

Horsemanship 3 Vaulting Sport Knowledge

Discuss the following horse organizations AVA, USEF, and FEI including their purposes/functions and how they impact the sport of vaulting.

AVA – American Vaulting Association

The non-profit American Vaulting Association was founded in 1968 by Elizabeth Searle and J. Ashton Moore to build and promote equestrian vaulting in the United States.



Today, there are more than 141 AVA vaulting clubs in the U.S. and more than 1,200 members.

AVA:

- Operates the AVA National Office, your source for educational vaulting materials and information on vaulting.
- Develops and makes available videos, DVDs, books, and other educational materials, for use by vaulters, coaches and the general public.
- Publishes Equestrian Vaulting magazine containing vaulting news and articles.
- Establishes a uniform Rule Book for vaulting in the United States, consistent with rules used for international competition.
- Trains vaulting judges, and operates a training program for new judges.
- Provides procedures and standards for testing vaulters for medals at five different skill levels.
- Conducts the AVA National Championship competition each year.
- Establishes and maintains contacts in the international vaulting community, and facilitates AVA member participation in international exchanges and competitions.
- Is an Affiliated Association member of the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF).

USEF – United States Equestrian Federation

USEF (or US Equestrian) is the national governing body for most equestrian sports in the United States. It began in 1917, as the Association of American Horse Shows, later changed to the American Horse Shows Association (AHSA), then USA Equestrian (USAE), then Equestrian Team (USET), and most recently, in 2017, USEF rebranded as US Equestrian.



Competitions governed by US Equestrian include dressage, driving, endurance riding, eventing, hunt seat equitation, hunter, jumper, para-equestrian, reining, roadster, saddle seat equitation, **vaulting**, and western riding competition (equitation, western pleasure, reining, trail, western dressage, etc.)

The organization also governs breed shows held in the United States (i.e. Andalusian, Lusitano, Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian, Connemara, Friesian, Hackney, Morgan, American Saddlebred, National Show Horse, Paso Fino, Shetland, and Welsh).

US Equestrian keeps track of yearly points accumulated at individual horse shows throughout the year and gives awards based on these points at the end of the year. Horse shows governed under the USEF are given an AA, A, B, or C rating. Shows with an AA rating are the most prestigious, whereas shows with a C rating are more local, usually awarding less prize money. Competitions recognized by the USEF must follow its rules and bylaws.

HOW THE USEF AFFECTS VAULTING?

Alongside the AVA, the USEF governs some Vaulting competitions (e.g. Nationals). When rules conflict between the USEF and the AVA, USEF rules supersede AVA. Local competitions (e.g. LA, Norco, Lompoc) usually are not USEF Recognized. CVI's are governed by the FEI & USEF (not AVA). When rules conflict between the FEI & USEF, the FEI rules supersede USEF.



FEI – International Federation for Equestrian Sports

The International Federation for Equestrian Sports (French: Fédération Équestre Internationale, FEI) is the international governing body of equestrian sports.



FEI Disciplines: The FEI is the sole controlling authority for all international events in Jumping, Dressage and Eventing (the Olympic sports), as well as Driving, Endurance, **Vaulting** and Reining. These make up the 7 able-bodied FEI Disciplines. The FEI also governs global para sport in Para-Equestrian Dressage and Para-Driving.

FEI regulates dress codes for competitive vaulting. Every 2–3 years, new guidelines are released, which consistently declare that vaulters must wear form-fitting uniforms that do not conceal the line and form of the vaulter's body, as well as not hinder the movement of the vaulter or the safe interaction between the vaulters.

Olympic Games: The FEI is recognized by the International Olympic Committee and the Olympic sports of Jumping, Dressage and Eventing are included in the Olympic Games which occur every 4 years.

FEI WEG: The FEI organizes the *FEI World Equestrian Games* (WEG) every 4 years. WEG encompasses the World Championship titles in all the FEI global disciplines (listed above).

FEI World, Continental and Regional Championships: held in all the FEI disciplines and age categories. Events include:

- **FEI World Vaulting Championships for Seniors** (held every other year)
- World Eventing Championships for Young Horses
- FEI World Driving Championships for Four-in-Hand
- FEI World Driving Championships for Singles
- FEI World Endurance Championships for Seniors
- FEI World Para-Equestrian Driving Championships

FEI World Cup: series that takes place throughout the world (CVI-W) with qualifying leagues leading to a final in each of the disciplines. The FEI World Cup series includes Show Jumping, Dressage, Driving and Vaulting.

Vaulting was only recently added to FEI World Cup (2010-2011 season). In World Cup Vaulting, each year the top athletes are invited to compete in a series of freestyle-only competitions (no compulsories). Only individuals and Pas de Deux compete (no squad/team). Individual freestyles are 1 minute, 20 seconds (or 2 minutes depending upon the year) and Pas de Deux is 2 minutes.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

The World Cup series are divided into two phases. Phase 1 consists of 6 qualifiers (legs) all in a different European country and phase 2 is the Grand Final.

To qualify for the series, the athlete has to participate in CVIs and CVIOs there can only be 3 athletes per country (3 females and 3 males).

Once the athlete qualifies he or she gets to choose which legs he wants to go to, once the vaulter chooses, he has to do it.

When all the legs are done, each athlete will have his/her two best scores counting for the grand final. But, in the end, only the 6 best Individuals in each category and 4 best Pas de Deux will be in the finals held in March.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

The participants of the legs are selected amongst those who were part of the CVIs.

To qualify for the World Cup season an athlete must be placed among the top ranked vaulters after the CVI*** season (competitions held between January and September). Extra points are awarded for CVIO****s and Championships and the winner of the previous World Cup Final is automatically qualified. The participants of the final are selected amongst those who had the best scores on the qualifiers.

HOW DO CVI's WORK?

With the FEI's system of one-star, two-star, etc. - it is possible for individuals to compete within their own age groups. This helps to develop confidence in competing in International Events and follows a progression of qualifications that make the sound building blocks for an athlete with goals of International competition and eventually representing their Country at Junior Championships, World Championships, World Cups and World Equestrian Games.

- Children's Division - Individuals between 12 -14yrs old
- Junior Division - Individuals between 14-18yrs old
- Senior Division - Individuals 16yrs old and up

Athletes first compete in a CVI* (one-star) competition. Once they obtain a qualifying score in the one-star event then can advance to a CVI** (two-star). Once an athlete obtains the qualifying score in a two-star event they can advance to a CVI*** (three-star). CVI*** qualifications are needed to compete in World SR Championships and World Equestrian Games.

Horse Passport Guidelines: USA Horses competing in a US domestic CVI are required to have a National Passport.