



Rule Changes

Equestrian Australia Vaulting Committee

The following Vaulting rule changes become effective 1 January 2026

Rule	Heading	Justification	Revised Rule
Glossary	Glossary	To support understanding	Glossary <u>PGJ- President of the Ground Jury</u>
1.6.1	Starting Possibilities	Inclusion of Pre-Open	1.6.1 Individual Starting Possibilities At any one event, a vaulter may enter 1 individual horse competition with the exception of Intermediate, Advanced, <u>Pre-Open</u> and Open vaulters who are allowed to start twice in individual horse competition.
1.6.1	Technical Test	Clarification of technical test requirements.	Technical Test The Technical Test in Pre-Open only requires 3 technical exercises to be performed. The choice of which 3 is up to the vaulter. <u>If more than 3 technical exercises are presented, only the first 3 will be assessed as technical exercises. Any further technical exercises will be counted in Technique score.</u>
1.6.2	Squad	Clarification	1.6.2 Squad A vaulting squad is composed of 6 vaulters, plus 2 reserve vaulters, 1 lunger and 1 vaulting horse. At all events the Chef d'Equipe or Squad manager must declare the six Squad members <u>and up to two reserve vaulters</u> at the Chef's meeting.
1.8.3	Pre-Open	Inclusion of Pre-Open	1.8.3 At State and National championships, the Open <u>and Pre-Open</u> Individual competitions must include all three Open/Pre-Open Tests and the tests must be run separately. At any other event, the Organising Committee may select any 2 tests for the Open <u>and/or Pre-Open</u> competitions.

1.24	Dress Code	Clarification	<p>1.24 Dress Code</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual and Pas de Deux Vaulters must wear an easily visible number provided by the Organising Committee on the right arm or leg. • Squad vaulters must wear numbers 1 to 6 on the right arm, leg or on the back. Numbers should be 10 to 12 cm in height and must be of plain design and clearly legible by the judges. • The dress must be formfitting and all articles of clothing, or parts thereof, must remain attached to the vaulter's body at all times. Decorative accessories (not limited to but including belts, masks, jewellery) and props (not limited to but including hats, capes, canes, gadgets) are strictly forbidden in the arena. • The dress of the vaulter/s must not hinder the movement, or the safe interaction between vaulters during the performance. • The dress must not in any way compromise the safety of either the vaulter or the horse. • To allow for fair assessment by judges, the dress must not conceal the form and line of the vaulter's body during the performance. • The dress must not give the effect of nudity. • Trousers must be secured to the foot and skirts may only be worn over tights or leggings. • The dress of the Squad vaulters should give the obvious effect of uniformity. • Only soft soled shoes are permitted. • The apparel of the lunger should harmonise with that of the vaulters. • Prescription glasses may be worn if they are essential for safety and are securely fitted. Sunglasses are not permitted. • Medic Alert bracelets are not permitted. Coaches or a responsible person should be notified of any medical conditions prior to the start of the competition. <p>Failure to comply with any of the above will, upon agreement with the judge's, result in a deduction of 1.0 from the Artistic Score.</p>
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2.1	Australian Judges Allocation System- 2 Judge System	To support judges to score more accurately due to the time required to judge the artistic score.	<div>2 Judge System</div> <div>Option A</div> <table><tr><td>Freestyle</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>Horse 25% and Technique 50%</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>Artistic 25%</td></tr></table> <div>Option B</div> <table><tr><td>Freestyle</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>Horse 25% and Artistic 25%</td></tr><tr><td>B</td><td>Technique 50%</td></tr></table> <div>The Organising Committee will consult with the judges prior to the event to decide which option best suits.</div>	Freestyle		A	Horse 25% and Technique 50%	B	Artistic 25%	Freestyle		A	Horse 25% and Artistic 25%	B	Technique 50%
Freestyle															
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2.1	Australian Judges Allocation System	Allowances for judges involvement to support the sport.	<div><div><div>1 Judge System</div><table><tr><td>Freestyle</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>A</td><td>All components of score (as per current Australian system)</td></tr></table></div><div><ul style="list-style-type: none">National Championships must have 4 judges for Open, Pre-Open, Advanced and Intermediate competitions. Each of these judges must be Level 3. <u>National Championships must have 4 judges for Open, Pre-Open, Advanced and Intermediate competitions. Level 2 Judges may officiate for Horse Score in all these competitions and for Technique in Intermediate competitions only.</u>State Championships must have a minimum of two Level 3 Judges for Open, Pre-Open, Advanced and Intermediate competitions. There must be 2 judges for all other competitions, one must be Level 3. <u>State Championships must have a minimum of two Level 3 Judges for Open, Pre-Open, Advanced and Intermediate competitions. Level 2 Judges may officiate for Horse Score in all these competitions and for Technique in Intermediate competitions only. There must be 2 judges for all other competitions, one must be Level 3.</u>Novice, Pre-Novice and Preliminary competitions at National Championships must have a minimum of 3 judges, one must be Level 3.All recreational competitions must have a minimum of one Level 1 Judge.Barrel and Recreational competitions at National Championships have a maximum of 2 judges, one must be Level 3.It is recommended that between any separated tests the judges rotate according to the FEI allocation system. In the case where tests are run together, the judges will remain at the same table position. The President of the Ground Jury is responsible to distribute the judges at an event. Each Judge should be assigned evenly to all of the scores during the event, if possible.</div></div>	Freestyle		A	All components of score (as per current Australian system)
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A	All components of score (as per current Australian system)						
3.1	Vaulting Horse	For horse welfare	Competitors may start on their own horses or horses placed at their disposal. Horses may only be changed <u>before the commencement of the competition</u> , for vaulter safety or horse welfare reasons. Competitors must have the opportunity before the competition to get used to an unknown horse. Substitution of Horses that have been changed after the Chef’s meeting or declaration of entries must be immediately notified by the Competitor or their Representative to the Steward, Organising Committee, or the Ground Jury.				
3.2.1	Equipment of the Vaulting Horse	Clarification	<ul style="list-style-type: none">For horses in Novice and below it is permitted that draw reins (3 point reins) can be attached between the front legs to the girth and there is no maximum distance requirement limit between the two <u>surcingle/girth</u> attachment points.				

3.5	Horse Inspection	Clarification	3.5 Horse Inspection Horses are required to trot a minimum of 1 circle prior to Judge A indicating that the first vaulter can commence. Should Judge A decide that the horse is not fit for competition they must signal the lunger to stop the horse and ask them to retire-withdraw the horse. Judge A may also eliminate a vaulter or group if the horse is showing signs such as stress or lameness.
4.2	Technical Test	Clarification of technical test requirements.	4.2 Exercises - Technical Test The Technical Test consists of five Technical exercises specified by the FEI and additional Freestyle exercises, chosen by the vaulter. There is a time limit of 1 minute for the Technical Test. The five required Technical exercises can be found at https://inside.fei.org/fei/disc/vaulting/rules For the Pre-Open Technical Test, the vaulter may choose any 3 of the 5 technical exercises to perform. <u>If more than 3 technical exercises are presented, only the first 3 will be assessed as Technical exercises. Any further technical exercises will be counted in Technique score.</u>
5.5.1	Horse Walk Score	Updated Weblink	5.5.1 Horse Walk Score <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Horse Walk Score at 25% for all competitions The walk horse score will be judged in accordance with the FEI Vaulting guidelines <u>guidelines available at https://www.equestrian.org.au/sites/default/files/Walk%20Horse%20Score%202022.pdf</u>
5.6.2	Assisted Mounts-Compulsories	Inclusion of Pre-Open	5.6.2 Assisted Mounts – Compulsories When rounds are performed at the walk the vaulters must be legged up. A deduction of up to 2.0 off the Vault-on score for Intermediate competitions for assisted mounts. A score of zero will be given for the Vault-on for assisted mounts in Advanced, <u>Pre-Open</u> and Open competitions.
5.8	Technique Score	Inclusion of Pre-Open	5.8 Technique Score <u>Pre-Open</u> and Advanced competitions, the technique score is divided into Performance Score (70%) and the Difficulty Score (30%). In Preliminary, Pre-Novice, Novice and Intermediate the Performance Score is 100% of the Technique Score.
5.8.1	Performance Score	Alignment with FEI	The score is obtained after deduction of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0.1 to 0.4 points for minor faults 0.5 to 0.7 points for medium faults 0.8 to 1.0 points for major faults <u>The performance score is obtained using the averaging system.</u>

5.8.1.1	Assisted Mounts-Freestyles	Clarification due to 5.8.1 rule change.	<p>5.8.1.1 Assisted Mounts – Freestyles</p> <p>When rounds are performed at the walk the vaulters must be legged up.</p> <p>An appropriate (minor, medium, major) performance deduction and no Degree of Difficulty (Advanced, Pre-Open and Open) will be applied for assisted mounts from the ground in all canter freestyles (Open, Pre-Open, Advanced, Intermediate). <u>An appropriate performance deduction and no Degree of Difficulty (Advanced, Pre-open and Open) will be applied for assisted mounts from the ground in all canter freestyles.</u></p>
5.8.2	Degree of Difficulty Score	Inclusion of Pre-Open	<p>5.8.2 Degree of Difficulty Score</p> <p>The Difficulty Score component of the Open, Pre-Open and Advanced Technique Score has maximum score of 10. Decimals are allowed.</p>