

American Vaulting Association 2009 RULE BOOK



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

THIS BOOK SUPERSEDES ALL PREVIOUS EDITIONS

The rules published herein are effective March 2009 and remain in effect except as superseded by rule changes as published in Vaulting World or by subsequent editions of the Rule Book.

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Visit **www.americanvaulting.org** for current rules, more information and contacts.

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2009 AVA CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN VAULTING ASSOCIATION

NAME & PURPOSE

The name of the corporation shall be the American Vaulting Association, Inc. The purpose of the American Vaulting Association, Inc. (AVA) shall be:

1. To promote interest in vaulting — the art of gymnastics/dance on the back of a moving horse.
2. To educate and inform by publishing a newsletter, rule book and other educational material.
3. To make and provide films for study and training.
4. To sponsor clinics, forums and workshops for the training of vaulters, coaches and judges.
5. To establish rules for recognized competitions.
6. To license judges.
7. To oversee the management of the national championships.
8. To establish standards for achievement awards.
9. To maintain records of the sport for the use of its members.
10. To perform other educational and administrative functions to assist in the promotion and development of the sport.

The program of the AVA shall be educational and shall be directed to providing any services which will aid individuals in progressing and furthering the sport.

Any questions, corrections, or proposed changes to the AVA By-laws or Standing Rules should be sent to the Chair of the Constitution, By-laws and Standing Rules Committee, care of the American Vaulting Association. See AVA Directory or a current issue of *Vaulting World* for contact information.

American Vaulting Association

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www.americanvaulting.org

Visit **www.usef.org** for the United States Equestrian Federation Rule Book, including current USEF Rules for Vaulting online,
USEF, 4047 Iron Works Pkwy, Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: 606/258-2472, Fax: 606/231-6662

Visit **www.fei.org** for the current
FEI International Vaulting Rules online.

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BYLAWS

The By-laws are the rules adopted by the association chiefly for the governance of its members and the regulation of its affairs. By-laws must be approved by the members of the association and govern the general organization of the association. Bylaws include rules concerning the categories of membership, election of directors, organization of the association, and amendment of existing bylaws.

ARTICLE I — MEMBERSHIP (see Standing Rules, Section I, Membership for more information)

Section 1. There shall be three classes of membership: Club Membership, Individual Membership, and Family Membership. All membership, with the exception of Life Members (see Article I, Section 4.e, and Standing Rules Section I.B.2.g), must pay annual dues to the AVA in order to remain current. Life members shall pay a one-time fee to the AVA.

Section 2. The Board of Directors, or the Treasurer acting subject to the oversight of the Board of Directors, may revoke and/or may decline to accept annual dues of any Member of the AVA who does not conform to such regulations and requirements as shall from time to time be adopted by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. There are two categories of Club Membership: Regular and Affiliate.

- a. Regular Club Membership is for the registration of recognized Clubs who have paid their annual dues and assessments. Club membership is essentially a group membership which includes individuals who participate in competitions, medals tests, and competition awards and has no vote as a Club, nor do its members as individuals, under this category. The AVA shall recognize, as member clubs, vaulting clubs which conform to such regulations and requirements as shall from time to time be adopted by the Board of Directors. All individual Club members, including all coaches and longeurs, must be Individual Members of the AVA, and shall pay annual dues to the AVA. This amount shall be collected by the Club manager and forwarded as of January 1 to the National Office Manager with a list of current members. Throughout the year, new members shall pay their dues at the time of joining a Club, at which time dues will be forwarded to the National Office Manager.
- b. Affiliate Membership is for U.S. Pony Clubs, 4-H Clubs, Certified Horsemanship Association, and American Camping Association accredited camps and other interested organizations who have paid their annual dues. Affiliate Membership is a group membership

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which includes vaulters under the age of 18 and has no vote as a club, nor do its members as individuals, under this category. Vaulters may not compete in AVA Recognized Competitions or receive AVA medals or awards except for the Novice Award.

Section 4. There are six categories of Individual Membership: Youth, Adult, Contributing, Benefactor, Life, and Associate. Contributing, Benefactor, and Life members have the rights defined below based on their age. Individual members may register as members of a Club or as Independents. Individual Members who are members of a Registered Club must register as members of that Club (see Article I, Section 3.a.).

- a. Youth Membership is for individuals, including competitors, coaches and loungers, under 18 years of age. Youth Members have no vote. Youth Members in good standing shall be eligible to:
 - i. Compete in AVA Recognized Competitions
 - ii. Receive AVA medals, certificates and other awards
 - iii. Attend AVA sponsored educational clinics and seminars
 - iv. Attend all official AVA functions
- b. Adult Membership is for individuals, including competitors, coaches and loungers, 18 years of age or older. Adult Members in good standing shall be eligible to:
 - i. Compete in AVA Recognized Competitions
 - ii. Receive AVA medals, certificates and other awards
 - iii. Attend AVA sponsored educational clinics and seminars
 - iv. Attend all official AVA functions
 - v. Vote in all AVA Elections
 - vi. Serve as members of the Board of Directors
 - vii. Hold Office
- c. Contributing Members are Individual Members who have paid the appropriate fee as established by the Board of Directors.
- d. Benefactor members are Individual Members who have paid the appropriate fee as established by the Board of Directors.
- e. Life members are Individual Members who have paid the appropriate fee as established by the Board of Directors and who will be subject to no further dues during their lifetimes.
- f. Associate membership is a special category established in order to promote membership and involvement in the association. Associate memberships may be listed and promoted under a variety of names as determined by the Executive Board from time to time in order to target particular interest groups. Associate memberships may not vote, compete, serve on the Board of Directors, or hold office in the Association. The Executive Board shall determine the benefits for Associate Members. (See Standing Rules I.B.3.)

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Section 5. Family membership is a group membership which shall consist of one (1) Adult Member and the applicable number of Youth Members with all the rights and privileges therein. Family Membership is for one (1) parent/guardian and all children under the age of eighteen (18) constituting an immediate family, who have paid their annual dues and assessments. The parent/guardian is an Adult Member; each child under a Family Membership is a Youth Member. Family Memberships in good standing shall be entitled to:

- i. Compete in AVA Recognized Competitions
- ii. Receive AVA medals, certificates and other awards
- iii. Attend AVA sponsored educational clinics and seminars
- iv. Attend all official AVA functions
- v. One vote in all AVA Elections (Adult)
- vi. Serve as members of the Board of Directors (Adult)
- vii. Hold Office (Adult)

The adult member of a Family Membership who has paid the appropriate fee, as established by the Board of Directors, is an Adult Member with all the rights and privileges accorded to Individual Members.

ARTICLE II — REGIONS (See Standing Rules, Section V, Regions for more information)

Section 1. An AVA Region is a geographically defined area with its own internal financial and administrative structure and representation on the AVA Board of Directors. Internal structure of AVA Regions is in harmony with AVA Constitution and Bylaws.

Section 2. Regional boundaries shall be established by the Board of Directors based on geographical areas, not to exceed twelve (12) Regions.

Section 3. The Board of Directors shall periodically review the Region boundaries and revise the boundaries, if necessary, to ensure they meet the needs of the association.

ARTICLE III — BOARD OF DIRECTORS (see Standing Rules, Section II, Vice Presidents for more information)

Section 1. The number of Directors shall not be less than fifteen (15) nor more than thirty-nine (39). At each official election, the number shall be determined by the Board of Directors, prior to the election. Directors of the Board and Officers shall be elected from the eligible Individual Members. Those nominees receiving the highest number of votes up to the number of Board vacancies will be elected to the Board on a mail ballot. Regional Supervisors, duly elected by the Region or approved by the Board of Directors, shall be ex-officio members of the Board of Directors. In addition, the founder and first President of the American Vaulting Association shall be a lifetime voting Director with the title of “President Emeritus”.

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Section 2. Directors shall serve two-year terms, beginning at the first Board of Directors meeting following the election. One half of the directors shall be elected each year, to insure a rotating Board as well as continuity.

Section 3. Board members shall miss no more than one (1) meeting per term. Board members who miss more than one meeting are automatically excused from the board unless said board member submits a written appeal to the Executive Board within 14 days of the second missed meeting, and the appeal is granted by the Executive Board. Excused board members are not eligible to be re-nominated for the next two (2) years. The Executive Board, by majority vote, may replace said board member at its discretion.

Section 4. At all meetings of the Board of Directors, one-third of its members shall constitute a quorum. Directors shall, in case of absence from the meeting, wherever possible, communicate their positions in writing on the basis of the advanced agenda.

Section 5. The Directors shall have the general management of the affairs of the Association, and may make contracts in its name and behalf, or authorize such contracts to be made by officers of the Association. Directors shall establish annual membership dues by three-quarter vote of all directors. The Directors shall be charged with the responsibility of fulfilling to the greatest extent possible the objectives of this Association.

Section 6. The Board of Directors shall encourage and maintain open communication with the members in matters concerning the Association. The Board shall consult the members on any matters which, in its judgment, require the action of the general membership. The Board is subject to the orders of the Association, and none of its acts shall conflict with actions taken by the Association.

Section 7. Violations of rules will be dealt with on an individual basis, and the Board of Directors reserves the right to impose fines, probations, suspensions or censures after mutual attempts have been made at an equitable solution.

Section 8. The final contract between the National Office Manager and the AVA shall be approved by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IV — OFFICERS (see Standing Rules, Section II, Vice Presidents for more information)

Section 1. Elected Officers. The elected officers of the Association shall be President, Executive Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer, immediate Past President and such Vice Presidents and other officers as may from time to time be determined by the Board of Directors. These officers shall be elected biennially by simple majority vote of the Membership at each appropriate general election of the Association. The elected officers shall be members of the Board of Directors. The officers shall hold office

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during the ensuing two years, until their successors are installed at the first Board of Directors meeting following the election. The President and General Secretary shall be elected in even numbered years; the Executive Vice President and Treasurer shall be elected in odd numbered years.

Section 2. Executive Board. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, Executive Vice President, General Secretary, Treasurer, immediate Past President and such Vice Presidents and other officers as may from time to time be determined by the Board of Directors. The Technical Advisor shall serve in an advisory capacity to the Executive Board. This Board shall have the power to transact all business of the Association between meetings of the Board of Directors. One-half of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.

Section 3. President. The President shall be the chief executive officer of the Association. He shall, with the Executive Vice President or General Secretary, sign all contracts and obligations and perform such other duties as may be assigned to him by the Board of Directors. The President shall appoint all committee chairmen with the approval of the Executive Board. He shall be ex-officio member of all committees except the Nominating and Ballot Committees. The President may, at any time, call a meeting of the Board of Directors and must do so at the request of eight (8) Directors, notice of such meeting to be given at least three (3) weeks prior to the meeting date. Any vacancies in the offices of the Association occurring during a term may be filled by appointment of the President, with the approval of the Executive Board, and the appointee shall serve until the next general election of the Association. At the next general election, the vacancy will be filled by election to serve the balance of the unexpired term.

Section 4. Executive Vice President. The Executive Vice President shall provide oversight of and guidance to the National Office; shall assure that duties of and assignments to the National Office are completed within the defined standards of performance and shall assist with resolution of problems involving the National Office. In the absence of the President, the Executive Vice President shall exercise any power or duty of the President. In case of the resignation, removal or death of the President, the Executive Vice President automatically becomes President until the next regular election of officers.

Section 5. General Secretary. The General Secretary shall give notice to the members of the Board of Directors of all meetings; shall send out, in advance, the agendas prepared by the President to the Directors, Executive Board and others concerned at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting date. He shall take minutes of the meetings; shall distribute immediately following a summary of the minutes to the Board of Directors, Executive Board and others concerned; and shall attend to other matters pertaining to meeting

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procedures as directed by the President and attend to all Presidential correspondence of the Association. He shall oversee the Nominations and Ballot Committees and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned him by the President.

Section 6. The Treasurer. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of the receipts and disbursements authorized by the Board of Directors; shall present a statement of account at every meeting of the Board of Directors; and shall have the account ready and available for inspection upon request of the Board. The books of the Association shall be inspected annually by a person(s) appointed by the Board of Directors.

Section 7. The Past President. The Past President shall serve on the Executive Board for a two-year term, immediately following the completion of the last two year term, in which they were elected. He will act during this time as the chairperson of the Nominating Committee. The Past President will be a voting member of the Executive Board and assumes all the rights and privileges of other elected Officers. Should the Past President be unable to serve, this position will remain vacant. The Past President shall remain eligible to run for other positions on the Executive Board.

Section 8. The Technical Advisor. The President, with approval of the Board of Directors, shall appoint a Technical Advisor. The Technical Advisor shall be appointed annually. The Technical Advisor shall act in an advisory capacity to the Association and to the Executive Board. He shall advise the Association in matters of correct procedures, rules and technicalities concerning the sport and shall concern himself with what is going on in the sport in other parts of the world. He shall guide the membership toward the goals and purposes of the Society. The Technical Advisor does not have a vote on either the Executive Board or the Board of Directors.

Section 9. The President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and/or National Office Manager shall have the authority to sign checks of the Association in amounts approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 10. Any officer may resign by written resignation to take effect upon acceptance by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors may remove, by not less than a majority of the full membership of the Board of Directors, any officer.

Section 11. Members shall, in case of absence at a meeting, wherever possible, communicate their positions in writing on the basis of the advanced agenda.

ARTICLE V — COMMITTEES (see Standing Rules, Section III, Committees for more information)

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Section 1. There shall be such standing and temporary committees as are deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Association. Committees shall be appointed by the President and a chairman designated, with the approval of the Executive Board. All committees are subject to the orders of the Board of Directors, and none of their acts shall conflict with actions taken by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Standing committees must include:

- a. **Nominations Committee** - The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominations Committee. The Nominations Committee Chairperson shall be the immediate Past President. If the immediate Past President is unable or unwilling to serve, the President shall appoint a chair. The Nominations Committee shall consist of members from at least three regions and will include two directors (but not the President) whose terms do not terminate in the current year, and two eligible Individual Members in good standing who are not directors. The Nominations Committee and the Nominations Committee Chairperson shall be ratified by the General Membership at the Annual Meeting.
- b. **Ballot Committee** - A Ballot Committee of three members plus two (2) alternates of eligible Individual Members who are not members of the Board of Directors or Nominations Committee shall be appointed by the President and approved by the Executive Board to count the ballots. No more than two (2) members of this committee (including alternates) may be members of the same Region and no two (2) members may be affiliated with the same Club. No one shall serve on the Ballot Committee for two (2) consecutive years.
- c. **Grievance Committee** - A Grievance Committee, composed of five (5) Individual Members, will be elected each year at the Annual Meeting of the Membership. No member of the Executive Board may serve on this Committee. Any given club may be represented by only one (1) member on this Committee. This Committee shall elect a chairman from its members.

ARTICLE VI — ELECTIONS AND VOTING (Refer to Standing Rules: Section IV, Nominations and Elections for further election guidelines)

Section 1. All eligible Individual Members 18 years of age or older in good standing shall be entitled to one vote.

Section 2. Voting for Directors, Officers and Regional Supervisors shall be by mail ballot.

Section 3. Nomination of the Board of Directors, Officers and Regional Supervisors:

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- a. At the appropriate time, the General Secretary shall notify the membership that nominations are open.
- b. The Nominations Committee shall present a sufficient number of Director and Officer nominees to meet the required number as determined by the Board of Directors. The Committee shall also present a slate of Regional Supervisor candidates in all eligible Regions for all odd-year elections. The Committee shall receive nominations from the membership and shall, when necessary, nominate individuals for office.
- c. The Nominations Committee Chairperson shall mail questionnaires to all nominated candidates to be returned to the Nominations Committee Chairperson in order to be eligible for election.
- d. In all cases, consent of the nominee must be obtained prior to the election.

Section 4. Election Procedures:

- a. The National Office Manager shall prepare the ballot of the Nominees as provided by the Nominations Committee. Such ballots shall be affixed with the Corporate Seal and shall be mailed to all eligible Individual Members no less than twenty-one (21) days prior to the last date on which such ballots must be returned. This ballot shall be the only official campaign material to be recognized by the Association.
- b. Ballots shall remain sealed until delivered to the Ballot Committee. The Committee shall, in the witness of each other, open and count the ballots during the National Championships. The result of their counting shall be the election results. The ballots shall then all be sealed into an envelope. The outside of the envelope shall carry the date and official results of the election, as well as the signatures of the Committee Members. The envelope shall be placed in a file with the National Office. Ballots may be destroyed after the first Annual Meeting of the Membership following the election.
- c. Any ballot received after the closing date shall be discarded.

ARTICLE VII — MEETINGS (see Standing Rules, Section VI, Meetings for more information)

Section 1. There shall be one Annual Meeting of the Association in each year in such month and on such day, time and place as the Executive Board may designate. The business at annual meetings shall include, at least, the Report of the Treasurer, Reports of the Board of Directors and of Committees, appointment of the Nominating Committee and appointment of the Grievance Committee.

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Section 2. The President shall have the power to call a meeting of the Association at any time, and must call a meeting when requested in writing to do so by any eight (8) members of the Board of Directors or by two-thirds of the eligible Individual members of the Association. Written notice of such meeting must be given to all members at least three (3) weeks prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE VIII — NATIONAL OFFICE

Section 1. A National Office Manager shall maintain permanent files of the Association, prepare and mail the ballots for all official elections, attend to member and outside correspondence, maintain all membership and other records, pay bills, issue and co-sign checks, attend to bookkeeping tasks of the Association, be custodian of the Seal of the Association, and attend to any other administrative tasks as directed by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX — SEAL

Section 1. The Seal of the Association shall be in the form of a circle and shall bear the name of the Association, the name of the State in which it was incorporated, the year of its incorporation and the words “Corporate Seal”.

ARTICLE X — AMENDMENTS

Section 1. This Constitution and Bylaws may be added to, altered or amended by a favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of the responding eligible Individual Members at a General Meeting of the Association or by mail.

Section 2. At any meeting of the Board of Directors at which a quorum is present, or at a General Meeting of the Membership, the Standing Rules of the Association may be added to, suspended, modified or rescinded by a majority vote, only after prior written notice is provided by way of identification in the meeting agenda or a special notice to Board members at least three (3) weeks in advance. A majority vote by mail of the Board of Directors is acceptable.

ARTICLE XI — DISSOLUTION

Section 1. If at any time the Association dissolves, any funds remaining in the treasury shall be distributed directly to the United States Pony Clubs, Inc.

ARTICLE XII — PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern meetings of the Association when not in conflict with these Bylaws.

AMERICAN VAULTING ASSOCIATION STANDING RULES

The Standing Rules are the rules and standards for the conduct of the business of the association. Standing rules are approved by the Board of Directors.

SECTION I - MEMBERSHIP

A. General Information

1. Yearly memberships are valid January 1 through December 31 of each year.
2. Memberships paid between October 1 and December 31 of any year are valid through December 31 of the following year. Voting privileges become effective January 1 of the membership year.
3. Memberships must be renewed by January 1 of each year in order to remain current.
4. Checks for the proper fees must be made payable to AVA and mailed to the National Office Manager, along with a completed official AVA Membership Registration Form in order to be valid.
5. All fees must be paid in U.S. funds.
6. Any checks payable to the AVA or any agent acting on behalf of the AVA refused by the bank will be subject to a \$50.00 handling fee. In the event of two (2) consecutive refused checks, payment will be required by Certified Check or Money Order for a period of eighteen (18) months.
7. Any membership which has outstanding debts (including bad checks) to the AVA, any AVA official or the management of any AVA Recognized Competition or event will be notified in writing that they have 21 days to clear all debts.
8. A membership will be declared "not in good standing" if the club or member fails to clear all debts within the allotted time or a club fails to submit the required Safety Report.
9. Memberships declared not in good standing will be notified in writing that they have been removed from the list of Registered Clubs or Members, as appropriate. In order to be reinstated as a Registered Club in good standing all delinquencies must be cleared and a reinstatement fee of \$50.00 is required.
10. For an Individual Member to transfer membership from one club to another during a year in which dues are paid, a \$10.00 Membership Transfer Fee is required, accompanied by a completed official AVA Membership Registration Form for each vaulter. Fee and form must be received by the National Office Manager before the transfer is valid.

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11. Any individual who transfers Club membership after the close of entries of any AVA Recognized Competition in which he is already entered may not vault in any team event for his new club at that particular Recognized Competition(s).

B. AVA Membership Assessments and Benefits

1. Club Memberships:
 - a. Regular Clubs must complete a Club Registration packet each year. Packets are available from the National Office Manager. Regular Clubs shall pay an annual registration fee of \$65.00. Clubs that register before January 1 each year will receive a \$15 discount. Registrations will be returned if any information or fees are incorrect. Any number of individual vaulters may register with a club. Individual club members shall pay the appropriate dues as defined by their membership category. An Individual Member who vaults with a Club must be listed as a vaulter with that Club on his current membership form, on file with the AVA National Office Manager. All coaches, vaulters and longeurs 18 years of age and older must be Adult Members. Age is defined by age on February 1. Clubs shall receive:
 - i. One subscription to *Vaulting World*.
 - ii. One Rule Book.
 - iii. One copy of the Directory
 - b. Affiliate Clubs must complete an Affiliate Registration Form each year. Forms are available from the National Office Manager. Vaulters, coaches and longeurs need not be AVA members. Affiliate Clubs shall pay annual dues of \$35.00. Affiliate Clubs shall receive:
 - i. One subscription of *Vaulting World*.
 - ii. One copy of the *Camps & Clubs Manual* with the first year of registration.
 - iii. Affiliate Club Members may take the Novice Exam but may not compete in AVA Recognized Competitions or take any other Medal Exam.
 - iv. Affiliate Club Members may earn the Horsemanship Badge
 - v. An Affiliate Membership may be changed to a Registered Club Membership at any time by paying the difference between the Affiliate Membership fee and the Regular Club fee. A free AVA Rule Book will be included. All vaulters, coaches and longeurs must then become members of the AVA.
2. Individual Memberships:
 - a. Individual Members (Youth, Adult, Contributing, and Benefactor) registering as a member of a Registered Club may do so only when

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- that Club's dues are currently paid. The official AVA Membership Form, listing name, address, birth date and sex of each individual (new or renewal registration) must be sent to the National Office Manager along with the proper fees by the Registered Club Management, in order to be valid. Registrations will be returned if any information is incomplete or if the fees are incorrect.
- b. Individual Members registering as Independents (Youth, Adult, Contributing, Benefactor, and Life) must complete an AVA Member Registration Form for each Individual Member (new or renewal registration) and submit it to the National Office Manager along with the proper fees in order to be valid. Registrations will be returned if the Member Form is incomplete or the fees are incorrect.
 - c. Youth Members must be less than 18 years of age. Youth Members shall pay annual dues of \$50.00. Youth Members in good standing shall be eligible to:
 - i. Receive *Vaulting World*
 - ii. Receive one Rule Book
 - iii. Receive one Membership Directory
 - iv. Receive members-only pricing on all AVA publications, DVDs, etc.;
 - v. Access the AVA members-only section of the website;
 - vi. Access the AVA members-only internet discussion groups.
 - d. Adult Members must be 18 years of age or older. Adult Members shall pay annual dues of \$50.00. Adult Members in good standing shall be eligible to:
 - i. Receive *Vaulting World*
 - ii. Receive one Rule Book
 - iii. Receive one Membership Directory
 - iv. Receive members-only pricing on all AVA publications, DVDs, etc.;
 - v. Access the AVA members-only section of the website;
 - vi. Access the AVA members-only internet discussion groups.
 - e. Contributing Members shall pay an annual fee of \$100. Contributing Members in good standing shall be eligible to:
 - i. Receive *Vaulting World*
 - ii. Receive one Rule Book
 - iii. Receive one Membership Directory
 - iv. Receive members-only pricing on all AVA publications, DVDs, etc.;
 - v. Access the AVA members-only section of the website;
 - vi. Access the AVA members-only internet discussion groups.
 - vii. Receive special recognition in *Vaulting World*;
 - viii. Receive AVA "Contributing Member" certificate;

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- ix. Receive a copy of that year's AVA National Championships Highlights DVD, upon request.
- f. Benefactor Members shall pay an annual fee of \$300. Benefactor Members in good standing shall be eligible to:
 - i. Receive *Vaulting World*
 - ii. Receive one Rule Book
 - iii. Receive one Membership Directory
 - iv. Receive members-only pricing on all AVA publications, DVDs, etc.;
 - v. Access the AVA members-only section of the website;
 - vi. Access the AVA members-only internet discussion groups.
 - vii. Receive special recognition in *Vaulting World*;
 - viii. Receive AVA "Benefactor" framed certificate;
 - ix. Receive a copy of that year's AVA National Championships Highlights DVD, upon request.
 - x. Receive special recognition at AVA official functions;
 - xi. Receive special recognition on the AVA website;
 - xii. Sponsorship of one AVA National Championships event (event manager's choice);
 - xiii. Receive free registration for the business meetings at the AVA Annual Meeting (registration does not include meal functions or educational sessions).
- g. Life Members shall pay a one-time fee of \$750. Life Members in good standing shall be eligible to:
 - i. Receive *Vaulting World*
 - ii. Receive one Rule Book
 - iii. Receive one Membership Directory
 - iv. Receive members-only pricing on all AVA publications, DVDs, etc.;
 - v. Access the AVA members-only section of the website;
 - vi. Access the AVA members-only internet discussion groups.
 - vii. Receive special recognition in *Vaulting World*;
 - viii. Receive an AVA "Lifetime Member" plaque;
 - ix. Receive a copy of that year's AVA National Championships Highlights DVD, upon request.
 - x. Receive special recognition at AVA official functions;
 - xi. Receive special recognition on the AVA website;
 - xii. Sponsorship of one AVA National Championships event for the first year of life membership (event manager's choice).
- 3. Associate Members shall pay an annual fee of \$25. Associate Members in good standing shall be eligible to:
 - i. Receive designated issues of *Vaulting World* as determined by the Executive Board;

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- ii. Receive members-only pricing on all AVA publications, DVDs, etc.;
 - iii. Access the AVA members-only website, including designated interest and discussion groups;
 - iv. Attend all AVA functions including the Annual Meeting, educational clinics and seminars.
4. Family Membership: Family Memberships must complete an AVA Member Registration Form for each Individual Member (new or renewal registration) and submit it to the National Office Manager along with the proper fees in order to be valid. Registrations will be returned if the Member Form is incomplete or the fees are incorrect. A Family Member who vaults with a Club must be listed as a vaulter with that Club, on his current membership form, on file with the AVA National Office Manager. All Rules relating to an Individual Membership apply to Family Memberships. All Family Memberships shall pay annual dues of \$125.00. Family Memberships in good standing shall:
- i. Receive *Vaulting World*
 - ii. Receive one Rule Book
 - iii. Receive one Membership Directory
 - iv. Receive members-only pricing on all AVA publications, DVDs, etc.;
 - v. Access the AVA members-only section of the website;
 - vi. Access the AVA members-only internet discussion groups.

SECTION II - VICE-PRESIDENTS

A. Vice President Membership: Shall represent and serve as liaison between Regional Supervisors and all categories of AVA membership and the AVA Board of Directors; shall identify and implement needed member services and strategies for recruitment and retention of members; shall assist members with resolution of problems; and shall be responsible for overseeing the planning of the Annual Membership Meeting.

B. Vice President Competitions: Shall be responsible for overall management of the National Championships, and work with AVA regions to encourage and facilitate vaulting competitions at all levels, coordinate policy and procedures for vaulting competitions, and serve as liaison regarding competition issues with the AVA Board of Directors. Shall oversee the National Championship Committee; sign contracts and arrange payments as necessary to guarantee site availability and competition services; develop and maintain a budget for the National Championships; and investigate sites for future National Championships. Shall develop materials for and provide assistance to new competition management. Shall act as a liaison between competition

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management, the Comp Web developer, the HOTY Awards Department and USEF Competitions Department and USEF Vaulting Committees.

C. Vice President Development: Shall oversee activities of the Association involving Publicity, Promotions, Fund Development and Sponsorships; shall identify and distribute information for inclusion in non-AVA publications; shall arrange for AVA marketing events, demonstrations and trade shows featuring the AVA and its resources; shall authorize the distribution of press releases and photographs to local, state and national publications; shall work in connection with local and regional AVA officials to secure sponsors for the Association and events such as the National Championships and International Events; and shall oversee AVA coordinated demonstrations.

D. Vice President Education: Shall be responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing educational and development opportunities for vaulters and coaches of all levels. Shall make all arrangements with clinics and instructors; shall coordinate schedule and arrangements with Regional Supervisors and Clubs; shall prepare and distribute information and publicity about educational programs; and shall coordinate financial arrangements for educational programs. Shall coordinate safety information and recommendations on the sport of horse vaulting; shall coordinate reporting, tracking and analysis of injury statistics.

E. These officers shall hold office during the ensuing two years, until their successors are installed at the first Board of Directors meeting following the election. The Vice President Membership and Vice President Development shall be elected in even numbered years; the Vice President Competitions and Vice President Education shall be elected in odd numbered years.

SECTION III - COMMITTEES — GENERAL RULES

A. Committee Chairmen serve at the pleasure of the Executive Board. Committee Chairmen are appointed by the President and must be ratified by the Executive Board.

B. Committee Chairmen shall submit a list of Committee Members to the President upon request.

C. Committee Chairmen shall submit an end-of-the-year report in December to the General Secretary for the Board of Directors.

D. Committee Chairmen shall submit a budget request form for the upcoming year to the Treasurer in March/April.

E. Committee Chairmen shall submit at least one Committee Report per year to *Vaulting World*.

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F. Expenditures for special projects, which have not been previously budgeted for nor approved by the Board, must be approved by the Executive Board.

G. Only Committee Chairmen may submit requests for reimbursement. All requests must be itemized on the appropriate reimbursement form and accompanied by receipts.

H. Nothing may be sent out as an AVA publication, survey, statistical poll, questionnaire, pamphlet, manual or book without prior approval of the Executive Board.

SECTION IV - NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

A. The Nominations Committee shall solicit nominations from each Region through the Regional Supervisors for the Executive Board and the Board of Directors, not necessarily from their particular Region. The slate of nominees for each officer position and each Director position will be accepted by the Nominations Committee, as well as any nominations from the Membership at large.

1. Nomination notifications shall be prepared by the General Secretary to be placed in the Annual Meeting of the Membership packet and placed in the Annual Meeting issue of Vaulting World. In the event there is no Annual Meeting issue of Vaulting World, notification shall go out to all eligible Individual Members no later than March 31.

2. Nominations shall close April 30.

3. Nominee acceptance of nomination and questionnaires shall be returned to the Nominations Committee Chairperson by May 21. Nominees who fail to return the acceptance notice shall not be included on the ballot.

4. Ballots shall be mailed by the National Office at least four (4) weeks (28 days) prior to the start of the National Championships, and the deadline for return of ballots shall be one (1) week before the National Championships.

5. A return envelope shall be provided with each ballot and any ballots not returned in said envelope shall be declared void.

6. Ballots shall be counted at the National Championships. The results shall be reported to the General Secretary within 24 hours of counting.

7. The General Secretary shall announce the election results in written or verbal form at the National Championships and by mail to all Board Members and candidates by August 31.

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SECTION V. - REGIONS

- A.** The Vice President Membership shall oversee AVA Regions, Regional Supervisors and Regional Resource Persons.
- B.** An Individual Member's Region shall be determined by the Region of the Club with which they are registered. An Individual Member who is registered as an Independent will be a member of the Region in which they reside.
- C.** In order to apply to become an AVA Region, an area must have a minimum of three (3) Registered Clubs and nine (9) Individual Adult Members for a period of two (2) consecutive years.
- D.** Region Application Forms are available through the Vice President Membership. Completed forms must be submitted to the Vice President Membership for approval by the Executive Board and the Board of Directors.
- E.** Once regional status is approved, a Regional Supervisor shall be appointed for the new Region by the AVA President, with the approval of the Board of Directors.
- F.** The appointed Regional Supervisor becomes an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors.
- G.** After one (1) year of existence as an AVA Region, and once there are fifteen (15) Individual Adult Members and three (3) Registered Clubs in the AVA Region, the position of Regional Supervisor becomes an elected office of two (2) years. This election shall take place at the next scheduled election of Regional Supervisors. This position is to be nominated and voted on by all eligible Individual Adult Members in the given Region.
- H.** The newly elected Regional Supervisor then becomes an ex-officio member of the Board of Directors in place of the previously appointed Regional Supervisor.
- I.** The Regional Supervisor's responsibilities are to function as a liaison between the AVA and his Region, to interpret AVA standards, and to support area growth. He is required to report any changes in administrative structure of the Region to the Vice President Membership.
- J.** The internal structure of each Region (administrative, financial, competitions, etc.) shall be determined by the particular needs of that Region in accordance with existing AVA standards.
- K.** If an approved Region's AVA membership drops below three (3) Registered Clubs AND fifteen (15) Individual Adult Members for more than

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two (2) years, the Region loses its right to an elected Regional Supervisor, and the AVA President shall again appoint a Regional Supervisor.

L. If an approved Region's AVA membership drops below three (3) Registered Clubs for more than two (2) years, the Clubs in that Region shall be returned to the General Club status.

M. If an approved Region's AVA Individual Adult Membership level drops below nine (9) Individual Adult Members for more than two (2) years, the Region's Individual Members shall be returned to General Membership status.

N. The AVA assumes no financial responsibility for Regions.

O. The responsibility of organizing and selecting Resource People will fall under the jurisdiction of the Vice President Membership.

P. All Regional Supervisors are required to attend at least one AVA Board of Directors Meeting, preferably the AVA Annual Meeting, per calendar year. Failure to fulfill this obligation will result in appointment of a new Regional Supervisor by the AVA Executive Board with approval of the AVA Board of Directors for the duration of the unexpired terms.

SECTION VI - MEETINGS

A. The Annual Meeting of the Membership and Board of Directors shall be held on the first full weekend of March unless ordered otherwise by the Board of Directors.

B. Board of Directors Meetings shall also be held each year at the National Championships and the first weekend in November.

C. All Board of Directors meetings and Executive Board Meetings shall be open.

D. The Board of Directors and Executive Board may hold closed sessions for the purpose of discussing legal issues, contract negotiations, Board Member and Committee Member performance matters. The Executive Board shall conduct contract negotiations for the National Office Manager in closed session. The Board of Directors and Executive Board shall confirm that only matters permitted to be discussed in Closed Session were discussed immediately upon return to open session.

SECTION VII - NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

A. The National Championships shall be held at a time and location approved by the Board of Directors at an Annual Meeting of the Membership at least one year prior to the year of the Championships.

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B. Vaulting Class lists at the National Championships shall be approved by the Technical Committee.

C. Judges for the National Championships shall be appointed and scheduled by the Technical Committee.

D. It is the responsibility of the Vice President Competitions to guarantee that all competing Club, Vaulters, Coach and Longeur registrations are current and to notify any of the above of any discrepancy prior to the start of the AVA National Championships.

SECTION VIII - RECOGNIZED COMPETITIONS

A. Application

1. Application to hold a Recognized Competition must be received in writing by the National Office Manager, postmarked at least 45 days before the date of the Competition.
2. Application must contain the following:
 - a. Date
 - b. Place
 - c. Events, divisions and classes offered
 - d. Name and address of secretary or manager
 - e. Entry closing date (must be a minimum of two weeks before competition date)
 - f. Description of facilities
 - g. Judge(s)
3. A check for \$40.00 must accompany the application. The check will be refunded if the date is not available or the Competition cannot be recognized.
4. Recognition may be granted to any Competition offering at least one Recognized National Event. (See AVA Rules, Article 102.3 and 4) However, all Recognized National Event classes, if offered, must be run according to current AVA Rules.
5. The National Office Manager will notify both the show secretary and the AVA Competition Secretary, in writing of approval for recognition. The AVA Competition Secretary will provide the necessary score sheet masters and other pertinent paperwork for Recognized Competitions to the show secretary identified on the Application for Recognition. The National Office Manager will provide a list of current AVA members as of the closing date of entries to the show secretary.
6. No more than one Recognized Competition may be held on the same day within a 300-mile radius. Preference for dates will be given to

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- the team whose application is received first. The competition with priority may agree to allow another competition within 300 miles.
7. A copy of the prize list of a Recognized Competition must be sent to the AVA Competition Secretary, the Technical Committee Chairman, the Judges, and all Registered Clubs in the region at least 30 days prior to the competition, otherwise, recognition will be rescinded.
 8. The prize list must contain the following:
 - a. Date, time and place of competition
 - b. Fees
 - c. Entry closing date
 - d. Judge(s)
 - e. Availability of stabling, housing and eating facilities
 - f. Events, divisions and classes offered
 - g. Names of classes or divisions which are recognized
 - h. Description of footing and dimensions of arena, including height of ceiling, if applicable
 - i. Time and place of draw
 - j. Type of music system available (cassette tape, compact disk, and/or mini disk)
 9. Judges must be chosen from the current list of Recognized Judges in good standing. Foreign Judges may be granted a guest card by the Technical Committee to judge a specific competition.
 10. An AVA Judging Contract form and current list of active Judges are available from the National Office Manager.
 11. The Technical Committee shall approve the class list/entry for National Competitions.

B. Entries

1.
 - a. For Recognized Competitions, entries (clubs, coaches, longeurs and vaulters) must be Registered Clubs and Individuals of the AVA in good standing as of the close of entries, or must pay a non-member fee. (See Section VIII. B. 2.). This rule does not apply to foreign teams or individuals.
 - b. If an individual's name is not included on the list of active members provided by the National Office to Competition Management as of the close of entries for a competition, the individual must pay the non-refundable, non-member fee.
2. Non-Member Fee - Individuals, including vaulters, coaches and longeurs, who are not current AVA members as of the close of entries must pay a non-member fee in order to participate in an AVA Recognized Competition. A non-member fee allows the individual

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- to participate in said AVA Recognized Competition and to receive ribbons and placings. However, as the individual was not an AVA member as of the close of entries for the competition, their scores may not be used for any Year-End awards. (See Section VIII.B.1. b)
3. At National Championships, foreign individual and teams are allowed to compete but are ineligible for National Championship titles. They may compete for scores and may be awarded ribbons and placings.
 4. At National Championships, a team may have up to two 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 longeurs 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 USEF. These documents must be made available to Competition Management prior to the close of entries for any USEF competition.
 5. Post entries will not be accepted for AVA Recognized Competitions. Post entry is defined as an entry received by Competition Management postmarked (or otherwise delivered) after the close of entries. Close of entries must be a minimum of two weeks prior to the competition date. Allowing additions, deletions, and changes of classes by competitors already entered in a Recognized Competition is left strictly up to the Competition Management and must be published in their entries.
 6. If only one Registered B or C Team enters a division, that team has the option to compete at the next higher (not lower) division. The team's coach must initial the division change on the score sheet. Scores can count toward Annual Awards in the division originally entered. Management must indicate on the score sheet in which division the score is to count.
 7. For all Recognized Competitions, a \$5.00 surcharge per vaulter, including foreign vaulters, will be assessed by and paid to the AVA.
 8. Composite teams
 - a. Composite Teams made up of Registered Vaulters from two or more Clubs and/or Independents may be permitted to enter a Recognized Event.
 - b. In order to compete in a Recognized Event, Composite Teams must be recorded on an AVA Composite Team form. This form must be submitted to Competition Management within a

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- timeframe specified by Competition Management, as published in the prize list. This completed form must be sent to the AVA Competition Secretary, along with all other post-competition paperwork. (See Section VIII.B.9.)
- c. The AVA Composite Team form shall list the Clubs, Independent and/or foreign competitors participating in the Composite Team. Any registered vaulter may be part of the Composite Team, subject to the rules governing the event.
 - d. Regardless of the timeframe specified by Competition Management, the Ground Jury of a competition may allow an emergency Composite Team during the competition.
 - e. All vaulters and substitutes on a Team competing in a Recognized Event must be members of a single Club, or the team must enter as a Composite Team. Otherwise, the team will be an illegal Composite Team, subject to elimination.
 - f. Composite Teams are not eligible for annual awards.
9. Following the close of a Recognized Competition, Management must send to the AVA Competition Secretary:
- a. A Competitor List including all participating vaulters, coaches and longeurs, showing AVA Membership numbers, sorted alphabetically within Clubs, and clearly indicating all foreign competitors.
 - b. Original score sheets for all Recognized Classes.
 - c. Any Composite Team forms submitted.
 - d. Any Non-Member Forms submitted. (See Section VIII.B.2)
 - e. All competition and non-member fees due to the AVA, including vaulter surcharge fees;
 - f. A hard copy of the competition results, vaulter names, AVA numbers, scores and placings for all classes;
 - g. A list of all horses, and their AVA number if they have one; and
 - h. All Horse of the Year forms collected from the judge(s).
- This packet, including all documents, must be postmarked or otherwise delivered, within 10 days of the close of a Recognized Competition or a late charge of \$50 will be assessed.
10. The AVA Competition Secretary will notify the Show Secretary (Management) within six (6) days of receipt of the above materials, of any errors and/or omissions regarding the submittals. Competition Management shall have 7 days from the date of the notification to correct the errors. In the event the proper paperwork and fees are not sent to the AVA Competition Secretary as of that date, a \$100 fine shall be assessed to the Show Secretary (Management).

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C. Facilities

1. Footing in the vaulting arena should be level, soft and springy — neither slick nor too deep. Shavings, sand or a mixture of shavings and sand is suitable.
2. The arena should be groomed and maintained during the competition. The Judge(s) may request that the ring be groomed at any time.
3. Regulation Barrel must meet specifications as indicated (See “Barrel Specifications” at the back of this book).
4. Footing in the barrel arena must be suitable for vaulting. The top of the barrel must measure 48” from the ground. If extra footing is placed around the barrel, the top of the barrel must still measure 48” from the top of the extra footing.

D. Scoring

1. The Score Sheet
 - a. AVA Score Sheets must be used.
 - b. Score Sheet masters will be provided by the Competition Secretary
 - c. Score Sheets must contain the following information:
 - 1) Name of team or individual vaulter(s)
 - 2) Division entered
 - 3) Name of each team vaulter
 - 4) Final score and final placing
 - 5) Name of longeur and horse
 - 6) Signature of Judge
 - 7) Name and date of competition

E. Format

1. Recognized Competitions must be held according to AVA Rules. All Recognized National Event classes, if offered, must be held according to AVA Rules.
2. Order of go.
 - a. In Team Competition, order of go must reflect a complete level. All trot teams go together; all 1* Teams go together; all C teams go together; all B teams go together; all A teams go together.
 - b. In individual classes, order of go must reflect a complete level. All Trot go together; all Trot 1* go together; all Copper/Unrated go together; all Copper 1* go together; all Bronze go together; all Silver go together; all Gold go together.
 - c. In 2-Phase Team, order of go for each phase must be different and shall reflect a complete level in Team Event as stated above.
 - d. In the event the same horse goes twice in a Competition, the times for the horse to go may be scheduled as far apart as possible.

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3. A veterinarian must be on call for all Recognized Competitions. Phone number must be conspicuously posted in stable area and show office and readily available by management.
4. An emergency medical service must be on call for all Recognized Competitions. Phone number and directions to the nearest hospital must be conspicuously posted in stable area and show office and readily available by management.
5. A score board must be conspicuously placed, and scores kept posted as currently as possible. Score sheets may be examined only by the office management and Judges until they are officially posted.
6. Score sheets must be made available to the coach at close of competition.
7. Protocol
 - a. All longeurs and vaulters must be properly turned out.
 - b. Horse's mane must be braided or roached.
8. If an infraction of the rules is discovered within fifteen (15) days of the close of the competition, it shall result in immediate notification by Show Management to the coach. Appropriate action shall be taken by the Show Management in consultation with the Chief Judge. The Club or Individual involved will have fifteen (15) days from the date of the notification to appeal the action, and the AVA will have fifteen (15) days from the date of receipt of the appeal to respond to the appeal.

SECTION IX - MEDAL EXAMINATIONS (See also AVA Rules for Vaulting, Chapter VII) Medal tests are available for the following individual levels: Trot, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Novice pins are available at walk, trot and canter. (Novice canter pin is the Copper award.)

A. Fees

1. Fees for Trot, Bronze, Silver and Gold are \$20.00 per Vaulters per Exam. Fees for Novice are \$10.00 per Vaulters per Exam.
2. If Application is received less than 30 days prior to date requested for Exam, an additional \$10.00 late fee will be applied to the basic Medal exam fee for each Exam and must be included in the check or money order. The late fee shall be waived for retakes within 48 hours.
3. All fees must be in U.S. funds.
4. An application received less than 20 days prior to the date requested for the Exam may be impossible to process.
5. All expenses of the Examiner (travel, food, lodging, etc.) are the responsibility of the management of the Exam. In addition, a fee of

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\$50.00 is a standard minimum for an Examiner. Expenses should be discussed before the Exam.

6. An AVA Judging Contract is available from the National Office Manager.
7. Individual fees may be transferred to another vaulter in the same Club for an Exam on the same day only. However, individual fees will not be refunded or credited to a later exam.
8. In the event an entire Exam is canceled, fees will be refunded.

B. Procedures

1. Application Forms
 - a. Application Forms must be submitted to the Medal Test Secretary. Application Forms are available from the Medal Test Secretary for Registered Clubs, Individual Members or Affiliate Groups in good standing.
 - b. Forms must be completed correctly, typed or clearly printed.
 - c. All incomplete or incorrect forms will be returned. Late fees will apply where applicable.
 - 1) All applications must be accompanied by a check or money order for the full amount, including any late fees, made payable to the AVA.
 - 2) All vaulters on the application must be current AVA members at the time the application is sent to the Medal Test Secretary.
 - 3) A list of all bronze, silver and gold freestyle exercises must accompany the application for approval by the Medal Test Secretary.
 - d. Applications not accompanied by a check or accompanied by a check incorrectly made out will be returned.
 - e. Applications not accompanied by the list of bronze, silver and/or gold freestyle exercises will be returned. Late fees will apply where applicable.
 - f. Applications must be on the official form. Applications by telephone, fax or personal note will not be accepted.
2. The Medal Test Secretary will do the following:
 - a. Send score sheets, medals and ribbons to the Registered Club, Individual Member or Affiliate Group requesting them.
 - b. Send a list of paid candidates to the Club, Individual Member or Affiliate Group to be given to the Examiner prior to the start of the Exam.
 - c. Send a Club Excellence form to the Club, Individual Member or Affiliate Group to be given to the Examiner prior to the start of the Exam.

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- d. Send list of approved Freestyle exercises for bronze, silver and/or gold exams to be given to the Examiner prior to the start of the Exam.

Note: No medal test materials will be sent if the application and enclosures are incomplete in any way. (See Section. IX.B.c above)

3. Any substitutions or additions to the official list of candidates must be given to the Examiner prior to the start of the Exam. Proof of AVA membership must be shown and all fees, including late charges, must be paid to the Examiner for any additional vaulters before the start of the exam.
4. No vaulter will be tested who has not paid all his fees.
5. The completed and signed score sheets, the Club Excellence Form and any additional fees must be returned by the Examiner to the Medal Test Secretary within one week after the Exam.
6. All unused ribbons and medals must be returned by the Club's manager or coach to the Medal Test Secretary within two weeks after the Exam.
7. A \$100.00 fine will be imposed if unused ribbons and medals are not returned within the allotted time.
8. A \$50.00 fine will be assessed to the judge and/or club for improper procedure reported by the Medal Test Secretary to the Executive Board.

C. Examiners

1. See AVA Rules, JUDGES.
2. Clubs should choose their own Examiner but may not engage the same Examiner for two consecutive Exams. Contact the Medal Test Secretary if help is needed in finding an Examiner.

D. General Information

1. See AVA Rules for Vaulting, Chapter VII - MEDALS.
2. The score sheets must be filled out completely and indicate clearly how, and in what order, the Freestyle exercises are to be performed.
3. Medals to the left shall have different colored ribbons designating Commended or With Honors.
4. Medals to the right shall have a bar attached to the ribbon designating Commended or With Honors. Said bars shall be sent to the team after the results are submitted to the Medal Test Secretary.

E. Protocol

1. Management should provide a suitable place for each Examiner to sit, protected from sun, wind, dust, etc., including chairs for each Examiner and Clerk, table, score sheets, sharp pencils with erasers, a bell, and a calculator. The Clerk or scorekeeper should tally the

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- results as soon as the Examiner releases them. Results should be announced as soon as possible with the Examiner's approval.
2. Horses, longeurs and vaulters should be smartly turned out.
 3. Horse's mane must be braided or roached.
 4. The vaulting arena must be groomed.
 5. A team must salute the Examiner upon entering and exiting the arena.
 6. The Examiner may give a critique at the end of the Exam.

SECTION X - AWARDS

A. Team of the Year Award

1. An annual award, presented at the AVA Annual Meeting, is given to the Team in each division (Trot, C, B, A) with the highest average score over three Recognized Competitions, held in the previous competition year, under at least two different Judges or Judge combinations. The competition year begins at the conclusion of National Championships one year and runs through National Championships the following year.
2. If a team attends more than three Recognized Competitions, the top three scores will be used to obtain the average score.
3. Composite teams are not eligible for Team of the Year Award.

B. Club Excellence Award

1. An annual award, presented at the AVA Annual Meeting, is given to the Club which has, throughout the previous calendar year, shown during two Medal Examinations, which it hosts (Trot, Bronze, Silver or Gold), the most consistently high quality in the following areas:
 - a. General Impression: Team punctuality, entrance, salute, exit, line-up, discipline, comportment (manners, attentiveness, etc.), sportsmanship, longeing and presentation of the horse, and horse (gaits, way of going, behavior).
 - b. Turn-out: Horse and equipment, longeur and vaulters.
 - c. Preparedness of Vaulters and Management: Individuals' promptness and readiness during exam, knowing proper order of compulsories (including vault-off) and Freestyles, facilities suitable, facilities well prepared (arena level and groomed), footing (soft, springy and free of rocks and clods), clerks properly briefed and efficient, score sheets properly filled out and in sufficient number, adequate supplies (table, chairs, pencils, bell, etc.).
2. All scores are based on 0 to 5. Total score achievable is 100 points.

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3. If a club has more than two medal exams in a year, the top two scores will be averaged.
4. Club excellence scores apply only to clubs hosting the Medal Exam.
5. A different Judge must be used for each of the two Medal Exams from which the scores are averaged.

C. High Point Awards

1. An annual award, presented at the AVA Annual Meeting, is given to the individual male and female vaulters in each class level (Trot, Copper, Bronze, Silver, Gold) who has the highest average score, as defined below for the previous vaulting year.
2. Individuals must have scores in at least three Recognized Competitions and scores must be from classes judged by a recognized AVA judge.
3. Each competition score includes an average of both compulsories and freestyle. Vaulters must complete both components for scores to count.
 - a. For Gold: Average of Round I and Round II. Vaulters must complete both rounds.
 - b. Silver: If vaulters complete two rounds, the average includes both rounds; if not all vaulters qualify for Round II, those not qualifying for Round II will have Round I score counted.
 - c. For Bronze: Horse Compulsories and Freestyle Average Round I.
 - d. For Copper: Horse Compulsories and Freestyle Average.
 - e. For Trot: Horse Compulsories and Freestyle Average.
4. Scores are averaged to three decimal places.
5. The "National High Point Award" is calculated by taking a vaulter's top three scores and averaging them for the class.
6. The competition year is defined as from after the end of Nationals one year through Nationals the following year.

D. Horse of the Year

1. An annual award, presented at the AVA Annual Meeting, is given to the Club/Owner of the horse that has received the most points as outstanding horse in Recognized Competitions throughout the competition year. The competition year begins at the conclusion of National Championships one year and runs through National Championships the following year. The criteria for this award are the horse's way of going, attitude, and appearance/turnout. Only current AVA Judges will be involved in scoring the horses for this award.
2. In order to be eligible for Horse of the Year, the horse owner must be a member of the AVA.

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SECTION XI - JUDGES PROGRAM (See also AVA Rules for Vaulting, Chapter VIII, JUDGES)

A. Fees

1. A \$50.00 fee is required on promotion to Registered Judge (R).
2. A \$50.00 fee is required on promotion to Recorded Judge (r).

B. Apprentice Program Application

1. Application forms for the program are available upon written request from the Chairman of the Technical Committee.
2. Applicants must complete the application form and return it to the Chairman of the Technical Committee along with a non-refundable \$25.00 application fee.

C. Procedure

1. Apprentice applications will be accepted October 1 through December 31 of each year.
2. Any number of applicants may be accepted in any one year.
3. The screening and selection panel appointed by the Technical Committee will review applications and questionnaires.
4. Applicants will be notified of the decision of the screening panel by March 1. Applicants must then pass a written exam before acceptance into the program. Applicants who are not accepted into the program may reapply the following year.
5. A non-refundable fee of \$50.00 will be required from the applicants accepted into the Apprentice Judge's Program.

SECTION XII - PROTESTS & GRIEVANCES (See AVA Rules for Vaulting, Chapter IX, Protests and Grievances for further information)

A. Fees

1. Protests must be submitted with a filing fee of \$50.00
2. Grievances must be submitted with a filing fee of \$50.00

NOTES

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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 is the art of gymnastics/dance on the moving horse. The competition is judged on the smooth and correct execution of the compulsory exercises and free-style programs by the vaulters in sympathy and harmony with the horse working on the longe line.
2. For a description of the compulsory exercises and an explanation of the Degree of Difficulty of freestyle exercises, consult the current FEI Guidelines for Judges. A description of the compulsory exercises is also in Appendix D of this Rule Book.

Article 102. Recognition.

1. All AVA Recognized Competitions must have completed procedures for recognition as per Standing Rules. (See Standing Rules, Section VIII – Recognized Competitions).
2. All AVA Recognized Competitions must be held according to current AVA rules. If a competition is USEF and AVA recognized, USEF rules shall take precedence.
3. Recognition may be granted to any competition offering at least one AVA Recognized National Event. However, all recognized national events, if offered, must be held according to current AVA rules.
4. Recognized National Events:
 - a) Team Canter (A, B or C)
 - b) Team 1*
 - c) Team Trot
 - d) Individual Gold
 - e) Individual Silver
 - f) Individual Bronze
 - g) Individual Copper
 - h) Individual Copper 1*
 - i) Individual Trot
 - j) Individual Trot 1*
 - j) Pas de Deux
 - k) Team Two-Phase
5. See Chapters II through V for description of recognized national events and their format.

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Note: Effective July 13, 2009 (after 2009 National Championships), C Team Event and Trot Team Event requirements will be changed to Team 1* requirements. Individual Copper and Individual Trot requirements will be changed to Individual 1* requirements. At that time, the Recognized National Events will be reduced back to Team Canter (A,B, or C (with 1* requirements); Team Trot (with 1* requirements) , Individual Gold, Silver, Bronze, Copper (with 1* requirements), Trot (with 1* requirements); Pas de Deux and Team Two-Phase.

Article 103. Eligibility.

1. All clubs, vaulters, coaches and longeurs 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, an examiner, 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. B.3 and 4).
 - b) A team may have up to two 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 longeurs 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 close of entries for any USEF competition. (See Standing Rules, Section VIII.B.4.)
 - c) A team with more than two 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. (See Article 103.2.b.)

Article 104. Competitors.

1. A vaulter may enter the same event only once at any competition.
2. There are no age limits.

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3. Amateurs and professionals may compete in all events.
4. A vaulter's team classification is determined as of the closing date of entries of the competition
5. A vaulter's individual classification is as of the closing date of entries of the competition.
6. Vaulters who hold a canter medal may vault in a higher division than their medal level in individual competition.

Article 105. Horses.

1. Vaulting horses must be at least six years old, of any breed or suitable size.
2. Stallions are prohibited.

Article 106. Horse Use.

1. Canter: Horses may be used for a maximum of 36 units each day.
 - a) Team Canter Event – 6 member team:
 - 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 (6 member team):
 - 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

Exceptions:

If a horse is used at BOTH trot and canter on the same day, a maximum of 36 units is allowed.

3. In all 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 \$50.00 per violation.

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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 until a time specified by the management.
7. All competition at the canter must be performed on the correct lead, not in counter canter.
8. Before beginning the performance, the horse must be trotted on the circle at least one round.

Article 107. Inspection of Horses.

1. At National Championships, before the start of competition, there will be a vet check. The veterinarian, accompanied by at least two members of the Ground Jury, will inspect the horses. (See Article 114.2 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 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 108. Substitution.

1. Team Event:
 - a) One 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 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 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 division of Team Two-Phase Event.
 - d) Using a substitute other than is stated is illegal and results in elimination.

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3. Individual Event, Pas de Deux Event: No substitution is allowed in Individual or Pas de Deux Events.
4. Longeurs: Substitution is permitted between sections in all events.
5. Horses: Substitution is permitted between sections in all events.
6. Equipment: Substitution is permitted between sections in all events.

Article 109. Equipment.

1. Required:
 - a) Bridle with smooth snaffle bit, with no more than 2 joints
 - Rubber bit guards are permitted. A longeing cavesson is allowed.
 - b) Two side reins with or without rubber rings
 - c) Vaulting surcingle (preferably with wither and girth padding)
 - No more than two grips
 - No more than one cossack strap/loop on each side below the grip
 - No hand or foot holds may be attached to the surcingle wither/girth padding.
 - The surcingle may have one loop between grips.
 - d) Longe line
 - e) Longe whip
2. Optional:
 - a) Bandages, protection boots
 - b) One back pad, with or without a cover, maximum 2 inches thick
 - No hand or foot holds may be attached to the pad.
 - Pad may not extend more than 8 inches in front of the surcingle nor past the point of the croup.
 - c) Breast collar or breast plate
 - d) 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.

Article 110. Facilities.

1. The vaulting arena must be at least 21.5 meters (71 feet) in diameter with suitable footing. If the competition is held indoors, the ceiling height must be at least 5 meters (16.6 feet).
2. The diameter of the longeing circle must be between 13 and 15 meters (42.5 to 50 feet). The center of the circle must be clearly marked.
3. 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.

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4. 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.
5. Spectators must be located at a reasonable distance from the vaulting circle and judge's booth(s).
6. A suitable warm-up arena must be provided. An additional area for horse warm up must also be provided.
7. A ring steward must be present at each competition arena at all times during the competition.
8. 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.C.4).
9. Two (2) stop watches must be provided. One watch must be used to time the performance and the other for timing entry, falls, time-out, etc. One official timer must be appointed who shall sit next to the Chief Judge in each arena.
10. A Freestyle checker is required for Team Event. The official timer may act in that capacity to ascertain that each member of the team performs in the Freestyle.
11. A bell must be provided for the Chief Judge.

Article 111. Format.

1. Competitors are to salute the Chief Judge upon entering and before exiting the arena.
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 minute is allowed for horse and/or vaulter warm-up. Vaulter may begin immediately or wait for the bell to indicate the end of one minute at which time vaulter **MUST** begin the performance.
3. In all events, sections of the event(s) must be scheduled with a break between sections.
4. Order of go for team events must be determined by draw for each section. Management may draw for all entrants.
 - a) Time of draw must be at least one hour before the start of the competition.
 - b) Time and place of draw shall be announced in the prize list.
5. Order of go for individual events must be determined by draw, by club, for each section of the event. Management may draw for all clubs. The coach must specify order of vaulters.
 - a) Time of draw must be at least 1 hour before the start of the competition.
 - b) Time and place of draw shall be announced in the prize list.

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6. 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)
7. 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).
8. Music is recommended during all performances. Music with words and lyrics is allowed only at the Gold, A-Team and Open Pas de Deux levels. It is recommended that music be continuous for all competitors on the same horse during Individual Compulsories.
 - a) Cassette tapes, mini disks and/or compact discs must be provided by the competitor, according to the equipment available.
 - b) Management must state in the prize list which system(s) will be available.
9. The dress of the vaulters must be suitable for equestrian sport. (See FEI Rules for Vaulting).

Article 112. Timing.

1. 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 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 one minute 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 that time is stopped in the event Freestyle music or Technical Program music malfunction/breaks/power or equipment fails, etc.
 - Time will be stopped for up to two (2) minutes.
 - Vaulter(s) begin where they left off.

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- h) 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 30 seconds after the signal to resume.
- i) 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 longeur may request one time-out per performance to adjust equipment. The clock will be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute. At the longeur's request, the judge may give permission for outside assistance.
 - d) In the case of unforeseen circumstances, the bell will be sounded to indicate to the team or individual to stop. The clock will be stopped and judging will cease. A bell will sound to indicate that the individual or team is to recommence their performance. The clock will resume when the vaulter(s) retake the grips.
- 4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

Article 113. Unauthorized Assistance. (See also Article 603.7)

- 1. No one other than the longeur may give any directive to the horse.
- 2. No one is permitted to approach the horse without the intention of mounting.
- 3. Spotting/boosting vaulters is not permitted.
- 4. In Team Event, no one other than a longeur, a team of six (6) members and one 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 longeur and individual(s) who are scheduled to compete at that specific time may be in the arena.
 - a) Only one 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 VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

Article 114. Officials.

- 1. Judges:
 - a) At least one AVA Recognized Judge is required at each recognized national event, except at National Championships where at least two

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AVA Recognized Judges are required for each recognized national event.

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 II. TEAM EVENT

Article 201. Team Event Requirements.

Consists of one round of Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections

1. Team Canter Event:
 - a) The Compulsory section is performed at canter to the left.
 - b) The Freestyle section is performed at canter to the left.
2. Team Trot Event:
 - a) The Compulsory section is performed at trot to the left.
 - b) The Freestyle section is performed at trot to the left.

Article 202. Eligibility.

1. Teams are comprised of six (6) vaulters, a substitute, and a longeur. All vaulters, including the substitute, must be members of registered AVA clubs in good standing. Longeurs must be registered members of the AVA in good standing.

2. **Canter Divisions:** May be divided into A, B, C and 1* divisions. A vaulter may not compete at the same competition at more than one level of Team Event.

- a) For purposes of Team Canter Event, vaulters shall carry the following classification:

Class A

- 1) A vaulter who holds a Gold medal
- 2) A vaulter who competes at or who has ever competed at Individual Gold level at an AVA Recognized Competition

Class B

- 1) A vaulter who holds a Silver medal
- 2) A vaulter who competes at or who has ever competed at Individual Silver level at an AVA Recognized Competition

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Class C

- 1) A vaulter who holds a Bronze medal
 - 2) A vaulter who is unrated
 - b) No Class A vaulter may compete on a C Team or a 1* Team nor be the substitute on either.
 - c) No more than two Class A vaulters may compete on a B Team, including the substitute.
 - d) No more than two Class B vaulters may compete on a C Team or a 1* Team, including the substitute.
 - e) A vaulter's team classification (A, B, C or 1*) is as of the closing date of entries of the competition.
3. **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 203. Team Compulsories.

1. A, B, C & Trot Team Compulsories are performed as follows:
 - a) Each vaulter, including the substitute, must perform the first four compulsories together as follows:
 - 1) Mount
 - 2) Basic Seat
 - 3) Flag
 - 4) Mill with dismount in the same timing as the Mill Then each vaulter, including the substitute, performs the next three compulsories together as follows:
 - 5) Scissors
 - 6) Stand
 - 7) Flank
2. Team 1* Compulsories are performed as follows:
 - a) Each vaulter, including the substitute, must perform the first four compulsories together as follows:
 - 1) Mount
 - 2) Basic Seat
 - 3) Half Mill
 - 4) Swing Rearways, followed by dismount to inside. Then each vaulter, including the substitute, performs the next four compulsories together as follows:
 - 5) Flag (ends in bench position)
 - 6) Stand (begins from bench position)
 - 7) Swing with open legs
 - 8) Dismount, swing with closed legs to outside.

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Time allowed:

In Team Canter Events, if 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. The Chief Judge will ring a bell signifying the end of time allowed. Compulsory exercises performed after the time limit will receive a score of zero (0).

In Team Trot Events, if a team does not include a substitute, the maximum time allowed for the performance of the Compulsory Test is eight (8) 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 nine (9) minutes. The Chief Judge will ring a bell signifying the end of time allowed. Compulsory exercises performed after the time limit will receive a score of zero (0).

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.
4. Each of the six (6) team members plus the substitute must perform all seven (7) compulsory exercises.
5. Each vaulter must vault in order, according to his back number.
6. Each static compulsory exercise must be held for four full strides.
7. All compulsory exercises must be performed in one section before that team's Freestyle may begin.
8. Time wasted will incur point deductions. (See Article 603.1.c.)
9. Judged on:
 - a) Performance:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - b) Horse:
 - 1) Quality of the gait
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
10. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

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Article 204. Team Freestyle.

1. A free-style 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 General Impression. (See Article 603.5.e.)
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 Composition. (See Article 603.3.b.)
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 603.7. m)
7. In Team 1*, a maximum of six (6) static triples are allowed. (See Article 603.3.a.4.)
8. There must be at least two (2) vaulters in contact with the horse during any triple exercise for the exercise to be counted.
9. 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.
10. Only the twenty-five exercises with the highest Degree of Difficulty (DOD) will be scored. Value is as follows:
 - DOD I — exercises count 0.4 points
 - DOD II — exercises count 0.3 points
 - DOD III — exercises count 0.2 points
11. Judged on:
 - a) Degree of Difficulty (x1):
 - 1) Height off horse
 - 2) Complication of the movements
 - 3) Demands of suppleness, stretch, and timing
 - 4) Number and security of holding points
 - 5) Changes in direction (forward, backward, across)
 - 6) Changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside)
 - b) Composition (x1):
 - 1) Use of space
 - 2) Pace

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- 3) Variety
 - 4) Development
 - 5) Artistic merit
 - 6) Consideration for the horse
 - c) Performance (x2) — Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - d) Horse/General Impression (x1):
 - Horse (90%)
 - 1) Quality of the gait
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
 - General Impression (10%)
 - 1) Entry
 - 2) Exit
 - 3) Salute
 - 4) Comportment
 - 5) Turn-out of team and longeur
12. Falls:
- a) Vaulters(s) may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
 - b) The clock will be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the first vaulter touches the grips.
13. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER III. INDIVIDUAL EVENT

Article 301. Gold/Silver Individual Event Requirements.

1. Gold Level consists of two rounds. Round 1 consists of Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections. Round 2 consists of the Technical Test and Freestyle performed in separate sections. Silver Level

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consists of two rounds, each round consisting of Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections.

2. Competition may be offered at Gold and Silver levels.
 - a) Women's and Men's divisions must be offered at each level.
 - b) Vaulters who hold AVA Gold medals may not compete in the Silver division.
3. In Round 1, competition is at the canter to the left for Compulsory and Freestyle sections.
4. In Round 2, competition is at the canter to the right for the Compulsory section and to the left for the Technical Test and Freestyle section.
5. The fifteen (15) highest scoring women will compete in Round II of the Women's Event.
6. The fifteen (15) highest scoring men will compete in Round II of the Men's Event.

Article 302. Gold/Silver Compulsories.

1. All seven (7) compulsory exercises are performed together as a unit. Performance begins with a simple Mount to astride, followed by Basic Seat, Flag, Mill, Scissors, Stand and Flank.
2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
3. No time limit
4. Judged on:
 - a) Performance:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - b) Horse:
 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
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.

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- b) The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.
- 6. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

Article 303. Gold/Silver Freestyle.

- 1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises. To receive a score, it must consist of a minimum of seven (7) exercises of any level of difficulty.
 - a) 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.
 - b) Vaulters must stay in contact with the horse or surcingle. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse are allowed.
 - c) Only the ten most difficult exercises with a Degree of Difficulty R, I or II (DOD R, I, II) will be counted in the Degree of Difficulty score. The maximum score for DOD is 10.0.
 - d) DOD R exercises count one and three tenths (1.3) points toward the DOD score.
 - e) DOD I exercises count nine-tenths (0.9) of a point toward the DOD score.
 - f) DOD II exercises count four-tenths (0.4) of a point toward the DOD score.
 - g) Repetitions of exercises and compulsory exercises will not be counted.
- 2. Judged on:
 - a) Degree of Difficulty (x1):
 - 1) Height off horse
 - 2) Complication of movements
 - 3) Demands of suppleness, stretch and timing
 - 4) Number and security of holding points
 - 5) Changes in direction (forward, backward, across)
 - 6) Changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside and outside)
 - b) Composition (x1):
 - 1) Use of space: Changes relative to the horse; on neck, on croup, inside, outside
 - 2) Pace: Use of static and dynamic exercises
 - 3) Variety: Use of varied structure groups of exercises
 - 4) Development: The choreographic progression between exercises and overall progression of the routine
 - 5) Artistic merit: Creativity, suitability of exercises to horse and vaulter and interpretation of music
 - 6) Consideration for the horse

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- c) Performance (x2) — Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope (elevation, width, amplitude of movement)
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - d) Horse (x1):
 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
3. Falls:
- a) Vaulters may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
 - b) The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the vaulter touches the grips.
4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for final score, penalties and deductions.

Article 304. Gold Technical Test.

1. The Technical Test is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine consisting of five technical exercises and additional freestyle exercises chosen by the vaulter.
- a) The technical exercises are from the following categories of motor skills:
 - Balance (coordination)
 - Timing/Rhythm (coordination)
 - Strength (condition)
 - Jump Force (condition)
 - Suppleness
 - b) The exercises included in each category are described in the current FEI Guidelines for Judges.
 - c) One exercise from each category is designated by the FEI Vaulting Committee in the year before the World Championships, to be used during the two-year period following that World Championship. The five Technical Exercises will be announced in the FEI Bulletin and on the Website.

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- d) The static exercises chosen as technical exercises must be held four (4) canter strides or will receive a deduction of one point for each stride held less than four (4).
2. Judged on:
 - a) The maximum score is 10.0. Decimals are allowed.
 - b) The Technical Test receives 10 scores:
 - Five separate performance scores for the designated Technical exercises (5 scores)
 - Composition x 2
 - Performance x 2
 - Horse Score x 1
 - c) The total is divided by 10.
 - d) For deductions and scoring of the Technical test, see the current FEI Guidelines for Judges.

Article 305. Bronze Individual Event Requirements.

1. Consists of two rounds: First round consisting of Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections, second round consisting of Compulsories only
 - a) Women's and Men's divisions must be offered.
 - b) Vaulters who hold AVA Gold or Silver medals may not compete in the Bronze division.
2. In Round I, competition is at the canter to the left for Compulsory and Freestyle sections. In Round II, competition is to the right for Compulsories.
3. The fifteen (15) highest scoring women will compete in Round II of the Women's Event.
4. The fifteen (15) highest scoring men will compete in Round II of the Men's Event.

Article 306. Bronze Compulsories.

1. All seven (7) compulsory exercises are performed together as a unit. Performance begins with a simple Mount to astride, followed by Basic Seat, Flag, Mill, Scissors, Stand and Flank.
2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
3. No time limit
4. Judged on:
 - a) Performance:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security

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- 6) Balance
- 7) Continuity
- 8) Harmony with the horse
- b) Horse:
 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
5. Falls:
 - a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise.
 - b) The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.
6. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

Article 307. Bronze Freestyle.

1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
 - a) 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.
 - b) Vaulter must stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse are allowed.
 - c) Only exercises with a Degree of Difficulty I, II, or III (DOD I, II, III) will be counted in the Degree of Difficulty.
 - d) DOD I exercises count nine-tenths (0.9) of a point toward the content score.
 - e) DOD II exercises count four-tenths (0.4) of a point toward the content score.
 - f) DOD III exercises count three-tenths (0.3) of a point toward the content score.
 - g) Maximum score for all DOD I, II, and III exercises is 9.0.
 - h) Repetitions of exercises and compulsory exercises will not be counted.
2. Judged on:
 - a) Degree of Difficulty (x1):
 - 1) Height off horse
 - 2) Complication of the movements
 - 3) Demands of suppleness, stretch and timing
 - 4) Number and security of holding points
 - 5) Changes in direction (forward, backward, across)

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- 6) Changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside)
 - b) Composition (x1):
 - 1) Use of space: Changes relative to the horse; on neck, on croup, inside, outside
 - 2) Pace: Use of static and dynamic exercises
 - 3) Variety: Use of varied structure groups of exercises
 - 4) Development: The choreographic progression between exercises and overall progression of the routine
 - 5) Artistic merit: Creativity, suitability of exercises to horse and vaulter and interpretation of music
 - 6) Consideration for the horse
 - c) Performance (x2) — Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope (elevation, width, amplitude of movement)
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - d) Horse (x1):
 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
3. Falls:
 - a) Vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
 - b) The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the vaulter touches the grips.
4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for final score, penalties and deductions.

Article 308. Copper Individual Event Requirements.

1. Consists of one round: Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections.
 - a) Women's and Men's divisions must be offered

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- b) Vaulters who hold AVA Gold, Silver or Bronze medals may not compete in the Copper division.
- 2. The competition is at the canter to the left for both Compulsory and Freestyle sections.

Article 309. Copper Compulsories.

- 1. All seven (7) compulsory exercises are performed together as a unit. Performance begins with a simple Mount to astride, followed by Basic Seat, Flag, Mill, Scissors, Stand and Flank.
- 2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
- 3. No time limit
- 4. Judged on:
 - a) Performance
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - b) Horse
 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
- 5. Falls:
 - a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise.
 - b) The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.
- 6. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

Article 310. Copper Freestyle.

- 1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
 - a) Static exercises must be held for three (3) full canter strides. A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
 - b) Vaulter must stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and

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- leaps above the horse are NOT allowed; hop from knees to feet is allowed.
- c) Only DOD III level dismounts are allowed.
2. Judged on:
- a) Content (x2)
 - 1) Originality
 - 2) Complication of movements
 - 3) Demands of suppleness, stretch and timing
 - 4) Appropriateness of exercises
 - 5) Changes in direction (forward, backward, across)
 - 6) Changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside)
 - 7) Use of space
 - 8) Pace
 - 9) Variety
 - 10) Development
 - 11) Artistic merit
 - 12) Consideration for the horse
 - b) Performance (x3) – Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - c) Horse (x1)
 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
3. Falls:
- a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
 - b) The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the vaulter touches the grips or the horse.
4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

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Article 311. Copper Individual 1* Event Requirements

1. Consists of one round: Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections.
 - a) Women's and Men's divisions must be offered
 - b) Vaulters who hold AVA Gold, Silver or Bronze medals may not compete in the Copper 1* division.
2. The competition is at the canter to the left for both Compulsory and Freestyle sections.

Article 312. Copper 1* Compulsories.

1. All eight (8) compulsory exercises are performed together as a unit. Performance begins with a simple Mount to astride, followed by Basic Seat, Half Mill, Swing Rearways, followed by half mill back to inside and facing forward; Flag, Stand, Swing with open legs and Dismount swing to outside with closed legs.
2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
3. No time limit
4. Judged on:
 - a) Performance
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - b) Horse
 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
5. Falls:
 - a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise.
 - b) The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.
6. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

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Article 313. Copper 1* Freestyle.

1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
 - a) Static exercises must be held for three (3) full canter strides. A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
 - b) Vaulters must stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse are NOT allowed; hop from knees to feet is allowed.
 - c) Only DOD III level dismounts are allowed.
2. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x2)
 - 1) Originality
 - 2) Complication of movements
 - 3) Demands of suppleness, stretch and timing
 - 4) Appropriateness of exercises
 - 5) Changes in direction (forward, backward, across)
 - 6) Changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside)
 - 7) Use of space
 - 8) Pace
 - 9) Variety
 - 10) Development
 - 11) Artistic merit
 - 12) Consideration for the horse
 - b) Performance (x3) – Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - c) Horse (x1)
 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
3. Falls:
 - a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one

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- (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise.
The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
- b) The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the vaulter touches the grips or the horse.
- 4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

Article 314. Trot Individual Event Requirements.

- 1. Consists of one round: Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections.
 - a) Women's and Men's divisions must be offered
 - b) Open to trot medal holder or below
- 2. The competition is at the trot to the left for both Compulsory and Freestyle section.

Article 315. Trot Compulsories

- 1. All seven (7) compulsory exercises are performed together as a unit. Performance begins with a simple Mount to astride, followed by Basic Seat, Flag, Mill, Scissors, Stand and Flank.
- 2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
- 3. No time limit
- 4. Judged on:
 - a) Performance
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - b) Horse
 - 1) Quality of the trot
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of Going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
- 5. Falls:
 - a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise
 - b) The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.
- 6. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.

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Article 316. Trot Freestyle

1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
 - a) Static exercises must be held for three (3) full trot strides. A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
 - b) Vaulters must stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse are NOT allowed; hop from knees to feet is allowed.
 - c) Only DOD III Level dismounts are allowed.
2. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x2)
 - 1) Use of space
 - 2) Use of pace
 - 3) Variety
 - 4) Originality
 - 5) Development
 - 6) Music Interpretation
 - 7) Artistic Merit
 - 8) Appropriateness of exercises
 - 9) Consideration of the horse
 - b) Performance (x3)
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope (elevation, width, amplitude of movement)
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - c) Horse (x1)
 - 1) Quality of the trot
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
3. Falls:
 - a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
 - b) The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for

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each fall. It will be restarted when the vaulter touches the grips or the horse.

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

Article 317. Trot Individual 1* Event Requirements

1. Consists of one round: Compulsories and Freestyle performed in separate sections.

- a) Women's and Men's divisions must be offered
- b) Open to trot medal holder or below

2. The competition is at the trot to the left for both Compulsory and Freestyle section.

Article 318. Trot 1* Compulsories

1. All eight (8) compulsory exercises are performed together as a unit. Performance begins with a simple Mount to astride, followed by Basic Seat, Half Mill, Swing Rearways, followed by half mill back to inside and facing forward; Flag, Stand, Swing with open legs and Dismount swing to outside with closed legs.

2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.

3. No time limit

4. Judged on:

- a) Performance
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
- b) Horse
 - 1) Quality of the trot
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of Going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation

5. Falls:

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

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

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Article 319. Trot 1* Freestyle

1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
 - a) Static exercises must be held for three (3) full trot strides. A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
 - b) Vaulters must stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse are NOT allowed; hop from knees to feet is allowed.
 - c) Only DOD III level dismounts are allowed.
2. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x2)
 - 1) Use of space
 - 2) Use of pace
 - 3) Variety
 - 4) Originality
 - 5) Development
 - 6) Music Interpretation
 - 7) Artistic Merit
 - 8) Appropriateness of exercises
 - 9) Consideration of the horse
 - b) Performance (x3)
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope (elevation, width, amplitude of movement)
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - c) Horse (x1)
 - 1) Quality of the trot
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
3. Falls:
 - a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.

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- b) The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the vaulter touches the grips or the horse.
- 4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER IV. PAS DE DEUX EVENT

Article 401. Pas de Deux Event Requirements.

- 1. Pairs event is composed of two vaulters.
- 2. Consists of one or two rounds of Freestyle performed at canter to the left, with a time limit of two (2) minutes each.
- 3. Divisions:
 - a) Open division
 - 1) Any canter medal vaulter/Any canter medal vaulter
 - b) Preliminary division
 - 1) Neither vaulter may hold a Gold medal nor compete at or ever have competed at Individual Gold level at any AVA Recognized Competition.
 - 2) No more than one vaulter may hold a Silver medal nor compete at or ever have competed at Individual Silver level at any AVA Recognized Competition.

Article 402. Pas de Deux Freestyle.

- 1. Freestyle is a two (2) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises with no requirements or limitations.
 - a) Static exercises must be held for three (3) full canter strides. A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
 - b) Both vaulters must stay in contact with the horse, surcingle or each other. Ground jumps, leaps and exercises above the horse are allowed.
- 2. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x2):
 - 1) Height off horse
 - 2) Complication of the movements
 - 3) Demands of suppleness, stretch and timing
 - 4) Number and security of holding points
 - 5) Changes in direction (forward, backward, across).
 - 6) Changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside)
 - 7) Use of space
 - 8) Pace
 - 9) Variety
 - 10) Development
 - 11) Artistic merit
 - 12) Consideration for the horse

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- b) Performance (x3) — Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
- c) Horse (x1):
 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
- 3. Falls:
 - a) Vaulters(s) may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
 - b) The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the first vaulter touches the grips.
- 4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for final score and penalties and deductions. Penalties and deductions are as for Individual Event.

CHAPTER V. TWO-PHASE EVENT

Article 501. Team Two-Phase Event Requirements.

This event is performed in two separate sections.

- 1. Two-Phase: Phase 1 is performed on the horse and Phase 2 is performed on the barrel.
- 2. Teams shall consist of four (4) vaulters plus a substitute and longeur.
- 3. Divisions:
 - a) Open Canter
 - 1) No restrictions apply.
 - b) Preliminary Canter
 - 1) No vaulter may hold a Gold medal nor compete at or ever have competed at Individual Gold level at any AVA Recognized Competition.
 - 2) No more than one of the vaulters, including the substitute, may hold a Silver medal nor compete at or ever have competed at Individual Silver level at any AVA Recognized Competition.

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Article 502. Phase 1 — Horse.

1. Each vaulter, including the substitute, must perform all seven (7) compulsory exercises at canter to the right. There is no time limit.
2. Each exercise is performed as in Team Canter Event except that the exercises are mirror images of the exercises to the left.
3. All rules which apply to the Compulsory section of Team Canter Event also apply to this phase.
4. Judged on:
 - a) Performance:
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - b) Horse/General Impression:

Horse (90%)

 - 1) Quality of the canter
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation

General Impression (10%)

 - 1) Entry
 - 2) Exit
 - 3) Salute
 - 4) Comportment
 - 5) Turn-out of team and longeur

Article 503. Phase 2 — Barrel.

1. Three (3) minute free-style routine. Only four (4) vaulters are allowed to enter the arena for the freestyle. (See Article 603.7.e.) The team coach must declare to competition management, by the time specified by competition management, which members of the team will perform in Freestyle. All team members, as declared by the coach, must perform in the freestyle or the team will be penalized under General Impression.
2. 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.

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3. Time:
 - a) Begins when the first vaulter(s) touches the barrel
 - b) Judging ends after three (3) minutes at which time a bell will sound.
4. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x1):
 - 1) Variety
 - 2) Composition
 - 3) Originality
 - 4) Difficulty
 - 5) Use of static, dynamic, stretch and balance exercises
 - 6) Time used
 - 7) Use of barrel
 - b) Performance (x1) — Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include:
 - 1) Form
 - 2) Balance
 - 3) Security
 - 4) Stretch and scope
 - 5) Falls and failures
 - c) General Impression (x1):
 - 1) Turnout
 - 2) Entry
 - 3) Exit
 - 4) Salute
 - 5) Comportment
 - 6) Style
 - 7) Presentation
 - 8) Flow of program
 - 9) Suitability of music
 - 10) Appropriateness of exercises
5. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for final score and penalties and deductions.

NOTES

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CHAPTER VI. SCORING

Article 601. Judging Code. (Listed in alphabetical order by term).

AL - Alignment	LD - Late Dismount	TW - Time Wasted
AB - Arched Back	L - Legs	T - Timing
A - Arms	LA - Legs Apart	TZ - Toes
B - Balance	LF - Legs Forward	TG - Touched Ground
C - Collapse	MX - Mechanics	TH - Touched Horse
CD - Come Down	M - Mount	TR - Transition
CT - Control	NC - Not Clear of Horse	TI - Turned In
D - Dismount	NH - Not Held	UE - Uneven Elevation
DL - Down Leg	OC - Off Center	UR - Uneven Rhythm
E - Elevation	OH - Off Horse	UW - Uneven Width
X - Extension	PD - Pad	W - Wrap
O - Fall	PK - Pike	
OD - Fall on Dismount	P - Posture	
FT - Feet	Q - Quick	GENERAL REMARKS
FL - Flight	R - Repeat	⊕ Excellent
F - Form	SC - Scope	+ Very Good
FK - Frog Kick	1H - First Half	✓ Good
FH - Front High	2H - Second Half	✓ Satisfactory
G - Ground Jump	SK - Security	√ Marginal
HZ - Hands	SH - Shoulders	— Poor
H - Head	SS - Side Seat	
HH - Hit Horse	SL - Slow	
K - Kneel	ST - Stiff	
KZ - Knees	SX - Stretch	
LH - Lands Heavily	SP - Suppleness	

Article 602. Points and Values.

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

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. (For further information about scoring particular events, see Section 604 through Section 610 of this chapter. See also Standing Rules, Section VIII Recognized Competitions – D Scoring.)
3. Tie breakers:
 - a) Individual Events:
 - 1) Compulsory: Score for Basic Seat, then Flag, then Mill, then

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- Scissors, then Stand, then Flank. The Mount and Horse scores are not used.
- 2) Freestyle: Score for Composition/Content then Performance;
 - 3) Technical Test: Score for Composition, then Performance;
 - 4) Overall: Compulsory score
- b) Individual 1* Events:
- 1) Compulsory: Score for Basic Seat, then Half-Mill, then Swing Rearways, then Flag, then Stand then Swing with open legs and then Dismount with closed legs. The Mount and Horse scores are not used.
- c) Team Event (A,B,C or Trot)
- 1) Compulsory: Sum of the 6 vaulters' scores for Basic Seat, then the sum for the Flag, then the sum for Mill, then the sum for Scissors, then the sum for Stand, and then the sum for Flank; the mount and horse scores are not used.
 - 2) Freestyle: Score for Composition then score for Performance;
 - 3) Overall: Compulsory score.
- d) Team 1* Event
- 1) Compulsory: Sum of the 6 vaulters' scores for Basic Seat, then the sum for Half-Mill, then the sum for Swing Rearways, then the sum for Flag, then the sum for Stand, then the sum for Swing with open legs, then the sum for Dismount with closed legs; the mount and horse scores are not used.
 - 2) Freestyle: Score for Composition then score for Performance;
 - 3) Overall: Compulsory score.
- e) Pas de Deux Event:
- 1) Freestyle: Score for Content, then score for Performance;
 - 2) Overall: Score for Content, then score for Performance.
- f) Two Phase Team Event:
- 1) Compulsory: Sum of the 4 vaulters' scores for Basic Seat, then the sum for Flag, then the sum for Mill, then the sum for Scissors, then the sum for Stand, and then the sum for Flank; the mount and horse scores are not used.
 - 2) Barrel: Score for Content and then score for Performance.
- e) Ties that cannot be broken as stated, remain ties.
- For all events with two or more judges, each judge's scores shall be carried forward per the above.

Article 603. Penalties and Deductions.

1. Compulsories — Team and Individual Events:
 - a) Up to one (1) point deducted for:
 - 1) Each landing other than on both feet

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- b) One (1) point deducted for:
 - 1) Each stride less than 4 (Basic Seat, Flag, Stand)
 - 2) Each passing of the leg out of a 4-count rhythm in the Mill, including dismount
 - 3) Rhythm failure between the first and second leg pass in Half-Mill
 - 4) Interfering with longe line or side reins
 - 5) Touching neck in Flag without loss of form
 - 6) No kneel (both knees) before Flag or Stand
 - 7) Legs not closed at highest point of swing in 1* Swing Rearways
 - 8) Legs are closed, not shoulder width apart during any part of the flight phase in 1* Swing with open legs
 - 9) Legs not closed throughout flight in 1* Dismount, swing with closed legs.
- c) Up to two (2) points deducted for:
 - 1) Time wasted: more than two (2) strides between taking grips and vaulting on, before commencing an exercise, and between parts of an exercise
 - 2) Landing heavily on horse's back
 - 3) Buttocks leaving horse before or after backward seat in Mill
 - 4) Buttocks leaving horse before backward seat in Half-Mill
- d) Two (2) points deducted for:
 - 1) Exercise fails, but vaulter stays on and repeats successfully
 - 2) Retaking grips in Basic Seat, Flag or Stand
 - 3) Touching horse with hand behind surcingle in Mill or 1* Half-Mill
 - 4) Repeating an exercise or part of an exercise
 - 5) Repeating Mount (first attempt unsuccessful, second attempt successful)
- e) Score of zero (0) for:
 - 1) Coming off horse during a compulsory exercise
 - 2) Retaking grips twice
 - 3) Repeating a compulsory exercise twice
 - 4) Turning the wrong way in the Scissors (not turning toward the longeur)
 - 5) A compulsory exercise, no part of which is performed at the required gait
 - 6) Each compulsory exercise not performed
 - 7) A compulsory exercise shown out of order
 - When two compulsories are transposed, the first exercise shown out of order receives the zero (0).
 - 8) Repeating Mount (attempting to mount twice but not successful; third attempt is successful, but receives zero)

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- In Individual Events, after third unsuccessful attempt to mount, the vaulter is excused from the ring.
 - In Team Events, if unsuccessful mount occurs in first set of compulsories (after the third unsuccessful attempt to mount), the vaulter shall return to the line and may attempt to mount for the second set of compulsories. After the third unsuccessful attempt to mount in the second set of compulsories, the vaulter shall return to the line.
- 9) In Team Events, each compulsory exercise shown out of order
- When the error is noticed, a bell will be rung and the team will be advised of the error.
 - Incorrect exercises may not be repeated.
- 10) In Team Events, exercises begun after the time limit
2. Freestyle and Technical Test Performance score — Team, Pas de Deux and Individual Events:
- a) Up to one (1) point deducted for:
 - 1) In Team Events, for each landing other than on both feet
 - b) One (1) point deducted for:
 - 1) In Individual Gold Technical Test, each stride held less than four (4) (required exercises: sideways stand, push-up rearways, and stand split).
 - c) Up to two (2) points deducted for:
 - 1) Falls
3. Freestyle and Technical Test Composition/Content score – Team, Pas de Deux and Individual Events:
- a) One (1) point deducted for:
 - 1) In Individual Events, after the final bell, the vaulter must commence the final vault-off within three (3) strides or incur a deduction of one (1) point from the score for Composition/Content. Vault-offs which are not commenced within three strides, and all other exercises commenced after the final bell will not be scored in the Degree of Difficulty or in the Performance.
 - 2) In Team Events, after the final bell, vaulters must finish the exercise or combination in progress and must proceed immediately to commence the vault-offs or incur a deduction of 1.0 point from Composition. Exercises, or combinations other than the final vault-off, commenced after the final bell will not be considered in the Degree of Difficulty or in the Performance.
 - 3) In Individual Copper, Individual Copper 1*, Individual Trot, and Individual Trot 1* for performing a DOD I or DOD II level dismount.

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- 4) In Team 1* Event for performing more than six (6) static triple exercises.
 - b) Up to two (2) points deducted for:
 - 1) In Team Event, over weighting and/or overloading the horse
 - c) Two (2) points deducted for:
 - 1) Each vaulter not performing at least one exercise in addition to the vault-on in Team Freestyle
 - 2) Ground jumps and leaps in Individual Copper, Individual Copper 1* , Individual Trot and Individual Trot 1* Event.
4. Not scored in Freestyle and Technical Test – Team, Pas de Deux and Individual Events:
- a) Each static exercise held for less than three (3) strides at the required gait
 - b) Compulsory exercises
 - c) An exercise no part of which is performed at the required gait
 - d) Repetition of any exercise
 - e) A triple exercise in which two (2) vaulters are not in contact with the horse
5. Freestyle Horse/General Impression score — Team Event:
In Team Event, the score for the Horse and General Impression is divided approximately as follows: 90% for Horse; 10% for General Impression.
- Horse:
- a) Deductions at the discretion of the judge for:
 - 1) Lack of balance
 - 2) Not straight on the circle
 - 3) Impure gaits
 - 4) Uneven and/or un-level
 - 5) Poor condition
 - 6) Overloading, laboring, signs of discomfort
 - 7) Circle size, longeing and presentation
- General Impression:
- a) Up to one (1) point deducted for:
 - 1) Audible instruction to vaulters
 - b) One (1) point deducted for:
 - 1) Each team member not wearing a number
 - c) Up to two (2) points deducted for:
 - 1) Longeing on a circle significantly deviant from 13 to 15 meters
 - d) Two (2) points deducted for:
 - 1) Vaulting out of order in Compulsory section of Team Events (not according to numbers)
 - e) Up to four (4) points deducted for:
 - 1) Vaulter, longeur or horse inappropriately turned out

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- 2) Side reins forcing a horse's head behind the vertical
 - 3) All six (6) vaulters on a team not performing in the Freestyle
 - 4) Manes not braided or roached
6. Freestyle and Technical Test, Horse score – Individual and Pas de Deux Events:

In Individual and Pas de Deux Event there is a score for the horse only.

Horse:

- a) Deductions at the discretion of the Judge for:
 - 1) Lack of balance
 - 2) Not straight on the circle
 - 3) Impure gaits
 - 4) Uneven and/or un-level
 - 5) Poor condition
 - 6) Overloading
 - 7) Laboring
 - 8) Signs of discomfort
 - 9) Circle size
 - 10) Longeing and presentation.
7. Elimination — Team, Pas de Deux and Individual Events:
- a) In Team Event, entering the ring with more than a longeur, team of six and one substitute for the compulsory section (a team must have a minimum of six vaulters to begin).
 - b) In Team Event, entering the ring with more than or less than a longeur and a team of six 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 than a longeur, team of four and one substitute for the compulsory section (a team must have a minimum of four vaulters to begin)
 - e) In Team 2-Phase Event, entering the ring with more than or less than a team of four 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) In Individual Event, if vaulter enters circle before previous vaulter begins vault off, entering vaulter will be eliminated.
 - i) Illegal use of substitute
 - j) Horse that is uneven and/or un-level, in bad condition or which shows signs of discomfort or fatigue
 - k) Abuse of the horse
 - l) An unforeseen circumstance

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- m) More than three (3) vaulters on the horse at any one time or in any exercise whether actually on the horse or not
 - n) 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.
 - o) Use of non-allowable equipment
 - p) Team or vaulter not saluting the Chief Judge within one (1) minute of the judge's signal to enter
 - q) Team or vaulter not commencing the performance within one (1) minute of the judge's signal to begin
 - r) Unauthorized assistance not specified elsewhere
 - s) Use of dress other than defined
 - t) Use of music with words and lyrics, in all events except Gold Individual, A Team and Open Pas de Deux.
 - u) In the event the team/individual is eliminated, 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 the compulsory section, that team or individual(s) may compete in the Freestyle section and receive awards and placings in the Freestyle section. However, they may not receive overall awards or placings.
- * Individuals who are eliminated in Round I of the compulsory or Freestyle section may participate in Round II, but may not receive overall awards and/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.

Article 604. Team Canter, Team Trot Event Scoring and Team 1* Event Scoring

1. Compulsory section: Team Canter and Team Trot:
 - a) The compulsory score of the six (6) vaulters are added creating a single score for each of the seven compulsory exercises. 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 seven (7) compulsory score sums are averaged for the six vaulters by adding each of the 7 scores together and dividing by 6. The horse score is added to the resultant value and then the sum is divided by 8. This is the team's score for the compulsory section.

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2. Compulsory section: Team 1*:
 - a) The compulsory score of the six (6) vaulters are added creating a single score for each of the eight compulsory exercises. The vaulters whose score 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 eight (8) compulsory score sums are averaged for the six vaulters by adding each of the 8 scores together and dividing by 6. The horse score is added to the resultant value and then the sum is divided by 9. This is the team's score for the compulsory section.
3. Freestyle section:
 - a) Degree of Difficulty (x1)
 - b) Composition (x1)
 - c) Performance (x2)
 - d) Horse/General Impression (x1)
 - e) The five (5) Freestyle scores are added and divided by five (5). This is the team's score for the Freestyle section.
4. 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 605. Individual Gold, Silver, Bronze Event Scoring.

1. Compulsory section (Score 1):
 - a) The seven (7) Compulsory scores and the Horse score are added. Total is divided by 8.
2. Freestyle section (Score 2):
 - a) Degree of Difficulty (x1)
 - b) Composition (x1)
 - c) Performance (x2)
 - d) Horse (x1)
 - e) Total is divided by 5.
3. Technical Test Section (Score 1 in Round II Gold Individual)
 - a) The five performance scores for the designated technical exercises (5 scores)
 - b) Composition (x2)
 - c) Performance (x2)
 - d) Horse score (x1)
 - e) Total is divided by 10
4. Final score:
 - a) In each round, scores 1 and 2 are added and divided by 2 to produce the score for that round.

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- b) For Silver and Gold Events, the scores for each of the two rounds are added and divided by 2 to produce the final score for the event.
- c) For Bronze Event, score 1 and score 2 of Round I are added to score 1 of Round II. The total is divided by 3 to produce the final score for the event.

Article 606. Individual Copper Event Scoring.

- 1. Compulsory section (Score 1):
 - a) The seven (7) Compulsory scores and the Horse score are added.
Total is divided by 8.
- 2. Freestyle section (Score 2):
 - a) Content (x2)
 - b) Performance (x3)
 - c) Horse (x1)
 - d) Total is divided by 6.
- 3. Final score:
 - a) Score 1 and 2 are added and divided by 2 to produce the final score for the event.

Article 607. Individual Trot Event Scoring

- 1. Compulsory section (Score 1)
 - a) The seven (7) Compulsory scores and the Horse score are added.
Total is divided by 8.
- 2. Freestyle section (Score 2)
 - a) Content (x2)
 - b) Performance (x3)
 - c) Horse (x1)
 - d) Total is divided by 6.
- 3. Final score:
 - a) Scores 1 and 2 are added and divided by 2 to produce the final score for the event.

Article 608. Individual Copper 1* and Individual Trot 1* Event Scoring

- 1. Compulsory section (Score 1)
 - a) The eight (8) Compulsory scores and the Horse score are added.
Total is divided by 9.
- 2. Freestyle section (Score 2)
 - a) Content (x2)
 - b) Performance (x3)
 - c) Horse (x1)
 - d) Total is divided by 6.
- 3. Final score:
 - a) Scores 1 and 2 are added and divided by 2 to produce the final score for the event.

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Article 609. Pas de Deux Event Scoring.

1. Freestyle I (Score 1):
 - a) Content (x2)
 - b) Performance (x3)
 - c) Horse (x1)
 - d) Total is divided by 6.
2. Freestyle II (Score 2):
 - a) Content (x2)
 - b) Performance (x3)
 - c) Horse (x1)
 - d) Total is divided by 6.
3. Final score:
 - a) Scores 1 and 2 are added and divided by 2 to produce the final score for the event if two rounds are offered.
 - b) If only one round is offered the final score is the score for Freestyle I.

Article 610. 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 seven compulsory exercises.
 - b) The seven (7) compulsory score sums are averaged for the four (4) vaulters by adding each of the 7 scores together and dividing by 4. The horse score is added to the resultant value and then the sum is divided by 8. This is the team's score for the compulsory section.
2. Barrel section (Score 2):
 - a) Content (x1)
 - b) Performance (x1)
 - c) General Impression (x1)
 - d) Total is divided by 3.
3. Final score
 - a) Scores 1 and 2 are added and divided by 2 to produce the final score for the Event.

CHAPTER VII. MEDALS

Article 701. 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.

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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 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 longeurs 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 except Flank, a simple dismount 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.
 - j) Compulsories are performed in the same format as in Team 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 Freestyle exercises may be performed together without dismounting.
 - m) Freestyle exercises and their assigned Degree of Difficulty are listed in the current FEI Guidelines for Judges. If the exercise to be performed is not listed, contact the Medal Test Secretary for approval of the exercise.
 - n) A list of Freestyle exercises to be performed for Bronze, Silver and Gold exams must be enclosed in the envelope with the application submitted to the Medal Test Secretary. (See Standing Rules, Section IX.B.1.c & e)

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Article 702. Novice Award Requirements. Performed at walk, trot or canter to the left.

1. May be taken at three gaits: Walk, trot and canter
2. The Mount is not scored for Novice award. An assisted mount is allowed for Novice award at all gaits. Vaulters must then perform the remaining six (6) compulsories with a minimum score of 3 for each exercise.
Judged on:
 - a) Correct mechanics: Scissors turned the correct way; 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
3. Two repeats allowed as for other medal exams.
4. 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 (3) above.
5. If the form is so bad as to affect the basic mechanics, the exercise will fail.
6. Award may not be given commended or with honors.
7. Minimum passing score: 30%.
8. All other rules for medal exams apply.

Article 703. Trot Medal Requirements. Performed at trot to the left or to the right.

1. Trot medal may be taken in both directions.
2. The Mount is not scored for Trot exam. Vaulters must perform the six (6) remaining compulsory exercises. The minimum score for all exercises with the exception of Scissors and Flank is 5.0. The minimum score for Scissors and Flank is 4.5.
3. No spotters allowed.
4. Minimum Passing Score: 48.33%
5. Award may not be given commended or with honors.

Article 704. Bronze Medal Requirements. Performed at canter to the left or to the right.

1. Bronze medal may be taken in both directions.
2. The Mount is not scored for Bronze exam. Vaulters must perform the six (6) remaining compulsory exercises and any four (4) Freestyle exercises having an assigned Degree of Difficulty II or III. (No Degree of Difficulty I's are allowed.)
3. The minimum score for all exercises is 5.0.
4. Final score: Satisfactory: 50.0% — 59.9%
Commended: 60.0% — 69.9%
With Honors: 70.0% — 100.0%

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Article 705. Silver Medal Requirements. Performed at canter to the left or to the right.

1. Silver medal may be taken in both directions.
2. The Mount is not scored for Silver exam. Vaulters must perform the remaining six (6) compulsory exercises, and any six (6) Freestyle exercises having an assigned Degree of Difficulty I or II.
3. The total score of all exercises must average 65.0% with no exercise receiving less than a 6.0.
4. Final score: Satisfactory: 65.0% — 69.9%
Commended: 70.0% — 79.9%
With Honors: 80.0% — 100.0%

Article 706. Gold Medal Requirements. Performed at canter to the left or to the right.

1. Gold medal may be taken in both directions.
2. The Mount is not scored for Gold exam. Vaulters must perform the remaining six (6) compulsory exercises and any eight (8) Freestyle exercises having an assigned Degree of Difficulty I.
3. The total score of all exercises must average 80.0%, with no exercise scoring less than 7.5.
4. Final score: Satisfactory: 80.0% — 82.9%
Commended: 83.0% — 85.9%
With Honors: 86.0% — 100.0%

CHAPTER VIII. JUDGES

Article 801. Recognized 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.

Article 802. Rules for Recognized Judges.

1. Active status:
 - a) Recognized Judges must maintain Individual Membership in good standing throughout the calendar year.

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- b) Judges must attend the AVA Judges Forum each year, or AVA Judges Training Session(s) of equal hours, 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 803. Promotion to International Judge (I).

1. Eligibility:
- a) Advancement to International Judge (I) requires the approval of the AVA Technical Committee.

Article 804. Promotion to Registered Judge (R).

1. Eligibility:
- a) Advancement to Registered Judge (R) requires approval of Technical Committee.
 - b) Applicant must pass a written and/or practical exam.
 - c) A fee is required on promotion to Registered Judge (R).

Article 805. Certification as an AVA Recorded Judge (r).

- 1. Applicant must attend a minimum of eight (8) judges general training sessions, two 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).
 - a) Recognized Team Events: Canter, Two-Phase, Trot
 - b) Recognized Individual Events: Gold, Silver, Bronze, Pas de Deux
- 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 806. Apprentice Program.

1. Eligibility:
- a) Applicant must be at least 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 National Championships,

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- two Annual Meetings, and one designed judges training session, approved by Technical Committee prior to application.
- d) Applicant must have experience as a clerk at a vaulting competition.
 - e) Applicant must have experience as a timer at a vaulting competition.
2. Application:
- a) Applicants must submit a completed application form to the Chairman of the Technical Committee along with the required fee. This application must be on the official form and must be submitted by mailing or hand delivery.
 - b) The following information is requested of the applicants:
 - 1) Reason for wanting to be a judge
 - 2) Opinion of a judge's responsibilities
 - 3) Length of time involved in the sport and in what capacities
 - 4) Basic experience:
 - As a vaulter
 - As a coach or instructor
 - As a judge
 - As a worker/administrator at competitions, fests, medal exams, annual meetings (committee work) and judges forums
 - Judging experience in any other field
 - Experience as a vaulting clerk or timer
 - 5) Names and addresses of three character references, three Registered (R) or (I) Judges, and three other AVA Individual Members who are not affiliated with the applicant's club (if any)
 - c) If candidate is unknown to any Registered (R) Judge (for reasons such as residence in an inactive region), his/her application will be given special consideration by the screening panel.
 - d) A nonrefundable filing fee must accompany the application.
3. Procedure:
- a) Applications will be accepted October 1st through December 31st of each year.
 - b) A screening panel appointed by the Technical Committee will review applications.
 - c) Applicants will be notified of the decision of the panel by March 1st. Applicants must then pass a written exam. The exam must be taken by June 30th of the year their application is approved by the screening panel. Applicants who are not accepted into the program may reapply the following year.
 - d) A nonrefundable fee will be required from the applicants accepted into the Apprentice Judge's Program.

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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:
 - 1) Who has paid current AVA dues by February 1st
 - Failure to do so will result in dismissal from the Apprentice Program.
 - 2) Who has no outstanding debts to the AVA
 - b) Must attend training sessions
 - c) Must complete the Apprentice Judge Program in three (3) years
 - d) May not judge any medal exams
 - e) May not judge any recognized national events

CHAPTER IX. PROTESTS AND GRIEVANCES

Article 901. 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 his/her best judgment, do one of the following:
 - Make an on-the-spot ruling
 - Refer the protest to the Technical Committee within 72 hours for a ruling

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- 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 902. 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 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 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 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

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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 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 10 days after the Board of Directors meeting.
- j) The matter of the grievance and the decision of the Board may be published in *Vaulting World* within 90 days.
- k) All written documents, statements, reports of the Grievance Committee, and the decision of the Board of Directors shall remain on file with the President of the AVA and shall be kept confidential.

CHAPTER X. AMENDMENTS TO THE RULE BOOK

Article 1001. 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 *Vaulting World* and will become effective on the date specified.

NOTES _____

GUIDELINES - Appendix A

The following guidelines for conduct of unrecognized events are suggestions only, not rules to which event management must adhere. The AVA does not govern unrecognized events. Event management may alter events to meet local or regional needs and interest.

APPENDIX A

CHAPTER XI.

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

Article 1101. Eligibility.

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

Article 1102. Awards.

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

CHAPTER XII. BARREL EVENT

Article 1201. Individual Barrel Event Requirements.

1. Must be divided into Open and Preliminary
 - a) Open — Must hold canter medal
 - b) Preliminary — Bronze medalist only
2. Must be divided into Men's and Women's divisions

Article 1202. Barrel Freestyle.

1. Sixty (60) second free-style routine, after which time judging ceases
2. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x1) — Variety, composition, originality, difficulty; use of static, dynamic and stretch exercises; time used and use of barrel
 - b) Performance (x1) — Form, balance, security, stretch and scope, falls and failures
 - c) General Impression (x1) — Turnout, entry, exit, salute, comportment, style, presentation, flow of program, suitability of music and appropriateness of exercises
3. Scored as follows:
 - Content (x1)

GUIDELINES - Appendix A

- Performance (x1)
 - General Impression (x1)
4. Total is divided by 3 for final score.
 5. See AVA Rules, Chapter VI, Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER XIII. INDIVIDUAL PRELIMINARY TROT EVENT

Article 1301. Requirements.

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

Article 1302. Preliminary Trot Compulsories.

1. All seven (7) compulsory exercises are performed without dismounts. Performance begins with a simple Mount to astride, followed by Basic Seat, Flag, Mill, Scissors, Stand and Flank.
 - a) The fourth leg pass of the Mill must end on the fourth trot stride or a timing fault will be incurred.
2. All vaulters performing on the same horse should follow one another immediately without waiting for the bell.
3. No time limit
4. Judged on:
 - a) Performance
 - 1) Mechanics
 - 2) Essence
 - 3) Form
 - 4) Scope
 - 5) Security
 - 6) Balance
 - 7) Continuity
 - 8) Harmony with the horse
 - b) Horse
 - 1) Quality of the gait
 - 2) Submission
 - 3) Behavior
 - 4) Way of going
 - 5) Circle size
 - 6) Longeing and presentation
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.

GUIDELINES - Appendix A

- b) The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.
- 6. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

Article 1303. Preliminary Trot Freestyle.

1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises.
 - a) A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
 - b) Static exercises must be held for three (3) full trot strides.
 - c) Vaulters must stay in contact with the horse. Ground jumps and leaps above the horse (including hop from knees to feet) are NOT allowed.
 - d) Two points are deducted from the Composition score for ground jumps or leaps above the horse.
 - e) Only DOD III level dismounts are allowed.
 - e) Repetitions of Freestyle exercises and compulsory exercises will not be counted.
2. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x1) - Use of space, pace, variety, originality, development, music interpretation, artistic merit, appropriateness of exercises and consideration for the horse.
 - b) Performance (x2) – Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include: Mechanics, essence, form, scope (elevation, width, amplitude of movement), security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse.
 - c) Horse (x1) – Quality of the trot, submission, behavior, way of going, circle size, longeing and presentation.
3. Falls:
 - a) The vaulter may continue after a fall. He must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise.
The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
 - b) The clock may be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be restarted when the vaulter touches the grips or the horse.
4. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER XIV. TROT PAIRS EVENT

Article 1401. Requirements.

1. This is a pairs event consisting of one round of Freestyle.
2. Freestyle is a 90 second routine of static and dynamic exercises performed to music.
3. Open to Trot medal holders or below

GUIDELINES - Appendix A

Article 1402. Trot Pairs Freestyle.

1. Freestyle is a 90 second free-style routine of static and dynamic exercises performed to music.
 - a) A static exercise is one where contact, support or holding points do not change.
 - b) Static exercises must be held for three (3) full trot strides.
 - c) Both vaulters must stay in contact with the horse, surcingle or each other.
2. Time:
 - a) A bell will signal vaulters to begin the routine.
 - b) Begins when first vaulter touches the surcingle
 - c) A bell will signal the end of time allowed.
 - d) Vaulters must begin dismount within three (3) strides after the bell or incur a deduction from Content score.
3. Falls:
 - a) Vaulter(s) may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue. The unsuccessful exercise may be repeated.
 - b) The clock will be stopped for a maximum of one (1) minute for each fall. It will be started when the first vaulter touches the grips.
4. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x2) — Use of space, pace, variety, originality, development, music interpretation, artistic merit, appropriateness of exercises and consideration of the horse
 - b) Performance (x3) — Mechanics, essence, form, scope (elevation, width, amplitude of movement), security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse
 - c) Horse (x1) — Quality of the trot, submission, behavior, way of going, circle size, longeing and presentation
5. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER XV. TROT TEAM 2-PHASE EVENT

A two-section event performed in separate sections.

Article 1501. Phase 1 — Horse.

1. Four (4) team members must perform all seven (7) compulsories at trot to the right. No time limit. If a substitute enters the ring, he/she must also perform the compulsories.
2. Each of the exercises are performed as in Trot Team Event, except that the exercises are mirror-images of the exercises to the left.
3. All rules which apply to the Compulsory section of Trot Team Event also apply to this phase.

GUIDELINES - Appendix A

4. Judged on:
 - a) Performance — Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse
 - b) Horse/General Impression:
 - Horse (90%) — Quality of the trot, submission, behavior, way of going, circle size, longing and presentation
 - General Impression (10%) — Entry, exit, salute, comportment and turnout of team and longeur

Article 1502. Phase 2 — Barrel.

1. Three-minute free-style routine
2. All applicable rules as for 2-Phase Team Freestyle will apply. No other equipment or attachments to the barrel are allowed.
 - No spotters are allowed.
 - No trampolines are allowed.
 - No more than three (3) vaulters may be in any exercises at any time.
3. Time:
 - a) Begins when the first vaulter(s) touches the barrel
 - b) Judging ends after three (3) minutes, at which time a bell will sound; the vaulters must finish the exercise in progress and dismount or incur a deduction from Content score.
4. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x1) — Use of static, dynamic, stretch and balance exercises; difficulty; time used and use of barrel; originality; music interpretation
 - b) Performance (x1) — Form, balance, security, stretch and scope, expression and presence; falls and failures
 - c) General Impression (x1) — Turnout, entry, exit, salute, comportment, style, presentation, flow of program, suitability of music and appropriateness of exercises
5. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

CHAPTER XVI. INDIVIDUAL TROT BARREL EVENT

Article 1601. Eligibility.

1. Must be divided into Men's and Women's divisions

Article 1602. Barrel.

1. Sixty (60) second free-style routine
2. Judged on:
 - a) Content (x1) — Variety, composition, originality, use of static, dynamic, stretch, balance and strength exercises, music interpretation, time used and use of barrel

GUIDELINES - Appendix A, B

- b) Performance (x1) — Form, balance, security, stretch and scope, expression and presence, flow of performance, falls and failures
 - c) General Impression (x1) — Turnout, entry, exit, salute, comportment, style and suitability of music
3. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

APPENDIX B

CHAPTER XVII.

1. Unless otherwise specified, all applicable rules (including Horse Use), point deductions and penalties from the AVA Rules for National Recognized events apply.
2. Competitors must be Vaulters or Individual Members of the AVA.
3. Competitor's scores from AVA Recognized Competitions are qualifying scores for regional awards.
4. Appendix B classes are not offered at AVA National Championship Fest.
5. Show management may allow assisted Mounts. Assisted Mounts receive a zero.

CHAPTER XVIII. "D" TEAM EVENT

Article 1801. Requirements.

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

Article 1802. Eligibility.

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

Article 1803. Compulsories.

1. Each vaulter performs the first block of modified compulsories as follows:
 - a) Mount to astride
 - b) Basic Seat with relaxed arms and hands placed on the vaulter's upper thighs
 - c) Half Flag with right leg stretched backward and upward, both hands on grips

GUIDELINES - Appendix B

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

GUIDELINES - Appendix B

9. Penalties and Deductions:

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

Article 1804. Freestyle.

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

CHAPTER XIX. NOVICE TROT TEAM COMPULSORIES EVENT

Article 1901. Requirements.

1. Consists of one round of modified compulsories as per D Team performed at trot to the left.

GUIDELINES - Appendix B

Article 1902. Eligibility.

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

Article 1903. Compulsories.

1. The compulsories are performed in one block. Each vaulter performs the seven compulsories as follows:
 - a) Mount to astride (must be assisted and receives no score)
 - b) Basic Seat with relaxed arms and hands placed on the vaulter's upper thighs
 - c) Half Flag with right leg stretched backward and upward and both hands on grips
 - d) Leg Passes:
 - Right leg swings in semi-circle over horse's neck to inside side seat, then back to astride.
 - Left leg swings over horse's neck to outside side seat, then back to astride.
 - Right leg swings over horse's neck for simple dismount to inside.
 - All leg passes are done in a 4-count rhythm.
 - e) Back Swing (Click):
 - From astride, legs swing forward for impulsion then come together as high as possible over horse's croup, landing softly back into astride (one time only).
 - f) Free Kneel on both knees behind girth with straight line from shoulders through hips to knees. The vaulter's arms and hands are relaxed and hanging down alongside of the vaulter's thighs.
 - g) Half Flank off dismount to inside
2. No spotters or unauthorized assistance (other than the mount)
3. No time limit
4. Each member of the team must perform all seven modified compulsories.
5. All static compulsory exercises must be held four full trot strides.
6. Judged on:
 - a) Form
 - b) Posture and head carriage
 - c) Harmony with horse (quietness of legs, softness of landings)
 - d) Stretch and essence
 - e) Balance and security
 - f) Timing of leg passes
 - g) Mechanics

GUIDELINES - Appendix B

- h) Horse — Quality of the trot, submission, behavior, way of going, circle size, longeing and presentation
- 7. Penalties and deductions:
 - a) One (1) point off for each timing failure in leg passes.
 - b) One (1) point off for each stride less than 4 (Basic Seat, Half Flag, Kneel).
 - c) Two (2) points off for starting with incorrect leg in leg passes.
 - d) Two (2) points off for repeated Clicks.
- 8. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring, for additional penalties and deductions.

Article 1904. Horse/General Impression.

- 1. One score is given for Horse/General Impression.
- 2. Judged on:
 - a) Horse (90%) — Quality of trot, submission, behavior, way of going, circle size, longeing and presentation
 - b) General Impression (10%) — Entry, exit, salute, comportment and turn-out of team and longeur

CHAPTER XX. NOVICE BARREL PAIRS EVENT

Article 2001. Requirements.

- 1. A 75-second free-style barrel routine performed on one barrel

Article 2002. Eligibility.

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

Article 2003. Restrictions.

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

Article 2004. Judged on:

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

APPENDIX C

CHAPTER XXI. SPECIAL NEEDS EVENTS

The following guidelines are set up to allow vaulters of all levels and capabilities to compete in a constructive manner at all competitions. Abilities only will classify the vaulters into the particular levels. (No age limits apply.)

These guidelines follow American Vaulting Association rules and guidelines as closely as possible in these specially titled classes. They are designed to help and encourage handicapped or special needs vaulters who are unable to vault onto the horse without assistance, to vault and to eventually graduate into AVA recognized vaulting levels, if possible.

These “specially titled” classes have been identified according to the specific abilities of each vaulter:

Article 2101. General Requirements for all events in Appendix C:

1. Vaulter must need an assisted mount onto the horse and/or barrel. The assisted mount receives no score.
2. Vaulters may have spotters present during compulsories and freestyle, but will receive a deduction from any exercise in which the vaulter receives assistance. Exception: In Novice Walk and Novice Modified Walk level, assistance is allowed, and will receive no deduction.

Article 2102. Eligibility for all events in Appendix C:

1. Competitors must be a Vaulter member or Individual member of the AVA.
2. Competitors may not hold any medals with the exception of the novice pin
3. Competitors must be handicapped or with special needs, and must be unable to vault onto the horse without assistance.
4. Competitors may not be entered in any higher level events at the same competition

Article 2103. Individual Novice Trot Event

1. Event consists of one round of compulsory exercises and one round of freestyle performed in separate events on the trotting horse
 - a) Compulsories are performed in order after assisted mount: Basic Seat, Flag, Mill, Scissors, Stand and Flank
 - b) Freestyle is a one-minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises
 - c) Exercises chosen for freestyle should be limited to Level II or Level

GUIDELINES - Appendix C

- III only (as defined in the current FEI Vaulting Guidelines for Judges)
- d) Assistance of any compulsory exercise (with the exception of the mount) will result in a zero for the assisted exercise. Assistance of any freestyle exercise will result in a deduction of two points from the total performance score.

Article 2104. Individual Novice Advanced Walk Event

1. Event consists of one round of compulsory exercises and one round of freestyle, performed in separate events on the walking horse
 - a) Compulsories are performed in order after assisted mount: Basic Seat, Flag, Mill, Scissors, Stand and Flank
 - b) Freestyle is a one-minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises
 - c) Exercises chosen for freestyle should be limited to Level II or Level III only (as defined in the current FEI Vaulting Guidelines for Judges)
 - d) Assistance of any compulsory exercise (with the exception of the mount) will result in a zero for the assisted exercise. Assistance of any freestyle exercise will result in a deduction of two points from the total performance score.

Article 2105. Individual Novice Walk Event

1. Event consists of one round of compulsory exercises on the walking horse and one round of freestyle, performed on the barrel.
 - a) Compulsories are performed in order after assisted mount: Basic Seat, Flag, Mill, Scissors, Stand and Flank
2. Freestyle on barrel is a 75-second (maximum) routine.
3. Vaulters may have spotters present and no deductions will be taken for any assistance and/or spotting

Article 2106. Individual Novice Modified Walk Event

1. Event consists of one round of the first three compulsory exercises
2. Compulsories are performed in order after assisted mount: Basic Seat, Flag and Mill.
3. These exercises are judged/scored on form only.
4. No freestyle is allowed at this level.
5. Vaulters may have spotters present and no deductions will be taken for any assistance and/or spotting.

Article 2107. Individual Novice Barrel Event.

1. A 75-second free-style barrel routine
2. Competitions may offer corresponding barrel events for the levels described above in Articles 2103 through 2106.
3. All guidelines in Articles 2103 through 2106 apply to the barrel events.

GUIDELINES - Appendix C

CHAPTER XXII. SPECIAL PAIRS EVENT

Article 2201. Requirements

1. This is a pairs event consisting of one round of Freestyle performed either on the horse at the walk or on the barrel.
2. The freestyle is a 90 second routine (maximum)
3. The pair consists of one handicapped/special needs vaulter and one AVA trot or canter vaulter.
4. If performed on the barrel, the footing in the barrel arena must be suitable for vaulting.

Awards – Special Needs Events

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

Glossary of Terms – Special Needs Events

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

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

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

Event: A particular class at a competition.

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

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

NOTES

APPENDIX D

DESCRIPTION OF COMPULSORY EXERCISES

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

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

FLAG: From seat astride, the vaulter comes to a kneeling position with both legs simultaneously and diagonally across the horse's back to perform the Flag. Vaulters' weight is spread evenly over the lower leg. The lower leg, from knee to toe, remains in permanent contact with the horse's back. The vaulter's head should remain up and looking forward, as the right leg and left arm are raised simultaneously and stretched to an even horizontal line (at least above the vaulter's shoulder and hip; ideally a horizontal line from fingertip to head level and toes); There is an even arc in the vaulter's body from the hand through the foot.

Right hand holds the grip; the shoulders are directly above the grips and the vaulter's hips and shoulders are parallel to the ground. Upon completion of the Flag (held a minimum of 4 strides), the vaulter simultaneously brings his right leg and left arm down, takes the grips, pushes weight onto his arms and stretches the left leg down and slides softly into seat position.

MILL: The Mill is an exercise in which the vaulter must remain seated throughout the exercise. In no phase may he/she abandon the seat position.

GUIDELINES - Appendix D

From forward seat astride, the vaulter makes a complete rotation on the horse's back in 4 evenly-timed phases. Each leg is stretched and carried over the horse in a high, wide arc, like a semi-circle. The down leg remains stationary and in contact with the horse. The upper body stays upright, centered and nearly vertical in each phase. Head and body rotate with each leg pass. The Mill has four phases and is performed in a four-stride count.

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

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

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

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

In Team Competition, a dismount follows the Mill. The dismount must continue in the same four-stride count, with the vaulter landing on 4 or 5. From seat astride, the vaulter carries the stretched right leg over the horse's neck in a high, wide arc. The upper body remains erect and nearly vertical, while the left leg remains down and in contact with the horse. Each grip is released and retaken as the leg passes. When the vaulter's right leg is pointing to where the leading foreleg of the horse touches the ground, the vaulter's left leg is stretched and brought together with the right leg. With closed legs and stretched hips, the vaulter then pushes slightly upwards as the grips are released. Vaulter lands with nearly closed legs and continues in the same direction as the horse.

SCISSORS: The movement of the Scissors is a rotation around the vertical body axis with a simultaneous reciprocal stretched movement of the legs. This is a two-phase exercise which in both phases the rotation of the body is finished before the vaulter lands softly, upright and centered in the seat astride.

Both parts of the Scissors are judged separately, and then the score is averaged.

Phase 1: From seat astride, the stretched legs are swung upward (back) to reach nearly a handstand position with arms extended to attain maximum elevation. Without interruption in this movement, the hips are turned to the

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left by a quarter of a turn so that the legs pass closely at an equal distance from the ground at nearly the point of maximum elevation. The first phase is completed by landing softly, upright and centered in reverse seat.

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

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

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

Both parts of the Flank are judged separately, and then the score is averaged.

Phase 1: From seat astride, the stretched legs are swung upward (back) to reach a handstand position with arms extended to attain maximum elevation. Without interruption in the movement, at the point of maximum elevation, the hips are bent sharply so that the legs come down to a near vertical position (creating a pike) during which the hips are momentarily over the surcingle. The vaulter slides softly into an upright sideways seat inside position, making contact with the horse first with the outside of the lower right leg.

Between the two phases, the vaulter sits upright in a sideways seat position, immediately behind the surcingle and on both buttocks, with legs closed and in contact with the horse. The vaulter's head and shoulders face nearly frontways.

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Phase 2: From seat sideways, the stretched, closed legs are swung upward (back) to reach a handstand position with the arms extended to attain maximum elevation. At the maximum arm extension, the vaulter pushes against the grips, and as a result of shoulder repulsion attains additional elevation and maximum flight. The vaulter lands to the outside, facing forward, on both feet.

DESCRIPTION OF 1* COMPULSORY EXERCISES

MOUNT: See Compulsory Mount.

BASIC SEAT: See Compulsory Basic Seat

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

Phase 1: See Compulsory Mill Phase 1.

Phase 2: See Compulsory Mill Phase 2.

SWING REARWAYS: From seat rearways, the vaulter swings his/her stretched legs upward, closing the legs at the highest point and then returning softly to seat rearways. The vaulter then performs a reverse half-mill by carrying the left leg over the horse's croup to the inside seat and then carrying the right leg over the horse's neck to seat astride. This half-mill is performed in a four-stride count.

In Team 1*, the Swing Rearways is followed by a dismount: After the swing rearways and return to seat rearways, the vaulter then performs a reverse 1/4 mill by carrying the left leg over the horse's croup, through the inside seat. The vaulter then rotates to facing forward (both legs on inside of horse) and then releases the grips and lands with nearly closed legs and continues in the same direction as the horse.

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

STAND: The 1* Stand begins from the bench position. The remainder of the exercise is performed as the Compulsory Stand. Upon completion of the static exercise (held for 4 strides), the arms are lowered alongside the body, and the vaulter reaches down to take the grips simultaneously with both hands. The head remains up, looking forward, while the vaulter slides smoothly with straight legs into astride position.

SWING WITH OPEN LEGS: From seat astride, the stretched legs are swung upward (back) to reach a handstand position. The vaulter's arms are extended to attain maximum elevation. The vaulter's legs remain open

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(about shoulder width apart) and stretched. Without interruption in the movement, and at the point of maximum elevation, the vaulter returns softly to seat astride.

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

DISMOUNT, SWING WITH CLOSED LEGS TO OUTSIDE: From seat astride, the vaulter swings the stretched legs upward (back) to a handstand position. Legs are closed. Arms are extended to attain maximum elevation. At maximum arm extension, the vaulter pushes against the grips and, as a result of shoulder repulsion, attains additional elevation and flight, landing to the outside of the horse, facing forward, on both feet.

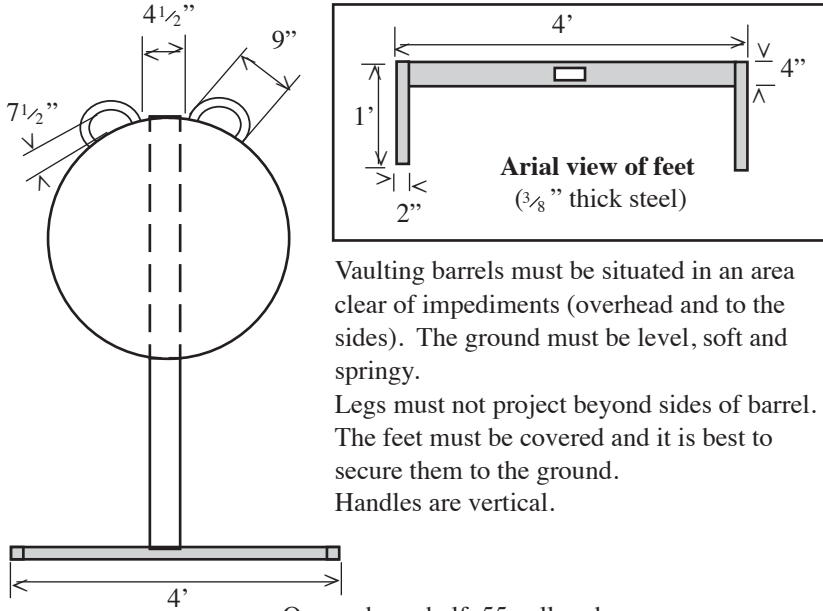
Any questions, corrections, or proposed changes to the AVA Rules for Vaulting should be sent to the Technical Committee Chair, care of the American Vaulting Association. See AVA Directory or a current issue of *Vaulting World* for contact information.

Visit www.usef.org for the United States Equestrian Federation Rule Book, including current USEF Rules for Vaulting online,
USEF, 4047 Iron Works Pkwy, Lexington, KY 40511
Phone: 606/258-2472, Fax: 606/231-6662

Visit www.fei.org for the current
FEI International Vaulting Rules online.

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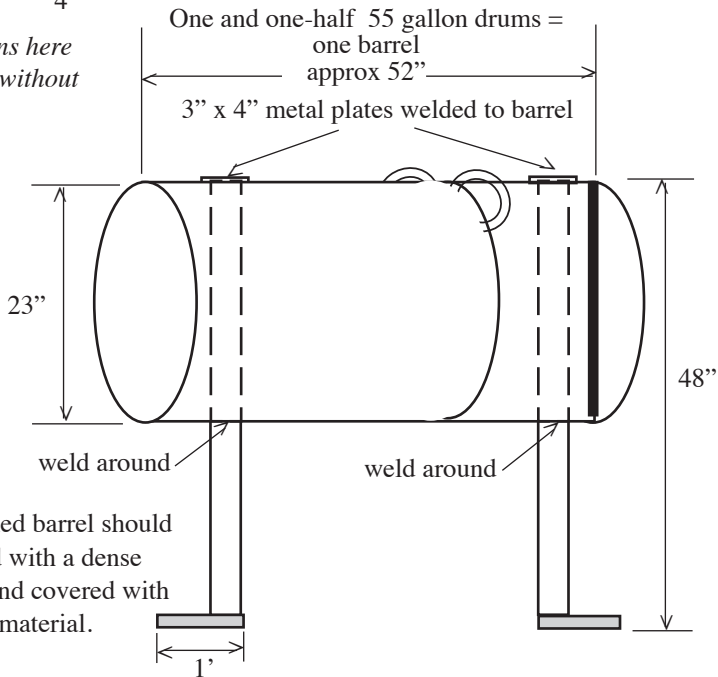
BARREL SPECIFICATIONS



Vaulting barrels must be situated in an area clear of impediments (overhead and to the sides). The ground must be level, soft and springy.

Legs must not project beyond sides of barrel. The feet must be covered and it is best to secure them to the ground. Handles are vertical.

Dimensions here are given without padding.



The finished barrel should be padded with a dense padding and covered with a durable material.

For questions about any barrel to be used for AVA recognized competition, please contact the Chair of the Technical Committee.

