



US Equestrian Federation

COVID-19 Action Plan

Requirements and Recommendations for Operating USEF-Licensed Competitions in the COVID-19 Environment

Effective May 05, 2020

Revised: May 10, 2021





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A. Purpose & Scope

The US Equestrian Federation is dedicated to ensuring the safety and welfare of horses and all participants. As we navigate the “new normal” at USEF competitions and events, we have centralized the requirements and recommendations from public health experts that will be in effect at USEF competitions. While there is no way to eliminate all risks related to COVID-19, the following requirements and recommendations are aimed to decrease the risk of COVID-19 infection. These requirements and recommendations are intended to ensure USEF organizers and participants are following the most recent guidance from federal, state, and other public health officials. As that guidance continues to change, the content of this action plan will be modified to reflect those changes. ***It is important to note that local public health authorities may impose more restrictive actions than those listed within this document.***

These requirements and recommendations for operating USEF-licensed competitions are in effect immediately and until further notice, however, they are subject to modification as the guidance from the government and public health officials’ changes.

We are all in this together and the situation requires that each and every one of us take personal responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of ourselves, our family members, and our colleagues and peers in the competition environment. Whether participant, competition organizer and staff, or vendor and support personnel, we each need to exercise caution, take precautionary measures, be accountable, and utilize good judgement at all times while interacting with one another at competitions.

US Equestrian will continue to monitor the situation, consult with you and make adjustments as warranted. For the latest information regarding the outbreak, please visit the [USEF Coronavirus Disease Resources and Updates](#) web page. For additional tools and resources specific to competition organizers, please visit the [Competition Safety and Biosecurity](#) webpage and reference the Additional Resources page at the end of this document.

****Attention FEI Competition Organizers: Click [here](#) to access the FEI Policy for Enhanced Competition Safety during the COVID-19 Pandemic, effective July 1, 2020, and updated October 12, 2020.**



B. Key Contacts – for Competition Organizers & Participants

Subject	Contact	Email	Phone
Competitions <i>(including licensing, scheduling, modifications, date changes, COVID-19 incident reporting, etc.)</i>	Katlynn Sacco	ksacco@usef.org	(859) 225-6981
Compliance <i>(including any questions related to the protocols outlined in this document)</i>	Debbie Saliling	dsaliling@usef.org	(859) 225-6930
Licensed Officials	Alina Brazzil	abrazzil@usef.org	(859) 225-2044
Drugs & Medications	Stephen Schumacher	sschumacher@usef.org	(859) 225-2075

Additional Resources for Organizers & Participants

Subject	Contact	Email	Phone
FEI Sport	Will Connell	wconnell@usef.org	(859) 225-7682
National Sport - Breed or Discipline	Terri Dolan	tdolan@usef.org	(859) 225-6957
Marketing & Communication	Vicki Lowell	vlowell@usef.org	(859) 225-2024
Finance	Todd McCoy	tmccoy@usef.org	(859) 225-6933
Information Technology	Justin Provost	jprovost@usef.org	(859) 225-6905
General Counsel	Sonja Keating	skeating@usef.org	(859) 225-2045
CEO	Bill Moroney	bmoroney@usef.org	(859) 225-6912



C. Definitions

CDC – Centers for Disease Control. All activity that occurs at a USEF-licensed competition must be conducted in accordance with CDC guidance protocols.

Competition Area/Schooling Area - For purposes of this document, any reference to competition area and/or schooling area includes rings, arenas, fields, cross-country fields, and any other areas designated for competition, schooling or exercise purposes.

Competition Organizer – For purposes of this document, Competition Organizer includes any individual or entity that acts as competition manager, licensee, and includes any designee(s) with management authority over the competition and its operations.

Competition Staff – For purposes of this document, competition staff includes any individual who is employed or contracted by competition management. Competition staff includes, but is not limited to, ring crews, jump crews, stable crews, competition office staff, medical personnel, awards crew, in-gate personnel, paddock managers, announcers, licensed officials, scribes, etc.

- **Officials** - Any reference to officials, or licensed officials includes all types of competition officials (see GR113). For the purposes of this document, any individuals participating in an approved educational activity for a USEF or Recognized Affiliate licensing program (e.g. apprentices, training program participants, dressage applicants observing or sitting, clinicians, instructors, etc.) are also considered officials and must comply with all applicable requirements within the Action Plan.

Close Contact – For purposes of this document, close contact as [defined by the CDC](#) is someone who was within six (6) feet of an infected person for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period* beginning two (2) days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two (2) days prior to test specimen collection) until the time the patient is isolated. It is important to note that close contact has occurred regardless of whether one, or both individuals is wearing a mask. (Refer to [CDC FAQ](#)).

**Individual exposures added together over a 24-hour period (e.g., three 5-minute exposures for a total of 15 minutes).*

Anyone who has been in contact with an individual who is confirmed or suspected to be COVID-19-positive should quarantine in accordance with [CDC Guidelines](#).

COVID-19 Incident or Outbreak – For purposes of this document, an incident is defined as a report of any COVID-19 related event or occurrence including, but not limited to, an individual who is exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19. An outbreak is defined as multiple COVID-19 related incidents or occurrences.



Definitions - *continued*

Exposure – For purposes of this document, exposure is considered [close contact](#) with a COVID-19-infected individual (exhibiting symptoms or confirmed by a positive test result) within a distance of six feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more and results in the need to quarantine unless the exposed individual is fully vaccinated (but those individuals must still monitor for symptoms for 14 days post-exposure). While the ideal quarantine time is still considered to be 14 days, it is recognized that a shorter quarantine period may balance significant societal burdens against the progressive smaller possibility of spreading the virus over time after exposure accordingly. An individual may discontinue quarantine:

- After Day 10 following close contact (exposure) without testing if no COVID-19 symptoms are present, or;
- After Day 7 if no COVID-19 symptoms are present and after receiving a negative COVID-19 test result (testing must occur on Day 5 or later after exposure)

After discontinuing quarantine, all individuals should:

- Monitor for symptoms for 14 days after exposure
- Immediately self-isolate if symptoms develop and contact a personal healthcare provider or public health authority
- Wear a face mask/face covering, maintain social distancing of at least six feet from others, and wash hands frequently

Face Masks – For purposes of this document, any reference to face masks includes cloth face coverings, N-95, KN-95 and surgical masks. Competition Organizers must provide facemasks or face coverings to competition staff, volunteers and officials. **Face masks and face coverings must fully cover the nose and the mouth while being worn.**

~~***The CDC recommends wearing [cloth face coverings](#) in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.~~ Cloth face coverings should fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face, be secured with ties or ear loops, include multiple layers of fabric, allow for breathing without restriction and be able to be laundered and machine dried without damage or change to shape.

Fully Vaccinated – An individual is considered to be [fully vaccinated](#) two weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer, Moderna, etc.), or two weeks after a single-dose vaccine (Johnson & Johnson).

Isolation – Separation of a person or group of people known or reasonably believed to be infected with a communicable disease and potentially infectious, from those who are not infected to prevent the spread of the communicable disease.

Participants – For purposes of this document, any reference to Participants includes owners, lessees, riders, athletes, parents, vaulters, drivers, trainers, coaches, longeurs, navigators, personal care assistants (PCAs), and any other required support personnel/staff that are essential for providing care to the horses and/or the athletes.



Definitions - continued

PPE – Personal Protection Equipment.

Quarantine – Separation of a person or group of people, known or reasonably believed to have been exposed to a communicable disease but are not yet symptomatic, from others who have not yet been exposed, to prevent the possible spread of the communicable disease. Please refer to [Exposure](#) definition above for quarantine guidance.

Social Distancing – Also called “physical distancing,” means keeping a minimum of 6 feet (about 2 arms’ length) space between yourself and other people outside your immediate household, as well as avoiding congregate settings or a concentration of individuals in a single area.

- **Immediate Household** – Individuals consistently living in the same house or dwelling. Members of a household may or may not be related. For purposes of this document, immediate household may also be referred to as same household or own household.
- For social distancing protocols specific to Vaulting athletes, refer to [Appendix C](#).

Public/Spectators – For purposes of this document, spectators refers to the general public, fans, or any individuals who are not directly involved in the competition by way of being a participant, a parent, a member of competition staff, a service provider (e.g. media or photographer), volunteer, or other support personnel (farrier, veterinarian, etc.). Extended family members (other than a parent of a participant) are considered spectators.

Service Providers – For purposes of this document, service providers are those individuals or entities who provide direct services contracted by competition management. Service providers include but are not limited to vendors, caterers, feed suppliers, photographers, videographers, media, venue/facility staff, cleaning service providers (including portable restroom service), and waste disposal personnel.

Sponsors – For purposes of this document, sponsors are considered individual persons or business entities that have an agreement in place with the competition to provide goods, services, or financial support that is integral to the sustainability of a competition.

Support Personnel - For purposes of this document, support personnel are those individuals employed or contracted by Participants to provide care or services to horses and/or participants. Support personnel includes, but is not limited to, veterinarians, farriers, equine therapists, grooms, and braiders, etc.

Symptoms – Symptoms of COVID-19 include, but are not limited to, subjective or measured fever, cough, and shortness of breath and/or difficulty breathing. Additional symptoms may include sore throat, muscle pain, headache, chills/shaking, or newly developed loss of taste or smell.



Definitions - *continued*

Temperature Monitoring – The daily (or alternatively defined period) non-contact body temperature testing utilizing technology that scans forehead temperature (temporal or infrared thermometer) to measure an individual’s body temperature to verify no fever is present. For purposes of this document, a fever is defined as an elevated body temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher.

WHO – World Health Organization. All activity that occurs at a USEF-licensed competition must be conducted in accordance with WHO recommendations.



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers

D. General

USEF-Licensed competitions must operate in accordance with the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan for USEF-Licensed Competitions (Plan). This plan is based on federal, state and local regulations, [WHO recommendations](#), [CDC guidelines](#) and USEF requirements. **There will be times when regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements may differ. In these instances, the more restrictive regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements will prevail and supersede all others, e.g. face masks/coverings may not be required by a state or local government but is required at a USEF licensed competition nonetheless due to CDC guidance.** Additional requirements and recommendations specifically applicable to Vaulting competitions can be found in [Appendix C](#).

Additionally, competition organizers must implement the USEF requirements listed on the following pages, and are very strongly encouraged to implement all recommended best practices contained herein or similar practices for mitigating risks related to the COVID-19 virus.

These requirements are in effect immediately and until further notice, however, they are subject to revisions as the COVID-19 virus environment changes.

USEF Competition Organizers must complete the [WHO Mass Gathering for Sports Risk Assessment Tool](#) and work with state and local governments and public health authorities prior to the start of the competition to help determine risks and mitigation measures. Competition Organizers are encouraged to consult their insurers and legal counsel as well.

If permission from a state or local government agency or public health authority is required in order for a competition to be allowed to operate, it is expected that competition organizers will have obtained verifiable permission from those entities prior to conducting the competition(s).

If competition organizers have any questions, please contact Katlynn Sacco by email at ksacco@usef.org or by phone at (859) 225-6981.



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – continued

E. Agreements

- Ensure that all participants, licensed officials, and volunteers, provide emergency contact information and execute an updated state-specific [Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement](#) required by USEF, as a condition of participation. Please ensure use of the updated form for competitions starting on May 6, 2020, or after. If a state-specific waiver is not available, please use the [general version](#) of the form.
- Prior to the start of a competition, create an [Emergency Response Plan](#) specific to a COVID-19 incident or outbreak that includes local medical resources and addresses outbreak protocols including medical evaluation, isolation and quarantine, and reporting.
 - If a COVID-19 incident or outbreak occurs, USEF and local public health authorities
 - Provide training for competition staff, volunteers and licensed officials regarding all procedures and requirements associated with the Plan.
 - Ensure vendors and service providers are included in the communication and training requirements associated with the Plan.
 - Disseminate a copy of the Plan to all applicable competition personnel
- A minimum of 14 days prior to the start of the competition, inform (e.g., via prize list/omnibus, website, social media, email, etc.) all participants, officials and competition personnel of protocols and safeguards implemented for their protection against spreading COVID-19 by providing them with a list of such measures.

F. Access

- Require and provide for onsite temperature monitoring for volunteers, officials, [competition staff](#) and [service providers](#) once daily prior to entering the competition grounds. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher may not enter the facility.
- The following individuals are not allowed to enter the competition grounds:
 - Anyone who exhibits [COVID-19 symptoms](#),
 - Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within last 10 days,
 - Anyone who has tested positive outside of the past 10 days, but is still symptomatic, or
 - *Anyone who has been [exposed](#) to or has been in [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 within either the last 7 or 10 days (dependent upon certain criteria - refer to [CDC Quarantine Options](#)).

**Exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties and those individuals who are [fully vaccinated](#) are exempted from this quarantine restriction.*



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers - continued

- Refer to Appendix A for Self-Isolation/Self-Quarantine Directives in the event a person has a fever or exhibits other symptoms of COVID-19.
- **Please reference [Participant requirements](#) regarding temperature monitoring for Participant responsibilities.
- ****Questions regarding access to competition grounds and eligibility to participate in competition that may not be clearly identified under the points above must be directed to ksacco@usef.org or dsaliling@usef.org who will consult with USEF medical experts and provide a written decision from the USEF with regard to the participant's eligibility.*
- Competition Organizers must notify USEF and local public health authorities, if any individual who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of the competition. Direct USEF reports to ksacco@usef.org.
 - Competition Organizers will direct the reporting individual to contact the local public health authorities (and provide the contact information) for the purposes of having the local public health authorities perform contact tracing.
 - Competition Organizers are to remind all [competition staff](#), [service providers](#), [sponsors](#), [participants](#), and [support personnel](#) of their responsibility to report if they test positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of competition (refer to [Section L](#)).
- ***Face Coverings/Masks (effective May 17, 2021): USEF recommends compliance with the [CDC guidelines](#) regarding mask wearing and [fully vaccinated](#) individuals, but at a minimum, a competition must comply with state and local requirements. In an effort to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, Competition Organizers can impose requirements more restrictive than those imposed by state and local authorities or the USEF, if they so choose.***
 - ***Outdoors: When not wearing a face covering/mask in an outdoor setting, social distancing must be maintained at all times, unless individuals are members of the same [immediate household](#).***
 - ***Indoors: USEF requires that a face covering/mask be worn when a person is in any indoor setting, such as an indoor arena, restroom, competition office, vendor booth, VIP area, etc., unless*** ~~Require a face mask or face covering for all staff, officials, volunteers, service providers and participants at all times while on competition grounds when not mounted on a horse, riding in a horse-drawn carriage or cart, vaulting as an Individual, Pas De Deux (PDD) or Squad member (refer to Appendix C), or during in-hand classes as outlined by the procedures* below. Competition Organizers must provide face masks or face coverings to competition staff, volunteers and officials.~~ You can find recommendations for proper use of face masks and face coverings via the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention website](#).



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – continued

- **When wearing a face covering/mask is required at a competition, the following applies:**
 - To eat or drink, an individual must move far enough away from others to minimize the possibility of being within six feet of any other individual before the lowering the mask or face covering to eat or drink. The mask must be immediately replaced over the nose and mouth when finished.
 - If an individual requires modification to this face mask/face covering requirement, please submit written request, accompanied by documentation substantiating the need for modification, to sgilbert@usef.org. It should be noted that we are experiencing a high volume of legal inquiries at this time, and we will respond as quickly as possible. Requests for modifications will be reviewed on a confidential basis with a medical consultant.

*~~*In-Hand Class Procedures - face masks or face coverings that fully cover your nose and mouth are required at all times at USEF licensed competitions, including while exhibiting horses and ponies in-hand. However, if~~ **If** absolutely necessary, you may lower your **face covering/mask** while jogging or running with a horse or pony in-hand, or while executing a pattern, but only if you are able to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while doing so. The **face covering/mask** must be replaced immediately once the jog, or run, or pattern, is completed.*

***A participant cannot be disqualified or penalized for wearing a facemask or face covering while competing.*

F.1. Spectator Protocols

Spectators can be permitted on USEF-Licensed competition grounds beginning May 3, 2021, subject to the requirements listed below.

*****Please note, competition organizers may choose to impose more stringent restrictions than those listed below, including prohibiting spectators. In those instances, the competition organizer's protocols take precedence over those listed below.**

The USEF COVID-19 Action Plan remains in effect for all persons on competition grounds with the following amendments regarding additional protocols for spectators, if allowed.

Effective May 3, 2021, if a competition chooses to allow spectators, the following protocols must be implemented:

- All USEF Spectator Protocols must be posted on the competition website and conspicuously placed at the spectator entrance(s) to the competition in a location that can be read by spectators prior to entry to the competition grounds.



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers - continued

- Each spectator (including a member of an immediate household) is required to comply with the Action Plan requirements. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - Wearing a *face mask/face covering ~~at all times~~ **as required** while on competition grounds (except when eating or drinking in designated areas, or for children under 2 years of age)
 - Socially distancing a minimum of six feet from any other person not in their immediate household while on competition grounds.

**If an individual requires modification to this face mask/face covering requirement, please submit written request, accompanied by documentation substantiating the need for modification, to sgilbert@usef.org. It should be noted that USEF is experiencing a high volume of legal inquiries at this time, and we will respond as quickly as possible. Requests for modifications will be reviewed on a confidential basis with a medical consultant.*

- **Spectator capacity**

Spectator capacity on the competition grounds is restricted as follows:

- Outdoor Venues - A maximum of 40% of the ticketed spectator capacity for competitions that operate with a ticketed gate, **OR** a maximum of *400 spectators for competitions that do not ticket spectators, whichever is greater.
 - Indoor Venues – A maximum of 30% of the ticketed spectator capacity for competitions that operate with a ticketed gate, **OR** a maximum of *300 spectators for venues that do not ticket spectators, whichever is greater.
 - For venues that consist of both outdoor and indoor components, the above capacity restrictions apply accordingly, however the total number of spectators at the competition cannot exceed the outdoor capacity each day.
- *Competition organizers must take into account the relative size of their venues. In some instances, the capacity numbers may be far below the maximums listed here.**

- **Spectator Access**

Spectators must enter competition grounds through a controlled and monitored access point(s).

- Signage must be placed at the spectator access point(s) that states the following:
 - **STOP! - If you proceed past this entry point you attest to the following:**
 - ✓ I am **NOT** experiencing any possible COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., Fever or chills, Cough, Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, Fatigue, Muscle or body aches, Headache, New loss of taste or smell, Sore throat, Congestion or runny nose, Nausea or vomiting, Diarrhea);
 - ✓ I have **NOT** tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers - continued

- ✓ ***I have NOT been in close proximity to anyone who has tested positive within the last 14 days***
 - *Exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties and those individuals who are [fully vaccinated](#) (at least 14 days after their final COVID vaccination) are able to be in close proximity of COVID-19 infectious people.
- ✓ **I agree to comply with all organizer requirements for attendance, including but not limited to wearing a face mask/face covering (*in accordance with competition requirements*), social distancing and frequent hand-washing**
- ✓ **I understand I can be removed from competition grounds for non-compliance of spectator protocols**
- ✓ **I acknowledge that the inherent risk of exposure to COVID-19 exists in any public place where people are present. By attending this equestrian competition, I voluntarily assume all risks related to COVID-19 exposure and agree not to hold the competition, its organizers, or any of its directors, officers, staff, agents, contractors, or volunteers liable for any illness or injury.**
 - The temperature of each spectator must be taken each day prior to their entering the competition grounds. **Prior to having their temperature taken, each spectator must review the posted sign (see bullet point above) and attest to the temperature taker they are compliant with all statements.** Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher may not enter the facility.
 - Each day, each spectator must be provided with and wear a visible armband or other identifier signifying the person is permitted to be on the competition grounds.
 - It is recommended that spectators who are members of an [immediate household](#) be credentialed in a manner that visually identifies them as such (e.g., special color and/or unique number per household)
- Competition Organizers must provide multiple sanitization stations throughout the spectator seating/viewing areas if spectators are present.
- Compliance personnel, secured by competition management in addition to the USEF Stewards/Technical Delegates, must patrol the grounds to ensure compliance with these spectator protocols and all other USEF Action Plan requirements.
- Competition Organizers must make multiple PA announcements throughout each competition day to remind spectators of the **competition** requirements to wear masks, socially distance and frequently wash hands in order to mitigate the risk of virus transmission.



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – continued

- **Additional Protocols for VIP/Hospitality Areas, If Offered**

- All tables or groups of seating must be placed a minimum of 6 feet apart from other tables or groups of seating.
- Tables or groups of seating are limited to members of [immediate households](#) per the USEF definition, unless social distancing of a minimum of 6 feet between persons can be maintained.
- Individual seating must have a minimum distance of 6 feet between seats. This includes bleacher and stadium seating.

- **Additional Resources Related to Spectators**

Click on the links below to access:

- *Spectator Statement/Symptom Checker & Acknowledgement (coming soon)*
- [USEF Printable Poster: Face Masks and Social Distancing Required](#)
- [USEF Graphic for Digital Use: Face Masks and Social Distancing Required](#)

G. Signage

- **Post signage that displays all applicable federal, state and local regulations, requirements and orders as well as [WHO recommendations](#) and [CDC guidelines](#) as they relate to mass gatherings and sporting events in effect at the competition.**
- Post signage throughout the competition grounds that lists the requirements for social distancing and the use of face masks/face coverings.
 - *USEF-provided posters: [Face Masks & Social Distancing](#)*
- Post signage at all entrances to the competition grounds which identifies the symptoms of COVID-19 and states the following:
 - To protect others from possible transmission of the virus, anyone who exhibits [COVID-19 symptoms](#), has been [exposed](#) to or has been in [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms, or anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within either the last 7 or 10 days (dependent upon certain criteria - refer to [CDC Quarantine Options](#)) cannot enter the competition grounds. (Exception: healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties and those who are [fully vaccinated](#)).
 - These individuals are encouraged to contact their health care provider immediately for further medical advice and must obtain documented clearance from their health care provider before entering the competition grounds. Participants must assume responsibility for themselves and their own staff (e.g. grooms, assistants, etc.).
- *Sample poster: [Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease](#)*



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – continued

- Post signage throughout the competition grounds (i.e. competition office, competition and schooling areas, barns, etc.) which includes recommendations about good hygiene along with informing participants and others about ways to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission.
 - *Sample Poster:* [CDC – Stop the Spread of Germs](#)

H. Social Distancing & Limiting Entries and/or Stabling

Enforce social distancing requirements throughout the competition grounds at all times.

- All individuals must practice social distancing (or physical distancing) at all times while on the competition grounds by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from any person who is not a member of their [immediate household](#). Members of the same household are still required to wear masks or face coverings at all times **in accordance with competition requirements** while on competition grounds.

*Exceptions

- *Social distancing is not required when competing in driving classes where more than one participant is riding in the horse-drawn carriage or cart.*
- *Individuals are allowed to be seated together while being transported by golf cart (or similar four-wheeled transport vehicle), but capacity may not exceed the number of seats on the cart or vehicle and **all individuals must wear face masks or face coverings.***
- *Congregating on or around a parked or stationary golf cart or vehicle is prohibited, unless the individuals are all visually identifiable (e.g. credentialed) as immediate household members, are all wearing face masks/face coverings **in accordance with the competition requirements**, and do not exceed the seating capacity of the cart or vehicle.*
- *Modifications to social distancing requirements specific to Vaulting competitions are referenced in Appendix C.*
- Competition Organizers are encouraged to implement a system that visually (e.g., numbered or colored IDs or some other form of credential) identifies members of the same household. For Vaulting competition requirements, refer to [Appendix C](#).
- Prohibit the public, spectators, and non-essential personnel **from exceeding the daily spectator capacity limits listed under Section F.1** ~~such as guests from being on the competition grounds~~ until further notice.
 - Competition Organizers must determine whether a sponsor can be present on competition grounds by assessing whether the sponsor meets the criteria of being individuals or business entities that have agreement in place with the competition to provide goods, services, or financial support that is integral to the sustainability of a competition. **If sponsors are present, they must comply with face mask/face covering, social distancing, and all other requirements.**
- Organize horse arrivals and departures to limit contact between people.



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – continued

- Arrange judges' and other officials' areas to comply with social distancing requirements. In the event that it is absolutely impossible to maintain social distancing of six (6) feet or more, a solid, non-porous, securely attached divider must be placed in the location where social distancing cannot be maintained (i.e., between, in front of and/or behind seating areas). The divider provides a physical separation and barrier between individuals and therefore must be of sufficient size to effectively and significantly reduce the risk of respiratory particulates being spread. **The inclusion of such dividers does not eliminate compliance with the competition's requirement to wear face masks or face coverings.** For additional specifics regarding dividers, please reference the [Competition Organizer COVID-19 Action Plan FAQs](#).
- Restrict competition office access to essential personnel only, configure the space and limit the number of office staff to comply with social distancing, and limit the number of participants who can enter the competition office at one time (e.g., schedule check-in/check-out times). **All individuals, whether fully vaccinated or not, must wear face masks or face coverings while inside the competition office.**
- Competition Organizers must notify USEF if entries are to be limited.
 - The FEI will determine whether entries may be limited in FEI classes.
 - Competition Organizers may limit entries to the competition and/or to specific sections/classes within the competition to manage the concentration of horses and people.
 - Regardless of the scope of the limitation, the limiting of entries must be done on a first come, first served basis and relevant information must be posted on the competition website or in the prize list, as well as at the competition office and at each competition area (i.e. ring, arena, field, cross country course).
 - Competition management must also communicate the system used for notifying and “wait-listing” individuals who submit entries after the available spaces are filled, and the method must be equally applied to all potential participants
- Configure stabling to comply with social distancing requirements in order to manage concentration of horses and people.
- Competition Organizers must notify USEF if stabling is to be limited.
 - Regardless of the scope of the limitation, the limiting of stabling must done on a first come, first served basis and relevant information must be posted on the competition website or in the prize list.
 - Competition Organizer must also communicate the system used for notifying and “wait-listing” individuals who submit stabling requests after the available spaces are filled, and the method must be equally applied to all potential participants.
- Competition Organizers must publish their policy regarding entry and stall refunds within the prize list and/or on the competition website.



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – continued

I. Enforcement Authority

USEF Stewards and Technical Delegates will inform individuals when they are not in compliance with the regulations and requirements in effect at the competition and shall report such situations to the Competition Organizer. The Competition Organizer has the authority under GR 702.1 and GR914 to remove from the facility any person who does not comply with the regulations and requirements in effect at the competition. Stewards/Technical Delegates must report the removal of any person from competition grounds for non-compliance with regulations and requirements in effect at the competition in their USEF Steward/Technical Delegate Report.

- Competition Organizers are responsible for enforcing all social distancing and face mask/face covering requirements.
- Stewards/TDs are required to report compliance on the part of Competition Organizers with respect to the mandatory requirements listed above.
 - Did the Competition Organizer confirm completion of the [WHO Mass Gathering for Sports Risk Assessment Tool](#)?
 - Did Competition Organizer adhere to the requirements listed above in Sections D-H to the best of its abilities, including posting the required signage?



Mandatory Requirements for Participants

J. General

USEF-Licensed competitions must operate in accordance with the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan for USEF-Licensed Competitions (Plan). This plan is based on federal, state and local regulations, [WHO recommendations](#), [CDC guidelines](#) and USEF requirements. **There will be times when regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements may differ. In these instances, the more restrictive regulations, recommendations, guidelines and requirements will prevail and supersede all others, e.g. face masks/coverings may not be required by a state or local government but is required at a USEF licensed competition nonetheless due to CDC guidance.** Additional requirements and recommendations specifically applicable to Vaulting competitions can be found in [Appendix C](#).

It is important to note that local public health authorities may impose more restrictive actions and protocols than those listed within this document. The USEF will continue to evaluate new information provided and will update this Action Plan accordingly.

[Participants](#) are required to comply with these and any additional Competition Organizer or local health authority requirements at all times while present on competition grounds. Failure to do so may result in expulsion from the grounds.

These requirements are in effect immediately and until further notice, however, they are subject to revisions as the COVID-19 virus environment changes.

If participants have any questions, please contact Debbie Saliling by email at dsaliling@usef.org or by phone at (859) 225-6930.

K. Waiver/Release & Indemnity Agreement

Provide emergency contact information and execute an ~~updated~~ state-specific [Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement](#) required by USEF, as a condition of participation. If a state-specific waiver is not available, please use the [general version](#) of the form.

~~Please ensure use of the updated form provided by competition organizer.~~



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Participants – continued

L. Access

- [Participants](#) and [Support Personnel](#) are required to self-monitor their temperature once daily prior to entering the competition grounds. Anyone with a temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher may not enter the facility.
- The following individuals are not allowed to enter the competition grounds:
 - Anyone who exhibits [COVID-19 symptoms](#),
 - Anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within last 10 days,
 - Anyone who has tested positive outside of the past 10 days, but is still symptomatic, or
 - *Anyone who has been [exposed](#) to or has been in [close contact](#) with someone who has COVID-19 symptoms or has tested positive for COVID-19 within either the last 7 or 10 days (dependent upon certain criteria - refer to [CDC Quarantine Options](#)).
**Exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties and those individuals who are [fully vaccinated](#) are exempted from this quarantine restriction.*
 - Refer to Appendix A for CDC guidelines for self-isolation/quarantine directives in the event a person has a fever or exhibits other symptoms of COVID-19.
- ~~Participants and Support Personnel are required to wear a facemask or face covering at all times while on competition grounds when not mounted on a horse, riding in a horse-drawn carriage or cart, vaulting as an Individual, Pas De Deux (PDD) or Squad member (refer to [Appendix C](#)), or during in-hand classes as outlined by the *procedures below. You can find recommendations for proper use of face masks and face coverings via the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention website](#).~~
- **Face Coverings/Masks (effective May 17, 2021): USEF recommends compliance with the [CDC guidelines](#) regarding mask wearing and [fully vaccinated](#) individuals, but at a minimum, a competition must comply with state and local requirements. In an effort to mitigate the risk of spreading COVID-19, Competition Organizers can impose requirements more restrictive than those imposed by state and local authorities or the USEF, if they so choose.**
 - **Outdoors: When not wearing a face covering/mask in an outdoor setting, social distancing must be maintained at all times, unless individuals are members of the same [immediate household](#).**
 - **Indoors: USEF requires that a face covering/mask be worn when a person is in any indoor setting, such as an indoor arena, restroom, competition office, vendor booth, VIP area, etc., unless** ~~Require a face mask or face covering for all staff, officials, volunteers, service providers and participants at all times while on competition grounds when not mounted on a horse, riding in a horse-drawn carriage or cart, vaulting as an Individual, Pas De Deux (PDD) or Squad member (refer to Appendix C), or during in-hand classes as outlined by the procedures* below. Competition Organizers must provide face masks or face coverings to competition staff, volunteers and officials.~~ You can find recommendations for proper use of face masks and face coverings via the [Centers for Disease Control & Prevention website](#).



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – continued

- **When wearing a face covering/mask is required at a competition, the following applies:**
 - To eat or drink, an individual must move far enough away from others to minimize the possibility of being within six feet of any other individual before the lowering the mask or face covering to eat or drink. The mask must be immediately replaced over the nose and mouth when finished.
 - If an individual requires modification to this face mask/face covering requirement, please submit written request, accompanied by documentation substantiating the need for modification, to sgilbert@usef.org. It should be noted that we are experiencing a high volume of legal inquiries at this time, and we will respond as quickly as possible. Requests for modifications will be reviewed on a confidential basis with a medical consultant.

~~*In-Hand Class Procedures - face masks or face coverings that fully cover your nose and mouth are required at all times at USEF licensed competitions, including while exhibiting horses and ponies in-hand. However, if~~ **If** absolutely necessary, you may lower your **face covering/mask** while jogging or running with a horse or pony in-hand, or while executing a pattern, but only if you are able to maintain social distancing of at least six feet while doing so. The **face covering/mask** must be replaced immediately once the jog, or run, or pattern, is completed.

***A participant cannot be disqualified or penalized for wearing a facemask or face covering while competing.*

***A participant may choose to wear a facemask or face covering when mounted on a horse and cannot be disqualified or penalized for doing so while competing.*

- If any person who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of competition, USEF, the Competition Organizer, and local public health authorities must be notified immediately. Direct USEF reports to ksacco@usef.org. Competition Organizers will provide the reporting individual with contact information for the local public health authorities who will perform the contact tracing process.
- ****Questions regarding access to competition grounds and eligibility to participate in competition that may not be clearly identified under the points above or under [Point F on page 9](#) must be directed to ksacco@usef.org or dsaliling@usef.org, who will consult with USEF medical experts and provide a written decision from the USEF with regard to the participant's eligibility.*



Mandatory Requirements for Competition Participants – continued

M. Social Distancing/Participation Protocols

- All individuals must practice social distancing (or physical distancing) at all times while on the competition grounds by staying at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from any person who is not a member of their [immediate household](#), or their Vaulting social bubble (refer to [Appendix C](#)). Members of the same household are still required to wear masks or face coverings at all times **in accordance with competition requirements** while on competition grounds.

***Exceptions:**

- *Social distancing is not required while competing (including warm-up) in driving classes where more than one participant is riding in the horse-drawn carriage or cart.*
 - *Individuals are allowed to be seated together while being transported by golf cart (or similar four-wheeled transport vehicle), but capacity may not exceed the number of seats on the cart or vehicle and **all individuals must wear face masks or face coverings in accordance with competition requirements and social distancing requirements.***
 - *Congregating on or around a parked or stationary golf cart or vehicle is prohibited, unless the individuals are all visually identifiable (e.g. credentialed) as immediate household members, are all wearing face masks/face coverings **in accordance with the competition requirements**, and do not exceed the seating capacity of the cart or vehicle.*
 - Modifications to social distancing and face mask/face covering requirements specific to Vaulting competitions are referenced in [Appendix C](#).
- Wash hands often and adhere to other sanitization practices throughout the day.



Recommended Best Practices for Competition Organizers

The following Recommended Best Practices have been provided to assist Competition Organizers with determining risks and developing measures to mitigate those risks. Please note these are not mandatory, however USEF strongly encourages their implementation.

N. General Considerations

- To the extent possible, limit the number of entrances and exits to the venue to manage crowding, social distancing and venue limitations.
- It is strongly recommended that competition organizers secure additional staff or volunteers dedicated to monitoring adherence to Action Plan requirements, and who can support USEF Stewards', Technical Delegates' and Competition Management's efforts to ensure compliance with safety protocols.
- Communication – Use radio, phone and online communication methods as much as possible and communicate important information frequently throughout the competition grounds.
- It is strongly recommended that competition organizers conduct exhibitor meetings (virtually, telephonically, or in an environment where social distancing can be maintained) both prior to and during the competition to communicate requirements and address questions.
- VIP and other social areas are strongly discouraged unless social distancing requirements are enforced in accordance with all applicable federal, state and local regulations, requirements and orders as well as [WHO recommendations](#) and [CDC guidelines](#) as they relate to mass gatherings and sporting events. If offered, VIP areas must comply with applicable portion of [Section F.1](#) above.
- It is strongly recommended that if people are going to travel together in the same vehicle to a competition, they should take their temperature prior to getting into the vehicle to ensure no one travels to the competition with an elevated temperature.

O. Considerations for Facilities, Staff, Medical Personnel, Service Providers & Volunteers

- [Service providers](#) and [support personnel](#) are recommended to comply with the following:
 - Register with the competition organizer and indicate when they are going to be on the competition grounds;
 - Sign a [waiver](#) provided by the organizer;
 - Comply with any competition organizer requirements to change PPE (face mask/face coverings, etc.) when moving between stables; and
 - Do not linger or socialize in stables or anywhere else on competition grounds while performing or after completing work.
- Cleaning/Sanitizing Locations
 - Provide hand sanitization stations with access to soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer at each competition area and schooling/warm up area.



Recommended Best Practices for Competition Organizers - continued

- Provide hand sanitizer to all officials, ring crew, office staff and maintenance staff.
- Frequently sanitize surfaces touched by many: door handles, arena gates, wash racks and hoses, etc.
- Ensure frequent cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms, provide soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer in bathrooms.
- Prohibit the use of public water fountains.

- Competition Office
 - Strongly encourage all competitors to complete entry forms, in their entirety, including having all requisite memberships in place, prior to entering competition office.
 - Strongly encourage that all entries, adds, scratches, feed & bedding orders, billing/invoicing are done electronically.
 - Install clear plastic, glass or other type of protective shield/barrier in front of office staff.
 - Provide hand sanitizer near the door.
 - Provide an 'in' door and an 'out' door, if possible.
 - Provide markers to delineate 6 feet spacing between people in the office and in any waiting lines (e.g., markers on floor).
 - Prepare and email competitor bills as early as possible.
 - Establish appointment times for checkout at the competition office.

- Service Providers and Vendors
 - Advise any service providers (e.g. vendors, food-service, farrier, feed suppliers, waste disposal personnel) to take precautions in accordance with federal, state, local and facility regulations and CDC guidelines.
 - For onsite food-service, consider requesting provision of pre-packaged food only.

P. Competition, Schooling and Exercise Area Considerations

- Utilize posted orders of go and/or published ride times including online orders of go and ride times.
 - At venues with multiple competition areas, consider designating one area as primary where assigned times and/or orders of go take precedence.
- Consider scheduling course walks as necessary to comply with social distancing requirements (e.g., schedule small groups in separate sections).
- Utilize individual water bottles versus community water coolers.
- Limit and organize seating areas to comply with social distancing requirements.
- Restrict the number of people accompanying a horse to the competition area to those persons who are needed for safety or for achieving effective competition, but they all must comply with social distancing requirements.
- Schooling and exercise area provisions:
 - Provide monitors to ensure compliance with requirements and best practices.



Recommended Best Practices for Competition Organizers - continued

- Schooling areas - Provide sanitizing items (spray bottles, wipes) at each competition arena and schooling/warm-up area and advise individuals to wipe down jumps or other equipment after use. For recommendations specific to Vaulting competition warm-up areas, please refer to [Appendix C](#).
- Determine equine/human capacity in relation to the area and restrict access to a limited number in order to maintain social distancing requirements.
- In classes where participants compete collectively, the Competition Organizer must determine and communicate to participants, the maximum number of horses permitted in each competition area at one time based on the size of the competition areas and social distancing requirements.
 - Communicate with participants if classes will be divided and held as separate classes, or split and held in or more than one section. For example:
 - Classes may be divided into separate classes with each class receiving separate awards.
 - Classes may be split into sections with the final section being comprised of the best entrants from each of the previous split sections with one set of awards given in the final section.
- Consider utilizing technology for information transfer to mitigate the risk of virus spread by the manual transfer of paper (i.e. judge's cards, scoresheets, etc.).
- Create a method of giving ribbons and trophies that reduces or eliminates hand-to-hand contact.

Q. Stabling Considerations

- Restrict access to the stabling areas to veterinarians, athletes, officials, grooms, trainers and other essential personnel.
- Remind all personnel in the stabling areas to comply with all best practices and guidelines in effect at the competition.
- Provide hand sanitization stations in the stabling area and encourage stable personnel to use frequently.



Recommended Best Practices for Participants

Although not mandatory, Participants and Support Personnel are strongly encouraged to follow the Recommended Best Practices listed below at all times while present on the competition grounds.

R. Access & Monitoring Considerations

- Provide non-contact thermometers (e.g., temporal or infrared) to staff and require temperature monitoring throughout the day.
- Limit access to stabling area and competition grounds to essential personnel only; discourage multiple family members from accompanying owners and riders.
 - Consider having riders meet their horses at the competition or schooling areas or other pre-designated area to further limit contact in the stabling area.
 - Consider the use of mounting blocks to avoid one-on-one contact between riders and grooms/assistants.
- Provide adequate food and beverage supplies for your barn and your support staff for the duration of the competition to avoid unnecessary community exposure.
- It is strongly recommended that if people are going to travel together in the same vehicle to a competition, they should take their temperature prior to getting into the vehicle to ensure no one travels to the competition with an elevated temperature.

S. Cleaning & Sanitizing Considerations

- Provide hand sanitizer, masks, and other PPE deemed necessary to your barn staff and other personnel and encourage them to use these items on a regular basis.
- Do not mix equipment (tack, grooming supplies, lead shanks, etc.) and sanitize between each use.
- Regularly sanitize bikes/motorbikes/golf carts/car & truck door handles, stable doors, bucket handles, light switches, etc., and equipment including tack, grooming, feeding, stall cleaning materials, etc.

T. Scheduling Considerations

- Schedule competition days (ride times, schooling times, etc.) as efficiently as possible to minimize time spent on the competition grounds each day.



Additional Resources

U. Resources & Reference Tools –

[USEF Coronavirus Disease Resources and Updates](#)

CDC (Centers for Disease Control)

[Symptoms of Coronavirus and treatment resources](#)

[Resources for Large Community Events and Mass Gatherings](#)

- [Q&A on Event Planning and COVID-19](#)
- [Guidance for Organizers - Mass Gatherings and Event Preparation](#)

Print Resources

- Poster – [Symptoms of Coronavirus Disease](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)
- Poster/Fact Sheet - [What you should know about COVID-19 to protect yourself and others](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)
- Poster – [Stop the Spread of Germs](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)
- Poster – [STOP: Stay at home when you are sick!](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)
- Poster/Fact Sheet – [Share Facts About COVID-19](#)
 - [Spanish Version](#)

Audio/Video Resources

- [Public Service Announcement Samples](#) for use by Organizers
- [Reference Videos](#)

Husch Blackwell

[State-by-State COVID-19 Resources](#)

USOPC (United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee)

[USOPC Sports Event Planning Considerations post-COVID-19](#)

[USOPC Return to Training Considerations post-COVID-19](#)

WHO (World Health Organization)

**[WHO Mass Gathering for Sports Risk Assessment Tool](#)

- [Risk Assessment Decision Tree](#)

** *Required for use by competition organizers*

[Technical Guidance: Points of Entry and Mass Gatherings](#)

- [Q&A on Mass Gatherings and COVID-19](#)
- [Key Planning Recommendations for Mass Gatherings](#)
- [Considerations for Sports Federations/Sport Event Organizers when planning mass gatherings](#)



APPENDIX A

Self-Isolation/Self-Quarantine Directives

If you...	Steps to take...
If you or someone in your home might have been exposed	Self-Monitor Be alert for symptoms. Watch for fever, cough, or shortness of breath. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Take your temperature if symptoms develop.• Practice social distancing. Maintain 6 feet of distance from others, and stay out of crowded places.• Follow CDC guidance if symptoms develop.
If you...	Steps to take...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recently had exposure to or close contact with a person with COVID-19, or• Recently traveled from somewhere outside the U.S. or on a cruise ship or river boat	Self-Quarantine <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check your temperature twice daily and watch for symptoms.• Stay home for 14 days and self-monitor. In certain instances, quarantine can end prior to the 14 days. Refer to CDC guidance.• If possible, stay away from people who are high-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.
If you...	Steps to take...
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have been diagnosed with COVID-19, or• Are waiting for test results, or• Have symptoms such as cough, fever, or shortness of breath	Self-Isolate <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay in a specific “sick room” or area and away from other people and animals. If possible, use a separate bathroom.• Read important information about caring for yourself or someone else who is sick.



APPENDIX B

SAMPLE

Competition Organizer Holding Statement – COVID-19 Positive

We were notified on **[INSERT DATE]** that an **[exhibitor / staff member / official / participant – DO NOT INCLUDE NAME UNLESS USE IS APPROVED BY INDIVIDUAL]** tested positive for COVID-19 after attending **[INSERT COMPETITION NAME]**. Per the requirements of the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan, we are notifying all individuals who were in attendance at the competition.

Our staff continues to work diligently to ensure the competition venue is properly sanitized and all protocols of the USEF COVID-19 Action Plan are followed. We ask that individuals on-site remain committed to wearing face masks or face coverings, adhere to social distancing guidelines, and practice frequent hand washing and hand sanitization to mitigate risk while on-site. For additional information, please contact **[INSERT COMPETITION CONTACT]** at **[INSERT EMAIL]**.



APPENDIX C

Requirements and Recommendations for Operating USEF-Licensed Vaulting Competitions

C.1. General

Unless otherwise noted, all requirements and recommendations listed in the [USEF Action Plan for Licensed Competitions](#) apply to USEF-Licensed Vaulting Competitions. This appendix document contains additional requirements and recommendations that are specific to USEF Vaulting and apply to both the training and the competition environment.

In Vaulting, Squad and Pas-de-Deux (PDD) events are both considered a close contact sport, and training and competing will require intermittent high levels of physical contact. Competing and training of Squad and PDD entails an impossibility to maintain social distancing measures at certain times. As a result, it is imperative that members of a Squad or PDD establish themselves into a [Vaulting Social Bubble](#) by adhering to the pre-competition training requirements and recommendations outlined below, and that they maintain their Vaulting Social Bubble throughout training and competition.

Every person involved in Vaulting Events has the responsibility to mitigate the risk of virus spread. Hand and respiratory hygiene, wearing masks, and social distancing have proved to be the most effective measures to prevent virus transmission. In the Vaulting training and competition environment, athletes will need to be especially careful to avoid exposure and spread, even while not training or competing.

If an athlete or Team member/staff becomes infected, each of the other Team athletes and Team staff members would be considered close contacts and would require testing and quarantine. Close contact training should be planned after consultation with local public health authorities. (Refer to Section [C.3. – Pre-Competition Requirements](#) below).

****Attention FEI Vaulting Competition Organizers: Click [here](#) to access the Discipline-Specific Guidelines for FEI Vaulting Competitions taking place during the COVID-19 Pandemic, updated October 12, 2020.**

FEI/USEF Position on Squad Competitions

***During COVID time, and at least until end of 2020, Competition Organizers/OC are not obliged to organize Squad competitions and the FEI and USEF recommend not hosting Squad competitions at any level and in any category. This recommendation overrules any requirements on Squad competitions at CVIs.**

(*References to FEI Board's emergency situation provisions can be found published on the FEI Website).



C.2. Pre-Competition Training Requirements - Vaulting

The training requirements listed below are applicable in a home training environment and must be observed for a minimum of 14 days prior to any competition.

In order to be eligible to compete at USEF Vaulting competitions, all athletes, longeurs, coaches, and staff must comply with and successfully adhere to the group training session and pre-competition training requirements outlined below.

Individual, PDD, and Squad athletes associated with the same club/group/team unit, along with related longeurs, coaches and staff, are required to establish a Vaulting Social Bubble by following the mandatory group training session protocols outlined below in a home training environment for a minimum of 14 days prior to each competition.

A [Vaulting Social Bubble](#) is established when members of the same club/group/team have contact within their own PDD and Squad for a minimum of 14 days prior to start date for each competition, but have no contact with any opposition and have signed a [Waiver of Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement](#) specific to the state in which the competition is being held (if a state-specific waiver is not available, please complete the [general waiver](#) form). PDD and Squads must register with the Competition Organizer as a PDD or Squad prior to the start of a competition. Vaulters competing as an Individual, PDD and Squad are required to follow social distancing requirements when outside their vaulting social bubble.

Criteria for Participation in Group Training Sessions

Every athlete, longeur, coach and staff member who trains as a group must comply with the required criteria listed below for a minimum of 14 consecutive days without any symptom onset or illness outbreak before that group can be deemed to have established a vaulting social bubble:

- No signs or symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
 - If the person has had a case of documented COVID-19 infection, the person is required to obtain a note from a medical doctor indicating they are cleared to participate in group training.
- No [close contact](#) with anyone who is sick within 14 days of beginning group training
 - Since the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 can be fairly non-specific and not just respiratory symptoms, it is recommended that athletes should not be in close sustained contact with anyone who is sick for 14 days prior to beginning group training. This requirement reduces the risk of introducing COVID-19 into the training group by someone who may have COVID-19 but isn't experiencing any symptoms



Pre-Competition Training Requirements – Vaulting (continued)

- All participants must self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 twice daily in accordance with the Self-Monitoring instructions outlined below. If any signs of symptoms or infection are present, the participant should not attend the practice, should notify coaches and staff, and should contact their healthcare provider
- Upon arrival to train, coaches or staff must ask each athlete if they are experiencing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 and take their temperature. If the athlete has any signs or symptoms of COVID-19, they must be sent home and instructed to contact their healthcare provider
- Continue standard infection prevention measures (e.g., frequent handwashing, avoid touching your face, cover your mouth when coughing, etc.)
- Make sure appropriate infection prevention supplies are present in multiple targeted areas (e.g., hand sanitizer, facial tissues, facial coverings, etc.)
- Maintain the same group for all training sessions held in a 14-day period prior to any competition (i.e., do not allow group members to train outside their immediate group or co-mingle with other groups).
- Participants may use each other's equipment, but equipment must be cleaned between use
- Continue to use own water bottle, towel, personal hygiene products (e.g., soap, deodorant, etc.)
- Rigorous, frequent cleaning schedule/protocol of equipment with disinfectant before, during, and after training*, including wearing appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g., gloves, face mask, etc.) to prevent contact with contaminated surfaces and protect against toxicities associated with cleaning products
- Athletes must arrive to group training sessions in practice uniform
- Athletes must avoid congregating in the barn or other common areas
- All participants must adhere to all face mask/face covering and social distancing requirements when in public outside the training environment

**Cleaning of training facilities should follow the [CDC recommendations for cleaning and disinfecting community facilities](#). Frequently touched areas (e.g., door handles, light switches) should be cleaned multiple times daily. Work-out equipment should be cleaned with anti-septic cleansers prior to use, between use by different athletes, and after use.*



Pre-Competition Training Requirements – Vaulting (continued)

SELF-MONITORING INSTRUCTIONS

Twice daily, check for the following signs or symptoms of respiratory infection:

- Temperature of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Cough and/or shortness of breath or difficulty breathing

Other symptoms to pay attention to include:

- Sore Throat, Congestion, Headache
- Muscle and Joint Pain
- New Loss of Taste or Sense of Smell
- Chills
- Nausea, Vomiting, or Diarrhea

If you develop any of these symptoms, please contact your healthcare provider to discuss how to proceed.

In order to be eligible to compete, all vaulting athletes, longeurs, coaches and staff must complete a [Waiver and Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk and Indemnity Agreement](#) for the state in which the competition is held. (If a state-specific waiver is not available, please complete the [general waiver form](#)).

C.3. – Vaulting-Social Bubble Definition

For purposes of this document, a vaulting social bubble refers to members of the same squad or PDD who, by virtue of isolating themselves and adhering to the Pre-Competition Training Requirements listed below, have established themselves as an [immediate household](#) unit and are therefore exempt from social distancing requirements while training and competing (except in the case of PDD or squad members who must maintain a minimum distance of six feet from one another when entering the competition arena and lining up prior to the start of their performance; see [COVID-19 Rule Modification to VA110](#)). Vaulters competing as Individuals, may also be competing as a PDD, or Squad member and would be considered part of a vaulting social bubble. **Members of the same vaulting social bubble are still required to wear masks or face coverings at all times in accordance with competition requirements while on competition grounds when not practicing, warming-up, or competing.**



Additional Mandatory Requirements for Vaulting Competition Organizers and Participants

Unless otherwise noted, all requirements listed in the [USEF Action Plan for Licensed Competitions](#) apply to USEF-Licensed Vaulting Competitions. Additional requirements specific to Vaulting competitions are listed below.

C. 4. Social Distancing & Face Mask/Covering Requirements for Vaulting Athletes

- Vaulting Individuals, Pas de Deux (PDD) and Squad members, who have established a [Vaulting Social Bubble](#) are exempt from social distancing requirements while training and competing (except in the case of PDD or squad members who must maintain a minimum distance of six feet from one another when entering the competition arena and lining up prior to the start of their performance; see [COVID-19 Rule Modification to VA110](#) .
- All Vaulting Individuals, PDD and Squad members, regardless of whether or not they are members of the same vaulting social bubble, are required to wear a face mask or face covering ~~at all times~~ **in accordance with competition requirements** while on competition grounds when not actually practicing, warming up, or competing.
- Individuals, PDD and Squad members are required to maintain their Vaulting Social Bubble throughout the competition and they must adhere to social distancing and face mask/face covering requirements anytime they are outside of their Vaulting Social Bubble.
- Vaulting Longeurs are required to wear a face mask/face covering ~~at all times~~ **in accordance with competition requirements** while on competition grounds, including practice, warm-up, and performance.

C.5. Credentialing Requirements

- Vaulting Individuals, PDD and Squads must register with the Competition Organizer as a Vaulting Social Bubble prior to the start of competition.
- Each vaulting social bubble must be visually distinguishable through the use of uniquely colored arm bands.
 - Vaulters competing as an Individual or PDD who are also a member of a Squad may share the same identification distinguishing the Vaulting Social Bubble.



Additional Mandatory Requirements for Vaulting Competitions - continued

C.6. Facilities & Arenas

- **Cleaning/Sanitizing Locations**
 - Competition organizer must provide hand sanitization stations with access to soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer at each Vaulting competition and practice/warm-up arena.
- **Warm-Up Arena**
 - Use of hand sanitizing product is required when entering and leaving Vaulting Warm-Up Arenas. Each individual will be asked by a volunteer to clean their hands at each entry and exit.
 - If athletes use specific devices to warm-up, the Competition Organizer must provide clear instructions on the necessary process to clean the devices after each use, and the required cleaning products should be available.
 - Whenever sharing material, unless used only by a same Squad or same PDD, the equipment must be cleaned and disinfected before and after each use. The use of shared mats in the warm-up is not permitted.
 - The Competition Organizer must set-up the warm-up area so that the crowd is evenly distributed over the entire surface of the warm-up zone.
 - All chairs, and all other equipment or materials that have been in contact with people must be cleaned with sanitary solution several times throughout the day and the end of each day. A clear cleaning procedure must be established by the Competition Organizer.
 - When leaving the warm-up area, Vaulters and longeurs must enter the competition arena through a dedicated one-way pathway.
- **Competition Arena**
 - An additional sanitary station must be placed at the entrance to the competition arena, and athletes are required to clean their hands before entering and before taking the whip of the longeur, if requested. Longeurs are required to clean their hands if they do not wear gloves.
 - When leaving the competition arena, Vaulters and longeurs must directly exit the arena through a dedicated one-way pathway.
 - Vaulting Judges, scribes and other officials must maintain social distancing and wear face masks/face coverings ~~at all times~~ **in accordance with competition requirements** while on competition grounds, including when officiating.
 - All chairs, and all other equipment or materials that have been in contact with people must be cleaned with sanitary solution between each squad or section performance and at the end of each day. A clear cleaning procedure must be established by the Competition Organizer.



Additional Mandatory Requirements for Vaulting Competitions - continued

Ground Jury/Officials Area

- Arrange judges' and other officials' areas to comply with social distancing requirements. In the event that it is absolutely impossible to maintain social distancing of six (6) feet or more, the erection of a solid, non-porous, securely attached divider must be placed in the location where social distancing cannot be maintained (i.e., between, in front of and/or behind seating areas). The divider provides a physical separation and barrier between individuals and therefore must be of sufficient size to effectively and significantly reduce the risk of respiratory particulates being spread. **The inclusion of such dividers does not eliminate compliance with the competition's requirement to wear face masks or face coverings.**

Falls and Injuries

- Medical service providers must always wear face coverings/masks and gloves when tending to injured athletes or other personnel.
- Anyone else providing assistance, must wear a face mask/face covering, sanitize hands frequently, and maintain adequate distance whenever possible.
- If not already being worn, a face mask/face covering must be provided to an injured Athlete (unless in medical distress).
- The medical facility and ambulance will be managed in accordance with the requirements from the local health authorities.



Additional Recommended Best Practices for Vaulting Competition Organizers and Participants

The following recommended best practices are intended for application in addition to the [Recommended Best Practices](#) outlined in the main USEF COVID-19 Action Plan document. These additional best practices are provided to assist Vaulting Competition Organizers and Participants with determining risks and developing measures specific to Vaulting that mitigate those risks. Please note these are not mandatory, however USEF strongly encourages their implementation.

C.7. Considerations for Facilities, Staff, Officials & Volunteers

- **Changing Rooms**
 - Dedicated changing rooms in compliance with the Minor Athlete Protection (MAAP) Policies, used by athletes to recover and get changed between events should be made available and be large enough to accommodate social distancing.
 - Rooms should be clearly marked and accessible only to accredited Vaulters and Longeurs.
 - A cleaning procedure must be put in place by the Competition Organizer to include the cleaning of these rooms several times per day and at the end of every competition day.
 - When possible, it is highly encouraged that Vaulters arrive at the competition grounds dressed in vaulting competition attire, compete, and leave the grounds in their vaulting competition attire.

- **Ground Jury/Officials Area**
 - Vaulting Judges and scribes should bring their own pens, notebooks, etc.; sharing of equipment should not be permitted.
 - Face masks/face coverings and hand sanitizer should be provided to each judge and scribe. Face masks must be worn by each official and scribe **in accordance with the competition requirements**.
 - The use of headsets to facilitate the communication between judges and scribes is highly recommended in order to accommodate compliance with social distancing requirements.
 - At each rotation of judges and scribes, the table, chairs and all materials should be carefully cleaned with sanitizing solution.

- **Stewards and Technical Delegates**
 - Stewards or Technical Delegates (TDs) should sanitize hands frequently and maintain adequate distance whenever possible. Stewards and TDs must wear face masks/face coverings ~~at all times~~ **in accordance with the competition requirements**.
 - All equipment checks or inspections are to be performed visually.



Additional Recommended Best Practices for Vaulting Competitions - continued

- **Prize Giving and Awards**

- 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.
 - If held, limit the number of participants to a strict minimum, require the use of face masks/face coverings for everyone *in accordance with competition requirements*, and maintain social distancing at all times.
 - No physical contact, hand shaking or hugging between or among participants, coaches, longeurs, etc.
 - Prizes, ribbons, or rosettes should be avoided, but if used, properly cleaned prior to distribution.
 - All participants should clean their hands with sanitizer before entering the arena and upon leaving.