

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	5/6/2024	

Rule Change Intent

Introduced in 2017, the Modified level was created to bridge the gap between the Training and Preliminary levels and to help provide a better preparation for athletes and horses progressing from the lower levels to upper levels. The goal of proposing the additional qualification requirements of two MERs at Modified is to promote safety and encourage optimal preparation for the Athletes and Horses moving to the Preliminary and CCI2* level. We have seen an increased number of falls (roughly 35% increase in percentage of falls per starter) at the Preliminary level since 2021 to substantiate this change.

The inclusion of Modified in competition offerings over the past 5 years has increased to 194 competitions with 2,442 starters in 2023 with representation in 9 of 10 Areas. The proposed rule would go into effect December 1, 2025, to allow for a phased implementation with the intention of allowing competitors and organizers time to prepare and plan accordingly for the changes. Below is a chart of how the eligibility requirements fit into the overall current MER structure:

Training

- **Athlete Requirements** N/A
- **Horse Requirements** N/A

Modified

- **Athlete Requirements** 2 MERs at Training or higher
- **Horse Requirements** N/A

Preliminary

- **Athlete Requirements** 6 MERs at Training or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 4 MERs at Training or higher

Intermediate

- **Athlete Requirements** 6 MERs at Preliminary or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 4 MERs at Preliminary or higher

Advanced

- **Athlete Requirements** 6 MERs at Intermediate or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 4 MERs at Intermediate or higher

CCI1*

- **Athlete Requirements** 1 MER at Modified or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 1 MER at Modified or higher

CCI2*-S

- **Athlete Requirements** 1 MER at Preliminary or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 1 MER at Preliminary or higher

Proponent Details Contact Information

Eventing

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions
Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/19/2024

Draft 1: Approved with amendment to one Modified MER - "the Athlete must have obtained an MER at five Horse Trials at the Training Level or higher and an MER at one Horse Trial at the Modified level or higher." Discussion involved significant concern about the limited availability of the Modified level in Areas within the Western US, and the restriction two Modified MER could place on Areas struggling to maintain the preliminary level.

APPENDIX 2 - PARTICIPATION IN HORSE TRIALS

3. LEVELS OF HORSE TRIALS AND EVENTS

3.5 PRELIMINARY (P) - Open to competitors from the beginning of the calendar year of their 14th birthday, on horses five years of age or older. The Athlete must have obtained an MER at six Horse Trials at the Training level or higher. ***Beginning December 1, 2025, the Athlete must have obtained an MER at ~~four~~ five Horse Trials at the Training level or higher and an MER at ~~two~~ one Horse Trials at the Modified level or higher.*** The Horse must have obtained an MER at four Horse Trials at the Training level or higher: One of the four MERs must be as a combination. Athletes with more than 10 MERs at the Preliminary level or higher are exempt from one MER in combination. Athletes with 20 or more MERs at the Preliminary level or higher: The Horse must have obtained an MER at two Horse Trials at the Training level or higher or one MER at a Horse Trial at the Training level or higher in combination with the Athlete.