

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	3/10/2023	

## Rule Change Intent

The accurate identification of horses is essential. At Federation Licensed Competitions, the best manner in which to identify horses is through a Federation Horse Identification Number, which does not require recording with the Federation. During times of disease outbreak, natural disasters, theft, and to protect against fraud, microchipping of horses is fundamental to good horsemanship. The requirement for all horses competing at USEF licensed competitions to be microchipped is in the interest of horse welfare. While microchipping of horses will be required, members will be encouraged to explore the use of biothermal microchips that allow for Bluetooth connectivity for monitoring of horse temperatures.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Veterinary	Stephen Schumacher  sschumacher@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
AHHS

American Saddlebred
<b>Draft 1:</b> Recommends Disapproval 02/10/2023 <b>Draft 1:</b> The American Saddlebred committee understands and believes in the intent of the rule change however, they believe this should be a choice for breeders/owners etc. By making it mandatory, there is fear that it will cause a drop in the Federation licensed competitions within the breeds, which would be a big disadvantage to the safety and welfare of the horse. Is there a way to help promote microchipping through ASHBA and possibly offer grants.

Andalusian/Lusitano
<b>Draft 1:</b> Recommends Approval 12/19/2022 <b>Draft 1:</b> The committee approves of this proposal but does suggest that a list of suggested chip readers be produced.

ARHPA
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ASHA
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Carriage Pleasure Driving
<b>Draft 1:</b> Recommends Approval 01/31/2023

Connemara
<b>Draft 1:</b> Recommends Approval 12/13/2022

Dressage
<b>Draft 1:</b> Recommends Approval 02/27/2023

Eventing
<b>Draft 1:</b> Recommends Approval 01/24/2023 <b>Draft 1:</b> The Eventing Sport Committee recommends approval, with the amended language to the first sentence, as follows: "All horses competing at Federation Licensed and Endorsed competitions must provide a microchip that verifies the animal."

Friesian
<b>Draft 1:</b> Recommends Approval 02/02/2023

Hackney
<b>Draft 1:</b> Recommends Approval 02/06/2023

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 11/28/2022

#### Morgan

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 12/20/2022

**Draft 1:** The committee is concerned that owners who do not have their horse's microchipped will be turned away from a competition with no other option available. The committee recommends the show vet or steward be permitted to administer microchips at the show. They also suggest a warning system be implemented for first time offenders who may not be aware of the rule, they would receive a warning and would be required to have the microchip done by the next licensed competition.

#### National Hunter Committee

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 02/06/2023

#### National Show Horse

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 01/20/2023

**Draft 1:** The committee feels that this should first be more of a recommended practice paired with education and promotion and then once the membership has embraced it, enter it in as a rule. The committee recognizes the value of microchipping but does not feel the public will accept it if mandated at this time.

#### Paso Fino

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 12/06/2022

#### PFHA

#### Roadster

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 02/22/2023

**Draft 1:** The committee reconsidered the rule change and has amended their motion to disapprove. After further discussion, the committee has great concern over the loss of USEF licensed shows in the Roadster community. By adding an additional requirement, they feel this will burden the exhibitors, trainers, breeders, and show management and we will see those competitions start to drop even lower. The committee also questioned if horses that were brought to shows for schooling and sale purposes, if they would need to be microchipped. Currently, as the rule reads they would not, but how would this address the issues stated in the intent. If there is concern for tracking disease, how would we know where these horses who never entered the show ring go. The committee also mentioned that trainers are often the individuals filling out the entry blanks. If the trainers are bringing multiple horses/ponies, as they often do, it would be taxing for them to fill out the 15 digit code multiple times for each horse.

#### Saddle Seat Eq

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 12/07/2022

**Draft 1:** The committee recommends disapproval. By requiring horses to have a microchip to compete, this is creating an additional hardship to competition management. The committee questions whether management will need to hire someone to check microchips on the grounds. In addition, this discipline utilizes multiple breed registry programs for proper identification so the need for microchipping is unnecessary.

#### Shetland

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 01/24/2023

#### USDF

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 02/24/2023

**Draft 1:** USDF disapproves this proposal as currently written. However, we would support the proposal if it were amended to provide a simple, clear-cut implementation deadline with no phase in period, which we believe will only lead to confusion.

#### USEA

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 03/01/2023

**Draft 1:** Recommend approval with the amendment to exempt endorsed levels, and for the Federation to host microchip clinics at competitions. Needs clarity between the first paragraph's reference to "All horses at Federation Licensed Competitions" and the second paragraph's reference to "all horses competing in classes which require Federation registration". The latter is supported.

#### USHJA

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 12/15/2022

#### Vaulting

#### Veterinary

#### WDAA

#### Welsh

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 12/08/2022

**Draft 1:** This would negatively impact Welsh competitions as this would add more expense to competing at USEF competitions. Additionally, the committee feels this rule would not be enforceable.

#### Western Committee

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 02/01/2023

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 01/24/2023

**Draft 1:** While the committee sees the benefit of microchipping, they fear that this will be an additional financial hurdle for exhibitors to face when entering into the USEF competition world. The committee also feels that this may not accomplish the intended purpose, as people who would still travel with a horse that has knowingly been exposed or was sick will still do so and will find ways around the rule. The committee also raised the question of how the chip can be inserted for horses that have an allergy to the material of which a needle is made of?

1. All horses competing in Federation licensed competitions must be properly identified. For all such competitions, entries for each horse must include either a Federation-issued Unique Horse Identification Number or a registration number from a Federation Recognized Affiliate. Additionally, a Federation Recognized Discipline Affiliate may require horses to be registered with their organization, and if so, the entry must also include that registration number.  
[...]

**10. Effective December 1, 2025, all horses competing at Federation Licensed and Endorsed Competitions must provide a microchip number that verifies the animal. A microchip used to verify identity must be a fifteen-digit ISO compliant 11784/11785 chip and be implanted in the nuchal ligament of the animal.**