

USEF SAFETY STIRRUP GUIDELINES

Updated 1/21/2026

Fig. A

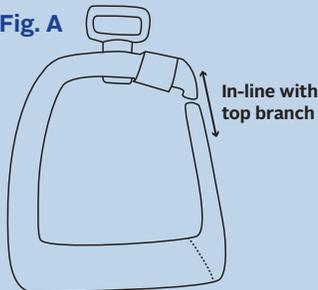


Fig. B

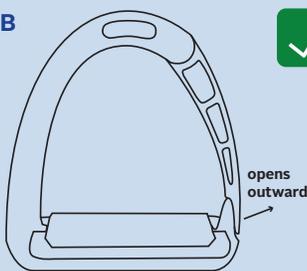


Fig. C

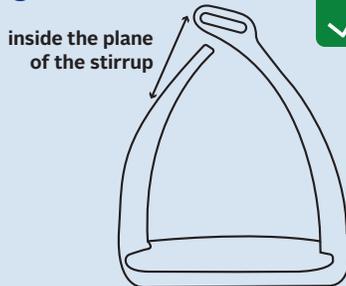
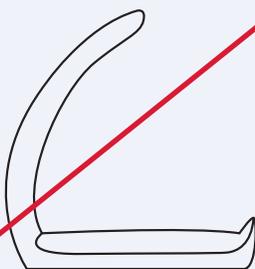


Fig. D



Fig. E



Disclaimer

These Stirrup Guidelines have been developed with the primary purpose of promoting safety for USEF members during USEF licensed competitions and to prepare members for upcoming changes to GR801.6. By providing information and guidance, these Guidelines aim to assist members in making informed choices when selecting stirrups that support a safe riding experience.

It is important to note that these Guidelines serve as general informational resources and do not constitute an endorsement of any specific stirrup design. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, USEF assumes no responsibility or liability for any errors or omissions within the content.

When considering tack and equipment options, USEF strongly urges members to prioritize safety and consult with experienced professionals to make the best decisions for their individual needs.

Introduction

This guide provides you with information to help you determine whether the stirrup you are using or the stirrup you are considering buying complies with USEF rule GR801.6. This rule change was implemented to protect riders from injuries by upward projections on some saddle attachment designs.

We cannot control all the different designs of stirrups currently on the market or those which may come on the market in the future. Therefore, the considerations provided herein are not inclusive of all considerations you may want to evaluate when determining whether a stirrup is compliant with GR801.6.

Additionally, it is important to consider other items that can be attached to a saddle (e.g., security stirrup latches) that might cause a compliance issue with GR801.6.

New Rule Effective December 1, 2025

****Please note that if specific breed or discipline chapters have more stringent rules regarding the use of certain stirrups, those more stringent rules prevail.**

GR801 Exhibitor Safety Equipment

6. Saddle Attachments: Beginning December 1, 2025, no piece of equipment shall be attached to a saddle that has a rigid upward pointing projection, hook, or similar object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups.

For the 2026 competition year, USEF officials shall issue a verbal warning for the use of non-compliant stirrups to ensure awareness. Beginning December 1, 2026, the rule will be enforced in the manner outlined within each breed or discipline chapter for the use of prohibited tack or equipment.

Factors to Consider in Determining Safety Stirrup Compliance

Considerations when evaluating a stirrup in relation to its permitted use under GR801.6 include:

- When the release mechanism is not activated, the safety stirrup must have closed branches, or an outside branch with a gap **not to exceed 1.5 cm** that fully aligns with the outside plane of the stirrup (figures a & b), or
- If the safety stirrup, when the release mechanism is not activated, has an outside branch that is not closed and has a gap, that branch must lie inside the plane of the stirrup (figure c)