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The following rule changes were approved by the Executive Committee December 21, 2004. The effective date is noted after each rule change. Both 2004 and 2005 rule references are indicated as a cross reference.

GR103.4 (Article 108) . Age. (Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)

GR103.4. Age. The age of an individual on December 1st will be maintained throughout the entire competition year. Persons born on December 1st will assume the greater age on that date. If a competition is in progress on any November 30th, an individual's age at the start of the competition will be maintained throughout the competition. (Exceptions: see Arts. 122, 1704.2, 1919.3, **DC110**, and 3206.2).

GR807 (Article 807) Permission to Compete in Foreign Competitions. (Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)

4. FOREIGN COMPETITORS: Riders, drivers, vaulters, and **longeurs** who are **not citizens of the United States, regardless of Federation membership status and country of origin.**

a. **Foreign Competitors who desire to compete in non-breed restricted, National Competitions in the FEI recognized disciplines in the United States must have proof, in English, of membership in good standing from their National Federation or must be members in good standing of the United States Equestrian Federation.**

b. **Competition management must request proof, in English, of current membership in good standing from their respective National Federation , or proof of current USEF membership.**

GR1401 (Article 1401.9) Requirements. (Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)

9. **The following statement must be published in BOLD TYPE for all Regular Competitions; Eventing Competitions at the Preliminary Level or above, Combined Driving Competitions at the Advanced Level, Dressage Competitions, Endurance Rides and Vaulting Competitions: LIFE, SENIOR ACTIVE AND JUNIOR ACTIVE MEMBERS SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL CLASSES AT REGULAR COMPETITIONS, EVENTING COMPETITIONS AT THE PRELIMINARY LEVEL OR ABOVE AND COMBINED DRIVING COMPETITIONS AT THE ADVANCED LEVEL, DRESSAGE AND VAULTING COMPETITIONS AND ENDURANCE RIDES PROVIDED THE RESPECTIVE BREED/DISCIPLINE DUES OR BREED/DISCIPLINE CATEGORY FEE HAS BEEN PAID. A NON-MEMBER MAY PARTICIPATE AS A HANDLER, RIDER, DRIVER, OWNER, LESSEE, AGENT, COACH OR TRAINER AT REGULAR COMPETITIONS, EVENTING COMPETITIONS, DRESSAGE COMPETITIONS AND COMBINED DRIVING COMPETITIONS UPON PAYMENT OF A \$20. NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION FEE AND A \$5. BREED/DISCIPLINE CATEGORY FEE FOR EACH BREED/DISCIPLINE. PARTICIPANTS IN THE FOLLOWING CLASSES ARE EXEMPTED FROM THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS RULE; 1) LEADLINE; 2) EXHIBITIONS; 3) GAMES AND RACES; 4) CLASSES FOR 4-H MEMBERS; 5) WALK TROT AND ACADEMY CLASSES (Academy classes are classes limited to horses used regularly in a lesson program); 6) USDF INTRODUCTORY LEVEL TESTS, PAS DE DEUX AND QUADRILLE CLASSES. ALSO EXEMPTED FROM THIS REQUIREMENT ARE **CITIZENS OF OTHER NATIONS WHO HAVE PROOF, IN ENGLISH, OF CURRENT MEMBERSHIP IN GOOD STANDING OF THEIR OWN NATIONAL FEDERATION** 7) USEA BEGINNER NOVICE DIVISION, **AND** 8) ASSISTANT HANDLERS IN DRESSAGE SPORT HORSE BREEDING CLASSES.**

GR1215.8 (Article 1215.5.4) Entries. (Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)

8. Ensure that every rider, driver, **longeur**, and vaulter in a non-breed-restricted event in an FEI recognized discipline has complied with GR807.4.

GR911 Disputes. (Article 911.1) (Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)

1. Points are final on December 15 (should the 15th fall on a weekend, the deadline will be set for the following Monday) following each competition year or 15 days following the end of the designated Zone competition year and in the Paso Fino Division points are final on September 15 following the competition year and in the Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Division, points are final on November 21 following the competition year.

GR915.6 (Article 915.6 Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian Divisions. (Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)

6. Award Categories. National and Regional awards will be awarded in the following categories:

English Pleasure/Pleasure Driving - Open, Adult Amateur, Junior Exhibitor;

Country English Pleasure/Country Pleasure Driving - Open, Adult Amateur, Junior Exhibitor;
Hunter Pleasure - Open, Adult Amateur, Junior Exhibitor;
Western Pleasure - Open, Adult Amateur, Junior Exhibitor;
Working Western Horse - includes Trail, Reining, Working Cowhorse, Cutting and Western Riding, one award category;
Hunter/Jumper - one award category;
Specialty Horse - includes Park, English Show Hack, Ladies Side Saddle, Native Costume, Hunter Hack, Formal Combination, Informal Combination,
Formal Driving, Roadster, Versatility, Gymkhana and Sport Horse Under Saddle, one award category;
Breeding/In-Hand - includes Stallions, Mares, Geldings for Arabians and Mares and Geldings for Half/Anglo Arabians, one award category;
Dressage - **Open, Amateur.**
Grand Champion Arabian Horse is based on the total of all points won in all Arabian categories. Grand Champion Half/Anglo Arabian Horse is based on the total of all points won in all Half/Anglo Arabian categories. Grand Champion Arabian Gelding is based on the total of all points won in the Arabian Horse categories. Grand Champion Arabian Junior Exhibitor's Horse is based on the total of all points won in Arabian Junior Exhibitor classes.
Grand Champion Half/Anglo Arabian Junior Exhibitor's Horse is based on the total of all points won in Half/Anglo Arabian Junior Exhibitor classes.

GR916 Hackney. (Article 916.6) *(Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)*
6. Award Categories. National & Regional Awards will be given in the following categories: Open Hackney Pony, Amateur Hackney Pony, Open Harness Pony, Amateur Harness Pony, Pleasure Pony Driving, Hackney Roadster Pony (shares one award with Open Roadster Pony), **Amateur Hackney Roadster Pony (shares one award with Amateur Roadster Pony), and Junior Exhibitor Hackney Roadster Pony (shares one award with Junior Exhibitor Roadster Pony).** See GR923.6

GR1504.2a(7) (Article 1504.2.g) *(Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)*
1504.2a (7) Non-U.S. citizens (as defined by GR1401.9) and Foreign Competitors (as defined by GR807.4) must provide proof, in English, of current membership in good standing in their respective National Federation, or hold current membership in good standing with USEF.

GR1504 (Article 1504.e.4) Membership and Document Requirements. *(Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)*
3. Participation of non-US citizens in national competitions in the US.
a. Non-U.S citizens **who are not current members of USEF as provided in GR201 must either provide proof, in English, of current membership in good standing in their own National Federation, or must pay a registration fee as provided for in GR207 (for exceptions see GR1401.9.) A USEF Senior member must still pay Breed/Discipline category fees and dues.**
b. In any discipline, owners and trainers who are non-US citizens and who have a current letter of permission/good standing from their own federation, are exempt from

Federation membership requirements per Art. III, Sect. 3, as well as Breed/Discipline dues and fees per GR204 and GR207. Under this rule, non-US citizens must provide proof to competition management of current permission/good standing from their own federation in order to be exempted from Federation membership requirements.
c. Foreign **Competitors** who participate in Federation amateur classes, in any discipline, must be in possession of a Federation Amateur Card. However, **non U.S. citizens** are not required to become Federation Members **if they provide proof, in English, of membership in good standing in their own National Federation.**

AR107. (Article 1607.6) *(Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)*
6. Additional causes for mandatory elimination from the arena are a) removal of eyelashes, b) changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail (See GR319), c) balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils, **d) No product shall be applied to a horse's hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Only clear or transparent products may be used on the hooves of horses while being shown in Breeding and/or In-Hand classes.**

DR120 (Article 1920.8) Dress. *(Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)*
8. Spurs must be made of metal. **The shank** must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are allowed. The arms of the spur must be smooth. If rowels are used, they must be free to rotate. **Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs on the shank are allowed ("Impuls" spur). "Dummy" spurs with no shank are also allowed.** Only blunt metal spurs, no longer than 1.5 cm are permitted for FEI Pony Rider tests. This restriction also applies to warm-up and training areas, as well as during competition. Offset spurs without rowels are permitted for riders having an appropriate Dispensation Certificate.

DR121 Figure B. #9 (Article 1921. Fig. 1.b) Saddlery and Equipment. *(Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)*
B. PERMITTED BRIDOON, CURB AND SNAFFLE BITS
2. Various snaffle bridle bits:
9. Straight bar snaffle. **Permitted also with mullen and with eggbutt rings.**

DR121 (Article 1921.1) Saddlery and Equipment. *(Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05)*
1. An English type saddle with stirrups is compulsory for Federation and USDF tests. An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles (exception: competitors with a current approved Federation Dispensation Certificate). A Dressage saddle **which must be close to the horse and have long, near-vertical flaps and** stirrups is compulsory for FEI tests. Saddle pads are

optional, but should be white or of conservative color. While present in the competition area and during prize-giving ceremonies, the name and/or logo of the individual's sponsor(s) may appear on a surface area not exceeding 200 cm² on each side of the saddle cloth. Breed logos (for horses registered with that breed), national flags (for citizens of that country), and business/farm names or logos (used with permission of farm/business owner) are also permitted and must have the same specifications as sponsor logos. No other advertisement or publicity is permitted on saddle cloths or horses. *BD 1/18/04 Effective 12/1/04*

DR121 (Article 1921.6) Saddlery and Equipment.

6. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, **nasal strips**, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "easy-boots") or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, ear muffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. Fly hoods (ear covers) will only be permitted in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet and should not cover the horse's eyes, and will only be permitted in extreme cases at the discretion of the presiding judge(s). Permission must be granted prior to the class and applies to all competitors in the class. However, leg bandages are allowed in Pas de Deux and Quadrille classes. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used, except that a breastplate is not permitted in USET Championships, USET Qualifying and Selection Trials, and Observation classes. A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Rein additions or attachments are not permitted. A side rein is defined as an auxiliary rein affixed to the bit and to the girth, saddle or surcingle on the side of the horse (not between the legs). Any decoration of the horse with **extravagant** items, such as ribbons or flowers, etc. in the **mane**, tail, etc., is strictly forbidden. Braiding of the horse's mane and tail, however, is permitted. False tails are permitted and if used may not contain any metal parts.

DR128.6d (Article 1928.6.4) Saddlery and Equipment.

6. Music

d. In case of rider's music failing during a Freestyle Test and in cases where there is no backup system, the rider **can, with permission of the judge at "C,"** leave the arena. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders and the affected rider should return to complete or restart his/her test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The rider may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. Judging must restart at the point of interruption. In any case, the marks already given will not be changed.

DR128.7d-f (Article 1927.7.4 -1927.7.6) Musical Free Style Ride.

7. Movements

d. Movements intentionally performed above the level declared shall be penalized by elimination, **preferably immediately**. **A rider showing more than one half-pirouette** (i.e., more than 180 degrees) **in one continuous movement** in the Young Rider

Freestyle Test, or **a rider showing more than one** full pirouette (i.e., more than 360 degrees) **in one continuous movement** in the Intermediate I Freestyle Test, **will receive a "0" (zero) for the whole movement, and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than "5."** See DR124.1.m.

e. Once a movement has been included in the tests of the Freestyle level declared or those below, it can be shown at any location in the arena (for instance, pirouettes on the center line in Intermediate I) or at sharper angles (half-pass) or in greater numbers (tempi changes) to enhance the degree of difficulty.

f. Grand Prix Freestyle Tests. Besides all the Grand Prix **level** movements, double pirouettes, pirouettes in piaffe and half pass in passage are allowed. **A rider showing more than a double pirouette (i.e., two pirouettes of more than 360 degrees each) in one continuous movement, will receive a "0" (zero) for the whole movement, and the scores for choreography as well as the degree of difficulty cannot be higher than "5."** A rider showing other **non-permitted** movements must be disqualified. One Piaffe has to be shown straight (minimum 10 steps). If the Piaffe is only shown as a Pirouette, a minimum of 10 steps is to be shown before or after turning. Passage shown in Half Pass is not considered as the compulsory passage. Scores and credit for transitions will only be given for the sequence "passage, piaffe, passage". Airs above the ground and Canter "Terre a Terre" are not allowed. Flying changes must be shown in at least 5 consecutive changes every second stride and minimum nine changes at every stride.

EV135.4 (Article 1735) Dressage Arena. (*Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05*)

4. If there is only one judge, he is placed 5 meters (16 feet) from the end of the arena opposite the letter C. When two judges are used, one (the President) is placed at C and the other is placed **5 meters from the side** of the arena, **opposite the letter E or B**. When three judges are used, one (the President) is placed at C, **another (M or H) is** placed at the end of the arena on a line with the judge at C, to his left **or** right, 2.5 meters in from the long side of the arena, **and the third judge is placed 5 meters from the side of the arena, opposite either E or B**. A separate enclosure (tent, trailer) should be provided for each judge and it should be raised at least 0.5 meters (20 inches) above the ground to give the judge a good view of the arena.

VA103 (Article 3703.5) Competitors. (*Approved EC 12/21/04 Effective 1/1/05*)

5. A team may have up to two foreign vaulters as members and be eligible for awards provided that each of the foreign competitors **has complied with the Federation membership requirements set forth in GR807.4 and GR1504.3.a, GR1504.3.c, and GR1504.3.d**. Foreign competitors and longeurs who desire to compete in **non-breed restricted National Competitions in the FEI recognized disciplines in the United States** must have proof, in English, of membership in good standing from their National Federation or must be members in good standing of USEF. Competition management must request proof, in English, of current membership in good standing from the Foreign Competitor's respective National Federation or proof of current USEF membership.