



ADMINISTRATOR APPOINTED

## Equestrian Australia Vaulting Committee - UPDATE

Meeting held 11<sup>th</sup> August 2020

Below is a summary of proceedings at the recent EAVC and SDA meeting

### MEETING DISCUSSION

#### Opening and Welcome:

Darryn Fedrick (EAVC Chair) opened the Microsoft Teams meeting at 7:00pm and welcomed 18 attending members representing Vaulting Committees from both National and States of QLD, NSW, and SA to the meeting.

Apologies received from VIC and WA, and some members of SA and QLD.

The main purpose of the meeting was to collaborate and plan a way forward for Vaulting, to develop good structure and lead the sport with a unified ideal of how Vaulting should look post EA in Voluntary Administration and COVID-19.

The way in which EA, EAVC and State Vaulting Committees communicate as a group was also discussed at different times throughout the meeting. Di Saunders (EA) explained that in addition to the Minutes, an Active Action Register (AAR) was also sent to EAVC, Andrew Hamilton (EA Acting CEO & General Mgr – Business Operations & Integrity) and EA Sports Team. The AAR outlines follow up tasks arising from meetings and whose responsibility to action them are. As these are not distributed further, Meeting Summaries are posted on the EA Website to allow members to follow Committees progress. EA will send a copy of the Meeting Summary direct to the State Chairs for their distribution, and other related Vaulting information with EAVC authorisation as it comes to hand.

#### Voluntary Administration

The Chair gave a brief update on VA. Vaulting had been represented by attendance at many special “extra” NDC Chair meetings to receive updates from both KordaMentha and the State CEO’s. The latest letter from the NDC Chairs titled *Open Letter to the Membership/11.8.20* had been circulated to tonight’s attendees. The Chair reiterated that the one source of truth on VA matters should be obtained from either:

- EA <https://engage.equestrian.org.au/>
- KordaMentha <https://kordamentha.com/Creditors?keyword=equestrian%20australia#>

## **Vaulting – Planning a Way Forward**

### **1. National Calendar**

The Chair acknowledged the long association Jenny Denby had with providing a National Calendar. In line with other Disciplines to compile a calendar minimising clashes, allow Athletes to preplan training and be thoughtful of competition travel for horses, the Chair asked States to present events for publication to EA. Some concern was raised on the success of this in the past and referenced the capacity State offices had in relation to updating State calendars. Following the successful calendar maintained by Vaulting NSW, Skye Barrowcliffe and Kerrie Stapleton will liaise to provide information to EA to create a duplicate calendar allowing members to reference either.

### **2. Return to Sport**

Discussion on the FEI and EA policy relating to Virtual Equestrian Training Activities during COVID-19. FEI/EA Judges are not able to officiate at a virtual competition and non-allowance for prizemoney or placings to be distributed to participants in the context of EA competition.

Horse Welfare was a large factor in the decisions as unlike face-to-face competition, there were no Officials available to perform tasks like gear checks or how long a horse may be worked prior to video etc.

Incentive to engage with Clubs to offer members something more than training was called for. All attendees supported the idea of phasing back into competition by way of a National Barrel “Competition”, citing the successful example of the recently held event in Scone.

A Working Group will be formed to plan the way forward for vaulting competition, with representative/s invited from each State to initiate this concept. EA will facilitate the meetings.

References:

<https://inside.fei.org/fei/covid-19/22-april-2020>

### **3. Communications & Social Media**

Skye Barrowcliffe (EAVC Athlete Representative) reported that a new facebook page had been created as an information hub for Vaulting athletes. EAVC AR would be the moderator.

### **4. Coaching Update/Syllabus review**

**This conversation also addresses Agenda Item prepared by EQLD “EA Vaulting Coach L2 & EA Coach/Club Insurance”**

Sarah Hocking (EAVC) updated on the progress of the Vaulting Coach Working Group, from the initial 2017-18 Working Groups material forming a good basis for the reform of the EA Coaching Pathway by the 2019-20 Working Group and being overseen by EA’s Kellie Hayes. Good progress is being made, with the objective for low level coaching to be accessible, safe, and fun; and the emphasis on demonstrated competence at higher level coaching.

The working group meet every 2-3 weeks, with the first draft on Introductory due back to EA in the next few weeks. The Horsemanship modules will be linked to other disciplines.

QLD in their Agenda item questioned the ongoing lack of L2 modules, and the impact to the sport in relation to the Insurance requirement that Coaches are only being able to Coach to the level achieved. Sarah explained there was very good historical material that was being split between L1 and L2 with some mapping commencing. However, the EA brief is to focus on Intro as it is most critical to get more people involved in coaching.

## **5. Rule Revision Timeline**

**This conversation also addresses Agenda Items prepared by EQLD “Revision of Rule 5.3” and “Rules Review Policy-Rules Review Timeline”**

Discussion on the clarity of the process, and communication with relevant stakeholders with past examples provided was undertaken.

Di Saunders apologised for communication breakdowns with the State committees in part due to Staff changes, with Sport Services Team addressing communicating timelines for rule changes by way of a matrix found on the EA National Sports Rules webpage/Sport Rule Review & Updates - <https://www.equestrian.org.au/rules>

The EAVC are in the process of preparing the first draft of the January 2021 rule changes for presentation to State Committees and Vaulting Judges group for their review. This is in preparation for presentation to the EA Board’s September meeting (or as Andrew Hamilton/KordaMentha dictate). Rule 5.3 is included in these changes.

FEI changes applicable to Vaulting have been distributed to attendees of this meeting with meeting papers. Now for 4-year review, the FEI are addressing Vaulting rules in detail next in 2022.

## **6. VNSW Lunging Protocol**

Following recent distribution but no feedback, Gillian Burns asked how many in the meeting was in receipt of the above. This will be forwarded to Di Saunders for distribution to all.

## **7. Insurance**

Although not included as an Agenda item, Nina Fritzell raised this topic to gauge how other Vaulting Clubs are managing in the current economic climate. Nina’s own Club example was of high premiums due to the inclusion of Training events (held twice weekly) and scheduled competitions, Coach renewal and low income from small member numbers of 6-8. A survey of the states revealed the majority agreed.

This situation was not new, and the 2018 report from Tony Richardson had not been addressed further. As a group, it was decided that a differential risk rating needed to be addressed now. A proposal paper would be produced to address how Vaulting did not fit the one Insurance policy for all currently in play and be supported with examples and comparisons to other disciplines.

Sharon van Someren (EAVC) will collate feedback sent to her from the States who were asked to submit examples of their various Club operation models. Also, the number of Clubs affiliated or not with EA currently conducting Vaulting enterprises.

In order to be very clear on what Vaulting wants, Sharon and Jenny Scott will then form a Working Group calling on assistance as needed to produce a synopsis of vaulting insurance requirements, in readiness for when the restructure calls for discipline feedback.

## **The Chair closed the meeting 9.55pm.**

In his closing summary, Darryn said he was very satisfied that the topics covered and work outcomes to be achieved were a good start on a way forward, and that the inclusion of all Vaulting Committee members has good potential for the future.