

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	

Rule Change Intent

The conflict of interest rules for apprentices should mirror the current conflict of interest rules for licensed officials. For example, Judge licensed official applicants should not apprentice classes where a conflicted individual is participating, whereas Steward, Technical Delegate, Certified Schooling Supervisor, and Course Designer licensed official applicants should not apprentice at competitions where a conflicted individual is participating. In addition, clarification should be added that apprentices should not have other duties at the competition, such as acting as the Manager, Secretary, Vet, etc. Although this has been a best practice suggested by the Licensed Officials Department, those restrictions should be included within these rules as well.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Licensed Officials	Alina Brazzil abrazzil@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

American Saddlebred	Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/25/2024
Andalusian/Lusitano	Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/30/2024
Arabian	Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/02/2024
Carriage Pleasure Driving	Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/15/2024
Competition Management	Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/03/2024 Draft 1: The committee feels that with the current shortage of officials, particularly stewards/TDs/course designers, that this rule change is not in the best interest of the sport and may limit opportunities for apprenticeships. As the apprentice does not influence decisions at the event, their COIs should not be a concern.
Connemara	Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/01/2024
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline	
Dressage	Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/13/2024
Endurance	
Eventing	Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/22/2024 Draft 1: The Committee would recommend approval if there was an exception to the Conflict of Interest policy for Cross Country Course Designer apprentices similar to the current Conflict of Interest policy for Cross Country Course Designers, which allows them to apprentice at competitions where they are competing or have a student at.
Friesian	Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/02/2024 Draft 1: The committee feels that this rule change could cause the appearance of a conflict of interest (potential bias). They also have several logistics related questions: how many classes could an Apprentice "COI" before the competition would no longer count toward the apprenticing requirements? Is the Apprentice asked to leave the arena during a "COI" class or are they simply not judging the class, but remaining with the judge or are they stepping into center ring during this time?

Hackney

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/26/2024

Morgan

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/16/2024

National Hunter Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/02/2024

Draft 1: The committee would consider approval if this would allow course designers to be an exception.

National Show Horse

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/27/2024

Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory

Paso Fino

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/17/2024

Roadster

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/26/2024

Saddle Seat Eq

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/25/2024

Shetland

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/09/2024

Draft 1: Members of the committee disliked asking an apprentice to step out for one class, as it felt awkward.

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/01/2025

Draft 1: No additional comment

USEA

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/08/2025

Draft 1: The Board does not feel this rule is in the best interest of the sport and may limit opportunities for apprenticeships. As the apprentice does not influence decisions at the event, their COIs should not be a concern. There needs to be an exception for Cross Country Course Designer apprentices similar to the current Conflict of Interest policy for Cross Country Course Designers

USHJA

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/12/2024

Draft 1: Apprentice course designer conflict of interest should match licensed course designer conflict of interest and not be more restrictive, but BOD is in favor of the judging conflict of interest.

Vaulting

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval

Draft 1: The committee would approve of this rule if it was restricted to classes and not the entire competition.

Welsh

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/04/2024

Western Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/15/2024

Western Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/23/2024

GR1006 Apprentice

[...]

5. Conflict of Interest

- a. Individuals may ~~may~~ **must** not apprentice, **shadow judge, sit-in, etc. ("apprentice")** with a family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, member of the household, client, employer, or employee. ~~Any violation of this rule will lead to the apprenticing experience not counting towards licensing requirements. Apprenticing experience completed in violation of this rule will be considered an extra apprentice experience.~~
- b. An individual shall not apprentice at a Federation licensed competition where a family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, member of the household, client, employer or employee is competing. ~~Any violation of this rule will lead to the apprenticing experience not counting towards licensing requirements. Apprenticing experience completed in violation of this rule will be considered an extra apprentice experience.~~ **Judge applicants must not apprentice in any classes where a family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, member of the household, client, employer, or employee is competing.**
- c. **Steward, Technical Delegate, Certified Schooling Supervisor, or Combined Driving Course Designer applicants must not apprentice at a Federation licensed competition where a family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, member of the household, client, employer, or employee is competing.**
- d. An individual cannot compete in the same competition at which they apprentice, **shadow judge, sit-in, etc.**
- e. **Apprentices are not permitted to act as Competition Staff, Manager, Secretary, Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, or Veterinarian at the same competition.**
- f. **Any violation of this rule will lead to the apprenticing experience not counting towards licensing requirements. Apprenticing experience completed in violation of this rule will be considered an extra apprentice experience. In relation to this rule, the term apprenticing also applies to shadowing, observing, and the like.**