

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/29/2025	

Rule Change Intent

References to USEF High Performance classes and championships are proposed to be removed from the rule book and book and included only in documents containing the rules for qualifying for those competitions. Other program requirements have been expanded/updated.

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

Linked Rules	Comments
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DR121 Saddlery and Equipment. Change to read:

Figure 121.7: Bridle with jowl strap and throat latch (left). Bit snaps may not be used with this bridle. Combined noseband (no throatlatch) permitted for use in at any level (including USEF High Performance classes) and in warm-up with either a snaffle (middle left) or double bridle (middle right) as appropriate for the level. When used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the noseband (flash attachment pictured with the snaffle on left), is prohibited. Limits for placement of jowl strap (right).

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j. Bridles allowed in Federation (national) competitions:

4. Qualifying and championship classes. Either a snaffle bridle or double bridle *is permitted (as shown in Figure 121.11)* ~~is permitted for USEF High Performance and USEF Young Adult for U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions and its respective~~ qualifying classes held at national competitions. ~~A double bridle is required for USEF Grand Prix and Young Adult championship classes at the USEF Festival of Champions. Snaffle bridles are permitted for NAYC qualifying and championship classes, USEF Young Rider qualifying and championship classes, and USEF Junior qualifying and championship classes.~~

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18. Whips. The length of the lash is included in measurements of the length of the whip. For schooling the rider while mounted is permitted to carry one whip that is no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) or 100 cm (39.4 inches) for FEI Pony Riders. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) may be carried in all classes except, under penalty of elimination, *in USEF/USDF Championships. Please review the championship format for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions for specific rules for that competition.* ~~USEF National Dressage Championships, USEF High Performance Championships, and USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials.~~ Exception: Competitors riding side-saddle may carry a whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) in USEF/USDF Championships. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) may be carried in all qualifying classes (including NAYRC and NAJC NAYC) unless such use is otherwise prohibited by FEI or Federation rules or selection procedures for the classes. However, when a whip is permitted for FEI Pony Tests, the maximum length is 100 cm (39.4 inches). An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider. The use of one lungeing whip is permitted only when lungeing. There is no restriction on the length of whip permitted for working a horse in hand or on the lunge.

~~Rules regarding whip use at USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. The following rules (17.1 and 17.2) apply exclusively to use of a whip at USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials:~~

- a. ~~Upon arrival on the showground, only the rider while riding, walking, leading or lungeing a horse (lunge whip allowed) is allowed to use a whip (maximum 120 cm) in connection with the training of the horse. The groom may also walk, lead and lunge a horse as above.~~
- b. ~~The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the rider will be penalized for an error (see DR122.5.j).~~