

Discipline-specific guidelines for FEI Vaulting Events taking place during the Covid-19 pandemic

Purpose

This document provides OCs (“OCs”) and the Vaulting community with detailed guidance for the management of FEI Vaulting Events during the Covid-19 pandemic. The measures outlined aim to apply to all aspects of the Event the hygiene and social distancing principles necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

This document must be read and used in conjunction with:

- [The FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), and in particular article VII “Recommended Best Practice for FEI Event Organisers”, which provides general guidance for all FEI Events.
- [The FEI Veterinary Guidance](#) which outlines the veterinary processes applicable in each FEI discipline.

These guidelines are best practice recommendations. They do not intend to replace the regulations and policies imposed by the national and local health authorities, but to supplement them with considerations that are unique to Vaulting.

Contents

I. Spectators	2
II. Social distancing for athletes and their support personnel	2
III. Equipment	4
IV. Competition Areas	4
1. Warm-up and changing rooms	4
2. Competition Arena	
3. Ground Jury box	5
V. Competition time	6
VI. Falls & injured athletes	6
VII. Prize giving, Awards and End of competition	7
1. Social distancing/masks	7
2. Hygiene	7

I. Spectators

The OC should be responsible to ensure that all attendees including spectators at the Event provide contact details:

- Mobile telephone number
- Email
- Address where they are staying.

The OC must state clearly that their details will be shared with local public health authorities if any participant becomes ill with a suspected infectious disease. This should be a condition for attending the Event.

The below measures should be considered by the OC to be put in place:

- Restrict number of access and deliver maps of the venue to explain the entry and exit points.
- Have a strict way of circulation, no way back possible but short cuts allowed.
- Provide hand sanitation on the venue. Spectators will be asked by a volunteer at each entrance and exit of the competition arena to clean their hands before entering the dedicated arena.
- In the competition arena, have at least one empty seat between spectators to comply with the measure of having at least two meters of social distancing between spectators.
- No spectators should be authorised to enter the competition arena without face mask.
- Spectators should be asked to wear a face mask on the venue.
- All volunteers at each entry should have face masks to provide to spectators if needed. It is up to each OC to give them free of charge or at the cost of the market.

II. Social distancing for Athletes and their support personnel

4. Rules of engagement

In Vaulting, Squad and Pas-de-Deux are both considered as close contact sport and training will require intermittent high levels of physical contact. Training of Squad and Pas-de-Deux obviously entails an impossibility to maintain social distancing measures. If an Athlete or Team member/staff becomes an infected person all other Athletes and staff member in the Team would be considered as close contacts and will require testing and quarantine. Close contact training should be planned in compliance with the requirements imposed by the local public health authorities.

*During COVID time, and at least until end of 2020, OC are not obliged to organise Squad competitions and the FEI recommends not to host Squad competitions at any level and in any category. This recommendation overrules any requirements on Squad competitions at CVIs.

**The above recommendation is subject to the approval of the FEI Board at their meeting, to take place on 8 September 2020. (*References to FEI Board's emergency situation provisions can be found published on the FEI Website).*

Every person involved in Vaulting Events will have the responsibility to prevent the spread of the virus. Wearing masks, hand and respiratory hygiene, self-isolation with symptoms and social distancing are the most effective means of prevention of the spread.

If an Athlete or team member knows, or thinks they are infected they should stay at home to self-isolate and contact their team doctor or primary care doctor. Outlined below are measures to be observed consistently during the Covid-19 pandemic:

These rules should be enforced in daily life by all members of the Team and not only in training or Events:

- Frequent hand washing, regular disinfection of shared surface, especially, surcingle, whips, barrels etc...
- The use of face masks is highly recommended except during training and performance. If the team members are considered to be part of the same household in their home country they may be exempted from using a face mask when only amongst themselves. When entering CVIs, all team members by default should engage to have respected the above measures in their daily life and continue to enforce them when arriving at the Event venue.

All Athletes, support personnel and entourage have the responsibility to bring enough face masks and sanitising products for hands and surfaces (to be used for teams' own devices shared between the team).

The OC should have enough face masks to be delivered to the team members in case of need. It is up to each OC to give them free of charge or at the cost on the market.

4. Lungers

All lungers lunging more than one unit at CVIs should wear a face mask during their performances in the training, warm-up arena and in the field of play.

Lungers should wear gloves all the time when handling the whip, surcingle and pad. It is highly recommended to have a couple of spare gloves available in order to change between tests when lunging more than one unit.

III. Equipment

Whenever sharing material, unless only by a same Squad or same Pas-de-Deux, the equipment used should be cleaned, disinfected or changed before and after each use.

IV. Competition Areas

1. Warm-up and changing rooms

1.1 Warm-up Arena

- All accredited persons should wear a face mask and wash their hands with soap and water or with hydro alcoholic gel before entering the warm-up zone.
- Hand sanitising product should be available when entering and leaving arenas. Each individual should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit.
- Social distancing should be observed as much as possible.
- Vaulters can temporarily remove their mask when exercising and warming up.
- If Athletes use specific devices to warm-up, the OC should provide clear instructions on the necessary process to clean the devices after each use.
- The required cleaning products must be available at all times.
- Shared mats is not recommended. Personal equipment such as water bottles, towels, etc... should not be shared.
- It is important that Athletes are given the time and opportunity to clean their hands after coughing, sneezing, using tissues, or after possible contact with respiratory secretions or objects or surfaces that might be contaminated.
- To facilitate these process the OC should set-up the warm-up area so that the crowd is evenly distributed over the entire surface of the warm-up zone.
- Duplicating the warm-up area is a possible alternative.

Before entering the field of play:

- In addition to the above listed measures in section 1.1, when leaving the warm-up area, Vaulters and lungers should directly enter the field of play through the dedicated one-way pathway.
- When leaving the field of play, Athletes should directly exit the field of play through the dedicated one-way pathway.
- An additional sanitary station should be located before entering the field of play and Athletes should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands before entering the field of play and before taking the whip from the lunger if requested. Lungers should be asked to clean their hands if they do not wear gloves.

1.2 Changing rooms

Dedicated rooms for Athletes to recover and get changed between Tests/Competitions should be available and must be large enough to allow social distancing.

These changing room should be clearly marked and be accessible only to accredited Vaulters and lungers. A cleaning procedure must be put in place by the OC, ensure these zones are cleaned several times a day and at the end of the day.

Hand sanitising product should be available at the changing room entrance. Athletes will be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit.

2. Competition Arena

All seats, and all other materials which have been in contact with people should be cleaned with sanitary solution at the end of each day. A clear cleaning procedure must be put in place by the OC.

3. Ground Jury tables

- Hand sanitising product should be available at the arenas entry and exit points.
- Each accredited person should be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit.
- Vaulting Judges and their scribes should bring their own pens, notebooks etc... Sharing of equipment should not be permitted.
- Face masks and hand sanitiser should be provided to each judge and scribe.

- The OC may consider installing a Plexiglas or heavy plastic divider and providing headsets for the judges to communicate with the two scribes (the secretary and the E scribe).
- If no Plexiglas is installed at the Judges' table, everyone present should wear masks.
- At each rotation of the Judges/scribes, the table, chairs and all materials should be carefully cleaned with sanitising solution.

4. Score sheets

- Where possible, paperless judging should be favoured.
- Volunteers in charge of collecting scores after each test should wear, mask and gloves when collecting these scoresheets.
- Scoresheets should be put in a folder that will be cleaned after changing hands and placed outside the competition or scoring office.
- No paper scoresheets should be given out at the competition. Vaulting scoresheets may be requested following the competition and will be provided by email.
- In order to discourage physical gatherings, there should be no main score board at the competition. Post scores online and circulate through email.

5. Stewards and Technical Delegate

Stewards or Technical Delegate should wear a mask, sanitise hands frequently and maintain adequate distance whenever possible.

For equipment check, Stewards should wear one use gloves and change after each check.

V. Competition time

A time table with precise start times for each unit should be provided for each test.

VI. Falls & injured Athletes

Medical service providers must always wear mask and gloves when tending injured Athletes.

Anyone else providing help must wear a mask, sanitise hands frequently and maintain adequate distance whenever possible.

The Athlete must be given a mask (unless in medical distress).

The medical facility and ambulance will be managed in accordance with the requirements from the local health authorities.

VII. Prize giving, Awards and End of competition

Consider not holding a prize-giving ceremony.

If a prize-giving ceremony must be planned, the protocol should take into account the social distancing and hygiene necessary to reduce the risk of Covid-19 transmission.

1. Social distancing/masks
 - Limit the number of participants to strict minimum.
 - Avoid unnecessary gatherings.
 - All participants to maintain a 2 m distance
 - Masks should be used
 - No physical contact, hand shaking or hugging between participants. A polite bow can replace greetings.

2. Hygiene
 - Prizes, ribbons, rosettes should be avoided, and otherwise cleaned prior to use.
 - All participants should clean their hands with sanitiser before entering the arena and upon leaving
 - Any item touched by more than one people should be sanitised before and after use

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