



MEMORANDUM

To: Potential 2026 FEI Vaulting World Championship for Seniors Applicants

Date: December 20, 2024

From: Michelle McQueen, Director of Vaulting

Copy: Steven Morrissey, Managing Director of Sport Logistics & Non-Olympic Disciplines; Hallye Griffin, Director of FEI Sport

Re: Anticipated Selection Methods for the 2026 FEI Vaulting World Championship for Seniors

This preliminary information is provided to assist you with your competition planning and is subject to change. Please remember that this information is based upon the recommendations of the USEF Vaulting Sport Committee and is subject to final approval by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee. Therefore, it is subject to change upon the approval of the final Selection Procedures by the USEF Board of Directors or USEF Executive Committee.

The 2026 FEI Vaulting World Championship for Seniors (Championship) is scheduled to take place from August 13 – 16, 2026 in Aachen, Germany.

Application Deadline: U.S. athletes interested in being selected for the 2026 FEI World Vaulting Championships for Seniors must complete an application of intent by the dates to be laid out within the full confirmed selection procedures. Applications are expected to be due no later than January 15, 2026.

Selection Methodology: The proposed Selection Period for the 2026 U.S. Vaulting Team (Team) will begin on January 1, 2025, and end June 1, 2026 (Selection Period).

The Athlete, Horse owner, and Horse must comply with FEI Rules for the Championship, including but not limited to, the FEI Qualifying Requirements found on the [FEI Website](#).

Qualification Period – January 1, 2025 – approximately mid-March, 2026 (TBC).

Athletes wishing to be considered for selection for the Championships must earn a minimum of the following Qualification Scores:

- **Individuals and Pas de Deux:** three (3) Qualifying Scores during the Qualifying Period.
- **Squad:** two (2) Qualifying Scores during the Qualifying Period.

Qualifying Scores must be earned in the following events:

- **Individual:** scores must be earned in the Individual Competition at any CVI 3*, CVIO 4* or CVIY 2* or at any USEF 3* Individual or 2* Young Vaultler/Gold, and World Cup Finals 2025/2026 if applicable. The score must include one round each of compulsories, technical test, and freestyle, unless achieved at a World Cup Final. Of the three (3) scores no more than one (1) score may be earned at a CVIY2* or USEF Young Vaultler/Gold.



- **Pas de Deux:** scores must be earned in the Pas de Deux class at any CVIJ 2* or CVI 3* event or any USEF 2* Pas de Deux or 3* Open Pas de Deux class, and World Cup Finals 2025/2026 if applicable.
- **Squad:** scores must be earned at any CVIJ 2* or CVI 3* Squad event or any USEF 2* B Team or 3* A Team Class. Only the first-round compulsory score and the first-round freestyle scores will be considered.

Waiver: In extraordinary circumstances, the Selectors may grant a waiver for Qualification Score requirements if it is in the perceived best interests of the Team. Details of the criteria used to decide upon a waiver will be outlined in the selection criteria.

Observation Event: It is anticipated that athletes names to the Short List may be required to participate in an Observation Event(s). The dates and location of the Observation Events will be published on <https://www.usef.org/compete/disciplines/vaulting>.

USEF Safe Sport Policy: It is the responsibility of the Athletes and owners of Horses to ensure that they know and comprehend the USEF Rules, FEI Rules, FEI Qualifying Requirements, USEF Code of Conduct, and USEF Safe Sport Policy.

USEF Background Check Policy Requirements: Athletes 18 years of age or older selected by USEF to compete at the Championship are required to comply with the updated USEF Background Check Policy. Athletes are strongly encouraged to review the Background Check Policy Requirements for more information.

Equine Anti-Doping: Please note that all Horses registered with the FEI or USEF shall be subject to in-competition testing. The FEI's philosophy is that horses must be "clean" at the time of competition. If seeking advice from a veterinarian, ensure they are a registered FEI veterinarian, and is fully conversant with the FEI Veterinary Rules and the Prohibited Substance List.

Human Anti-Doping: Please be aware that when you are competing under FEI rules, you (the human athlete) are subject to random, in-competition and out of competition drug testing. It is your responsibility to know if you are taking any medications on the FEI Prohibited Substance List. It is strongly recommended that you regularly visit the United States Anti-Doping Agency's (USADA) website, which contains a range of information on testing, regulations, and athlete rights. You should also regularly check the FEI web page that covers all changes to the anti-doping rules. Those taking a prohibited substance for therapeutic reasons have the ability to apply for a therapeutic use exemption (TUE). These athletes can contact Christy Hawkins at CBHawkins@usef.org for information and assistance in submitting a TUE application.

Funding: The availability and details of funding will be confirmed prior to the Championship.

Questions and Feedback: If you have any questions or feedback on the full Selection Procedures prior to their approval of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact Michelle McQueen at mmcqueen@usef.org.