Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
GR 849.1	048-25	3	Standard	12/1/2026	CEO - Bill Moroney	Approved (9/21/2026)

Tracking #048-25 Draft #3 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	5/1/2026	Approved 9/21/2026

Rule Change Intent

Recently, the hunter/jumper community has expressed concerns about horse collapses at competitions believed to be caused by the administration of substances intended to quiet the horse that are either prohibited substances or permitted substances administered within 12 hours of competition, both of which are rule violations. This poses a significant risk to the health and well-being of horse, as well as the safety of others. As a result, the Federation President has approved a Presidential Modification to the collapse rule, GR 849, for Hunter, Jumper and Hunter/Jumper USEF-licensed events, effective July 1, 2025. This proposed rule change aligns with the approved Presidential Modification and applies it to all breeds and disciplines. The rule change proposal would bar collapsed horsed from competing for at least seven days, and be certified by a licensed veterinarian to be fit to return to competition before they may return. This change is intended to safeguard the health and well-being of the horse, ensuring that the highest standards of welfare are upheld. This is part of USEF's ongoing commitment to strengthen regulations to protect the horse.

Proponent Details

CEO - Bill Moroney

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/15/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Approval 03/23/2026	**Draft 1: The committee believes in the intent, however, they had concerns for the horse leaving competition grounds. The committee would be in favor if the horse could stay on the grounds under veterinary supervision.**

Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/30/2025	**Draft 1: The committee feels that verbiage should be added regarding a horse only being removed from the grounds once a vet has deemed it safe to do so, following the collapse.**

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/27/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 03/16/2026	**Draft 1: The committee has an issue with GR122.3, that acts as a definition, does not include the most crucial part of the definition given in GR849.1: "a "collapse" is defined as a fall to the ground with no apparent cause…". The "no apparent cause" portion is the most important part for understanding the difference between a horse falling or collapsing. For example: lunging a horse, it gets to fast, feet slip out from under it and it falls, there is an obvious reason for this fall, but under GR122.3 it is a collapse and under GR849.1 it could be considered to have a cause and be only an accidental fall of the horse. The committee is not in favor of the rule portion requiring the collapsed horse to leave competition grounds as it is common for a barn/trainer to have brought a string of multiple horses (even 20+) to a competition and potentially have traveled many hours; how are they to get this horse off competition grounds? The committee also questions when facilities have vet offices on competition grounds such as WEC Ocala, if you were to take your collapsed horse their to be treated after a collapse, technically the horse is still on competition grounds and therefore in violation of the rule.** **Draft 2: The committee feels that point one reads as two separate statements instead of one rule encompassing what constitutes a collapse. The committee has concerns regarding situations that are obviously not a collapse, being classified as a collapse under this rule (example: lunging a horse that goes to fast and slips off its feet). The committee feels that this rule is being instituted for specific situations taking place in a different discipline and questions is this rule should instead reside in that discipline's rulebook chapter.**

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/18/2025	**Draft 1: The committee echoes the concern of other committees, that the issue with the proposal is the removal of an apparently collapsed horse from the showgrounds for 7 days. Instances where individuals might have traveled to a show and the horse will receive more monitoring on site concerns the committee.**

Competition Management	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/30/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 04/20/2026	**Draft 1: The Committee agrees with the intent, but does not agree with the following items: 1- The horse should not be required to leave the grounds in certain situations, such as it not being safe to be transported from the facility as it is under the treatment of the veterinarian, housed at an on-venue vet clinic, or not immediately possible to find an alternative location to house a horse that has shipped in long distances. There should be flexibility in these situations. 2-It is the experience of competition management that collapses can happen while being ridden, and the definition of collapse should be expanded to include under tack, but tripping should be explicitly excluded.** **Draft 2: The committee felt that this rule does not clearly exclude trips or stumbles and this should be clarified.**
Connemara	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/14/2025	
Council - Intl Discipline	
Draft 3: Recommends Disapproval 05/26/2026	**Draft 3: The Council feels the language "for no apparent reason" should be clarified and the rule rewritten to ensure reports be mandatory for all collapses that occur regardless of whether the cause is known or not.**
Council - Member Services	
Draft 3: Recommends Approval 06/02/2026	
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline	
Draft 3: Recommends Approval 05/29/2026	
Dressage	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/03/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 04/14/2026	**Draft 1: We agree with the purpose of the rule, but the current language also opens it up to situations such as a horse who may fall while acting up on the lunge line. The word 'unintentionally' could be easily misinterpreted. Additionally, the horse having to leave the competition grounds for 7 days could present a hardship or danger, especially if the horse has collapsed. Competitors travelling hours from home could potentially have a horse who is non-permissible on competition grounds.** **Draft 2: The proposed language is obscure and incomplete. Going from word 'collapsed' to 'fallen' creates a large gap. Additionally, the proposed change covers horses/ponies that have fallen when not ridden, but does not cover common riding situations such as a competitor riding from stabling to warmup, riding in warmup, or riding a horse back to stabling following a class.**
Driving	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/11/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 04/07/2026 **Draft 3:** Recommends Approval 05/05/2026	**Draft 1: The Committee feels that it is in the best interest of a horse that has collapsed to be moved to isolation stalls for monitoring and not to remove them from the competition grounds.** **Draft 2: The committee feels the language in 850.1 is still not definitive enough. The language encompasses situations that should not need barring from competition. It also only exempts horse being ridden and does not contemplate horses being driven.**
Endurance	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/21/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 03/24/2026 **Draft 3:** Recommends Disapproval 05/19/2026	**Draft 1: While the ESC agrees with implementing rules on collapses that occur when the horse is not being ridden, the ESC requests the language be reviewed and moved from under the Falls section. Falls and Collapses are two different actions in which the rules for each should be kept separate to help prevent confusion.** **Draft 2: The ESC thanks the proponent for moving to proposed language to under GR850 but feels that including it immediately after the definition of "collapse" which indicates that a collapse is a fall with "no apparent cause" will lead to a loop hole for not reporting when a collapse occurs due to a known cause. The committee suggests editing the proposed language to ensure the collapses will be reported even when the cause is known.** **Draft 3: The committee feels the language "for no apparent reason" should be removed and the rule rewritten to ensure collapse reports be mandatory for all collapses that occur regardless of if the cause is known or not.**
Eventing	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/18/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 03/24/2026	**Draft 1: The Committee believes the requirement to remove a horse from the show grounds after a collapse is not feasible, as many Eventing competitors travel far distances to competitions and with multiple horses, so they may not be able to immediately remove the one horse from the grounds prior to the competition ending. Additionally, the Committee believes the language in GR122.3 is duplicative of the existing language in GR849.1. The Committee recommends that GR122.3 refer out to GR849, so members know to refer to GR849 for the full collapse rules: "GR122.3 For collapse of a Horse, see GR849".** **Draft 2: The Committee supports the intent of the rule, however, they feel the definition of collapse needs to be further clarified, as the language is ambiguous and could inadvertently include accidental trips/falls. The Committee recommends the following language: "A Collapse is when due to no apparent cause, from arrival to the venue to departure, any part of a horse/pony's body except for the hooves, unintentionally touches the ground or an obstacle and the ground, as it is unable to support itself. It is still deemed a Collapse even if the horse/pony stands back up immediately afterwards. 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 other falls and accidents".**
Friesian	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/29/2025	**Draft 1: The committee would like more consistency in the verbiage of this rule, specifically between the definition given in GR122.3 vs existing definitions in GR849.1.**

Hackney	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/08/2025	**Draft 1: The committee agrees with the intention of the rule but agrees that it needs more discussion. If the horse/pony had to leave the grounds, who then becomes responsible for the horse? The committee suggested that if a collapse occurs, the horse/pony should be allowed to stay on the grounds under the supervision of a vet. It would be in the best interest of the horse to leave them at the competition instead of trying to transport them away. A collapse could be from something as simple as heat and not necessarily due to a prohibited substance. How would this effect qualifications ?**
Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/10/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 03/23/2026	**Draft 1: The committee strongly agrees with the intent but believes that horses being ridden should be included in the scope of collapse, as well as that horses should be permitted to remain on grounds in certain circumstances. The committee recommended that if the horse is permitted to remain on the grounds due to a variety of factors, a prohibition on the riding/lunging of the horse while at the event/on grounds could be placed during the time the horse is ineligible.** **Draft 2: The committee would approve if the statement 'when while it is not ridden' was removed from the rule. The committee feels collapses can and do occur under saddle.**
Jumper	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/16/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Approval 03/16/2026	**Draft 1: The JSC would approve if there was a waiver for removing the horse off the grounds.**
Morgan	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/30/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 04/16/2026	**Draft 1: The committee is not in agreement with the portion of the proposal requiring a horse to leave the competition grounds, as this in most situations would be extremely difficult, since many trainers have a "string" of horses at a competition, traveled hours to compete, etc. The committee also would like the verbiage from GR849.1 "for no apparent reason" to be added to the definition in GR122.3.** **Draft 2: The committee feels that the sentences in GR850.1 are contrary to each other and are confusing in nature. The sentences in point 1 need to be revised for easier comprehension and specifically address that a collapse of a horse is defined as a fall "for no apparent reason".**
National Hunter Committee	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/18/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 04/13/2026	**Draft 1: The committee agrees with the intent of this proposal but feel the removal of the horse from competition grounds was unnecessary and would create an additional risk to the horse and hardship on the owners and trainers.** **Draft 2: The committee expressed concern with the gray area that still exists within the language, specifically that stewards could simply take rider's word rather than requiring the horse to be seen by the competition veterinarian. In addition, the committee inquired as to whether language can be created around horses appearing to have fainted to avoid confusion with tripping.**
National Show Horse	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/29/2025	**Draft 1: The committee would be more in favor of this rule change if the portion of mandatory removal of the horse from the competition grounds was removed. Removing one horse from competition grounds is not logically feasible in most cases and the best care for the horse is going to come from its daily caretakers that know and deal with the horse on a daily basis. It was shared that the Federation would be open to potential exceptions regarding removal from competition grounds, but the rule does not state this, nor a procedure to do so, nor is it logically feasible to wait for a granted exception in the time of a horse collapse.**
ParaEquestrian	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/18/2025	**Draft 1: Good intent, but would be problematic.**
Paso Fino	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/22/2025	**Draft 1: The committee is not in favor of the portion of the rule change that requires the collapsed horse to leave the competition grounds. The committee feels that not only would it be a major burden to remove a horse, but also that a horse that has collapsed should be extensively monitored and this should be done by the caretakers that know the horse best, which would be nearly impossible if needing to remove the horse from competition grounds. In the breeds, most of the time, a trainer or owner is hauling into a horse show with a "string of horses" to compete and often, they have traveled at least several hours to the competition grounds from their home barn, which makes the scenario of removing a collapsed horse from the competition grounds and also being able to provide it with careful monitoring and care, nearly impossible; in some instances the horses were transported via van service instead of hauled by the trainer or owner, which adds another layer of complication as well. The committee strongly feels that in the case of a collapse, a horse needs the best care possible, which should be provided by the people who know the horse best, their caretaker(s).**
Roadster	
Draft 1: No Action 10/07/2025	
Saddle Seat Eq	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/16/2025 **Draft 2:** No Action 03/26/2026	**Draft 1: The committee believe the rule is unclear and does not encompass the intention of the rule. Bringing a horse off the competition grounds was concerning to the committee and in the interest of horse welfare, they felt it was best for the horse to remain at the competition with the trainer and under veterinary supervision.**
Shetland	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/29/2025	**Draft 1: The committee feels that the requirement to remove horses from the grounds will prove too difficult when trainers travel with a string of horses to distant shows. They would like to see horses allowed to remain on show grounds.**

USDF	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/11/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 04/10/2026 **Draft 3:** Recommends Disapproval 05/21/2026	**Draft 1: While we understand and support the intent of this proposal to protect the welfare of the horse, the distinction between a fall and a collapse in GR122 and GR949 is contradictory and confusing. Moreover, it may be contrary to the welfare of the horse to have to immediately leave the competitions grounds and in addition, may be logistically impossible in many situations (trailering with others, traveling a long distance to the show, etc.)** **Draft 2: While we understand and fully support the intent of this RCP to protect the welfare of the horse, we disapprove the proposal as currently written. We think that further clarity to distinguish a collapse from other falls would be useful in order to ensure full compliance with this provision. Additionally, we do not understand why this provision applies only when a horse is not being ridden. As currently written, this proposal would not require mandatory reporting as a horse collapse if a rider mounts a horse outside stabling or the trailer and the horse immediately falls to the ground. We believe this RCP needs to be expanded to include unexplained collapses of a horse while under saddle.** **Draft 3: While we understand and fully support the intent of this RCP to protect the welfare of the horse, we disapprove the proposal as currently written. Further clarity is still needed to distinguish a collapse from other falls would be useful in order to ensure full compliance with this provision. In addition, further clarification is needed regarding "for not apparent reason".**
USEA	
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 04/17/2026	**Draft 2: Language added to definition remains unclear and could inadvertently include accidental trips/falls while lunging.**
USHJA	
Draft 1: No Action 01/26/2026 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 03/30/2026	**Draft 1: Tabled to see new draft.** **Draft 2: The definition of a collapse was still unclear, doesn't account for horses tripping while being lunged or turned out, that “falls” and “collapses” were not being properly related to one another, and that there should be some reference to situations where horses “pass out.”**
Vaulting	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/11/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Approval 04/14/2026	**Draft 1: The Committee feels there needs to be additional clarification around the definition of collapse and there needs to be the ability to allow narcoleptic horses to continue in competition. The Committee also feels that the horses that do collapse should not be barred from competition grounds but instead should be barred from exercising on the competition grounds.**
Veterinary	
Draft 3: Recommends Approval 05/18/2026	
Welsh	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/18/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval	**Draft 1: The committee agrees with and understands the intent of the rule but disagrees with removing the horse from the grounds.** **Draft 2: The committee agrees with the intent of the rule, but would prefer the rule to designate an individual to determine if the action of the horse falling constitutes a collapse. The committee suggest to have the competition vet evaluate the horse, and recommend shortening the return to competition to 24 hours under the guide of the competition vet.**
Western Committee	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/13/2025	**Draft 1: The committee feels that a horse not being permitted on the grounds of a competition during the 7 days post collapse is an issue, as that would be the location where a horse is most likely to receive quality care.**
Western Dressage	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/22/2025 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 03/18/2026	**Draft 1: The committee Find the new language in GR122.3 conflicting with existing language in GR849.1. They also feel that the requirement to remove a horse from the show grounds after a collapse is unreasonable, as many competitors travel great distances with multiple horses to shows, and would have no appropriate way to remove a horse from the grounds prior to the end of the competition.** **Draft 2: While the committee is very strongly in favor of horse welfare rules, they have concerns about the definition of a collapse, and how this could be applied in situations that do not merit the suspension of the horse (IE a "cinchy" horse that falls down when cinched up and then stands back up). The committee also questions why the definition only applies to unmounted horses, as they feel having a rider mounted shouldn't exempt "bad actors" from the intent of the rule.**

Member Comments

Sophie M Carlin — Draft #1

Claire Suevel — Draft #2

What about collapses under saddle? Horse comes out of the ring, staggers and goes down. Still a collapse. The first sentence says it-“ a fall for no apparent reason”. Limiting it to not while ridden is too restrictive.

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. Refer to GR849 for reporting requirements for all other falls and accidents.~~ ***A horse/pony is considered to have collapsed when, for no apparent reason, any part of the horse/pony's body, except for the hooves, unintentionally touches the ground or an obstacle and the ground, even if the horse/pony stands back up afterwards. This rule is in effect from any time when entries arrive at the venue until departure from the venue. 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 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~~ Any horse/pony that collapses is ***barred*** ~~prohibited~~ from competing for ***a minimum of seven days following the*** ~~72 hours after said~~ collapse***. After this period, the horse/pony may*** ~~***return to competition***~~ ***compete again only if a licensed veterinarian examines the horse/pony, deems it fit to compete, and submits to the Federation, a signed and completed Federation form.*** ~~***is received, signed***~~. ~~Exception: Upon examination by a~~ ***licensed*** ~~veterinarian and submission of a statement by the veterinarian certifying~~ ~~***the veterinarian has examined the horse post collapse and the horse/pony is deemed fit for competition.***~~ ~~the horse/pony's fitness to compete, a horse/pony that collapses is permitted to return to competition 24 hours after said collapse.~~