UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
COMPETITION LITE FOR ENDURANCE EVENTS (“USEF Endurance Lite”)

The Federation is a 501(c)(3) organization formed for the purpose of fostering national and international amateur sport competition in equestrian sports. The USEF Competition Lite for Endurance (“USEF Endurance Lite”) was created as a stepping stone for athletes and competition organizers in the transition to USEF national licensed competitions and will welcome more participants into the sport of endurance at a national level.

The purpose of the USEF Endurance Lite competition model is to lower financial and other barriers to entry for athletes and endurance competition organizers interested in participating in or hosting USEF sanctioned events, while maintaining a safe and level playing field for all.

The current USEF Endurance Lite Rules are in effect until November 30th, 2022. Prior to this date, the USEF Endurance Sport Committee will review this program and make modifications as needed.

1. Federation Rules

The rules for Endurance Lite can be found attached (Attachment A) as well as some exemptions to the USEF General Rules (Attachment B). The Endurance Lite Rules will take precedence and where not specified the USEF General Rules will prevail.

2. Minimum Competition Requirements

a. Eligibility: A competition is eligible to run an Endurance Lite competition and/or division subject to a new license application being received by the Federation at least 60 days prior to the start of the competition or a current license change request being received by the Federation at least 30 days prior to the start of the competition.

b. Fees: Each competition applicant shall pay a $50.00 fee. No Federation fee or drug fee will be collected from the competition participants.

c. Competition Results and Compliance

i. Competition results: Competitions must provide the Federation with full results within 10 days of the completion of the competition.

ii. Compliance and Safe Sport Requirements: The Competition will comply with and operate under all applicable USEF and FEI Rules, including, but not limited to all Safe Sport requirements designated by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport including USEF’s Safe Sport Education and Training Policy. Additionally, the Competition will recognize and uphold all USEF Hearing Committee decisions regarding the suspension, or other disciplinary action taken against a USEF member. Additionally, the Competition will recognize and uphold all sanctions issued by the U.S. Center for Safe Sport regardless of sport designation of the individual found in violation.
3. **Mileage**: There are no competition mileage protections.

4. **Insurance**: The competition organizer must comply with Federation rules regarding competition insurance coverage.

5. **Prize List/Entry Form**: The competition entry form must include a release, assumption of risk, and indemnification language required by the Federation. It must also include a provision that the participant agrees to be subject to and bound by the Federation’s rules, except for those exempted by the attached documents. Participants are bound by the Safe Sport Policy, welfare, and safety rules. This includes, too, that the person agrees to be subject to the Federation’s jurisdiction for the enforcement of these rules.
USEF Endurance Lite Rules

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APPROVED BY THE USEF BOARD OF DIRECTORS
EFFECTIVE: 16TH DECEMBER 2020 – 30TH NOVEMBER 2022

EL101 General
1. GENERAL
   a. USEF Endurance Lite Competitions may vary in distance from 40km to a maximum distance of 160km. Competition Management must comply with current Federation competition licensing requirements and must apply directly to the Federation for competition recognition and licensing.
   b. Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these Rules. In any unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the duty of the Steward and Veterinary Panel, in coordination with Competition Management, to make a decision in a sporting spirit and approaching as nearly as possible to the intention of these Rules. Officials shall give the competing horses’ wellbeing the highest priority when making decisions during a competition.
   c. Notification of any and all changes to the competition schedule shall be posted in the competition office and communicated during the ride meeting or prior to the start of the loop concerned.

EL102 Eligibility
1. JUNIORS. Individuals are eligible as Juniors until the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18. Juniors under the age of 16 must be entered and accompanied by a Senior Active Member in good standing with the Federation (18 years old or older) also entered in the competition. Juniors between the ages of 14 and 15 may ride un-accompanied if they have completed 500 miles or more prior to the start of the competition.
2. YOUNG RIDERS. Individuals are eligible as Young Riders until the end of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 21.
3. SENIORS. Individuals are eligible as Seniors from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 18.
4. Foreign Competitors – please refer to GR828.4.
5. Horse Eligibility
   a. At a minimum, horses must have a USEF Horse ID number at the time of competition or will be assigned a number by the Federation post-competition which must be used at all future USEF licensed competitions. Duplicate Horse ID numbers will not be provided.
   b. Horse Age Requirements. A horse is deemed to have its birthday on January 1 in the year it was born. Horses entered in distances between 40km and 79km (25mi-49.9mi) must be a minimum of 4 years old. Horses entered in distances between 80km and 159km (50mi-99.9mi) must be a minimum of 5 years old. Horses entered in distances of 160km (100 mi) must be a minimum of 6 years old. The competition management may implement more restrictive age requirements but must note this in their entry blank/prize list. In order to compete at a championship, a horse must be one year older than the minimum age for that distance.
   c. Horses being competed for novice qualifications must meet the FEI age requirements.
6. Mandatory Out of Competition Periods (MOOCP)

After competing in a USEF Endurance Lite Licensed Competition, a horse may not compete in any USEF National Licensed Competition for the following Mandatory Out of Competition Period:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Distance Completed in km</th>
<th>Distance Completed in Miles</th>
<th>MOOCP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>From crossing the start line up to 54km</td>
<td>34 miles</td>
<td>5 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 54km – 106km</td>
<td>34.1 miles to 66 miles</td>
<td>12 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 106km – 126km</td>
<td>66.1 miles to 78 miles</td>
<td>19 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 126km – 146km</td>
<td>78.1 miles to 91 miles</td>
<td>26 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 146km</td>
<td>Over 91.1 miles</td>
<td>33 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FEI-registered horses are required to follow all Federation and FEI MOOCPs after competing in a Federation Licensed Competition or FEI Event. Additionally during the period of time that a horse is seeking to obtain their FEI Novice Qualifications, they are required to follow all Federation and FEI MOOCPs after competing in a Federation Licensed Competition or FEI Event. Please see the FEI Endurance Rules for more information.

a. For purposes of EL102.7, the standard MOOCP shall begin at 12:01 AM ET the day after the relevant ride finishes (the end of the ride is determined by the maximum ride time allowed), and end at 11:59PM ET on the last day of the MOOCP.

b. Horses may not compete in any Federation Licensed Competition or FEI Event during any MOOCP. Failure to comply with this provision may result in the rider, trainer, and/or owner being subject to disciplinary action under Federation General Rules, Chapter 7.

**EL103 Medical Requirements**

1. ACCIDENTS INVOLVING EXHIBITORS In the event of an accident in which an exhibitor is apparently injured or concussed, they must be examined by designated medical personnel to determine if they may continue in the competition. See GR84.

2. In conjunction with GR848.4, the following apply in the case of a fall/accident or other injury likely to cause concussion (as determined by qualified medical personnel):
   a. No loss of consciousness and no sign of concussion - No mandatory suspension;
   b. No loss of consciousness but with brief symptoms of concussion e.g. confusion, loss of memory, altered mental state (all symptoms of concussion must have resolved within 15 minutes both at rest and exercise) - minimum of 7 days mandatory suspension. The day of injury counts as the first day of suspension period.
   c. Any loss of consciousness, however brief, or symptoms of concussion persisting after 15 minutes - minimum 21 days mandatory suspension. The day of injury counts as the first day of the suspension period.

3. USEF MEDICAL CARDS/MEDICAL BRACELETS. Any rider with relevant medical history per this Clause 3, must declare this information to the rider management on the appropriate document in the entry form. An approved and completed USEF Medical Card or medical bracelet is recommended at all times while mounted. USEF Medical cards must be enclosed in a transparent, waterproof carrier. USEF Medical cards must be securely attached to the rider’s upper arm on the outside of the rider’s clothing. Medical bracelets must be visible on the
rider’s wrist. USEF Medical cards must include any relevant medical history, injury (particularly to the head), drug allergies, and current medication. If wearing a medical bracelet, any relevant medical history, injury (particularly to the head) drug allergies, and current medication must be included in the online medical form of the bracelet’s vendor website or integrally in the bracelet. Riders are responsible to record all injuries on the card or in the case of a medical bracelet, update their medical information online.

4. MEDICAL PERSONNEL.
   a. Competitions with 80 or more horses per day must have a minimum of one Qualified Medical Personnel present during the duration of each competition. This person must have no other duties and must have appropriate medical equipment on site at the base camp as required by their certifying State or EMS Region. Medical personnel must be readily identifiable, available, and mobile.
      1. 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.
      2. 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.
      3. Unless prohibited by Federal, State, or local law, this person must furnish the Steward(s) with a copy of his/her report(s), or assist these officials with documenting any findings and treatment for all injuries sustained in competition or on the competition grounds.
   b. An ambulance must be on the competition grounds or on call during all scheduled rides at all competitions. Notification to closest emergency medical services (e.g. Fire Station) is acceptable. The Competition organizer must identify the base camp and a location nearby to land a helicopter, if needed. If the ambulance is on call, the telephone number for the ambulance service must be posted at the competition office, provided to all officials and event staff, and communicated during the ride meeting.
   c. If meeting any of the above requirements is impossible, the competition may request a Presidential Modification as defined in GR153.

EL104 Competition Officials
1. A Federation Licensed Endurance Competition must obtain the officials listed below, and they must meet the requisite conditions outlined. Stewards, judges, and competition managers are bound by the Safe Sport Policy, including the criminal background check and training.
   a. Steward: At least one Federation licensed Endurance Steward is required. For the purposes of Endurance Lite competitions, an individual may serve as an Endurance Steward if he/she meets one of the following criteria:
      1. A USEF licensed Endurance Steward
      2. A person enrolled in the Federation Endurance Steward licensing program
      3. A person with knowledge of the discipline rules
b. Veterinary Panel: At least two Endurance Veterinarians are required to be on competition grounds while the competition is underway up to 40 entries. It is recommended that one additional endurance veterinarian is added for every 20 additional horses at a minimum. These veterinarians make up the Veterinary Panel.

c. Treatment Veterinarian.
   1. At least one veterinarian must be on the grounds or on call to act as the Treatment Veterinarian from First Horse Inspection through awards, including Best Condition. If there is a nearby veterinarian on call, the requirement for an on-site treatment veterinarian may be waived if there are fewer than 50 entries or if one of the Veterinary Panel has supplies to stabilize horses before transfer to veterinary clinics.
   2. The Treatment Veterinarian must be licensed in the state where the competition is being held. The Treatment Veterinarian may assist the Veterinary Panel in its evaluation duties if needed, although care should be taken to avoid cross-contamination.

d. Farrier
   1. A qualified farrier is recommended to be present on the grounds while the competition is underway from the First Horse Inspection through awards, including Best Condition.

e. Competition Manager and Secretary
   1. The Competition Manager is responsible for knowledge of and compliance with all GR and EN rules. Eligibility is determined by GR1202. The Competition Manager is responsible for conducting the competition in accordance with Federation rules.
   2. Assistant Managers have the same requirements and responsibilities as listed in this rule. Managers and Assistant Managers must be listed in Federation competition records and in the prize list/entry form.
   3. The Competition Secretary is responsible for knowledge of and compliance with all GR and EN rules. Eligibility is determined by GR1203. The Competition Secretary is responsible for performing assigned duties in accordance with Federation rules. Assistant Secretaries have the same requirements and responsibilities as listed in this rule. Secretaries and Assistant secretaries must be listed in Federation competition records and in the prize list.
   4. A Competition Manager or Secretary may not serve as Steward or other licensed official at his own competition. However, he/she may compete if he/she designates an assistant in charge while he/she is competing. This does not absolve the manager’s or secretary’s duties and responsibilities.

**EL105 Categories of Endurance Competitions**

1. USEF Endurance Lite competitions or divisions are divided into different levels as follows:
   a. All divisions below 40km in one day. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64bpm within 30 minutes. These are not officially recognized rides but are useful for training.
   b. All divisions between 40 and 79km in one day or 80-100 km either as one day or as two single-day events. For these rides to count for novice FEI qualification, speeds of
16kph or under are mandatory and may be amended by the FEI. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64bpm within 30 minutes.
c. All divisions between 80km and 86km in one day or as two single-day events. For these rides to count for novice FEI qualification, speeds of 16kph or under are mandatory and may be amended by the FEI. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64bpm within 30 minutes.
d. All divisions between 100km and 119km in one day. Maximum Pulse Vet Gates: 64bpm within 30 minutes.
e. All divisions between 120km and 159km in one day, or 80-100km per day over two days with a minimum distance of 80km each day, or 64-89km over 3 days or more with a minimum distance of 64km each day. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64bpm within 30 minutes.
f. All divisions at 160km in one day, or 90km per day over two days. Maximum Pulse at Vet Gates: 64bpm within 30 minutes.

2. At Final Exams, the maximum pulse shall be 64 bpm within 30 minutes.
3. The pulse criteria may be reduced during the ride if, in the opinion of the Veterinary Panel and Steward, they believe there is a risk to the safety of horses. If the Competition Manager is competing, another person must be designated to confer with the Veterinary Panel and Steward.

EL106 Dress Code
1. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR.
It is compulsory for all person at Federation licensed competitions when mounted to wear properly fastened headgear which meets or exceeds ASTM (American Society for Testing and Materials)/SEI (Safe Equipment Institute) standards for equestrian use and carries the SEI tag. It must be properly fitted with harness secured.
   a. 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.

EL107 Saddlery and Equipment
1. Tack condition: Horse tack must be in a safe condition and correctly fitted to avoid the risk of pain or injury to the horse. It is the rider’s responsibility to ensure that their tack is safe and fits correctly. Officials may require any ill-fitting tack/equipment to be removed or altered. The use of any ill-fitting equipment that risks causing (or causes) pain or injury to the horse may be considered as horse abuse (see also GR839).
   a. The tack shall be appropriate to ensure control of the horse.
   b. Riding in draw-reins, a German Martingale, or a similar schooling aid is prohibited.
   c. Blinkers are permitted but any method of restricting the forward vision of a horse is prohibited.
2. Specific safety equipment, such as reflective items, may be required as indicated in the prize list/entry form or announced in the ride meeting.
3. The use of mobile phones and GPS devices are permitted.
4. The Federation may issue further detailed rules regarding permitted or prohibited tack.
5. The Steward or Veterinary Panel may inspect a combination’s tack/equipment on the Field of Play at any time. Any suspected violation of the above, shall be reported to the Federation in the Steward’s Report.

**EL108 Entries**
1. RESPONSIBILITY. It is the responsibility of the rider to enter a horse at the level that corresponds to its abilities. If the rider is a minor, his/her parent or trainer signing the entry blank on the minor’s behalf accepts this responsibility. It is the responsibility of the rider to know and comply with the local, state, and interstate (where appropriate) health requirements for the shipment of horses.
2. ENTRY FORMS. All entries are required to be completed prior to the start of the First Horse Inspection. No horse will be allowed to participate in the First Horse Inspection without a complete entry.
3. OPENING DATE. The opening date should be published in the prize list/entry form for the competition.
4. CLOSING DATE. The closing date for entries will be at a minimum of four days prior to the start of the First Horse Inspection. This date must be published in the prize list/entry form of the competition. In the case of insufficient entries, Competition Management may accept post-entries. If this is done, Competition Management may charge an additional fee for the entries made after the closing date, not to exceed an amount equal to the original entry fee.

**EL109 Prize List**
1. The prize list/entry form constitutes the ride schedule for Federation licensed endurance competitions.
2. The prize list/entry form must include at a minimum:
   a. Competition Management’s policy on late fees, cancellations, refunds, withdrawals, and substitutions,
   b. Entry fees,
   c. The total length of the course, and the length and number of loops on the course, and proposed hold times,
   d. Place and time of the start,
   e. Tentative time and date of Ride Meeting,
3. Notification of specific changes to the competition will be posted in the competition office, and communicated during the ride meeting, or prior to the start of the loop concerned.

**EL110 The Course**
1. Competition Management is responsible for providing an accurately measured and well-marked course.
2. The finish must be long and wide enough to enable several horses to finish at speed without interfering with each other, and must provide sufficient run-out to allow competitors to safely come to a stop after crossing the finishing line in a potential sprint or gallop. It must be situated as close to the Vet Gate as possible.
3. The total length of the course must be divided into sections called loops.
4. Loop time is calculated from the time the competition starts until it reaches the end line of that loop. However, except for the finish loop, time on course does not stop until the horse has recovered to the requisite recovery pulse at the ‘pulse time’. Thus, speed on all but the final loop will be the length of the loop divided by pulse time less the release time (i.e., out time or the time the combination should have started on the loop). On the final loop, depending on the finishing criteria (finish line or pulse criteria), the loop time may either be as stated above or the length of the loop divided by the time at the finish line less the time of the combination’s release time on the loop.

5. The Competition Management will determine the length of each loop of the section. Competition Management, in consultation with the Veterinary Panel, will determine the length of the holds at each Vet Gate.

6. It is recommended that no loop shall exceed 40km.

7. Combinations must have access to water on course between every 10km, subject to terrain limitations. The competition management may supply more frequent access to water.

8. Competitions shall be organized to allow competitors to establish their own pace to compete against the clock.

9. Competition Management may establish a maximum time for a section of the course or a loop of competition and/or the closing times for one or more Vet Gates.

**EL111 Marking of the Course**

1. The marking of the course must be done in such a manner that there is no doubt on how to proceed along the course. The markings can be flags, ribbons, indicators, lime, paint, electronic markings if reliable cellular and internet access is available on the entire course, or other sufficient trail marking methods.

2. Prior to the start of the competition, a map and plan showing the track of the course and the location of any mandatory vet gates shall be made available to the riders.

**EL112 Method of Starting**

1. Combinations must not cross the starting line before the signal is given. If a combination makes a start, which is in any way false, under penalty of disqualification, the combination must return and re-cross the start line. However, their starting time will be recorded as if they had started when originally given the signal.

2. Riders should check in within 15 minutes prior to the start of the competition, although they do not have to be mounted or have their horse with them at the time of check-in.

3. No combination may start later than 15 minutes after their starting time under penalty of disqualification unless rider receives permission from the Steward, in consultation with the Competition Management.

**EL113 Time and Record Keeping**

1. As timing plays such an important part in the competition, Competition Management must ensure that each combination’s start and finish time for each timed loop is accurately noted and recorded by properly qualified persons using synchronized timekeeping methods.

2. Times important to a competition:
   
a. Start Time: when the competition officially starts
b. Hold Time: at designated points along a course, combinations are required to be allowed set times for rest and recovery. These may vary at the various designated points.
c. Arrival Time: when a combination arrives to a designated point.
d. Pulse Time: when a combination comes to the pulse taker with a pulse that is down to the parameter designated by the Veterinary Panel.
e. Recovery Time: the difference between the pulse time and arrival at a designated point.
f. Out (Release) Time: the pulse time plus the hold time.
g. A rider’s loop starts with their official out (release) time, even if they choose to leave the hold later.
h. Total Time is counted from the instant the signal is given to start until the instant when a combination finishes (either crosses the finish line or meets pulse criteria as specified in prize list/entry form). Ride Time is the Total Time less the sum of the mandatory hold periods.

3. At vet gates, the timing of the combinations must be performed in such a manner to avoid any delay to a combination’s timing caused by the arrival of several horses simultaneously for inspection.

EL114 Competition and Fair Play
1. On the course, no other person may ride the horse once the rider has started under penalty of disqualification.
2. Willful obstruction of an overtaking competitor by a slower rider may be penalized by disqualification.
3. A rider who fails to qualify for the next loop of competition or disqualified for any reason must leave the course and has no right to continue in the competition.
4. Any restriction on crewing and assistance on the trail must be included in the prize list/entry form, announced at the ride meeting, or prior to the loop concerned.

EL115 Modification to the Course and Rescheduling/Delay or Abandonment of Events
1. Course Modification: After the course has been officially established, no alteration shall be made without the approval of the Competition Management and the Steward.
2. Rescheduling/Delay of Event: In exceptional circumstances, an event may be rescheduled or delayed in start by the Competition Management in consultation with the Steward.
3. Catastrophic Occurrences: When catastrophic occurrences or circumstances arise at or during an event, an event may be abandoned by the Competition Management in consultation with the Steward.
4. Notifications: In any case noted above, the riders should be officially notified as soon as reasonably possible of the decision, but must be notified prior to the loop concerned.
5. Accident Preparedness Plan: Please refer to GR846.
EL116 Classification
1. Individuals: In an endurance competition, the winner is the combination with the shortest elapsed riding time who successfully passes or complies with all protocols and requirements, including but not limited to the final veterinary examination.
2. Dead Heat or Ties: When two or more combinations, who start the competition, have the same time and finish with the same total elapsed riding time, they are classified according to their respective passage across the finish line whether based on plain sight or photo/video evidence. Dead Heats (Ties) between Individuals may be permitted.
3. Disqualification, Retirement, or Failure to Qualify:
   a. Disqualification: Occurs when a rider is penalized by the Steward in consultation with the Competition Management and removed from further competition for a violation of these Rules.
   b. Failure to Qualify for the next loop or for final classification: results when a combination is removed from competition for failure to successfully pass a veterinary inspection, to complete the full course as required, or to meet all time requirements for presentation or completion.
   c. Retirement: occurs when a rider decides (without otherwise being removed from the competition) not to continue in the competition after his horse successfully passes the First Horse Inspection, or until the rider makes a request to the Veterinary Panel to retire his horse before the combination crosses the start line or after the combination successfully completes one or more loops up to the point of retirement, and passes all horse inspections after each of those loops (including any mandatory re-inspection or vet-requested reinspection).
   d. Withdrawal: occurs when a rider withdraws from the competition (without otherwise being removed from the competition) prior to the First Horse Inspection.
5. All horses removed from competition, voluntarily or otherwise and at any point within the event, must be presented for veterinary inspection within 30 minutes of removal or as stated in the prize list and the horse’s veterinary records updated accordingly. If removal occurs on course the horse must be inspected by a member of the Veterinary Panel as soon as it is returned to the ride base and the horse’s veterinary records updated accordingly.

EL117 Veterinary Control
1. The Veterinary Panel and Steward in consultation with the Competition Management have absolute control on all matters concerning horse safety.
2. Equine Fatalities. Please refer to GR850.9.
3. Only riders whose horses have passed all the inspections and examinations are eligible to be ranked in the final results.
4. All the relevant information required at the inspections and examinations must be recorded on an individual veterinary record for each combination and must be available at all subsequent inspections and examinations. Riders are entitled to see and copy the record referring to their horses immediately after the inspection or examination.
5. The arrival time into the Vet Gate must be recorded and the horse must be presented to the Veterinary Panel for inspection within recovery time.
a. Following each loop, there must be a safe area where the horses can recover. The recovery time is the length of time defined in the prize list/entry form or at the ride meeting, which is the maximum allowable time from each horse’s arrival time to the time crossing into (the pulse area of) the veterinary inspection area. The recovery time stops when the horse enters the Vet Gate with a heart rate within the maximum heart rate parameters. If the horse’s heart rate is above the heart rate parameters, the initial time recorded is discarded. When the horse is presented a second time and meets the heart rate parameters, the recovery time is recorded. If the horse successfully meets the maximum heart rate parameters as stated in the prize list or ride meeting as prescribed by the Veterinary Panel upon the rider’s successful presentation within the rider’s hold time that is recorded as the recovery time. Any maximum number of attempts to meet the pulse criteria must be announced at the ride meeting.

6. The mandatory holds are operated by establishing a vet gate with an inspection area that the competitors/grooms enter with the horse when they decide that the horse is ready to pass the veterinary inspection.

7. Once a horse has successfully passed the pulse control, its timed hold starts.

8. The Veterinary Panel in consultation with the Steward and Competition Management can decide to modify the length of timed holds according to extreme weather conditions or other exceptional circumstances.

EL118 Veterinary Inspections and Examinations of Horses

1. The Veterinarians’ responsibilities to evaluate a horse are the same for all Horse Inspections. Notification of specific changes to the Horse Inspections will be posted in the competition office and communicated during the ride meeting or prior to the start of the loop concerned.
   a. Assessments will be made of the horse’s general condition, its metabolic status and may include, gait; heart rate; respiratory rate and body temperature; mucous membrane characteristics; capillary refill time; metabolic condition and gut sounds; soreness, abrasions, rubs or galls on the withers, back, loins, ribs, girth, chest, shoulders and mouth; and leg injuries, hoof conditions and lower leg dermatitis or bruises, cuts or abnormalities.
   b. These assessments and any other observations regarding the horse’s condition must be recorded on the Vet Card.

2. The inspection should be run on a flat firm surface at a minimum of 38 meters (125 feet).

3. Cardiac Recovery Index (CRI) is recorded at each inspection and involves the examination and recording of the heart rate as part of the metabolic assessment of the horse. Once the heart rate has been recorded the stop watch is restarted and the horse has one minute to trot 76 m (250 ft.) allowing for a gait assessment. At the end of the minute, a second heart rate is recorded. The difference between the first and second heart rate is the CRI.

4. First Horse Inspections shall take place preceding the start of the competition as stated in the prize list and is performed by the Veterinary Panel. During the first horse inspections and/or Examinations, a member of the Veterinary Panel must:
   a. Ensure the horse does not have any clinical signs of infectious disease. This includes a clinical examination to assess the heart rate, respiratory rate, body temperature and the checking of any other clinical parameters; and
b. Assess the horse’s general condition. These assessments and any other observations regarding the horse’s condition must be recorded on the Vet Card. Horse must be stabled in the isolation area if they show any clinical signs of infectious disease, or have been in contact with other horses that show clinical signs of infectious disease.

c. General condition and metabolic status: horses in a generally poor condition or with an abnormally high temperature will be reassessed by the Veterinary Panel.

d. Re-Inspections or Exit Exams: The Veterinary Panel, in consultation with the Steward and Competition Management, will establish prior to the ride meeting any Vet Gates they will require horses to be presented a re-inspection or exit exam no more than 15 minutes before your scheduled release time. The horse must pass the reinspection before returning to competition.

e. Requested Recovery Inspections: The examining veterinarian may ask a rider to present their horse for re-inspection prior to its scheduled departure if after passing the horse; the veterinarian retains concerns about the horse’s continuing stability.

f. Failure to represent within the hold time for that horse will result in failure to qualify for the next loop.

g. Metabolic status: the metabolic status will be assessed by the examination and recording of those parameters that indicate the Horse’s fitness to continue including mucous membranes, capillary refill time, hydration, intestinal activity (gut sounds), demeanor and Cardiac Recovery Index. Failure to Qualify due to metabolic status, musculoskeletal injuries or other reasons will require a review by the Veterinary Panel.

h. Vet Gate Inspection (Pulse gate): The first mandatory inspection of the horse at the end of each loop.

i. Vet Gate Re Inspection (Pulse Re-tries): If during the Vet Gate Inspection the horse’s heart rate is higher than the parameters defined for that Inspection, the horse may be represented during the presentation time (recovery time). If there is a maximum number of attempts for re-presentation, it must be announced at the rider’s meeting.

j. Final Inspection: The final inspection, which takes place after the horse crosses the finish line of the competition, must be within the time allowed as defined.

k. Heart Rates: Horses with abnormally high pulse rates, or pulse rates higher than the parameters defined upon recommendation from the Veterinary Panel, will not be allowed to continue in the competition and will be deemed to have failed to qualify for the next loop. Any abnormal heart sounds must be recorded.

l. Respiratory System: Abnormalities in rate or character of the breathing deemed by the Veterinary Panel to be of such a nature as to endanger the safety of the horse will be cause for failure to qualify for the next loop.

m. General Condition: Temperatures may be recorded and mucous membrane will be examined. Horses in a generally poor condition or with an abnormally high temperature will fail to qualify for the next loop.

n. Irregular gait: During any horse inspection, a horse with an irregular gait that is observable through evaluation by trotting the horse on a loose lead in hand straight out and back, will be removed from competition and will Fail to Qualify for the next loop.

1. If the Veterinary Panel is still unable to conclude that the horse is fit to continue, whether it is because of a presentation failure, including the inability
of the horse to trot the full distance, the inability of the horse to trot soundly, or based on veterinary assessment criteria, the horse will be designated as Failed to Qualify irregular gait (FTQGA).

2. Any unusual feature about a horse’s gait must be noted on the horse’s Vet Card, whether it is deemed grounds for elimination or not.

3. To assess irregular gait:
   a. If after having once trotted the horse, the observing Veterinarian questions the horse’s fitness to continue, the horse will be re-trotted before the Veterinary Panel who will by secret individual vote opt for a pass or fail and communicate their vote directly to the Steward who will tally the votes and announce the results.
   b. The Veterinary Panel may call for additional trot up prior to voting if he so wishes, but no more than three additional, giving the horse and rider the benefit of the doubt, and will communicate that request to the Steward who will request the horse be trotted again. The decision made by the Veterinary Panel will be final.
   c. If, after having once trotted the horse, the observing Veterinarian questions the horse’s fitness to continue, the horse will be re-trotted.
   d. Any unusual feature about a horse’s gait must be noted on the veterinary card of the horse, whether it is deemed grounds for failure to qualify for the next loop or not.

o. Soreness, Laceration and Wounds: Any evidence of soreness, lacerations and wounds in the mouth, on the limbs or on the body, including girth and saddle galls, must be recorded. If participation in or continuation of the competition is bound to seriously aggravate any such soreness, lacerations or wounds, the horse will not be allowed to qualify for the next loop.

p. Heart rate assessment procedure: The heart rate of the horse is measured using either a stethoscope or electronic heart rate monitor. The maximum heart rate parameters are set out in EL105.
   1. Heart rate is the first parameter to be examined and recorded during the Horse Inspection. It is an essential criterion to accurately assess the horse’s recovery and fitness to continue.
   2. Every effort should be taken to accurately record the heart rate. If the heart rate cannot be safely determined, the horse will fail the inspection. If the rider or crewmember deliberately disrupts the horse inspection, the horse will fail the inspection.
   3. Horses with heart rates higher than maximum heart rate parameters will not be allowed to continue in the competition and will be designated as ‘Failed to Qualify – metabolic’ (FTQ – ME). Any abnormal heart sounds must be recorded on the Vet Card.
   4. Determining whether the Horse’s heart rate complies with the maximum heart rate parameters:
      a. If after 60 seconds the horse’s heart rate is equal to or less than the maximum heart rate parameter, then the reading will be recorded and the inspection completed.
b. If a pulse is above the maximum parameters, the horse may be reevaluated up until they have reached their maximum recover time. Competition Management must state the number of presentations allowed in the prize list. Modifications may be allowed in consultation with the Steward and Veterinary Panel and riders must notified during the Ride Meeting or prior to the start of the loop concerned.

5. Individual Veterinary Cards and Horse Records: The individual Vet Card must be issued before the First Horse Inspection and be completed during each inspection. All the relevant information required at the Horse Inspections must be recorded on the Vet Card for each combination and must be available at all subsequent inspections and examinations.
   a. Riders are entitled to see and copy the record referring to their horses immediately after the Horse Inspection or Veterinary Examination.
   b. After each competition:
      1. Details of a horse’s completed distance to the nearest Vet Gate, reasons for elimination (metabolic, irregular gait or both), treatments at the venue, and any other comments necessary to protect the horse’s future safety and welfare deemed necessary by the Veterinary Panel must be recorded on the Vet Card.
      2. Vet Cards must be electronically transmitted to the Federation within seven (7) days following a Federation Licensed Competition.
      3. The Veterinary Report for the competition must be submitted within 14 days after the last licensed day of the competition.
   c. Only the Veterinary Panel may make entries in a horse’s logbook, National Passport, or FEI Passport.

6. At the discretion of Competition Management a veterinary examination may be scheduled prior to the First Horse Inspection as stated in the prize list. Following any veterinary examination, any horse considered not fit to compete must be reported to the Steward before completing the First Horse Inspection. The rider or owner may withdraw the horse before the First Horse Inspection in consultation with the Veterinary Panel.

7. Final Horse Inspection:
   a. The horse must be presented to the Veterinary Panel for a full Horse Inspection.
   b. The assessments will be performed in the same manner, and applying the same criteria, as previous Horse Inspections.
   c. To qualify for presentation to the Veterinary Panel at the final inspection, the horse’s heart rate must have attained 64 bpm or less within 30 min of crossing the finish line. Horses that do not meet these criteria will not be ranked and must still be presented to the Veterinary Panel for inspection at 30 minutes after crossing the finish line.
   d. The Final Inspection is to determine whether the horse is still fit to continue. If the veterinarian has any questions about fitness to continue, a vote of the Veterinary Panel may be requested for either gait or metabolic issues, or both.

8. Other Inspections: Other inspections may be carried out by any member of the Veterinary Panel on all or any horses selected at random at any time during the course of the competition.

9. Veterinary Treatment
   a. After the First Horse Inspection, the Veterinary Panel in consultation with the Treatment Veterinarian, Steward and Competition Management may recommend
changes in the treatment arrangements including the placement of members of the Veterinary Panel, or scheduling of their availability, for help in the treatment area.
b. While a rider may refuse veterinary treatment for a horse, the rider will be reported to the Federation in the Steward’s Report and Veterinary Report.

10. Mandatory Reporting and Cooperation of Horse/Pony Collapse, Equine Fatality, and Mandatory Necropsy
   a. Mandatory Reporting and Cooperation of Horse/Pony Collapse: See GR850.
   b. Equine Fatality: See GR850.9
   c. Mandatory Necropsy: See GR843.

**EL119 Best Condition**

Competition Management may organize a Best Condition Award at any competition as stated in the prize list/entry form. Horses, which enter the Best Condition Award, still in the competition and are subject to all rules. Riders are not required to participate in the Best Condition Award. It is at the discretion of the Veterinary Panel in consultation with the Steward on whether to award Best Condition. Guidelines for determining the Best Condition Award are set out in Annex B.

**EL120 Awards**

An award must be given to all riders who successfully complete their division. There is no minimum value for awards.

**EL121 FEI Novice Qualifications**

1. All horses and riders must have successfully completed their novice qualification at USEF National Competitions to be eligible to advance through the FEI star level qualification process. Novice qualifications must be submitted to the FEI by USEF. All qualifications must be met no later than the definite entry deadline for the horse’s and/or rider’s first CEI 1* as published in the FEI Definite Schedule for that Event, including the Mandatory Out of Competition Period. All FEI registration and/or passport requirements must be completed prior to the submission of the novice qualifications. Through 30th November 2022, all FEI Novice Qualifications can be achieved at any Federation Licensed Competitions, including USEF Endurance Lite Competitions. Beginning 1st December 2022, at least one competition used for the FEI Novice Qualifications must but held at a USEF National Licensed Competition. Results achieved at AERC competitions, prior to 1st December 2020, may be counted toward FEI Novice Qualification as long as they meet the criteria determined by the FEI. The rider and/or owner are responsible for providing the appropriate results information and validation, if requested, to the Federation for any AERC competitions being used for FEI Novice Qualification. USEF will recognize results from competitions licensed or recognized by the FEI affiliated National Federation of that country: the rider and/or owner are responsible for providing the appropriate results and verification that the competition was licensed or recognized by the National Federation.

2. Horses must be a minimum of 5 years old. For competition purposes, any horse is considered to be one year old on the first day of January following the actual date of foaling.
3. A rider may participate in any FEI Endurance Event (subject to applicable qualification criteria) from the beginning of the calendar year in which they reach the age of 14.

4. Horses and riders must each successfully complete (not necessarily as a combination) two novice rides of 40-79 km (in one day) and two novice rides of 80-100 km. The required 80-100 km rides may be completed either as
   a. two single-day events, or
   b. one single-day event and one multi-day event (for the multi-day event, 40-50km must be completed per day for two consecutive days at the same competition).

5. All qualifying novice rides must be completed within a two-year period.

6. Results for novice qualifications must include a final ride time and placing.

7. Exemptions from novice qualification requirements: USEF may request the FEI to exempt a rider or horse from the novice qualifications.
   a. The horse may be granted the exemption if
      1. it is eight years or older at the time of the request;
      2. in the three years prior to the request it has successfully completed a minimum of 480 km in competitions over distances of 80 km, including at least one competition of 80km or more at the age of eight or older;
      3. The Mandatory Out of Competition Period is completed.
   b. The rider will be granted the exemption only if he has successfully completed a minimum of 480 km in competitions over 80 km or more in the three years prior to the request.
   c. Results used for an exemption must include a final ride time and placing.
ANNEX A: DEFINITIONS

Catastrophic Injury: an injury that, in the opinion of the Veterinarian Panel and the Treating Veterinarian(s) requires immediate euthanasia or contributes to the death of a horse in competition or as a result of injuries sustained during a competition, howsoever caused. (For the procedures in the event of a horse fatality, see GR850.9).

Combination: a horse and rider pair competing in a competition.

Completion: If a combination makes an error on the course, the Steward may (if he considers it appropriate to do so) allow the Combination to correct the error by returning to the place where the error started. If the combination fails to do so, they will be disqualified. If the Steward, in consultation with Competition Management, considers that correcting an error on course is not appropriate and/or in the best interests of the horse, he may determine an alternative that will require the combination to complete an equivalent distance over the same type of terrain so that the combination still passes through each Vet Gate in the correct order and within the relevant time limits. In such cases, the combination will receive a completion and designated as ‘Finished Not Ranked’. The combination may not be considered for the Best Condition Award, and may not count for individual or team awards.

Crewmember: a person assisting a combination on the Field of Play.

Field of Play: The Field of Play includes the defined course, the defined crewing points on the course, the recovery area before the Vet Gate, the Vet Gate, and/or the hold area after the Vet Gate. Certain restrictions apply to the Field of Play as set out in the Federation Rules, the Prize List and the Ride Meeting. A horse should not be removed from the Field of Play without following the proper procedures, the rider may be subject to disciplinary action under Federation General Rules.

Final Horse Inspection: The purpose of the Final Horse Inspection is to determine whether the horse is still fit to continue after a normal rest period for another full Loop.

First Horse Inspection: the mandatory horse inspection that takes place prior to the start of the competition and determines whether a combination may compete.

Hold Time: There must be a rest period for the horse (Hold Time) at each Vet Gate (except the final Vet Gate after the finish) as established by the Veterinary Panel and Competition Management. Riders must be notified of the hold times in the prize list and notified of any modifications to the hold times during the ride meeting or prior to the start of the loop concerned.

Horse Inspection: Following any recovery time in the recovery area, the rider or crewmembers must enter the Vet Gate with the horse for the Horse Inspection. The Horse Inspection will include an assessment of the horse’s fitness to continue in the competition based on its heart
rate recovery, metabolic status, gait and general condition. The horse may be inspected more than once if the Veterinarian examining the horse so decides. See EL117.

Loops: The total length of the course is divided into a minimum number of sections or loops.

Mandatory Re-Inspections: The Veterinary Panel, in consultation with the Steward and Competition Management, may require all horses in a particular division or distance to be presented for a mandatory reinspection at specified Vet Gates. Mandatory re-inspections will take place within the last 15 minutes of a combination’s Hold Time at the relevant Vet Gate. Requested Re-inspections: Any member of Veterinary Panel may ask a rider or crewmember to present his horse for re-inspection at any Vet Gate if he has any concerns about the horse. Vet-requested reinspections will take place in the last 15 minutes of a combination’s hold time at the relevant Vet Gate.

Vet Gate: at the end of each Loop, horses must undergo a horse inspections and any other required Veterinary Examinations within a safe and restricted area used exclusively for this purpose (Vet Gate).
ANNEX B: GUIDELINES FOR BEST CONDITION AWARD

The purpose of the Best Condition Award is to judge the horse’s soundness, its ability to move willingly, and post-metabolic conditions following the successful completion of a competition. The Best Condition Award may not be recognized if no horse participating in the judging is considered ‘fit to continue.’ Horses may participate in the Best Condition Award based upon the timeframe and specifications stated in the prize list, ride meeting, or announced at the start of the last loop concerned. Competition Management may decide to allow horses to participate which successfully completed the competition within the Top Ten finishers, within the 10% of the winning time, and within one hour of the winning time. A rider may choose not to participate in the Best Condition Award and shall notify the Steward immediately upon deciding not to present. The procedure for judging the horses for Best Condition Award will be as follows:

1. Total Vet Score: Gait Score + Recovery Score + Lesion Score = Total Vet Score x 10.
   a. Total Vet Score shall be multiplied by 10 to represent the Vet Score portion of the Best Condition judging. An award or a recognition maybe awarded as “High Vet Score”.

2. Total Weight Score: The weight of the rider, which includes all riding equipment except for the bridle, is scored for Best Condition judging.
   a. The competition management must provide a reliable scale at the competition.
   b. Points are awarded by subtracting the weight of the rider from the weight of the heaviest rider. The difference is divided by two (2) determines the weight score up to a maximum of 100 points.

3. Total Time Score: Calculated as the difference of rider’s final ride time from the winning time. The difference, up a maximum of 200 points, determines the time portion of the Best Condition judging.

4. Best Condition Award = Total Vet Score + Total Weight Score + Total Time Score
ANNEX C: ELIMINATION CODES

WD: Withdrawn
- The combination does not show up to the competition.
- The combination decides upon arrival to the competition not to participate or prior to the First Horse Inspection in accordance with EL115.3.

RET: Retired
- The combination decides not to continue in the competition after successfully completing the First Horse Inspection, after crossing the start line, or at the end of a loop providing that the combination has successfully completed that and any previous loops and passes all horse inspections after each of these loops, including any mandatory re-inspection or vet requested re-inspection in accordance with EL115.3. The horse must be considered fit to continue in the competition at each of these inspections.

DSQ: Disqualified
- A combination is disqualified in accordance with the Endurance Rules.
- A reason for disqualification must be communicated to the Federation via the official results and reports.
- A horse may be disqualified and also designated as Failed to Qualify for a veterinary or other reason (see list under FTQ below).

FNR: Finished Not Ranked
- FNR means that the combination completed a competition (including all Horse Inspections) but is not ranked in the final awards due to an error on course.
- If in addition to the FNR designation the combination receives a completion, the competition will not count for novice qualification purposes.

FTQ: Failed to Qualify
The FTQ designation must be accompanied by one or more of the additional codes below and may be applied when a combination fails to successfully complete a competition:
- GA: Irregular gait
- ME: Metabolic
- O: Other (e.g. soreness, wound, etc.)
- CI: Catastrophic Injury
- OT: Overtime
  1. Failure to complete a division or distance within the allocated time as stated in the prize list, ride meeting, or prior to the start of the loop concerned.
  2. Or when a combination is overtime for a particular loop when a designated time is established in the prize list, rider meeting, or prior to the start of the loop concerned.
FTC: Failed to Complete (non-completion of a Loop, but successfully passes the Horse Inspection after that Loop). The reasons for the FTC designation must be stated in the final results.
Attachment B
Federation General Rules for USEF Endurance Lite

All Federation General Rules apply unless noted as exemptions below. Where the USEF Endurance Lite rules have not accounted for specific situations then the USEF Endurance National Rules or the USEF General Rules will take precedence.

The following General Rules do not apply to USEF Endurance Lite competitions:

**Chapter 1:**
Entire Chapter applies.

**Chapter 2: Membership Categories and Requirements**
Entire Chapter does not apply.

**Chapter 3: Competition Licensing**
Chapter applies except the following:
- GR 301 Agreement
- GR 303 Competition Fees, Account Review, and Insurance
- GR 304 Competition Sale and Issuance of a New Licensee
- GR 305 Cancellation of Competitions
- GR 306 Inactive Competitions
- GR 307 Classification
- GR 308 National Championships
- GR 309 Special Competitions
- Subchapter 3-C Competition mileage
- GR 315 Mileage Exemption

**Chapter 4: Drugs and Medications**
Chapter applies except the following:
- GR 407.1 Management Procedures (fees)

**Chapter 5: Measurement of Entries**
Chapter applies except the following:
- Subchapter 5-A Conditions
- Subchapter 5-B Procedures
- Subchapter 5-C Measuring
- Subchapter 5-D Questioning and protesting
- Subchapter 5-E Measurement appeal
- Subchapter 5-F Official measurement

**Chapter 6:**
Entire Chapter applies.
Chapter 7: Violations and Penalties
Chapter applies except the following:
GR 706.1c Violations (failure to pay)
GR 706.1g Violations (judges)
GR 706.1i Violations (officials)
GR 706.1n Violations (drug fee)
GR 706.1o Violations (drug fee)

Chapter 8: Conduct of Licensed Competitions
Chapter applies except the following:
GR 847 Use of Qualified Medical Personnel

Chapter 9: Competition Prize Lists and Entries
Chapter applies except the following:
GR 901 Requirements

Chapter 10: Licensed Officials
Entire Chapter does not apply.

Chapter 11: Federation Records and Awards
Chapter applies except the following:
Subchapter 11-A Horse identification and recording
Subchapter 11-B Horse passports and documentation
Subchapter 11-D Horse of the year awards and National Championships
Subchapter 11-E Special conditions
Subchapter 11-F Award sections
Subchapter 11-G Zone final competitions

Chapter 12: Competition Officials, Employees, and Volunteers
Chapter applies except the following:
GR 1210.5 Post Competition Report
GR 1210.6 Competition Fees
GR 1210.7 Drugs and Medications Fee
GR 1210.8 Drug Enforcement Fee
GR 1210.11 Construction of Courses
GR 1210.12 Mandatory Participation Fee
GR 1212 Prize List
GR 1214.2 Officials
GR 1214.3 Results Fine
GR 1214.4 Results Dispute
GR 1214.5 Results Notification
GR 1214.6 Retirement Ceremony
Chapter 13: Competition Participants and Associated Individuals

Chapter applies except the following:
GR 1301.2 Show Pass
GR 1301.3 Amateur Certification and Measurement Cards
GR1302.2 Entry Blank
GR 1304 Regulations Governing Showing Under Judges, Stewards and Technical Delegates
Subchapter 13-B Amateurs and professionals
Subchapter 13-C Membership and document requirements
GR 1311 Para-Equestrian Eligibility/Classification
GR 1314 Hearings/Protests
GR 1315 Definition of Terms