

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES
2023 FEI VAULTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR JUNIORS AND YOUNG VAULTERS
VAULTING – JUNIOR SQUAD
FLYINGE, SWEDEN
July 26 – July 30, 2023

1. SELECTION SYSTEM

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for an athlete to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.1.1. Nationality/Passport requirements:

At the time of Application, the vaulters must be a U.S. citizen, or in compliance with FEI Vaulting Rules, Article 702.4.1, Vaulting Rules 2023, 10th Edition, effective 1 January 2023, as well as FEI General Regulations. Article 119.

Vaulters must hold a valid passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the 2023 FEI Vaulting World Championships for (the “Event”).

1.1.2. Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:

- a. There are no FEI qualification score requirements for vaulters wishing to compete on the 2023 United States Vaulting Team as a member of the Squad (the “Team”) at the Event in accordance with the FEI Vaulting Qualifications Criteria which can be found on the FEI website at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/regulations/vaulting>.
- b. The FEI rules and a list of FEI qualifying events can be found [Here](#).
- c. Applicants for the Junior Championships must have been born after January 1, 2005 in accordance with the FEI General Regulations, 2020 [24th Edition, 1 January 2020, updates effective 1 January 2023], Article 124 found at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/regulations/generalrules>, and the FEI Vaulting Rules [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2023], Article 702.1. found at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/regulations/vaulting>
- d. The horse must be a minimum of seven (7) years of age born on or before December 31, 2016 (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) FEI Vaulting Rules [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2023], Article 717.1.
- e. The vaulter and horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
- f. The vaulters and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.

1.1.3. Other requirements:

- a. The vaulters must be an active Competing Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing at the time of FEI Nominated Entries until the conclusion of the Event.
- b. If the horse is U.S. owned, the horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102, and in good standing under USEF rules at the time of FEI Nominated Entries and until the conclusion of the Event. Internationally borrowed horses must be in good standing with their country’s National Federation at the time of FEI Nominated Entries and until the conclusion of the Event. See Section 1.3.j for deadlines regarding submission of the horse plan.

- c. Owners of applicant Horses must execute the USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B) by the stated deadline.
 - d. Vaulters must successfully complete the USEF Application by stated deadline.
 - e. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current USEF Background Check Policy.
 - f. Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony will be required to remain current with the U.S. Center for SafeSport's education and training requirements in accordance with the USEF Safe Sport Policy.
 - g. Application – Squad coaches, or a Squad designee wishing to be considered for the Event must complete and submit an online Application (Attachment A) with the appropriate application fee at www.usef.org. Applications submitted online on or before **January 19, 2023 at 11:59 PM ET** will be charged three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per Application (total \$300), which must be paid no later than January 23, 2023 at 5:00PM ET. Applications submitted online after January 19, 2023 at 11:59 PM ET and received by USEF on or before January 26, 2023 at 11:59 PM ET will be charged an application fee of one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) per application, which must be paid no later than January 30, 2023 at 5:00PM ET. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 26, 2023 at 11:59 PM ET. IF AN APPLICATION IS RECEIVED WITHOUT THE APPLICATION FEE, IT WILL BE ACCEPTED IF THE APPLICABLE FEE IS RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 31, 2023 at 5:00PM ET.**
- Note: The squad coach, or designee, is responsible for disseminating all required paperwork to their Squad members for appropriate signatures and is responsible for returning completed paperwork to USEF. This includes the Squad Signature Page found on the USEF Vaulting webpage.
- h. Vaulters may submit an application for both the Junior and Young Vaulters Championships provided they are age eligible for each. The appropriate fee is due for each application.
 - i. Horse Participation Agreement: U.S. Owners of horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry (See 1.3.k.) must sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment B) prior to the FEI Nominated Entry Deadline (See 1.3.j). A U.S. horse owner(s)' failure to timely sign the USEF Horse Participation Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or vaulter from the FEI Nominated Entry.

By signing the Application (Attachment A), the vaulters certify that they and U.S. horse owner(s) have received and read the Squad Selection Procedures the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C), the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D) and the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E) and that they understand those documents, and that they agree to be bound by them. The vaulter shall certify by signing the application that he has received, read, and assumes responsibility for meeting all requirements of the Selection Procedures for the Event.

1.2. Tryout Events:

- 1.2.1. Event names, dates and locations of all trials, competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

Vaulters wishing to be considered for selection for the Event must earn a minimum of three (3) Scores during the Qualifying Period, January 1, 2022 - April 24, 2023, as outlined below and in 1.3. (See Section 1.3.f for special consideration).

- a. For vaulters wishing to be considered for selection to the event, scores may be obtained at any of the following competitions during the Qualifying Period, January 1, 2022 – April 24, 2023, in the applicable Squad Event:
 - FEI CVI 2* or CVIJ 2* Events
 - USEF 2* B Team Class.
 - CHIO, CVI 3* or CVI 4* Classes
- b. Vaulters on the Short List will be required to participate in two (2) Mandatory Observation Events to be held between **April 29, 2023 – June 5, 2023**. These events will be held concurrently with USEF or FEI competitions hosted within the United States. The dates and location of the Observation Events will be published on www.usef.org no later than February 1, 2023.

In addition, the Selectors may opt to add a required Training Camp as an Observation Event during the Selection Period. If this is required, details will be circulated to applicants no later than March 1, 2023 and vaulters will be required to participate.

In the case of extraordinary circumstances such as medical or veterinary issues, the Selectors, by unanimous agreement, in consultation with the Vaulting Sport Committee, may grant a waiver to excuse vaulters from the mandatory Observation Events, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Team. Any request for a waiver from a mandatory Observation Event must be made in writing to Michelle McQueen, USEF Director of Vaulting, at mmcqueen@usef.org no later than the start of the Observation Event. The Selectors will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors:

- The Squad has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (See definition on page 16) to succeed at World Vaulting Championships in the Squad event;
- Previous international experience of the Squad partnership;
- Previous experience and submission(s) to virtual judging completed in 2022 or 2023;
- The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or physician(s) approved by USEF; and/or
- Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

If a waiver request is made during an Observation event, Selectors, in consultation with Committee members may grant a request based on the criteria above. In order to provide timely waiver request decisions, Selectors may consult with at least a quorum of the Vaulting Sport Committee, either present on competition grounds or available via telephonic or virtual meeting means.

1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for this Event (include maximum Team size):

- a. The 2023 VAULTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR JUNIOR AND YOUNG VAULTER -JUNIOR SQUAD LIST– During the Qualifying Period, defined above in Section 1.2.1, Vaulters must complete three scores. Vaulters must submit their three (3) qualification scores to USEF no later than **April 24, 2023 at 11:59 PM ET**, through the Record of Experience (See definitions page 16) form posted on the USEF website at <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting>, which will be made available no later than January 15, 2023.

Vaulters must also submit a narrative detailing their prior Record of Experience and preparation.

c. For vaulters, scores may be obtained at any of the following competitions during the Qualifying Period, January 1, 2022 – April 24, 2023, in the applicable Squad Event:

- FEI CVI 2* or CVIJ 2* Events
- USEF 2* B Team Class.
- CHIO, CVI 3* or CVI 4* Classes.

Any change in three (3) members of a Squad represents an entirely independent Squad and must be listed separately on the 2023 VAULTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR JUNIORS AND YOUNG VAULTER – Junior Squad List.

d. The scores and Records of Experience will be reviewed by a panel of five Selectors. (See Definitions: USEF VAULTING SELECTORS, on page 16 for a detailed description of Selectors.) Selectors will be announced no later than January 31, 2023 at <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting>.

e. Special consideration: the Selectors may grant a waiver for up to two (2) of the required qualification scores, if it is in the perceived best interests of fielding the Team. The Selectors may grant a waiver based on these factors:

1. Previous international experience of the Squad;
2. Previous experience and submission(s) to virtual judging completed in 2022 or 2023;
3. The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or physician(s) approved by USEF; and/or
4. Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

Requests for “special consideration/waivers” must be made, in writing, to the USEF Director of Vaulting, Michelle McQueen, at mmcqueen@usef.org, before April 24, 2023 at 5:00PM ET. Request must include specific details about why a special consideration should be considered. Selectors reserve the right to deny requests for special consideration/waivers.

f. In the event that the date of the Event is changed, the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee reserves the right to recommend to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Committee approved by the Board of Directors, that the qualifying period be changed. Vaulters will be notified in writing of any changes as soon as practicable.

g. **2023 Vaulting World Championships for Juniors and Young Vaulters Short List – Junior Squad**

By no later than **April 28, 2023**, the Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Vaulting Director of Performance, will review the vaulters’ scores and Record of Experience and create a “Short List” of athletes. The Selectors, in evaluating athletes to be named to the Short List, will base their evaluations on all of the following factors:

- Scores earned during the Qualifying Periods.
 - Additional consideration to consistency of scores and trend in scores.
- Previous international experience of the Squad.

- Additional consideration to recent major competitions in Europe.
- Behavior of athlete, lunge, and people associated with the Squad (including, but not limited to, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

The Short List for the Event for Squad will include up to:

- 4 Squads

Any change in three (3) members of a Squad represents an entirely independent Squad and must be listed separately on the 2023 VAULTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP FOR JUNIORS AND YOUNG VAULTER - Junior Squad List.

There will be no ranking order on the Short List. The Selectors will recommend the Short List to the Vaulting Sport Committee, and the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee shall submit its recommendation for approval by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors by April 29, 2023. The approved Short List will be posted on USEF's website at <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting>.

Applicants who are not named to the SHORT LIST will no longer be in consideration for nomination for the Event FEI Nominated Entry.

Vaulters on the Short List will be required to participate in two (2) Mandatory Observation Events to be held between **April 29, 2023 – June 5, 2023**. These events will be held concurrently with USEF or FEI competitions hosted within the United States. The dates and location of the Observation Events will be published on www.usef.org no later than February 1, 2023.

In addition, the Selectors may opt to add a required Training Camp as an Observation Event during the Selection Period. If this is required, details will be circulated to applicants no later than March 1, 2023 and vaulters will be required to participate.

In the case of extraordinary circumstances such as medical or veterinary issues, the Selectors, by unanimous agreement, in consultation with the Vaulting Sport Committee, may grant a waiver to excuse vaulters from the mandatory Observation Events, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Team. Any request for a waiver from a mandatory Observation Event must be made in writing to Michelle McQueen, USEF Director of Vaulting, at mmcqueen@usef.org no later than the start of the Observation Event. The Selectors will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors:

- The Squad has demonstrated "Proven Ability" (See definition on page 16) to succeed at World Vaulting Championships in the Squad event;
- Previous international experience of the Squad partnership;
- Previous experience and submission(s) to virtual judging completed in 2022 or 2023;
- The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or physician(s) approved by USEF; and/or
- Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

If a waiver request is made during an Observation event, Selectors, in consultation with Committee members may grant a request based on the criteria above. In order to provide

timely waiver request decisions, Selectors may consult with at least a quorum of the Vaulting Sport Committee, either present on competition grounds or available via telephonic or virtual meeting means.

h. Final Submission of Record of Experience – June 6, 2023

On or before June 6, 2023, the Squads on the Short List will be asked to confirm their online Record of Experience. On or before June 6, 2023, the Squads on the Short List may also add any additional scores earned at any applicable USEF or FEI events between April 24, 2023 – June 5, 2023 to the Record of Experience.

Squads are responsible for reviewing and verifying the Record of Experience and notifying Michelle McQueen, at mmcqueen@usef.org, USEF Director of Vaulting, in writing no later than June 6, 2023 at 5:00PM ET of any discrepancies found. No changes will be accepted after June 6, 2023 at 5:00PM ET.

i. Submission of Horse Plan

Additionally, before June 6, 2023 at 5:00PM ET, vaulters on the Short List must submit their complete horse plans for the Event. The horse plan must include a record of the primary and reserve horses' experience and scores, confirmed pre-Championship training plans, signed horse lease documents, and all information required for a Nominated Entry for horse and lunger. All Horse Plans must be submitted using the USEF Vaulting Horse Plan forms available on <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting>. The Horse Plan form will be available January 15, 2023.

j. June 19, 2023 FEI Nominated Entry

After June 6, 2023 but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry, June 19, 2023, based upon the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Vaulting Director of Performance and Chef d'Equipe, will recommend a list of Squads up to the maximum number able to be nominated under FEI Rules for the Event for the "FEI Nominated Entry" to the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee for recommendation to the Board of Directors subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. The FEI Nominated Entry will be selected as follows in accordance with FEI Vaulting Rules [10th Edition, Effective 1 January 2023].

The Selectors, in evaluating athlete/horse combinations to be named to the Nominated Entry, will base their evaluations on all of the following factors:

- Scores earned during the Qualifying and Selection Periods;
 - Additional consideration to consistency of scores and trend in scores;
- Performance at the Observation Training Event (if applicable);
- Previous international experience of the Squads and/or horse;
 - Additional consideration to recent major competitions in Europe;
- Previous experience of the Squad on the horse to be used at the Championships;
- Previous horse scores from FEI events;
- Behavior of athlete, lunger, and people associated with the Squad (including, but not limited to, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment;
- Previous scores of the horse at FEI Events in any division.

The remaining Squads on the Short List, up to the maximum number permitted under FEI rules for the Event, will be named as “substitute” Squads for the FEI Nominated Entry for the Event. The Selectors will determine the order of Squads on the entry based on the factors, listed above.

- k. **Declaration of Horse(s):** After June 6, 2023 but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date of the FEI Nominated Entry, June 19, 2023, all Squads who are named on the FEI Nominated Entry must supply the USEF with:

- Name of the horse(s) on which they intend to compete;
- FEI passport number of the horse(s); and
- Name of the horse’s owner(s).

Note: Per FEI rules, if a horse substitution is required, Squads may compete on horses not listed on their Application if the horse meets all FEI requirements to participate in the Event provided they are declared in accordance with FEI rules for the Event.

- l. **Declaration of Lunger:** After June 6, 2023 but no later than ten (10) days prior to the closing date of the FEI Nominated Entry, June 19, 2023, all Squads who are named on the FEI Nominated Entry must supply the USEF with the name of the lunger(s) with which they intend to compete. All lungers listed on the Squad application must comply with the following requirements.

- The lunger(s) must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the event. The lunger(s) must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
- All lunger(s) named to the FEI Nominated Entry, must certify, by signing the 2023 FEI Vaulting World Championships for Juniors and Young Vaulters Vaulting Application, Lunger and Horse Owner Signature Page (Attachment F), that they have received and read the Vaulter Selection Procedures for the Event and the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment B), and the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D), USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E) and that they understand those documents, and that they agree to be bound by them. All lungers named to the FEI Nominated Entry must be Active Competing Members of USEF in good standing and must successfully complete a background check in accordance with the USEF Safe Sport Policy prior to Nominated Entry deadline.

Note: Squads may use lungers at the Event not listed on their Application if the lunger meets all FEI and USEF requirements to participate in the Event provided they are declared in accordance with FEI rules for the Event.

- m. **July 4, 2023: FEI Definite Entry:**

After the FEI Nominated Entry, June 19, 2023 but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date for the Definite Entries, July 4, 2023 for the Event, USEF may nominate up to the maximum number of Squads allowed by the FEI for the Event. Upon the recommendation of the USEF Vaulting Committee, the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors, acting upon the Selectors’ certification that the Selection Procedures have been followed, will approve up to the

maximum number of Squads permitted according to the FEI rules, plus (1) alternate based upon the procedures as set forth in Section 1.3. The USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors, acting upon the Selectors' certification that the Selection Procedures have been followed and the recommendation to the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, will also nominate the remaining Squads listed on the FEI Nominated Entry as substitutes in order of their listing on the FEI Nominated Entry.

- n. **Declaration of Starters:** The declaration of starters will be done in accordance with the FEI Vaulting Rules, [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2023], Article 706.

2. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION

- 2.1. Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection. The option of discretionary selection is used to field the best Team possible in the Event.
- 2.2. Define the discretionary criteria to be used (if any): For discretionary selection used please see the following sections:
- 1.3.h– Selection for the Short List
 - 1.3.k – FEI Nominated Entry
 - 1.3.n – FEI Definite Entry
 - 1.3.o – Declaration of Starters
- 2.3. Other Considerations:
- a. **Soundness** - Horses that are candidates for selection for the Event may be examined at any time during the selection process (which is defined as commencing on the application deadline, January 19, 2023) for soundness by the Team Veterinarian with the recommendation of the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and approval of the USEF Board of Directors. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian may result in the elimination of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process, but only with the recommendation of the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.
- b. **Team Veterinarian Request** – Horse owners and/or Lungers, **at their own expense**, shall make available, upon the request of the Team Veterinarian, 24 months' worth of complete veterinary records of horses being considered for selection. In addition, applicants, **at their own expense**, shall be responsible for supplying any follow-up diagnostic information requested by the Team Veterinarian for horses being considered for selection. Horse Owners and/or Lungers, **at their own expense**, shall complete any treatment prescribed by the Team Veterinarian, after consultation with the horse's treating veterinarian if such a consultation is requested by the athlete, for horses being considered for selection. Failure to comply with any reasonable request of the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the horse and/or athlete from the selection process upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection group approved by the Board of Directors.
- c. **Veterinary Treatment** – From the time the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry/ Squads are announced, April TBD/June 19/July 4 2023, and until to the departure of the U.S. horse for the Event venue for the purpose of competing in the Event, athletes on the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry/Squads will be required to consult with the Team Veterinarian prior to Short Listed horses being treated by any person

other than the Team Veterinarian. This permission must be obtained by using an official USEF Vaulting Veterinary Treatment Request Form (Attachment I). If applicants are using foreign-owned borrowed horses, it is highly recommended that a Certificate of Health stating the horse is fit to compete under Equine Athlete Drug and Medication Rules (EADMR) be submitted to the Team Veterinarian as soon as practical. Failure to adhere to this policy and/or the directives of the Team Veterinarian as outlined on the USEF Vaulting Veterinary Treatment Request Form may result in the removal of the athlete/horse combination from the selection process upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian and the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

d. Medical Request - In the event of illness or injury, applicants may be required to submit to a medical examination by a physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the applicant's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the applicant from the selection process upon the recommendation of the USEF approved physician(s) and with the approval of the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors. Following the examination, should the USEF approved physician(s) find the applicant to be unfit to compete, the applicant will be removed from the selection process with the recommendation of the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

2.4. Name of the committee that will be responsible for making discretionary selections, along with a complete list of the members' titles:

- The USEF Vaulting Sport Committee
- Selectors
- Team Veterinarian
- Physician approved by the USEF CEO
- USEF International Discipline Council
- the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

(See Attachment H for list of USEF Committees, their roles, and list of members).

2.4.1. Process that will be used to identify and handle any potential conflicts of interest involving a member of the committee(s) listed above:

All members of the selection committee must comply with the USEF conflict of interest policy, to include completing and submitting a disclosure form for review by the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to convening the committee.

Any member of the selection committee who has an actual, possible, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department and USEF Audit Committee prior to the start of the selection process and/or recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting. A conflict of interest exists when a personal, family, financial, professional, club, team or business interest of the committee member poses a direct or indirect relationship, connection, or affiliation, past or present, with an Athlete or Horse in contention for the applicable team selection that could compromise the committee member's ability to participate in the selection process in an unbiased manner. If a conflict exists, the USEF Legal Department and Audit Committee shall review the conflict and determine the committee member's level of involvement (e.g., whether that committee member must recuse oneself from participating in discussions and/or voting). For example, if it is determined that a committee member must recuse oneself from voting, the Audit Committee may still determine that a committee

member who has relevant and necessary information with respect to athlete performance, for example a team coach or high performance director, may, if requested by the selection committee, provide such information to the committee so long as such information is provided in a fair and unbiased manner and so long as the committee member with the conflict of interest does not participate in the deliberation or vote toward the final decision. The committee member must not otherwise influence other members of the committee in the selection process.

Additionally, any person (including any potentially impacted Athlete, owner, or coach of a potentially impacted Athlete or Horse) with a good faith belief that a committee member has a conflict of interest may report the alleged conflict of interest to USEF General Counsel and/or Audit Committee. Reports may be made anonymously. No committee member shall retaliate in any way against a person who, in good faith, reports an alleged conflict of interest.

Any recused individual shall be replaced in accordance with the USEF selection committee appointment process.

3. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

3.1. Prior to entry by name to the FEI, the USEF has jurisdiction over potential nominees.

An Athlete or Horse that is nominated to the Team by USEF may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- 3.1.1. Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- 3.1.2. Injury or illness as certified by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a physician (or medical staff) approved by USEF, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and he/she may be removed.
- 3.1.3. Failure to participate in Mandatory Training and/or Competition as defined in Section 9 of these procedures.
- 3.1.4. Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- 3.1.5. Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- 3.1.6. Failure of the horse owner to timely sign the Horse Participation Agreement (Attachment X).
- 3.1.7. Injury or illness of the Horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel. If an Athlete and/or Horse owner refuses to have the Horse examined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel, the injury or illness will be assumed to be disabling and the horse may be removed.
- 3.1.8. Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans, programs, guidance, and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe.
- 3.1.9. Detection of a Prohibited Substance in the Horse (see below).
- 3.1.10. Failure to adhere to all World Anti-Doping Agency ("WADA"), FEI, USEF, and/or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency ("USADA") anti-doping protocols, policies or procedures regarding Athletes and Horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- 3.1.11. Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in Section 1.1. of these selection procedures.
- 3.1.12. Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Event, but only with the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and with

the unanimous approval USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and final approval from the CEO in consultation with the Chef de Mission and General Counsel.

- 3.1.13. Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian or with the USEF Vaulting Veterinary Treatment Request Form protocols.
- 3.1.14. Any other reason expressly written herein these Procedures.

An athlete who is removed from the Team pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per the USEF's Bylaws, Part VII, and the USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

- 3.2. An Athlete may be removed as a nominee to the Team or from the Team for an adjudicated violation of WADA, IF, USADA, and/or USOPC anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures, as well as the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, and USEF Safe Sport Policy, as applicable.

4. REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES & HORSES

- 4.1. Describe the selection and approval process for determining replacement Athlete(s) & Horse(s) should a vacancy occur:

- 4.1.1. **Prior to acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry:** Once the FEI Nominated Entry, June 19, 2023, for the Event has been announced but prior to their submission of the FEI Nominated Entry, Squads may be substituted with a substitute Squad in order of their listing on the FEI Nominated Entry as outlined in Section 1.3.k. at the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, majority vote of the Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. Any substitutions for medical or veterinary reasons, must also be documented by a physician(s) or veterinarian(s) respectively approved by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

- 4.1.2. **After the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry and prior to acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry:** Once the Squads and substitutes for the Event have been announced and prior to the closing date for the Definite Entry, July 4, 2023, Squads may only be substituted with a substitute Squad in order of their listing on the FEI Nominated Entry as outlined in Section 1.3.k. at the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, majority vote of the Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. Any substitutions for medical or veterinary reasons must also be documented by a physician(s) or veterinarian(s) respectively approved by the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian approved by the USEF CEO.

Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF CEO.

- 4.1.3. **After the acceptance of Definite Entry and until one hour before the first horse inspection:** After the Squads have been accepted on the Definite Entry, July 4, 2023, an Squad

may only be substituted with a substitute in accordance with the FEI Regulations Rules for Vaulting, [9th Edition, effective 1st January 2020], for veterinary or medical reasons, or for breach of the USOPC and/or USEF Codes of Conduct, or for failure to abide by the USEF Safe Sport Policy or U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, the Selectors, the Vaulting Sport Committee or its designees, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

Any substitution for veterinary reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must have the approval of the Team Veterinarian approved by the USEF CEO.

Any substitution for medical reasons other than voluntary withdrawal must be documented by a physician(s) who is approved by the USEF CEO.

- 4.1.4. **After the acceptance of the Definite Entry and before the Declaration of Starters:** After the Definite Entry, has been submitted to the FEI, Squads may only be substituted with a substitute Squad in accordance with the FEI Regulations Rules for Vaulting, [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2023], and/or according to the following criteria. Squads may only be replaced with substitute Squad for veterinary reasons, if a Squad cannot vault on another horse, for medical reasons, or for breach of the USEF Code of Conduct, or for failure to abide by the USEF Safe Sport Policy, upon the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and with the concurring approval of at least three (3) of the five (5) Selectors, one of whom shall be the Active Athlete Selector and the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. Any substitutes for veterinary reasons must also be approved by the Team Veterinarian. Any substitutes for medical reasons must also be documented by a physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO.

Any substitute for veterinary reasons must also have the approval of the Team Veterinarian approved by the USEF CEO.

Any substitute for medical reasons must be documented by a physician(s) approved by the USEF CEO.

5. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including scouting or evaluation forms, etc., and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the Closing Ceremony of the Games.

6. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

The following documents are required to be signed by an Athlete and Horse owner as a condition of nomination to the Event (include as attachments or provide links):

- Application (Attachment A)
- Horse Participation Agreement (U.S. owned horses) (Attachment B)
- USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C)
- USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification (Attachment D)
- Squad Signature Page

Applicants and U.S. horse owners will be required to certify that they have received and read a copy of the USEF Code of Conduct and USEF Safe Sport Policy and that they understand the documents.

7. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF in the following public location(s):

7.1. USEF Web site: www.usef.org

These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five business days following notice of approval by USEF.

7.2. Other: These procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

8. DATE OF NOMINATION

The FEI Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI no later than **June 19, 2023**.

9. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

A. Human Anti-Doping: Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies, and procedures, as applicable. This includes participation in Out-of-Competition Testing as required by the WADA, FEI, and USADA rules, as applicable.

B. Equine Anti-Doping: All Horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

1. In-Competition. All Horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF Event are subject to drug testing at any time from when the Event begins until the Event ends or beginning when the Horse arrives for the Event until the Event ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject Event rules. National Events may invoke GR409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
 - a. Positive Finding. At any time during the observation and selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-Event, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel.
 - b. They will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process.
 - c. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by a panel ("Selection Hearing Panel") comprised of at least one disinterested member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two disinterested members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Athlete Representative.
 - d. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Championship may serve Ex Officio.
2. Out-of-Competition. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected out-of-competition at any time throughout the selection period, which is defined as commencing on the start date of the USEF Qualifying Period following notification to the Athlete at least 24 hours prior to collection of samples. Samples collected from Horses out-of-competition will be

tested for the presence of substances prohibited by the FEI, including metabolites and markers. Failure to make the Horse available for collection of samples may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

a. Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite marker, in the sample, the results, including the level detected for controlled medications, will be reported to the USEF Chief Executive Officer and General Counsel, who will notify the Director of Sport Programs or the Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate.

b. In such instances, the positive finding may result in the elimination of the Horse and/or Athlete from the Selection Process unless the Veterinary Panel appointed for the Selection of the Event certifies that the substance detected has been approved or is legitimate and appropriate under the circumstances. Before elimination occurs, the Owner and Athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

3. These provisions do not abrogate the enforcement of applicable Equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed Events, including Events where GR409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.
4. USEF GR409.2 Equine Drugs and Medications, Prohibited Substance Provisions: No Horse and/or pony competing in a Breed or Discipline designated as (or part of) a No Prohibited Substance Group is to be shown in any class at an Event licensed by the Federation if it has been administered in any manner or otherwise contained in its tissues, body fluids or excreta a prohibited substance as defined in the FEI Horse Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at www.fei.org.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES

The following committee/group (include names and titles) was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures: USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, the International Discipline Committee, and the USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment H for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

11. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

Athletes wishing to file a grievance challenging a denial or threatened denial to participate in competition, please see Athlete Guide to Filing a Grievance Regarding Opportunity to Participate and Grievance Form. For procedural guidance for filing a grievance, please contact Emily Pratt at epratt@usef.org.

12. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

USEF does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender identify, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Everyone involved in the development of selection procedures and selection process must abide by the Non-Discrimination Policy.

13. FUNDING DISCLAIMER

Selection to the team does not guarantee that funds will be available for the expenses related to the Event.

14. INTERNATIONAL DISCLAIMER

These procedures are based on FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the selection procedures caused by a change in FEI rules and regulations will be distributed to the affected Athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available to USEF. However, the selections are always subject to unforeseen, intervening circumstances, and realistically may not have accounted for every possible contingency.

If any force of nature, or force majeure, should cause the alteration or cancellation of any of the selection events listed in this document, these selection procedures may require revisions, pursuant to their resubmission to the FEI.

15. ATHLETE OMBUDS OFFICE

The Athlete Ombuds Office provides cost-free, independent and confidential advice regarding Athlete rights, grievance procedures and any other related guidance pertaining to selection procedures and can assist in mediating disputes between Athletes and USEF.

To contact the Athlete Ombuds Office:
 PHONE: (719) 866-5000
 EMAIL: ombudsman@usathlete.org
 WEBSITE: www.usathlete.org

16. USEF SIGNATURES

I certify that I have read and understand the standards/criteria set by the FEI and incorporated those standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures. I further certify that the information provided herein regarding Athlete Selection Procedures represents the method approved by USEF.

Position	Print Name	Signature	Date
USEF CEO	William J. Moroney	ZU ".)"9"-hiCIcuu A-O +	11/18/22
USEF Director of Vaulting	Michelle McQueen	1/4,	11/18/22
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Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to, USEF Director, Vaulting High Performance Programs, United States Equestrian Federation, 4001 Wing Commander Way, Lexington, KY 40511, Phone (859) 225-7685, Email: mmcqueen@usef.org.

Approved by the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee on: October 11, 2022

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors on: November 18, 2022

DEFINITIONS

USEF VAULTING SELECTORS - Five individuals (the "Selectors") will be appointed by the USEF Board of Directors upon the recommendation of the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee and the USEF International Discipline Council. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C) and Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy of the USEF (Attachment G). The Selectors are Senior Active Members in good standing of USEF, who are also current members of the Vaulting community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Vaulting at the international level and include a minimum of one Vaulting Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOPC but who is not an applicant for the Team (the "Eligible Athlete Representative Selector"). In making their decisions, the Selectors will consult with the Chef d'Equipe, and the Team Veterinarian. A minimum of one Replacement Selector will also be named. A Replacement Selector will take the place of a Selector who has a conflict of interest or a substantial appearance of a conflict of interest. There will be a minimum of 20% Eligible Athlete Representation on the panel of the Selectors.

ATHLETE: for purposes of these procedures, Athlete shall include the vaulters and lungers.

VAULTING ELIGIBLE ATHLETE REPRESENTATIVE – A vaulter who meets the following criteria as defined by the USEF in Part IV-Athletes, Bylaw 401 of its Bylaws and the USOPC in Section 8.8.2 of its Bylaws as eligible for membership on a "designated committee".

- within the past ten (10) years, represented the United States in the Olympic or Pan American Games, or an Operation Gold event, or a World Championship recognized by the FEI for which a competitive selection process was administered by the USEF/USET; and/or
- within the past twenty-four (24) months, demonstrated that they are actively engaged in amateur athletic competition by finishing in the top half of the NGB's national championship or a Individual selection competition for the events specified in paragraph above.

SUBSTITUTE – Replacing a vaulter after the FEI Definite Entry has been submitted.

REPLACEMENT – Replacing a Vaulter/horse combination after the Final Entry has been submitted.

RECORD OF EXPERIENCE - Scores earned during the qualifying period including competition, name, date and location, list of judges and scores earned by event (round). A narrative of the athlete and horse preparation including training activities during the Qualifying Period, attendance at clinics and camps, overseas preparation and any additional preparation for the World Championships. Additionally, the athlete may include other narrative information about prior competition experience and success.

STATE OF PREPAREDNESS – Athlete/horse combinations overall state of readiness to perform successfully at International Vaulting Competition, not just limited to health and soundness of the horse.

PROVEN ABILITY –

For Juniors: An athlete/horse combination that has submitted one (1) score during the Qualifying period from the following Events.

- FEI CVI 2* or CVIJ 2* Events
- USEF 2* B Team Class.
- FEI CHIO, CVI 3* or CVI 4* Classes