



Section 8:

Discipline Rules Vaulting



HORSE COUNCIL
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Horse Council British Columbia

Rule Book 2026

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www.hcbc.ca

Horse Council BC (HCBC)

Recognized by the Government of British Columbia
as the official organization for Equestrian Sport in BC

Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules.

It is the duty of the officials and the competition management to make informed decisions in a fair and sporting spirit, approaching as near as possible the intention of these rules, and in doing so protecting the reputation of the sport and the welfare of the horse.

All Competition Organizers hosting HCBC sanctioned competitions, should be familiar with the HCBC rules and policies and should have copies available for the use of exhibitors, parents, volunteers and officials.

The HCBC Rules are reviewed annually and posted on the HCBC website. Submissions for recommended rule changes will be considered until October 1st annually and reviewed for inclusion to the next years' rule book.

Aims, Goals and Objectives

- To ensure that Competition Organizers have the tools and support they need to operate within the recognized sport framework, follow current safety rules and guidelines and be aware of the risk management that is necessary and of the utmost importance for hosting a well-planned, successful competition.
- To provide HCBC sanctioned competitions the support and governance of the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.
- To develop, grow and retain a deep pool of well-educated and knowledgeable officials.
- To capture the activity that demonstrates the value of Equestrian Sport to the government at all levels.
- To provide, through education, participation in a quality structured, grass roots competition system and a well-planned development pathway, a feeder system that will grow and strengthen the development of the discipline sports and equestrian athletes.

Horse Council BC welcomes and encourages all grassroots and entry-level competition organizers to sanction their shows with HCBC. By doing so, the equestrian sport community in BC can work together to ensure an enjoyable and affordable environment within a fair playing field that supports the growth and success of equestrian sport in BC.

Horse Welfare Statement

Statement

HCBC members are responsible for ensuring the well-being, safety, and humane treatment of any equine entrusted to their care. The welfare of the horse shall always take precedence over competition, training goals, or personal objectives. Horses must be treated with dignity, respect, and compassion at all times. The welfare of the horse is paramount. Any inhumane treatment or the abuse of a horse by any person at an approved HCBC show is forbidden.

Scope

This statement applies to all HCBC members, coaches, officials, volunteers, owners, competitors, and any person responsible for the care or handling of a horse participating in HCBC events.

Humane Treatment

- Horses must never be subjected to abuse, neglect, or inhumane handling.
- All handling and training practices must align with generally accepted equine care and competition standards. The standard by which conduct, or treatment will be measured is that which a person who is informed and experienced in generally accepted equine training and competition practices would determine to be neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane.

Responsibility of Care

- Individuals who own, use, or care for horses must exercise skill, compassion, and sound judgment.
- All horses, regardless of financial value or competitive status, must be protected from mistreatment.

Prohibited Practices

- The use of equipment, devices, medications, or substances that alter performance, appearance, or natural function in an unethical or unsafe way is strictly forbidden.
- Any form of inhumane training technique, coercion, or excessive force is prohibited.

Event Requirements

- At HCBC-approved events, horses must be managed to ensure their physical and psychological well-being.
- Any suspected inhumane treatment must be reported immediately to event officials or HCBC representatives.
- It is recommended that competition management include a formal statement in the show program or prize list detailing their commitment to humane horse care and the disciplinary actions that will be enforced for confirmed abuse at a recognized event.

Enforcement

Violations of this policy may result in disciplinary action, including removal from events, suspension of membership, or further action as outlined in HCBC disciplinary procedures.

Bio Security

It is strongly recommended that horses be up to date on vaccinations and in good health to perform.

Vaccinations offer horses protection from some infectious diseases, but do not eliminate disease risk. Vaccination guidelines vary by region. This should be taken into consideration when weighing the risk for exposure. While there are costs associated with vaccines, those costs are generally much lower than the costs associated with an infectious disease.

Show management has the right and duty to demand removal of a horse from the grounds if it is deemed unfit to compete. Competition management may enforce vaccination requirements for their competition or venue.

A request for supporting documentation confirming a horse's compliance with mandatory vaccination requirements is an acceptable condition of entry.

For more information on bio security practice please visit <https://hcbc.ca/welfare/disease-animal-health/>

Fair and Inclusive Field of Play

HCBC is committed to providing a fair, safe, and inclusive field of play for all participants at Horse Council BC sanctioned competitions and events. Every competitor, official, volunteer, and supporter has the right to engage in an environment that is respectful, equitable, and free from discrimination. All participants must be treated with dignity and respect, regardless of age, gender, identity, ability, background, or experience. The integrity of competition depends on ethical conduct, transparency, and accountability from everyone involved.

- Participants should educate themselves on safe sport principles, ethical conduct, reporting procedures, and prevention of maltreatment.
- Officials and coaches are expected to model safe, positive, and ethical behavior.
- Concerns related to unsafe behavior, misconduct, or maltreatment must be reported promptly to event management or the designated safe sport authority.
- Reports will be taken seriously, handled confidentially, and addressed according to established procedures.

For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

Helmet Policy

Horse Council BC (HCBC) strongly recommends that anyone riding or driving a horse should wear ASTM/SEI/BSI/BS EN; EN; AS/NZS; CE VGI approved protective headgear, specifically designed for equestrian activities. ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials); SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.); BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards); or CE VG1 01.040 2014-12 (provided they are BSI Kitemarked).

The helmet should be properly fitted with safety harness correctly secured, while mounted, riding or driving. Riders/drivers are encouraged to be fitted for their helmet with their typical riding/driving hairstyle. If your hair changes significantly (length, volume, style), rechecking helmet fit is required. It is advised that long hair be neatly tied in a low ponytail, smoothing hair flat, and avoiding bulky buns or high knots inside the helmet shell.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Performance Divisions.

Exception:

The wearing of religious headwear will be accepted for riders/drivers without penalty. The option to wear an approved sports turban helmet for all ages is strongly advised.

Helmets are not required for vaulting.

Concussion Policy

Resources: For concussion education and awareness resources, please visit the Concussion Awareness page on the HCBC website www.hcbc.ca.

Definition: A concussion is a type of traumatic brain injury (or TBI), caused by a bump, blow, or jolt to the head that can change the way the brain normally works. Concussions can also occur from a fall or a blow to the body that causes the head and brain to move quickly back and forth. All concussions are serious.

Policy Statement: Anyone participating in an activity with horses should understand the signs, symptoms and implications of sustaining a concussion.

It is recommended by health care professionals that anyone presenting symptoms or suspected of sustaining a concussion should cease the activity until they have been evaluated and cleared by medical personnel.

Anyone having contact with, or handling horses is responsible to educate themselves on the prevention and proper management of concussion related injuries.

All Coaches and Instructors recognized by Horse Council BC will be required to participate in concussion awareness training once in every three-year period to maintain current certification status.

Liability

The Horse Council BC (HCBC) Competition Committee, HCBC and co-sponsoring organization, if any, will not be responsible for any accident, injury of horse or person or loss or damage of any article of any kind or nature that may be lost or destroyed or in any way damaged that may occur to, or be caused by, any horse exhibited at a competition.

Each exhibitor, agent or horse owner will be responsible for any injury that may be occasioned to any person, animal or damage to any property while on the competition grounds, by any horse owned, exhibited or in custody or control and shall indemnify and hold harmless HCBC, its officials, staff and Directors individually and collectively, and any co-sponsoring organization, from and against any and all claims, demands, cause of action costs, charges and expenses of every kind or nature whatsoever arising out of, or which may be caused by, or incurred by, reason of the ownership, exhibition, custody or control of any animal exhibited.

HCBC will not be responsible for any financial arrangements between show management, exhibitors, owners, agents, or officials.

All federal, provincial and city laws will be adhered to and shall supersede these rules.

Safety

It is essential that every sanctioned competition/event have an emergency action plan in place.

Competitions must ensure that a First Aid kit is always readily available.

A competition or event must have qualified medical personnel appointed for the duration of the competition who is trained in first aid and emergency medical treatment.

Qualified medical personnel may be defined as the following:

- Doctor
- Professional emergency personnel, such as EMT or Paramedic
- An adult with recognized and valid First Aid certification who is not competing. This individual may act in some other capacity at the competition providing this does not restrict their availability to all areas on the competition grounds.

It is recommended that the minimum certification required for qualified medical personnel be Standard First Aid Certification.

The facility address, emergency contact name and phone number should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

Emergency Phone Numbers: veterinarian, farrier, nearest hospital name and address should be posted at the show office and in other appropriate locations for the benefit of the exhibitors and public at any time.

It is recommended that all shows arrange for a veterinarian and farrier to be available either on-call or on the show grounds for the duration of the show.

In the event where an accident occurs at an HCBC sanctioned competition or event, Accident Report Forms must be filled out and returned to HCBC. Accident Report Forms will be emailed to all organizers as part of the sanctioning package, but can be found on the HCBC website at <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/competition-documents/>

If a competitor suffers a fall in warm-up, on the field of play or anywhere on the competition grounds during hours of the competition, they must be evaluated by the attending medic. Competitors are solely responsible for ensuring on-site medical assistance takes place. If a competitor refuses evaluation, Competition Management may make the decision to disqualify the competitor from the competition.

Administration

Sanctioning

Any organization, club, individual or group may apply to Horse Council British Columbia (HCBC) to sanction an entry level competition or event offering any of the disciplines outlined in the HCBC Rule Book. There is no restriction to prize money offered at the competition.

All management, officials and volunteers at HCBC sanctioned events are held to the HCBC Code of Conduct. For more information visit: <https://hcbc.ca/sport/competition/safe-sport/>

The Person Responsible listed on application must be a current HCBC member and is responsible for the conduct of the competition in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book.

Organizers must apply through the HCBC/Horse Sport Pro online event sanctioning portal.

All required information, prize list, entry forms and a current, endorsed certificate of insurance must be provided.

Competition applications and all required documentation must be submitted through the online system, preferably at least one month prior to the competition or event date(s).

The competition must be approved before publishing, posting online or circulating the prize list.

Instructions for login and links to the online application process are available on the Competition page of the HCBC website. <https://hcbc.ca/competitions/organizers/>

Every competition must obtain a certificate of insurance endorsed by the insurance carrier to cover law suits, claims or judgment for bodily injury or property damage sustained by spectators, participants, or others arising out of the use of the show grounds or operation necessary or incidental to the show.

All approved competitions will be emailed a Competition Package including a HCBC Certificate of Sanction which is to be printed and displayed in the Competition Office, or other clearly visible location.

The Competition Organizer is required to provide a copy of the approved Competition Prize List to the Official(s).

Competitions or Events should not start earlier than the time listed in prize list or advertised in the schedule.

Competitions sanctioned with another discipline or breed association may apply for dual sanctioning with Horse Council BC for specific divisions. Discipline or Breed Association rules may supersede HCBC rules at a dual sanctioned show in some divisions.

Clubs may include local club rules provided the local rules do not compromise the integrity and safety standards of Horse Council BC sanctioned competition. Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process.

Sanctioning Fees

The fee for sanctioning a Horse Council BC Provincial Competition is \$42.00 per competition.

Payment of fees can be processed by credit card through the HCBC Online Sanctioning Portal or by mailing a cheque to the HCBC office.

Sanction fees are not refundable.

An NSF charge of \$75.00 will be applied for any returned fees.

Prize List

All Prize Lists must contain the following disclaimer:

It is the responsibility of the show/event committee, or competition organizers and the facility owners and managers to ensure that all BC Health Authority and WorkSafeBC directives are followed and enforced. Horse Council is not a regulatory body, and it is understood and agreed that sanctioning and approval of a HCBC Provincial competition / event relates to the use of the rule book and approved officials only.

This Competition is a Horse Council BC provincially sanctioned competition and will be governed in accordance with the Horse Council BC Rule Book. Knowledge of the rules is the responsibility of Competition Management, Officials and Competitors.

The Horse Council BC Rule Book, can be found at www.hcbc.ca

<https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>

Neither Horse Council BC, its Board of Directors, organizing committee, staff, volunteers, officials, or employees of the horse show, will be responsible in any way, for damage, injury, or loss to persons, horses or property of exhibitors, spectators, owners, riders, trainers, or grooms. All competitors and owners of horses must be members of Horse Council BC to participate.

Prize Lists must include:

- The exact competition name, date, and location of the competition (it is recommended a map and/or directions to the competition grounds be included)
- **Management:** List of competition officials (Show Committee, Manager, Entry Secretary, Judges, Course Designers, Provincial Rules Official)
- **Veterinarian:** Name and telephone number of the veterinarian. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- **Farrier:** Name and telephone number of the farrier. If on call, the phone number where he/she can be reached during the competition
- Type of Competition
- Entry deadline.
- Entry Blank: waiver and entry agreement
- **Statement:** Competition will be run in accordance with the current Horse Council BC Rule Book. Every class offered which is covered by the rules and specifications of the current HCBC Rule Book be conducted and judged in accordance as such.
- Any local club rules must be stated clearly in the Prize List and be approved by Horse Council BC during the application process
- **HCBC Prizelist Disclaimer** (This must be included in its entirety and placed in a conspicuous position in the prize list and or entry form
- Horse Welfare Statement, (HCBC or Club) <https://hcbc.ca/resource-category/sport-competition/>

- Bio security/vaccination statement
- Fees Statement regarding entry fees, prizes offered in each class
- Refund policy
- Classes numbers and specifications
- Any Age Categories or horse/pony size where classes will be split.
- **Statement:** Management reserves the right to cancel or combine any class that does not have sufficient entries
- **Statement:** regarding post entries or day of adds (are they allowed)
- **Statement:** regarding Hors Concours entries (not to be judged, whether or not Hors Concours rounds are allowed)
- **Statement:** of type of footing available in warm-up areas and competition arenas (example: jumping will be held on grass)
- Number of placings for ribbons in each class and if there are trophies, prizes and /or prize money.
- **Statement:** Prize Money Payment: as to when and how the prize money will be paid (recommended (maximum of 30 days following the competition.)
- Types of Championships or/and Aggregates and how points will be determined.
- .Any special venue rules eg: minors operating motorized vehicles/scooters/bicycles.
- Motorized vehicle statement: If motorized vehicles are prohibited from show grounds, the motorized vehicle statement must still be published in the prize list.
- Dogs allowed or prohibited
- Other statements such as, competition numbers must be worn on competition grounds

Prize and Awards

If prize money is offered in any classes, the amounts and class entry fee must be specified in the Prizelist. Prize money distribution by total percentage breakdown or dollar amount by placings for each class where prize money is offered must be clearly stated.

Show management must make the full payment of prize monies as specified in the competition Prize List.

If High Point Awards are to be presented at the competition, the method of tabulating points for such awards is at the discretion of show management and must be stated in the Prize List.



The following schedule of ribbons is recommended:

First Place	Red
Second place	Blue
Third Place	White
Fourth Place	Yellow
Fifth Place	Green
Sixth Place	Pink
Seventh Place	Purple
Eighth Place	Brown
Champion	Red, Blue, White
Reserve Champion	Blue, White, Yellow

The following point scale may be used for tabulating High Point Awards:

# in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
1	1							
2	2	1						
3	3	2	1					
4	4	3	2	1				
5	5	4	3	2	1			
6	6	5	4	3	2	1		
7	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	
8	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
9 - 15	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
16 - 20	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3
21 - 25	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4
26- 30	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5
31 - 35	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6
36 - 40	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7



Section 1:

General Competition Rules



These are general competition rules only, please see discipline sections for discipline specific rules and exceptions.

1.1 Entries

All exhibitors are required to be current Horse Council BC members when participating in HCBC sanctioned events.

Exception: Lead Line competitors must be accompanied by an adult holding current HCBC membership. Lead line participants may not cross enter into any other classes at the competition.

1.1.1. Hours concours (H/C) Entries:

Hors Concours entries may be accepted at the discretion of the organizing committee. The competition's policy regarding Hors Concours entries must be clearly stated in the prize list.

Hors Concours entries must pay the same entry fee as regular entries (unless otherwise stated in the prize list) and are subject to the same conditions and rules which apply to regular entries.

Hors Concours entries are not eligible for prizes or awards.

1.1.2. Youth Entries

The age limit for a youth competitor is 18 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the current year. A person born on January 1st shall assume the older age as of that date.

Proof of youth's age may be required on entry forms at HCBC sanctioned competitions.

All entry forms for youth exhibitors 18 years of age and under must be signed by parent or legal guardian.

Youth competitors must wear properly fitted approved ASTM, SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN, AS/NZS/ or CE VG1 protective headgear, with safety harness correctly secured at all times while mounted on the competition or event grounds and in ALL classes and Divisions.

Exception: Vaulting

The Youth competitor need not own or lease the horse he or she is competing with to enter any class.

A horse or pony may be entered in any youth age division.

Youth competitors may not show a stallion in any class, regardless of the age or size of the stallion.

1.1.3. Dogs

Dogs are permitted on the competition grounds **at the discretion of Management** and must be on a leash at all times. The prize list must clearly state one of the following:

- “No dogs allowed on the premises.”
OR
- “Dogs are allowed on the premises but must remain on a leash and under control at all times. Dogs are not permitted in warm-up areas on the field of play or at ingates.”

This restriction applies to all dogs, including service dogs and emotional support animals (ESAs).

Persons who rely on a service dog due to a disability may request accommodation under applicable laws (e.g., the BC Human Rights Code and the Guide Dog and Service Dog Act). Each request will be considered on a case-by-case basis, considering safety, competition integrity, and venue limitations. Emotional support animals, which are not recognized as service animals under BC law, do not have the same legal access rights.

1.1.4. Competition Numbers

Competition numbers must be issued by the Show Secretary to each entered horse and must be visible at all times while the horse is competing.

Competition numbers are available for purchase through the HCBC website <https://store.hcbc.ca/>

1.1.5. Officials

HCBC-sanctioned events must be officiated by current, certified Provincial Officials, or by an authorized/approved guest-carded official.

Officials with expired status or recognized by another organization may be used, with a guest card, provided they meet the requirements for that discipline as set out by the body/association responsible for said discipline.

All provincial officials must be current members of Horse Council BC and be listed on the competition or event application. In the event that an official must be substituted, Horse Council BC is to be notified immediately and provided with the name and contact info of the substitute.

Judges are licensed, educated officials. Designation as a judge is considered a privilege and with this comes upholding standards of integrity and ethical decision making. Judges are personally responsible for the decisions made and these are considered final. All judges are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion and respect and are not subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Judges believe in the competitor, and decisions and placings are to be made to assist the competitor in their development. Comments/feedback are meant to be helpful to the competitor. If time permits after the class, the judge may provide feedback.

It is strongly recommended that for the protection of both the official and the competition management, a written contract be completed between both parties.

Officials should arrive on the competition grounds at least ½ before the first class begins.

The Judge's decision is considered as final in all classes.

1.1.5 Officials (cont.)

Judges must be provided with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

Judges may not be approached without the presence of and prior arrangement with management and or a Provincial Rules Official (PRO).

Judges must be provided before the start of competition (or earlier) with the Prize List and any tests, courses or patterns they will be judging at the competition.

An official shall not discuss the purchase, sale, or lease of a horse with any exhibitor during a show at which that official is officiating.

An official shall not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, trainer, coach, handler, manager, or conditioner of any horse at any show or event at which they are officiating.

A judge may not act as course designer at the same competition in which they are judging.

No horse may be shown under an official that has acted in the capacity as an owner, coach, trainer, agent, or conditioner of the horse, within 30 days prior to the event, 14 days if the official is presiding over a virtual/online event and is not judging entries in person.

The Official must comply with class specifications and rules governing individual classes. (Class specifications should be noted and included on all class judge's cards where possible.)

Officials are prohibited from using tobacco and/or alcohol products, cellular phones, pagers or electronic communication devices in the arena or judges' booth.

Exception: Electronic devices may be used in relation to and if relevant to the competition.

All Officials must always dress appropriately and professionally during competitions (no jeans, shorts, tank tops, etc.)

1.1.6. Competition Management

- Competition Management, Show Committee and Officials are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct
- Competition Management may not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, judge, course designer, trainer, coach, handler or conditioner of any horse at any show or event they are managing.

1.1.7. Provincial Rules Officials

HCBC Provincial Rules Officials (PRO) may attend provincially sanctioned competitions to offer help and guidance with HCBC rules, assist competition management with the development and rule content in prize lists as well as address questions or concerns arising at a competition. Provincial Rules Officials attendance at competitions will aid to encourage a safe and enjoyable competition experience for both horses and competitors.

1.1.7 Provincial Rules Officials (cont.)

All Provincial Championship designated competitions must have a PRO in attendance.

Provincial Rules Officials are appointed by and will be assigned by HCBC to competitions as requested by competition management or by the HCBC office.

Provincial Rules Officials are governed by the HCBC Officials' Code of Conduct and protocol.

1.1.8. Officials Protocol / Conflict of Interest

Provincially certified officials are trained and qualified in the principles of their respective disciplines and are bound by the HCBC Code of Conduct. Certification as a provincial official is a privilege that carries an expectation of integrity, professionalism, and ethical decision-making. Officials are accountable for the decisions they make, and those decisions are considered final. This responsibility is taken seriously.

All provincial officials are responsible for ensuring that horses are treated with kindness, compassion, and respect, and are never subjected to mistreatment or undue stress. Actions should always align with what an informed and experienced horseperson would consider neither cruel, abusive, nor inhumane. When welfare concerns arise, officials are expected to intervene in accordance with the standards and rules of the governing body.

Provincial officials also play an educational role. They are expected to support, encourage, and contribute to the development of competitors. Decisions made during competition should help guide competitors in their equestrian pursuits, and feedback should be constructive, fair, and aimed at promoting growth. While judges must evaluate individual performances objectively, competitors should be appropriately recognized for their achievements within the standards of the discipline.

Comments and feedback are intended to be helpful to the competitor. When time permits, judges may discuss performances with competitors during the awarding of placings. Additional time for discussion is encouraged, subject to show management's discretion and the judge's availability.

1.1.9. Guest Cards

Uncertified officials may be permitted to officiate at provincially sanctioned competitions under the following conditions:

- Individuals must have extensive experience and knowledge of the discipline being judged and of the current HCBC Rule Book.
- Uncertified officials may be requested to provide HCBC with a minimum of two references.
- Guest card application must be completed during the competition approval application process.
- HCBC will approve a maximum of three guest cards for an uncertified official. Once three guest cards have been issued, any additional guest card applications for that individual will be subject to a \$25.00 fee, charged to the competition. The guest-carded official will then be encouraged to participate in the HCBC Officials Program to obtain provincial certification.



1.1.10. Support Roles (scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc.)

- Those in competition support roles such as scribes, ingates, timers, jump crew, etc. should arrive and check in with the competition office at least forty-five (45) minutes before the start of the competition. This will allow for enough time to gather any paperwork, tests, bell, whistle etc. or any other equipment needed.
- Cell phones (or any other personal electronic device) must be turned off during competition
- All test sheets must be completed in ink. Pencil is not permitted.
- It is the duty of the scribe to ensure that the test sheets include the competitor's entry number, class, description, and Judge's signature if required.
- Before the test sheet is handed in for calculation, the scribe must ensure the test has been reviewed and signed by the Judge.
- Those in support roles must be appropriately dressed (clean and neat, no cut offs, tank tops, etc.)

1.1.11. Elimination / Disqualification

Elimination From a Class

- After an entry enters the arena, if either the horse or the exhibitor becomes ill or is injured and cannot continue, the entry shall be eliminated from that class.
- Obvious unsoundness shall be cause for elimination in all classes. The judge has sole authority to make this determination, which is final and not subject to appeal or protest.
- All horses must be serviceably sound. Any horse showing unsoundness, broken wind, or impairment of vision shall be refused an award.
- Lack of complying to required appointments for a class will result in elimination of the competitor in that class specifying required appointments.
- The judge shall have the authority to eliminate any entry from a class who at their discretion is not under sufficient control and or considered by the judge to be a safety risk.

Disqualification From the Competition

- All artificial appliances are prohibited in any class.
- Any incident in contravention of the HCBC Horse Welfare Statement may at the judge's or Provincial Rules Officials' discretion result in disqualification of the competitor from participating in the remainder of the competition.
- The judge, Provincial Rules Official and/or competition management have the authority to disqualify and or remove from the competition any exhibitor, owner, coach or agent, for cruelty or abuse of a horse or exhibitor.

1.1.12. Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Any unsportsmanlike conduct by an owner, exhibitor, agent, or spectator including but not limited to abuse of one's horse, excessive use of foul language, intoxication anywhere on the grounds of the event, blatant disrespect for any other attendee at the event, or any other detrimental conduct shall jeopardize their right to further exhibit at the competition.

At any time, the judge, provincial rules official and/or competition management, may issue a first warning to any exhibitor, owner, or agent for any unsportsmanlike conduct. Upon failure to comply with this warning, the exhibitor, owner, agent, or spectator shall be disqualified from any further participation at the competition.

Any elimination from a class or disqualification from a sanctioned competition for unsportsmanlike conduct by any person may be reviewed by the HCBC disciplinary committee and or applicable breed or discipline association.

No points or awards may be given to any person or person's horses if they are disqualified from a sanctioned competition or event for any unsportsmanlike conduct.

1.1.13. Protests

Protests for any violation of HCBC competition/event rules at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event may be filed by an exhibitor, owner, trainer, spectator and or parent of a youth exhibitor within 12 hours of the incident occurring at the competition or event.

A recommended first step is that an inquiry be made through a member of the competition show management committee or PRO regarding a decision. Should the competitor not be satisfied with the result of the inquiry, an official protest must be lodged to competition management. At no time may the judge be approached directly unless the competition specifically prints an exception to this policy. In the event contact with the judge is permitted, at no time will abusive or confrontational language or gesturing be tolerated, under penalty of elimination and possible further disciplinary action initiated.

No protest will be recognized unless it is accompanied by a deposit of \$100.00 in cash, which shall be forfeited if the protest is not sustained.

Neither HCBC nor any organizing committee of the competition will recognize any protest that is not in writing, not signed, or not accompanied by the protest fee.

An official of the competition /event, a director of HCBC, or Provincial Rules Official may file a claim at any HCBC sanctioned competition/event to either the competition committee or the Board of Directors of HCBC for any violation of HCBC recognized event rules.

Any protest shall be adjudicated by a Protest Committee. The protest committee will consist of a maximum of three people, (a PRO and members of the organizing committee.)



1.1.13 Protests (cont.)

Protest Procedure

Upon receiving a protest or a dispute, the Protest Committee shall promptly hold a hearing and obtain from any witnesses, all necessary information and evidence.

All persons directly involved and concerned shall be immediately notified and given the opportunity to attend a hearing.

The Protest Committee shall then adjudicate the issue impartially, make effective its decision upon the parties of interest and report its decision to the parties of interest. A report of the decision shall also be given to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport

Protest Appeals

An appeal of a Protest Committee's decision may be made to the HCBC Manager of Competition and Sport.

Appeals must be made in writing within 20 days of the date of the Protest Committee's decision and must be accompanied by an appeal fee of \$300.00 payable to Horse Council BC.

The hearing on the appeal shall be heard within a 30-day period from date of filing.

The Appeal Committee of the Board of Directors of HCBC shall consist of two members of the HCBC Board plus one member from the competition organizing committee.

The competition organizing committee of a competition at which a protest is lodged and upheld, must hold all awards, points and prize money for the protested classes in escrow for a placed horse and all following horses, until after a 20-day appeal deadline has passed.

If no appeal is filed, then such awards, points and/or prize money will be awarded at the end of the appeal deadline.



Section 8:

Discipline Rules Vaulting



8.1 Introduction to Vaulting

Vaulting is the performance of gymnastic and dance-like movements to music on a moving horse. The horse is controlled by a lunger who sends him in a circle around them on the end of a lunge line. Vaulters begin working in walk and progress, with training from a qualified instructor, to be able to execute fantastic freestyle performances in the canter. Vaulters learn to have the agility and athleticism of gymnasts, the grace and expression of dancers and the balance and feel of equestrians.

8.1.1. Arena

- The arena must be soft and it may include springy material.
- The competition space in the arena must be at least 20 m. for Canter Classes and 17.5m for Walk/Trot Classes.
- In the case of a competition held indoors the height to the ceiling must be at least 4.5 m for Individual, 5 m for team Squad /Pairs.
- The public must be at least 1 m, but preferably 3 m away from the edge of the competition circle.
- The centre of the competition circle must be marked.
- It is recommended that the Judge is seated on a raised Judge's stand. This should be about 50-60 cm above the ground in order to give the judge a good view of the arena.
- The Judge's table should be at least 11 m, but preferable 13-15 m, away from the centre of the lunging circle.

8.1.2. Assistance

- Delivery of a reserve lunging whip is permitted
- Any assistance from the outside necessary to prevent an accident or respond to an emergency is permitted
- All assisted mounts in the freestyle may be considered in the performance and artistry scores.

Assistance for Vaulters with A Disability

- Vaulters with a disability needing extra consideration during a competition must identify themselves upon submitting their entry form.
- Vaulters with special needs may submit a letter to the show committee outlining their disability and the adaptations they will require.
- The show committee will contact them if necessary for clarification and proof of their disability may be required from a physician and submitted before the start of the competition.

8.1.3. Attire

- Attire of Squad Team, Individual, and Pairs vaulters must not hinder the movement of the vaulter or the safe interaction between vaulters during the performance and attire must in no way compromise the safety of either vaulter or horse.
- Attire 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
- Certified, protective headgear (Helmets) secured by a three-point retention harness is required at all times when riding (for example, but not limited to, during warm up, exercise, or schooling.)
- Helmets are not permitted while vaulting.
- Attire must be formfitting and all articles of clothing, or parts thereof, must remain attached to the vaulter's body at all times.
- Suitable footwear is mandatory.
- 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.
- Trousers must be secured to the foot and skirts may only be worn over tights or leggings. Only soft soled shoes are permitted.
- Attire must not give the effect of nudity.
- Squad Team vaulters must wear numbers on the right arm or leg or on the back. These numbers should be 10 to 12 cm in height and must be of plain design and easily visible.
- The attire of Squad Team vaulters should give the obvious effect of uniformity.
- The lunger's attire should not distract from the performance, should be safe, and respectful.
 - In order to be allowed to participate at award presentations, the attire of vaulters and lungers must be neat and dignified. Club attire should be worn if possible

8.1.4. Deductions

- Vaulters requiring an assisted mount onto the horse in the compulsories will receive a deduction from the mount score as follows:
 - All Walk and Trot classes - no deduction
 - Beginner Canter - no deduction
 - Intermediate Canter – 1 point
 - Advanced Canter – 2 points
- In all 1*, 2* and 3* classes – Mount scores 0. In Pairs and Squad Team, the above deductions will occur when any assistance is provided from the ground. However, a vaulter who is already on the horse may assist another vaulter in mounting without a deduction.
- Deductions or disqualification in case of doubt are left to the Judge and cannot be appealed.

8.1.5. Disqualifications/Eliminations

The Judge may disqualify a vaulter and/or a horse in the following situations:

- Disqualification means that a vaulter and/or the horse or horses are disqualified for the entire Event.
- Disqualification may also be retroactive.
- Exercising horses in the arena without the permission of the Judge
- As per All cases of abuse and/or ill treatment reported by the Judge
- Horse bleeding on the flank(s), in the mouth or nose or marks indicating excessive use of the whip anywhere on the Horse
- In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a Horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, officials may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the lunger to continue
- Improperly registered vaulters, lungers and/or horses will result in the disqualification of the competitive unit. (This refers to all required memberships and/or licenses outlined elsewhere in the rules and may include any further requirements indicated in the Competition Invitation such as releases, waivers etc.)

8.1.6. Elimination

Unless otherwise specified in the rules or in the conditions for the competition, elimination means that the vaulter and/or the horse in question may not continue in the current test. The vaulter/horse may still compete in subsequent tests.

- Starting before the signal is given and touching the grips, the pad or the horse (eliminates the vaulter)
- Equipment other than what is permitted in these rules (eliminates the vaulter or the horse depending on if the equipment is on the vaulter or the horse.)
- Mounting the horse after an interruption signaled by the Judge without waiting for the bell (eliminates the vaulter)
- Vaulter and/or horse leaving the arena without permission of the Judge, including prior to starting (eliminates the vaulter and/or horse depending on who left)
- An accident to a vaulter or to a horse which prevents either from completing the test. In a squad team test, however, this does not apply when only a single squad team member has been injured (eliminates the vaulter and/or the horse depending on who is injured.)

Elimination at the discretion of the Judge

- Not entering the arena within 30 seconds after the bell
- Taking more than 30 seconds after the bell following the trot, to commence the first exercise
- All physical unauthorized assistance
- Not stopping when the bell is rung during the test
- After an interruption of the test in unforeseen circumstances taking more than 30 seconds to continue the test after the signal to resume was given

8.1.6. Elimination (cont.)

- If the Judge feels that for any reason the horse or the vaulter is unfit to continue the test
- The performance is to take place with the horse and therefore no exercises or dance moves on the ground are allowed. Elimination for noncompliance in this instance is at the discretion of the Judge.
- Exceeding the time limit and staying on the horse for more than 10 seconds
- Any horse which shows signs of being overworked or overloaded at any time

8.1.7. Entries

In all Provincial competitions, different genders may participate together in squad or pairs classes. There is also no gender separation in the individual classes up to and including 1* classes. In 2* and 3* individual classes, there may be separate classes for males and females.

- There are no minimum or maximum age limits for any classes unless otherwise noted in the Competitions' Invitation.
- Eligibility requirements for each Division are in line and consistent with the Rules of the Vault Canada. <https://vaultcanada.org/Resources/Rules>
- Once approved by HCBC, the Prize List must be posted as an Invitation on the Vault Canada website as soon as possible.
- The Invitation must specify the method and timing for submitting music to the Competition Organizers, ahead of the competition.
- If the Vault Canada Online Competition Management System is not used by the Competition Organizers for entries, scoring, and results, the Competition Organizers will be responsible for entering the information within 7 days after the completion of the competition.
- By the entry deadline each club must provide the names of Individuals, Pairs, and Squads Teams, along with the names of the horses and the lungers
- The names of the vaulters constituting a squad team may include up to eight vaulters.
- The names of the six definite squad team members, plus a reserve n optional seventh vaulter, must be supplied to the organizing committee by the Final Changes Deadline.
- Vaulters may compete Individually, in Pairs and in Squad team at the same event. In Divisions 1*,2* and 3*, vaulters may start twice in any individual competition. Each start must be with different horses. In Division 2* and 3* each vaulter may only compete for one team and or pair.
- In all Divisions a vaulter may enter with two squad teams or two Pairs, provided they are in different Divisions (ie Walk C and Beginner Canter.) However, no more than two members of a squad team may be entered in another squad team
- In all divisions, different horses and/or lungers may be used for each test. Wherever possible, horse and/or lunger changes should be supplied to the organizing committee by the Final Changes Deadline.
- Changes at or during the competition for all divisions, horse(s) and/or lunger(s) may be changed at any time with the permission of the show office.
- Each class may not have more than two tests scheduled per day.



8.1.7. Entries (cont.)

- The use of competitor numbers for vaulters is at the discretion of the Event Organizers.
- Competitor numbers must not compromise the safety of the vaulter.
- When competitor numbers are not used the announcer must name each vaulter prior to them mounting the horse.

8.1.8. Equipment

- The Judge is authorized to check the equipment of any horse at any time. If checked immediately after the horse leaves the arena any discrepancy could entail elimination.
- All equipment must be used in its manufactured state.
- The use of any other equipment and any other way of attachment of the equipment than described here, will entail elimination.
- Protective tack covering to improve the comfort of the horse is permitted. i.e. extra padding on bridle.
- A Bridle with smooth snaffle bit, with no less than 2 joints. Rubber guards are permitted. If an unjointed rubber snaffle is used, the bit must be flexible.
- The use of a lunge cavesson, with or without a bit, instead of a bridle is permitted. Micklem style bridles may be used as a lunging cavesson.
- Either two side reins or three-point reins may be used. Three-point reins are attached from the surcingle through the bit rings back to the surcingle on the same side. The distance between the two attached points (top and bottom) on each side of the surcingle must not be greater than 40 centimetres. Three-point reins must be adjustable only as per manufactured and any homemade modification of the adjustment of the draw reins is not permitted (example: tying in a knot)
- Standing or auxiliary reins are not permitted
- Side Reins must not be fastened in place for an excessive period, if so side reins must be unfastened and the horse allowed to move freely for a period of time before the side reins are reattached. The side reins may be unfastened before the final salute from the center of the competition circle or, at the latest, the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle. Failure to do so will be deemed to be abuse of the horse

Lunge line and lunge whip.

- In Canter the lunge line must be attached to the inside bit ring or attached to a lunge cavesson.
- In Walk and Trot the lunge line may be attached in any way which does not cause discomfort to the horse.

Vaulting surcingle with under pad and girth.

- The surcingle has two solid handles (grips, the shape of which is not defined) and with two loops (one on each side). One short extra strap made of leather may be fixed between the inner edges of the right and left handles.
- A back pad is compulsory and may be checked by the Judge at any time while on the horse. Gel Pads are permitted.

8.1.8. Equipment (cont.)

- The back pad must have the following dimensions:
 - Max 80 cm from back edge of the surcingle to the back of the pad Max 30 cm from the front edge of the surcingle to the neck
 - Max 90 cm from side to side, the lowest point to the lowest point. If checked on the horse, the allowable tolerance may not exceed 3 cm (ie Max 93 cm) Max 3 cm thick including cover
 - Max total length 1.10 m with no more than 30 cm in front of the surcingle
- The surcingle and the back pad may be changed from test to test, time permitting.
- Ear muffs and plugs are permitted
- Bandages and/or brushing/overreach

8.1.9. General Rules

- Lungers must be at least 16 years of age.
- The lunger does not need to be from the same club as the vaulter(s).
- Upon entering, and before exiting the competition arena, the vaulter(s) and lunger must salute the Judge as a matter of courtesy.
- The Judge shall acknowledge the salutes.
- Entry, exit, and the formation of the salute are left to the discretion of the vaulters
- but should be dignified.
- Entry and exit may be accompanied by music at the discretion of competition organizing committee.
- A warmup circle is compulsory and must be as described above. It is recommended that there be three or more warm up circles. If the competition takes place indoors at least one indoor warm up circle must be available.
- During the Walk and Trot tests the horse moves on a circle with a minimum radius of 6 m, preferably more. During the Canter test the horse moves on a circle with a minimum radius of 7.5 m, preferably more.
- All tests must be executed in the correct gait (and not in counter canter)
- The side reins may be unfastened before the final salute from the center of the competition circle, or at the latest the reins must be unfastened immediately upon exiting the competition circle. Failure to do so will be deemed to be abuse of the Horse.

8.1.10. Officials

- All events and classes must be judged by at least one official having credentials allowing them to judge at vaulting events in BC.
- Each Judge must be assisted by a secretary.
- A timekeeper is to be placed next to the Judge for tests that have a time limit. Judges may prefer to do their own timing.
- Judges will give marks according to the test's score sheet.

8.1.10. Officials (cont.)

- Any corrected score must be initialed by the Judge having made the correction.
- Judges must sign off the score sheets in ink.
- Judges are encouraged to make comments in the specified column on the score sheet. (Providing comments when the score is 5 or below is strongly recommended.)
- Official Vault score sheets can be printed directly from the Vault Canada Online Competition Management System.
- Officials should be familiar with the required scoring criteria which is published annually on the FEI Vaulting rules website
- Officials will judge in accordance with Vault Canada (www.vaultcanada.org) and HCBC guidelines and Code of Conduct

8.1.11. Timing / Bell

A bell is used by the Judge to signal the athletes on the following occasions:

- To give the signal to enter the arena.
- To give the signal to start the test.
- To announce the end of the time.
- The time for the test begins at the moment the first Vaulteer touches the grips, the pad or the horse and ends with the time limit.
- To signal that the time and music is stopped after a fall and the Vaulteer is unable to continue immediately or to return to the line. The test must be continued within 30 seconds after the signal to resume.
- To give the signal to stop an athlete or performance when the horse shows any signs of irregularity, is out of control or dangerous to the vaulters.
- To give the signal to stop an athlete or performance in unforeseen circumstance which includes repair or adjustment of equipment or any other situation requiring immediate attention. If the timing and the music is stopped, the test must be continued within 30 seconds after the signal to resume
- After an interruption, the clock is started again when the vaulter touches the grip, the pad or the horse. In unclear situations the Judge and/or Lunger/Vaulter may communicate.
- If an exercise has begun just before the time limit, the exercise or combination in progress may be finished.
- If the dismounts are commenced immediately without further intermediate exercises, the dismounts will be included in the evaluation for the Technique or Artistic scores without penalty.
- If other exercises or combinations are commenced after the exercise or combination in progress at the time of the bell, other than the final dismounts, there will be a deduction from the Artistic score and all exercises after the bell, including the dismounts, will not be scored for the Technical or Artistic scores.
- If other exercises or combinations are commenced after the exercise or combination in progress at the time of the bell, other than the final dismounts, there will be a deduction from the Artistic score and all exercises after the bell, including the dismounts, will not be scored for the Technical or Artistic scores. No more static exercises may be performed after the bell.

8.1.12. Vaulting Horses

- Stallions are prohibited.
- Vaulting horses or ponies in Canter Divisions must be at least seven years old, and in Walk and Trot Divisions must be at least five years old.
- As the length of vaulting competitions, and the type of classes offered each day may vary, rules governing permissible use of the horse stipulate the maximum number of times a horse may be used on a single day. These entries are accumulative per day and may be a combination of squad team individual and pairs.
- In all classes, the horse may travel to the left or the right on the circle.
- The horse does not need to be from the same club as the vaulter(s).
- Competition organizers are encouraged where possible to schedule the classes in such a way that it will minimize the number of run-ins required for each horse.
- Horse owners and lungers are compelled to make the welfare of the horse paramount when deciding on appropriate use during competition.
- Horses may be used for a maximum of 24 units each day. The following list indicates how many units a single test requires in Compulsories or Freestyle.

	Squad	Pair	Individual
Canter	8	4	2
Trot	6	3	1
Walk	4	2	0.5

8.1.13. Classes and Divisions

- If required and allowed by the rules of the Division, a booster may enter the arena with the vaulters. No one else may enter the arena.
- In the freestyle, vaulters have the opportunity to show their artistry. They may plan an original program around their own capabilities, ideas and specialties.
- The Freestyle must be performed with music.
- Music with words is permitted.
- The music must be provided as stipulated in the Invitation.
- Classes other than the listed may be offered but will not count for official scoring (Guidelines for unrecognized classes can be found on the Rules and Resources Page of the Vault Canada website at : <https://vaultcanada.org/Resources/Rules>)

8.1.14. Compulsories

- It is recommended that the Compulsories be performed with music.
- Each static exercise (Basic Seat, Flag, Kneel, and Stand) must be held for at least four strides.
- In Mill exercises, each leg pass must occur for exactly four strides.
- Individual, Pairs, and Team all use the same Compulsories at each level.

Beginner & Intermediate	Advanced & 1*	2*	2*Y & 3*
Vault On	Vault On	Vault On	Vault On
Basic Seat	Basic Seat	Basic Seat	Flag
Half Flag	Flag	Flag	Mill
Kneel	Stand	Mill	FW Scissors
FW Swing	FW Swing	FW Scissors	BW Scissors
Half Mill Leg Pass Dismount to the Inside	Half Mill	BW Scissors	Stand
	BW Swing Leg Pass Dismount to Inside	Stand	Flank to inside seat With leg pass to seat astride
		Flank 1st Part Push off to the inside	Swing off to the outside

8.1.15. Individual Freestyle

- A Freestyle consists of static and dynamic exercises.
- A static exercise must be held for at least three strides.
- The Freestyle should consist of a minimum of 7 exercises for which a score can be attributed.
- In Beginner classes there are limitations on the difficulty of the exercises that may be performed (limitations and the deductions can be found in the Vault Canada Competition Policies document).
- Each vaulter must wait for the bell before beginning their performance,
- Time limit of 1.0 minutes will be given

8.1.16. Pairs Freestyle

- The Freestyle test consists of static and dynamic exercises.
- A static exercise must be held for at least three strides
- In 3* the time limit is 2 minutes. In all other divisions the time limit is 1.5 minutes

8.1.17. Squads

- A Vaulting Squad Team is composed of the lunger, horse and six vaulters plus an optional seventh vaulter.
- All vaulters on the squad team enter the arena together.
- All six or seven vaulters must perform the Compulsories. If less than six vaulters perform in the Compulsories a deduction will be given.
- In the Freestyle, six vaulters are to perform and only those six may enter the arena.
- When a seventh vaulter is used in the Compulsories, the team will choose any one of those seven to not perform in the Freestyle.
- If less than six vaulters perform the Freestyle a deduction will be given.
- The Squad Team Vaulting competition consists of Compulsories and Freestyle in round one, an optional round two includes only a Freestyle.
- Classes of the following may be offered in Squad
 - Walk Squad
 - Trot Squad
 - Beginner Canter Squad
 - 1* Squad
 - 2* Squad
 - 3* Squad

8.1.18. Squad Compulsories

- The Vaulter with the number 1 begins, number 2 follows, etc. All six or seven vaulters show the Compulsories.
- The second Vaulter must perform the Compulsory Exercises immediately without waiting for the bell. There is a Time Limit of 6.0 minutes.

8.1.19. Squad Freestyle

- The Freestyle test consists of static and dynamic exercises. A static exercise must be held for at least three strides.
- 1* Squad Free Test may include single and double exercises. At least one of the vaulters must remain in contact with the horse, otherwise these elements of the exercises are not scored. Time limit of 3 minutes.
- 2* and 3* Squad Free Test may include single, double, and triple exercises. At least two of the Vaulters must remain in contact with the horses; otherwise these elements of the exercises are not scored. Time limit of 3 minutes 30 seconds.