Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
GR 848.1	065-24	5	Extraordinary	12/1/2026	USEF Officers	Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	12/1/2026	6/17/2026	

Extraordinary Change Reason

participant safety

Rule Change Intent

This rule change simplifies the Federation's return to sport process and requirements for individuals who sustain a fall at a competition. All individuals who have fallen from a horse or cart are required to be examined by qualified medical personnel prior to remounting their horse or cart and returning to competition. For those individuals who suffer a concussion or apparent concussion, the requirements to return to sport remain unchanged.

Proponent Details

USEF Officers

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

BOD: Language amended on the floor of the Mid-Year Board Meeting.

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/18/2024 **Draft 3:** Recommends Approval 04/30/2025	**Draft 1: The committee would like to propose that we classify the types of falls. They understand the intent but for those that slide off a horse and land on their feet, should they be required to be evaluated by medical personnel? Often medical personnel may not be readily available so in these cases how would that be handled? Would a time-out be charged and to whom? How long would they be willing to hold the class/show?**

Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/04/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Approval 05/08/2025	**Draft 1: The committee is in agreeance with the intent of this rule change, but would like a fall on one's feet to be considered for revision to not count as a "fall" requiring medical evaluation.** **Draft 4: The committee would like to see it listed that the parent/guardian is the responsible party for ensuring a minor is examined following a fall and add a statement for any person's fall examination regarding conflict of interest, that a family member, friend, etc. can not be the person completing the examination.**

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/26/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Disapproval 05/05/2025	**Draft 1: The committee has several concerns regarding this rule change: Landing on one's feet should not be considered a "fall". The potential of holding a class and waiting for the EMT to arrive to complete the evaluation. The committee would also like point 6 to be addressed in regards to the reporting; is every single fall now supposed to be reported?** **Draft 4: Overall, the committee is pro-rider safety, but feels that as an adult, an exhibitor should be allowed to make their own decisions about their body and whether to get examined or not; they do not agree with mandating an adult to receive a medical evaluation. With this rule change, the committee is concerned with the quick implementation of the rule without proper time for education on how to implement this rule at the competitions. The committee is also concerned with how a Steward/TD will definitively know whether someone falls, gets examined, and cleared to return to sport for them to fill out a report; the official can not be in all places at once and many falls happen on competition grounds without a Steward/TD ever knowing they took place.**

Athletes Advisory

Draft 4: Recommends Disapproval 05/19/2025	**Draft 4: The AAC would like to see allowances for the different disciplines because the consequences are too big for the intention of the proposal and will cause a disruption within the competition.**

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/05/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Disapproval 05/06/2025	**Draft 1: The committee supports the intent of this rule, but have a few minor adjustments they would like to see - first, they want the language in the rule to change from "cart" to "horse drawn vehicle", as the word cart denotes a specific type of vehicle in pleasure driving, rather than any horse drawn vehicle. They also would like "fall" to be defined more clearly in the rule, as they feel currently it is too vague.** **Draft 4: The committee reiterates that their previous concern about class holds due to exhibitor falls has not been addressed, and feel this should be included in the rule so it is applied fairly across all competitions.**

Competition Management

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/03/2024
Draft 3: Recommends Disapproval 04/07/2025

Draft 1: The committee agrees with all changes in this rule, other than the requirement for all participants to be evaluated by QMP at the event should they separate from their horse. They believe the focus should remain on those with injuries or exhibiting symptoms of concussion. There is a current shortage of QMP across the country, and with events which operate many rings, this could remove priority from those injured to examine someone who has, for example, fallen from their horse but landed on their feet without injury. Additionally, the committee noted that the responsibility to obtain evaluation from the QMP at the event is on the member, but feels this is unenforceable. It was also noted that requiring this type of evaluation was incompatible with Vaulting and Endurance disciplines.
Draft 3: The committee expressed the following concerns: 1. The large number of additional individuals who will need to be evaluated under this rule will create an increased burden on the Qualified Medical Personnel. 2. The added number of individuals needing to be evaluated under this rule change will likely cause delays to the competition while riders get evaluated before getting back on. 3. The committee is still concerned that placing the responsibility on the fallen person to ensure they evaluated will result in the falls not being properly reported and they feel that somebody other than the fallen person needs to report. 4. The committee echoes the vaulting committee's comment about the need to define falls for vaulters.

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/26/2024

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 01/07/2025
Draft 4: Recommends Disapproval 05/27/2025

Draft 2: The Council supports the intent of this rule change proposal; however, additional work is needed on the definition of fall: All disciplines: In 1., fall is not specified as fall from a horse and not capitalized to refer to the definition of Fall (GR122). This could be open to interpretation as any type of fall – like falling off a bike. On training days when there is no competition happening there may not be a qualified medical personnel on grounds to assess participants in order for them to continue riding, driving or vaulting. Outside of competing, there can be non-members riding, driving or vaulting so how would they be identified in order to be on the Medical Ineligibility List or to enforce the list? Fall is defined in GR122 but only for riders, not drivers, vaulters or other participants. For riders, it is defined as separation from the horse. By this definition, then participants under this proposal would need to be cleared by the qualified medical personnel after every time they intentionally dismount. Endurance: It would take qualified medical personnel a considerable amount of time to get to certain parts of the trail if there was a fall. This would have considerable effect on an athlete's ride time which would be outside of an athlete's control. There is concern that the implementation of this rule would push athletes to not disclose falls on trail for fear of having to wait for qualified medical personnel and therefore would not seek medical attention once returning to base camp. Driving: For Driving the appropriate term would be carriage, not cart. The issue in Driving is a fall off the carriage by the navigator or more likely the bottom step. This can happen now without stopping competition on marathon. Stopping competition for minor falls that result in no injury would create significant hardship on the competitors and competition management. Also, there are instances where participants can dismount from the carriage and remount – this happens usually for fixing tack issues. In these instances, they would have to await an exam before continuing and there is concern that this would encourage people to continue driving with tack issues due to not wanting to risk having to wait on the exam. The navigator and bottom step are not always members so how would they be identified in order to be on the Medical Ineligibility List or to enforce the list? Vaulting: Fall is not defined for vaulters in the USEF rules. Since there is not a definition of fall for vaulters in the USEF Rulebook, a fall is open to interpretation that could negatively disrupt competition and training as vaulters often separate from the horse during a performance. The USA Gymnastics concussion guidelines can be helpful for concussion rules for vaulting. USA Gymnastics notes that a concussion should be suspected in any gymnast who experiences appropriate mechanism of injury with mechanism of injury being defined as sustaining direct, indirect or rotational impact to the head, face, neck or body; experiencing whiplash effect, where the head forcibly moves forward & backward due to impact elsewhere on the body; and/or jarring effect from the trunk up to the head and brain (such as a hard fall to the buttocks). If using the USA Gymnastics policy then it should still at all times be the fallen person's responsibility to stop vaulting in the instance of a fall as defined above but with this definition judges can stop a performance and require an exam by the qualified medical personnel should they feel a fall has occurred with this definition of mechanism of injury. Outside of the competition ring, it could be under the purview of TDs to stop a vaulter from continuing to vault should they feel a fall has occurred with this definition of mechanism of injury.
Draft 4: The Council feels it is important to amend the verbiage at the end of point 1 to read: "The fallen person, or in the case of a minor who has fallen, the parent/guardian is responsible for ensuring this examination takes place." Additionally, would like to see allowances for the different disciplines, especially the non-Olympic disciplines because the consequences are too big for the intention of the proposal and will cause a disruption within the competition.

Council - Member Services	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/17/2024 **Draft 2:** Recommends Approval 12/19/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Disapproval 05/27/2025	**Draft 1: The Council agrees with and supports the intent of this rule change proposal but has concerns about the enforceability of the proposed rule as currently worded since GR848.1 specifically limits the examination of an individual who falls to the competition's Qualified Medical Personnel. Since a fall might occur outside of competition hours (before the competition day's start or after the competition day's end), the individual might not have access to the Qualified Medial Personnel. Additionally, as currently worded, the proposal calls for not allowing a fallen participant to remount "their" horse or cart, when the intent likely wants to prevent a fallen participant from remounting any horse or cart. The Council would recommend approval if the language in GR848.1 were changed to read: "Any participant who has had a fall at a competition, must be examined by the competition Qualified Medical Personnel, a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner before returning to competition or remounting any horse or cart."** **Draft 4: The Council agrees with the intent of this proposal, but recommends the following be considered: (i) Consideration should be given to arena events versus those that occur out in the field or on a course because the process for examining a rider after a fall would be very different in each instance; (ii) Any participant who falls but refuses to undergo an assessment should be immediately placed on the Medical Suspension List and proceed through that process to be cleared for return to competition; (iii) The Council feels it is important to amend the verbiage at the end of point 1 to read: "The fallen person, or in the case of a minor who has fallen, their parent/guardian is responsible for ensuring this examination takes place."**
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline	
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 01/06/2025 **Draft 4:** Recommends Disapproval 05/19/2025	**Draft 2: The Council had concerns with an individual being able to be examined within a timely manner. Even with the addition of individuals in the rule change, the Council felt unsure that these individuals would feel comfortable signing off on returning to competition due to liability reasons. There were also concerns on whether the return would be allowed for the current class or the remainder of the competition, where the examination should take place (i.e. in the ring during the class or excused from the ring), and the self-policing of individuals reporting if they've fallen outside of the competition hours. Some breeds/disciplines already cover falls within their chapters and the result would be elimination.** **Draft 4: The Council had concerns for the difficulty of enforcing the rule, lack of clarification on whether a time out should be assessed, and the lack of language addressing if an exhibitor would be eligible to show back to a championship if cleared. The Council suggested using similar language in tracking #64-24 to address the elimination and showing back concerns and having a parent/guardian be responsible for also signing the return to play form when the individual is a minor. They would like consideration for additional verbiage to be added to address how this would be handled within the ring (interruption of class versus time out).**
Dressage	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/13/2024 **Draft 3:** Recommends Disapproval 04/07/2025	**Draft 1: Approve with the following recommendations: Point 4 - Competition management must refuse entries to participate, ADD: 'or refund if already entered', any person on the Federation Medical Ineligibility List. Point 6 - requires a comma after 'unless an exceptional circumstance exists, ...** **Draft 3: Upon further review, the comment made by the IDC on Draft 2 still applies to Draft 3.**
Driving	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/15/2024 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 01/02/2025 **Draft 3:** Recommends Disapproval 04/08/2025 **Draft 4:** Recommends Disapproval 05/06/2025	**Draft 1: While we agree with the use of helmets, we see the lack of specific language as it relates to driving and the different roles of those on carriage as a problem. We are happy to collaborate offline on language for both drivers and navigators to fall under this rule.** **Draft 2: Again, we agree with the use of helmets. In this proposal, we see the lack of specific language as it relates to driving and the different roles of those on carriage as a problem, and would seriously hinder our small sport.** **Draft 4: The Committee does not support this proposal as it would greatly disrupt the sport of Combined Driving. - The definition of Fall in the USEF Rulebook is specific only to riders. There is no definition of Fall for Participants on carriages. - At many competitions, there are no medical personnel on-site for training days. Additionally, QMP are only required during marathon for Short Format Driving competitions - not Dressage or Cones. - There would be confusion of enforcing this rule as the FEI entries would not be subject to this rule but the USEF entries would be. - Implementing this rule would cause major delays in the competition schedule, especially for dressage and cones. - The marathon presents an additional concern as there could be multiple competitors held for lengths of time where horses may be held under extreme sun/heat. - If a groom is being evaluated by medical personnel, then there is no one to hold horses and ensure that horses in pairs/four in hands are not removing bridles from other horses in the pair/team. - There is concern about who is interpreting what is a Fall and what is an intentional dismount as intentional dismount is permitted in Driving. - There are rules currently written into the DSC chapter about penalties and process should a groom come off the carriage which would conflict with this proposal. Should this proposal pass, Combined Driving will need an exception for competitions to be able to operate.**
Endurance	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/19/2024 **Draft 3:** Recommends Disapproval 04/22/2025	**Draft 1: While the ESC understands the importance of ensuring athlete safety, the proposed changes are incompatible with the competition format for the discipline of endurance. Currently, there are processes in place at competitions to ensure qualified medical personnel can reach an athlete should there be an injury on trail. If a fall occurs with no need for immediate medical attention, then the athlete re-mounts as per EN105.4b and may be examined once back at base camp. Athletes may be miles out on a loop when a fall occurs where it could take qualified medical personnel considerable time to reach the athlete. Due to the negative impact on an athlete's time, the ESC is concerned that this proposal would encourage athletes to not disclose falls and/or potential injuries/concussions. The ESC also worries that athletes may not seek medical attention once they come into base camp out of fear of consequence for not being examined out on loop. Additionally, the enforceability of the proposal is near impossible for endurance as only small portions of the trail is seen by officials or participants other than the athletes themselves.** **Draft 3: The ESC feels that their comment from draft one still applies.**

Eventing	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/19/2024 **Draft 3:** Recommends Approval 04/29/2025	**Draft 1: The Committee would like to know how the proposed rule change would affect the Eventing rules where remounting after an athlete fall is permitted (e.g. an athlete who falls in the Dressage test is permitted to remount and continue their test). Additionally, "apparently concussed" should be clearly defined.** **Draft 3: The committee recommends approval with the recommendation that language is added to say, while it is not required for the first fall, it is strongly recommended that competitor who lands on their feet is examined by medical personnel.**
Friesian	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/18/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Approval 05/14/2025	**Draft 1: The committee is in agreeance with the rule change with the exception that they feel a fall on one's feet, should not constitute a "fall" by definition of this rule; falling on one's feet does not warrant an examination by qualified medical personnel to return to play.**
Hackney	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/20/2024 **Draft 3:** Recommends Approval 05/12/2025	**Draft 1: The committee asked if the types of falls could be categorized. They understand the intent but for those that slide off a horse and land on their feet, should they be required to be evaluated by medical personnel? Often medical personnel may not be readily available so in these cases how would that be handled? How long would they be willing to hold the class/show and who would the timeout be charged to ?**
Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/16/2024	**Draft 1: The committee agrees with the intent of this rule, but would like to see the following changes: 1-The submission of non-serious/non-concussion accident reports appears to be inadvertently removed from the rule, but the group believes that all injuries should be reported to the Federation as has been done in the past. 2-Rather than all falls require evaluation prior to the return to riding (some land on feet, or slide off of horse), the committee recommends that any competition official (stewards/tds/judges/etc.), medical personnel, competition management, or competition staff be permitted to intervene after witnessing a fall and require a rider get evaluation before return to riding. Additionally, the committee felt if the responsibility to seek evaluation fell solely on the participant, it would likely not be enforceable/trackable.**
Jumper	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/18/2024 **Draft 3:** Recommends Approval 04/21/2025	
Licensed Officials	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/09/2024 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 01/13/2025	**Draft 1: The committee understands the intent of the rules and is concerned with participant welfare, but does not agree with the language as written and will look forward to a draft 2 to review.** **Draft 2: The LOC agrees with the concept of this rule change. The Committee believes more clarity is needed around the reporting requirements and how information with shared with the Federation.**
Morgan	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/04/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Disapproval 05/08/2025	**Draft 1: The committee would like a revision to be considered to make an exception to the mandatory examination by medical personnel if a person was to fall, but land on one's feet; this should not be considered a "fall" under this rule.** **Draft 4: The committee would be in agreeance with this rule change if verbiage was added that it is the parent/guardian who is responsible for ensuring the participant under the age of 18 (minor) is examined following a fall.**
National Hunter Committee	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/03/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Disapproval 05/05/2025	**Draft 1: The committee agreed with the concussion piece of this rule, however, they feel the requirement of being examined after every fall would be difficult to enforce and would delay the competition schedule.** **Draft 4: The committee is in favor of the safety of exhibitors. However, they feel the language is not very clear and would like additional input from medical professionals on this rule. In addition, the committee noted that landing on your feet does not prohibit concussions.**
National Show Horse	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/27/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Disapproval 05/07/2025	**Draft 1: The committee feels that overall this rule change needs revision to consider several points: falling on one's feet should not be considered a fall under the guidelines of this rule; the potential outcomes from this rule such as: making EMTs harder to find and employ for competitions (due to the added liability on them for these decisions); the potential for EMT's to err on the side of caution during examination by not allowing the return to competition due to them being held responsible for this examination and determination (liability of their decision on return to play). The committee would like it considered to leave the rule as is, where it is the rider's responsibility and decision on being examined or not and returning to play.** **Draft 4: The committee, while in favor of rider safety, is not in favor of the rule due to the following: The potential for exhibitors missing their class due to the need to be evaluated before returning to sport and the potential for medical personnel not to be quickly available; if an exhibitor can't get clearance to return quick enough, this creates many hardships for the horse and exhibitor. The committee feels that Qualified Medical Personnel is not in the position to accurately provide these necessary medical decisions and that these evaluations will put extra liability on the personnel to make the return to play decision.**
ParaEquestrian	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/15/2024	

Paso Fino	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/19/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Approval 05/15/2025	**Draft 1: Although the committee is in favor of someone receiving medical help, they feel that the rule should be left at the exhibitor's discretion of whether to seek medical attention or not; also considering that all exhibitors already sign a liability waiver in order to compete. The committee has concern, as the rule is written, that there will be significant delays in competition and that due to the placement of medical personnel at competitions, this rule will not be effectively feasible. The committee feels that if this rule is approved, that it needs to address whether this fall and medical examination will result in an official timeout being charged to the entry or simply a "delay of class" as judging will have paused; the rule does not specify this procedure.** **Draft 4: The committee feels that "had a fall at a competition" should be more defined for clarity to only refer to someone handling a horse when they fall, so as not to include someone that might simply trip and fall while walking on competition grounds, etc. The committee suggests the verbiage of "handler" as this would include any person who is handling the horse whether walking it, lunging, riding, driving, in-hand, etc.**
Roadster	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/21/2024 **Draft 3:** Recommends Approval 05/12/2025	**Draft 1: The committee had some reservations. Could we classify types of falls? Should a person who slides off and lands on their feet be required to be evaluated versus someone who is thrown from their horse? Often EMT's or other qualified medical staff are not readily available. How long would we hold the show to determine if this individual could continue?**
Saddle Seat Eq	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/21/2024 **Draft 3:** Recommends Approval 04/28/2025	**Draft 1: The committee would like to propose that we classify the types of falls. They understand the intent but for those that slide off a horse and land on their feet, should they be required to be evaluated by medical personnel? Often medical personnel may not be readily available till the competition starts so in the cases of falls occurring prior to the start of competition, how would that be handled? The current rule states "competition qualified medical personnel".**
Shetland	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/27/2024 **Draft 4:** Recommends Approval 05/14/2025	**Draft 1: The committee would like to see a clearer definition of a fall included in the rule, as there are many ways one could "fall" off a cart, some of which may not require medical personnel. For classes where many horses are judged at once, how long would a class "hold" before continuing on?**
USDF	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/07/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 01/15/2025 **Draft 3:** Recommends Disapproval 04/09/2025	**Draft 1: While USDF supports the concept of this proposal, paragraph 4 fails to address the situation where someone was eligible when they submitted their entry but is placed on the ineligibility list after their entry is submitted and before the competition. In such a situation, it is too late to reject the entry as the competitor was eligible when it was submitted and therefore the entry was accepted. We recommend that this proposal be amended by adding a new sentence to the end of paragraph 4 to the effect of "See GR 848.7 on refunds to competitors who were placed on the Medical Suspension List after submitting an entry but prior to the competition date."** **Draft 2: While USDF supports the concept of this proposal, paragraph 4 fails to address the situation where someone was eligible when they submitted their entry but is placed on the ineligibility list after their entry is submitted and before the competition. In such a situation, it is too late to reject the entry as the competitor was eligible when it was submitted and therefore the entry was accepted. We recommend that this proposal be amended by adding a new sentence to the end of paragraph 4 to the effect of "See GR 848.7 on refunds to competitors who were placed on the Medical Suspension List after submitting an entry but prior to the competition date."** **Draft 3: While USDF supports the concept of this proposal, paragraph 4 fails to address the situation where someone was eligible when they submitted their entry but is placed on the ineligibility list after their entry is submitted and before the competition. In such a situation, it is too late to reject the entry as the competitor was eligible when it was submitted and therefore the entry was accepted. We recommend that this proposal be amended by adding a new sentence to the end of paragraph 4 to the effect of "See GR 848.7 on refunds to competitors who were placed on the Medical Suspension List after submitting an entry but prior to the competition date."**
USEA	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/08/2025 **Draft 4:** Recommends Approval 05/22/2025	**Draft 1: The Board would like to know how the proposed rule change would affect the Eventing rules where remounting after an athlete fall is permitted (e.g. an athlete who falls in the Dressage test is permitted to remount and continue their test).**
USHJA	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/12/2024 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 03/17/2025	**Draft 1: Not all falls may rise to the level that require this much address.** **Draft 2: It seems unclear as to whether non-competition medical personnel were able to clear riders to return to competition, or if it was only the competition's own medical personnel that could do so. Further clarification is needed.**

Vaulting

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/12/2024
Draft 4: Recommends Disapproval 05/13/2025

Draft 1: GR840.1, tracking 65-24: Disapproval with the following comment: The VSC appreciates the proposal's intent to ensure participant safety; however, the current language is not only unsuitable for Vaulting but also risks negatively impacting the sport by failing to account for its unique nuances and requirements. GR122 only defines a fall for riders and not vaulters or drivers. Since there is not a definition of fall for vaulters in the USEF Rulebook, a fall is open to interpretation that could negatively disrupt competition and training as vaulters often separate from the horse during a performance. The VSC requests an exception from this rule for vaulting with reference to the USA Gymnastics concussion guidelines. USA Gymnastics notes that a concussion should be suspected in any gymnast who experiences appropriate mechanism of injury with mechanism of injury being defined as sustaining direct, indirect or rotational impact to the head, face, neck or body; experiencing whiplash effect, where the head forcibly moves forward & backward due to impact elsewhere on the body; and/or jarring effect from the trunk up to the head and brain (such as a hard fall to the buttocks). It should at all times be the fallen person's responsibility to stop vaulting in the instance of a fall as defined above but the VSC would be in favor of adopting this definition for purposes of this rule so judges can stop a performance and require an exam by the qualified medical personnel should they feel a fall has occurred with this definition of mechanism of injury. In training at competitions, it would be under the purview of TDs to stop a vaulter from continuing to vault should they feel a fall has occurred with this definition of mechanism of injury. In addition, it has been noticed that for riders in all disciplines the definition of fall in GR122 as currently written would consider dismounting to be a fall since GR122 defines a rider fall as a rider separating from their horse. The VSC suggests the definition of fall per GR122 be reviewed in conjunction with this proposal.
Draft 4: The Committee does not support this proposal as its implementation would cause great difficulty in Vaulting. - The definition of Fall in the USEF Rulebook is specific only to riders. There is no definition of Fall for Vaulters which regularly vault on and off horses during competition and training. - There would be confusion of enforcing this rule as the FEI entries would not be subject to this rule but the USEF entries would be. - Implementing this rule would cause major delays in the competition schedule. - If one vaulter in a Squad falls, then the remaining squad would have to stop and wait for the QMP. - There is concern about who is interpreting what is a Fall and what is an intentional dismount as intentional dismount is permitted in Vaulting. There are rules currently written into the Vaulting chapter about penalties and timing to remount the horse following falls which would conflict with this proposal. Should this proposal pass, Vaulting will need an exception for competitions to be able to operate.

Welsh

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/05/2024
Draft 4: Recommends Approval 05/06/2025

Western Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/17/2024
Draft 4: Recommends Disapproval 05/08/2025

Draft 1: The committee feels that this proposal needs far more clarification. What defines a fall? How long is competition management expected to hold classes for an evaluation? Does this require reporting for every fall?
Draft 4: The committee's previous concern regarding the definition of a fall has not been addressed in the updated draft, so while improvements have been made, the committee still does not support the change at this time.

Western Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/16/2024
Draft 4: Recommends Disapproval 05/14/2025

Draft 1: The committee understands the intent of the rule but feels it needs further clarification. How long are competitions expected to hold classes for evaluations? What happens in the instance where someone falls from an object, rather than a horse? Should individuals who land on their feet be required to be examined by medical personnel?
Draft 4: The committee is still concerned with how falls outside of the competition ring would be addressed under this rule, since fall isn't defined. Falling off a ladder or bike, or falling while running? The committee would support the capitalization of "Fall" to refer to the GR definition of fall.

Member Comments

Judith Chamberlain — Draft #1

I heartily agree with this rule change. Now maybe we will stop putting people (especially kids) back on their horses after a fall and applauding them! However, in #2, the correct term is "Physician Assistant", not "Physician Assistance".

GR848 ~~Accidents Involving Individuals~~ ***Concussions, Injuries, and Return to Sport***

1. ~~This rule pertains to accidents involving individuals at Federation-Licensed or endorsed competitions.~~ ***The following participants who have fallen from a horse or horse-drawn vehicle at a competition, must be examined by the competition Qualified Medical Personnel, a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner before returning to competition or re-mounting any horse or horse-drawn vehicle. The fallen person is responsible for ensuring that this examination takes place:***
    a. ***Participants under the age of 18;***
    b. ***Adult participants who have fallen, except when the participant lands on their feet; and***
    c. ***Adult participants who have fallen more than once during a competition, including when the participant lands on their feet.***
2. ***Any participant who has had a fall at any competition, and who shows signs of a concussion or is apparently concussed, will be placed on the Federation Medical Ineligibility List until they have been examined by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner and a properly completed Return to Sport Form is received by the Federation.***
3. For all individuals evaluated pursuant to this rule, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a properly completed Accident/Injury Form to the Federation Director of Competitions with their Steward or TD Report, unless otherwise noted below.
4. ***Competition Management must refuse entries to participate from any person on the Federation Medical Ineligibility List.***
5. ***The Steward or Technical Delegate at the competition must submit an Accident/Injury Report within 24 hours of any incident that gives rise to a concussion or apparent concussion.***
6. ***The Steward or Technical Delegate at the competition must immediately notify the Federation and submit an Accident/Injury Report within 24 hours, unless an exceptional circumstance exists, for any serious injury or fatality that occurs.***

~~3. Fatalities and Serious Injuries. In the event of a human fatality or serious injury, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall notify the Safety Coordinator, Competition Management, and the Federation immediately, or as soon as practicable. Within 24 hours, except in exceptional circumstances, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a completed Accident/Injury Report form to the Federation.~~

~~4. Unconsciousness/Concussion.~~

~~a. In the event of a fall/accident where the competitor is apparently concussed or unconscious, the competitor is precluded from competing until evaluated by qualified medical personnel, as defined in GR847.1.a. If the competitor refuses to be evaluated, he is disqualified from the competition and must follow the Return to Competition guidelines in accordance with the rules.~~

~~b. A Time-Out may be called in accordance with applicable division rules.~~

~~c. If qualified medical personnel suspect that a competitor has sustained unconsciousness or a concussion, the competitor must be precluded from competing until cleared to compete in accordance with the Return to Competition rules.~~

~~d. The competition Steward or TD shall notify Competition Management and the Safety Coordinator of the fall/accident as soon as practicable. In the event that a Steward or Technical Delegate is unable to be present at an accident or injury, the Safety Coordinator or Manager must inform the senior Steward or Technical Delegate of said accident or injury within one hour for proper follow-up and reporting, as required by the Federation.~~

~~e. For all competitors evaluated pursuant to this section, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a properly completed Accident/Injury Form, and, if applicable, any corresponding signed release to the Federation Director of Competitions within 24 hours of the fall/accident, except in exceptional circumstances.~~

~~5. Medical Suspension. Any competitor who is determined ineligible to compete under any of the preceding paragraphs will be placed on the Federation Medical Suspension List that will be posted on the Federation's website.~~

~~6. Return to Competition. In the event that a competitor is determined ineligible to compete under one of the preceding paragraphs, the competitor shall submit to the Federation, a signed release, which includes criteria established by the Federation from time to time, completed by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner in order to be eligible to once again compete in Federation-Licensed or endorsed competitions.~~

~~7. Refusal of Entry. Any competitor on the Federation Medical Suspension List is responsible for not competing in any further Federation Licensed or endorsed competition until he is removed from the medical suspension list. Competitions management shall refuse entries of any competitor who is on the Federation Medical Suspension List, unless he submits to the Federation a properly signed release in accordance with the Return to Competition rules. Competition Management is responsible for checking the Medical Suspension List prior to accepting entries.~~

~~a. Substitution. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the rules herein, if an entry is accepted prior to the time the competitor was added to the Federation Medical Suspension List, a substitute competitor may be named.~~

~~b. Refund. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the rules herein, for any competitor who appears on the Federation Medical Suspension List, a Federation-Licensed or endorsed competition shall refund the entry fees and Jumper nominating fee, if applicable, less office fees, if applicable. Stabling fees may not be refunded, unless the stabling is filled.~~

GR1033.4.a.2

4. Forms – Forms submitted to the Federation must be on the correct competition year's form as provided by the Federation. Incomplete forms, prior year's forms, or illegible forms will not be accepted. The following forms must be submitted in a timely manner to:

[…]

2. ***An Accident/Injury Form for any serious accident or injury that occurs at the competition, including any incident that gives rise to a concussion or apparent concussion,*** ~~Accident/Injury Report Forms on the official form provided by the Federation~~ ***must be submitted to the Federation*** in accordance with GR848.