

**NOTE: Because of the addition of the Senior and Junior Events, the Rule Book chapters and article numbers will be changed. Please note that many of the article numbers in this notification may be changed and are included here simply as markers.**

### **APPROVED RULE CHANGES**

Article 101. Introduction

1. (language okay)
2. “For a description of the compulsory exercises, **consult Appendix D of this Rule Book and/or the current FEI Guidelines for Judges. For an explanation of the degree of difficulty of freestyle exercises, consult the current FEI Code of Points.**

Article 111.2 “Before beginning the performance, the horse must be trotted on the circle until the judge rings the bell to proceed. At this time, one minute is allowed for horse ~~and or vaulter~~ warm up. Vaulter may begin immediately or wait for the bell to indicate the end of one minute at which time vaulter must begin the performance. **Excessive use of horse warm-up may incur deductions from General Impression.**

Article 111.8.a. – change to read: a) ~~Cassette tapes, mini disks and/or compact discs~~ **Music** must be provided by the competitor, according to the equipment available. b) Management must state in the prize list which system(s) will be available.

Article 111.9.

9. The dress of the vaulters must be suitable for equestrian sport. **It must not hinder the movement of the vaulter or the safe interaction between vaulters during the performance. The dress must in no way compromise the safety of either vaulter or horse.**
  - a) **The dress must not conceal the form and line of the vaulter’s body during the performance in order not to hinder the judging of the exercises.**
  - b) **The dress must not give the effect of nudity.**
  - c) **The dress must be form-fitting and all articles of clothing, or parts thereof, must remain attached to the vaulter’s body, at all times.**
  - d) **Decorative accessories (not limited to but including belts, masks, jewelry) and props (not limited to but including hats, capes, canes, gadgets) are strictly forbidden in the arena.**
  - e) **Soft soled shoes are required.**
  - f) **Trousers must be secured to the foot and skirts may only be worn over tights or leggings.**
  - g) **The apparel of the lunger should be harmonious with that of the vaulter(s) and must be clean, neat and professional. Lungers may wear belts and hats, and/or scarfs, but should restrict their use of decorative accessories and adhere to the suitability for equestrian sport.**

Article 112.1. **The time allowed for each event begins the moment the first vaulter touches the surcingle, the pad or the horse and ends with the time limit (the bell). Only exercises (static or dynamic, including dismounts) already in progress when the bell rings will be included in the evaluation for degree of difficulty, performance and composition. All following exercises and dismounts starting after the bell will be considered in the performance score (deductions only), but not in the degree of difficulty and composition score.** For timing requirements of specific events, please refer to the chapter for that event.

Article 112.3.e)

“e) In the case of unforeseen circumstances, the bell will be sounded to indicate to the ~~team or individual~~ vaulter(s) to stop. The clock will be stopped and judging will cease. A bell will sound to indicate that the ~~individual or team~~ vaulter(s) is/are to recommence their performance. The clock will resume when the vaulter(s) retake the grips.

Article 204.5 Team Freestyle

4. Overweighting or overloading the horse will be penalized under Composition **and General Impression.** (See Article 603.3.b and 603.5.a)6).

### Article 303. Gold/Silver Freestyle.

1. Freestyle is a one (1) minute (maximum) routine of static and dynamic exercises. ~~To receive a score, it must consist of a minimum of seven (7) exercises of any level of difficulty.~~ –

**Article 303.1.b) :** “Vaulter must stay in contact with the horse or surcingle. **Exception: Leaps above the horse are allowed.** ~~Ground jumps and leaps above the horse are allowed.~~

(This language should also be adopted for Bronze Freestyle, Article 307.1.b)

**Article 303. Note:** It is ~~strongly recommended~~ **required** that judges write down the degree of difficulty and their marks for each exercise on the score sheet to give more information to the vaulters on their performance.

This language should also be amended after Bronze Freestyle, Article 307.

## Chapter IV. Pas de Deux Event

Article 401. Pas de Deux Event Requirements

1. Pairs event is composed of two vaulters
2. **Open and Preliminary division** consists of one or two rounds of Freestyle performed at ~~trot or~~ canter to the left, with a time limit of two (2) minutes each for Open Canter division and a time limit of one-and-a-half minutes (90 seconds) each for Preliminary Canter. ~~and~~ Trot division **is one round of Freestyle with a time limit of one-and-a-half minutes (90 seconds)**

## **New Chapter III – Recognized International Events.**

(New Article numbers with the 2017 AVA Rule Book)

Article 302. Eligibility. (NOTE: This is re Team Requirements)

3. The maximum age of any vaulter on a Junior Team is 18 years of age. (~~Age is determined as of January 1 of the competition year~~), **Maximum age is determined by the end of the calendar year in which an athlete reaches the age of 18.**

Article 306. Eligibility. (NOTE: This is re Individual Requirements)

1. Individual Senior Event is restricted to vaulters who are 16 years of age and above. (~~Age is determined as of January 1 of the competition year~~). **Age is determined from the beginning of the calendar year in which an athlete reaches the age of 16).**
2. In order to compete in Individual Senior Event, the vaulter must have qualified by earning a score of 7.0 or above in compulsories at any USEF or AVA Recognized Competition in the Individual Silver, Individual Gold or Individual Junior Event. This qualifying score must have been earned from two separate AVA Recognized “I” or “R” judges. The qualifying score may be earned at the same competition or at separate competitions.
3. Individual Junior Event is restricted to vaulters between the ages of 14 and 18. (~~Age is determined as of January 1 of the competition year~~). **Age is determined from the beginning of the calendar year in which an athlete reaches the age of 14 until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18).**

### **Article 310. Junior Pas de Deux Event Requirements**

1. **Pairs Event to be comprised of two vaulters. Consists of one (1) or (2) rounds of Freestyle performed at the canter to the left.**

### **Article 311. Junior Pas de Deux Freestyle**

1. **Freestyle is a ninety (90) second routine with no requirements or limitations.**
2. **Both vaulters must stay in contact with the horse, surcingle or each other, except for leaps above the horse. Ground jumps are recommended.**
3. **Static exercises must be held for three (3) canter strides.**
4. **Only the ten (10) exercises with the highest Degree of Difficulty (DOD) will be scored. Value is as follows:**

<b>D</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>exercises count 1.0 points</b>
<b>M</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>exercises count 0.5 points</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>exercises count 0.0 points</b>
5. **Judged on:**
  - a. **Degree of Difficulty (x15%): Height off the horse, complication of the movements, demands of suppleness, stretch and timing, number and security of holding points, changes in direction (forward, backward, across) and changes in relation to the horse (on neck, on croup, inside, outside)**

- b. Composition (x25%): Use of space and direction in relation to the horse, variety of exercises, artistic merit and consideration for the horse.**
- c. Performance (x40%): Evaluation of each exercise and the performance in its entirety shall include: Mechanics, essence, form, scope, security, balance, continuity and harmony with the horse.**
- d. Horse/General Impression (x20%)**
  - Horse (90%)**
    - 1) Quality of the gait**
    - 2) Submission**
    - 3) Behavior**
    - 4) Way of going**
    - 5) Circle size**
  - General Impression (10%)**
    - 1) Entry**
    - 2) Exit**
    - 3) Salute**
    - 4) Circle Size**
    - 5) Longeing and presentation**
    - 6) Comportment**
    - 7) Turnout of vaulters and lunges**

**6. Falls:**

- a) The vaulter(s) may continue after a fall. They must remount within one (1) minute in order to continue with the next exercise**
- b) The unsuccessful exercise receives a zero (0) and may not be repeated.**

**7. See AVA Rules Chapter VI. Scoring for penalties and deductions.**

(Old) Chapter VI Scoring

Delete comments: 1H and 2H.

Delete the check-plus, checkmark, etc

Add comments:

PL – Poor Landing

INT-Interruption

Add comments for the Horse:

BH - Behavior

CS – Circle Size

GT – Gait

LW – Lungeur walking

SB – Submission

TM - Tempo

### Old Article 602. 3. Tiebreakers

- a) Individual Gold, Silver, ~~and~~ Bronze, **Individual Senior and Individual Junior Events:**
  - 1) Compulsory: - language is all good; except add a “disclaimer” at the end, i.e., “The Mount and Horse scores are not used. **In Individual Senior, the Basic Seat is not shown; tie-breaker begins with Flag.**
  - 2) Freestyle: Score for Composition/~~Content~~ then Performance;
  - 3) Language is good
  - 4) Language is good
- b) Individual Copper and Trot Events – language all good
- c) Team Event (A, ~~and~~ B, **Senior and Junior**)
  - 1) Compulsory: Sum of the 6 vaulters’ scores for Basic Seat, then the sum for the Flag, etc. The mount and horse scores are not used. **In Senior Team, Basic Seat is not shown; tie-breaker begins with Flag.)**
  - 2) Language good
  - 3) Language good.
- d) All language good
- e) Pas de Deux Event:
  - 1) Freestyle: Score for Content/**Composition** then score for Performance
  - 2) Overall: Score for Content/**Composition** then score for Performance

Rest of Article wording is okay.

### Old Article 603. Penalties and Deductions:

#### Article 603. Penalties and Deductions

- 1. Compulsories – Team and Individual Events.
  - c) Up to two (2) points deducted for:
    - 3) Buttocks leaving horse before or after backward seat in Mill **or Half Mill.**
    - 4) ~~Buttocks leaving horse before or after backward seat in Half Mill.~~
    - 4) Not pushing back on swing dismounts in compulsories
  - e) Score of zero (0) for:
    - 10) In Team Events, each compulsory exercise shown out of order  
~~When the error is noticed, a bell will be rung and the team will be advised of the error.~~  
~~Incorrect exercises may not be repeated.~~

#### Article 603.

- 3. Freestyle and Technical Test Composition/Content score – Team, Pas de Deux and Individual Events:
  - a) One (1) point deducted for:
    - 1) In ~~Individual Events~~ **all Events, any exercise (including the dismount) commenced after the time limit. (See Article 112.1)**
    - 2) ~~In Team Events~~

2) In Individual Copper and Individual Trot for performing a DOD R, D or M dismount  
(see exception on List of Dismounts, Appendix D of this Rule Book.

3) In C Team and Trot Team and Junior Team for performing more than six (6) static triple exercises.

6. Elimination – Team, Individual Event and Pas de Deux Events

a) In National Team Event... rest of language is okay until end of sentence. Add the following:

In International Team Event entering the ring with more than a longeur and a team of six for the compulsory section.

b) Language okay.

c) Language okay

Remainder of Article language okay.

Article 404. Team Canter and Team Trot Event Scoring.

1. Compulsory section:

a) The compulsory score of the six (6) vaulters are added creating a single score for each of the compulsory exercises. In Recognized National Team Event, the vaulters whose scores are included are those declared by the team coach to perform in the Freestyle. The score for the vaulter who does not perform in the Freestyle is dropped.

Article 405. Individual Gold, Silver, Bronze, Senior and Junior Event Scoring.

2. Freestyle section (Score 2 for Silver, Bronze and Junior; Score 3 for Gold and Senior)

3. Technical Test Section (Score 2 for Gold and Senior)

4. Final Score:

a) For Gold and Senior, all 3 scores...

b) For Silver and Junior in each round ...

c) For Silver Events and Junior, if two rounds are offered, the scores for each of the two rounds...

d) For Bronze Event... language is fine

Article 406. Individual Copper and Trot – all language is good.

Article 407. Pas de Deux Event Scoring. (Open, Preliminary, Junior and Trot)

1. Open, Preliminary and Junior Freestyle I (Score 1);

a) Degree of Difficulty (x15%)

b) Composition (x25%)

c) Performance (x40%)

d) Horse/General Impression (x20%)

e) The four freestyle scores are totaled, and this is the score for the freestyle section.

2. Open, Preliminary and Junior Freestyle II (Score 2)

a) Degree of Difficulty (x15%)

b) Composition (x25%)

c) Performance (x40%)

d) Horse/General Impression (x20%)

- e) The four scores are totaled, and this is the score for the freestyle section.
- 3. Final score: (Open, Preliminary and Junior)  
Language in both a) and b) are fine.
- 4. Trot Freestyle
  - a) Content (x2)
  - b) Performance (x3)
  - c) Horse/General Impression (x1)
  - d) Total is divided by 6.
- 5. Final Score:
  - a) Scores 1 and 2 are added and divided by 2 to produce the final score for the event, if two rounds are offered.
  - b) If only one round is offered, the final score is the score for Freestyle 1.

## Chapter VII MEDALS

703. Trot Medal Requirements. Performed at trot to the left or to the right.

- 1. and 2. – language is fine.
- 3. The Mount is not scored for Trot exam. Vaulters must perform the six (6) remaining compulsory exercises.
- 4. The minimum score for all exercises with the exception of Swing Forward is 5.0. The minimum score for Swing Forward is 4.5.
- 5. No spotters allowed
- 6. Minimum Passing Score: 50.00%
- 7. Award may not be given commended or with honors.

## Chapter VIII JUDGES

Article 802. Rules for Recognized Judges

- 1. Active status:
  - a) Language okay.
  - b) Judges must attend the AVA Judges Forum each year and a minimum of one additional training each year, and/or the equivalent as determined by the Technical Committee.

Article 804. Promotion to Registered Judge (R).

- 1. Applicant must attend a minimum of eight (8) judges' general training sessions, after their promotion to recorded "r" status, two of which must be the AVA Judges Forums. In addition, special training sessions may be assigned to any or all applicants.

Article 805. Certification as an AVA Recorded Judge (r).

- 2. ... minimum of three (3) different Recognized Judges). Applicant is responsible for maintaining and submitting a record of the clerking and timing hours to the Technical Committee Chair.

Article 806. Apprentice Program.

3. Procedure:

a) Applications will be accepted at any time during the calendar year. (See Standing Rules Section X.C).

b) A screening panel appointed by the Technical Committee will review applications between October 1 and December 31 of each year.

4. Rules for Apprentice Judges:

c) Must complete the Apprentice Judge Program in three (3) years; one request for a one-year extension of time may be granted by Technical Committee upon written request of the apprentice judge.

**NOTE TO MEMBERS:** The above change in language required a change to our Standing Rules, Sec. X.C. This SR language was approved by the Board of Directors at Annual Convention 2016, as follows:

Section X. (Standing Rules)

B. Apprentice Program Application

2. Applicants must complete the application form and return it to the Chairman of the Technical Committee along with the appropriate non-refundable application fee.

C. Procedure

1. Apprentice applications will be accepted at any time during the calendar year.

2. Applications received between January 1 and September 30 must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$300 application fee. The applicant will have until December 31 to fulfill all requirements for entry into the program. (See Article 606 Apprentice Program in the Rule section).

3. Applications received between October 1 and December 31 must be accompanied by a non-refundable \$50 application fee. All requirements for entry into the program must have been completed prior to applying. (See Article 606 Apprentice Program in the Rule section).

4. Any number of applicants may be accepted in any one year.

5. The screening and selection panel appointed by the Technical Committee will review applications and questionnaires after December 31.

6. Applicants will be notified of the decision of the screening panel by March 1. Applicants must then pass a written exam before acceptance into the program. Applicants who are not accepted into the program may reapply the following year.



7. A non-refundable fee of \$50 will be required from the applicants accepted into the Apprentice Judge's Program.

## APPENDIX A

### CHAPTER X.

Unless otherwise specified, all applicable rules (including Horse Use), point deductions and penalties from the rules for AVA National Recognized Events apply. **Work on the Barrel is considered to be preparation for work on the Horse. Exercises that are impossible to be performed on the horse should not be shown on the Barrel at competition.**

## APPENDIX D

DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL GOLD, SILVER, BRONZE, **SENIOR, JUNIOR** and A/B TEAM, **SENIOR AND JUNIOR** TEAM COMPULSORY EXERCISES (2\* and 3\*)

**BASIC SEAT:** ... vaulter takes the grips with both hands simultaneously. **Senior Individual and Senior Team Event do not show the Basic Seat.**

**FLANK FIRST PART (GOLD AND SENIOR INDIVIDUAL, A TEAM AND SENIOR TEAM [3\*]):** A straight axis of the body, which reaches nearly the vertical is the essence of the optimal mechanics of the Flank. A straight line continues throughout the body from the arms to the feet. A straight body axis is the main criteria for judging. An arched back can be deceiving and can simulate a higher elevation.

**From seat astride, the stretched legs are swung upward (back) to reach a handstand position with the arms extended to attain maximum elevation. Without interruption in the movement, at the point of maximum elevation, the hips are bent sharply so that the legs come down to a near vertical position (creating a pike) during which the hips are momentarily over the surcingle. The vaulter slides softly into an upright sideways seat inside position, making contact with the horse first with the outside of the lower right leg.**

**In A Team and Senior Team, the vaulter performs leg over, back to seat astride as follows: From inside seat, the vaulter carries the stretched right leg over the horse's neck in a high, wide arc (like a semi-circle). The upper body remains erect and nearly vertical, while the left leg remains down and in contact with the Horse, with no change in position. Handles are released and retaken as the leg passes.**

**SWING OFF TO THE OUTSIDE FROM SEAT ASTRIDE (A TEAM AND SENIOR TEAM [3\*] ONLY) – Language is fine.**

**FLANK 2<sup>ND</sup> PART (GOLD AND SENIOR [3\*] INDIVIDUAL ONLY)**  
Language is fine.

SWING OFF TO INSIDE FROM SEAT ASTRIDE (SILVER, BRONZE, **INDIVIDUAL JUNIOR, B, C AND JUNIOR TEAM [2\*]** ONLY:

PROPOSED DISMOUNTS FOR INDIVIDUAL COPPER AND INDIVIDUAL TROT:

1. Simple Vault off (leg over neck to inside or to outside)
2. V-Sit off (any direction) landing facing frontways.
3. Slide off out of inside or outside press – landing facing frontways.
4. Sliding off any seated, kneeling or lying exercise landing facing frontways.
5. **Any other Level E dismount that lands facing frontways.**

Note: **Any Level E dismounts landing in any other direction than forward will incur deductions from the Content score.** Performing dismounts that are Level R, D or M will incur a 1 point deduction from Content.