

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	8/31/2024	

Rule Change Intent

Broadening the definition of allowed safety stirrups would allow for a breakaway stirrup style that does not rely on a mechanical breakaway point that could potentially fail during an accident. A failure of this kind could cause significant injury to the rider. A small opening along either the internal or external branch of the stirrup would allow the stirrup branch to breakaway without risking a mechanical failure of an attachment point.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Kelly Arnold	Kelly Arnold kladressage@hotmail.com

Linked Rules	Comments
--------------	----------

Committee Actions

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment

The provisions of DR121 apply to both competing and non-competing dressage horses from the time horses are admitted to the grounds, which are designated for the Dressage Competition. The responsibility for the correct attire and equipment rests with the competitor.

All saddlery and equipment must be attached, worn, and used in a conventional manner.

1. Saddle. An English type saddle, with or without a tree, with flaps, stirrups and a girth is compulsory for all tests and classes other than FEI tests. For FEI tests it is compulsory to use a well-fitting dressage saddle that is close to the horse with long, near-vertical flaps and stirrups (except for FEI Para Dressage tests) and a girth. The use of a saddle with a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet, or the use of an original or modified Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddle is prohibited. See DR308.4 for Para Dressage requirements.
 - a. Stirrups. English-style stirrups without attachments or safety stirrups shall be used. Safety stirrups must have closed branches of metal or other breakaway material or mechanism. ***Safety stirrups may have an opening, not to exceed one inch in length, on the inside or outside branch so long as the stirrup incorporates a breakaway material or mechanism.*** The foot must not be fully or partially enclosed and must in no way be attached to the stirrups (for example with magnets); however, a safety stirrup may have a magnetic mechanism that closes the breakaway branch. The stirrup leathers must hang freely from their anchor point without additional attachments to the saddle or girth.