



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: January 20, 2021

Fox Lea Farm comments/actions in PURPLE TEXT.

Fox Lea Farm will update as needed.



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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 begin to 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.

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 August 27, 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	Codie Mott	cmott@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 at least 15 minutes starting from two (2) days before illness onset (or, for asymptomatic patients, two (2) days prior to 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](#)).

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

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.

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.

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.

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 member of competition staff, a service provider (e.g. media or photographer), volunteer, or other support personnel (farrier, veterinarian, etc.).



Definitions - continued

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.

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.

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.

Fox Lea Farm has been instrumental in helping develop these protocols with USEF since the March shutdown. We have been in regular contact with national and local regulatory agencies and are diligently applying actions for all requirements based on our operations and facilities. We have also added protocols specific to our show facility that we feel are best for the general welfare of our exhibitors.

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

- **For currently licensed competitions:** Execute the Addendum to the USEF Licensing Agreement (provided by USEF) by the required deadline prior to the start of the competition.

Ensure that all participants, including 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. **This form will be made available with the entry blanks. Please note that all riders, parents and/or guardians, owners, coaches, and trainers must sign this form before any back numbers are assigned. Absolutely no entries will be accepted or processed before a back number is assigned with this process. No exceptions!** These items will be posted on our website under the COVID Update Tab.

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. **All staff on the show grounds will have their temperature checked upon arrival. If there is an elevated temperature observed in this process (ABOVE 99.5° F or 37.5° C) Then the “Fever or Sickness Protocol” will be: The person will be isolated and directed to immediately proceed to one of two medical facilities:**

- **Gulf Coast Medical Group Urgent Care, 1700 E. Venice Ave, Venice, FL (941)483-9760**
- **Venice Regional Bayfront Health, 540 The Rialto, Venice, FL (941)485-7711**

If for any reason this person does not have a mask on (examples: temperature check in their car or having just come off a horse) then the person will be required to have a facial mask placed immediately. Once this person is directed to one of the two referenced medical facilities, they will assume the treatment responsibility. The same procedure will be followed if anyone on the grounds present any symptoms or complaints of feeling ill. After these processes are completed, all areas of the isolation tent or medical transport will be sanitized thoroughly after the person has left occupancy of the carts or areas.

- If a COVID-19 incident or outbreak occurs, USEF, all competition staff, service providers, participants, and support personnel must be notified.
- Refer to [Appendix B](#) for a sample COVID-19 Positive Holding Statement
Emails or phone numbers will be required from all participants and competition staff and notification will be distributed immediately by text or email upon such an occurrence. Should the “Fever or Sickness protocol” need to be enacted, the USEF will be notified and patient information will be submitted to the best of our ability without violation of HIPAA laws.
- Provide training for competition staff, volunteers and licensed officials regarding all procedures and requirements associated with the Plan. **All staff will follow the same Fox Lea protocol by calling The Medics, Management, Director of Compliance on Channel 1 of the radio communication system. The situation will be described on the radio and the appropriate personnel listed will handle the situation immediately.**



- Ensure vendors and service providers are included in the communication and training requirements associated with the Plan. **Vendors will be extremely limited but any that are allowed to be on the grounds will be included in those notified. Any vendors that are allowed on the grounds will be made aware of these protocols and will be required to notify us immediately if they witness any person exhibiting symptoms where we would need to enact the “Fever or Sickness protocol.”**
- Disseminate a copy of the Plan to all applicable competition personnel **Covered above. This entire document will be sent to all 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. **All of the red text answers and comments are Fox Lea Farm procedures and protocols that will be followed. All of this information is made available on the website and will be constantly updated for everyone to see.**

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. **All horse show staff will have their temperatures checked prior to entering the show grounds. Any staff with a temperature below 99.5° F (37.5° C) may enter the facility. We ask that everyone check their own temperature at home before coming to work or to show to avoid any incident of possible exposure before this mandatory check at the main entry gate or gate checkpoint.**

The following individuals are not allowed to enter the competition grounds: **This will be posted at the entry gate.**

- 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 in [close contact](#) with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 14 days.

**Exception: Healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties are exempted from this 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. **This entire document is posted on our website. In the event the “Fever or Sickness protocol” is enacted then these mandates will be at the direction of Sarasota County Public Health.**

**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.*

- Inform all [competition staff](#), [service providers](#), [participants](#), and [support personnel](#) that if any individual who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of competition, that individual must immediately notify both the Competition Organizer, and the USEF, **and local public health authorities**. Direct USEF reports to ksacco@usef.org. **This will be followed immediately once Fox Lea Farm has been made aware of a positive.**
- Competition Organizers must notify USEF **and local public health authorities**, as well as all competition staff, service providers, participants, and support personnel if any individual who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of the competition. **Sarasota County has directed us to report any positive cases that we are made aware of to the FL Department of Health at 866-779-6121 or COVID-19@flhealth.gov and the reporting individual will be directed to do the same.**
- **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.**
- 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](#).
 - *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 legalrequests@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*
Mandatory Requirements for Competition Organizers – continued

horses and ponies in-hand. However, if absolutely necessary, you may lower your 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 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. **This requirement will be followed and enforced by all Fox Lea Farm personnel along with social distancing requirements.

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.

Posted at all entrances as well as appropriate signage throughout the property.

- 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: **Posted at all entrances**
 - To protect others from possible transmission of the virus, anyone who exhibits [COVID-19 symptoms](#) or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last two weeks (exception, healthcare personnel who have treated patients using appropriate medical-grade PPE during the course of performing professional duties), cannot enter the competition grounds. 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](#) **Posted in multiple locations throughout the property***
- 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](#) **Posted in multiple locations throughout the property***

H. Social Distancing & Limiting Entries and/or Stabling

Enforce social distancing requirements throughout the competition grounds at all times. **All relevant Fox Lea Staff will be wearing florescent vests displaying the constant reminder of social distancing. All Fox**

Lea staff members will have the authority to warn and remind anyone on Fox Lea facility property of the necessity of social distancing. We also realize that many of you have quarantined together for the past several weeks and months. Keep in mind, you know this but no one else would have this knowledge. We ask that EVERYONE abide by social distancing protocols while outside of your cars on the grounds. This includes family members. This is very important for the effective enforcement of everyone on the grounds as well as developing good habits.

- 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 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, 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 such as guests from being on the competition grounds until further notice. **Posted and regulated by all Fox Lea Staff**

Competition Organizers must determine whether a sponsor can be present on competition grounds by assessing whether the sponsor meets the criteria of being essential to providing care to the horses or athletes, or provides direct services contracted by the Competition Organizer. 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 **Stall assignments will be issued by aisle. In any instance where an aisle must be shared, security will regulate unloading so groups can stay apart during this process.**
- 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, rigid 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 the requirement to wear face masks or face coverings. For additional specifics regarding dividers, please reference the [Competition Organizer COVID- 19 Action Plan FAQs](#). Hunter judges are solo. Jumper**

judges are in maximum teams of two with alternating shifts. One acting as a field judge and the other occupying the booth solo

- 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)

Fox Lea Farm Show Office Procedures

We ask that one representative from each barn do all the office related work.

Check-In

Each barn will have an envelope prepared by the office staff. The back numbers for each entry, barn add/scratch, strings, pen, schedules and blank credit card forms will be included.

Please note that entries that are missing credentials will not be included. A barn check or credit card may hold all entries.

Add/Scratch & Derby Declarations

Each show day ONE representative may come to the office to pick-up a paper add/scratch for the barn. In addition, online add/scratch will be open @ horseshowonline.com from 9-4 each day.

At the discretion of the management individual add/scratch may be done at the gates.

Declare horse/s for the Hunter Derby

Splits

All splits must be done by 12:00 on Friday. These may be done by text or email.

Email: foxleafarm3@aol.com

Text: Jennifer @ (803) 295-2759

Check-Out

Payment for individual clients must be collected and presented to the office by the ONE barn representative. Online check out will also be an option. A text and e-mail will be sent by www.horseshowonline.com (HSO) when your bill is ready for payment.

When requested, Saturday or Sunday a packet of barn invoices will be prepared by the show office.

**A check-out time with the secretary may be reserved by text. Text Jennifer @ 803-295-2759
Any changes may be returned to the office by the representative.**

An individual with any special requests may also make an appointment to speak to the secretary. Text Jennifer @ 803-295-2759

All staff radios, computers, clip boards, judges' cards, etc., Will be delivered to their location before the show and picked up after completion.

Competition Organizers must notify USEF if entries are to be limited. **While we are not limiting entries at this time, we reserve the right to in the future. If we limit entries, we will follow USEF guidelines and notify USEF, Exhibitors, and Trainers immediately.**

- The FEI will determine whether entries may be limited in FEI classes. **Not applicable**
- 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. **See Above**
 - 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 be 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. **Stabling will be assigned on a first come first serve basis and only offered to exhibitors that have filled out the proper forms and been assigned a back number. Anyone on a waiting list will be notified where they are on that list.**

- Competition Organizers must publish their policy regarding entry and stall refunds within the prize list and/or on the competition website. **Refunds will be issued if the show is cancelled prior to the start of the show due to Covid 19.**

Stabling will only be offered to those who correctly fill out entries as described in the entry process. Once exhibitors are assigned numbers, the availability of stalls will be opened. All barn areas will be restricted to grooms, trainers, vets, exhibitors competing that day, and other essential personnel. Stabling is limited at the and will be restricted to a maximum increment of 12 per group. Additional stalls will be provided if available on a first come first serve basis. Where possible, extra empty stalls or space will be mapped into stall charts between barn groups.

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. **Fox Lea Farm will reserve this right if necessary, but we are confident that all participants will comply with these requirements that have been established to keep everyone safe.**
- 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? **Yes, we did. We are considered low risk. Form is on file.**

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

[Participants](#) are required to comply with these and any additional Competition Organizer 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.



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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.
- Anyone who exhibits COVID-19 symptoms or has been in contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19 within the last 10 days cannot enter the competition grounds.
- It is important to note that, due to the virus' incubation period, the CDC still recommends a quarantine period of 14 days. However, it is recognized that a shorter quarantine time may balance significant societal personal burdens against the progressive smaller possibility of spreading the virus over time following exposure. Therefore, effective immediately, USEF is adopting the CDC's following options to shorten the quarantine time after exposure.
- An individual exposed to COVID-19 through close contact with a person suspected or confirmed to be infected may discontinue quarantine (and therefore gain access to a competition venue):
 - 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.
 - Check the [CDC website](#) for additional details related to quarantine times following virus exposure.

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](#). **All relevant Fox Lea Farm Staff will be wearing florescent vests displaying the constant reminder of social distancing and all personnel will enforce face mask requirements as well.**

- *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 legalrequests@usef.org. It should be noted that we are*



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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 absolutely necessary, you may lower your 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 mask must be replaced immediately once the jog, or run, or pattern, is completed.*

***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.*

Please remember that showing in Florida the heat is very taxing on your body. Please make sure that you take this under consideration when making this decision. Please stay extra hydrated and wear devices (if you so choose) that do not contribute to Heat related illnesses such as Heat Exhaustion or Heat Stroke.

- If any person who was present on the competition grounds tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days of the conclusion of competition, USEF, ~~and~~ 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.** FL Department of Health at 866-779-6121 or COVID-19@flhealth.gov

****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.*

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 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.*
 - *Congregating on or around a parked or stationary golf cart or vehicle is prohibited,*



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unless the individuals are all visually identifiable (e.g. credentialed) as immediate household members, are all wearing face masks/face coverings, 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](#).

All relevant Fox Lea Farm Staff will be wearing florescent vests displaying the constant reminder of social distancing. All Fox Lea staff members will have the authority to warn and remind anyone on Fox Lea property of the necessity of social distancing. We also realize that many of you have quarantined together for the past several weeks and months. Keep in mind, you know this but no one else would have this knowledge. We ask that EVERYONE abide by social distancing protocols while outside of your cars on the grounds. This includes family members. This is very important for the effective enforcement of everyone on the grounds as well as developing good habits.

- Wash hands often and adhere to other sanitization practices throughout the day.

While there will be sanitizer available at various places throughout our facility, all trainers and exhibitors are asked to please bring their own supplies for practicing good COVID hygiene – sanitizer, gloves, masks, etc.

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. **Only the main Fox Lea Farm entrance will be open. This will be controlled by signage and if deemed necessary, security personnel.**
- 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. **This will be done. We are also exploring options to send mass text communication. Sign up information will be made available as soon as possible.**
- 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



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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.
- 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

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. **We have secured as much hand sanitizer as possible with more supplies and dispensers becoming available on a daily and weekly basis.. We will have sanitizer available at all ingates, show office as well as stations provided in key areas around the grounds. Please remember the barn areas are individual barns' responsibility to provide these items for your staff to operate safely.**
- Provide hand sanitizer to all officials, ring crew, office staff and maintenance staff. **In place.**
- Frequently sanitize surfaces touched by many: door handles, arena gates, wash racks and hoses, etc. Cleaning staff covering the bathrooms will make regular trips to the office to sanitize door handles. Bathrooms will be frequently sanitized with ClenzOzone process. Hand sanitizer will be placed outside the office entry and exit door. Bottled water will be available and dispensed by EMT.
- Ensure frequent cleaning and sanitizing of bathrooms, provide soap and water or alcohol based hand sanitizer in bathrooms. **All permanent restrooms will be cleaned regularly with ClenzOzone process, as well as the regular cleaning. "Tribe Toilets" – personal Porta Potties for your barn area – are available – please see reservations and pricing information on our website. These will be cleaned daily by Clean Cans, the porta potty provider**
- Prohibit the use of public water fountains. **Fox Lea has no public water fountains. Competition Office- If you need to contact the show office you can call or text Jennifer Gamboa at (803)295-2759 or Kim Farrell at (941)809-6365. at (561) 313-5133 or by email at jglosson@equestriansport.com.**
- Strongly encourage all competitors to complete entry forms, in their entirety, including having all requisite memberships in place, prior to entering competition office. **We are introducing a new feature that will allow for electronic entries to be made and signed remotely. These will be available on www.HorseShowsOnline.com**
- Strongly encourage that all entries, adds, scratches, feed & bedding orders, billing/invoicing are done electronically. Please go to www.HorseShowsOnline.com
- Install clear plastic, glass or other type of protective shield/barrier in front of office staff. **The Fox Lea Office has glass windows at each show secretary position**
- Provide hand sanitizer near the door. **This will be provided at entry door and inside exit door.**
- Provide an 'in' door and an 'out' door, if possible. **These have been provided with proper signage in English and Spanish and directional arrows placed on the floor.**
- Provide markers to delineate 6 feet spacing between people in the office and in any waiting lines (e.g., markers on floor). **Measured areas marked and provided**



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- Prepare and email competitor bills as early as possible. **See Section H, for Fox Lea Farm Horse Show Office procedures.**
- Establish appointment times for checkout at the competition office. **You may request an office appointment in advance by texting or calling Jennifer Gamboa at (803)295-2759**
- 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. Fox Lea Café will have on line ordering by going to our website and clicking on tab, and will be providing food for pick up only.
- Utilize posted orders of go and/or published ride times including online orders of go and ride times. **Names and contact information of the respective in gate people will be provided to everyone so they can remotely coordinate when they should be at the ring.**
- At venues with multiple competition areas, consider designating one area as primary where assigned times and/or orders of go take precedence. **The priority ring will be established based on daily numbers and time constraints. This will be announced or provided by mass text notification**
- Consider scheduling course walks as necessary to comply with social distancing requirements (e.g., schedule small groups in separate sections). **All courses will be posted on www.HorseShowsOnline.com the night before, and at rings. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with your course BEFORE you come to the ring. The respective in gate staff will coordinate course walks that follow Social Distancing guidelines. Management reserves the right to close any ring at any time to walking if protocols are not being followed.**
- Utilize individual water bottles versus community water coolers. **Water bottles will be available and dispensed by the EMT at his tent and at the Jumper Ring.**
- Limit and organize seating areas to comply with social distancing requirements. There will be limited seating and placed far apart. Please observe social distancing if you are anywhere near the ring. We are strongly encouraging people to refrain from coming to the ring unless absolutely necessary.
- 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. **Please only bring essential people to the show ring. Trainer, Rider, Groom and Parents (if the rider is a junior) may accompany a horse to the ring. If you are not a junior, you may have one family member accompany you to the show ring. Please maintain social distancing at all times.**

Schooling and exercise area provisions:

Provide monitors to ensure compliance with requirements and best practices. **Always monitored and controlled by stewards, schooling supervisors and/or ingate personnel. A maximum of two people will be allowed per schooling jump and on opposite sides. Jumps will be spaced at least 10' apart to accommodate people on both sides with social distancing.**

Schooling jumps - Provide sanitizing items (spray bottles, wipes) at each competition arena and schooling/warm-up area and advise individuals to wear gloves while handling the jumps and to wipe down jump equipment after use.

We will be requiring gloves when using schooling jumps in the common areas. PLEASE plan on using your own gloves of choice. We will be sanitizing schooling jumps regularly.

Determine equine/human capacity in relation to the area and restrict access to a limited number in order to maintain social distancing requirements. **A maximum of two people will be allowed per schooling jump and**



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on opposite sides. Jumps will be spaced at least 10' apart to accommodate people on both sides with social distancing. Signage enforcing maximum occupancy will be placed around areas that need to be defined. (Such as shade tents or offices.) Fox Lea Farm has ample room on our property that there should never be a reason that social distancing cannot be followed based on the horse counts allowed and ordered.

In classes where participants compete collectively, 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. **We have very large competition rings that can easily accommodate 15 riders with plenty of room to spare. In the rare situation at this time of year where the number could be greater than 15, we will split the class. Announcers and ingate personnel will ensure that all participants will stand greater than 6 feet apart in the center line up. Ingates will also make sure that there is not grouping together upon exiting the ring. No ribbons will be handed on the way out of the rings. Ribbons will be hung individually on a hanger outside the ring area for pick up.**

Communicate with participants if classes will be divided and held in one or more sections. **This will be done in advance of the class online and announced.**

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.). **One person will be designated to pick up judges cards, scoresheets, etc; they will wear mask and gloves, and will sanitize regularly.**

Create a method of giving ribbons and trophies that reduces or eliminates hand-to-hand contact. **Ribbons will be hung individually on a hanger outside the ring area for pick up. Trophy/award selections will be bagged or wrapped.**

Q. Stabling Considerations

Restrict access to the stabling areas to veterinarians, athletes, officials, grooms, trainers and other essential personnel. **All barn areas will be restricted to essential personnel. Individual barns are expected to manage their staff/riders to no more than 10 in barn area at a time. Signage in English and Spanish are placed on every exterior aisle entrance. Stabling is limited to provide room for Social Distancing.**

Remind all personnel in the stabling areas to comply with all best practices and guidelines in effect at the competition. **All barn areas will be restricted to grooms, trainers and other essential personnel (Vets are included). Signage in English and Spanish are placed on every exterior aisle entrance.**

Provide hand sanitization stations in the stabling area and encourage stable personnel to use frequently. **Fox Lea will not be providing hand sanitizer in the barn areas. The barns are in close proximity to sanitizer locations and bathrooms with antibacterial soap. Fox Lea will be providing hand sanitizer and supplies in all of the common areas. The barn area assigned to your operation is your responsibility to operate and apply all best management practices.**

Recommended Best Practices for Participants **Although not mandatory, Participants 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. **It is extremely important that all Trainers, Owners, Riders and Support personnel establish a regular practice of taking your temperature before leaving your house. Not all people that have been infected with the virus have a fever, but for ANYONE**



Additional Resources

who does have a fever should not come on the show grounds under any circumstances.

Limit access to stabling area and competition grounds to essential personnel only; discourage multiple family members from accompanying owners and riders. **All barn areas will be restricted to grooms, trainers and other essential personnel. Signage in English and Spanish are placed on every exterior aisle entrance.**

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. Trainers and your staff should give the most accurate times for when your client will show. **Fox Lea Farm ingate personnel will have tablets and will be updating the Horse Shows Online software to the best of their ability. Names and contact information will be given out for all ingate personnel so that you may stay in touch without approaching ingate stand. Keep in mind there are unforeseen situations that can cause delays. (Injuries, thrown shoes, thunderstorms, etc.) We ask that you have your clients remain in their cars or back at the barn until it is their turn to mount, warm up and be ready to compete in the ring on time. Please keep in mind that we will be enforcing time limits on when you are expected in the ring. Be considerate to your fellow competitors showing after you that are monitoring their posted times.**

Consider the use of mounting blocks to avoid one-on-one contact between riders and grooms/assistants. **Mounting blocks are available at every schooling area.**

Provide adequate food and beverage supplies for your barn and your support staff for the duration of the competition to avoid unnecessary community exposure.

Trainers – You are responsible for your staff. Please make sure you are using knowledgeable professionals that understand all COVID-19 protocols and risks. Please make sure they are taking all necessary precautions both at work and outside of work. Please do not supplement extra personnel into the horse show operation other than the staff you have employed and trusted at your personal operation throughout the lockdown period. The barn area assigned to your operation is your responsibility to operate and apply all best management practices. Trainers are asked to please bring all the same materials and operating protocols that you have implemented in your private barn operation since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Fox Lea Farm will not be providing materials in the barn areas that are essential to operate your private business.

Riders- please rely on your trainers and their staff to give the best times for when you will show. Fox Lea Farm ingate personnel will be updating the HSS system to the best of their ability, however, keep in mind there are unforeseen situations that can cause delays. (Injuries, thrown shoes, thunderstorms, etc.) We ask that you remain in your cars until it is your turn to mount, warm up and be ready to compete in the ring on time. Please keep in mind that we will be enforcing time limits on when you are expected in the ring. Be considerate to your fellow competitors showing after you that are monitoring their posted times. If you are responsible for your own horse then you will be placed as an individual barn and separated accordingly. Always comply with all best practices and guidelines in effect at the competition. All of the COVID-19 protocols that have been established and will be enforced are for EVERYONE'S wellbeing. We ask that all of you take them seriously and remain vigilant.

One important note about Thunderstorms. PLEASE plan on going to your cars in the event of any delay. We cannot afford a situation where groups of people try to go to a single area violating the social distancing protocols. Your personal car should be your safe place at all times.



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Social media posting- Please consider when posting anything on social media that is negative can be a reflection on our entire sport. Fox Lea Farm has done our best to address every area of our sport to make it as safe as possible to continue safely during this worldwide pandemic. Although the phrase “We are in this together” has become overused, we must depend on everyone in our sport to come together to do our individual part. Fox Lea is committed to enforcing all restrictions to the best of our ability, but we cannot control everyone or everything that takes place on the grounds. Negative social media can cause unnecessary hardship to our entire industry, which has already suffered severe economic effects. Please take an extra look at a photo to examine if something looks out of context. Please consider posting a date when posting a photo at a horse show prior to COVID-19 protocols that may be considered a violation of social distancing by today’s standards. More importantly, if you witness anything that you feel is unsafe in this current environment, PLEASE BRING IT TO MANAGEMENT’S ATTENTION. We are all learning how to make things safer and it is ESP’s continued pledge to make whatever changes we can to ensure everyone’s safety and wellbeing.

S. Cleaning & Sanitizing Considerations

Provide hand sanitizer, gloves, 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.

The barn area assigned to your operation is your responsibility to operate and apply all best management practices. Trainers are asked to please bring all the same materials and operating protocols that you have implemented in your private barn operation since the COVID-19 pandemic started. Fox Lea will not be providing materials in the barn areas that are essential to operate your private business.

Night Watch – will continue to be offered. You may opt for text updates vs paper.

Nightwatch will wear masks and gloves, and change gloves between barn groups. Feed drops still provided unless you opt out.

Fox Lea Café: we will be providing on line ordering for take out food. Please go to our website and click on Fox Lea Café button.

O. 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



Additional 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... <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recently had 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	Steps to take... 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• If possible, stay away from people who are high-risk for getting very sick from COVID-19.
If you... <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	Steps to take... 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, published August 27, 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 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 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 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 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, rigid 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 the requirement to wear face masks or face coverings.

Falls and Injuries

- Medical service providers must always wear face 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.
 - 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.
 - 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, 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.