

**UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES**  
**VAULTING – JUNIOR SQUAD**  
**2025 FEI VAULTING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR JUNIOR AND YOUNG VAULTERS**  
**Stadl Para, Austria July 30– Aug 3, 2025**

**1. SELECTION SYSTEM**

- 1.1. Provide the minimum eligibility requirements for a Squad to be considered for selection to the Team:
- 1.2.
  - 1.2.1. **Nationality/Passport requirements:**

The Athlete must be a U.S. citizen, or in compliance with FEI Vaulting Rules, Article 702.4.1, Vaulting Rules 2024, 10th Edition, effective 1 January 2024, as well as FEI General Regulations, Article 119, no later than the application deadline for the 2025 FEI Vaulting World Championships for Juniors and Young Vaulters (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 on Squads wishing to compete on the Championships Team (“Team”) as a Squad must earn a FEI Certificate of Capability by June 4, 2025, as posted USEF Selection Procedures found herein. The FEI Certificate of Capability Criteria are [found here](#).
    - 1.2.2.2. Applicants for the Junior and Young Championships must have been born must have been born after December 31, 2006 in accordance with the FEI Vaulting Rules [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2024], Article 702.1 [found here](#).
    - 1.2.2.3. The horse must be a minimum of seven (7) years of age born on or before December 31, 2017 (the age is counted from January 1 of the year of birth) FEI Vaulting Rules [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2024], Article 717.1.
    - 1.2.2.4. The Athlete 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 be registered and in good standing with the FEI at the time of selection, and until the conclusion of the Event.
    - 1.2.2.6. The Horse must meet all FEI criteria of eligibility for the Event [found here](#).
    - 1.2.2.7. The Athlete and Horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Event.
    - 1.2.2.8. Horse Owners must be in good standing with the FEI at the time of Nominated Entries, and until the conclusion of the Event.
    - 1.2.2.9. 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:
    - a. The Athletes must be a Junior or Senior Active Member of the United States Equestrian Federation (“USEF”) in good standing at the time of FEI Nominated Entries and until the conclusion of the Event.
    - b. 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.
- c. 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.
  - d. 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 6, 2025, at 11:59 PM ET** will be charged one hundred and fifty dollars (\$150.00) per Application. Applications submitted online after January 6, 2025, at 11:59 PM ET and received by USEF on or before January 13, 2025 at 11:59 PM ET will be charged an application fee of three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per application. **NO APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER JANUARY 13, 2025, 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](#).
  - e. Horse Participation Agreement: Individual owners of U.S. horses named to the FEI Nominated Entry must sign the USEF Horse Participation 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 Agreement may result in the removal of the horse and/or Athlete and/or Squad from the FEI Nominated Entry. The Owner(s) must certify, by signing the Horse Participation 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](#).
  - f. 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](#).
  - g. 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.
  - h. Any athlete age 18 or older will be required to undergo a background screen in accordance with the current [USEF Background Check Policy](#).
  - i. Any athlete age 18 or older as of the Closing Ceremony 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:**

2.1.1. Squads wishing to be considered for Team selection for the Event must achieve a minimum of two (2) Scores during the Qualifying Period, January 1, 2024 - March 23, 2025 (“Qualifying Period”), as outlined below, unless a waiver is granted in accordance with Section 2.1.2 below. Scores must come from two different Selection Events and must include compulsory and freestyle components in the Squad section. Scores must 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 four (4) vaulters. Any change in more than two (2) members of a Squad represents an entirely independent Squad and must be listed separately on the Championships Junior Squad List. The following events are designated as Selection Events:

- any CVI 3\*, CVIJ 2\* or
- any USEF 3\* A Team or 2\* B Team

2.1.2. Selectors may grant a waiver for up to one (1) 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 Squad;
- Previous experience and submission(s) to virtual judging completed in 2024 or 2025;
- 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, Michelle McQueen, [at mmcqueen@usef.org](mailto:mmcqueen@usef.org), before March 23, 2025 at 5:00PM ET. The request must include specific details about why a waiver should be considered.

Squads 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 Squad will no longer be considered for the Short List.

**2.1.3. Step-by-step description of the selection process for this Event: Short List**

2.1.3.1. Squads must submit their two (2) qualification scores to USEF no later than March 23, 2025, at **11:59 PM ET**, through the Record of Experience

(See definitions page 17) form posted on the [USEF website](#), which will be made available no later than February 15, 2025. Squads must also submit a narrative detailing their prior Record of Experience and preparation.

- 2.1.3.2. The scores and Records of Experience will be reviewed by a panel of five Selectors. (See Definitions: USEF VAULTING SELECTORS, on page 17 for a detailed description of Selectors). Selectors will be announced no later than Dec 15, 2024, at <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting>.
- 2.1.3.3. On or around March 24, 2025, the Selectors, in consultation with the Chef d'Equipe and USEF Vaulting Director of Performance, will review the Squads' scores and Record of Experience and recommend a "Short List" of up to six Squads. 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 Period. Consideration given to the three highest "round 1" scores achieved during the Qualifying Period, consistency of scores and trends in scores, and high compulsories scores.
  - Recent international experience of the Squad;
  - Behavior of Athletes, lunge, and people associated with the Squad (including, but not limited to, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

Only Squads named to the Short List are eligible to proceed through the selection process.

- 2.2. Squads on the Short List will be required to participate in the following events held between March 24, 2025 – June 3, 2025 ("Selection Period"). Only the first round compulsories and freestyles will be considered. Second round freestyles will not be considered. All scores must be obtained with at least four of the same Athletes. During the Selection Period, Athletes must attend either:

1. Three Designated U.S. Observation Events (USEF 2\* B team or FEI 2\* Junior Squad); or
2. Two Designated U.S. Observation Events (USEF 2\* B team or FEI 2\* Junior Squad) AND one Designated European CVI Observation Event (FEI 2\* Junior Squad)

The list of Designated U.S. Observation Events and Designated European CVI Observation Events will be published on the USEF Website by December 15, 2024.

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 Squads no later than February 1, 2025, and Squads will be required to participate.

- 2.2.1. In the case of extraordinary circumstances such as medical or veterinary issues, the Selectors, by unanimous agreement, may grant a waiver to excuse Squads 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 Michelle McQueen, USEF Director of Vaulting, at [mmcqueen@usef.org](mailto:mmcqueen@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 Squad has demonstrated “Proven Ability” (See definition on page 18) to succeed at the Championships in the Squad event;
  - Previous international experience of the Squads;
  - Previous experience and submission(s) to virtual judging completed in 2024 or 2025;
  - 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 Squad will no longer be considered for the FEI Nominated Entries.

- 2.2.2. **Final Submission of Record of Experience – June 4, 2025**
- 1.1.1.1. By no later than June 4, 2025 at 5:00PM EST, Squads listed on the Short List will be asked to complete and submit their Final Record of Experience which must include at least the following five scores, unless a waiver has been granted permitting fewer scores:
- the two (2) scores listed in their first Record of Experience; and
  - a minimum of three (3) additional scores earned at Designated Observation Events/Designated European CVIs during the Selection Period (see 2.1.3).

On the Record of Experience, Squads may also submit additional scores earned at the following:

- USEF B Team and 2\* FEI Junior Squad events that occurred during the Selection Period (March 24, 2025 - June 3, 2025), and that had three or more judges; and
- USEF B Team and 2\* FEI Junior Squad events that occurred during the Selection Period (Jan 1, 2024 - March 23, 2025), and that had no fewer than two judges.

2.2.3. **Submission of Horse Plan**

- 2.2.3.1. No later than June 4, 2025 at 5:00PM ET, Squads on the Short List must submit their complete Horse Plans for the Event using the forms (available prior to April 17, 2025) 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.

- 1.1.1.2. Selectors will consider the following in their review of the Horse Plan:

- Recent experience of the Squad on the Horse and reserve Horse to be used at the Event; and
- Previous Horse scores from FEI events.

2.2.4. **TBD FEI Nominated Entry**

- 1.1.1.3. After June 4, 2025 but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date for the FEI Nominated Entry, TBD, 2025, 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 Squads 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 for the three highest "round 1" scores achieved during the Selection Period (March 23 - June 3, 2025), consistency of scores and trends in scores, and high compulsories scores.
- Recent international experience of the Squad;
- Recent experience of the Squad on the Horse and reserve Horse to be used at the Event, as submitted on the required Horse Plan in Section 2.2.3;
- Previous horse scores from FEI events;
- Performance at the Observation Training Event; and
- Behavior of Squad, lunger, and people associated with the Squad (including, but not limited to, owners, coaches, and grooms) that may have an impact on creating a positive team environment.

- 2.2.4.1. The remaining Squads on the Short List, up to the maximum number permitted under FEI rules for the Event, may be named as ranked

“alternate” Squads for the FEI Nominated Entry for the Event. The Selectors will determine the ranked order of alternate Squads on the entry based on the factors, listed above.

2.2.4.2. 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, 2025.

2.2.4.3. Declaration of Horse(s) and Lunger(s): By June 4, 2025 all Squads 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 Squad’s entry must comply with the requirements as stated in Section 1.

2.2.5. **TBD FEI Definite Entry:**  
After the FEI Nominated Entry, TBD, 2025 but no later than seven (7) days prior to the closing date for the Definite Entries, TBD, 2025 for the Event, USEF may nominate up to the maximum number of Squads 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.

2.2.6. **Declaration of Starters:**  
The declaration of starters will be done in accordance with the FEI Vaulting Rules, [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2024], 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 Squad 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 Squad, 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, Athletes 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 Athletes 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 Squad 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 Squad 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 Squad 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 6, 2025 (the "Application" date). Additionally, they may be required to recuse oneself from the review process and/or voting.

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. An Athlete and/or Squad or Horse may be removed for any of the following reasons, as determined by USEF:

- Voluntary withdrawal. Athlete and/or Squad 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 Agreement (Attachment B).
- Injury or illness of the Horse listed for the Athlete on the Nominated or Definite Entry as determined by the Team Veterinarian and/or Veterinary Panel. If an Squad 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.

An Athlete and/or Squad 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, 2025, for the Event has been announced but prior to their submission of the FEI Nominated Entry, Squads may be substituted with an alternate Squad 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 Squads and alternates for the Event have been announced and prior to the closing date for the Definite Entry, TBD, 2025, Squads may be substituted with an alternate Squad 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 Squads have been accepted on the Definite Entry, TBD, 2025, a Squad may be substituted with an alternate in accordance with the FEI Regulations Rules for Vaulting, [9th Edition, effective 1st January 2024], 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, Squads may be substituted with an alternate Squad in accordance with the FEI Regulations Rules for Vaulting, [10th Edition, effective 1st January 2024], and these Selection Procedures. Squads may be replaced with alternate Squads 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 High Performance Director. 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 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**

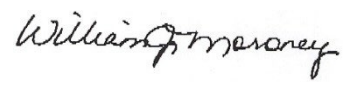
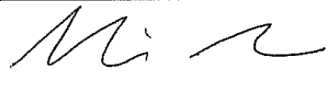
These procedures are based on FEI rules and regulations as presently known and understood. Any change in the Selection Procedures caused by a change in FEI rules or regulations will be distributed to the affected Athletes immediately. The selection criteria are based on the latest information available 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: mmcqueen@usef.org](mailto:mmcqueen@usef.org).

| Position                | Print Name  | Signature  | Date  |
|-------------------------|---|--|---|
| Chief Executive Officer | William J. Moroney  |  | 11/18/2024  |
| Sport Program Director  | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Michelle McQueen</div> |  | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">11/18/24</div> |

## 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.

**ATHLETE** - for the purposes of these procedures, Athlete shall include the athletes and lungers.

**ALTERNATE** - an athlete after the FEI Definite Entry has been submitted.

**REPLACEMENT** – Replacing an Athlete/Horse combination after the Final Entry has been submitted.

**RECORD OF EXPERIENCE** - Scores earned during the qualifying period including competition, name, date and location, list of judges and scores earned by event (round). A narrative of the Athlete and horse preparation including training activities during the Qualifying Period, attendance at clinics and camps, overseas preparation and any additional preparation for the World Championships. Additionally, the Athlete may include other narrative information about prior competition experience and success.

**STATE OF PREPAREDNESS** – Athlete/Horse combinations overall state of readiness to perform successfully at an international Vaulting competition, not just limited to health and soundness of the Horse.

**PROVEN ABILITY –**

**For Juniors:** An athlete/horse combination that has submitted one (1) score during the Qualifying period from the following Events.

- Any USEF recognized USEF /Gold/Silver 2\*, or USEF 3\* Squad event.
- Any CVI 2\*, CVIY 2\*, CVIO4\*, or CVI 3\* Squad Event
- Any CH-M-V, CH-M-YV-V, 2024