

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	12/1/2021	9/1/2021	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

The USEF Amateur Task Force was formed by the President in early 2021 to review the existing Amateur Rules (GR1306 & GR1307) to ensure they are meeting the needs of USEF members, the sport, and the organization. The task force was specifically charged with addressing long-standing concerns raised by members and affiliates as expeditiously as possible to make certain that any issues in the existing rules are addressed in a timely manner. Throughout the process, it became evident that some proposals would be deemed as Extraordinary to meet the responsibility assigned to the task force. Member and affiliate feedback has identified that the current rules create a severe hardship for members, affiliates and the Federation as elements of these rules are no longer relevant in today's environment and create a barrier to the growth, accessibility and sustainability of equestrian sport.

## Rule Change Intent

The environment has changed considerably since the latest version of the amateur rule was approved. It must be examined to ensure its relevance in today's environment. Member feedback, accessibility to equestrian sport and sport growth are driving the need to change this rule.

This change enables anyone from the age of 18-25 who has engaged in professional activities and realizes they do not wish to continue to pursue equestrian sport as a profession a one-time opportunity to apply for amateur status with a 3-month waiting period. Many young adults are trying to determine their career direction and should not be penalized with a longer reinstatement timeframe.

## Proponent Details

Breeds/Disciplines

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Andalusian/Lusitano

Arabian

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Connemara

Dressage

Driving

Endurance

English Pleasure

Eventing

Friesian

Hackney

Jumper

Morgan

National Hunter Committee

National Show Horse

ParaEquestrian

Paso Fino

Reining

Roadster

Saddle Seat Eq

Shetland

US Saddle Seat World Cup

Vaulting

Welsh

Western Committee

Western Dressage

### GR1306 Professional/Amateur Status

2. Remuneration. Remuneration is defined as compensation or payment in any form such as cash, goods, sponsorships, discounts, or services; reimbursement of any expenses; trade or in-kind exchange of goods or services such as board or training. Amateurs are permitted to accept remuneration for the following activities:

6. Violations of Amateur status. ***The holding of an amateur card does not preclude the question of amateur standing being raised.*** After an investigation as to proper status has been initiated, and upon request by the Federation and to the satisfaction of the Federation, an Amateur shall ***must*** submit verifiable proof of Amateur status. ~~including but not limited to a bill of sale for any horse(s) the Amateur is competing in classes restricted to Amateur Owners. If the Federation deems such proof insufficient, then the Federation may initiate proceedings under the Federation Bylaws.~~ ***Failure to submit requested documentation to the Federation may be deemed a violation of this rule. Any responsible person(s) found to have violated these rules, may be subject to the penalties as set forth in GR703.***

a. Any individual found to have knowingly assisted in the violation of the Amateur rule may also be subject to proceedings in accordance with the Federation Bylaws. See GR1307.

7. Questions about whether you are an Amateur or Professional. For specific inquiries, email [amateurinquiry@usef.org](mailto:amateurinquiry@usef.org).

### GR1307 Amateur Status

1. Only active ~~Senior Active Members of the~~ Federation members may obtain amateur status. Every person who has reached his/her 18th birthday and competes in classes for amateurs under Federation rules must possess current amateur status issued by the Federation. ~~(Exception: This is not required for Opportunity classes except for the Dressage Division. If Opportunity classes are offered at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes and are restricted to amateurs, riders are required to have amateur status with the Federation).~~ This status must be available for inspection or the competitor must have lodged with the competition secretary, at least one hour prior to such class, an application for such status provided by the Federation. Amateur status will be issued only on receipt of the application properly signed, ***or on receipt of an online status declaration***, and is revocable at any time for cause. Foreign riders requesting Federation Amateur status, must be a Junior, Senior or Life Competing Member of the Federation ~~(Exception: Equestrian Canada members in possession of current EC membership may sign for Federation Amateur status on a show by show basis at no cost).~~ Any person who has not reached his/her 18th birthday is an amateur and does not require amateur status. ***Exceptions:***

- a. This is not required for Opportunity classes except for the Dressage Division. If Opportunity classes are offered at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes and are restricted to amateurs, riders are required to have amateur status with the Federation.
- b. Equestrian Canada members in possession of current EC membership may sign for Federation Amateur status on a show by show basis at no cost.

2. ***Foreign riders requesting Federation Amateur status, must be a Junior, Senior or Life Competing Member of the Federation.***

3. ***There is no fee for amateur status.*** An amateur continues to be such until he/she has received a change in status from the Federation. Any amateur who wishes to be re-classified on the grounds that he/she has engaged ***in*** or is planning on engaging in activities which would prevent him/her from continuing to remain an amateur must notify the Federation in writing.

~~3. There is no fee for amateur status for Senior Active or Life Members. A member will be deemed to continue his amateur status unless the member notifies the Federation in writing of a change.~~

~~4. If a person violates or does not comply with the above, he/she will not be eligible to compete in amateur classes and will not be entitled to an award in such classes and will be deemed guilty of a violation within the meaning of Chapter 7 in the event he/she does compete.~~

~~5. In the event a person is found to be a professional as a result of a complaint made in connection with a competition, all awards won by such person in amateur classes at such competition and subsequent competitions shall be forfeited and returned to the competition and the person shall be subject to further disciplinary action. The holding of an amateur card does not preclude the question of amateur standing being raised.~~

~~6. The trainer may be subject to disciplinary action if an exhibitor shows as an amateur and it is determined that the trainer had knowledge of the exhibitor's professional activities.~~

~~a. Any changes of status from professional to amateur, or vice versa, will be published on the Federation's web site.~~

~~7. An exhibitor who engages a person to ride, drive or show in halter in any amateur class and then remunerates such person beyond the extent to which such amateur is entitled as provided above in GR1306 will be subject to disciplinary action under Chapter 7.~~

~~8. Any person who under these rules is a professional and knowingly and falsely represents himself/herself to be an amateur by declaring or maintaining current amateur status issued by the Federation, and any person who violates any of the provisions of this rule, will be subject to disciplinary action under Chapter 7.~~

~~9. A professional continues to be such until he/she has received amateur status by a vote of the Hearing Committee.~~ Any professional who wishes to be reclassified as an amateur on the grounds that he/she has not engaged in the activities which made him/her a professional within the last twelve months must **complete the reclassification process outlined below**. notify the Federation in writing.

a. Such person shall submit to the Hearing Committee an amateur reclassification request which is supported by:

1. A notarized letter signed by him/her **briefly** outlining **his previous** the horse related **professional** activities **and** (using specific dates) ~~which made said person a professional and~~ outlining the **his current** activities performed within the twelve months ~~period (or longer)~~ since professional activities have ceased,

2. Two or more notarized letters from any ~~Senior~~ Active **Competing** Federation members stating the relationship with the applicant, ~~and~~ outlining the applicants activities for the ~~one year~~ **previous twelve-month** period, ~~preceding such written notification advising~~ and testifying that the applicant has not engaged in any activities which would make him/her a professional as outlined in GR1306 during that period,

3. A processing fee,

4. Sign and declare amateur status on a current Federation membership application, **or through an online status declaration**. The burden of proof of proving amateur status is on the applicant. The Hearing Committee may call for and/or consider any and all further evidence and facts which it deems pertinent. The decision of the Hearing Committee on the reclassification request shall be final.

**5. EXCEPTION: Any amateur 25 and under, who has engaged in professional activities (as defined herein) may reapply for their amateur status utilizing a 3-month waiting period. The 3-month option is only available for a one-time use. Any subsequent application for amateur status would require a twelve-month waiting period.**

~~b. Any changes of status from professional to amateur, or vice versa, will be published on the Federation's website.~~

~~10.~~ Please contact the Federation office for information regarding international/professional licenses.

