE SEAT
Essence:
• Harmony, balance, seat and posture
From seat astride the vaulter makes a leg pass to the inside with the right leg completely stretched. The leg is carried over the horse in a high, wide arc (like a semi-circle), each handle is released and retaken in turn as the leg passes. The mill ends in inside seat with legs together and in contact with the horse. The upper body stays erect and centered. Head and body rotate with each pass of the leg. Both hip bones stay in contact with pad during entire exercise. There are no timing faults for the leg pass in the quarter mill.

The vaulter sits in an inside side seat with arm out for four (4) strides. The vaulter is facing at a right angle to the horse’s shoulder axis. The right hand is moved to the inside grip. The left hand is extended out laterally with the tips of the fingers level with eyes.

The right leg is carried back over the horse’s neck at a controlled pace. Leg stretches softly down to wrap. The exercise is completed with the vaulter sitting forward in seat astride.

Basic Scoring:

• Score of 10 - Leg is fully stretched and at or above 45 degrees as it passes over handles. Torso is nearly vertical with good posture. Vaulter maintains posture in inside side seat with arm out (and inside handle is being held). Legs are against horse and together.

• Score of 8 - Leg is slightly less than 45 degrees but is still stretched. Good form and posture are maintained throughout. Form is good in the side seat. Score of 6 - Slight loss of form and posture during leg pass and side seat. Legs slightly apart but still against horse. Satisfactory harmony in seat.

• Score of 4 - Poor form or posture. Elevation of leg is very low. Not able to properly sit in the side seat with arm out (lacking harmony in the side seat).

Deductions –

• -1 Point: Holding wrong handle in side seats
• -2 Points: Wrong arm position in basic seat, side seats and kneel
• -2 Points: Touching pad behind the horse in Quarter Mill

QUARTER MILL TO OUTSIDE SIDE SEAT

Same as above; except the left leg is carried over the horse’s neck to the outside and ending with the vaulter sitting in a sideways seat facing outside. The left hand moves to the outside handle and the right hand is extended laterally. Finally, the left leg is carried back over the horse’s neck, landing back in forward seat astride.

Base scoring and deductions the same as Mill to the Inside Side Seat

SWING TO FORWARD PLANK

Essence:

• Initiating swing, core strength and control

Stretching both legs forward, the vaulter swings through an arc in an upward direction. The upper body remains upright and the legs remain straight throughout the movement. Vaulter hovers momentarily above the horse before landing softly in plank with the tops of the feet together on the horse’s croup and shoulders in front of or directly above the hands. Body forms a stretched line from the top of the head to the hips and from the hips to the heels with a flat back. Legs are together and on either side of the horse’s spine. The shoulders are in front of the handles with the arms straight. The vaulter’s weight is mostly in the arms with the remainder on the stretched foot and ankle. After four strides, the vaulter bends the knees to begin modified kneel.

Basic Scoring:

• Score of 10 - Vaulter holds the stretched and slightly curved hollow body position without losing tension (sagging in middle). Arms remain straight and shoulders stay in front of handles. Legs are held together throughout exercise.

• Score of 8 - A brief loss of core tension during the exercise.

• Score of 6 - The slightly curved line is broken at the hips (slight arched back or flexed hip) but held steady. Legs slightly apart.

• Score of 4 - An extreme break in the back/hips or loss of core tension. Legs apart and/or knees bending.

Deductions –

• Up to -2 Points: For little to no swing into Box, Swing to Forward Plank and Reverse Plank

MODIFIED KNEEL, SCISSOR DOWN TO REVERSE SEAT

Essence:

• Balance, security and control

The vaulter slides the knees forward and directly under the hips with the lower legs angled slightly outward. The vaulter’s weight remains evenly distributed along the lower legs. Upon releasing handles the arms are extended and stretched forward with the tips of the fingers at eye level. The hips press forward into a kneeling position, forming a straight line between the head, shoulders, hips, and knees.
After four strides, the vaulter takes the grips with both hands simultaneously, then shifts weight forward and over the hands. Vaulter straightens legs, lifting hips into the air momentarily, then crosses the outside leg in front of the inside leg, turning the hips to the inside, and slides down to reverse seat. Vaulter maintains in controlled contact with horse from the ankles through the knees and seat.

**Basic Scoring:**
- Score of 10 - Kneeling directly behind surcingle with lower legs flat, knees together and feet slightly apart. Straight line from ear to shoulder to hip and to knee. Excellent posture with hands at eye level.
- Score of 8 - Slight separation of knees. Slight break in line at hips.

**Deductions** –
- -2 Points: Wrong arm position in basic seat, side seats and kneel
- -2 Points: Turning wrong way in Scissors down from Kneel, posture and arms.
- Base scoring and deductions are the same as Mill to Inside Side Seat

**REVERSE PLANK WITH QUARTER MILL DISMOUNT TO INSIDE**

**Essence:**
- Initiating swing, core strength and control
Beginning in a reverse seat with hands on top of the handles, the vaulter pushes into an arced position with the shoulders reaching up and away from the surcingle. The vaulter swings the legs toward the croup with the shoulders traveling past the surcingle toward the horse’s neck. The vaulter swings with a hollow body and lands softly into Reverse Plank with the feet together. Facing upward, the body forms a stretched line from the top of the head through the hips and ankles. With hands on top of the handles, the vaulter’s arms are stretched with the shoulders above or slightly behind the handles. Legs are together with feet on either side of the horse’s spine. The head is the extension of the longitudinal body axis. After four strides, the vaulter slides down to reverse seat, keeping the hips elevated until the body is vertical directly behind the surcingle. From seat rear ways, the vaulter performs a reverse quarter upper right leg and with closed legs and stretched hips, the vaulter pushes against the handles upwards and away from the Horse. The handles are released and the vaulter lands with legs hip width apart, hips and shoulders parallel to the horse’s shoulders. The upper body slightly bent forward in the absorption phase of the landing and continues in a controlled run in the same direction as the Horse.

**Basic Scoring:**
- Score of 10 - A swing that lands lightly on the horse’s croup in a straight body plank position. Shoulder blades pulled together and head in line with torso and legs. Strength and tension are maintained throughout exercise. Legs are held together. Body lowers into Reverse seat with control. There is height and stretch during leg pass.
- Score of 8 - The swing lands lightly. Strength and tension are maintained but head is not in line. Legs are slightly separated. Return to reverse seat is not as stretched and controlled.
- Score of 6 - Swing lands lightly but body is not as tense and there’s some bend in hips. Legs are not completely together. Leg pass to inside seat has form but is lower than 45 degrees.
- Score of 4 - Swing into reverse plank does not land lightly onto croup. Shoulders are rounded and there is a break in the line at the hips. There is a constant lack of tension and security. Leg pass is lacking form and elevation.

**Deductions** –
- Up to -2 Points: For little to no swing into Box, Swing to Forward Plank and Reverse Plank
## APPENDIX E

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th># of Judges</th>
<th>Compulsories</th>
<th>Freestyle</th>
<th>Technical</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>1 judge</td>
<td></td>
<td>Scores all aspects</td>
<td>Scores all aspects</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 judges</td>
<td>Both judges do horse and compulsories</td>
<td>Judge 1: DOD (15%), Performance (40%)</td>
<td>Judge 1: Exercises (50%), Performance (10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Judge 2: Artistic and Horse (50%)</td>
<td>Judge 2: Artistic and Horse (50%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 judges</td>
<td>Judge 1: Horse</td>
<td>Judge 1: Horse</td>
<td>Judge 1: Horse</td>
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<td>(refer to 6 judge distribution in FEI guidelines - use Judge 1, 2, 3 only)</td>
<td>Judge 2: Exercises</td>
<td>Judge 2: DOD (15%), Performance (40%)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judge 3: Exercises</td>
<td>Judge 3: Artistic</td>
<td>Judge 3: Artistic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 judges</td>
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<td>Judge 1: Horse</td>
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</tr>
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<td>(refer to 4 judge distribution in FEI Guidelines)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judge 4: Exercises</td>
<td>Judge 4: Technique</td>
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