

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	6/7/2023	

Rule Change Intent

To include SNELL Foundation as an acceptable helmet certification along with ASTM for use in USEF Competition. The FEI recognizes the SNELL Foundation helmet certification as acceptable protective headgear.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Safety	Katlynn Sacco kwilbers@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
AHHS

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/15/2022

Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/19/2022

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/09/2023

ARHPA

ASHA

Athletes Advisory

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/24/2023

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/31/2023

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/13/2022

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 06/06/2023

Draft 2: IDC disapproves as presented but would approve if the dressage rules included the language "...in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label."

Council - Member Services

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/09/2023

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/15/2023

Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/22/2023

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 06/05/2023

Draft 1: Recommend approval, but with the comment that all acceptable helmet certifications covered by the FEI should be included (for example, CE).
Draft 2: The language in Draft 2 is inadequate. Would approve if the language proposed by USDF on draft 2, is adopted: "Protective Headgear is defined as a riding helmet which is in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label."

Driving	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/11/2023	
Endurance	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/06/2023	
English Pleasure	
Eventing	
Draft 1: No Action 01/24/2023	
Friesian	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/02/2023	
Hackney	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/13/2023	
Morgan	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/20/2022	
National Hunter Committee	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/06/2023	
National Show Horse	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/20/2023	
Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory	
Draft 1: No Action 05/09/2023	
Paso Fino	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/06/2022	
PFHA	
Reining	
Roadster	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/22/2023	
Saddle Seat Eq	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/07/2022	
Shetland	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/24/2023	
USDF	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/24/2023	Draft 1: USDF is favor of expanding the accepted helmet certifications for use in USEF competitions, to include the Snell Foundation certification. However, we believe the list should be expanded to also include the two approved European certifications, the Kite mark (PAS 015:2011) and the CE (VG1 01.040 2014-14.) This expansion will prevent many non-American competitors from inadvertently being in non-compliance with USEF rules because they are wearing European manufactured helmets that pass testing which is considered even more vigorous than the SEI/ASTM testing. Draft 2: While USDF agrees with the approach taken in this RCP to address approved protective headgear, the language of the proposal needs to be reworked. The language in the proposal referring to DR 120.1.1 simply states “Protective Headgear. Protective headgear is defined as a riding helmet.” This language is inadequate and should be changed to read “Protective Headgear is defined as a riding helmet which is in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation’s website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label.”
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 05/22/2023	
USEA	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/01/2023	
USHJA	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/15/2022	Draft 1: USHJA asks for a carve out for hunter/jumper as we continue down the path of the VA Tech research project.
Welsh	
Draft 1: No Action 12/08/2022	
Western Committee	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/01/2023	

2. It is compulsory for all persons at Federation licensed hunter, jumper, or hunter/jumper competitions when mounted anywhere on the competition grounds, to wear properly fastened protective headgear **in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label.** ~~which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ It must be properly fitted with harness secured. Exception: In Hunter or Jumper classes, adults may be allowed to remove their headgear while accepting prizes and during the playing of the National Anthem only; they must refasten their headgear prior to the lap of honor. It is compulsory for riders in Paso Fino classes, both open and breed restricted including Hunter Hack, where jumping is required and when jumping anywhere on the competition grounds to wear properly fastened protective headgear. ~~which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ It must be properly fitted with harness secured. A Show Committee, Competition Management, and Licensed Officials must bar riders without protective headgear from entering the ring for classes in which protective headgear is required and may bar any entry or person from entering the ring if not suitably presented to appear before an audience.

3. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, all sub-junior exhibitors in the Paso Fino division, while riding or driving or while in the driving cart anywhere on the competition grounds, must wear properly fitting protective headgear ~~which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ Harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. For all exhibitors competing in the hunter, jumper, or hunter/jumping seat equitation section, if a rider's chin strap becomes unfastened, the rider may stop, re-fasten the chin strap and continue his/her round without penalty or elimination. A judge may, but is not required to stop a rider and ask them to refasten a chin strap which has become unfastened, again without penalty to the rider. Members of the Armed Services or the Police may wear the Service Dress Uniform.

4. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear ~~(ASTM/SEI)~~ and/or a protective vest either body protecting or inflatable, specifically designed for use in equestrian sport in any division or class without penalty from the judge. The Federation recommends that the vest pass or surpass the current ASTM standard F1937 or be certified by the Safety Equipment Institute. For Eventing, inflatable vests are permitted only when worn over a body protecting vest. **Protective headgear must be in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label.**

7. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, the Federation strongly encourages all riders, while riding anywhere on the competition grounds, to wear protective headgear with harness secured ~~which passes or surpasses ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ (Exception hunter, jumper, or hunter/jumper competitions refer to GR801.2) It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and in good condition, and the Federation, Show Committee, Competition Management, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.

AR111 Protective Headgear

2. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law riders in all Working Hunter, Jumper, Hunter Hack, English Trail, and all Hunt Seat Equitation classes (not to jump or over obstacles and when jumping anywhere on the competition grounds, must wear properly fastened protective headgear **in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label.** ~~which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ It must be properly fitted with harness secured. A Show Committee must bar riders without protective headgear from entering the ring for classes in which protective headgear is required and may bar any entry or person from entering the ring if not suitably presented to appear before an audience.

4. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear ~~(ASTM/SEI)~~ and/or a protective safety vest, specifically designed for use in equestrian sport in any division or class without penalty from the judge. The Federation recommends that the vest meet or surpass the current ASTM standard or be certified by the Safety Equipment Institute.

8. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, the Federation strongly encourages all riders, while riding anywhere on the competition grounds, to wear protective headgear with harness secured ~~which passes or surpasses ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and

in good condition, and the Federation, Show Committee, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.

AR233 General

9. Trail Horse - Under Saddle

- a. Trail classes may be offered for Western or English, but the two styles are not to be combined into one class at any time as there are distinct differences.
- b. There is no rail work. The course must be designed to require each horse to show all three (3) gaits, (walk, jog/trot at least thirty (30) feet, lope/canter right and left lead) somewhere between and/or over obstacles as part of its work, and quality of movement and cadence should be considered as part of the obstacle score. Unnecessary delays while approaching or negotiating an obstacle shall be penalized.
- c. ~~ASTM~~ Helmets are required for all English Trail classes. **See GR801.**

AR236 Trail Obstacle Mandatory Dimensions

4. JUMPS (Note: ~~ASTM~~ helmets are not required for Western trail classes with jump obstacles. ~~ASTM~~ Helmets are required for all under saddle English Trail classes.). **See GR801**

- a. Mounted: Maximum height 24"
- b. Amateur and Junior to ride classes mounted, must be cross rails and may not exceed 18"). The height of a cross rail shall be measured at the top of the center of the intersection of the poles. The height of the jump cups should be set so the angle of the poles does not exceed approximately 30 degrees.
- c. Lead Over: Maximum height 12"
- d. Minimum width between standards of a jump: 4 feet e. Combinations: 12 feet for a one stride; 6 feet for a no stride f. Box Jumps and L Jumps: Poles must be at least 12 feet long.

AR275 General

4. Safety is of the utmost importance in tack and attire.

- a. Saddle must fit rider.
- b. Rider's feet must be engaged in the stirrups/irons.
- c. Leading rein must be attached to a cavesson or a halter placed under or over the bridle.
- d. It is strongly encouraged that the rider wears protective headgear with harness secured ~~which passes or surpasses (American Society for Testing and Materials)/, SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ **See GR801.**
- e. Boots are required.

CP207 Turnout

4. Protective Headgear: All juniors in all competitions must wear properly fastened protective headgear ~~which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/, SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ It must be properly fitted with harness secured. Failure to comply will result in elimination. All competitors, attendants, grooms and passengers are encouraged to use of protective headgear. **See GR801.**

CP105 Responsibilities of Drivers and Officials

11. At all times while in a carriage, all Juniors must wear properly fastened protective headgear ~~which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/, SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ Headgear must be properly fitted with harness secured. Failure to comply while competing may result in elimination. Failure to comply after being notified to do so by an Official may result in a Warning Card and/or Disqualification. **See GR801.**

DR120 Dress

1.1 Protective Headgear. Protective headgear **must be in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label. See GR801.** ~~is defined as a riding helmet, which meets or exceeds current ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/,SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ From the time horses are officially admitted to the competition grounds by competition management, anyone mounted on a horse at any time on the competition grounds, including non-competing riders, riders on non-competing horses, mounted participants in exhibition classes, and those competing in all classes and tests, including Para Dressage tests, must wear protective headgear as defined by this rule and otherwise in compliance with GR801. The harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until the headgear is properly in place. Protective headgear may be the same as or a coordinating color with the coat, and may include contrast coloring, accent, and crystal decoration. See DR136 for dress code rules for exhibitions.

DR206 Equipment and Turn Out

6. Handlers, assistant handlers and whip assistants of any age must wear protective headgear as defined by this rule and otherwise in compliance with GR801 while handling or assisting in the competition ring. Any handler or assistant violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further participation until such headgear is properly in place. Protective headgear **must be in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label** ~~is defined as a riding helmet which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/,SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ The harness must be secured and properly fitted. **See GR801.**

DC913 Dress, safety, and whips

1. Dress in Dressage and cones on a dressage carriage

1.6 Penalties for improper dress are stated under Rules DC941 and DC965. In Cones, it is compulsory for all persons to wear a properly fastened protective headgear. ~~Such protective headgear must meet or exceed ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/,SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~**See GR801.**-An athlete/groom who loses their headgear or whose chin strap becomes unfastened while on course must recover and replace it, or in the case of the chin strap becoming unfastened must refasten it. In such case, the jury will ring the bell, stop the time, thus incurring 5 penalties and the athlete will halt to retrieve their headgear and/or refasten the chin strap. An athlete who continues with a chin strap incorrectly fastened or not fastened will be eliminated unless the circumstances rendered it unsafe for the athlete to stop immediately in order to refasten the strap. BOD 1/15/22 Effective 1/21/22

2. Dress in Marathon and Combined Marathon

2.2 Athletes and grooms must wear securely fastened protective headgear ~~which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/,SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag,~~ and a back protector in the Marathon Sections. Infringement will incur elimination. **See GR801.** BOD 1/15/22 Effective 1/21/22

3. Dress for Juniors

3.1 At all times, while on a carriage, junior athletes must wear a body protector and a securely fastened protective headgear ~~which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials) /,SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag.~~ Infringement will result in elimination. **See GR801.**

CD Glossary

~~2. Protective headgear must be certified under one of the following standards: ASTM (American Society for Testing Materials), or SEI (Safety Equipment Institute, Inc.), BSI/BS EN (British Standards Institution); EN (European Union Standards); or AS/NZS (Australian/New Zealand Standards~~

EN106 Dress Code

1. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR.

a. It is compulsory for all person at Federation licensed competitions when mounted to wear properly fastened

headgear ~~which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/, SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag~~, It must be properly fitted with harness secured. **See GR801.**

EP102 Appointments

3. ENGLISH PLEASURE HUNTER SEAT CLASSES: Forward, balance seat or side saddle, snaffle bridle, pelham with two reins, kimberwicke bits or a full bridle (curb and snaffle). If a full bridle is used, it must be of hunter style and excessive length of curb shank shall be penalized. Breast plates are permissible, but martingales are prohibited. Horses may be shown with or without braided manes and/or tails. For rider, traditional hunter-style jacket, breeches or hunter jodhpurs, dark hunting cap, derby, or protective headgear and appropriate boots. Tall dress or tall field boots are preferred as traditional. Paddock or jodhpur boots with matching half chaps are permitted although not considered as traditional. A stock, choker or four in hand with any color shirt is correct. In all classes gloves, hunter crop or bat, and spurs are optional. Junior riders must wear fastened protective headgear ~~which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society of Testing and Materials)/, SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag~~, (See GR801.4) when mounted. Shadbellies are prohibited.

EV114 Dress

1. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR.

b. Upon arrival, anyone riding a horse must wear properly fitting protective headgear ~~which passes or surpasses ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/, SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag~~. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. **See GR801.**

FR136 Attire

1. Riders should wear coats of a traditional Hunt style. Coats should be of a conservative color (such as black, navy, or other dark customary colors) and of a material appropriate for area and season. Traditional light colored breeches or jodhpurs with black or brown boots should be worn. Gloves are optional. Traditional Hunt caps or safety helmets are to be worn. ~~ASTM, SEI approved~~ safety helmets may be worn by Junior riders and are recommended for all riders. **See GR801.**

FR216 Lead line Equitation Walk-Trot 10 & under

4. Exhibitors may show in any style seat (Hunter Seat, Dressage, Saddle Seat, and Western Seat). However, the attire, tack, and appointments must match the chosen seat. Refer to Equitation, Chapter EQ for correct position and appointments for Hunter Seat, Saddle Seat, and Western Seat. For Dressage see FR139. For appropriate tack for each seat refer to FR135 for Hunter Seat, FR139, FR145 and DR121 for Dressage, FR121, FR126, and FR130 for Saddle Seat, and FR190 for Western Seat.

a. Exhibitor must wear properly fitting ~~(ASTM/SEI)~~ protective headgear. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. (GR801)

FR217 Lead line Equitation—6 and under

2. Exhibitors may use any style of tack and appointments; however, the rider's attire and the mount's tack should be of the same type.

a. Exhibitor must wear properly fitting ~~(ASTM/SEI)~~ protective headgear. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. (GR801)

FR236 General

2. Riders may use any style of tack and appointments; however, the rider's attire and the horse's tack should be of the same

type.

- a. Rider must wear properly fitting ~~(ASTM/SEI)~~ protective headgear. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. (GR801)

MO142 Attire

Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, exhibitors in Bike or Under Saddle classes shall wear stable colors, cap and jacket to match; protective headgear of any color is acceptable and encouraged. See GR801. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, while riding or driving a Roadster anywhere on the competition grounds, all juniors riding or driving a Roadster in Morgan, Bike or Under Saddle classes must wear properly fitting protective headgear ~~which passes or surpasses ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/, SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag,~~ as specified in GR801. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. A matching cover may be worn over the protective headgear or the protective headgear may be painted in matching stable colors.

MO204 Appointments and Attire

d. Attire:

2. Headgear: Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear ~~(ASTM/SEI)~~ in lieu of a western hat and/or a protective safety vest, specifically designed for use in equestrian sport in any division or class without penalty from the judge.

RN103 Scoring

5. The following will result in a score of 0:

- n. failure to wear appropriate western attire as outlined in the USA Reining Rules and Regulations. Western attire may include protective headgear ~~(ASTM/SEI)~~. See GR801.4 and RN101.8;

RD107 Appointments

4. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, protective headgear is strongly recommended for everyone showing in any class in the Roadster Division as outlined in GR801.4, .7 and .8. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, while riding or driving anywhere on the competition grounds, all juniors riding or driving in Roadster to Bike or Roadster Under Saddle classes must wear properly fitting protective headgear ~~which passes or surpasses ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/, SEI (Safety Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag,~~ as specified in GR801. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. A matching cover may be worn over the protective headgear or the protective headgear may be painted in matching Roadster Silks.

List of applicable International Testing Standards for Protective Headgear
Approved by USEF Board of Directors: June 2023

“Protective headgear” as defined in the USEF General Rule 801 must comply with at least one of the international testing standards listed below. In addition, the product must have passed quality testing (quality testing monitors the ongoing quality of the product according to the original standard). Products complying with the above will be marked and labelled accordingly.

Accepted international testing standards:

- American ASTM F1163: 2004a and any subsequent updates (SEI testing label illustrated below)
- American Snell E2001 and E20016 (Please note: Snell combines a standard with subsequent quality testing; therefore, no additional quality testing mark is required)
- Australian standard AS/NZ 3838 (2006 and any subsequent updates)
- Australian standard ARB HS 2012
- Protective headgear carrying a CE mark, including products referencing the VG1 performance specification but excluding products referring exclusively to the EN1384:2012 unless it is shown in conjunction with another accepted standard from the present list.

Quality testing labels include, but are not limited to:



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NOTE:

- Although protective headgear can help to keep a rider/driver as safe as possible, no headgear can prevent serious injury under certain circumstances.
- Correct fit and the correct adjustment of the retention harness are essential to the performance of protective headgear. Please always try on the product and ideally have it fitted by someone that is qualified to do so. Avoid

buying online, even if you bought the same model before, as individual differences may exist.