Earphones/buds continue to be a significant safety concern. Riders using them cannot maintain sufficient awareness of their surroundings, leading to collisions or near-collisions. A significant enough percentage of riders continue to willfully disregard the safety of others in this aspect, making it imperative to prohibit their use in the interest of safety of horses and riders.
Appendix A. USEF Hunter Schooling Rules

1. Schooling is permitted in accordance with GR834, GR835, GR837 and HU Appendix A.
2. Schooling areas for hunters must contain adequate standards, jump cups and rail and hunter-type rails to make a minimum of a trotting fence, a vertical and an oxer.
3. The use of FEI approved safety cups is mandatory in all warm-up/schooling areas.
4. The unsafe use of electronic devices, as determined by the competition steward in their sole discretion, including cell phones, with or without earphones/buds while mounted is prohibited in all areas designated for schooling and exercise, and while lungeing horses on competition grounds. *Earphone(s)/Earbud(s) are prohibited in all areas designated for schooling and exercise.*

[...]