

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	1/31/2024	

Rule Change Intent

This change adds the applicable penalty in conjunction with the DC 945 rule change.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Driving	Anna Brooks Thomas abthomas@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

## DC949 Obstacle Penalties

### 1. Pace in Obstacles

Athletes in the Preliminary division and above may use any pace in the obstacles. The beginner and training divisions must only walk or trot in the obstacles (DC948.4 applies for incorrect pace).

### 2. Error of Course in an Obstacle:

2.1 Athletes entering any part of an obstacle without first passing through the entry flags or failing to pass through the exit flags on leaving an obstacle without correcting the error will be eliminated.

2.2 The compulsory gates in an obstacle are "free" after an athlete has passed through them in the correct direction and in the correct sequence. Athletes may, therefore, go through them again in any direction at any time (for example, athletes must go through A in the correct direction before going through B. A is now "free" and they may go through it again in any direction as often as they like, and so on).

2.3 Athletes, who pass through a compulsory gate in the wrong sequence or direction before it becomes "free" and without correcting the error before passing through the Exit Flags, will be eliminated.

2.4 In order to correct such an error of course, the athlete must return to and drive through the compulsory gate they missed before continuing through the next compulsory gate in the correct sequence (for example, an athlete drives through compulsory gates A and B and then goes through D (missing gate C). In order to correct this error of course, the athlete must go back and drive through gate C before going on to gate D, etc. All gates are neutralized until they reach this gate. Each error corrected shall incur 20 penalties.

2.5 Passing through the exit gate of an obstacle without driving all compulsory gates in the correct sequence will be penalized by elimination.

2.6 An athlete is not considered to have passed through a compulsory gate in an obstacle until the whole turnout has passed between the flags denoting the compulsory gate.

**2.7 An Athlete is not considered as having crossed a double line as per DC 945.2 until the whole turnout has crossed the double line.**