



## MEMORANDUM

**To:** 2026 FEI Vaulting World Championship for Pas de Deux Applicants

**Date:** February 18, 2026

**From:** Steven Morrissey, Managing Director of Non-Olympic Disciplines

**Copy:** Hallye Griffin, Director of FEI Sport

**Re:** Correction to the 2026 FEI Vaulting World Championship for Pas de Deux Selection Procedures

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This memo is to notify you of an inaccuracy in the Selection Procedures for the 2026 FEI Vaulting World Championship for Pas de Deux that will take place August 11-16, 2026 in Aachen, Germany. The corrected language can be found below:

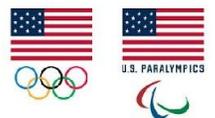
2.1. Event names, dates, and locations of all competitions, and camps to be used as part of the selection process:

Pas de Deux wishing to be considered for Team selection for the Event must achieve a minimum of three (3) Scores during the Qualifying Period, January 1, 2025 - March 30, 2026 ("Qualifying Period"), as outlined below, unless a waiver is granted in accordance with Section 2.1.2 below. Scores must come from three different Selection Events and must include **two rounds of compulsory and freestyle** components in the Pas de Deux section. ~~Scores will only include the first round compulsories and first round freestyle. Second round freestyle (FEI) will not be included on the Record of Experience.~~ Scores must be achieved by a minimum of the same two vaulters. Any change in members of a Pas de Deux represents an entirely independent Pas de Deux, must submit a separate application of intent (see Section 1.1.3.d), and will be considered separately for selection. The following events are designated as Selection Events:

- any CVIO4\*, CVI 3\*, CVIJ 2\* or
- any USEF 3\* Open Pas de Deux or 2\* Pas de Deux or
- World Cup Finals

A maximum of one score can be attained at a CVIJ2\* Pas de Deux or USEF 2\* Pas de Deux event.

**Questions and Feedback:** If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Steven Morrissey at [smorrissey@usef.org](mailto:smorrissey@usef.org).



**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION  
ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES  
VAULTING – SENIOR PAS DE DEUX  
2026 FEI VAULTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR SENIORS**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for a Pas de Deux to be considered for selection to the Team:

1.2.

1.2.1. **Nationality/Passport requirements:**

The Athletes must be U.S. citizens, or in compliance with FEI Vaulting Rules, Article 702.4.1, Vaulting Rules 2025, 10th Edition, effective 1 January 2025, as well as FEI General Regulations, Article 119, no later than the application deadline for the 2026 FEI Vaulting World Championships for Seniors (the “Championships” or the “Event”). Athletes must hold a valid passport that will not expire for six months after the conclusion of the Championships.

1.2.2. **Minimum International Federation (IF) standards for participation:**

1.2.2.1. All Athletes wishing to compete on the Championships Team (“Team”) as a Pas de Deux must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability by June 1, 2026, as posted USEF Selection Procedures found herein. The FEI Certificate of Capability Criteria are [found here](#).

1.2.2.2. The horse must be a minimum of seven (7) years of age born on or before December 31, 2018 (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) FEI Vaulting Rules [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2025], Article 717.1.

1.2.2.3. The Athletes must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.

1.2.2.4. The Horse must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.

1.2.2.5. The Horse must meet all FEI criteria of eligibility for the Event [found here](#).

1.2.2.6. The Athletes and Horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.

1.2.2.7. Horse Owners must be in good standing with the FEI at the time of Nominated Entries, and until the conclusion of the Event.

1.2.2.8. The lunger(s) must be registered and in good standing with the FEI at time of Nominated Entries, and until the conclusion of the event. The lunger(s) must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.

1.2.3. **Other requirements:**

1.2.3.1. The Athletes must be a Junior or Senior Active Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing by June 1, 2026, and until the conclusion of the Event.

1.2.3.2. 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 1.2 for deadlines regarding

- submission of the horse plan.
- 1.2.3.3. Owners of U.S. Horses must be USEF Junior or Senior Active Members, and in good standing pursuant to USEF Rules at the time of FEI Nominated Entries and until the conclusion of the Event.
  - 1.2.3.4. Application – Athletes 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, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET** will be charged one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per Application. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 15, 2026, at 11:59 PM ET.** Each athlete must certify, by signing the Application (Attachment A), that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Event, [the USEF Code of Conduct](#), [the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), [the USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#), [the USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
  - 1.2.3.5. Horse Participation Consent Agreement: Individual owners of U.S. horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry must sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement (Attachment B) prior to the FEI Nominated Entry deadline. If an owner is under 18 years of age, then a parent or legal guardian must sign too. The failure of a U.S. horse owner, or parent/legal guardian if applicable, to timely sign the USEF Horse Participation Consent Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or Athlete and/or Pas de Deux from the FEI Nominated Entry. The Owner(s) must certify, by signing the Horse Participation Consent Agreement, that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures for the Event, [the USEF Code of Conduct](#), [the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), [the USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#), [the USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
  - 1.2.3.6. U.S. Lungers will be required to sign the Horse Owner and Lunger Agreement (Attachment F). By signing the Agreement, the U.S. Lunger certifies that they have received, read, understand, and agree to be bound by these Selection Procedures, [the USEF Code of Conduct](#), [the USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#), the [U.S. Center for SafeSport Code](#), [the USEF Safe Sport Policy](#), including the [Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies](#), [the USEF Non-Discrimination Policy](#), and the [USEF Whistleblower & Anti-Retaliation Policy](#).
  - 1.2.3.7. U.S. Lungers are required to be USEF Senior Active Members, and in good standing under USEF rules at the time of FEI Nominated Entries through the conclusion of the Event.
  - 1.2.3.8. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
  - 1.2.3.9. Any athlete age 18 or older as of the last day of the Championship 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](#).

## 2. Selection Events:

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

Pas de Deux wishing to be considered for Team selection for the Event must achieve a minimum of three (3) Scores during the Qualifying Period, January 1, 2025 - March 30, 2026 (“Qualifying Period”), as outlined below, unless a waiver is granted in accordance with Section 2.1.2 below. Scores must come from three different Selection Events and must include compulsory and freestyle components in the Pas de Deux section. Scores will only include the first-round compulsories and first round freestyle. Second round freestyle (FEI) will not be included on the Record of Experience. Scores must be achieved by a minimum of the same two vaulters. Any change in members of a Pas de Deux represents an entirely independent Pas de Deux, must submit a separate application of intent (see Section 1.1.3.d), and will be considered separately for selection. The following events are designated as Selection Events:

- any CVIO4\*, CVI 3\*, CVIJ 2\* or
- any USEF 3\* Open Pas de Deux or 2\* Pas de Deux or
- World Cup Finals

A maximum of one score can be attained at a CVIJ2\* Pas de Deux or USEF 2\* Pas de Deux event.

Any submitted score achieved after January 1, 2026, must have been achieved at a competition (listed Section 2.1) with no less than three (3) judges.

Selectors may grant a waiver for up to two (2) required qualification scores, if they determine in their discretion that it is in the best interest of fielding the Team. The Selectors may grant a waiver based on these factors. These are in no particular order:

- Previous international experience of the Pas de Deux;
- Previous experience and submission(s) to virtual judging or virtual competitions completed in 2025 or 2026;
- The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a Horse or Athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or USEF-approved physician(s); and/or
- Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency.

Requests for waivers must be made, in writing, to the USEF Director of Vaulting, Steven Morrissey, at [smorrissey@usef.org](mailto:smorrissey@usef.org) before March 30, 2026 at 5:00PM ET. The request must include specific details about why a waiver should be considered.

Pas de Deux will be notified in writing of any decisions as soon as practicable. Should a waiver request be denied and the score requirement not be met, the Pas de Deux will no longer be considered for the Short List.

2.1.1. **Step-by-step description of the selection process for this Event:**

2.1.1.1. **Short List**

Pas de Deux must submit their three (3) qualification scores to USEF no later than March 30, 2026, at **11:59 PM ET**, through the Record of Experience (See definitions) form posted on the [USEF website](#), which will be made available no later than February 15, 2026. Pas de Deux must also submit a narrative detailing their prior Record of Experience and preparation.

The scores and Records of Experience will be reviewed by a panel of five Selectors. (See Definitions: USEF VAULTING SELECTORS for a detailed description of Selectors). Selectors will be announced no later than December 15, 2025, at

<https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting>.

Following March 30, 2026, the Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Vaulting Director of Performance, will review the Pas de Deux' scores and Record of Experience and recommend a "Short List" of up to six Pas de Deux. There will be no ranking order on the Short List. The Selectors will recommend the Short List to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors. In making their recommendation, the Selectors will consider the following factors in no particular order:

- Scores earned during the Qualifying Periods. Additional consideration to consistency of scores, trend in scores, and recent scores achieved.
- Previous international experience of the Pas de Deux. Additional consideration to recent major competitions in Europe.
- Behavior of Pas de Deux, lunge, and people associated with the Pas de Deux (including, but not limited to, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.
- FEI Certificate of Capability or evidence of prior scores/experience which indicate if FEI requirement of certificate of capability will be earned.
- Record of Experience.

Only Pas de Deux named to the Short List are eligible to proceed through the selection process.

Any submitted score achieved after January 1, 2026, must have been achieved at a competition (listed Section 2.1) with no less than three (3) judges.

Pas de Deux on the Short List will be required to participate in the following events held between March 31, 2026 – June 1, 2026 ("Selection Period"). Scores from FEI and USEF events must include two rounds of Freestyle at the event. During the Selection Period, Pas de Deux must attend three (3) Designated Observation Events (USEF 3\* class or FEI 3\* or 4\* class).

The list of Designated U.S. Observation Events and Designated European CVI Observation Events will be published on the USEF Website by December 15, 2025.

In addition, the Selectors may add a required Training Camp as an Observation Event during the Selection Period. If this is required, details will be circulated to Pas de Deux no later than February 1, 2026, and Pas de Deux will be required to participate.

In the case of extraordinary circumstances such as medical or veterinary issues, the Selectors, by unanimous agreement, may grant a waiver to excuse Pas de Deux from any of the Observation Events, including the required Training Camp, if it is determined to be in the best interest of the Team. Any request for a waiver must be made in writing to Steven Morrissey at [smorrissey@usef.org](mailto:smorrissey@usef.org), by the conclusion of the Selection Period. The Selectors may grant a waiver based on the following factors. These are in no particular order:

- The Pas de Deux has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (See definition on page 18) to succeed at the Championships in the Pas de Deux event;
- Previous international experience of the Pas de Deux;
- Previous experience and submission(s) to virtual judging or virtual competitions completed in 2025 or 2026;
- The circumstances, facts, and in the case of illness or injury to a horse or athlete, documentation by the Team Veterinarian or USEF-approved physician(s);
- Unforeseen circumstances which create a logistical emergency; and/or
- FEI Certificate of Capability or evidence of prior scores/experience which indicates if FEI requirement of certificate of capability will be earned.

If a waiver request is made during an Observation event, Selectors may grant a request based on the criteria above. Should a waiver request be denied and the score requirement not be met, the Pas de Deux will no longer be considered for the FEI Nominated Entries.

**2.1.1.2. Final Submission of Record of Experience – June 1, 2026**

By no later than June 1, 2026, at 5:00PM EST, Pas de Deux listed on the Short List will be asked to complete and submit their Final Record of Experience, which must include at least the following six scores, unless a waiver has been granted permitting fewer scores:

- three (3) scores listed in their first Record of Experience; and
- a minimum of three (3) additional scores earned at Observation Events during the Selection Period (see 2.1.3).

Additional scores may be listed on the Final Record of Experience. Scores achieved after January 1, 2026, must have been achieved at a

competition with no less than three (3) judges.

Athletes are responsible for reviewing and verifying the Record of Experience and notifying Steven Morrissey at [smorrissey@usef.org](mailto:smorrissey@usef.org) in writing no later than June 1, 2026 at 5:00PM ET of any discrepancies found. No changes will be accepted after June 1, 2026 at 5:00PM ET.

**2.1.1.3. Submission of Horse Plan**

No later than June 1, 2026 at 5:00PM ET, Pas de Deux on the Short List must submit their complete Horse Plans for the Event using the forms (available prior to May 1, 2026) available at <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting>.

The horse plan must include:

- a record of the primary and reserve horses' experience and scores;
- confirmed pre-Event training plans;
- signed horse lease documents, if requested;
- proof of Certificate of Capability; and
- and all information required for a Nominated Entry for horse and lunger.

**1.1.1.1. Selectors will consider the following in their review of the Horse Plan:**

- Previous experience of the Pas de Deux on the Horse to be used at the Event. Additional consideration will be given to recent training and competitions on the horse to be used at the Event; and
- Previous Horse scores from FEI events.

All horses must have met the FEI's criteria for eligibility for the Championships by June 1, 2026.

**2.1.1.4. TBD FEI Nominated Entry**

After June 1, 2026, but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry, TBD, 2026, pursuant to the procedures set forth herein, the Selectors, in consultation with the USEF Vaulting Director of Performance and Chef d'Equipe, will recommend to the USEF Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the USEF Board of Directors, a ranked list of Pas de Deux up to the maximum number able to be nominated on the FEI Nominated Entry in accordance with the FEI rules. In making their recommendation, the Selectors will consider the following factors in no particular order:

- Scores earned during the Qualifying and Selection Periods.  
Consideration given to consistency of scores and trends in scores.
- Recent international experience of the Pas de Deux;
- Recent experience of the Pas de Deux on the Horse to be used at the Event, as submitted on the required Horse Plan in Section 2.2.3. Consideration given to recent major competitions in Europe;
- Previous horse scores from FEI events;

- ~~Performance at the Observation Training Event (if applicable)~~  
Performance at Training Camps (if applicable) and scores achieved at Observation Events; and
- Behavior of Pas de Deux, lunger, and people associated with the Pas de Deux (including, but not limited to, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

Pas de Deux who have not met the FEI Certificate of Capability by June 1, 2026 will not be considered for the Nominated Entry.

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

In the event an Athlete applies for multiple events in the Championships, the Selectors, in consultation with the Director of Performance and Chef d’Equipe, may choose the category that the Athlete will be listed for based on what is in the best interest of the Team. This decision will be made prior to the Nominated Entry Date TBD, 2026.

Declaration of Horse(s) and Lunger(s): By June 1, 2026, all Pas de Deux who are named on the Short List must supply USEF with:

- Name of the Horse(s) on which they intend to compete. The Horse must meet the FEI’s criteria of eligibility for the Event to be named
- FEI passport number of the Horse(s)
- Name of the Horse’s owner(s)
- Proof of Horse’s certificate of capability or scores if required by the FEI
- Name of lunger. All lungers listed on the Pas de Deux’s entry must comply with the requirements as stated in Section 1.

Note: Per FEI rules, if a horse substitution is required, Pas de Deux may compete on horses not listed on their 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.

**2.1.1.5. TBD FEI Definite Entry:**

After the FEI Nominated Entry, TBD, 2026 but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date for the Definite Entries, TBD, 2026 for the Event, USEF may nominate up to the maximum number of Pas de Deux allowed by the FEI for the Event from the ranked Nominated Entries on the FEI Definite Entry based on the criteria outlined in Section 2.2.4.1 above. The Definite Entries will be comprised of the Team with any ranked alternates substituted due to removals, see Section 4 below.

2.1.1.6. **Declaration of Starters:**

The declaration of starters will be done in accordance with the FEI Vaulting Rules, [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2025], Article 706.

**3. DISCRETIONARY SELECTION**

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

**3.2 Define the discretionary criteria to be used (if any):** For discretionary selection used please see the following sections:

- 2.1.3 – Selection for the Short List
- 2.2.4– FEI Nominated Entry
- 2.2.5 – FEI Definite Entry
- 2.2.6 – Declaration of Starters

**3.3 Other Discretionary Criteria:**

- a. Horses that are candidates for selection for the Event may be examined at any time following the application deadline and through the conclusion of the Event for soundness by the Team Veterinarian. Horses found to be unsound by the Team Veterinarian may result in the removal of the Athlete and/or Pas de Deux and/or Horse from the selection process, at the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian, 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, Horse owners and/or lungers, 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 and/or Pas de Deux, 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 approval by the majority of the Selectors, the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection group approved by the Board of Directors.
- c. **Veterinary Treatment** – From the time of the nominated entry through the conclusion of the Event, Pas de Deux on the Nominated Entry will be required to consult with the Team Veterinarian prior to 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 Pas de Deux are using foreign-owned borrowed horses, it is highly recommended that a Certificate of Health stating the Horse is fit to compete under Equine Anti-Doping 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 and/or Pas de Deux and/or Horse from the selection process upon the recommendation of the Team Veterinarian 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, Athletes may be required to submit to a medical examination by a USEF-approved physician(s) any time during the selection process for the purposes of determining the Athlete's ability to compete at the Event. Failure to submit to such examination may result in the removal of the Athlete and/or Pas de Deux from the selection process upon the recommendation of the USEF-approved physician(s) and with the approval of 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 Athlete to be unfit to compete, the Athlete and/or Pas de Deux will be removed from the selection process with the approval of the USEF Board of Directors or an Ad Hoc Selection Group approved by the Board of Directors.

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

All Athletes involved in the selection of the Team must comply with the USEF [Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy](#).

Any person involved in the selection of the Team who has an actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest must disclose it to the USEF Legal Department prior to January 15, 2026 (the "Application" date). Additionally, they may be required to recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting. Selectors are bound by the conflict of interest procedures and management restrictions imposed by the USEF Audit Committee.

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

## 4. REMOVAL OF ATHLETES

At any time during the selection process through the conclusion of the Event, USEF has jurisdiction over Athletes and Pas de Deux. A Pas de Deux and/or Horse may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete and/or Pas de Deux must communicate notice of voluntary withdrawal in writing to the USEF CEO.
- Injury or illness as certified by a USEF-approved physician(s) or USEF-health care provider. If an Athlete refuses verification of their illness or injury by a USEF-approved physician(s)/health care provider, their injury will be assumed to be disabling and they may be removed.
- Failure to participate in Mandatory Training, Observation Event, and/or Training Camp.
- Violation of the [USEF Code of Conduct](#).
- Violation of the U.S. Center for SafeSport Code or USEF Safe Sport Policy.
- Failure of the U.S based horse owner, or parent/guardian if applicable, to timely sign the Horse Participation Consent Agreement (Attachment B).
- Injury or illness of the Horse listed for the Pas de Deux on the Nominated or Definite Entry as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel. If a Pas de Deux 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.

- Detection of any substance in the Horse prohibited by the FEI or USEF.
- Failure to adhere to the World Anti-Doping Agency (“WADA”), FEI, USEF, and/or U.S. Anti-Doping Agency (“USADA”) anti-doping rules, regulations, protocols, policies or procedures regarding Athletes and Horses, including participation in required Out-of-Competition testing.
- Non-compliance with the eligibility requirements listed in these Selection Procedures.
- Exceptional circumstances having a direct bearing upon obtaining the best qualified team for the Event, upon the recommendation of the Chef d’Equipe and the Director of Vaulting Performance, and a majority vote of the Selectors, 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.
- Failure to comply with a request of the Team Veterinarian or with the USEF Vaulting Veterinary Treatment Request Form protocols.
- Any other reason expressly written herein.

A Pas de Deux who is removed or threatened to be removed from the selection process has the right to a hearing pursuant to USEF Bylaws, Part VII.

## 5. SUBSTITUTION OF ATHLETES & HORSES

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

5.1.1. **Prior to acceptance of the FEI Nominated Entry:** Once USEF’s FEI Nominated Entry, TBD, 2026, for the Event has been announced but prior to their submission of the FEI Nominated Entry, Pas de Deux may be substituted with an alternate Pas de Deux in order of their ranked listing as outlined in Section 2.2.4.1 by the recommendation of the Chef d’Equipe and the Director of Vaulting Performance, and a majority vote of the Selectors, 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 USEF-approved physician(s) or veterinarian(s) respectively.

5.1.2. **After the submission of the FEI Nominated Entry and prior to acceptance of the FEI Definite Entry:** Once the Pas de Deux and alternates for the Event have been announced and prior to the closing date for the Definite Entry, TBD, 2026, Pas de Deux may be substituted with an alternate Pas de Deux in order of their listing on the FEI Nominated Entry as outlined in Section 2.2.4.1 by the recommendation of the Chef d’Equipe and the Director of Vaulting Performance, and a majority vote of the Selectors, 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 USEF-approved physician(s) or veterinarian(s) respectively.

### 5.1.2 After the acceptance of Definite Entry and until one hour before the first

**horse inspection:** After the Pas de Deux have been accepted on the Definite Entry, TBD, 2026, a Pas de Deux may be substituted with an alternate in accordance with the FEI Regulations Rules for Vaulting, [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2025], for veterinary or medical reasons, or for breach of the USEF Code of Conduct, or for failure to abide by the USEF Safe Sport Policy or U.S. Center for SafeSport Code, by the recommendation of the Chef d'Equipe and the Director of Vaulting Performance, and a majority vote of the Selectors.

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

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

**5.1.3 After Horse Inspection and before the Declaration of Starters:** After the Horse Inspection, Pas de Deux may be substituted with an alternate Pas de Deux in accordance with the FEI Regulations Rules for Vaulting, [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2025], and these Selection Procedures. Pas de Deux may be replaced with alternate Pas de Deux for veterinary reasons, 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 Director of Vaulting Performance, and approval of the USEF Managing Director of Non-Olympic Disciplines. Any alternate for veterinary reasons must have the approval of and be documented by the Team Veterinarian. Any alternate for medical reasons must be documented by a USEF-approved physician(s).

## 6. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

USEF will retain the approved Selection Procedures and all supporting documents and data from the selection process for six months past the date of the conclusion of the Event.

## 7. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

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

- Application (Attachment A)
- Horse Participation Consent Agreement (U.S. owned horses) (Attachment B)
- [USEF Code of Conduct](#)
- [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#)

## 8. PUBLICITY/DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEDURES

The USEF approved Selection Procedures (complete and unaltered) will be posted/published by the USEF on the USEF Web site: [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) These Selection Procedures will also be available by mail or email upon request.

## 9. DATE OF NOMINATION

The FEI Nominated Entries will be submitted to the FEI no later than **Date TBD**.

## 10. ANTI-DOPING REQUIREMENTS

**10.1 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.

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

**10.2.1 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. 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.
- b. 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.
- c. The Chairman of the USEF Veterinary Committee, or his designee, may serve Ex Officio and a member of the Veterinary Panel selected for the Event may serve Ex Officio.

**10.2.2 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.

10.2.3 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.

10.2.4 USEF GR 409.2 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 Equine Anti-Doping and Controlled Medication Regulations, which can be found at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).

#### **11. DEVELOPMENT OF SELECTION PROCEDURES**

**The following committee/group was responsible for creating these Selection Procedures:** USEF Vaulting Sport Committee and the USEF Board of Directors. See Attachment H for list of USEF committee, their roles, and list of members.

#### **12. USEF BYLAWS AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES**

USEF Bylaws and Grievance Procedures can be found in USEF Bylaws Part VII and in the Supplemental Procedures for Complaints and Grievances. See [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

#### **13. 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.

#### **14. FUNDING DISCLAIMER**

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

#### **15. 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 or 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.

#### **16. USEF SIGNATURES**

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

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 (908) 997-3003, [Email: smorrissey@usef.org](mailto:smorrissey@usef.org)

| Position | Print Name | Signature | Date |
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|--|--------------------|--|------------|
| Chief Executive Officer                      | William J. Moroney |  | 10/21/2025 |
| Managing Director of Non-Olympic Disciplines | Steven Morrissey   |  | 10/21/2025 |

## DEFINITIONS

**USEF VAULTING SELECTORS** - Five individuals (the “Selectors”) will be appointed by USEF upon the recommendation of the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee. The Selectors are subject to the USEF Code of Conduct (Attachment C) and Code of Ethics and Conflict of Interest and Gifts & Entertainment Policy of the USEF (Attachment G). The Selectors are USEF Senior Active Members in good standing, who are also current members of the Vaulting community and who are knowledgeable and experienced in Vaulting at the international level. In making their decisions, the Selectors will consult with the Chef d'Equipe, the Director of Vaulting Performance, 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.

**ALTERNATE** - an athlete named as an alternate to the team by the selectors.

**REPLACEMENT** – Replacing an Athlete or Horse after the Team has been selected.

**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 an international Vaulting competition, not just limited to health and soundness of the Horse.