

Letter from the American Vaulting Association President, Executive Board and National Office Regarding the Impact of COVID-19 | Mar 16, 2020, 3:00 PM PST

by AVA President (Katherine Ray), Executive Vice President (Kelley Holly), VP Membership (Linda Bibbler), VP Education (Carolyn Bland), VP Development (Michelle McLean), Treasurer (Jill Hobby), General Secretary (Jennifer Williams), National Office Manager (Craig Coburn)

Dear AVA Members,

Your health, safety and well-being and that of your horses is paramount to AVA. We are continuing to closely monitor communications on the COVID-19 Pandemic from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI).

Effective today, Monday, March 16, 2020, all AVA Recognized events and activities will be suspended for the next 60 days. Additionally, the AVA strongly recommends that competition organizers suspend all AVA Recognized competitions across the country for the next 60 days. For those competitions that do run, there will be no accumulation of points, scores, qualifications, or rankings toward any AVA awards programs, during this 60-day time period. NOTE: the USEF Vaulting Sports Committee will be meeting this week to determine potential updates to vaulting Athlete selection processes.

If you choose to compete and/or practice, the AVA recommends that you take immediate steps to limit your exposure and create social distancing. Based on information and guidance, in particular, from the CDC, the AVA provides the following recommendations to our membership. Participate in events that:

- Are venues within close proximity (driving distance) to your residence;
- Limit out of state competitors;
- Restrict free access in stabling areas to only essential personnel (ie; riders, grooms, farriers, vets, officials);

- Provide alcohol-based hand sanitizer at in-gates, competition offices, vendors and convenient places throughout the competition grounds;
- Ensure restroom facilities are regularly cleaned;
- Operate without spectators;
- Limit social gatherings to less than 50 people as recommended by the CDC; and
- Ensure that food services are of the type that limit contamination, buffets are strongly discouraged.

We are providing these same recommendations to Competition Organizers and asking them to comply within the next few days. NOTE: AVA Competition Recognition fees already paid for competitions during this 60-day timeframe may be reapplied to future applications for AVA Recognition.

Some may choose not to cancel their event but, all are expected to take steps to limit exposure and create social distancing. Some may impose additional restrictions and safety measures in line with guidance from local public health authorities. Therefore, we are requiring organizers to communicate and to post all relevant information to their website.

We are counting on you to make responsible decisions based on the information available, the conditions in your geographic area and the recommendations from your local public health authorities. The AVA will continue to assess the situation on a daily basis and will update our position as circumstances warrant.

Resources from the CDC, WHO, USEF, and the FEI are available on the AVA website ([click here](#)). Links found on this webpage provide you with direct access to valuable information on each organization's website which is updated regularly.

Sincerely,

American Vaulting Association
www.americanvaulting.org