

Compliance FAQ for Members

Does the Compliance Department review all Confidential Competition and Licensed Official Evaluation Forms that are submitted online?

All Confidential Competition and Licensed Official Evaluation Form comments are reviewed by USEF staff. The best method to ensure your voice is heard is to provide your written feedback directly to USEF. Evaluations that are submitted with feedback regarding compliance-related items such as footing, stabling, logistics, etc. are reviewed in detail by Compliance Department staff. If there are questions surrounding the evaluation, the staff person will contact the individual that submitted the form to obtain additional information. Once enough information has been gathered, the Compliance Department may reach out to a licensed official from the competition, the competition manager, or both to inform them that an issue has been noted, substantiated, and that a remedy should be found.

Are all Confidential Competition and Licensed Official Evaluation Forms really kept confidential?

We understand that confidentiality could be a concern when considering submitting feedback. For that reason, we cannot stress strongly enough that confidentiality is taken seriously by the USEF Compliance, Competition Services, Licensed Officials, and, if necessary, the Regulation Departments.

How does the Compliance Department decide which competitions to inspect?

The decision to conduct an onsite inspection is determined through a holistic review of USEF-licensed competitions, including review of Steward and TD reports, member evaluations, and discussions with USEF staff. Staff resources and time also dictate which competitions we evaluate. The Compliance team also follow up on previous competition inspections to verify that the competition has implemented any previous required improvements.

Approximately how many competitions does the Compliance Department inspect per year?

While this figure is variable, the Compliance Department typically inspects between thirty-five and sixty-five competitions per year.

What does the Compliance Representative look for during an onsite inspection?

The compliance representative assigned to the competition checks into areas of concern that previously have been communicated through steward or TD reports or Members' Confidential Evaluations. Such items may include alleged rule violations or concerns with facility maintenance, management, stabling, footing, operations, or other fairness or safety concerns. Talking with participants at each competition to gather their input about their experiences is an essential part of the compliance inspection process.

What are examples of commonly encountered issues noted by compliance representatives during inspections?

Compliance representatives may address USEF rule or standard-related items with the competition manager and officials while onsite. Additionally, representatives may point out potential safety concerns. Below are some examples:

- Lack of competition/schooling/exercise/lunging area footing maintenance
- Lack of signage (SafeSport, COVID-19, parking, etc.)
- Poor sharps container maintenance or incorrect types of sharps containers found
- Poor drainage at horse wash areas
- General lack of facility maintenance, such as broken boards or exposed nails in the paddock areas

- Uneven stall flooring, gaps under walls/doors, or other possible safety hazards in the stabling area
- Loose dogs
- Mixed vehicle and horse traffic in a busy or crowded area

If you have any questions regarding any of the items noted above, among others, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Compliance Department by sending an email to compliance@usef.org.