Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
EV App. 0	218-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)

EV App. 1 Tracking #218-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Permit the use of ear plugs in all phases of eventing. The removal of ear hoods following competition often poses safety risks to officials and volunteer stewards who are required to inspect the horse's ears for ear plugs. By permitting the use of ear plugs during competition, there would be no need to require ear hoods be removed for inspection, eliminating the safety risks of onsite personnel. National level competitions are primarily reliant on volunteers to cover the dressage inspections, who often do not have the horse experience or knowledge of how best to handle removal of bridles/safety handling horses, or what exactly an ear plug looks or feels like inside the ear.

Proponent Details

USEA

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/24/2026

Member Comments

SUBCHAPTER EV-10 SADDLERY

2. DRESSAGE TEST.

i. Ear hoods ***and ear plugs*** are permitted for all Tests and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must allow for ears to move freely and must not cover the horse's eyes ~~and ear plugs are not permitted (exception for prize giving ceremonies)~~. The ear hoods should be discreet in color and design. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband.