

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	8/30/2022	

Rule Change Intent

To strengthen the definition of the Heritage competition designation, to amend the qualifying criteria, and to implement a review process every fifth year for Heritage designation maintenance. Additionally, the Federation will provide enhanced benefits to Heritage competitions offering promotional support and marketing materials.

In April of 2019, the USEF Board of Directors requested that the Heritage designation undergo a review to determine the program's purpose, relevancy, and value as well as to refine the eligibility requirements associated with the designation. USEF suspended the Heritage competition classification process, and in early 2021, the program review process was assigned to a sub-group of the Competition Task Force. Upon review, the sub-group concluded that the Heritage designation does hold value to the equestrian community and should include competitions that exemplify the best characteristics of equestrian sport, uphold high standards at their designated level, and demonstrate sustainability and value within the local community. As a result, the definition and qualifying criteria was strengthened to clarify designation.

To fulfill the USEF Board's mandate to suspend processing of the Heritage designation applications until the program could undergo a full review, the task force conducted its program review and formulated its recommendations, which it hoped to implement as expeditiously as possible to address inquiries received from representatives of competitions seeking the designation that have been held in abeyance for over one year. This proposal was originally put forward in February, 2022 as an Extraordinary Rule Change but was not certified as such by the USEF Legislative Committee. It is now being submitted as a Standard rule change proposal in the 2022 rule change for implementation (if approved) on 12/01/2023.

To ensure that competitions either requesting or being invited to apply for the Heritage designation meet the definition and criteria, the Working Group recommends the following application process be implemented:

New Process for Application

- Applicable Affiliate invites a competition to apply for Heritage designation; alternatively, a competition seeking the designation can complete an application and submit it to the Affiliate to initiate the process
- Affiliate receives and reviews requisite materials
- All applications submitted to the Affiliate must be provided to the Federation accompanied by a documented recommendation from the Affiliate
- Federation reviews submitted materials and may perform a site visit
- Federation CEO makes final decision for approval
- Application returns to Affiliate and Applicant with decision

Additionally, the sub-group concluded that all existing Heritage competitions should undergo a review every five-years utilizing a new process that includes the following:

Review Process for Renewal – occurs every five years following initial designation

- Conducted by a review panel that will renew the designation once it determines the competition has:
 - Maintained its viability and has sustained itself through the years
 - Maintained its same flavor and tradition and provides the same customer experience
 - Demonstrated consistent support of the community (through charitable/monetary or other type of giving or service)
 - Demonstrated consistent sport promotion
- Only those renewals that the review panel determines do not meet the criteria would be forwarded to the CEO for final consideration

Proponent Details

Competitions Task Force

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Andalusian/Lusitano

Arabian

Competition Management

Connemara

Friesian

Hackney

Morgan

National Show Horse

Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory

Paso Fino

Roadster

Welsh

GR307 Classification

[...]

6. Heritage Designations

a. Heritage designations are reserved for those competitions within the sport of Equestrian ~~equestrian~~ that have been established for a long period of time and ***that exemplify the best characteristics of equestrian sport, uphold high standards at their designated rating or level, demonstrate sustainability and value within the community, and continue to contribute*** have made a substantial contribution toward the development and promotion of the sport of equestrian, both within the sport and as well as within the broader community, by achieving, maintaining, and promoting the equestrian ideals of sportsmanship and competition.

b. Approval for all Heritage Designations requires:

1. Documented recommendation by the Federation Recognized Affiliate Association primarily represented by the competition;

~~12. Recommendation~~ ***Approval*** by the Federation CEO;

~~2. Approval by the Federation Affiliate primarily represented by the competition;~~

~~3. Approval of the Federation Board of Directors.~~

3. Heritage Designation will be granted for a period of five years. In order to maintain the designation, each competition must successfully undergo a review process every five years thereafter.

c. Heritage designation may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Federation Board of Directors ***if the competition no longer fulfills the requirements when applying for redesignation.***

d. Eligibility for Heritage Designation requires:

1. Minimum of 25 consecutive years of operation ***with a Federation license*** excluding any Act of God interruption ***and a clean compliance record with no major compliance issues;***

2. Application by the Competition Licensee ***Invitation from the representing affiliate to the license holder to apply for Heritage status;***

3. The Competition must be in good standing with both the Federation and the representing affiliate;

4. Significant involvement ***contribution to*** and support from the community where the competition is held. ***The application should include evidence of a mutually supportive relationship by documenting how the community is benefitted, and how the community supports the competition. A symbiotic relationship is to be demonstrated through submission of letters from community leaders displaying community support, and feedback collected from competitors that have attended the competition in the past.***

5. Significant contribution to promotion of the sport of equestrian; ***the ideals of equestrian sport such as sportsmanship, horsemanship, and uniting the equine community;***

6. Widely recognized within the sport of equestrian as being a Regional, National or International level of competition, or possessing other characteristics that make it unique within the sport of equestrian ***Recognition by the equestrian community as a competition that exemplifies the best characteristics of sport at its designated rating or level, upholds high standards, and demonstrates sustainability with high quality and unique character.***

e. Heritage competitions are permitted and encouraged to advertise their status as Heritage competitions. ***The Federation will support Heritage competitions through promotional and marketing materials.***