



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC.**  
**ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**2020 FEI Vaulting World Championships for Seniors**  
**VAULTING – Individual**  
**Flyinge, Sweden**  
**July 28 – August 2, 2020**

**DUE TO THE CHAMPIONSHIPS NOT TAKING PLACE ON JULY 28<sup>TH</sup> – AUGUST 2<sup>ND</sup> THE SELECTION PROCEDURES ARE CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW**

**I. SELECTION SYSTEM**

**A. Minimum eligibility requirements for a vaulter to be considered for nomination as a Individual Female or Male:**

- 1. Citizenship:** The vaulters must be a U.S. citizen, or in compliance with FEI Vaulting Rules, Article 702.4.1, Vaulting Rules 2019, 9th Edition, effective 1 January 2015, Updates effective 1 January 2019, as well as FEI General Regulations. Article 119.
  
- 2. Minimum International Federation (IF) Requirements:**
  - a. All vaulters wishing to compete on the 2020 Vaulting Team (the “Team”) as an Individual must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability between January 1, 2019 and Date of Nominated Entry, TBD. (See FEI Vaulting Qualifications Criteria for 2020). The rules and a list of qualifying events can be found on <http://www.fei.org/>.
  - b. The vaulter must have been born on or before December 31, 2004 in accordance with the FEI General Regulations, 2020 [23rd Edition, 1 January 2009, updates effective 1 January 2020], Article 124 found at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/regulations/general-rules>, and the FEI Vaulting Rules [9th Edition, effective 1st January 2020], Article 702.1. found at <https://inside.fei.org/fei/regulations/vaulting>.
  - c. The horse must be a minimum of seven (7) years of age born on or before December 31, 2013 (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) FEI Vaulting Rules [9th Edition, effective 1st January 2019], Article 717.1.
  - d. The vaulter and horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the 2020 Vaulting World Championships for Seniors Event.
  - e. The vaulter and horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
  
- 3. Other Requirements:**
  - a. The vaulters must be a USEF member in good standing at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - b. If the horse is U.S. owned, then the horse must be recorded with USEF pursuant to USEF GR1102, and in good standing under USEF rules at the time of application, selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - c. Application – Vaulters 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](http://www.usef.org). Applications submitted online on or before **January 15, 2020 will be charged \$150 per Application.** Applications submitted online after **January 15, 2020** and

received by USEF on or before January 22, 2020 will be charged an application fee of \$300 per application. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 22, 2020. IF AN APPLICATION IS RECEIVED WITHOUT THE APPLICATION FEE, IT WILL BE ACCEPTED IF THE APPLICABLE FEE IS RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE JANUARY 29, 2020.**

- d. Horse Loan Agreement: Owners of U.S. owned horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry (See I.C.1) must sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B). A U.S. horse owner(s)' failure to sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or vaulter from the FEI Nominated Entry.
- e. The vaulters and U.S. horse owner(s) must certify, by signing the Application (Attachment A), that they have received and read the Individual 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 Handbook (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.

**B. Qualifying Period**

Vaulters wishing to be considered for selection for the Event must earn a minimum of three (3) Scores during the Qualifying Period September 1, 2019 - April 19, 2020, as outlined in I.C.1.

**C. Provided below is a comprehensive, step-by-step description of the method that explains how Individual vaulters will go through the selection process to become nominees:**

1. The 2020 VAULTING JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS INDIVIDUAL LIST - Vaulters who completed an application will be asked to submit their own three (3) qualification scores to the USEF no later than **April 19, 2020** through an online form posted on the USEF website at <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting> by January 15, 2020. This form is called a "Record of Experience". (See definitions on page 15).

2. Vaulters must also submit a narrative application detailing their prior Record of Experience and preparation. Scores may be obtained at any of the following competitions during the Qualifying Period September 1, 2019 – April 19, 2020 in the applicable Senior or 3\* Individual Event:

- Any USEF recognized Vaulting competition
- Any CVI 3\*
- CHIO or CVI 4\*

The scores and Records of Experience will be reviewed by a panel of five Selectors. (See Definitions: USEF VAULTING SELECTORS on page 15 for a detailed description of Selectors.) Selectors will be announced no later than January 31, 2020 at <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting>.

Special consideration: the Selectors may grant a waiver for all or part of the Qualification Score requirements if it is in the perceived best interests of the Team. The Selectors may grant a waiver based on these factors:

1. The Individual has demonstrated "Proven Ability" (See definition on page 15) to succeed at World Vaulting Championships in the Individual Event;
2. Previous international experience of the individual;
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, Laureen Johnson, before April 19, 2020. Request must include specific details about why a special consideration should be considered. Selectors reserve the right to deny requests for special consideration/waivers.

In the event that the date of the 2020 World Championships for Seniors is changed, the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee reserves the right to change the designated qualifying period. Vaulters will be notified in writing of any changes as soon as practicable.

### **3. 2020 Vaulting World Championships for Seniors Short List**

By **April 21, 2020**, 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”. The Short List will include up to:

- 8 individual Women
- 8 individual Men

There will be no ranking order on the Short List. The Selectors will recommend the Short List to the Vaulting Sport Committee on April 21, 2020, and the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee shall submit its recommendation for approval by the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. The approved Short List will be posted on the USEF 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 2020 Vaulting World Championships for Seniors FEI Nominated Entry.

Vaulters on the Short List will be invited to participate in two mandatory Observation Events to be held between April 22 - June 8, 2020. These events will be held concurrently with USEF or domestic FEI competitions. The dates and location of the Observation Events will be published on [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) no later than January 31, 2020.

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, 2020.

In the case of extraordinary circumstances such as medical or veterinary issues or participation in CHIO Aachen 2020 or World Cup Finals (with the proven potential to win a medal), the Selectors, by unanimous agreement, and with the approval of the Vaulting Sport Committee, may grant a waiver to excuse vaulters from the mandatory Observation Events, if it is in the best interest of the Team. Any request for a waiver from a mandatory Observation Event must be made in writing to Laureen Johnson, USEF Director of Vaulting, at [lkjohnson@usef.org](mailto:lkjohnson@usef.org) no later than the start of the Observation Event. The Selectors will approve or disapprove the request based on these factors:

- The Individual has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (See definition on page 15) to succeed at World Vaulting Championships in the Individual Event;
- Previous international experience of the Individual
- 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.

#### **4. Final Submission of Record of Experience - June 8th, 2020**

On or before June 8th, 2020, Individuals on the Short List will be asked to confirm their online Record of Experience. On or before June 8th, 2020, the Individuals on the Short List may also add any additional scores earned at any USEF or FEI events between April 20 - June 8, 2020 to the Record of Experience.

Individuals are responsible for reviewing and verifying the Record of Experience and notifying Laureen Johnson, USEF Director of Vaulting, in writing no later than June 8, 2020 of any discrepancies they may find. No changes will be accepted after June 8, 2020.

#### **5. Submission of Horse Plan**

Additionally, before June 8, 2020, vaulters on the Short List must submit their complete horse plans for the 2020 World Championships. 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, 2020.

**6. TBD FEI Nominated Entry** – After June 8, 2020 but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry, TBD, 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 at least three (3) Individuals 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 or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. The FEI Nominated Entry will be named as follows in accordance with FEI Vaulting Rules [9th Edition, effective 1st January 2012, Effective 1 January 2020].

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 Individual and/or horse
  - Additional consideration to recent major competitions in Europe
- Previous experience of the Individual on the horse to be used at the Championships
- Perceived ability of an individual athlete to compete effectively in more than one division at the Championships.
- Previous horse scores from FEI events.
- Behavior of athlete, lunger, and people associated with the Individual (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 Individuals on the Short List, up to the maximum number permitted under FEI rules for the Event, will be named as "substitute" Individuals for the FEI Nominated Entry for the Event. The Selectors will determine the order of Individuals on the entry based on the factors, listed above in Section I.C.6.

**7. Declaration of Horse(s):** After June 8, 2020 but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date of the FEI Nominated Entry, TBD, 2020, all Individuals who are named on the FEI Nominated Entry must supply the USEF with:

- a. Name of the horse(s) on which they intend to compete;
- b. FEI passport number of the horse(s);
- c. Name of the horse's owner(s).

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

**8. Declaration of Lunger:** After June 8, 2020 but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date of the FEI Nominated Entry, TBD, 2020, all Individuals 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 Individual's application must comply with the following requirements.

- a. 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.
- b. The lunger(s) must comply with FEI Rules for the Event
- c. All U.S. lunger(s) named to the FEI Nominated Entry, must certify, by signing the 2020 FEI Vaulting World Championships for Seniors Vaulting Application, Lunger and Horse Owner Signature Page (Attachment F), that they have received and read the Vaulting 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.

**Note:** Individuals may use lungers at the Event not listed on their Application or included on the U.S. Nominated Entry if the lunger meets all FEI requirements to participate in the Event provided they are declared in accordance with FEI rules for the Event.

**9. TBD: FEI Definite Entry:**

After the FEI Nominated Entry, TBD but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date for the Definite Entries, TBD for the Event, USEF will nominate up to the maximum number of Individuals allowed by the FEI for the Event. Upon the recommendation of the USEF Vaulting Committee, the USEF Board of Directors 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 Individuals permitted according to the FEI rules, three (3) individual Females plus (1) alternate and three (3) individual Males plus one (1) alternate based upon the procedures as set forth in Section I.C.2. The USEF Board of Directors, 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 Individuals listed on the FEI Nominated Entry as substitutes in order of their listing on the FEI Nominated Entry.

**10. After the acceptance of the Definite Entry and before the Declaration of Starters:**

After the Definite Entry, has been submitted to the FEI, Individuals may only be substituted with a substitute Individual in accordance with the FEI Regulations Rules for Vaulting, [9th Edition, effective 1st January 2020], and/or according to the following criteria. Individuals may only be replaced with substitute Individuals for veterinary reasons, if an Individual 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 International Disciplines Council.

**11. Declaration of Starters:** The declaration of starters will be done in accordance with the FEI Vaulting Rules, [9th Edition, effective 1st January 2020], Article 706.

**D. Provided below are the names of all committees/groups who oversee the selection process, including the name(s) and role(s) of their members.** The USEF Vaulting Sport Committee will oversee the selection process, which process shall be reviewed and recommended by the USEF International Discipline Council, and approved by the USEF Board of Directors 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).

**E. Other Considerations:**

- 1. Equine Drug Testing:** All applicant horses are subject to drug testing both in competition and out of competition.

In-Competition. All horses entered to compete in any FEI or USEF competition are subject to drug testing at any time from when the competition begins until the competition ends or beginning when the horse arrives for the competition until the competition ends, whichever beginning occurs first. Blood and/or urine samples may be collected and tested for substances prohibited or forbidden under the subject competition rules. National competitions may invoke GR 409 whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or marker, is detected in the sample collected in-competition, 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 the dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, the positive finding 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 a panel (“Selection Hearing Panel”) comprised at least one member of the applicable discipline Sport Committee along with at least two members of the Hearing Committee, one of which must be an Eligible Athlete. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinarian Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinarian Panel selected for the event may serve Ex Officio.

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 April 1, 2020, following notification to the applicant 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.

Positive Finding. At any time during the selection period that the presence of a prohibited or forbidden substance, or a metabolite or 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 Discipline Director for dissemination of information as appropriate. In such instance, 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.

This provision does not abrogate the enforcement of applicable equine anti-doping rules at Federation licensed competitions, including competitions where GR 409 is invoked whereby samples will be tested for FEI prohibited substances, including metabolites and markers.

Also see the section on Veterinarian Treatment, a violation of which may result in elimination under this provision. Before elimination occurs in either instance, the owner and athlete will be afforded a hearing by the Selection Hearing Panel.

### **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 a competition 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 Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at <https://inside.fei.org/content/anti-doping-rules>.

2. **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 22, 2020) 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.
3. **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.
4. **Veterinary Treatment** – From the time the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry/Individuals are announced, TBD, and until to the departure of the U.S. horse for the SENIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS venue for the purpose of competing in the Event, athletes on the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry/Individual 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.

5. **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 International Disciplines Council 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.

## **II. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION (if applicable)**

- A. **Rationale for utilizing discretionary selection:** The option of discretionary selection is used to field the best Team possible in the Event.

- B. **Discretionary criteria and how it will be used:**

- I.C.2.a – Selection for the Short List – Discretionary Selection
- I.C.2.b. – Selection of Substitutes
- I.C.5 – FEI Definite Entry
- I.C.6 – Declaration of Starters

### **Discretionary Selection Committee:**

1. **Names of the position and/or committee(s) that will be responsible for the discretionary selection:**

- USEF Vaulting Chef d'Equipe
- USEF Vaulting Director of Performance
- USEF Vaulting High Performance Selectors
- USEF Vaulting Team Veterinarian
- USEF Vaulting Sport Committee
- USEF Board of Directors or Ad Hoc Selection Group

2. **Complete list of the members of the committee(s), their titles and their NGB role that qualifies them to serve in this capacity:** See Attachment H for list of USEF committees, their roles, and list of members.

**Selectors:** Five (5) individuals (the "Selectors") will be appointed by the USEF International Disciplines Council upon the recommendation of the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics and

Conflict of Interest Policy of USEF (Attachment G). The Selectors are current members of the Vaulting community who are knowledgeable and experienced in Vaulting at the international level, and are senior active members in good standing of USEF, including a minimum of one Vaulting Eligible Athlete Representative as defined by the USOPC (see Definitions on page 14) but who is not an applicant for the 2020 Vaulting World Championships for Seniors (the "Eligible Athlete Representative Selector"). In making their decisions, the Selectors will consult with USEF Vaulting Director of Performance, the Chef d'Equipe, and the Team Veterinarian recommended by the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee and approved by the USEF International Disciplines Council.

A minimum of one (1) Substitute Selector will also be named. A Substitute 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.

### **III. REMOVAL OF INDIVIDUALS**

#### **A. An Individual may be removed from the Short List/ FEI nominated Entries for any of The following reasons, as determined by USEF and in accordance with the procedures:**

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff). If an athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff), their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- Violation of USEF's Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Failure of a U.S. owner to sign the Horse Loan Agreement (Attachment B).
- 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.
- 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.
- Detection of a prohibited substance in the horse.
- Failure to adhere to all WADA, FEI, USEF and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures including participation in out-of-competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, USADA Rules.
- Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian or with the USEF Vaulting Veterinary Treatment Request Form protocols.
- Failure to adhere to the agreed upon plans and/or directives of the Chef d'Equipe.
- Failure to comply with the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).
- Any other reason expressly written herein these Procedures.

In these procedures the removal of an athlete is closely related to the process by which they will be substituted. Therefore, the reasons for which an athlete may be removed are thoroughly addressed in Section III. SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETE/HORSE COMBINATIONS.

A Individual removed from the Short List/Nominating Entry pursuant to this provision has the right to a hearing per USEF's Bylaws, Article 703 and USEF General Rules, Chapter 6, GR 605 or USOPC Bylaws, Section 9.

**B. An Individual may be removed from the FEI Definite Entries, at any time for the following reasons, as determined by the USEF in accordance with these procedures:**

- Voluntary withdrawal. An athlete must submit a written letter to the USEF CEO.
- Violation of WADA, FEI, USEF, USADA anti-doping protocol, policies, and procedures.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF approved physician (or medical staff).
- Injury or illness of the horse as determined by the Team Veterinarian, if a horse replacement is unavailable.
- Violation of the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C).
- Failure to comply with the USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).

**C. An athlete may be removed from the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry, FEI Definite Entries, at any time for violation of WADA, FEI, USEF, USADA anti-doping protocol, policies and procedures (See II. A. and B. above).**

**IV. SUBSTITUTION/REPLACEMENT OF ATHLETES/HORSE COMBINATIONS**

**A. Following is the process by which the substitution/replacement pool of athlete/horse combinations will be identified:** One or more substitute athlete/horse combinations will be named to the Short List/FEI Nominated Entry.

**B. Substitution/Replacement athletes and horses will be selected, should a vacancy occur, according to the following method:**

- 1. Prior to acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry:** Once the FEI Nominated Entry, TBD, 2020, for the Event has been announced but prior to their submission of the FEI Nominated Entry, Individuals may be substituted with a substitute Individual in order of their listing on the FEI Nominated Entry as outlined in Section I.C.1. for veterinary or medical reasons, for breach of the USEF Code of Conduct or Safe Sport Policy, for failure to sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement, or other exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified Individual for the Event, at the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, majority vote of the Selectors and the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors 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 or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.
- 2. After the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry and prior to acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry:** Once the Individuals and substitutes for the Event have been announced and prior to the closing date for the Definite Entry, TBD, Individuals may only be substituted with a substitute Individual in order of their listing on the FEI Nominated Entry as outlined in Section I.C.1. for veterinary or medical reasons, for breach of the USEF Code of Conduct or Safe Sport Policy, for failure to sign the USEF Horse Loan Agreement, or other exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified Individual for the event, at the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe, majority vote of the Selectors, and the

USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and subject to the approval of the USEF Board of Directors 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 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 International Disciplines Council.

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

- 3. After the acceptance of Definite Entry and until one hour before the first horse inspection:** After the Individuals have been accepted on the Definite Entry, TBD, an Individual may only be substituted with a substitute in accordance with the FEI Regulations Rules for Vaulting, [9th Edition, effective 1st January 2019], 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, 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 or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors.

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

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

**C. Group or committee that will be responsible for making athlete substitution/replacement determinations:**

- 1. Group or committee who determine the substitution/replacement pool:** USEF Vaulting Selectors, USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, the USEF International Discipline Council and the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors (Attachment H).
- 2. Group or committee who determine a substitution/replacement to the Short List/ Nominated Entries, Team and/ or Individual:**
- a. **Prior to acceptance of nominations by the FEI:** USEF Vaulting Selectors, USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, and the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors (Attachment H).
  - b. **After acceptance of nominations by the FEI:** USEF Vaulting Selectors, USEF Vaulting Sport Committee and the Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors (Attachment H).
  - c. **After arrival at the Competition Venue:** Members of the groups and committees listed in IV.C.2.b. above who are physically present at the Venue. See IV.C.2.b. above.
  - d. **After the First Horse Inspection:** See IV.C.2.c. above.

- V. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS** – USEF will retain all approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents, including evaluation forms and data from the selection process for at least six months following the date of the Closing Ceremonies of the Event.

**VI. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS** – The following documents are required to be properly executed by applicants and U.S. horse owners as a condition of nomination for the Event and are included as attachments:

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

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.

In addition, all persons participating in any decision made pursuant to the Selection Procedures including but not limited to the Team Veterinarian, Physicians, members of the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee, USEF International Discipline Council, USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors will be required to abide by the USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy (Attachment G) and USEF Safe Sport Policy (Attachment E).

Reference is made to the attached USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy for a full and accurate statement of the requirements of that policy. In particular, however, no Individual may participate in a particular phase of the selection process if, after full disclosure, the Individual is found by the Audit Committee to have a disqualifying conflict of interest in the particular phase of the selection process in question per the attached USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy.

**VII. ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS** – Applicants will be required to read the USEF Athlete Agreement (Attachment J) and are requested to sign this document.

**VIII. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES** – The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by USEF in the following locations and will include the USEF approval date when known:

- USEF website - [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) - These procedures will be posted as soon as possible, but not more than five (5) business days following approval by the USEF.
- Other: the Selection Procedures and Application Packet will also be available by mail or email upon request.

**IX. DATE OF NOMINATION** – The FEI Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI no later than **Date TBD**.

**X. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS** – Athletes must adhere to all WADA, FEI, and USADA anti-doping protocols, policies and procedures. This includes participation in out-of-competition testing as required by the WADA, FEI, and/or USADA Rules, if applicable.

**XI. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES** – The following committees/groups were 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.

**XII. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES** – The USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found on the USEF's website [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

**XIII. 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 selection procedures 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 will be revised.

**XIV. ATHLETE OMBUDSMAN** – Athletes who have questions regarding their opportunity to compete that are not answered by USEF may contact the USOC Athlete Ombudsman, Kacie Wallace, by:

- Telephone at (719) 866-5000
- Toll-free telephone at (888) ATHLETE (1-888-284-5383)
- E-mail at [kacie.wallace@usoc.org](mailto:kacie.wallace@usoc.org)
- [www.athleteombudsman.org](http://www.athleteombudsman.org)

**XVI. FUNDING DISCLAIMER** - Selection to the Team does not guarantee that funds will be available to send a team.

**XVII. DISCLAIMER** – Please see Attachment D – USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification.

**XVIII. NGB SIGNATURES:** I certify that I have read, understand and incorporated our IF standards/criteria into our Selection Procedures and that the information provided herein regarding these Selection Procedures represents the method approved by the United States Equestrian Federation.

Position	Print Name	Sign	Date
USEF President	Murray Kessler		1/29/2020
USEF Director of Vaulting	Laureen Johnson		1/29/2020

Any questions regarding these Selection Procedures should be addressed to, USEF Director, Vaulting High Performance Programs, United States Equestrian Federation, 4047 Iron Works Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511, Phone (859) 225-7693, [Email: lkjohnson@usef.org](mailto:lkjohnson@usef.org).

Approved by the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee on: November 26, 2019

Approved by the USEF International Discipline Committee on: January 21, 2020

Approved by the USEF Board of Directors on: January 29, 2020

## **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.

**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”.

- i) 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 the USEF/USET

and/or

- ii) 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** – An athlete/horse combination that has submitted three (3) scores from the Senior or 3\* Individual Event during the Qualifying period from the following Events.

- Any USEF recognized Vaulting competition
- Any CVI 3\*

- CHIO or CVI 4\*

The following is a list of Attachments:

- Attachment A Individual Application
- Attachment B USEF Horse Loan Agreement
- Attachment C USEF Code of Conduct
- Attachment D USEF Release, Assumption of Risk Waiver and Indemnification
- Attachment E USEF Safe Sport Policy
- Attachment F Lunger and Horse Owner Signature Page
- Attachment G USEF Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest Policy
- Attachment H USEF Committee List
- Attachment I USEF Veterinary Treatment Request Form
- Attachment J USEF Athlete Agreement