



US EQUESTRIAN MORGAN COMMITTEE RULE CHANGE PROPOSAL TIMELINE

The utilization of member's forums to hear thoughts, concerns and ideas regarding USEF rule change proposals make the Morgan breed unique. The USEF Morgan Committee has created a process for rule changes that benefits the Morgan Committee and the Morgan Community. Listed below is the timeline a rule change proposal takes from submission to inception in the USEF Rulebook.

1. The USEF Morgan committee or USEF Morgan liaison must receive any rule change proposals that originate outside the Committee by January 15. The Committee reviews each proposal individually through conference calls and at the Committee meeting held during the Annual AMHA Convention. The purpose of the review ensures that these proposals are clearly written and address a perceived problem.
2. The list of rule change proposals that will go forward to the Rule Forums is finalized on April 1. Each USEF Morgan Committee Member receives a complete list of each rule change proposal so that every Rules Forum is provided consistent information. The Forum's are moderated by a Member of the USEF Morgan Committee at all Regional Championship shows, the Grand National and any class "A" Morgan show that requests a Rules Forum. Forums may be held at other venues provided a Moderator can attend. As the Rule Forums progress through the competition year, the Moderators and Committee Members track questions, suggestions and problems raised for each rule change proposal. It is extremely helpful to have member contribution to the rule change process as they may see problems missed by others.
3. The list of rule change proposals is posted on the www.morganhorse.com website on the Latest News page so all members of AMHA have an opportunity to review the proposals. Then Members have a chance to attend a Rules Forum and comment on a particular rule change proposal. Another option is to contact their Regional Board Representative, Directors at Large or the Morgan Rules Committee to express their thoughts on an issue.
4. Before September 1, the USEF Morgan Committee has a conference call to address any significant problems with the rule change proposals expressed in all Rule Forums to date. On occasion, it becomes apparent to the Committee that a rule change proposal is not developed enough to move forward. If several questions are raised in the course of the Rules Forums, it is at this point the Committee will withdraw the proposal or request the proponent to withdraw it for revision. Once the rule change proposal is revised it can be re-submitted for the next cycle. Following September 1st, USEF posts all rule change proposals for every breed and discipline on its website at www.usef.org. These are proposed rule changes and have not been adopted.
5. After the Rules Forum at the Morgan Grand National, the USEF Morgan Committee meets to finalize the rule change proposal information.
6. At the November meeting, the AMHA Board of Directors reviews the submitted rule change proposals that went through the Rules Forums. Here they will have an opportunity to discuss, question and vote on the proposals.
7. The USEF Morgan Committee does a final vote on the rule change proposals after the November board meeting and before the January USEF Board of Directors meeting. The Committee takes into consideration input from forums, the AMHA Board of Directors vote, and membership input. These are the final drafts of the rule change proposals to be submitted to the USEF Board of Directors for consideration.
8. The USEF Morgan Committee meets during the USEF Annual Meeting to review all rule change proposals submitted through the USEF process that affect the Morgan breed and votes to approve or disapprove. Since the Morgan horse competes in so many disciplines, it is necessary to review non-Morgan Division rules such as the Carriage Pleasure, Hunter and Dressage Chapters. The Committee also votes on the General USEF Competition Rules so that they can better serve the interest of the Morgan Community.
9. The USEF Board of Directors votes to approve or disapprove all submitted rule change proposals. Generally, the effective date for proposals is April 1st or December 1st of the competition year. Therefore, if a proposal was submitted during the 2009 competition year (12/1/08 to 11/30/09) it will have an effective date of April 1, 2010 or December 1, 2010.



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Even though the Morgan World has developed an individual process for rule change proposals that govern Morgan Competitions, the USEF is the National Governing body for Equestrian Sport in the United States as designated by the Ted Stevens Amateur Sports Act passed by the United States Congress. As the Governing Body, the USEF has a designated procedure for rule change proposals. This procedure permits all USEF Members to submit rule change proposals directly to USEF which may pertain to any portion of the USEF Rule Book. It is extremely important to allow the rule change process to be open to everyone and provide a fair playing field for all USEF Members. Since the USEF Morgan Committee must also abide by the USEF Rule Change Timeline we try to achieve a balance by using the following practice:

1. June 1 is the deadline for rule change proposals submitted by individual USEF Members and September 1 is the deadline for rule change proposals submitted by Federation Committees/Councils/Staff/Legal Counsel. Any rule change proposals concerning the Morgan Division which comes directly to USEF after the January 15 deadline, do not have an opportunity to pass through all of the Rules Forums. The Morgan Community places a high value on allowing everyone the chance to comment on the current rule change proposals at the Forums. Therefore, any proposals submitted past the January 15 deadline should be re-submitted for the next cycle.
2. The USEF Morgan Committee policy requires disapproval of any rule change proposal that does not go through the forums.
3. The USEF Board of Directors does not approve Morgan rule change proposals that the USEF Morgan Committee disapproves.