DR120.4 Tracking #225-25 Draft #3 Amended

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	12/1/2026	4/29/2026	

Rule Change Intent

The FEI has recently determined that only smooth rowels, without projections, are permitted in dressage. This change is recommended for USEF Dressage rules in the interest of horse welfare.

Proponent Details

Dressage

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/18/2026
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 04/15/2026

Draft 1: The committee feels that there is ambiguity between the intent and the actual rule change. The think the rule would be better served if it included a diagram and visual examples of what type of roweled spurs will be permitted under this rule and more clarifying language in the rule is necessary. They feel that if they, as professionals, are struggling to understand what will be permitted by the rule, then how will an amateur or less experienced individuals interpret and understand the rule?
Draft 2: The committee is familiar with the FEI rule on roweled spurs and feels that the proposed rule change does not accurately mimic that of the FEI rule. The committee feels that the proposed verbiage is too ambiguous and should simply state "if using roweled spurs, they must consist of solid round disk without tines". The committee also has the following comments: there are daisy rowels without sharp edges or rough in nature; disk style rowels can still be sharp; how thick/thin of a disc on the rowel is permitted?; would it be more efficient to simply prohibit roweled spurs of any kind?; is this rule truly enforceable as written (examination through visual, a measurement, what tools do TDs use to do so)?

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/16/2026
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 04/13/2026

Draft 1: The committee is confused as to what this rule change is actually aiming to change from the method in which the spur rule is currently adjudicated. They feel that the intent and the rule change do not match. The committee questions if this rule change should be a clarification instead since it does not appear to be changing anything from how the current spur rule is interpreted. The committee questions if the intention of this rule change was to prohibit roweled spurs with any type of projection, so it would only be a rounded disk that rotates?
Draft 2: The committee is not in favor of the 9/1/26 effective date of this rule change, due to this change taking place in the middle of their competition season and championships. The committee does not feel that all FEI rules should be adopted into the USEF rules due to not applying to all levels of sport that USEF offers; for example: this rule will apply to all levels of Dressage including the low levels at Training level. The committee would be in favor of this rule change if it was the first draft verbiage with a change of the intent as only a clarification to the rule, so that rowels with tines may still be used but must be smooth, as currently permitted OR add an exception to the current Draft 2 to permit daisy rowels. The committee feels that a simple rounded disc can be sharper or piercing than a smooth tined rowel spur, daisy rowels are very mild, and many exhibitors express the need for a roweled spur with a smooth tine for their particular horse or their personal stature limitations.

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/14/2026
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 04/14/2026

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 3: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Friesian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/18/2026

Morgan	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/16/2026 **Draft 2:** Recommends Disapproval 04/16/2026	**Draft 1: The committee feels that the intent of the rule change and the actual rule change verbiage do not match. They feel that the rule change itself reads as a clarification to the current rules on roweled spurs.** **Draft 2: The committee feels that it should be at the discretion of the rider for what type of spur is best for them and their horse. This rule change can be interpreted as roweled spurs being dangerous and harsh, while any piece of equipment can be harsh in the hands of the wrong person. This rule change also gives the appearance that one discipline has more respect for the horse than others by prohibiting a tined roweled spur, while other breeds and discipline permit them.**
USDF	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/11/2026 **Draft 3:** Recommends Approval 05/21/2026	**Draft 1: While in support of this change, we disapproved due to the effective date of 9/1/2026 as this is just before the start of Regional Championships and the US Dressage Finals that follows.** **Draft 3: No additional comment**

DR120 Dress. Change to read:

4.1 If spurs are worn, a separate spur must be worn on each boot. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are permitted. The inside arm of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have ***smooth*** rubber covers. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth***, rounded*** and free to rotate ***with no rough or sharp edges*** *(e.g. no daisy rowels or tines of any kind)*. Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs (metal or plastic) on the shank are permitted ("Impuls" spur) and the knobs may rotate. "Dummy" spurs (without shank) are permitted. Armless spurs are permitted. *See also Annex A posted on Federation website for additional information on permitted and prohibited spurs.*