

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2021	8/28/2020	

Rule Change Intent

The FEI organization's definition of a horse states that a "horse: refers also to a pony or other member of the genus equus unless the context requires otherwise. A horse shall be born from a mare." This allows for mules to compete in eventing. As the FEI is the overarching organization for eventing, mules should consequently be allowed to compete at the national level as well.

Additionally, the USEA Board of Governors stated in their August 2018 meeting that "Any future rule change proposal on this subject submitted to the USEF for consideration will not receive any pushback from the USEA."

USEF has already set a precedent that mules can be included in equestrian sport as the Federation currently permits mules to compete in Driving, Endurance, Dressage and Western Dressage. Mules:

- Have the same basic skeletal, muscular, and other body systems as a horse.
- Are used in all the same facets as a horse (riding, driving, pack, etc).
- Wear the same tack, and are trained and ridden in the same manner as a horse.
- Display the same gaits as horses, and can perform all the same training maneuvers that horses perform in competition.
- Have more in common with horses than not and therefore can be viewed simply as another breed.

Eventing:

- Is a three-phase sport where one of the disciplines currently permits mules
- Does not require the judging of form over fences but rather scores riders based on faults; therefore mules have no bigger advantage than any other breed
- Is also scored based on time which is not affected by breed
- Dressage, the only subjective phase, already allows mules and therefore the objective phases should follow its example.

Proponent Details

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Linked Rules

Comments

Committee Actions

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/16/2021

Draft 1: The Committee does not recommend approval of this proposal on the grounds of safety. Mules cause a disturbance when introduced to horses unfamiliar with them, which can lead to accidents in the stabling, warm-up areas and the dressage, show jumping and cross-country competition areas.

USEA

1. The term “horse” as used in these rules denotes either a horse or pony.
2. In all levels of all Federation licensed Driving and Endurance Competitions and in the case of any other Federation Rule as it relates to the Driving or Endurance disciplines as the context permits it, the term “horse” shall also include a mule. See DC Annex 9, EN102.1.
3. Mules are also eligible to compete in dressage classes with the exception of:
 - a. USEF Championships, USEF qualifying and selection trials, and observation classes,
 - b. any other classes designated as qualifying or selection classes for international or international high performance competition, and championships where such participation is prohibited in the championship selection procedures. See DR119.1.
- 4. *Mules are permitted to compete in Eventing Competitions.***