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CHAPTER 8 CONDUCT OF LICENSED COMPETITIONS

SUBCHAPTER 8-A ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT

GR801 Exhibitor Safety Equipment

1. Protective Headgear.
 - a. It is compulsory for all persons at Federation licensed competitions when mounted anywhere on the competition grounds, to wear properly fastened protective headgear in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website, unless stated otherwise in the relevant division rules. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. Exception: Adults may be allowed to remove their headgear while accepting prizes and during the playing of the National Anthem only; they must refasten their headgear prior to the lap of honor.
 - b. The Federation makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.
 - c. It is the responsibility of the rider or the parent or guardian of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use and is properly fitted and in good condition. The Federation, Show Committee, Competition Management, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.
2. Body Protecting Vest. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear and/or a protective vest either body protecting or inflatable, specifically designed for use in equestrian sport in any division or class without penalty from the judge. The Federation recommends that the vest pass or surpass the current ASTM standard F1937 or be certified by the Safety Equipment Institute. For Eventing, inflatable vests are permitted only when worn over a body protecting vest. Protective headgear must be in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label.
3. Biometric Sensors and Equipment. The use of equine and human biometric sensors that are minimal in design is permitted in competition. Materials or methods of attaching the biometric sensor that may enhance performance is prohibited. Information obtained from biometric sensors must not be accessed by the competitor while on the field of play.
4. Boots. Boots/shoes worn while riding anywhere on the competition grounds must have a distinguishable heel. (Exception: Arabian, Hackney Pony, Morgan, National Show Horse, Parade, Roadster, American Saddlebred, and Saddle Seat Equitation).
5. Assigned Numbers. Competitors must display the correct number which must be clearly visible while performing in any class unless otherwise stated in the prize list. Competitors may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Numbers to be supplied by management in compliance with GR1213.11. Refer to DR121.11 (Dressage) and DR207.8 (Dressage Sport Horse Breeding).
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.

GR802 Artificial Markings and Appliances

1. Any change of color or markings other than mane, tail, or hoof is prohibited. (Exception: Arabian and Half/Anglo Arabian halter, see AR106; Reining Division; Friesian Division; Paso Fino, see PF101.3). Only clear grooming materials are allowed on the hide and hair. Materials may be used to remove stains.
2. All artificial appliances other than those permitted in division rules are prohibited (Exception: Reining and Jumper Divisions). Bandages, tailsets, chains or other training devices are prohibited in the ring in Breeding/Halter classes.

GR803 Use of Whips

No item may be used inside or outside the ring while showing a horse except one whip per handler. If whips are allowed, they must be no longer than 6' including the snapper or lash. No appendages of any kind are permitted. One lungeing whip is permitted only when lungeing. Some breed and/or disciplines may have use of whip division rules that depart from this rule and as such, the division rule governs. (GR151.1)

GR804 Shoeing Regulations

1. In some parts of the country, it is common practice to show unshod horses in certain classes. A horse cannot be barred from the ring because of being unshod but, in classes in which it is common practice for all horses to be shod, a barefoot horse may be penalized at the judge's discretion.
2. Competitions offering classes in a division that designates a maximum weight for shoes (Paso Fino, Welsh) must provide accurate scales for weighing. If any horse casts a shoe in any of these classes, the shoe, including pad if used, but not including nails must be immediately weighed by the judge. In these classes, a competitor may not be excused from the ring until the judge is satisfied that the horse has not cast a shoe.
3. If the weight of a shoe and pad is protested, the owner may either withdraw the entry and forfeit all entry fees and winnings of the protested entry for the entire competition, in which event the protest must be withdrawn and the fee refunded or, have the shoe and pad removed in the presence of the competition veterinarian and steward so it can be weighed immediately.
4. Whether cast or removed, if the shoe including pad exceeds the weight limit, the entry must be disqualified for the balance of the competition and all entry fees and winnings of the entry for the entire competition will be forfeited. Removal and replacement of any protested shoe and pad is the sole responsibility of the owner of the entry; however, if the protest is not upheld, the protestor shall pay up to \$100.00 to defray the cost of removal and replacement of the shoe.
5. See AR106 for Arabian shoeing regulations.

SUBCHAPTER 8-B COMPETITION AWARDS, HONORS, AND PRIZES

GR805 Challenge Trophies

1. A Challenge Trophy is a trophy donated to or offered by a competition which must be won a specified number of times under specified conditions. When originally placed in competition, it becomes the property of the Show Committee and cannot be withdrawn by the donor.
2. The conditions of the Challenge Trophy may not be changed without the consent of the trophy donor or his legal representative and of all who have qualified as potential winners of the trophy, except in the event that the conditions stipulated are in conflict with the current rules of the Federation. In such an event, the Show Committee or Competition Management must confer with the Federation as to procedure.
3. The winner of a leg on a Challenge Trophy in competition is entitled to possession of such trophy for a period of 10 months from date of winning unless a competition stipulates that the trophy will remain in its possession. The winner is responsible for protection and care of the trophy while in his possession. At the expiration of 10 months, or two months prior to the next annual competition, the competition may demand return of trophy if it has not been won outright. Failure of an exhibitor to return the trophy constitutes a violation under Chapter 7 and renders the exhibitor subject to penalty.
4. If a Challenge Trophy is competed for at more than one competition per year, the committee may elect to keep the trophy in its possession.
5. If a Challenge Trophy is destroyed, stolen, or lost and therefore cannot be returned, the exhibitor who had possession of the trophy must pay to the competition the cost of replacing it with a trophy equally suitable and satisfactory to the Show Committee or Competition Management. The exhibitor will be exempt from penalty if the trophy is replaced before the next competition.
6. Should a competition or class be discontinued or not held for any period of time, any unretired Challenge Trophies offered at such competition must be returned at the expiration date of ten months to the last active Show Committee or Competition Management. The Show Committee or Competition Management will determine the disposition of such trophies but they may not be placed in competition at any competition unless the provisions of paragraph 2 are met.

7. In the event of the death of an exhibitor who has won one or more legs on a Challenge Trophy, a member of that exhibitor's family may include such previous winnings in any further competitions for such Challenge Trophy in which they may engage.
8. If a Challenge Trophy is competed for and won under a farm name and the farm is later sold to another person who retains the farm name, legs won on the trophy by the first owner will not be counted by the subsequent owner of the farm in his competition.

GR806 Perpetual Trophies

A Perpetual Trophy is a trophy donated to or offered by a competition which is never awarded permanently to an exhibitor but remains the property of and in the possession of a competition. The Show Committee or Competition Management may present a replica or souvenir trophy to the annual winner. The conditions of a Perpetual Trophy are identical with those of a Challenge Trophy. Exception: previous winners need not be consulted when and if specifications are changed.

GR807 Prize Ribbons

1. At all Licensed Competitions, the prize ribbons are to be the following colors:

Grand Champion	Blue, Red, Yellow, and White
Reserve to Grand Champion	Red, Yellow, White, and Pink
Champion	Blue, Red, and Yellow
Reserve Champion	Red, Yellow, and White
First Prize Blue	Sixth Prize Green
Second Prize Red	Seventh Prize Purple
Third Prize Yellow	Eighth Prize Brown
Fourth Prize White	Ninth Prize Gray
Fifth Prize Pink	Tenth Prize Light Blue

2. It is recommended that competitions offer one ribbon for every six entries.
3. A Licensed Competition located outside the United States may conform to the practice of the country in which it is situated with respect to the color of the ribbons used.

GR808 Awarding Championships

1. Championship classes for a specific height or sex may be offered in any division as set forth in the respective division rules. Judging specifications must follow those of the Open Championship class.
2. In the Hunter divisions, Championships must be awarded on points. In the Morgan and Welsh Pony divisions, Championships may be awarded on points or held as performance classes. (See JP110.2 for Jumper Championships and EQ107.8 for Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Championships)
3. When Championships are awarded on points, all competitors must be given an equal opportunity to obtain points. In all other divisions, Championships must be awarded in a Championship Performance class and all entries must be given an opportunity to qualify.
4. Only the first four ribbons in each class are counted regardless of the number offered. Ribbons have the same point value even if less than the specified four places are awarded due to lack of entries, etc. Exception: See JP110.2 for Jumper Championships.
5. Point Value:

Blue ribbon	5 points	Yellow ribbon	2 points
Red ribbon	3 points	White ribbon	1 points

6. In Hunter and Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation sections only the first six ribbons in each class are counted regardless of the number offered. Ribbons have the same value even if less than the specified six places are awarded due to lack of entries. First Place...10 points, Second Place...6 points, Third Place...4 points, Fourth Place...2 points, Fifth Place...1 point, Sixth Place...1/2 point.

GR809 Performance Championships

1. A Show Committee or Competition Management must designate all qualifying classes and can require any or all winners in a qualifying class at that competition to compete in a Performance Championship class provided this is stated in the prize list and the gaits required are the same as in the qualifying class. Any exhibitor failing to comply must forfeit all prize money in the qualifying class. If an exhibitor or trainer qualifies more than one horse for a Championship class he can elect to show only one. Exception: Regional and National/World/Grand Breed Affiliate Competitions.
2. To be eligible to show in a Performance Championship class a horse must have been properly entered, shown, and judged in one qualifying class at that competition in the same division or section. Exception: Regional and National/World/Grand Breed Affiliate Competitions.
3. So long as a competition has not limited eligibility for a Championship class to ribbon winners of qualifying classes, an entry which while performing in a qualifying class fails to qualify by reasons of equipment repair (limited to bridle, saddle, cart, wheels, and harness), shoeing time, illness (certified by the official veterinarian) or failure of a class to fill shall be permitted to pay double fee and make a post entry in another qualifying class in the section or if no subsequent qualifying class is available for such post entry, the horse shall be considered qualified for the Performance Championship class, provided the horse has previously been entered in the Championship or Stake. Exception: Dressage, Jumper (See JP136.6), and Paso Fino. (See also GR117.3)
4. To avoid divided Performance Championship classes, eligibility for a Championship class may be limited to ribbon winners in qualifying classes.

GR810 Breeding or In-Hand Championships

1. Junior Breeding or In-Hand Championships may be offered for two-year-olds and under; Senior Breeding or In-Hand Championships for three-year-olds and over. In the event a competition offers a Junior Championship and a Senior Championship, as well as a Show Championship, only the first and second place ribbon winners are eligible to compete for the Show Championship unless division rules prohibit foals and yearlings.
2. Entry in a Breeding class does not qualify a horse for a Performance Championship class. Exceptions: in the Hackney Pony, Morgan, Roadster, and American Saddlebred Horse divisions any performance class, including futurities and/or classics, qualifies for a Performance Championship class at that competition.
3. In a Breeding section of the Welsh division, the Championship will be awarded to one of the horses which has placed first in a qualifying class. After the Championship has been awarded the horse which has placed second in the qualifying class to the horse awarded the Championship shall compete with the remaining first place winners for the Reserve Championship.
4. In a Breeding section of the Hackney, Morgan, American Saddlebred, or Shetland divisions, the Championship and Reserve Championship will be awarded to horses that have placed first or second in their qualifying classes.
5. In a Breeding section of the Arabian division, the Junior, Senior, or Show (Grand) Championship will be awarded to one of the horses which has placed first in a qualifying class. Qualifying classes for championships must be designated in the prize list. After the Championship has been awarded, the horse which has placed second in the qualifying class to the horse awarded the Championship shall compete with the remaining first place winners for the Reserve Championship. If a Show (Grand) Championship class is held, the Senior Champion and the Reserve Senior Champion as well as the top two ranking two-year-olds will be eligible to compete. (Exception: AR118.1).
6. In any case, should any first or second place winners in a qualifying class not compete for the Championship or be disqualified for being unsound, being unruly, or not performing the class routine in the Championship

class, the horse receiving the next highest ribbon in the qualifying class shall have the option of moving up for the Championship and Reserve only.

7. None of the above applies to Dressage/Sport Horse Breeding.
8. None of the above applies to the Andalusian/Lusitano Division. For Breeding and In-Hand Championships see AL106.
9. None of the above applies to the Friesian Division. For Breeding and In-Hand Championships see FR118.

GR811 Sweepstakes

When a Sweepstake class is offered, providing for a division of entry fees, either with or without monies added by the Show Committee or Competition Management, the total to be distributed must include the entry fees of all entries listed in the catalogue, whether or not the horses are shown, plus all fees covering other entries legally in the class, unless a competition stipulates in its prize list that portion of the entry fees which will be withheld.

GR812 Retirement Ceremony

1. If a retirement ceremony is allowed at the request of the owner of a horse, that horse may not be permitted to compete at the competition. Any horse officially retired at a Licensed Competition is barred for life from further competition at Licensed Competitions except by special permission of the Board of Directors; however, they can continue to be shown in Academy classes, Leadline classes, Get of Sire, and Produce of Dam classes.
2. The Federation will give necessary publicity to all official retirement ceremonies and will notify all Licensed Competitions. See GR1214.7.
3. Any ceremony announcing an exhibitor's retirement from competition is prohibited.

SUBCHAPTER 8-C COMPETITION AND CLASS CONDITIONS AND ELIGIBILITY

GR813 Classes for Horse and Rider

In a class where the performances of both horse and rider are considered, the horse and rider together constitute an entry and neither can appear in a different combination except in Eventing, Dressage classes, or Western Dressage.

GR814 Amateur

Amateur classes may be offered in any division using the specifications set forth in the respective division rules. If Amateur classes are offered leading to a Championship, judging specifications will be those of amateur classes or amateur Championships unless the prize list specifically states that open judging specifications will be used.

GR815 Breeding or In-Hand

1. Breeding or In-Hand classes may be offered in any section in which they are indicated in the respective division rules. The prize list must specify as to each class the age, sex, and manner of showing.
2. All Futurity classes are considered part of the respective Breeding sections.

GR816 Junior Exhibitor

Classes, sections, or competitions may be limited to junior exhibitors if so desired. Where special rules and class specifications are given for classes so limited, they should be used throughout the junior exhibitor classes offered and shall take precedence over such class specifications as those for Championship classes. A Show Committee or Competition Management should bear in mind that a horse suitable for a junior exhibitor should have good manners and it is suggested that the specifications for a Ladies' or Amateur class be followed throughout.

GR817 Ladies

Ladies' classes may be offered in any division using the specifications set forth in the respective division rules. If Ladies' classes are offered leading to a Ladies' Championship, judging specifications should follow those of the Ladies' class rather than those of the Championship class.

GR818 Local

Any competition may offer Local classes or complete Local divisions provided the meaning of the local designation is fully and clearly defined. Class specifications must follow those listed in the respective division rules as closely as possible.

GR819 Maiden, Novice, and Limit

A competition may offer Maiden, Novice, or Limit classes or complete sections in any division using the specifications set forth in the respective division rules. If a Championship class is held, it must be judged in accordance with the Maiden, Novice, or Limit class specifications rather than those of the Championship class as listed unless otherwise specified.

GR820 Model Classes

1. Model classes may be offered in any section in which they are indicated in the respective division rules. They may be divided as to age, sex, or height and may be held prior to a Breeding section to provide a standard for judging.
2. Model classes may be included in the number of classes required for a division or section rating. Exception: Hunter Division and Welsh Pony Division.
3. Entry in a Model class does not qualify a horse for a Performance Championship class.

GR821 Opportunity Classes

1. Opportunity Classes:
 - a. may be held at breed restricted or Hunter and/or Hunter Jumper competitions with no FEI recognized classes, Western Dressage competitions, Western Regular or Local Competitions. Classes must be open to all breeds unless it is a breed restricted competition. In a breed restricted competition it must be stated in the prize list if the classes will be restricted or open. Exception: At any Federation Licensed Competition, opportunity classes may not be restricted to Friesians.
 - b. are limited to 10% of the total number of the competition's classes, with a maximum of 20 Opportunity Classes per competition, whichever is less (Exception: Dressage and Western Dressage).
 - c. Dressage Competitions and Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes are limited to 20 Dressage Opportunity Classes per day. Western Dressage Competitions are limited to 10 Western Dressage Opportunity Classes per day. The 10% requirement does not apply to Dressage or Western Dressage.
 - d. may be held in addition to Exhibition Classes.
2. Opportunity Classes:
 - a. do not count towards Horse of the Year Awards and the results from Opportunity Classes may not be used by any entity for a national awards program. Only with permission of the respective recognized affiliate organization may results from Opportunity Classes be used for regional awards.
 - b. cannot be used as a qualifying class for any championship class held at the competition except an Opportunity Class championship at the competition.
 - c. cannot be considered in reckoning Competition Championships awarded on points except an Opportunity Class championship at the competition.
 - d. do not count towards the minimum number of classes nor amount of prize money offered when determining the rating of the competition.

- e. Dressage classes may be offered as Opportunity classes at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with “Open” Dressage classes as described below:
 - 1. Classes are limited to the following competition levels and dressage tests:
 - a. Level 1 competitions may offer three tests and only three classes per level per day at Introductory - Fourth Level.
 - b. Level 2 competitions may offer three tests and only three classes per level per day at Introductory - Third Level.
 - c. Level 3 competitions may offer three tests and only three classes per level per day at Introductory - Second Level.
 - d. Level 1, 2, and 3 competitions may offer two Eventing Test of Choice classes per day in addition to the tests, classes, and levels list above in Section 1.a – 1.c.
 - e. Level 1, 2, and 3 competitions may also offer two dressage seat equitation classes per day in addition to the tests, classes, and levels list above in Section 1.a – 1.c.
 - f. Level 1, 2, and 3 competitions may offer up to two para dressage test of choice classes per day in addition to the tests, classes, and levels listed above in Section 1.a – 1.c. The rider must have a national dispensation/classification certificate or FEI classification on file with the Federation and must provide said certificate or classification to competition management. See DR119.12 – DR119.14. Riders are prohibited from riding above or below their classified grade.
 - g. Level 4 and Level 5 competitions may not offer Opportunity classes.
 - 2. Opportunity Classes are for entry level participants and may be offered to encourage participation in Federation Licensed Competitions.
 - 3. Freestyles may not be offered as Opportunity classes. Opportunity classes cannot be offered as “Test of Choice” classes.
 - 4. If opportunity classes at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with “Open” Dressage classes are restricted to amateurs, riders are required to have an amateur status with the Federation.
 - 5. All rules and regulations in GR821 must be followed, except for GR821.6.
 - 6. Horses, riders, owners, trainers, and coaches participating only in Opportunity classes are exempt from Federation and affiliate organization membership and Horse Identification (HID) requirements and non-member/Show Pass fees, but are required to list the Federation membership number if the participant is a member.
- f. Breed restricted Dressage classes can be offered as opportunity classes at Regular/Local breed restricted competitions.
- g. Opportunity Classes for Hunter/Jumper/Equitation Divisions
 - 1. Opportunity Classes are for entry level riders.
 - 2. May be held at Federation regular competitions.
 - 3. All Opportunity classes and sections must have fences 2’6” or below. Opportunity Jumper classes must not be scored under Table II, Sec.1 (see JP146.2) or Table III (see JP148). Courses must not include combinations (see JP127).
 - 4. Any rider that has, in the last five (5) years, competed in any rated hunter section or an Equitation class with a National year-end final is not eligible to compete in any Opportunity classes or sections.
 - 5. All rules and regulations in section GR821 should be followed, except riders are not permitted to cross-enter into any non-Opportunity classes.
 - 6. Horses may cross-enter into non-Opportunity classes if the competition prize list allows. If cross-entry is permitted, all applicable fees and membership requirements apply.
 - 7. Unless otherwise approved by the Federation, a maximum of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in prize money (including the value of any in-kind awards) may be paid across all Opportunity classes at the competition.
- 3. Horses entered only in these classes are still subject to and must comply with the Drugs and Medication rules and are subject to drug testing.
- 4. Horses entered only in these classes:
 - a. are exempt from the Federation fee, including the Equine Drugs and Medication fee.
 - b. are not required to have a Horse Identification (HID) or Recording Number but are to list the HID or Recording number if the horse has been assigned this number.

5. Riders/drivers/handlers entered only in these classes are exempt from the Federation membership requirements and are not required to pay a Show Pass fee but are required to list the Federation membership number if the participant is a member.
6. The prize list must state whether or not horses and/or riders/drivers/handlers entered in Opportunity Classes can cross enter into the rated/recognized classes at the same competition. If cross entry is allowed, all applicable fees and membership requirements apply.
7. The list of Opportunity Classes offered must include "Opportunity" in the class name. The classes may include but are not limited to the following categories:
 - a. Opportunity Pleasure (Saddleseat, Hunter, and/or Western)
 - b. Opportunity Equitation (Saddleseat, Hunter, and/or Western)
 - c. Opportunity Costume (Historic and/or Contemporary)
 - d. Opportunity Trail (English and/or Western)
 - e. Opportunity Driving (Show Pleasure Driving and/or Carriage Pleasure Driving)
 - f. Opportunity Walk-Trot (Pleasure and/or Equitation)
 - g. Opportunity Gaited (Three-gaited, Five-gaited, and/or Paso Fino)
 - h. Opportunity Reining
 - i. Opportunity In-hand classes (Amateur and/or Junior Handler)
 - j. Opportunity Fun Classes
 - k. Opportunity classes for Hunter/Jumper/Equitation Divisions 2'6" and under
 - l. Opportunity classes for Dressage
 - m. Opportunity classes for Western Dressage.
8. Unless the competition is using existing Federation class specifications, the prize list must list the class specifications for each Opportunity Class, to include but not be limited to:
 - a. Gaits required
 - b. Judging criteria
 - c. Attire, tack, and equipment allowed.
9. Opportunity Classes must be judged by a Federation licensed judge or an individual who has been issued a Guest Card. (Exception: Judges for Dressage Opportunity classes must be eligible according to GR1008, GR1009, or GR1010.) Conflict of interest rules in GR1309 apply. See GR1004.
10. The competition must submit full results of all Opportunity Classes as required in GR1214. Horses with HID or Recording members and participants with Federation membership numbers are to have these numbers listed in the results.

BOD 06/17/2025 Effective 12/01/2025

GR822 Owners' Classes

Owners' classes may be offered in any division using the specifications as set forth in the respective division rules. If Owners' classes are offered leading to an Owners' Championship judging specifications should follow those of the Owners' class rather than those of the Championship class.

GR823 Dividing Classes

1. Classes can be divided by sex into three groups (stallions, mares, and geldings) or a Show Committee or Competition Management may prefer to require mares and geldings, or stallions and geldings to show together.
2. If a Show Committee or Competition Management wishes to divide junior exhibitor classes, it may offer separate classes for boys and girls or offer several age limits. The following three age limits are suggested but may vary according to local conditions:
 - a. Juniors who have not reached their 11th birthday,
 - b. Juniors who have reached their 11th but not their 14th birthday
 - c. Juniors who have reached their 14th but not their 18th birthday.
3. When divided as above horses cannot be entered in more than one age section of the same class. Exceptions: Arabian, Morgan, Equitation, and American Saddlebred divisions.
4. A Show Committee or Competition Management may offer classes divided by age of adult exhibitor.

GR824 Stallions

Stallions are barred from any Ladies' or Junior Exhibitors' classes except as provided for in division rules. Unless competition rules state otherwise, stallions may be shown by anyone in other classes in every division.

GR825 Ponies

1. Ponies may be ridden only by junior exhibitors. Exceptions: Adults may ride ponies in the Eventing, Connemara, Dressage (other than (1) USEF High Performance Championships, USEF qualifying and selection trials, and observation classes (2) FEI Pony, Junior, and Young Rider tests), Hunter, Jumper, American Saddlebred, and Welsh Pony divisions.
2. If an animal 14.2 hands or under is eligible to compete as a horse in the Arabian, Half or Anglo Arabian, Connemara, Morgan, Paso Fino, National Show Horse, or American Saddlebred Divisions, it may also compete as a horse in other appropriate classes (except for Dressage; see DR119.1). It cannot, however, compete as a horse in one class and a pony in another class at the same competition.
3. Once an animal is shown in a class restricted to horses, except in the aforementioned divisions and as provided for in SB204.4, it cannot be shown as a pony the same year.

GR826 Combined Ownership

Combined ownership is permitted in classes when more than one horse constitutes an entry unless the prize list states otherwise.

GR827 Hors de Concours

Competition Management may, in its sole discretion, permit an exhibitor to **exhibit in a class** Hors de Concours. If a horse **exhibits in a class** Hors de Concours, the horse cannot compete in a subsequent class for prize money in the same ring on the same day. However, the rider of a Hors de Concours horse may compete in subsequent classes.

For exceptions see below:

- a. Dressage Competitions (out of competition); see DR119.5 and DR119.7
- b. Eventing Competitions: see EV110.6
- c. Driving Competitions, see DC915
- d. Jumpers - See JP136.14.
- e. **Exhibiting in a class** Hors de Concours is prohibited in the following divisions: Hackney, Roadster, Saddlebred, National Show Horse, and Western Dressage.

GR828 Permission to Compete in Foreign Competitions

1. International (FEI) Competitions: In accordance with Article 102.3 of the FEI General Regulations which states: "All competitors invited or nominated for an international event must be entered by their NFs", individuals wishing to compete in foreign International (FEI recognized) Competitions must apply to the Federation for each international competition they wish to enter, (this includes competitions in Canada and Mexico). They must complete an application providing information such as: the name and date of the particular competition(s) requested; the name(s) and details of the horse(s) to be ridden. A non-refundable application fee per competition must be enclosed. (Competitors may also opt to pay a non-refundable annual prepaid application fee in the amount of ten times the per competition fee (in lieu of paying a non-refundable per competition application fee). In the event of an oversubscription in dressage, driving, eventing, or reining, the discipline's Credentials Committee will rank the applicants, providing that they have submitted a timely application as defined in the discipline criteria. The rankings will be based upon the individual's experience in competing in the U.S. and abroad, the individual's recent results and ranking (if applicable) and other discipline specific criteria (if applicable). If the competition in question is on borrowed horses, the Credentials Committee will consider the experience the applicant has had in riding and competing on various horses. For

endurance, jumping, and vaulting, please refer to each discipline's criteria for procedures in selecting riders in the event of an oversubscription. Individuals wishing to compete in foreign international competitions who have not met the established criteria to compete in foreign FEI competitions may apply for a waiver, for which there is a fee. Copies of application and criteria for each discipline are available from the Federation website or Federation office.

2. National Competitions: Individuals wishing to compete in FEI recognized disciplines in National Competitions in foreign countries must receive permission from the Federation. An application for permission to compete must be completed and returned to the Federation. Copies of the application on the Federation website or from the Federation office. The competitor will be asked to provide the following information:
 - a. whether or not the individual is a United States citizen and a current member of the Federation;
 - b. whether they wish to compete as an amateur or professional;
 - c. whether they wish to compete in National or International Competitions;
 - d. the disciplines in which they wish to compete (i.e., Jumping, Dressage, Eventing, Driving, Vaulting, Reining, or Endurance Riding);
 - e. the length of stay in each country;
 - f. whether they have been alleged to have violated or found in violation of FEI or Federation rules or the rules of any other National Federation or Federation affiliated association; and
 - g. whether they have been indicted, named in an information, convicted or disciplined by an administrative agency, arbitration or other tribunal, body, humane society or court of law, whether civil, criminal, arbitral or administrative, for an act which would be a violation of Federation rules if committed during a Recognized Competition.
3. Permission to compete must be applied for each year.
4. Foreign Competitors:
 - a. Foreign Competitors who desire to compete in non-breed restricted, National Competitions in the FEI recognized disciplines in the United States must have proof, in English, of membership in good standing from their National Federation and must be members in good standing of the United States Equestrian Federation. (See GR202)
 - b. Competition management must request proof, in English, of current membership in good standing from their respective National Federation and proof of current Federation membership.
5. Denial of Permission. Any application for permission to compete abroad answering affirmatively as to GR828.2f or .g shall be referred to a Committee of the Federation Board of Directors consisting of the Officers and two active athlete directors appointed by the President; the President shall serve as Chairman of the Committee and at any meeting the presence of at least four officers and one active athlete director shall constitute a quorum; the Committee shall by majority vote determine whether any such application shall be granted or denied, taking into account whether in the opinion of a majority of the Committee members any affirmative information regarding GR828.2f or .g causes other applicants to be considered more appropriate to serve as representatives of the sport and country in competing in foreign countries. Any such ruling by a majority vote of the Committee denying the privilege of a license to compete in foreign countries is final and not subject to appeal or review except where otherwise provided in the Bylaws of the USOPC, or where a review is granted in the discretion of the Committee, which upon further application may give further consideration to any applicant, may direct a hearing upon the application by the Committee or by the Hearing Committee, or may make any other ruling regarding the application considered by the Committee appropriate under the circumstances.

SUBCHAPTER 8-D SCHEDULING DURING COMPETITION

GR829 Length of Competition

1. A competition may not hold classes more than 16 hours out of any 24-hour period from the start of the first class to the finish of the last class, including intermissions. There must be a recess of at least 8 hours between the finish of the last class of an evening performance and the first class of a morning performance the following day. A fine may be imposed for exceeding the 16-hour time limit or not allowing an 8-hour recess. Exception: Competitions offering only Hunter, Jumper, and Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes may not run more than 14 hours of actual performance time. Warm-up sessions, judged or unjudged, are included except sessions held at the beginning of the day where no fee is charged.

2. If management disputes that the time limits were not exceeded and the above fine is not properly owing, it may request a hearing of these issues before a special committee appointed by the President provided a written statement specifying the grounds for the hearing is received at the Federation's office within 30 days of management's receipt of Federation's notice of fine. The special committee shall hear the matter and determine whether the fine is properly owing. The special committee may waive a part or all of the automatic penalty upon a finding of good cause why the time limits were exceeded and a finding that extreme hardship results from the automatic penalty.
3. All classes in any section for junior exhibitors in any one day must be held within a twelve-hour period, excluding intermissions.
4. No classes may be started after midnight. Exception: Paso Fino classes not restricted to Junior Exhibitors.
5. Exception: Endurance Competitions.

GR830 Time Schedule

1. The announced order or time for classes may not be changed unless at least 12 hours notice of such change be given to each exhibitor and judge affected or each exhibitor affected consents in writing.
2. Provided the order of events is not changed, the Show Committee or Competition Management may call any class up to 30 minutes ahead of its scheduled time. Exception: Vaulting exhibitors must be given one hour's notice.
3. Once the first horse in a Reining class has been entered, shown and judged, the class must be run in entirety before commencing with the next scheduled class.
4. None of the above applies to Eventing (see EV134).
5. None of the above applies to Dressage or Western Dressage. For Dressage and Western Dressage Competitions, the following conditions apply: (1) Rides may be rescheduled up to one hour earlier or later than announced in the official schedule if each competitor is individually notified at least two hours prior to their rescheduled ride time. Rides within a class may be rescheduled in a different order. (2) Ride times or classes may not be changed more than one hour from the time announced in the official schedule unless 12 hours notice of such change is given to each exhibitor and judge affected or each exhibitor affected consents in writing to the change. Public address announcements, schedule changes posted on the show grounds or internet, and statements published in the prize list or entry documents do not meet the notification requirements of this rule.
6. Exception: Endurance Competitions.

GR831 Delay of Classes

1. When the start of any class requiring horses to be shown individually is delayed by horses not ready to perform, the competition may be closed at the order of the judges, Show Committee, or Competition Management, provided a warning is issued and exhibitors are given three (3) minutes to appear at the in-gate ready to participate. (Exception: in hunter, hunter/jumping seat equitation, and jumper classes with a specified jumping order, see HU126, JP112, JP136.15a & JP136.2.) In classes where horses compete collectively, a warning is issued and the in-gate must be closed two minutes after the first horse enters the ring. (Paso Fino, see PF102.7; Arabian, see AR107.1) Judging must not commence until the gate is closed or at the end of the two-minute call. An official timer must be appointed to enforce this rule.
2. It is recommended that a starting enforce order be established in all classes in which horses compete individually and to allow one minute for an entry to enter the ring. At competitions using only one ring, a starting order must be established. If a jump order is used, it must be posted at least 30 minutes prior to the start of the class.
3. Exception: Endurance Competitions.

GR832 Interruption of Procedure

1. If weather appears to be imminently affecting the safety and welfare of horses and/or exhibitors, it shall be the responsibility of competition management (Exception: Eventing see EV137) to stop the competition until it is safe to recommence. If a competition in progress must be stopped due to a storm, accident, or other

emergency, the Show Committee or Competition Management will decide whether to re-commence. Any interrupted classes may be re-commenced within the session in which they were originally scheduled or at a succeeding session of the competition. (Exception: Dressage GR832.7, Driving, Eventing EV137, Reining GR832.9.) If a Licensed Competition's Prize List does not advise exhibitors that refunds of entry fees will not be given in the event a class or classes, or all or part of the competition is cancelled due to a storm, accident, or other emergency, the Licensee is required to refund entry fees for the cancelled class or classes upon written request by an exhibitor within 30 days of the cancellation.

2. The Show Committee or Competition Management will also decide whether awards for classes not held is warranted and called for. No Championship, awarded on points, can be awarded in any division, however, unless more than 50% of the scheduled classes in that division have been held. Any action thus taken by the Show Committee or Competition Management will not be referred to the Federation in as much as the matter is one of discretion and not regulation.
3. If a class is in operation at the time a competition is stopped, no placements involving Horse of the Year Awards will be made. If a tie for a Championship exists in the Hunter or Jumper division at the time the competition is stopped, points toward Horse of the Year Awards will be divided between the tied horses.
4. If classes are postponed to a day not included in the original competition dates, exhibitors are entitled to a refund of entry fees in the class postponed and are relieved of any obligation to show back in postponed classes.
5. If a class in which horses compete either collectively or individually is in progress and must be stopped due to a storm, accident, or other emergency, the following procedure shall govern (Exception: Dressage, Driving, Reining, Eventing, Jumper, Western Dressage):
 - a. If a class is continued during the same session or a succeeding session of the competition, the judge along with the steward(s) and management will decide:
 1. to hold the class over in its entirety in which case no scores credited in the first session will count, or
 2. to recommence the class where it was interrupted.
 3. In the case of a hunter classic, or a two round class and one round is complete; it may be decided to pin the class with the first round scores.
6. Jumper:
 - a. A Jumper Class that Management decides to postpone due to storm, accident, or emergency per GR832.1 may be combined with a subsequent class in the same section with the prize money of the postponed class added to the prize money of the subsequent class. Management must make this decision prior to the first horse competing in the postponed class. The start fee for the postponed class will be added to that of the subsequent class and must be refunded to those declared competitors of the postponed class who choose not to declare for the combined class.
 - b. In a jumper class which has reached the jump-off stage when the class is stopped, only those competitors involved in the jump-off need compete in the succeeding session. Jumper classes scored under Table II, Sec. 2b or 2c, Table IV, Sec. 4b or 4c or Table V Sec. 2b or 2c must be held over in their entirety unless the competition is continued over the original course at a later session, in which case the class shall continue from the point where it was stopped and scores earned by horses which have already competed shall stand.
7. Dressage: If it becomes necessary to interrupt a dressage competition for any reason, the unfinished portion may be recommenced and rescheduled for the same or following day at the option of the Show Committee or Competition Management with the Ground Jury's consent. All scores recorded before the interruption will stand. When classes are re-commenced after a delay on the same day, competitors must be given at least 30 minutes' notice of the starting time. Exhibitors whose ride times are changed to or on a subsequent day as a result of an interrupted competition or inclement weather conditions, must be individually notified at least two hours prior to a rescheduled ride time.
8. Eventing: See EV137.1.
9. Reining: If it becomes necessary to interrupt a reining competition for any reason, the unfinished portion may be recommenced and rescheduled for the same or following days at the option of the Show Committee or Competition Management and the judge(s). All scores recorded before the interruption will stand.
10. Western Dressage: see GR832.7.
11. Endurance: See EN115

GR833 Time-Out

A suspension of judging which may be requested by a competitor or directed by the judge(s).

1. A competitor is entitled to request a time-out for a period not to exceed five minutes in aggregate in order to make obvious adjustments or to repair broken equipment or to rectify a similar condition, or to replace a shoe (See GR804). (Exception: Arabian Hunter, AR108 and HU119; Arabian Jumper, AR108; Dressage, GR833.9 and DR122.7j; Jumper, JP136.6; Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation, EQ108.4; Reining, RN103.5g; Vaulting, VA111). Time-outs are not allowed in Western Dressage or Endurance.
2. If division rules allow a competitor to call for a time-out, the competitor may call only one time-out per class (Exception: Paso Fino and Welsh where a competitor may request a time-out no more than two times.) The penalty for exceeding the allowed time out(s) is for the entry to be eliminated.
3. To request a time-out for any such emergency, the competitor must go to the center of the ring (if possible) and or be acknowledged by the judge. The announcer will declare that a request for time-out has been made and permission granted; time will be taken from the moment such announcement is made.
4. If a horse casts a shoe in a class, time starts (after weighing, measuring and/or gauging has concluded, if applicable) when the farrier or his assistant touches the shoe or the horse. No more than three minutes will be allotted to find a shoe; if the shoe is not found, the exhibitor may elect to continue or withdraw. If a horse is removed from the ring for the purposes of shoeing, the steward or judge shall accompany and remain with the horse until it is returned to the ring or eliminated from the class.
5. Two attendants are permitted in the ring to assist a competitor during the competitor's time-out. If at the expiration of five minutes the repair has not been made, the competitor may proceed as is or be eliminated.
6. The judge is responsible for timing unless an official timer is present.
7. Competitors who are not involved in a time-out may make minor adjustments that can be performed with the assistance of one attendant and not be charged with a time-out. Minor adjustments do not include replacing shoes.
8. At any time the judge(s) considers it necessary they may call for a time-out. Said time-out may be charged to a competitor that, in the judge's opinion, is responsible for the suspension of judging as long as the competitor is so informed by the judge prior to calling the class back to order.
9. None of the above apply to the Eventing, Dressage, or Driving divisions; see specific division rules. Time-outs are not permitted in the Dressage or Western Dressage division.
10. In the Saddlebred division:
 - a. In classes in which competitors compete collectively, after the previous class has exited the ring, the show ring has been cleared, and the officials are ready to continue with the competition, Competition Management may allow 5 minutes to replace a shoe or repair equipment outside of show ring, and a time-out will be charged to the competitor. The time-out will be officially timed by a steward, management, or paddock master.
 - b. Prior to commencement of the class, the individual responsible for timing the time out outside of the ring must communicate the back number of that entry to the judge(s) officiating.
 - c. Once the gate opens and the first entry goes into the ring all further time outs for that class must be taken in the ring as indicated in GR833.4.

SUBCHAPTER 8-E SCHOOLING

GR834 General

1. A Licensed Competition must provide a sufficient area for schooling horses. A separate schooling area must be provided for each ring.
2. Lighting at sunrise and sunset that provides full and complete visibility is a requirement for the competition ring and schooling area. Horses may not be required to be exhibited in the competition ring or schooled in the designated warmup areas before the official hour of sunrise or after the official hour of sunset unless lighting is provided that assures full and complete visibility.
3. In addition to the official schooling area, competitions should designate an exercise area.
4. Competitions offering A rated sections other than hunter and jumper must provide an exercise area at least 80' by 200' or its equivalent. If, due to space limitations, a competition does not have an adequate schooling

area or a competition offering an A rated section cannot provide the required exercise area, one ring must be open for a minimum of 5 hours within each 24-hour period. Adequate lighting must be provided.

5. The footing in all competition rings, schooling rings, and exercise and lunge areas must be safe, consistent, and appropriate for the intended use and type of competition.
 - a. Competition Management is required to make reasonable efforts to maintain the best possible footing in competition, schooling, and exercise and lunge areas.
 - b. Provisions must be made (by having on-hand proper functioning equipment and scheduling sufficient breaks in the schedule) to maintain the footing in competition rings, schooling rings, and exercise and lunge areas throughout the competition by dragging, watering, and raking, if necessary.

GR835 Designated Areas

Schooling over obstacles in the ring or over any part of an outside course is permitted only at the time designated by the Show Committee or Competition Management. All other schooling over obstacles is permitted only within clearly identified areas and only at times designated by the Show Committee or Competition Management. Schooling over obstacles in any other area of the competition ground or at any other time is prohibited. For specific hunter and jumper classes, refer to discipline chapters.

GR836 Trail

A schooling area must be provided prior to and during trail classes with enough elements to adequately school a trail horse.

GR837 Jumper (See also JP103 and Appendix A)

SUBCHAPTER 8-F WELFARE OF THE HORSE

GR838 Unethical Treatment of the Horse

For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

A Covered Horse is defined as any horse that is or has been recorded with the Federation, has participated or is entered to participate in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, or is on the grounds of a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition or is in the care, custody, and control of a Participant.

A Participant is defined as any person who holds or has held a Federation membership; participated in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition as a rider, vaulter, driver, handler, exhibitor, trainer, coach, groom, competition veterinarian, or support personnel for any of these identified roles; or is present on the grounds of a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition.

1. Any Participant engaging in the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty. Except in exigent circumstances, the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is defined as any action or inaction that may negatively compromise the Covered Horse's health, safety, or well-being. It may include any action(s) or inaction(s) that causes or is likely to cause a horse pain, a state of obvious distress, or unnecessary discomfort.

Examples of Unethical Treatment of a Horse may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Misuse or excessive use of a whip, spur, or bit;
- b. Misuse of any equipment or device, including tack;
- c. Creation of hyper or hypo-sensitization of any physical part of a Covered Horse to enhance performance;
- d. Any practice or use of devices or objects used to enhance a Covered Horse's performance based on fear or intimidation;
- e. Training, riding, or competing a Covered Horse with raw, bleeding, or irritated skin or welts consistent with excessive, persistent, or inappropriate use of equipment, including spurs; and
- f. Continued riding, driving, or lunging an obviously exhausted, lame, or injured Covered Horse.

2. A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs at or in connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Additionally, any person who directs another as to the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty.
3. A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs after November 30, 2024 somewhere other than at or in connection with a USEF Licensed or Endorsed Competition. For the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse under this paragraph that occurs off U.S. soil by a Participant who is a member of a foreign National Federation, the Federation will refer the matter to the relevant National Federation and FEI for resolution.
4. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse at or in direct connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, must immediately report it to a Federation Licensed Official at the competition.
5. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse outside of a Federation Licensed Competition, should report it to the Federation and the relevant local authorities as soon as practicable.
6. A veterinarian may be appointed by the Federation, Competition Management, or a Licensed Official to inspect any horse on competition grounds, or any horse stabled off grounds that is entered to compete in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Refusal to submit an animal for such examination shall constitute a violation of this rule, and the owner and/or trainer may be subject to penalty by the Federation.
7. A Federation Licensed Official, Competition Management, or competition veterinarian at a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition may issue an official written warning, elimination, or disqualification against any Participant they deem to have Unethically Treated a Covered Horse on competition grounds or directly related to a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Additionally, any person may be removed from the competition grounds for Unethical Treatment of a Horse. Any report received of alleged Unethical Treatment or penalties imposed on a person(s) as a result of Unethical Treatment must be reported to the Federation. A Participant may be subject to further penalty by the Federation.
8. Anyone reporting a violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed is a violation. Any allegations that prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense and will be considered a violation of this rule, subjecting the reporting party to penalty by the Federation.
9. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Federation may pursue disciplinary action pursuant Bylaw 705.2(b).

GR839 Prohibited Practices and Equipment

1. Attention Getting Devices. Attention getting devices and/or other noisemakers (including but not limited to tape measures, blow horns, altered bamboo poles, explosives, etc.) are not allowed in and around the make up/schooling/warm-up and competition rings during scheduled competition sessions. (Except for the National Show Horse division.) Use of explosives and fire extinguishers by or for exhibitors/competitors (except in the case of fire) is not allowed on competition grounds at any time.
2. Augmented Nosebands. Any noseband with an interior that is abrasive is prohibited, except nosebands made of rope or rawhide.
3. Poling. Manual poling, or the use of offsets, is prohibited.

GR840 Soundness

Unless specific division rules state otherwise, all animals except stallions and mares in Breeding classes must be serviceably sound for competition purposes i.e., such animal must not show evidence of lameness or broken wind. Animals with complete loss of sight in either eye may be found serviceably sound at the Judge's discretion, except in a class over fences where a Judge may ask a rider to change horses.

GR841 Falls

The fall of horse and/or rider does not disqualify the competitor unless due to bad manners of the horse. Exception: Andalusian/Lusitano (see AL101.14), Dressage, Driving, Eventing, Equitation, Hunter, Jumper, Reining, Vaulting, and Western classes, in which specific rules prevail.

GR842 Mandatory Necropsy

This rule applies to fatalities of horses/ponies. For purposes of this rule, a “fatality” is defined as a death by any means including euthanasia at any time from when entries arrive at the venue until departure from the venue or a death by any means including euthanasia at any time occurring as a result of any fatal injury or illness sustained during a Licensed Competition or after a Licensed Competition where such fatal injury or illness is related to the horse’s participation in the Licensed Competition.

1. The trainer, as defined by Federation rules, or the owner if the trainer is unavailable, or the rider if the trainer and owner are both unavailable, shall notify the Steward/Technical Delegate as soon as possible but no later than one hour after such occurrence of any fatality of a horse or pony. When a fatality occurs outside of competition hours or before the competition begins, notification must occur as soon as possible but no later than one hour after the Steward/TD reports to the show or returns to duty.
2. The Steward/TD shall report to Competition Management and the Federation as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the incident.
3. If a Federation appointed testing veterinarian is not available, at the Federation’s cost, the Steward/TD shall ensure that the appointed Competition Veterinarian collects urine and blood samples at the earliest opportunity and submits the samples for analysis to the Federation’s laboratory.
4. In addition to the duties set forth in GR 1034, the Steward/Technical Delegate shall file an Equine Fatality Report Form with the Federation within 24 hours of notification, except in exceptional circumstances such as no internet access at the venue.
5. Competition Management must identify prior to the start of the competition the nearest Veterinary Pathology laboratory to facilitate a rapid and accurate post-mortem.
6. A gross post mortem examination must be carried out in all incidents of euthanasia or fatality, except where the nearest Veterinary Pathology laboratory is further than 200 miles from where the equine fatality or euthanasia occurred. If a horse is uninsured or a post mortem is not required by the owner’s insurance, the Federation will cover the cost of the gross post mortem and transport costs to the appropriate veterinary facility, up to a maximum in total of \$1,000.00, unless a greater amount is pre-approved by the Federation should the circumstances warrant. If the Federation covers the cost of the post mortem and the relevant post mortem report is provided to the owner’s insurance, the Federation will only be responsible for half of the cost of the post mortem up to a maximum in total of \$500.00. If a post mortem is required by the owner’s insurance, at no cost to the Federation, the horse’s owner shall provide the Federation a copy of the post mortem report within 24 hours of receipt of such report.
7. In certain circumstances, as approved by the Chief Administrator of the Federation’s Equine Drugs and Medications Program, who may be contacted at 1-800-633-2472, a necropsy may not be warranted.
8. The Federation Chief Administrator of Equine Drugs and Medications Program must be consulted by the horse’s owner and in prior agreement for any further diagnostic investigations, such as histopathology, unless required by the owner’s insurance. Within 12 hours of the horse leaving competition grounds, Competition Management shall provide the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program with the contact details of the applicable Veterinary Pathology laboratory.
9. The owner shall provide the preliminary and final reports of any post mortem to the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program within 24 hours of the pathologist completing their report or the owner’s receipt of the report, but no later than 7 days after the Horse’s death.
10. The cause of death and, if relevant, the method of euthanasia should be included in the Post Mortem Report.
11. The Competition and/or treating veterinarian shall submit all information regarding any substance(s) administered to the horse prior to or during competition and before or during death or euthanasia using the Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form to the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program within 12 hours.

GR843 Veterinary Services on Competition Grounds

1. Competition Management must ensure the official veterinarian is registered with the Federation prior to the start of the competition.
2. Any veterinarian providing veterinary services to horses on competition grounds must register with the Federation within 24 hours of providing the services.

BOD 06/17/2025 Effective 12/01/2025

GR844 Blood

See section and division rules for additional restrictions and/or penalties for the presence of blood.

1. Blood on horses must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Eliminations for blood are final.
2. A licensed judge or the Ground Jury must stop the class for the examination of any horse with blood in its mouth or elsewhere on its body.
 - a. In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, the licensed judge or the Ground Jury may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the horse to continue. If the horse continues to bleed, it will result in elimination from the relevant class.
 - b. In all other circumstances, any horse with blood in its mouth must be eliminated from the relevant class.
 - c. Blood discovered elsewhere on the horse's body may result in elimination of the horse in the discretion of the licensed judge or the Ground Jury. If the blood is determined by the licensed judge or the Ground Jury to be athlete induced or caused by tack or equipment, the horse must be eliminated from the relevant class.
3. Where a horse is eliminated from a class that is a qualifier for a championship or other class, the eliminated horse may compete in the championship or other class, if the horse is otherwise qualified to do so and the blood is resolved prior to the championship or other class.

BOD 08/26/2025 Effective 12/01/2025

GR845 Equine Vaccination Rule

1. At Federation licensed competitions horses, more than 7 months of age, entering the grounds must be accompanied by documentation of Equine Influenza Virus and Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccinations within six months prior to entering the stables. Horses not in compliance with this rule may be required to leave the competition grounds upon request by Competition Management. Documentation should consist of one of the following methods mentioned below. The frequency of vaccine administration should be per the vaccine manufacturers' or veterinarian's recommendations. It is recommended that vaccines are administered by or under the direction of a veterinarian.
2. In the case of vaccines administered by a veterinarian, the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide documentation from the veterinarian on documenting that the horse in question received the vaccinations; name of the vaccines and date of vaccine administration.
3. In the case of vaccines administered by a person other than a veterinarian, the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide a receipt of the vaccine purchase which is signed by the owner, or agent with care, custody, and control of the horse; name, serial number and expiration date of the vaccine; and date of vaccine administration.
4. In the case of a horse that is unable to receive either of the vaccinations due to a history of adverse reactions, the exhibitor, upon request by Competition Management, must provide a letter from the veterinarian on official letterhead stating that the horse in question cannot be vaccinated due to medical concerns and a log of temperatures taken twice daily for the seven days prior to entering the competition grounds. These horses must also have their temperature taken and logged twice daily while on the competition grounds. The log of temperatures should be provided to the Competition Management, steward, or technical delegate when requested.

5. Competition Management may not amend or enhance vaccination requirements without prior approval of the Veterinary Committee.

SUBCHAPTER 8-G SAFETY PREPAREDNESS AND REPORTING

GR846 Accident Preparedness Plan

1. All competitions must have in place, prior to the start of the competition, an accident preparedness plan.
2. Competition Management is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate competition officials and competition staff are advised of the accident preparedness plan, and that they are distributed accordingly.
3. The accident preparedness plan must be given to the Steward or Technical Delegate prior to the start of the competition.
4. The Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a copy of the accident preparedness plan to the Federation along with their Steward or Technical Delegate report.
5. At a minimum, the accident preparedness plan must include:
 - a. Emergency call/radio priority protocol;
 - b. List of emergency telephone numbers and directions to the competition that can be relayed to offsite responders; and
 - c. Name and contact information of the Safety Coordinator

GR847 Safety Coordinator

1. All Licensed Competitions must appoint a Safety Coordinator, who shall oversee the establishment and coordination of medical and veterinary services. This person must be a Senior Active member or a Subscriber member of the Federation and comply with the SafeSport Training requirements. This person may have other roles or duties in relation to the competition except:
 - a. The Safety Coordinator may not serve as a Licensed Official at the competition (exception: Course Designers); and
 - b. The Safety Coordinator may not compete as a rider, driver, vaulter, longeur, or handler at the competition.
 - c. For eventing competitions, the Safety Coordinators must not have any other duties during the Cross-Country and Show Jumping phases.
2. The Safety Coordinator shall:
 - a. Oversee provisions for the safety and welfare of exhibitors, horses, and spectators;
 - b. Oversee the implementation of the Accident Preparedness Plan;
 - c. Communicate with Competition Management and Medical Personnel prior to the start of competition to ensure that parties are aware of the requirements of the Accident Preparedness Plan;
 - d. Provide Medical Personnel with a map of the competition grounds, which includes plans for vehicle access to competition/warm-up areas and stabling.
 - e. Have their name and contact information posted along with the required emergency information at the competition.
 - f. Inform the senior Steward or Technical Delegate of any accident or injury to a human or horse within one hour of the accident or injury for proper follow-up and reporting as required by the Federation, in the event a Steward or Technical Delegate is unable to be present at an injury or accident to a human or a horse.

GR848 Use of Qualified Medical Personnel

1. Qualified medical personnel with no other duties and with appropriate medical equipment, as required by their certifying State or EMS Region, must be present during all scheduled performances at all competitions and during all paid scheduled schooling sessions over fences, including 1 day prior to the start of the competition, if applicable,
 - a. Qualified medical personnel is a currently certified or licensed EMT, or Paramedic, Certified First Responder, or a Physician or Nurse trained in pre-hospital trauma care and currently certified or licensed in their profession under applicable law where the competition is held. Exception, for eventing competitions the minimum requirement is an EMT/Paramedic who is pre-hospital trauma trained.

- b. A Physician or Nurse trained in pre-hospital trauma care is a Physician or Nurse who is currently certified in Advanced Trauma Life Support (ATLS), Basic Trauma Life Support (BTLS), Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support (PHTLS), or who has First Responder or comparable certification.
 - c. It is strongly recommended that EMTs and/or Paramedics be used to fill this position. Medical personnel must not exceed the scope of their practice.
 - d. All medical personnel must be readily identifiable, available, and mobile.
 - e. Unless prohibited by Federal, State or local law, this person must furnish the Steward(s) or TD(s) with a copy of their report(s), or assist these officials with documenting any findings and treatment for all injuries sustained in competition or on the competition grounds.
2. An ambulance must be on the competition grounds or on call during all scheduled performances at all competitions and during all paid scheduled schooling sessions over fences, including 1 day prior to the start of the competition, if applicable. Exception: Endurance Competitions.
 3. Required Number of Qualified Medical Personnel
 - a. Competitions using more than three performance areas simultaneously must have at least one additional person who is CPR-certified to assist the medical personnel of record for that competition. The additional person may have other duties related to the competition provided they can be immediately available to respond to an emergency. This person must be identified to officials and staff. Dressage arenas do not count as performance areas.
 1. If more than six performance areas are used simultaneously there must be at least two additional people who are CPR-certified to assist the medical personnel of record for that competition.
 2. Hunter and Jumper competitions using four or more rings simultaneously must have at least 2 Qualified Medical Personnel present during all performance sessions

GR849 Accidents Involving Individuals

1. This rule pertains to accidents involving individuals at Federation-Licensed or endorsed competitions.
2. 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.
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 **GR848.1.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.

GR850 Mandatory Reporting and Cooperation of Horse/Pony Collapse

1. Definitions. For purposes of this rule, a “collapse” is defined as a fall to the ground with no apparent cause at any time from when entries arrive at the venue until departure from the venue. Other falls are not considered to be a collapse and are defined in GR122 and specified division rules. Refer to GR849 for reporting requirements for all other falls and accidents.
2. The trainer as defined in GR404, or the owner if the trainer is unavailable, or the rider if the trainer and owner are both unavailable, shall notify the Steward/Technical Delegate as soon as possible but no later than three hours after such occurrence of any collapse of a horse or pony. When a collapse occurs outside of competition hours or before the competition begins, notification must occur as soon as possible but no later than three hours after the Steward/TD reports to the show or returns to duty.
3. The Steward/TD shall report to Competition Management and the Federation within one hour of notification of a collapse. In the event that a Steward or Technical Delegate is not able to be present at a collapse of a horse, the Safety Coordinator or Manager must inform the senior Steward or Technical Delegate of said collapse within one hour of the collapse for proper follow-up and reporting, as required by the Federation.
4. In addition to the duties set forth in GR1033, the Steward/TD shall submit an Accident/Injury/Equine Collapse Report Form to the Federation within 24 hours of notification, except in exceptional circumstances.
5. The Federation, at its expense, may appoint a veterinarian to inspect the horse or pony that has collapsed and provide a full report to the Federation. Refusal to submit an animal for examination by an authorized veterinarian after due notification shall constitute a violation of this rule.
6. The Steward/TD shall ensure that any horse or pony that collapses at a licensed or endorsed competition is subject to drug and medication testing in accordance with Chapter 4 of these rules. In the absence of a Federation testing veterinarian, a veterinarian appointed under paragraph 5 or the official competition veterinarian is authorized to collect and submit fluid samples in accordance with these rules.
7. The rider, owner, and trainer as defined in GR404 shall cooperate with the Federation as to any investigation it undertakes with respect to a collapse or death of a horse/pony. This includes providing information requested by the Federation within 10 days of the request.
8. Any horse/pony that collapses is prohibited from competing for 72 hours after said collapse. Exception: Upon examination by a veterinarian and submission of a statement by the veterinarian certifying the horse/pony's fitness to compete, a horse/pony that collapses is permitted to return to competition 24 hours after said collapse.
9. Equine fatalities. In the event of an equine fatality during a Licensed Competition, the competition Steward or Technical Delegate shall immediately notify the Federation and Competition Management, or as soon as practicable. Within 24 hours, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a completed Equine Fatality Report form to the Federation.

10. For all other equine injuries or accidents not otherwise covered by this rule, the Steward or TD shall submit an Accident/Injury/Equine Collapse Report Form with the Steward or TD Report.

SUBCHAPTER 8-H EQUINE HEALTH AND ISOLATION

GR870 Competitor Biosecurity Requirements

All riders, drivers, vaulters, handlers, owners, trainers, coaches, grooms, agents, and lessors must abide by and comply with biosecurity measures and equine health requirements imposed by the Federation, Competition Management, and local, state, and federal animal health officials.

GR871 Competition Management Biosecurity Requirements

Competition Management must ensure licensed competitions are conducted in accordance with all applicable Federation, local, state, and federal animal health requirements.

GR873 Mandatory Reporting of Febrile Horses

1. The trainer, as defined by Federation rules, or the owner if the trainer is unavailable, or the rider if the trainer and owner are both unavailable, shall notify the competition veterinarian and Competition Management as soon as possible but no later than two hours after detection of any febrile horse or pony. A febrile horse or pony is one with an unexplained temperature above 101.5°F at rest (i.e. two hours after exercise or transport). If a febrile horse or pony is detected outside of competition hours or before the competition begins, notification must occur as soon as possible but no later than one hour detection of the fever above 101.5°F.
2. Competition Management must report to the Steward/Technical Delegate as soon as possible but no later than one hour after notification.
3. The competition veterinarian must determine if isolation and/or further treatment or testing of the febrile horse or pony is appropriate.
4. Febrile horses and ponies are required to be reported to the Federation's Equine Health and Biosecurity Veterinarian. See GR874.

GR874 Isolation Plan

1. All competitions that have onsite stabling of competition horses must have in place a written isolation protocol for horses. The isolation plan must be submitted to the Federation no later than 14 days prior to the start of the competition. The isolation plan must include at a minimum the requirements enumerated in the Federation's template isolation plan available on the Federation's website.
 - a. An onsite isolation stabling plan is required if the Licensee of a competition is hosting competition(s) over more than ten consecutive days at the same location. For purposes of this rule, the ten consecutive days begin the first day stabling is open for horses entering the competition venue. The number of isolation stalls required is equivalent to one percent of the previous year's horse count up to a maximum of ten isolation stalls, if the competition has more than 1,000 horses.
 - b. If offsite isolation stabling is contemplated in the isolation plan, an agreement between competition management and the isolation facility is required.
2. Competition Management must report to the Federation's Equine Health and Biosecurity Veterinarian, within 24 hours, any horse identified to Competition Management as showing symptoms of infectious disease, put into isolation at the competition, or that departs the competition grounds to receive treatment for a potential infectious disease.
3. Competition Management is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate competition officials and competition staff are provided and aware of the isolation plan for horses prior to the start of the competition.
4. The isolation plan must be posted onsite during the competition.

