

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	8/31/2021	

Rule Change Intent

Proposal Intent:

The accurate identification of horses is essential. During times of disease outbreak, natural disasters, theft, and to protect against fraud, microchipping of horses is fundamental to good horsemanship. The requirement for all horses competing at USEF licensed competitions to be microchipped is in the interest of horse welfare. While microchipping of horses will be required, members will be encouraged to explore the use of biothermal microchips that allow for blue-tooth connectivity for monitoring of horse temperatures.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Veterinary	Stephen Schumacher sschumacher@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

AHA

AHHS

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/15/2021

Draft 1: The committee is concerned on how this will affect costs to competition management. Will they have to scan every horse on the grounds ? This could be another potential barrier for competitions At this time the committee felt this is unnecessary to their breed because they currently utilize DNA testing.

AMHA

Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/27/2022

Draft 1: The committee discussed that horses that already have chips that are not the 15 digit ones listed in the rule would then need to be chipped again. They also discussed that this would be implementing another requirement for people to need to complete prior to competing, essentially adding another barrier to our sport. Questions were raised regarding who and how this would be enforced, and what if the chip migrated from its original site or is damaged and becomes unscannable? Lastly the committee questioned the intent regarding what USEF would do with this information during disease outbreak/natural disaster/etc., is there a way for owners to state that they do not wish for their horse's chip number to be shared?

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/07/2022

Draft 1: The committee feels this is a proposal which is unfriendly to exhibitors by creating one more barrier for them to overcome in order to compete in the USEF world. The Arabian affiliate already has DNA testing requirements. The committee was also concerned with if because of this rule, competitions would then need to hire someone to scan the horses for enforcement. Lastly the committee stated that at competitions there are still horses on the grounds who are not part of the competition, so with regards to outbreaks, this would still not cover those horses since they are not competing.

ARHPA

ASHA

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Competition Management

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/25/2022

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/14/2022

Draft 1: This would effectively discourage bringing new individuals into licensed competitions and would increase the expense. It also implies that it would apply to opportunity classes as well. The Committee also agrees with USDFs comments that this will discourage participation from competitors who are new to the sport.

Driving

Endurance

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/22/2022

Draft 1: The Eventing Sport Committee approves provided the following language is included: "Exception for Eventing: Unrecognized and Beginner Novice levels held at Federation licensed and endorsed Events."

Friesian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/02/2022

Draft 1: The committee feels that microchips that are already implanted should be included in the rule. This allowance would prevent horses from needing multiple microchips.

Hackney

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/08/2022

Draft 1: At this time the committee felt this is unnecessary to their discipline because they currently utilize DNA testing. The committee is concerned on how this will affect costs to competition management and large operation breeders. This poses as a potential barrier for competitions and exhibitors.

IALHA

IFSHA

Jumper

Morgan

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/27/2022

Draft 1: The committee feels this is not necessary for many breeds because of breed registries already requiring either microchipping or bloodwork verification. They also questioned how this would be enforced at competitions and what would happen if the chip migrated from its original site and was unable to be found?

National Show Horse

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/25/2022

Draft 1: The committee felt this would be one more hoop to jump through to become involved in the equestrian world. The committee feels this would be more acceptable as a heavily recommended practice but still allowing for personal choice.

NSH

Paso Fino

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/19/2022

Draft 1: While the committee agrees with the intent of this rule change, they wish to add an exception referencing PF101.1. There is a current PF Chapter rule change adding language that would identify all horses registering with PFHA after 2018 must be microchipped to be eligible to compete. This rule change went into effect with PFHA in 2019. The current rule change proposal has an effective date of 12/1/2022 and is to align with the PFHA rulebook. The request for this exception would ensure that the USEF microchipping rule (active in 2023) would not override the PF chapter. If this exception were to be added to the rule change, the committee would approve.

PFHA

Reining

Roadster

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/27/2022

Draft 1: The committee has concerns on how this will affect costs for exhibitors and competition management. The committee feels strongly that this should be a personal choice for owners and not regulated for competition purposes. This creates a financial burden for many of the parties involved.

Saddle Seat Eq

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/08/2021

Draft 1: The committee has concerns on how this will affect costs to competition management and the exhibitors. They don't feel the intent behind the proposal is of concern for their discipline because they currently require DNA testing.

Shetland

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/01/2022

Draft 1: The committee feels this proposal is not applicable to the Shetland breed at this time. In addition, they feel this would be one more requirement for owners which would make it harder to become participants in the USEF world.

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/21/2022

Draft 1: This will discourage participation from competitors who are new to the sport, contrary to bring the joy of horse sports to many people.

Vaulting

Veterinary

WDAA

Welsh

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 02/16/2022

Draft 1: The committee does not believe this is necessary for their breed. This is an added expense for many of the exhibitors and/or breeders and the committee felt strongly that if required, they would lose the majority of their USEF exhibitors. This in turn would require them to drop their current USEF shows.

Western Committee

Western Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/21/2021

Draft 1: The committee felt that microchipping is a personal choice and should not be regulated for competition purposes. This requirement would have a financial impact on competitors, and it has been found that some horses are allergic to the microchips and yet there is no exception for cases of allergy intolerance. The committee also felt that with regards to the intention mentioning natural disasters, there are other ways to tag a horse to represent ownership.

- 10. All horses competing at Federation Licensed Competitions must provide a microchip number that verifies the animal. A microchip used to verify identity must be a fifteen-digit ISO compliant 11784/11785 chip and be implanted in the nuchal ligament of the animal.**
- a. This rule will have a transition period from December 1, 2023 until November 30, 2024. During this period, animals that are not in compliance with this rule will not receive points or be eligible for Federation programs and awards. After this period, all horses that are competing in classes which require Federation registration, which are not microchipped will be ineligible to compete.**