



# Ridge Run Vaulters

## Performance & Competition Information

Competitions can be a fun part of being a vaulter and help to build team relationships, give concrete goals for the vaulters, and provide opportunity for feedback from judges. Ridge Run Vaulters are a very supportive group at competitions. We rely on everyone pitching in to help the team (see volunteer information). Each competition has its own individual characteristics, which are detailed separately.

**Q: In what level and classes will we compete?**

**A: Most vaulters will compete one individual “on horse” vaulting class. Level is based on HORSE vaulting ability. Those with limited horse experience are entered at a Walk.**

### Levels

**Note: not all levels are offered at all competitions, and event host reserves the right to add additional categories.**

#### **1 \* Compulsories**

- **Tiny Tot** - vaulters 6 years and under, at the walk, assisted mounts required and allowed
- **Walk** - introductory level for new vaulters, assisted mounts required
- **Adaptive Walk** - for vaulters of differing abilities, often requiring assistive devices or persons to complete the round
- **Novice Trot** - introductory level for new vaulters comfortable at a trot, assisted mounts required
- **Preliminary Trot** - next level up from Novice, assisted mounts are allowed
- **Trot** - the first “AVA Recognized” level (see Recognition Levels below); vaulter is expected to mount independently
- **Preliminary Canter** - Novice level of canter vaulting, with modified 1\* compulsory and assisted mounts allowed
- **Copper** - the first “AVA Recognized” level of Canter vaulting, 1\* compulsory, independent mount required

#### **2\* Compulsories**

- **Bronze & Silver** - next two AVA Recognized Canter levels, with more difficult compulsory exercises, and multiple rounds

#### **3\* Compulsories**

- **Gold** - Highest AVA vaulting level, competes 3 rounds using most difficult 3\* compulsory



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**Q: How many times will we enter the arena to compete?**

**A: The number of "Goes" or "rounds" in an on-horse class may vary. Some classes require both a compulsory & freestyle round. Other classes require a "go" to the left and then to the right for an "All-Around" vaulting experience.**

- **1 \* Level (ex: Tiny Tot, Walk, Trot, Copper level canter).** There are two goes:
  - A. Compulsories:** set of eight standard moves done in a specific sequence to background music selected by the vaulting club, with no time limit for completion
  - B. Freestyle:** a set of approximately 10 moves choreographed to music selected by the vaulter, with a maximum time limit of 1 minute

Usually these two goes are competed the same day, a few hours apart. To receive an Overall Score and award, a vaulter must compete in both compulsory and freestyle rounds, and scores are averaged. Both routines must be competed at the same gait, but not necessarily on the same horse.

- **2 \* & 3 \* Levels (Bronze, Silver & Gold)** Usually 3-4 rounds, see AVA handbook for details

**Q: What other classes are available to vaulters?**

**A: Classes on the Stationary Barrel, with a partner as a pair (pas de deux), or as a team are also available. Often there are "fun" classes including costume themes or vaulters of mixed ability levels.**

- **Barrel Classes**

- A. Compulsory Barrel Class** (not always offered)
- B. Individual Barrel Freestyle**
- C. Pairs** Choreographed to music selected by the vaulters, 1:30sec in length. Vaulters may be from different clubs.
- D. Team** 4-6 person freestyle routine where vaulters rotate in and out during the routine. Certain classes include a round on the horse (compulsory) in addition to this barrel freestyle, called a "2-Phase". Additional team classes are also available based on ability.

- **Horse Classes**

- A. Team** (see Barrel Classes above)
- B. Pairs / Pas de Deux** available to vaulters who already have a pairs barrel freestyle performed at a walk, trot or canter based on ability



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**Q: How do I declare my intention to compete?**

**A: Each competition, called a “fest” has its own deadlines. Information will be sent via email updates as soon as it is available. Deadlines are hard deadlines. No late entries are allowed. Once a vaulter declares their intention to compete Ridge Run Vaulters will provide a hard copy RRV Entry Form outlining the entry options, including fees, for each vaulter. Vaulters are NOT required to compete in every class for which they are eligible.**

Once RRV Entry Forms are collected, a club volunteer will enter them into the AVA Competition Website. If you would like to volunteer for this (simple click and submit order type entry) task, email [rrrvaulters@gmail.com](mailto:rrrvaulters@gmail.com) for a waiver of your Club Service Fee for the competition.

**Q: What are the fees for the competition?**

**A: Each competition, called a “fest” has its own fees. In general, fees run as follows:**

**Vaulter Fee:** Usually a flat fee (~\$45 ), paid by Ridge Run Vaulters on your behalf, to the event host to register for the event. Some competitions have a small upcharge called single event membership which allows non-AVA members to participate. Often see in “Fun Fest” events. Fun Fest events are the lowest levels (tiny tot, walk, preliminary trot....)

**Class Fee:** \$10-\$25 per class, paid by Ridge Run Vaulters on your behalf, to the event host for each activity the vaulter intends to compete. USEF (bronze & up) pay a USEF fee as well.

**Horse Lease Fee:** ~\$40-\$70 per “go”, paid by Ridge Run Vaulters on your behalf to borrow time for your event on a horse from another participating club. Clubs often lease horse time when travel distance is cost prohibitive or the number of club participants in the event does not support bringing club horses.

**Club Service Fee:** \$15 per competition, paid to our club Ridge Run Vaulters, for the time spent processing entries, music and horse lease arrangements as well as offset annual AVA membership dues

**Club Travel Fee:** ~\$50 per competition where Ridge Run brings its own competition horses, paid to our club Ridge Run Vaulters, to offset the cost of gas, health certificates for travel, hotel rooms for coaches and stabling at the event. Events greater than 3hours away will have an upcharge of approximately 50cents per mile in addition.

**Medal Fee (Optional):** Vaulters can perform tests for the judges to earn medals when they have competed for a time and are achieving certain score levels.

**Clinic Fee (Optional):** Many competitions host skills clinics after the event hosted many times by the judges and coaches at the event. These have varying fees (\$25-\$100)to participate, often include lunch, and may or may not include horse time. They are a ton of fun and a chance to work with members from other Clubs.

**Q: How do we pay?**

**A: Check to “Ridge Run Vaulters” for the total amount along with the hard copy of your entry form indicating your classes.**



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**Q: Are there any extra forms other than the entry form?**

**A: Liability Release & Waiver forms are usually required of the event host and the event host site. These will given to vaulters, or their legal guardians, by Ridge Run Vaulters to to be returned signed and completed in full with payment.**

**Q: How is music selected for the competition?**

**A: Music for run-in marches, compulsories and team freestyle is selected and submitted by Ridge Run Vaulters. Music for individual freestyle is selected by the vaulter and requires coach approval (mostly to make sure there aren't lyrics). Music must be in MP3 format, 1:30 to allow a buffer, and without lyrics. Add an additional :30 if the music is for a pair, for a total of 2:00 of music. Email music to: [rrvaulters@gmail.com](mailto:rrvaulters@gmail.com) a minimum of 14 days prior to the event. Some events will have different deadlines.**

Once RRV Music Files are collected, a club volunteer will update all metatags associated with the fie to meet the event host requirements. Once updated, they will be uploaded to an online Box for retrieval by the event host. If you would like to volunteer for this (simple click and submit order type entry) task, email to [rrvaulter@gmail.com](mailto:rrvaulter@gmail.com) for a waiver of your Club Service Fee for the competition.

**Q: How do I find out when I will be competing?**

**A: Within a week of the competition, the event host will release competition schedule. It is called an "Order of Go", or OOG. There will be a location ("blue arena") and time stamp for each class, down to the minute, and its list of horse, lunge and vaulter for the class. The time assigned is a HARD deadline. You may be asked to go earlier if the competition is running ahead of schedule,, but are not required to go earlier than your assigned time. If you are late or miss your time, however, there is NO accommodation. Vaulters are expected to stay until the end of the competition day to participate in awards ceremonies - even if they are not receiving awards. This is good sportsmanship!**

**Q: What does the Event Host require as Volunteer Time for the competition?**

**A: All clubs are required to provide the event host with volunteers, one per vaulting family entered in the competition. So, if siblings are entered, only 1 volunteer shift is required of that family. Volunteers can be parents, grandparents, friends or older siblings. Prior vaulting knowledge is not required. Everyone is friendly and ready to teach you what to do. Sign ups will be offered by the event host. Ridge Run Vaulters will share the job sign up link when it is released. Most jobs are half day, ~4hours and range from selling concessions and cleaning up manure in the competition ring to handing out ribbons or helping the judge with score sheets. Vaulters leasing horse time should check with the coach to see if there's anything we can do to help with the horse we are borrowing.**



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**Q: What does Ridge Run Vaulters require as Volunteer Time at the competition?**

**A: In addition to working shifts for the event host, the vaulters need help with finding their competition number bands, hair, unitards, snacks, finding shoes, knowing when to go into the ring, assisting with costume changes, etc. Vaulters are expected to stay until the end of the competition to help pack up.**

**Q: What does Ridge Run Vaulters require as Volunteer Time BEFORE or AFTER the competition?**

**A: In addition to working shifts for the event host, the horses need help with washing, braiding, cleaning their tack, washing pad covers, packing up the trailer, sweeping aisles, feeding, watering & cleaning stalls. Vaulters are expected to stay until the end of the competition to help pack up.**

**Q: Where do vaulters stay?**

**A: Many vaulters choose to stay in the same hotel for the duration of the competition. Competitions often are Saturdays, with Clinics on Sundays. If bringing a horse arrival is Friday afternoons with some practice time that evening. Some vaulters stay at camp grounds nearby. Pack a swim suit! There's often a pool to have fun.**

**Q: How soon before my first "Go" should I arrive?**

**A: If familiar with the horse being borrowed and competition venue, being dressed, warmed up and ready to go 30 minutes prior is plenty. If horse warm-ups are allowed, timing is at the discretion of the club providing the horse. These warm-ups by other clubs are BRIEF - possibly only a minute or two per vaulter and only a few key moves (mount, stand, a unique freestyle hold) to get a feel for the horse that day. Experience with the horse comes with time, and borrowing over multiple competitions. If bringing our own horse, vaulters assist in readying the horse 2 hours prior to the first go.**

**Q: What do we wear for Awards Ceremonies?**

**A: Vaulters are expected to stay for awards, and to the end of the awards to show good sportsmanship! You must wear your Ridge Run Vaulters team half-zip coverup with logo over any pair of athletic leggings. If your competition round ended right before awards, just put the coverup over your unitard. At Nationals, vaulters must change into long black leggings.**



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**Q: What do we wear for competition?**

**A: Unitards/Costumes vary depending on your level and classes entered.**

**Competition Number Band:** All vaulters must wear their AVA number, a permanent vaulter identifier, on the side facing the judge. This arm or leg band must be at least 3" tall and clear enough to see. Vaulters without an AVA number use "NEW" on their band and registrations.

### Compulsories:

- If a vaulter is competing in any AVA Recognized level (Trot and above), they **MUST** purchase an official Ridge Run Vaulters unitard. These are custom designed just for Ridge Run Vaulters by GK Elite. There are approximately \$350 new. As our club and vaulters grow, used unitards may become available for rental or purchase. Any vaulter, regardless of level, may purchase and wear a team unitard. Donations toward the unitard rental program is appreciated.
- If a vaulter is competing in any Fun Fest/unrecognized competition, any light grey/silver solid unitard is acceptable. Alternatively, boys may wear black leggings and tight long sleeve athletic shirt. Email [rrvaulters@gmail.com](mailto:rrvaulters@gmail.com) to links on Amazon for basic pieces (~\$25). Ultimately, if this is your first competition, any leggings and shirt or leotard over leggings will do if keeping to the team colors of silver/grey, black and apple/lime green.

### Freestyle:

- Vaulters under the age of 13 may not have any "flesh", real or imagined, showing anywhere on the unitard. Lined neutral colored mesh may be ok for certain competitions. Check with your coach.
- Your unitard is your costume. It should reflect your personality and theme of your music and routine. Performance matters!
- Items that may come loose such as jingly belts, wings, loose skirts, hair bows are not allowed. Be sure to practice in whatever you are planning to use before the event. This is extra important for holiday and themed costume fun classes.
- Pairs should have coordinating costumes. They do not have to match, just make sense for your theme.

**Team Events** will require an additional number be placed on the vaulter, in addition to the required compulsory team unitard

**Shoes:** Clean vaulting shoes should be worn. Usually not the same pair you wear to practice. They may be white for your freestyle, but black is required for compulsory and team events.

**Warm-ups:** It is recommended that vaulters wear any "spirit" item during their barrel warmups, with the top of their unitard down to avoid sweat marks under the arm pits.

**Awards:** All competing vaulters must wear a Ridge Run Vaulters half-zip team coverup (~\$35)



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**Q: How do I create my freestyle routines?**

**A: AVA, USEF and FEI rule books and code of points are published online at [americanvaulting.org](http://americanvaulting.org) . All interested parties are encouraged to familiarize themselves with these resources. Those requesting assistance from a coach in constructing an initial routine should schedule private barrel time.**

**Q: Do I have to be an AVA Member?**

**A: AVA membership is optional, but encouraged! Support our club and our sport with a recreational, fan or competitive membership and receive a cool magazine plus be included in clinics and events for all levels. At this time, Ridge Run Vaulters does not directly charge vaulters an annual fee to compete as a member of our Club. However, Ridge Run Vaulters pays \$65 for AVA Membership annually as do our coaches (\$150) and lungers (\$50). In addition, Ridge Run Vaulters pays for insurance and the care, feeding and continued training and equipment for our vaulting horses which is significantly more. Donations of time, talents or funds are welcome as Ridge Run Vaulters, LLC is an Ohio non-profit company and a subordinate 501(c)3 organization under the American Vaulting Association. All donations are fully tax deductible.**

**Q: How do I get more involved as a club activity manager, coaching assistant or lunger?**

**A: Ask! Future coaches and lungers are welcome to learn alongside our vaulters. Sign up for the same class as your vaulter and be paired with the staff coach or lunger for that class. Ridge Run Vaulters is always looking for extra hands at competitions. It could be you!**

**Q: How can I practice at home?**

**A: Vaulting barrels may be purchased through LB Barrels (\$899). Visit [lbvaultingbarrels.com](http://lbvaultingbarrels.com) for more information. Ridge Run offers a limited number of rental LB Barrels for at home use to all vaulters enrolled in our programs. Cost ~\$39/month. Contact [ridgeruninfo@gmail.com](mailto:ridgeruninfo@gmail.com) for details.**



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