

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	

## Rule Change Intent

Update judging procedures for DSHB in-hand classes. Horses often get loose when showing in DSHB "in-hand" classes and can be hard to catch when the triangle is not enclosed in a fenced area or indoor arena.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore  lmoore@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## Connemara

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 03/25/2025

## Council - Natl Breed &amp; Discipline

## Licensed Officials

**Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 04/14/2025

## ParaEquestrian

## USDF

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 04/15/2025

**Draft 1:** We believe allowing the judge (and therefore, presumably, the scribe) to sit while judging a DSHB in-hand class presents a serious safety hazard, as young horses can explode without warning and the judge and scribe would not have the time or space to get out of their way. Though we don't always agree that having the judge remain stationary and having the handler turn the horse as directed by the judge is the best situation for a young horse in terms of a positive training experience, we do acknowledge that it sometimes is necessary given show conditions so if the seated portion was removed from the rule change as an option and only standing was left, we could support this proposal. Finally, while we agree in principle with the requirement that the triangle be in an enclosed space, the requirement for one or more gates is problematic as in some indoors, there are only large roll-down doors and no gates.

## DR209 Conduct of Classes

2. Horses being shown in-hand in groups.

a. Groups will be examined one group at a time, but not necessarily on the triangle. The judge must require all horses in the group to move at the walk and trot, either in line or moving around the arena. Horses shall stand for conformation judging before and/or after completion of the horse's movement.

3. *Horses being shown individually in hand or in groups may be asked to stand for conformation judging either by standing for the judge to move around the horse or by the judge remaining stationary (~~standing or seated~~ at a safe distance) and the handler turning the horse as instructed by the judge so that the horse can be judged on each side, from the front and from the back.*

4. ~~b.~~ The Judging Triangle: Two basic triangle designs are acceptable for presenting horses to the judge. Competition management may choose the triangle best suited for local conditions. Triangle corners should be well defined. Footing must be firm. Decorative fencing, plants or flowers are allowed. (Horses must travel to the right. The following diagram shows suggested use of triangle). The size of either triangle may be adjusted to meet local conditions, however, the back side of the triangle must be at least 25 meters in length and the other two sides must be at least 20 meters in length. *The triangle must be located within an enclosed area that can be accessed by one or more gates at least one entrance.*

5. ~~3.~~ Under Saddle and Materiale classes. Depending on local conditions, these classes may be divided at the judge's discretion. See DR202.10 and DR204.2d.