

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/8/2025	

Rule Change Intent

The proposed rule change aims to enhance clarity and consistency in eventing competitions by providing a comprehensive definition of "Technical Elimination" (TE) to establish a clear distinction between eliminations for performance-related infractions and those arising from technical errors made by the Athlete. The proposal provides consistent application across all circumstances that would warrant at TE to ensure that officials, competitors, and organizers have a standardized framework for determining eliminations based on technical infractions, reducing ambiguity and enhancing fairness in enforcement.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

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Linked Rules Comments



EV104 Definitions

8. ELIMINATION. Unless otherwise specified, Elimination means that the Athlete/Horse combination in question may not continue to participate in the current Event.

a. Technical Elimination: An Elimination may be recorded as a Technical Elimination (TE) if the fault is an Athlete error, and not a result of the horse's performance.

EV117 CLASSIFICATION

4. DISQUALIFICATION, ELIMINATION, WITHDRAWAL OR RETIRE.

b. The Ground Jury, in consultation with the Organizer, may permit an Athlete who has been Eliminated or Technically Eliminated in an earlier phase to participate in the subsequent phase(s). After Elimination in a previous phase, an Athlete who starts a subsequent phase without such permission may be fined up to \$100 payable to the Organizer

EV118 Dressage Phase Rules

14. Unauthorized Assistance may be penalized by **Technical** Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

EV119 Dressage Phase Scoring

1. b. Errors of Course or Test will be penalized as follows:

1. 1st Time by 2 points
2. 2nd Time by 4 points
3. 3rd Time by **Technical** Elimination

2. The following are considered errors, and two points will be deducted per error, but they are not cumulative ~~and will not result in Elimination:~~

a. Entering the arena, or the space around the arena before the signal to start, with a whip (when they are forbidden) or with boots or bandages, or discrepancy of dress (e.g. lack of gloves at Intermediate and Advanced levels). The Judge at C may stop the Athlete and permit an assistant to enter the arena to remove the item(s). The Athlete may continue, and marks given before they were stopped, if any, are not changed;

b. Entering the arena before the signal is given; Not entering the arena within 45 seconds after the signal is given, but within 90 seconds is a two-point penalty. **Not entering the arena within 90 seconds after the signal from the Judge at C, except for a valid reason (losing shoe) will result in Technical Elimination or Elimination at the**

discretion of the Ground Jury

3. In the case of a Fall of a Horse and/or Athlete, the Athlete will not be Eliminated. The Athlete will be penalized by the effect of the Fall on the execution of the movement concerned and in the collective mark.

4. After Elimination **or Technical Elimination**, an Athlete may complete their test, at the Judges' discretion.

EV120 Dressage Phase Elimination **Penalty** Summary Chart

Fault	Penalty	Applicable Level	Reference
Unauthorized Assistance	Elimination Technical Elimination , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV118.14
Not entering the arena within 90 seconds after the signal from the Judge at C, except for a valid reason (losing shoe)	Elimination or Technical Elimination at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV119.2.b
Performing the test in incorrect dress	2-point deduction from test per error, non-cumulative	All	EV 119.2.a
Performing the test with improper: saddlery, whip, or spurs	Technical Elimination	All	Subchapter EV-9 and EV-10
Marked lameness	Elimination	All	EV118.8
Leaving the arena between the entry and final salute	Elimination	All	EV118.9
Resistance	Elimination	All	EV118.10
Third cumulative error of course or test	Technical Elimination	All	EV 119.1.b
Fall of Horse or Athlete	Penalized by the effect of the fall on the execution of the movement concerned, and in the collective mark.	All	EV 119.3

<i>Entering the arena before the Judge's signal to start, or between 45 >90 seconds after signal</i>	<i>2-point deduction from test, non-cumulative, at Judge's discretion.</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>EV119.2.b</i>
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EV121 Cross-Country Phase Rules

3. ERRORS OF COURSE.

- a. All compulsory passages and Obstacles, including all elements and/or options, must be passed or jumped in order, under penalty of Elimination *or Technical Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.*
- b. All red and white markers must be passed through correctly wherever they occur on the course, under penalty of *Technical* Elimination, except as provided for in EV122.5b.
- c. Retaking an Obstacle already jumped is prohibited, under penalty of *Technical* Elimination, except as provided for in EV122.5a

7. STOPPING ATHLETES.

- a. If any part of an Obstacle is obstructed by a Horse or Athlete in difficulty, if any Obstacle has been dismantled to release a fallen Horse, if an Obstacle has been broken and has not yet been rebuilt, or in any similar circumstances, subsequent Athletes must be halted. Athletes may be stopped at Obstacles or at stopping points on the course. In such a case, an appointed personnel should be posted in the path of the oncoming Athlete. They should wave a red flag, which indicates that the Athlete must stop. Failure to stop may be penalized by Elimination, *Yellow Warning Card, and/or \$100 fine* at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

8. UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE

- b. Appointed personnel or spectators who draw the attention of an Athlete to a deviation from the course may result in the *Technical* Elimination of the Athlete.

9. AUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE.

- a. Whip, headgear, or spectacles may be handed to an Athlete at any time. *Accepting, while mounted, anything besides a whip, headgear and/or spectacles will result in Technical Elimination.*

10. AFTER ELIMINATION. An Athlete who was Eliminated or has retired must leave the course, mounted or dismounted, at the walk immediately, and may not continue. If the Athlete continues after being Eliminated or retiring, they must be reported to the Ground Jury. Violators must be warned or fined up to \$100 (payable to the Organizer), at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

EV123 CROSS COUNTRY PHASE SCORING

1. FAULTS AT OBSTACLES, DISOBEDIENCES AND FALLS. To facilitate accurate administration of EV109.2 (Loss of Qualification) Athlete Falls will be denoted as "RF" on official score sheets and results.

Fault	Penalty	Applicable Level	Reference
First refusal, run-out or circle	20 penalties	All	EV122.2 & EV122.3
Second refusal, run-out or circle at the same Obstacle	40 penalties	All	EV122.2 & EV122.3
Third refusal, run-out or circle at the same Obstacle	Elimination	All	EV122.2 & EV122.3
Third penalized Disobedience on the entire course	Elimination	M, P, I, A	EV122.2
Fourth penalized Disobedience on the entire course	Elimination	BN, N, T	EV122.2
Activating a frangible Obstacle in the jumping effort where the dimension of the Obstacle is modified	11 penalties	All	
Activating a frangible Obstacle as the result of	0 penalties	All	

a Fall or Disobedience			
First Athlete Fall	Elimination (RF)	All	EV122.4
First Horse Fall	Mandatory Retirement (MR)	All	EV122.4
Willful Delay between the last fence and the finish line	19 penalties	BN, N, T	EV122.6
Exceeding Optimum Time	0.4 penalty points per second	All	EV121.2a
Exceeding Time Limit	Elimination	All	EV121.2c
Speed faults	0.4 penalty points per second under Speed Fault Time	BN, N, T	EV121.2b
Competing with improper dress or saddlery	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	Subchapter EV-10.3
Error of course not rectified	Elimination Technical Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV121.3
Omission of Obstacle or compulsory passage	Elimination or Technical Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV121.3a
Jumping an Obstacle in the wrong direction except when EV122.5b applies	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV121.3b
Retaking an Obstacle already jumped except when EV122.5a applies	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV121.3c
Jumping or attempting	Elimination , at the	All	Subchapter EV-9.1e

to jump any Obstacle without headgear, or with an unfastened retention harness	discretion of the Ground Jury Technical Elimination		
Willful obstruction of an overtaking Athlete, or failure to follow the instructions of the appointed personnel while being overtaken	Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV121.5c
Causing danger to another Athlete while overtaking that Athlete	Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV121.5c
Failure to stop when signaled	Elimination, Yellow Warning, and/or \$100 fine, at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV121.7a, EV121.10
Unauthorized Assistance	Elimination Technical Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV121.8
Missed Marker	15 penalties	All	EV122.5
Accepting, while mounted, anything besides a whip, headgear and/or spectacles	Technical Elimination	All	EV121.9.a

EV124 Show Jumping Phase Signal

2. If the Athlete does not obey the signal to stop, they **may be penalized by Technical Elimination** at the discretion of the Ground Jury except where specifically provided for under EV126.8b.
3. If, after an interruption, the Athlete restarts and jumps or attempts to jump without waiting for the signal, they **will be penalized by Technical Elimination**.

EV125 Show Jumping Phase Unauthorized Assistance

- 2. Unauthorized Assistance may be penalized by **Technical** Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.
- b. Any help given to a mounted Athlete to adjust their saddlery or bridle or to hand them a whip during the round must incur **Technical** Elimination.
- d. Warning an Athlete of a deviation from the course must be penalized as Unauthorized Assistance. The Athlete and/or the individual who have the warning may **receive a Technical Elimination** or otherwise penalized, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

EV127 Show Jumping Phase Penalties

- 4. DEVIATION FROM THE COURSE
- b. An uncorrected deviation from the course must incur **Technical** Elimination

EV128 Show Jumping Phase Faults

- 1. Disobediences during the time when the round is interrupted (EV126.6b) must not be penalized.
- 2. Disobediences, Falls, etc., occurring between the signal to start and crossing the start line in the correct direction, must not be penalized.
- 3. Penalties for Disobediences accumulate, not just at the same Obstacle, but throughout the entire round.
- 4. Compulsory Retirement is enforced at the end of the round, unless the Athlete retires or is Eliminated.
- 5. Faults are penalized by penalty points, Elimination, **Technical Elimination** or Compulsory Retirement in accordance with this section.

Fault	Penalty	Applicable Level	Reference
Obstacle knocked down while jumping	4 penalties	All	
Going through the start line twice	4 penalties – time starts on first crossing	All	EV124.1b
First Disobedience	4 penalties	All	EV127.3
Second Disobedience or other	Elimination	M, P, I, A	EV127.3
Second Disobedience or other	8 penalties	BN, N, T	EV127.3
Third Disobedience or other	Elimination	BN, N, T	EV127.3
Fall of Horse and/or	Elimination	All	EV104.5, EV104.6b

Athlete			
Exceeding the Time Limit	Elimination	All	EV126.3
Exceeding the Time Allowed	0.4 penalties per second over	All	EV126.2
20 or more (jump) penalties	Compulsory Retirement	T, M, P, I, A	EV127.8
Jumping or attempting to jump an Obstacle in the arena before the start or after the completion of the round	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	
Starting before the signal is given and jumping the first Obstacle of the course	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV124.1b
A Horse resisting more than 45 consecutive seconds during the round	Elimination	All	EV127
Taking more than 45 second to jump the next Obstacle, or to jump the last Obstacle and cross the finish line	Elimination	All	
Jumping the first obstacle while omitting to cross the start line between the markers in the correct direction	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV127.4.a2
Attempting to or	Elimination Technical	All	EV127.4.a4

jumping an Obstacle which does not form part of the course during the round	Elimination		
Omitting to jump an Obstacle of the course or after a run out or refusal, failing to reattempt to jump the Obstacle where the fault was committed	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV127.4.a4
After a run out or refusal, failing to reattempt the Obstacle where the fault was incurred	Technical Elimination	All	EV150.10.b
Jumping an Obstacle in the wrong order	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV127.4.a3
Jumping an Obstacle in the wrong direction	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV127.4.a3
Following a refusal jumping or attempting to jump an Obstacle which has been knocked down before it is rebuilt	Technical Elimination	All	
Jumping or attempting to jump an Obstacle after an interruption without waiting for the signal	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV124.3
Not jumping all the elements of a combination again	Technical Elimination	All	EV150.10b

after a refusal or run-out			
Not crossing the finishing line between the markers in the correct direction after having jumped the last obstacle	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV127.4a.2
Horse leaving the arena without Ground Jury permission, including prior to starting	Elimination	All	
Accepting, while mounted, anything besides headgear and/or spectacles	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	EV125.2.c
Using a whip longer than 75cm or weighted at the end, using a whip substitute	Elimination Technical Elimination	All	Subchapter EV-9.3
An accident which prevents the Athlete or Horse from completing the Event	Elimination	All	
Not entering the arena when the Athlete's name or number is called	Elimination Technical Elimination , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	
Not entering or leaving the arena mounted (Exception: EV125.2.a)	Elimination <i>or</i> Technical Elimination , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV125.2a
All Unauthorized Assistance except per	Elimination Technical Elimination , at the	All	EV125

EV125.2	discretion of the Ground Jury		
Not stopping when the signal is rung during the round	Elimination Technical Elimination , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV124.2
Entering the arena without permitted attire	Elimination Technical Elimination , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	Subchapter EV-9
Any reason the Horse or Athlete is unfit to continue the Event	Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	

SUBCHAPTER EV-9 DRESS

1. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR

e. Violation of this rule at any time, at the discretion of the Ground Jury, must be penalized by a Yellow Warning Card or **Technical Elimination**.

2. PROTECTIVE VESTS.

b. Violation of this rule may be penalized at the discretion of the Ground Jury and may result in **Technical Elimination**.

8. DRESS COMPLIANCE. Appointed personnel should inspect whips and spurs before any phase. The appointed personnel may refuse permission for an Athlete to start the phase whose whip or spurs are not permitted. The appointed personnel must immediately report the suspected violation to the Ground Jury, or Technical Delegate if the Ground Jury is unavailable, for confirmation. An Athlete who competes with prohibited dress in the Cross-Country and Show Jumping phases may be **penalized by Technical Elimination** or issued a Yellow Warning Card, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. See EV120 for Dressage.

SUBCHAPTER EV-10 SADDLERY

2. DRESSAGE TEST

f. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or

balancing reins, etc.), reins with any loops or hand attachments, and any form of blinkers, including earmuffs, earplugs, hoods, fly masks, goggles, and seat covers are, under penalty of **Technical** Elimination, strictly forbidden.

4. INSPECTION OF SADDLERY

b. In the Dressage Test, the checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution. When bit inspections require actual contact with the inside of the horse's mouth, the inspector must use a clean protective glove for each horse. If the competitor so requests, the bridle and bit may be checked immediately after the test has been completed. However, should the bridle or bit in such a case be found not to be permitted, the competitor **must be penalized by a Technical Elimination**.