



USEF COVID-19 Rule Modifications – Effective Immediately *Approved for the Remainder of the 2020 Competition Year*

Added (new) language appears in bold italics; waived language appears in strikethrough

**Rule Modifications added to the list since the original publish date of
May 18, 2020, appear in blue*

Applicable to Competition Management

USEF Entry Blank – All Breeds/Disciplines

The new [USEF Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification](#) supersedes the existing language printed in the USEF Rule Book.

GR 908.5

~~5. The entry blank of each Licensed competition must contain the following USEF RELEASE as printed below, in an easily visible location, separated from any other language on the entry blank, and appearing immediately above or next to the required signatures as specified in GR908.2. No other material may come between this RELEASE and the required signatures.~~

GR 908.6

6. All USEF fees appearing on the entry blank must be grouped together in one section of the page, preferably in a box separating them from other fees.

Release, Assumption of Risk, Waiver and Indemnification

~~This document waives important legal rights. Read it carefully before signing.~~

~~I AGREE in consideration for my participation in this Competition to the following:~~

~~I AGREE that “the Federation” and “Competition” as used herein includes the Licensee and Competition Management, as well as all of their officials, officers, directors, employees, agents, personnel, volunteers and Federation affiliates.~~

~~I AGREE that I choose to participate voluntarily in the Competition with my horse, as a rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, lessee, owner, agent, coach, trainer, or as parent or guardian of a junior exhibitor. I am fully aware and acknowledge that horse sports and the Competition involve inherent dangerous risks of accident, loss, and serious bodily injury including broken bones, head injuries, trauma, pain, suffering, or death (“Harm”).~~

~~I AGREE to hold harmless and release the Federation and the Competition from all claims for money damages or otherwise for any Harm to me or my horse and for any Harm of any nature caused by me or my horse to others, even if the Harm arises or results, directly or indirectly, from the negligence of the Federation or the Competition.~~

~~I AGREE to expressly assume all risks of Harm to me or my horse, including Harm resulting from the negligence of the Federation or the Competition.~~

~~I AGREE to indemnify (that is, to pay any losses, damages, or costs incurred by) the Federation and the Competition and to hold them harmless with respect to claims for Harm to me or my horse, and for claims made by others for any Harm caused by me or my horse while at the Competition.~~



I have read the Federation Rules about protective equipment, including GR801 and, if applicable, EV114, and I understand that I am entitled to wear protective equipment without penalty, and I acknowledge that the Federation strongly encourages me to do so while WARNING that no protective equipment can guard against all injuries.

If I am a parent or guardian of a junior exhibitor, I consent to the child's participation and AGREE to all of the above provisions and AGREE to assume all of the obligations of this Release on the child's behalf.

I represent that I have the requisite training, coaching and abilities to safely compete in this competition.

I AGREE that if I am injured at this competition, the medical personnel treating my injuries may provide information on my injury and treatment to the Federation on the official USEF accident/injury report form.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I AGREE to be bound by all applicable Federation Rules and all terms and provisions of this entry blank and all terms and provisions of this Prize List. If I am signing and submitting this Agreement electronically,

I acknowledge that my electronic signature shall have the same validity, force and effect as if I affixed my signature by my own hand.

SEE PRO FORMA AT END OF THIS RULE

GR916 General Conditions

Except as permitted by the FEI for FEI recognized classes, all entries at a Licensed Competition must be on the same basis. A competition cannot give free or reduced entries, free or reduced transportation or other expenses to one exhibitor unless the same privileges are extended to all exhibitors in the same section or subset of competitors. The requirements to obtain these privileges must be advertised to all potential exhibitors. No fees may be imposed that are not listed in the prize list.

UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION, INC. ENTRY AGREEMENT

I have read the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. (the "Federation") Entry Agreement (GR906.4) as printed in the Prize List for this Competition and agree to all of its provisions. I understand and agree that by entering this Competition, I am subject to Federation Rules, the Prize List, and local rules of the competition. I agree to waive the right to the use of my photos at the competition, and agree that any actions against the Federation must be brought in New York State.

RELEASE, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, WAIVER AND INDEMNIFICATION

This document waives important legal rights. Read it carefully before signing.

I AGREE in consideration for my participation in this Competition to the following:

I AGREE that the "Federation" and "Competition" as used above includes all of their officials, officers, directors, employees, agents, personnel, volunteers and affiliated organizations.

I AGREE that I choose to participate voluntarily in the Competition with my horse, as a rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, lessee, owner, agent, coach, trainer, or as parent or guardian of a junior exhibitor. I am fully aware and acknowledge that horse sports and the Competition involve inherent dangerous risks of accident, loss, and serious bodily injury including broken bones, head injuries, trauma, pain, suffering, or death ("Harm").

I AGREE to hold harmless and release the Federation and the Competition from all claims for money damages or otherwise for any Harm to me or my horse and for any Harm of any nature caused by me or my horse to others, even if the Harm arises or results, directly or indirectly, from the negligence of the Federation or the Competition.

I AGREE to expressly assume all risks of Harm to me or my horse, including Harm resulting from the negligence of the Federation or the Competition.

I AGREE to indemnify (that is, to pay any losses, damages, or costs incurred by) the Federation and the Competition and to hold them harmless with respect to claims for Harm to me or my horse, and for claims made by others for any Harm caused by me or my horse while at the Competition.

I have read the Federation Rules about protective equipment, including GR801 and, if applicable, EV114 and I understand that I am entitled to wear protective equipment without penalty, and I acknowledge that the Federation strongly encourages me to do so while WARNING that no protective equipment can guard against all injuries.

If I am a parent or guardian of a junior exhibitor, I consent to the child's participation and AGREE to all of the above provisions and AGREE to assume all of the obligations of this Release on the child's behalf.

I represent that I have the requisite training, coaching and abilities to safely compete in this competition.

I AGREE that if I am injured at this competition, the medical personnel treating my injuries may provide information on my injury and treatment to the Federation on the official USEF accident/injury report form.

BY SIGNING BELOW, I AGREE to be bound by all applicable Federation Rules and all terms and provisions of this entry blank and all terms and provisions of this Prize List. If I am signing and submitting this Agreement electronically, I acknowledge that my electronic signature shall have the same validity, force and effect as if I affixed my signature by my own hand.

Rider/Driver/Handler/Vaulter/Longeur (mandatory)

Signature: Print

Name:

Parent/Guardian Signature:

(Required if Rider/Driver/Handler/Vaulter/Longeur is a minor)

Print Parent/ Guardian Name:

Emergency Contact Phone No:

Is Rider/Driver/Vaulter a U.S. Citizen: Yes No

Owner/Agent (mandatory)

Signature: Print

Name:

Trainer (mandatory)

Signature: Print

Name:

Coach (if applicable)

Signature: Print

Name:

Food and Beverage - All Breeds/Disciplines; additional specifics for Dressage, Hunter, Jumper & H/J Licensed Competitions

Waives the requirement to make food available and changes it to an option. Details the minimum requirements for providing water for participants.

GR1216 Facilities

1. Convenient and ample water facilities must be provided. ***Bottled water must be available to participants starting one hour prior to the first scheduled class and ending when the last scheduled class finishes. Refer to breed and discipline rules for additional information.***

4. ~~Food must be provided on the grounds.~~ **Providing food on the grounds is optional.**

DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management - Dressage

[...]

3. Dressage Levels Chart.

(for USEF Dressage Competitions or Regular or Local Competitions with Open Dressage Classes per USEF GR314.2c)

(DSHB classes can be held with any Level. Shows offering only DSHB can choose Level 1 or Level 2 criteria.) Criteria at competition Levels 3-5 are highlighted in gray below that can be held at a lower level, if competition advertises classes held at a lower level.

Food Vendors/Concessions **optional (Level 1-3), must be clearly designated in the prize list with the exception:**

Level 3: Bottled water must be available to participants 1 hour prior to competition start until the end.

Level 2: Bottled water must be available to participants – limited hours permitted.

Level 1: Bottled water is recommended.

Refer to the charts on pages 22 and 23 of this document

HJ105 Safety and Welfare – Hunter, Jumper, and H/J Licensed Competitions

1. Definitions

a. Potable Water: Convenient and ample water for horses and potable water for human consumption must be free and available at all times. **Bottled water must be available to participants starting one hour prior to the first scheduled class and ending when the last scheduled class finishes.** If the facility cannot provide adequate potable water or runs out of potable water, management must provide an alternate water source as soon as possible. [...]

HJ107 Facilities. - Hunter, Jumper, and H/J Licensed Competitions

1. Definitions

[...]

~~s. Food and Beverage Service: At least one staffed food and beverage service area must be available on the competition grounds. Hours of operation must be posted and announcements notifying exhibitors of closing times must be made at least one hour prior to closing.~~ **Bottled water must be available to participants starting one hour prior to the first scheduled class and ending when the last scheduled class finishes. A staffed food service area is optional.**

2. Minimum Requirements to Obtain Rating

(chart)

Minimum Requirements to Obtain Rating	Local Jumper 1	Regional II	Regional I Jumper 2	National Jumper 3/4	Premier Jumper 5/6
Food/Beverage Service	Required – Bottled Water	Required – Bottled Water	Required – Bottled Water	Required – hot and cold Bottled Water	Required – hot and cold Bottled Water

Horse Entry Standard – Hunter and H/J Licensed Competitions

The Horse Entry Standard for Premier, National, Two-Day Restricted Junior Amateur, Regional I and Regional II hunter rated competitions is waived. Competitions will NOT be reclassified to a lower rating based on the Horse Entry Standard.

HJ101 Effective Dates for Standard Application

1. Existing Licensed H/J Competitions including Heritage Competitions eligible for renewal on or after 12-01-2011 unless stated otherwise in the HJS, must meet applicable HJS for their Rating. See HJ104 Horse Entry Number HJS.

2. All new competitions must meet applicable Basic Standards and HJS for their Rating. See HJ104 Horse Entry Number HJS.

3. Effective date for changes to HJS.

Any changes or additions to HJS, unless stated otherwise in the HJS being adopted, must be achieved by a competition effective the first of the month that is 12 months following the date of the Federation's adoption of the HJS or a later effective date set forth in the HJS that is adopted. For example, changes or additions to HJS adopted in January of a year will normally become effective on February 1st of the following year, etc. HJS may be amended or deleted effective immediately when such action is determined appropriate by the Federation.

4. Competitions with the first licensed date of a competition year, prior to the effective date of the modified standard(s) for their Rating or Level, will not be required to meet the new standard(s) until the next competition year.

HJ104 Horse Entry Number HJS

~~8. Renewal Competition Horse Entry Number Rating Requirements.~~

~~a. For competitions with three (3) or more years of operation, a competition License may be renewed if they have achieved the HJS Horse Entry Number in at least two (2) of the last three (3) years. The License renewal may be delayed until the completion of the last competition of the existing License, if it is in the best interest of the competition to achieve the HJS Horse Entry Number required for renewal. The other HJS that are applied to a competition must be achieved every year in order to maintain the Rating/Level.~~

~~b. If the required minimum HJS Horse Entry Number is not achieved during the period set forth, then the competition will be provided with a License at a lower rating consistent with the Horse Entry Numbers achieved. The licensee may continue to conduct a competition at the same location and on the same dates at the new Rating and/or Level in accordance with HJ104 and subject to achieving other HJS required for the Rating or Level.~~

HJ109 Premier Rated Competitions

1. Must be held and judged over a minimum of five (5) days on the same competition grounds.

2. ~~Number of horse entries required for a Premier rated hunter or HJ competition is a minimum of two hundred (200).~~

3. A minimum of fifteen (15) "A" rated Hunter sections listed in GR312.6 must be offered.

4. A minimum of ten "A" and/or "C" rated hunter sections listed in GR312.6 must be held and judged, a maximum of four of which can be "C" rated sections. Ladies Side Saddle does not count towards these requirements.

HJ110 National Rated Competitions

1. Must be held and judged over a minimum of three days on the same competition grounds.
2. ~~Number of horse entries required for a National rated hunter or HJ competition is a minimum of seventy-five (75).~~
3. A minimum of ten "A" rated hunter sections listed in GR312.6 must be offered.
4. A minimum of five "A" and/or "C" rated hunter sections listed in GR312.6 must be held and judged. Ladies Side Saddle does not count towards these requirements.

HJ111 National Rated Junior/Amateur Restricted Competitions

1. Must be held on a minimum of two consecutive non-school days within the public school system, at the location of the competition, on the same competition grounds.
2. ~~Two day National Junior/Amateur restricted competitions will have a Horse Entry Number requirement of fifty (50).~~
3. A minimum of six "A" rated Hunter sections listed in GR312.6 must be offered.
4. A minimum of three "A" and/or "C" rated hunter sections listed in GR312.6 must be held. Ladies side saddle does not count towards these requirements.

HJ112 Regional I Rated Competitions

1. ~~Number of horse entries required for a Regional I rated hunter or HJ competition is a minimum of fifty (50).~~
2. At least three (3) "B" rated Hunter sections must be offered. One Children's Hunter or one Adult Amateur Hunter section may be substituted for two required "B" sections. Divided sections count as a single section.

HJ113 Regional II Rated Competitions

1. ~~Number of horse entries required for a Regional II rated hunter or HJ competition is a minimum of twenty five (25).~~
2. At least two (2) "C" rated must be offered. Divided sections count as a single section. Competitions restricted to side saddle may offer a Ladies Hunter Side Saddle Section as the only "C" rated Hunter section.

Hunter Prize Money - Hunter and H/J Licensed Competitions

Premier and National hunter rated competitions must continue to offer a minimum of \$24,000 (Premier) and \$5,000 (National) hunter rated competitions in the rated hunter sections. However, if sections are canceled or entries are insufficient at a Premier hunter rated competition to award all prize money, competitions will NOT be required to pool and redistribute the money not awarded.

HJ109 Premier Rated Competitions

1. Must be held and judged over a minimum of five (5) days on the same competition grounds.
[...]
7. Prize Money
 - a. A minimum of \$24,000 in prize money, including add-back money if any, must be paid in the rated Hunter sections of a Premier competition. If an add-back is offered, the minimum required prize money for that section must be guaranteed, and the add-backs must be clearly indicated in the prize list. ~~Money from model classes does not count towards this requirement.~~
[...]
 - c. ~~If sections are canceled or entries are insufficient to award all prize money, then additional money not awarded must be pooled and redistributed 60% to the champions, and 40% to the~~

~~reserve champions of the remaining “A” rated hunter sections. Model classes do not count towards the number of required classes to meet the rating requirement, therefore the prize money offered in Model classes cannot be used to determine the amount of required prize money to calculate the Premier rating.~~

Jogging, Conformation and Model Classes – Hunter and H/J Licensed Competitions

The traditional manner of jogging for soundness in hunter classes has been modified, and horses will now jog for soundness under saddle by trotting a circle on a loose rein at the end of each over fences performance. Additionally, the requirement for model and conformation classes has been waived in the “A”-rated Regular and Green Pony Hunter sections, as well as the Three-Year-Old Hunter section. Handlers in model classes and conformation classes in the Green Conformation Hunter, High Performance Conformation Hunter sections, and the Green Pony Hunter and Three-Year-Old Hunter sections, if held, must comply with social distancing guidelines.

HU118 General

[...]

3. In all classes over obstacles, all horses being considered for an award must jog for soundness ~~in the judge’s order of preference~~ prior to being judged for conformation. Two more entries than the number of ribbons must jog if there are sufficient entries. **Horses are required to trot a circle on a loose rein at the end of each over fences performance.** Horses may not leave the ring until the jog is declared official by the judge. A horse that leaves the ring prior to the jog being declared official will be eliminated. A horse that is unruly, one that breaks away from the handler or one whose actions threaten to endanger the rider, handler, other exhibitors or their entries will be eliminated. (Exception: Hunter Breeding and Pony Breeding). A horse may not be eliminated for receiving outside assistance in the jog. **Horses shall return to the ring following the conclusion of all over fences performances in each class and line up in order of preference for conformation judging. Handlers must line horses up in compliance with social distancing guidelines.**

HU121 Soundness

All horses must be serviceably sound. All horses being considered for an award must jog for soundness. ~~with rider dismounted.~~ (Exception: Under Saddle classes, classes with specifications that do not require horses to jog, unrated classes, and classes at Local Competitions)....

HU130 Non-rated classes

[...]

d. THREE-YEAR-OLD HUNTER. Section must include two or three Over Fences classes and one Under Saddle class with a Championship and Reserve Championship awarded. If possible, this section should be held immediately after the Three-Year-Old Hunter Breeding class. Courses are to be simple. ~~One Over Fences class must be judged on at least 25% conformation.~~

HU136 Conformation Hunter Sections

1. Model Classes for Green Conformation Hunter 3’6” and High Performance Conformation Hunter:

- a. To be shown at a walk and trot. To be judged on conformation, way of moving and soundness.
- b. All horses being considered for an award must be serviceably sound.
- c. Model classes to count 1/2 points.

[...]

7. All Conformation sections are to be judged 70% on performance, 30% on conformation. *See HU118.3 for conformation judging procedures complying with social distancing practices.*

HJ123 Pony Hunter Sections

[...]

6. Pony Conformation Classes. ~~In “A” rated sections, one over fence class must be judged 25% conformation; in “B” rated sections, one over fence class may include conformation at management’s discretion.~~ ***Model and conformation classes are not required to be held in any Pony Hunter sections. If they are held, they must comply with the procedures in HU118.3.*** The conformation class must be clearly stipulated in the prize list. A Model class may be offered in addition to the conformation class. If a model class is held, it is recommended that all conformation classes offered in the section will be held on the same day as the model class.

Combining and Dividing of Sections or Classes – Hunter and H/J Licensed

Competitions

Added language to provide guidance on combining or dividing of sections or classes.

HU155 General

1. Sections must be divided or combined based on the number of entries in the first over fences class and may not be combined or divided after the first class. Exception: Performance/High Performance Working Hunter, see HU161.1b

2. No section may be divided if there are less than 30 entries with the exception of those sections required to split sections based on the number of entries for a particular fence height, horse size, or rider age section i.e.:

a. Exception:

Green Hunter (HU162.2)

Young Hunter (HU162.3)

Junior Hunter (HU162.5)

Amateur Owner Hunter (HU162.6)

“B” and “C” rated Pony Hunter sections (HU162.8)

Children’s and Adult Amateur Hunter sections refer to HU162.9; HU162.10 and sections governed by USHJA Zone Specifications

3. In under saddle classes and model classes, the Competition Organizer must determine and communicate to participants, the maximum number of horses permitted in each competition area at one time based on the size of the competition areas and social distancing requirements. Competition management must communicate with participants if classes will be divided and held as separate classes, or split and held in one or more than one section.

a. For example:

1. Classes may be divided into separate classes with each class receiving separate awards.

2. Classes may be split into sections with the final section being comprised of the best entrants from each of the previous split sections with one set of awards given in the final section.

3 4. Any section with 50 or more entries at the beginning of the first class must be divided. If there are 50 or more entries remaining in a section after it has been divided, the section must be redivided by every other number. Once a section has been redivided it may not be divided further.

HU158 Definition of a California Split

3. Under Saddle. A Section with twelve (12) or less must be judged as one class using the California Split. Sections that are judged under the California Split must have results for Section A and B. A random split will be used for under saddle classes of more than twelve (12). ***If competition management determines that the number or horses permitted in the ring is fewer than twelve, HU155.3 applies.***

HU162 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections

1. Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter and any sections where individual classes may be entered.

[...]

b. Dividing:

1. In Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter and any other sections where individual classes may be entered, the sections may only be divided after thirty (30) horses have competed in the first over fences class. Subsequent classes may be divided once twelve (12) horses have competed in each class. For Championships, see HU149. ***See HU155.3 for classes where participants compete collectively.***

[...]

5. Junior Hunter

b. Dividing:

1. When divided, sections must be split using one of the methods from HU156 Methods of Dividing
2. If there are 50 or more entries in the section at the beginning of the first class it must be divided and the prize money must be doubled. A section with less than 30 entries cannot be divided. ***See HU155.3 for classes where participants compete collectively.***

Paramedics – Hunter and H/J Licensed Competitions

If the services of a Paramedic cannot be secured for a Premier hunter rated competition, an EMT may be substituted.

HJ105 Safety and Welfare

1. Definitions

h. Qualified Medical Personnel: At Premier rated and/or Jumper Level 5 or higher competitions, at least one of the required qualified medical personnel must be a paramedic. See GR848 for additional medical personnel requirements. ***If the services of a Paramedic cannot be secured for the competition, an EMT may be substituted.***

Awards Ceremonies - Dressage

Participation by placed horse and rider combinations cannot be required, and awards ceremonies must be conducted to allow for social distancing. Rosettes will not be required to be placed on bridles.

DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving

[...]

12. Participation in prize-giving (awards) ceremonies by placed rider/horse combinations ***must not*** may be mandatory. ~~and failure to participate may result in loss of prizes and prize money at the discretion of Competition Management. Specific requirements and penalties for failure to participate in prize-giving ceremonies must be announced in the prize list.~~ It is recommended that dress and saddlery for ceremonies be the same as in the competition, but that black or

white leg bandages also be allowed. ~~Resettes should be placed on the horses' bridles prior to the ceremony. The judge at "C" should be invited to participate in the prize giving.~~ Competition Management is responsible for the safe conduct of ceremonies and must excuse any horse that threatens the safety of participants. At all times when horses are grouped together, riders and/or grooms are responsible for their actions. Carelessness or irresponsible behavior may result in possible penalties under Federation rules.

Time Schedules & Ride Times - Dressage

The time schedule must be posted in electronic format and/or in an area where social distancing can be adhered to by noon the day before the competition (the posting/distribution method must be included in the prize list). Additionally, flexibility with ride schedules must be allowed

DR 126.1b.4 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management

1. The following requirements apply to all Levels 1-5 of Dressage Competitions, except where noted. Specific requirements for specific levels of competitions are listed under .2, below.

[...]

b. Competition Schedule

[...]

3. The time schedule must be posted in ***electronic format and/or in an area where social distancing can be adhered to*** a conspicuous place by noon the day before the competition. ***(The method to be utilized for posting the time schedule must be printed in the prize list).***

Ride times may not be changed after noon the day before the start of the entire competition, except in compliance with GR830.5. Competitions may reserve the right to fill a competitor's subsequent ride times if that competitor fails to notify the competition secretary of his/her intention to scratch (i.e. is a "no show").

~~4. Dressage classes must be run in their entirety and rides may only be scheduled out of sequence to allow a reasonable interval between two or more horses entered by the same rider in the same class or in different classes.~~ ***Flexibility with ride scheduling must be allowed.*** Also, when preparing a time schedule consideration must be given to riders entered in more than one class or riding more than one horse.

Applicable to Licensed Officials

Officiating Limitations for Stewards, Technical Delegates and Judges

The rules limiting the number of times a Steward, Technical Delegate or Judge could officiate within a specific area or at a specific competition within a certain period of time have been waived.

GR1034 Stewards and Technical Delegates

[...]

~~4. Except in Hawaii and Alaska, no steward may officiate for more than three consecutive years at the same competition or at more than three consecutive competitions run by the same governing body, Board of Directors or Licensee. When three or more stewards are officiating, one steward will not be subject to these restrictions and will be eligible to serve as steward for a fourth consecutive competition run by the same governing body, Board of Directors or Licensee.~~

5. Except in Hawaii, no technical delegate may officiate for more than two consecutive years at the same competition or at more than two consecutive competitions run by the same governing body, Board of Directors or Licensee. In Alaska, no dressage technical delegate may officiate more than three consecutive years at the same competition, but are not otherwise restricted from officiating at consecutive competitions run by the same governing body, Board of Directors or Licensee. For the purposes of this rule, multiple, consecutive day Dressage Competitions held within a six day period will be counted as one competition, if they are run by the same governing body, Board of Directors or Licensee.
6. A Driving Technical Delegate shall not serve in that capacity at the same Combined Driving Event, Driving Trial, Driven Dressage Show or Pleasure Driving Show more than three consecutive years

GR1038 Conflicts of Interest and Restrictions

[...]

4. A judge may not officiate more than one time within 125 radial miles during any 20 day period in the following circumstances:
- In any one of the following classes: ASPCA Horsemanship, Washington International Horse Show Equitation, USEF Show Jumping Talent Search, or the USEF Hunter Seat Medal at Premier or National rated competitions.
 - In the same "A" rated division or section (Exception: Federation Licensed Special Competitions).
 - In the Andalusian/Lusitano, Arabian, Friesian, Hackney, Morgan, National Show Horse, Roadster, American Saddlebred, or Shetland division or section.
5. Paso Fino Division: A judge may not officiate more than once within two hundred (200) road miles during any thirty (30) day period.
- This restriction does not apply to Guest Judges officiating classes recognized by a national breed or discipline association for which the Federation has no division rules and does not license judges.
6. Limitations for Andalusian/Lusitano Judges
- A judge cannot officiate at two licensed competitions within the same IALHA Region (excluding the IALHA National Competition) within the same year unless the competitions are six (6) months apart and travel distance from one competition facility to the second facility is 200 miles or greater.
 - A judge licensed in the Andalusian/Lusitano Division may not officiate at more than one Regional Championship competition in that Division during any one competition year. A judge that has officiated at an IALHA National Championship Competition is ineligible to officiate at another IALHA National Championship for the next two years.

Equipment Inspections – *Arabian, Dressage, Paso Fino, Reining, and Western Dressage*
 Added language to clarify that all tack and equipment inspections must be performed visually.

AR246.20.c AHA Medal Class Requirements (Arabian)

20. Class specification for AHA Medal classes are as follows:
3. Bits must be dropped and inspected by the Judge or designated official, and all riders must dismount for this inspection. If called for in the ring, assistance, if necessary, may be had from one of the ring officials. ***All inspections must be done visually.***

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment (Dressage)

7. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, neck straps, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including “easy-boots”) or bandages (including tail bandages) and any form of earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. [...] Blinkers and fly masks that cover the horse’s eyes are permitted in warmup but are forbidden in the competition arena. Cooling caps (hoods) are forbidden in competition and warmup areas. Logos in compliance with DR121.1 and manufacturer’s logos are permitted. ~~However, per DR121.9, ring stewards are only required to inspect fly hoods and other equipment in one-third of the horses in a class.~~ When an inspection is conducted, all equipment including fly hoods, whips, etc. must be inspected.

Saddlery and equipment checks will be visual and random. The Technical Delegate may follow the competitor to a designated area if necessary. In championship classes, saddlery inspections are required for each horse.... [...]

[...]

~~10. Ring stewards appointed by competition management must check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs on both sides of the horse for at least one-third of the horses in each class. Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. ***Saddlery and equipment checks will be visual and random. The Technical Delegate may follow the competitor to a designated area if necessary.*** Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done immediately as the horse leaves the arena. (See DR126.1i) The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths. Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. The responsibility for the correct attire and equipment, however, still rests with the competitor. When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition.~~

DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management- (Dressage)

1. The following requirements apply to all Levels 1-5 of Dressage Competitions, except where noted. Specific requirements for specific levels of competitions are listed under .2, below.

[...]

i. Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas.

~~4. Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. Gloves must be provided by competition management.~~ ***All inspections must be visual and random. The Technical Delegate may follow the competitor to a designated area if necessary.***

5. When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition.

DR206 Equipment and Turn Out – (Dressage)

[...]

8. Bit and saddlery inspections, as described in DR121.10, are not required nor are advised for DSHB classes. When close inspection of saddlery, equipment or bits is required in order to determine compliance with these rules, a steward or TD must ***conduct a visual inspection and if necessary, follow the horse to a designated area.*** ~~accompany a horse to its stall to inspect such items when they are removed from the horse.~~

PF127 Tack (Paso Fino)

3. Bits. (All Divisions)

[...]

g. The competition steward may require a rider or riders to dismount and drop their horse's bits for inspection. Competition officials may select entire classes or individuals in any section for inspection. ***All inspections must be done visually.***

RN103 Scoring – (Reining)

[...]

3. The following will result in result in no score:

[...]

g. failure to dismount and/or present horse and equipment to the appropriate judge for inspection (***All equipment checks/inspections must be performed visually.***);

17. All riders must dismount. The horse must be presented and the bridle dropped by the rider or a designated representative. The horse and equipment must be checked by the designated judge or steward in close proximity to the arena during a pre-check or only in the case a sitting jury member is checking equipment in the arena, a postcheck. Should the equipment judge detect cause for a no score, the exhibitor or his/her representative, trainer, or guardian may at that time accept the no score and allow the equipment judge to cause the appropriate changes to all score cards or request the other judges confer on the appropriate call. In the case of a youth exhibitor, should a parent, trainer, or guardian not be present, it will be assumed that all parties are aware of this rule and agree to abide by the exhibitor's decision. If requested, the equipment judge will confer with the other judges as soon as practical. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a no score. Competitions are encouraged to establish check stations in advance of each individual run and give the competitor appropriate time to correct the equipment change to comply with legal equipment, should there be a question on equipment. ***All equipment checks/inspections must be performed visually.***

WD120 General (Western Dressage)

1. At Federation licensed competitions, the C2 Steward or the person who is under the direction of the Steward and appointed by the competition management will be responsible for overseeing the checking of the horse, tack, and attire. A horse must be eliminated from the test just completed if the horse or any tack and/or attire are in violation of the rules and/or the tongue has been tied. C2 Stewards or Equipment Inspectors are only required to inspect bits and other appointments on a minimum of one-third of the horses in a class. (See WD123). ***All inspections must be done visually.***

WD124 Judges and Stewards (Western Dressage)

3. C2 Stewards. A USEF licensed competition that offers Western Dressage tests/classes may use either a USEF licensed Category 2 Steward or an inspector designated by show management and under the direction of the C2 Steward. Tack and bits on both sides of the horse of a minimum of one-third (1/3) of the horses in each class/test must be inspected. ***All inspections must be done visually.***

a. Once the exhibitor leaves the arena, the exhibitor must remain mounted until they reach the C2 Steward or equipment inspector. At that time, the exhibitor will dismount for the equipment inspection. Competitors will be asked to drop the bridle of the horse, removing the bit to below the mouth of the horse. ~~A metal detector and/or magnet may be used to detect the presence of the metal in nosebands.~~ Random pulling of leg wraps will also occur at this time. See also WD119.

[...]

d. ~~New disposable gloves must be available for and used by bit inspectors if a mouth piece must be handled by the inspector.~~

Judges' Use of Cell Phones - All breeds/disciplines

Issues a clarification to the existing rule to better accommodate the use of cell phone or other electronic device technology to relay scores and other information in an effort to minimize the exchange of paper.

GR1033.3 Judges

3. Except in the discharge of their official duty **or mandated by competition management**, the use of cellular phones or other similar communication devices, including computers, by judges while in the ring (including center ring), judges' box, judges' stand or on any part of a course during a competition is strictly prohibited.

Placement of Judges - Dressage

Ensures that placement of judges will accommodate social distancing requirements.

DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests

[...]

13. For FEI Tests for 4, 5 and 6-year old horses, and the USEF test for 4-year old horses, the judges must **not be required to** sit together at "C". **Placement of judges must allow for proper social distancing.** Individual movements are not judged. The judges must fill out one Marking Sheet with general comments and marks at the end of the test. For Young Horse qualifying classes, competition management is encouraged to provide a microphone for the judges so that a short summary may be given to the audience after each ride. FEI guidelines for judging shall be followed. Tests must be ridden from memory. For FEI Dressage Tests for Seven Year old Horses: Each of the two FEI Tests for 7 Year Old Horses has two marking sheets, a technical test (titled Test and Technical Marking Sheet) and a young horse evaluation (titled Quality Marking Sheet). The FEI Tests for 7 Year Old Horses must be judged by Senior 'S' or FEI judges.

Placement of Judges (**must allow for proper social distancing**): One Judge – Judge at C uses only the Quality Marking Sheet OR the Technical Marking Sheet; Two Judges – Judge at C uses only the Technical Marking Sheet; Judge at B or E uses only the Quality Marking Sheet; or Three Judges - Judge at C uses only the Technical Marking Sheet; two judges at B or E use only the Quality Marking Sheet. To include this test in Young Horse Test of Choice (TOC) class, ONLY the Quality Marking Sheet can be offered and one judge must preside. If two or three judges are used, the test must be offered in a separate class that is limited to FEI Tests for 7 Year Old Horses. The technical score and the quality score shall be weighted each with 50% towards the final score.

DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management

1. The following requirements apply to all Levels 1-5 of Dressage Competitions, except where noted. Specific requirements for specific levels of competitions are listed under .2, below.

[...]

g. Location of Judges.

[...]

~~5. The booth/hut/platform must be large enough to accommodate three people except that the booth at C must accommodate four people for Young Horse Championship classes.~~

6. Judges' booths placed at E and B must be equipped with side windows.

7. The jury for the FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses and USEF Dressage Test for 4-year old horses must **not be required to** be seated together at “C” and may comprise a maximum of three judges. (Exception: See Selection Procedures for the USEF National Championships for Young Horses for the number and placement of judges in the Young Horse championship competition.) The number and placement of judges in classes and championships for FEI 7-year-old horses must be as described in DR122.13 or, if applicable, the Selection Procedures for the World Breeding Championships for 7-year-old horses. **Placement of judges must allow for proper social distancing**

Scores & Scoresheets - Dressage

Rules have been modified to allow for score submission and scoresheet distribution to occur electronically and/or posted via the internet. Privacy must still be maintained.

DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving

[...]

2. Scores must be posted on a public scoreboard as soon as possible after each ride. The public scoreboard may be in either paper or electronic format. **Scores may be sent electronically (e.g. via text) to competitors and/or posted via the internet.**

3. Final results for each class must be posted as soon as possible after the class is completed and all results must include total points and percentages with numbers to three places after the decimal point, eliminated horses, and the placing of each horse that receives an award.... The published final results may be in paper or electronic format and must remain posted throughout the entire competition. **Scores may be sent electronically (e.g. via text) to competitors and/or posted via the internet.**

[...]

10. If a mathematical error on the scoresheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of competition management within 1 hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of that competition day. Competition Management must announce said posting, and must make test sheets available to competitors immediately. **If scoresheets are only made available after the competition day by electronic methods, management must extend the deadline for reporting of mathematical errors to 24 hours from time of distribution. Scores will be corrected but class placements will not change.**

11. After the awards for a class have been presented, the judge’s score sheet should be given to the competitor. The score sheet must be **provided** handed directly to the competitor or his representative. Privacy must be maintained.

Designated Judge/Rider Evaluation Forms – Dressage

Evaluations by Designated Judges and Designated Riders is suspended. USEF will contact competitors at random after each competition and request completion of the USEF Evaluation form online through their USEF membership account.

DR125.8: Competition Licensing and Officials

[...]

~~8. The competition Technical Delegate is required to designate one Dressage judge and one Competitor to complete USEF competition evaluation forms. The Technical Delegate must supply the Designated Judge and Designated Competitor with a copy of the required evaluation form(s). It is mandatory for designated judges and competitors to return completed evaluation forms to USEF either with the Technical Delegate or directly to USEF within fourteen days of the competition.~~

Eligibility and Verification of Entries – Dressage

Waives the requirement for Technical Delegates to check entries and verify competitor eligibility. Competitors are still required to adhere to eligibility rules and competition secretaries are responsible for ensuring that horses in qualifying and championship classes are properly recorded and that riders and owners are current members.

DR127.2 USEF/USDF Qualifying and Championship Classes and USEF/USDF National Championships for Dressage

[...]

2. Unless specified otherwise in published selection procedures, all qualifying competitions for USEF/USDF Championships are open only to horses that have been recorded with the Federation, ridden by Junior Active, Senior Active, or Life Members. Annual or lifetime Horse Recording is required and horses with only HID numbers are not eligible. Horse owners must also be Junior Active, Senior Active or Life Members. If the horse has more than one owner, at least one owner must have both active USEF Junior Active, Senior Active or Life membership and active USDF Participating or Business Membership...Copies of documents submitted by competitors to verify Federation and USDF membership and horse recording must be available to the Technical Delegate in the competition office. Information on USDF membership and horse registration requirements is available through the USDF office. Affidavits will not be accepted for Federation or USDF membership or horse recording verification purposes for entry in Championship classes.

GR1035 Special Duties of a Technical Delegate

[...]

2. General Duties for Dressage Technical Delegates

[...]

c. At Dressage Competitions, to observe and report that management and competitors are in compliance with all Dressage Division regulations regarding USEF/USDF Qualifying and Championship classes, Federation Junior Team Championships, and the USEF Championships and qualifying classes.

Cross-Country Test of Horse Course Certification - Eventing

Extends the period of time for site and course inspections for Cross-Country Test of Horse Trails from 12 months to 18 months prior to the competition.

EV175 Cross Country Course Designer

[...]

2. DUTIES.

a. The Cross Country Course Designer is responsible for the layout measurement, preparation, and marking of the route for the Cross-Country Test of Horse Trials and Events, including Phases A, B, and C of the latter. The Cross Country Course Designer is responsible for the design and construction of all obstacles used in the Test.

b. In order to fulfill the responsibilities noted above, the Cross Country Course Designer must visit the site and review changes to the courses or obstacles at least once within ~~12~~**18** months of a competition. The Cross Country Course Designer should be present during the competition.

Applicable to Participants

Braiding Requirements – *Hackney, Hunter and Shetland*

The rules requiring braiding have been waived or modified accordingly.

HK143 General (Hackney)

1. All horses must appear to have a short tail and must appear to have a tightly braided mane and shall be exhibited to an appropriate vehicle. **All braiding must be done by the horse's owner, exhibitor, trainer or member of the stable's staff.**

HK116 General

1. Hackney ponies must appear to have a short tail and must appear to have a tightly braided mane. (Exceptions: National and Local In-Hand Futurities.) **All braiding must be done by the pony's owner, exhibitor, trainer or member of the stable's staff.**

HU147 Ladies Side Saddle Classes (Hunter)

3. To be judged on performance and soundness with emphasis on manners 75%; formal hunting attire, appointments and general overall appearance of horse and rider 25%. Judges should give particular consideration to quality, condition and cleanliness of tack. ~~Mane and tail must be braided, (Exception: roached manes or pulled tails).~~ Judges must line up exhibitors in order of preference before checking appointments.

HU148 Ladies Side Saddle Attire (Hunter)

~~16. Mane and Tail: Must be braided. (Exception: roached mane and pulled tails).~~

SP111 General (Shetland)

5. Shetlands should be neatly trimmed, well groomed, ~~braided with one braid in the foretop and immediately back of the bridle and attractively presented in the competition ring.~~

Musical Freestyles – *Dressage*

Competitors are required to provide their music to the announcer in the format/method specified within the prize list. Furthermore, competitors are not allowed to have a representative in the sound system booth in observation of social distancing requirements.

DR129.6a&c Musical Freestyle Ride

[...]

6. Music

a. Music is mandatory. It is the responsibility of the competitor to select the appropriate music for the ride and ~~present~~ **provide the music in formats/methods specified within the prize list** ~~a compact disc (CD) recording, to be given to the announcer at least two (2) hours prior to the start of the class.~~

[...]

~~c. Each rider will be permitted one representative in the sound system booth to supervise the handling of the CD if so desired by the competitor.~~

Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) – *Eventing*

Extends the validity of Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) already earned from twelve months to eighteen months.

EV105 – Loss of Qualifications

For certain levels of competition, horses and riders must meet qualifying requirements. Those requirements are detailed in Appendix 3. Loss of these requirements (qualifications) is outlined below and pertains to any combination of USEF and FEI Events.

1. ESTABLISHMENT OF QUALIFICATION. When a horse and/or rider obtains a Minimum Eligibility Requirement (MER) at a level, then they are “established” (qualified to compete) at that level. This “establishment” does not expire; however, it is important to remember that in all cases, when entering an Event at the CCI1* level or above, at least one MER must be obtained in the ~~12~~**18** month period prior to the competition.

APPENDIX 3 - PARTICIPATION IN HORSE TRIALS – (Eventing)

A competitor and/or a horse may be entered in a Horse Trial without having fulfilled the qualifications noted below, provided the qualifications have been fulfilled at least 10 days before the Cross-Country Test of the competition for which it is needed if the MER has been achieved at a Horse Trial or CCI-S or at least 24 days if the MER has been achieved at a CCI-L. For Preliminary and Training Classic Three-Day Events, qualifying competitions must be completed within a 24-month period of the start of the competition. At the CCI* level and above, at least one MER must be obtained in the ~~twelve~~**eighteen**-month period prior to the competition. e.g. a horse and/or rider who have achieved a MER at a CCI4* level of competition and who have not competed for over ~~twelve~~**eighteen** months must first achieve a MER at the next lowest height level

4. LEVELS OF INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS AND EVENTS

4.1 UNCATEGORIZED RIDERS Listed below are the USEF requirements to compete in an FEI Competition. Additionally, all horses and riders must meet the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) published by the FEI which must be achieved by competitor and horse as a combination. Where FEI requirements refer to a “CCI” this may be satisfied by achieving an MER at a CCI-L or CCI-S of the level stated. When multiple MERs are required, one of the Minimum Eligibility Requirements can be achieved incurring 20 penalties at the obstacles of the Cross Country Test. All USEF requirements do not need to be achieved as a combination. At the CCI1* level and above, at least one MER must be obtained in the ~~twelve~~**eighteen**-month period prior to the competition (e.g., a horse and/or rider who have achieved a MER at a CCI4* level of competition and who have not competed for over ~~twelve~~**eighteen** months must first achieve a MER at the next lowest height level).

4.2 CATEGORIZED RIDERS Listed below are the USEF requirements to compete in an FEI Competition. Additionally, all horses and riders must meet the minimum eligibility requirements (MER) published by the FEI. When multiple Minimum Eligibility Requirements are required, one of the Minimum Eligibility Requirements can be achieved incurring 20 penalties at the obstacles of the Cross Country Test. All USEF requirements do not need to be achieved as a combination. At the CCI1* level and above, at least one Qualifying Result must be obtained in the ~~twelve~~**eighteen**-month period prior to the competition (e.g., a horse and/or rider who have achieved a QR at a CCI4* level of competition and who have not competed for over ~~twelve~~**eighteen** months must first achieve a QR at the next lowest height level).

The above rules require U.S. Athletes, competing at the CCI1* level and above, to achieve one of the required Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MERs) to compete within the ~~twelve~~**eighteen**-month period prior to the competition in question. This is a requirement in addition to those

prescribed by the FEI; due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it will, in some cases, put U.S. Athletes, otherwise qualified and prepared to compete at a certain level, at a disadvantage.

Additional Information for Competition Organizers

Timelines and Deadlines

Waivers to application submission dates and process timelines under the following rules shall be considered on a case-by-case basis.

- GR302.1.d. - Holding application for more than 30 days.
- GR302.1.h.1 - Date change less than 30 days from comp
- GR302.1.h.1.b - Date change less than 240 days from comp
- GR302.1.h.3 - Rating change less than 30
- GR302.2.g.1 - Must submit eventing competition license 240 days prior to start of competition
- GR306 - Inactive competitions
- GR315.4.b - 240 day mileage deadline
- GR315.4.d - 21 days PDH response
- GR904 - Changes in Prize List
- GR1212 - Prize Lists

Mileage Exemption Fee Waiver

The mileage exemption fee has not been waived. However, if a provisional denial is reviewed again at a later date, there is no additional mileage exemption fee.

Competition Cancellation Fee

The competition cancellation fee is waived for the remainder of the 2020 competition year.