In an effort to support safety and welfare at USEF-licensed competitions, the Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare Committee recommends the creation of the Safety and Welfare Steward license, to be deployed across all USEF-licensed competitions. This individual would work with the Licensed Steward or TD at each competition to enforce safety and welfare related rules, with a general focus on monitoring and enforcing rules in stabling, and monitoring lunging and warm-up areas.

Safety and Welfare Stewards will be subject to the requirements outlined in the LO Policies and Procedures, be licensed by the Federation, and be considered a type of Federation licensed official.

**Standard minimum requirements:**

- USEF member, completed SafeSport Training, completed and passed a background check, and completed LO Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training

**License-specific requirements:**

- Experience at a minimum of two Federation licensed competitions within the past five years in at least one of the following positions: competitor, trainer, owner, licensed official, competition employee (i.e. in-gate personnel, jump crew), competition official (including but not limited to those listed in GR113)
- Complete an online course. Lessons to be developed, but focused on the roles and areas of responsibility, and also include standard USEF curriculum such as social media, regulatory process, etc.
- Apprenticing
  - Apprentice at least two competitions with a current Federation Steward or TD
  - Exception: if already a Federation licensed Steward or TD, apprenticing is not required.
- Final exam
  - Pass a final exam on Federation rules with a score of 85% or higher
1. Stewards shall be licensed by the Federation as Registered, Recorded, or Special, in either one or both of in the following Categories:-
   a. A Category 1 (C1) Steward is licensed to officiate the following specialized Divisions and Sections: Hunter, Hunter Breeding, Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation, Jumper, Welsh, Connemara, and English Pleasure.
      1. Any steward officiating USEF Open (not restricted to a breed) hunter and/or jumper classes must be a Senior Active member in good standing of the United States Hunter Jumper Association, Inc.
   b. A Category 2 (C2) Steward is licensed to officiate the following specialized Divisions and Sections:
      Andalusian/Lusitano, Arabian, Connemara, English Pleasure, Friesian, Hackney Harness, Morgan, National Show Horse, Parade, Paso Fino, Reining, Roadster, American Saddlebred, Saddle Seat Equitation, Shetland, Western/Reining Seat Equitation, Welsh, Western Dressage and Western.
   c. An Equine Safety and Welfare Steward is licensed to officiate at Federation Licensed Competitions.
2. A Category 1 or Category 2 steward is entitled to officiate in only the corresponding divisions and sections of the license category listed above.

GR1037 Additional Duties of Equine Safety and Welfare Stewards
In addition to the responsibilities of a steward listed in GR1034, the powers, duties and responsibilities of an Equine Safety and Welfare Steward are as follows:

1. Monitor the schooling, exercise, lunging, and stabling areas paying special attention to the safety of horses and riders, including but not limited to:
   a. Overworking of horses;
   b. Cruelty to and abuse of a horse (see GR838);
   c. Overcrowding of the schooling, warm-up, and lunging areas;
   d. In hunter, jumper, and equitation schooling, exercise, and lunging areas at Hunter/Jumper competitions: unsafe use of electronic devices (See HU Appendix A, JP103, EQ106);
   e. Safeguard the welfare of the horse against violations of the Federation’s Drugs and Medications rules, and any of the Federation’s prohibited practices;
   f. Ensure stabling, if provided, is in compliance with all applicable stabling rules; and
   g. Report to the Competition Steward or Technical Delegate on violations of Federation rules.

GR1005 Officiating Eligibility and Guest Cards
[...]
10. Category 1 and 2, and Equine Safety and Welfare Stewards
   a. Guest Cards are not permitted.

GR1211 Appointment of Officials and Employees
3. Stewards/Technical Delegates
   a. Appoint and identify in the prize list and catalogue one or more licensed Federation Stewards licensed to officiate in the divisions and sections for which the competition is approved who shall be present at each session of the competition. A technical delegate must be appointed for Eventing Competitions, Dressage Competitions and Regular and Local Competitions offering “open” Dressage Division classes (i.e., classes which are not limited to certain breeds) or classes above Third Level. (Exception: A Category 2 or Combined Category steward may officiate through Fourth Level in the Andalusian, Arabian, Friesian, Morgan or other breed-restricted Divisions at regular or local competitions, only if classes are not part of an “open” Dressage Division.) If required to officiate, a Dressage Technical Delegate must be present and officiate for all Dressage classes held on the day(s) which he/she is in attendance. If no other classes except Dressage are held on a licensed day of a breed-restricted regular or local competition, a steward does not need to be present in addition to the Dressage Technical Delegate.
   b. If a competition finds it necessary to substitute a steward or technical delegate for one who is officially designated in the prize list and/or catalogue and who is unable to serve due to circumstances beyond his control, the restrictions of
GR1304.14 and/or GR1304.25 shall be non-effective.

c. Competitions are urged to engage a steward for each ring when classes are held simultaneously and to select individuals who are well versed in the divisions being offered.

d. With the exception of Hunter/Jumper competitions (see GR1211.3e), competitions using more than three performance areas simultaneously must have at least two stewards on duty. Dressage arenas do not count as a performance area. If more than six performance areas are used simultaneously, at least three stewards must be on duty.

e. A Federation licensed Hunter/Jumper competition must appoint C1 Stewards as follows:
   1. When one to four performance areas are in use simultaneously, at least one Steward must be on duty.
   2. When five to eight performance areas are in use simultaneously, at least two Stewards must be on duty.
   3. When nine or more performance areas are used simultaneously, at least three Stewards must be on duty.
   4. A competition using four performance areas simultaneously that had more than 500 horses competing the previous year must have two Stewards on duty.
   5. A competition in its first year of operation must have two Stewards on duty if four to eight performance areas are in use simultaneously.
   6. When more than one steward is required, the licensed Stewards must designate one as the Senior Steward for that competition and must notify competition management.

f. For each competition day that a Dressage Competition schedules 300 or more rides (including Dressage and DSHB entries), the competition must have at least two Dressage Technical Delegates on duty. When only one competition ring is in session, only one Dressage Technical Delegate need be present on the grounds. Dressage Competitions holding both a national competition and a CDI must have a separate Dressage Technical Delegate in addition to the FEI Chief Dressage Steward.

   g. **Beginning December 1, 2024, at all Federation Licensed Competitions where the previous year’s entries were greater than five hundred (500) horses, an Equine Safety and Welfare Steward must be appointed. Beginning December 1, 2025, an Equine Safety and Welfare Steward must be appointed at all Federation Licensed Competitions.**

   g. At all competitions using more than one competition ring, management must provide a hand-held communication device (i.e. walkie-talkie or cell phone) to at least one steward or technical delegate.

h. A Paso Fino competition with more than 175 Paso Fino horses competing based on the previous competition entry numbers, determined by the amount of Federation fees paid to the Federation, shall be required to have at least two stewards.