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This is official notice that a copy of the adopted rule change(s) reproduced below may be obtained by downloading from this website or by sending a written request to the attention of Mary Smith, Director of Licensed Officials, United States Equestrian Federation, Inc., 4047 Ironworks Parkway, Lexington, KY 40511 or by e-mailing [msmith@usef.org](mailto:msmith@usef.org).

The following rule changes were approved by the Board of Directors July 12, 2005. The effective date is noted after each rule change.

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#### **GR212. Licensing Procedures.** [Chapter 2. Membership.] **Effective 12/1/05.**

2. Complete License Applications must be accompanied by the appropriate fees and either sent certified mail, post-marked, overnight with tracking, or by receipted fax. Applications must be received by the date specified by 5. below. **Applications for FEI Competitions cannot be submitted to the FEI until the national competition has been licensed by the Federation.** Applications for new competitions which are not made in accordance with the above will be returned and not considered. Applications for competitions unable to be approved for any reason, including mileage conflicts, will be sent written notification by the Competitions Department and held for a period of 30 days from the date of that notification to allow the competition in question to submit the information required, seek alternative dates, make other amendments, or submit written permission from the competition in conflict, as applicable. At the end of the 30-day period, if the application has not been completed or the 30-day period extended by the Competitions Department, the application will be considered to have been withdrawn and the dues will be refunded. Except as provided herein, there will be no holding of applications or dues, and applicants must reapply from year to year. Applications that seek approval for a License to conduct a competition on a date that has been open for more than the web posting period will be accepted at any time. All applications for dates that have been open for more than the new open date web posting period will be considered on a first received basis.

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#### **DC103 [FEI 903] OFFICIALS** [Chapter DC. Driving -- Combined Driving Division] **Effective 8/1/05**

##### **3. The Duties of the Ground Jury**

a. The duties and responsibilities of the Ground Jury are laid down in the General Regulations (Chapter VIII). Moreover, each member of the Ground Jury has the right and the duty to eliminate or disqualify any horse which, according to him, is lame or unable to continue the competition in accordance with Rule DC100.8.

b. The Ground Jury is responsible for the conduct of the entire Event.

c. The President of the Ground Jury will decide the locations where the Judges will supervise Competitions A, B and C.

d. All the members of the Ground Jury will judge Competition A. Judges may not judge more than 40 Competitors in a day. This number may be increased with the permission of the President of the Ground Jury.

e. The President of the Ground Jury is responsible for the control and publication of the results of each Competition.

*f. At USEF licensed National competitions (more specifically, and in addition to those listed in 3a through 3e above), the period of jurisdiction of the Ground Jury extends from one hour before the start of the competition until one half hour after the announcement of the final results of the competition for which the Ground Jury has been appointed.*

*g. At USEF licensed National Competitions, each member of the Ground Jury must eliminate any competitor who contravenes the rule regarding protective headgear. (See Rule DC147.2.b)*

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#### **DC147 [FEI 947] COMPETITORS** [Chapter DC -- Combined Driving Division] **Effective 8/1/05.**

##### **1. Participation**

A Competitor or Groom may only take part in Competition B once at the same event.

##### **2. Dress**

Less formal dress is acceptable for Competition B for the Competitor and Grooms. "Shorts" are not permitted. Competitors should wear a hat - preferably protective headgear - but gloves and apron are optional.

*At USEF licensed National events:*

*a. The penalty for contravening rules regarding dress is five (5) points.*

*b. All persons in the vehicle in Competition B, Marathon, Section E, Obstacles must wear properly fastened protective headgear which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carry the SEI tag. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. The responsibility for compliance rests with all the persons in the vehicle. Failure to comply results in elimination, and the competitor will not be allowed to continue in the Marathon. (See DC103.3.g)*

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#### **HB04. Class Specifications.** [Chapter HB. Hunter Breeding] **Effective 12/1/05.**

1. Breeding classes are judged on conformation, way of moving, quality, substance, soundness and suitability to become or in the case of sires and dams apparent ability to produce or beget hunters. Transmissible unsoundness is only to be considered in case of sires and dams or prospective sires and dams. Horses are to be **judged for conformation before being walked and/or jogged.** ~~walked and/or jogged before being moved on the line in the order of preference.~~ Broodmares and weanlings are to walk. Yearlings, Two year-olds and Three year-olds are to walk and jog. Horses that are not sound are ineligible for an award. *If the section has only one judge and thus one set of points, the entries should be lined up in the order of preference before the ribbons are pinned. If this is a two-judge section with two sets of points, the entries are not lined up in the order of preference until both judges have turned in their cards. The announcer or ringmaster will first line up Judge #1's entries in his/her order of preference before awarding the ribbons. After the first judge's ribbons have been*

*awarded, the announcer will line up the second judge's entries in his/her order of preference before awarding the ribbons for the second set of classes.*

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## BYLAW CHANGES – effective December 1, 2005

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### BYLAWS.

Changes all references to USOC "Constitution" to USOC "Bylaws"

### BYLAWS [Bylaw 102 – Objects]

Section 1. Vision Statement. The vision of the Federation is to provide leadership for equestrian sport in the United States of America, promoting the pursuit of excellence from the grass roots to the Olympic Games, based on a foundation of fair, safe competition and the welfare of its human and equine athletes, and embracing this vision, to be the best national equestrian federation in the world.

Section 2. Mission Statement. As the National Governing Body (NGB) of Equestrian Sport in the United States we will inspire, encourage interest in, and regulate equestrian competition by ensuring the safety and well-being of horses, regardless of value or competitive level; ensure the enforcement of fair and equitable rules and procedures up to and including the preparation for the Olympic Games; and endeavor to advance the level of horsemanship in the United States. Our mission is to govern the sport in compliance with the laws of the United States and the Constitution and Bylaws of the United States Olympic Committee (USOC), and in addition, to provide vision and leadership to equestrian sport in the United States, to promote the pursuit of excellence in equestrian sport from junior and grass roots programs to Olympic Games and international equestrian competitions (hereinafter "sport" or "equestrian sport"). To accomplish this mission, our members and staff, working together will:

(1) Serve as the NGB for equestrian sport in the United States and member of the USOC. The Federation as NGB shall comply with all applicable laws and USOC requirements, including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, compliance with the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, as amended, and with the USOC Constitution and Bylaws.

(2) Serve as the National Federation (NF) for equestrian sport in the United States and member of the Federation Equestre Internationale (FEI). Work together with the FEI in its mission to protect competition horses from any form of abuse, extend the universality of equestrian sport, and promote its visibility to the public.

(3) Protect and support the welfare of horses by inspecting, monitoring and testing to deter use of forbidden substances and other cruel, unsafe and/or unsportsmanlike practices and by adopting and enforcing rules to prohibit such practices.

(4) Promote and encourage physical fitness, promote sportsmanship and public participation in equestrian events and activities in the United States, and educate members and the public with respect thereto; assist organizations and individuals concerned with the development of programs for athletes in equestrian events; and provide services for members' common benefit.

(5) Assure the right of an equestrian athlete to compete in any international equestrian athletic competition conducted under the Federation's auspices or that of any other equestrian sports organization or person, unless the Federation establishes that its denial was based on evidence that the organization or person conducting the

competition did not meet the requirements stated in Section 220522 of The Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act and Article VII, Section 2 of the USOC Constitution; and protect the right of any athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official to participate in athletic competition in equestrian events; and provide an equal opportunity to amateurs, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials to participate in amateur athletic competition without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, age, sex, or national origin and with fair notice and opportunity for a hearing to any amateur athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, or official before declaring such individual ineligible to participate.

(6) Provide the strongest possible U.S. representation internationally in each of the FEI disciplines, including providing a selection process for each major event.

(7) Disseminate and distribute, or otherwise make readily available to equestrian athletes, coaches, trainers, managers, administrators, and officials, in a timely manner the applicable rules and any changes to such rules of the Federation, the USOC, the Federation Equestre Internationale ("FEI"), the International Olympic Committee, the International Paralympic Committee, and the Pan American Sport Organization; and provide for the swift and equitable resolution of conflicts and disputes involving its members.

(8) Provide a body of rules with which to govern equestrian sport at the national level, along with an effective means of enforcing them, and a judicial process that is fair to competitors while providing for optimum integrity within the sport.

(9) Encourage and support amateur athletic sports programs for ~~disabled and/or handicapped individuals~~ **individuals with a disability** and the participation of ~~disabled and/or handicapped individuals~~ **individuals with a disability** in amateur athletic activity, including, where feasible, the expansion of opportunities for meaningful participation by ~~disabled and/or handicapped individuals~~ **individuals with a disability** in programs of athletic competition for able-bodied individuals.

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### BYLAWS [Bylaw 301 - General Authority and Responsibilities]

Section 1. The Federation shall have a Board of Directors. Except as otherwise provided by these bylaws, the Board of Directors shall have all governance, supervising, and administrative authority of the Federation. The authority and responsibilities of the Board of Directors shall include:

(1) the general management of the affairs of the Federation. The Board may make contracts in its name and behalf or authorize such contracts to be made by the Officers of the Federation.

(2) making and enforcing the rules governing Recognized Competitions and Individual Members and all other persons, corporations, associations or other organizations bound by the Rules. The Board shall adopt in its discretion rules recommended by its Committees;

(3) after a hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 701, to censure, suspend or expel any officer or member of any committee of the Federation or any other person whose conduct shall be found to be adverse to the best interests of the sport or the Federation or in violation of its Bylaws or Rules;

(4) after a hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 701, to censure or fine a Recognized Competition for cause or suspend or terminate the recognition of any Competition for cause;

(5) shall keep a record of its proceedings and shall report at the annual meeting of the Federation, or at any special meeting of the Board;

(6) alter or amend the dues structure, including all fees, at any time as it deems warranted;

(7) notwithstanding the above, the Hearing Committee shall have exclusive jurisdiction within the Federation to hear and determine grievances respecting "protected competitions" as provided in Bylaw 703; and,

(8) upon a majority vote of those members present at a duly called meeting of the Board, increase the number of directors on the Board of Directors as it considers appropriate to provide (a) that at least 20 percent of the voting members of the Board are Athletes, and (b) that there is adequate representation and to ensure reasonable direct representation for any amateur sports organization that either (i) conducts equestrian programs on a level of proficiency appropriate for selection of athletes to represent the United States in international competition or on a national basis, or (ii) conducts a regular national equestrian competition in the Olympic *and Paralympic* disciplines. For purposes of this section, "reasonable direct representation" means representation that reflects the nature, scope, quality, and strength of the equestrian programs and competitions of that amateur sports organization in relation to all other equestrian programs and competitions in the United States.

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**BYLAWS** [Bylaw 302 - Composition]

Section 1. The Board of Directors consists of the following 54 Directors (or such greater number as increased pursuant to Bylaw 301(8), each of whom must be a Senior Active Member, with each Director having one vote:

(1) Twelve Eligible Athletes (or such greater number as needed to provide at least 20% Athlete representation on the Board), elected as provided by Bylaw 411 and Bylaw 421.

(2) One representative from each Sustaining Member elected as provided in Bylaw 303 (considered At-Large Directors for caucus purposes).

(3) One representative from each of the ~~seven~~ **eight** High Performance disciplines, elected as provided in Bylaw 303.

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**BYLAWS** [Bylaw 303 - Election of Voting Directors]

Section 1. Athlete Directors. The Athlete Directors shall be elected by Eligible Athletes as provided in Bylaw 413. In 2005 and every fourth year thereafter, the Eligible Athletes shall elect four Athletes to serve a four-year term as Director of the Federation, one from each of the three Olympic disciplines, and one from any of the three Olympic Disciplines, who shall also serve as the Federation's USOC AAC member. In 2005, the Eligible Athletes shall elect two Athletes (one each from Driving and Reining) to serve a three-year term as a Director of the Federation and in 2008 and every fourth year thereafter to serve a four-year term. In 2005, the Eligible Athletes shall elect two Athletes (one each from Endurance and Vaulting) to serve a two-year term as a Director of the Federation and, in 2007 and every other odd-numbered year thereafter to serve a four year term. In 2005, the Eligible Athletes shall elect four Athletes (one from each Olympic discipline and one ~~Paralympic Athlete~~ **from ParaEquestrian**) to serve a one-year term as a Director of the Federation and in 2006 and every fourth year thereafter to serve a four year term.

Section 2. High Performance Discipline Directors. The High Performance Discipline Directors shall be elected as provided in Bylaw 504. Beginning in 2005 and every

fourth year thereafter, each of the three Olympic discipline High Performance Committees (Dressage, Eventing and Jumping) *and the ParaEquestrian High Performance Committee* shall elect an individual from their respective committee to serve a four-year term as a Director of the Federation. In 2005, each of the four non-Olympic discipline High Performance Committees (Driving, Endurance, Reining and Vaulting) shall elect an individual from their respective committee to serve a three-year term as a director of the Federation and in 2008 and every fourth year thereafter to serve a four-year term.

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**BYLAWS** [306.3(a) and 306.3(b)]

Section 3. Order of Proceedings at Annual Meetings. The order of proceedings at annual meetings shall be as follows:

(a) The first meeting shall be a meeting of the Voting Members of the Federation (being the "Old" Board of Directors) *for closing out its business and* for receiving the nominations of the Nominating Committee and the election of the Secretary and Treasurer, if applicable, and for the election of At-Large Directors, if any. Immediately following this meeting, ~~the constituencies of the Board (as described in Bylaw 302)~~ *the second meeting shall be called and shall be the first meeting of the newly elected Board.*

(b) *Upon the convening of the second meeting, the Board* shall *immediately* caucus to make the annual designation of members to the Working Groups in accordance with Bylaw 311 and giving due consideration to the preference of the individual directors and their respective expertise. Each Working Group shall then caucus to select its chairman, who shall serve on the Executive Committee. *Once those working groups have been populated, the Board of Directors for receiving will receive* the nominations of the Nominating Committee for the three additional Directors to serve on the Executive Committee, additional nominations shall be received from the members of the Board, if any, for receiving the report of the Nominating Committee as to proportional representation for the National Affiliates for the ensuing year; receiving the report of the Treasurer; as well as any additional items as may properly come before the Board of Directors.

(c) The third meeting shall be a second meeting of the newly elected Board of Directors, for the election of the Executive Committee and consideration of rule changes and receipt of Committee reports. At the annual meetings, the Board of Directors shall entertain such additional business as may properly come before it.

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**BYLAWS** [307.2]

Section 2. Removal. Any director, whose removal for cause is sought shall first be afforded an opportunity for a hearing conducted in accordance with the provisions of Bylaw 701. Removal for failure to pay dues shall not be deemed removal for "cause" and shall occur as provided in Bylaw 205. Notwithstanding any provision in these bylaws to the contrary, if any organization having proportional or direct representation on the Board fails to join and pay dues as an Affiliated Association Member of the Federation and be subject to all responsibilities and privileges of Affiliated Association Membership, such failure shall constitute cause for the removal of the Directors then serving on the Federation Board representing such association or corporation and for the suspension of the election of any new Directors to such positions. *If a Director other than an Athlete Director misses two consecutive Annual Meetings of the Board for any reason, the Director and the President shall*

*be so advised in writing by the Recording Secretary of the Board.* If an Athlete Director misses three consecutive meetings of the Board of Directors for any reason, the Athlete Director and the Chairman of the AAC shall be so advised in writing by the Recording Secretary of the Board, and the AAC Chairman in turn shall notify in writing the Secretary of the Corporation that said Athlete Director's seat shall be deemed vacant. The Chairman of the AAC shall also inform in writing the Eligible Athlete who continues to meet USOC Requirements in the discipline where the vacancy occurs who received the next highest vote total in that Athlete Director's election and who accepts such position that he or she shall complete the remainder of the term of such Athlete Director position and until his or her successor is elected. Any Director *other than an Athlete Director* who misses two consecutive ~~Annual~~ **Annual Meetings** without being excused in advance by the President may be removed by the Executive Committee; ~~For~~ the purposes of the foregoing, the meetings held during the Annual Meeting shall be counted as one meeting and shall be considered missed only if all are missed.

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**BYLAWS** [Bylaw 413 - Athlete Elections and Appointments]

Section 1. All elections regarding, and appointments to, Designated Committees and other Committees shall at all times and in all respects be conducted in accordance with applicable USOC Requirements, with all elections and appointments being conducted pursuant to the guidance and direction of the Officers, subject at all times to the supervision, control and oversight of the Executive Committee to ensure that USOC Requirements are met. As to appointments to other Committees which are not Designated Committees, the President shall appoint those athletes in accordance with USEF Bylaw 501.2.

Section 2. The procedures for electing Athletes shall be determined by the Athletes' Advisory Committee of the Federation, in accordance with USOC Guidelines, as approved by the Executive Committee. The Chief Executive Officer and the National Office shall assist the AAC in conducting the election of Athletes to serve on the Board of Directors, Executive Committee and other Designated Committees.

Section 3.

(a) The National Office of the Federation will develop and maintain mailing lists, complete and up to date as practical, of all Eligible Athletes and will compile a report regarding the upcoming election listing the vacancies which will be occurring in Athlete Directorships and in Athlete Committee positions requiring direct election by Eligible Athletes (other than the Hearing Committee) which will be filled at the ensuing annual meeting. In accordance with the timetable, the National Office of the Federation will send copies of the report and the mailing lists to each member of the ANC and will send copies of report to all Athletes together with a response form asking each Athlete if he or she wishes to nominate one or more Eligible Athletes to fill such vacancies. The discipline affiliation of each Athlete Director whose term is expiring shall be specified in the report and reflected in the ballots so that following the election the total number of Athlete Directors serving on the Board is in accordance with Bylaw 303. The ANC shall nominate at least two candidates willing to serve for each vacancy occurring in Athlete Directorships representing ~~disabled Athletes and~~ the respective disciplines that are on the equestrian programs in the Olympic, **Paralympic**, or Pan American Games or the FEI. The ANC's nominations must include Eligible Athletes who are willing to serve and who were nominated by Athletes via the response forms. A candidate representing a

discipline must compete or have competed in such discipline. The President shall nominate at least two candidates willing to serve for each Athlete vacancy on the Hearing Committee. The list of Eligible Athletes nominated by the President to stand for election to the athlete representative positions on the Hearing Committee must be submitted to the ANC for approval. If the ANC rejects one or more of the President's nominees, then the President must submit additional nominees, as needed, to the ANC for approval. This process shall continue until a complete slate of Presidential nominees is approved by the ANC. The nominations by the ANC and the President, as the case may be, and the balloting procedures must ensure that after the election all USOC Requirements will be met. Pursuant to the timetable adopted by the Executive Committee, the list of the nominees of the President and the ANC shall be delivered to the National Office of the Federation, and the National Office of the Federation shall mail the following (in an envelope bearing the National Office return address) to the last known address of each Eligible Athlete on its mailing list who is eligible to vote:

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**BYLAWS** [Bylaw 431 - Athlete Nominating Committee]

The Athlete Directors of the Federation shall annually comprise the Athlete Nominating Committee ("ANC"). The greater of three or one-third of the Athlete Nominating Committee shall constitute a quorum. It shall be the duty of this committee:

(1) to nominate Eligible Athletes for election to the Athlete Director vacancies ~~in the international level disabled athlete position and~~ in the positions of the respective disciplines that are on the equestrian programs of the FEI;

~~(4) to nominate Eligible Athletes for election by Eligible Athletes to the Athletes' Advisory Committee after consultation with the Chairs of the U.S. Equestrian HP Discipline Committees and the Discipline Committees for the FEI disciplines and with the Chair or Co-Chairs of the Disabled Sport Committee in a manner which will assure that following the election each FEI discipline will have at least one Eligible Athlete elected to the Athletes' Advisory Committee and at least one international level disabled athlete will be elected to the Athletes' Advisory Committee;~~

~~(5)~~ (4) to nominate Athletes for any other position within the Federation that requires direct election by Athletes pursuant to USOC Requirements. In each case the ANC must nominate Eligible Athletes nominated via the Athlete response forms as provided in Bylaw 413. It shall also be the duty of this committee to approve or reject the President's nominees to stand for election to the athlete representative positions on the Hearing Committee until a complete slate is approved.

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**BYLAWS** [Bylaw 502 - Administrative and Finance Committees]

Section 13. Hearing Committee.

(b) The Hearing Committee shall provide fair notice and an opportunity to expeditiously hear grievances regarding the opportunity of any amateur athlete, rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee, agent or trainer, riding coach or driving coach, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official to participate in, or to attempt to qualify for selection to participate in, the Pan American Games, the Olympic Games, **the Paralympic Games**, World Championship competitions or any other "protected competitions" as that term is defined in Article I, Section 2 (g) of the USOC Constitution whether such grievances be against a competition, athlete, coach,

trainer, manager, administrator or official of the Federation, another organization which is an affiliate member of the Federation, a committee of the Federation, or a committee of an affiliate association or a committee of the Federation. Any member of the Federation may file a grievance with the Hearing Committee pertaining to any matter within the cognizance of the Federation and alleging a violation of any provision of the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act or the USOC's Constitution or Bylaws. In (i) hearing grievances and (ii) hearing any protest or charge within the jurisdiction of the Hearing Committee arising out of a "protected competition," affecting the opportunity or ability of any amateur athlete, rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee, agent or trainer, riding coach or driving coach, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official to compete or participate, five members of the Hearing Committee shall be appointed by the co-chairs of the Hearing Committee, after consultation with the President, to constitute the hearing panel, of whom at least two shall be Athlete members of the Committee, who are not competing in the discipline which is involved in the dispute. The Hearing Committee shall promptly issue its findings in accordance with these bylaws and Rule VI, which findings shall be final, except where otherwise provided in the Constitution and Bylaws of the USOC. For the rules and procedures which govern hearings of grievances by athletes and others, see Part VII of these bylaws and Rule VI of the Federation's Rules.

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**BYLAWS [504.2(b)]**

Section 2. High Performance Discipline Committees.

(b) Each High Performance Discipline Committee shall make recommendations to the High Performance Working Group of the Board and to the Executive Committee as to teams, ~~and~~ individuals *athletes, chefs d'equipe, and coaches* to be designated to represent the United States in future Olympic Games, *Paralympic Games*, Pan American Games and other international competitions in its discipline, ~~including athletes, coaches, administrators and sports staff, and recommend~~ ***Each High Performance Discipline Committee shall make recommendations to the High Performance Working Group of the Board as to administrators, sports staff, and personnel, including but not limited to, veterinarians and farriers to be designated to provide support services to those teams and individual athletes designated to represent the United States in future Olympic Games, Pan American Games, and other international competitions in its discipline. Each High Performance Discipline Committee shall recommend to the High Performance Working Group of the Board*** criteria and selection procedures of the applicable FEI discipline. Each FEI Discipline High Performance Committee shall (i) assist the High Performance Working Group of the Board in the supervision of the selection processes, (ii) develop annually the high performance plans and proposed budgets for the respective discipline, (iii) direct and approve the training plans for such discipline including recommendations of coaches and other staff positions, scheduling of clinics and practices, and recommendations on logistical matters regarding teams and individual participation in international competitions, (iv) develop plans for application for USOC funds in its discipline, if applicable, and the administration of those funds and shall recommend these plans to the High Performance Working Group of the Board. At any meeting of a High Performance Discipline Committee the presence of at least five members shall constitute a quorum provided that at least one athlete member must be present. Once constituted, each

High Performance Discipline Committee shall choose its Chairman, who will serve as a Director of the Federation, and a Vice-Chairman. Every fourth year as soon as practicable following the election of athlete representatives to each High Performance Discipline Committee and the approval by the Executive Committee of other Committee members, but no later than 45 days before the first meeting of the Annual Meeting, each High Performance Discipline Committee shall meet for the sole purpose of electing from among their members a High Performance Discipline Director to serve on the Board of Directors beginning the following January.

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**BYLAWS [Bylaw - 504 High Performance Committees]**

Section 3. Eligible Athletes High Performance Discipline Committees.

(e) The Eligible Athletes High Performance Discipline Committees will serve as advisors to the High Performance Discipline Committees, and VP High Performance with respect to the recommended programs and selection procedures for the training and preparing of horses and riders for international competition including but not limited to the Olympic Games, *Paralympic Games*, World Championships and Pan American Games.

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**BYLAWS [Bylaw 702 – Opportunity to Participate]**

Section 2. Neither the Federation nor any member of the Federation may deny or threaten to deny any member athlete, rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee, agent or trainer, riding coach or driving coach, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official the opportunity to compete in the Olympic, *Paralympic*, or Pan American Games, World Championship competitions or such other "protected competition" as defined in the USOC Constitution; nor may the Federation, or any member of the Federation, subsequent to such competition, censure or otherwise penalize any such athlete who participates in any such competition.

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**BYLAWS [Bylaw 703 - Grievances Related to Opportunities to Participate]**

Section 1. Any athlete, rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee, agent or trainer, riding coach or driving coach, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official or any member of the Federation may file a grievance against the Federation, another organization which is an Affiliated Entity of the Federation, a committee of the Federation, a committee of an Affiliated Entity of the Federation, or any athlete, rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee, agent or trainer, riding coach or driving coach, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official or any member of the Federation pertaining to any matter within the cognizance of the Federation and alleging a violation of any provision of the Federation's Bylaws or Rules, the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act, or the USOC's Constitution or Bylaws. A grievance may be filed by any amateur athlete, rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee, agent or trainer, riding coach or driving coach, coach, trainer, manager, administrator or official regarding his/her opportunity to participate in, or to attempt to qualify for selection to participate in any equestrian event of the Pan American Games, the Olympic Games, *Paralympic Games*, World Championship competitions or any other protected competitions as that term is defined in Article I, Section 2(G) of the USOC Constitution, including any domestic amateur athletic competition or event organized and conducted as part of the selection procedure directly qualifying each successful competitor therein as an athlete representing the U.S. in such equestrian international competitions. Any grievance must be made in writing over the

signatures of the person or persons presenting the same, and must state the full name(s) and address(es) of the athlete, coach, trainer, manager, administrator, official, the Federation, another organization which is an Affiliate Entity of the Federation, a committee of the Federation or a committee of an Affiliate Member of the Federation against whom the grievance is made, and must include with specificity a complete statement of the acts which constitute such grievance, including the requested relief sought. The maker(s) must be prepared to substantiate the grievance at a hearing by a preponderance of the evidence, including by personal testimony of a witness or witnesses with personal knowledge subject to cross examination and by sworn statements, other witnesses and by other competent evidence. The requirement of personal testimony may be excused by the Hearing Committee if the parties to the grievance stipulate to the relevant facts.

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