

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Driving
Intent		

There is conflicting information between this rule and DC970.1. This change will correct the contradiction.

Proposed Change

SUBCHAPTER DC-14 OFFICIALS

The officials must include a Course Designer, TD and the Ground Jury, which must consist of a President **and at least two other members**, and Appeals Jury if so appointed.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Driving
Intent		

Currently youth classes are being run as exhibition classes. This proposal clarifies how youth classes must be run to encourage holding youth divisions but also create uniformity in how these classes are being run between each competition.

Proposed Change

DC901 Categories and Levels

1. Classes:

1.1. All, or any, of the following classes may be held at the same Event, but each must be classified separately:

Horse: Single (H1), Pair (H2), and Four-in-Hand (H4)

Pony: Single (P1), Pair (P2), and Four-in-Hand (P4)

1.2. In Beginner, Training, Preliminary, and Intermediate only:

Small Pony: Single (SP1), Pair (SP2), and Four-in-Hand (SP4)

Very Small Equine: Single (VSE1), Pair (VSE2), and Four-in-Hand (VSE4)

1.3 The Para-Driving single horse/pony class will follow the Intermediate level and Para-Driving rules. Any other Para-Equestrians may enter any division where their USEF and/or FEI Classification and dispensation will be honored.

1.4 Divisions at USEF Combined Driving Competitions may be restricted to Junior competitors per GR128. These divisions may be held per the rules of either Training level or Preliminary level and the level must be listed in the prize list. The divisions offered may be as follows:

Youth Horse Single (H1)

Youth Pony Single (P1)

All other USEF Rules apply to these divisions.

DC930.1 Tracking #235-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Driving
Intent		

Clarifying that only the exact words of the dressage test can be called out.

Proposed Change

DC930 Outside Assistance

2.1.3 Exceptions:

a. If the bell has been rung by the President of the Jury and the athlete has failed to hear the bell; the groom may advise the athlete that the bell has been rung.

b. In the Beginner and Training divisions at Short Format Driving Events, verbal outside assistance is allowed in any competition phase, including Dressage. The groom or an outside assistant standing by the arena may call out **only the exact words contained in** the dressage test for Beginner and Training level classes without any penalty. Electronic communication equipment may also be used as long as only one earphone is used at a time while on the carriage.

DC936 Conditions

2. Memory

The Driven Dressage Test must be driven from memory. Speaking or indication given by a groom will incur 10 penalties (10 penalties can only be given once per Test).

2.1 In the Beginner and Training divisions at Short Format Driving Events, verbal outside assistance is allowed in any competition phase, including Dressage. The groom or an outside assistant standing by the arena may call out **only the exact words contained in** the dressage test for Beginner and Training level classes without any penalty. Electronic communication equipment may also be used as long as only one earphone is used at a time while on the carriage.

DR121.1 Tracking #226-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Dressage
Intent		

Change wording on safety stirrups in DR rules to be compliant with USEF rule change on safety stirrups.

Proposed Change

DR121. Saddlery and Equipment. Change to read:

1.a. Stirrups. English-style stirrups without attachments or safety stirrups shall be used. Safety stirrups must have closed branches of metal or other breakaway material or mechanism. The foot must not be fully or partially enclosed and must in no way be attached to the stirrups (for example with magnets); however, a safety stirrup may have a magnetic mechanism that closes the breakaway branch. ***The closing mechanism for safety stirrups must not have an upward projecting hook or similar closure and must be in compliance with GR801.11.*** The stirrup leathers must hang freely from their anchor point without additional attachments to the saddle or girth.

DR121.2 Tracking #227-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Dressage
Intent		

Bits containing “slots” in the rings have never been pictured in the Rulebook or Annex A, however some models of otherwise legal bits are marketed with or without slots. This change would make it clear that no bit with slots in the rings is permitted.

Proposed Change

DR121. Saddlery and Equipment. Add new:

2. Bits

Only those bits listed in Figure 121.1, Figure 121.3, Figure 121.4, and Annex A are permitted. Bits must be used in a conventional manner and attached only as illustrated in the diagrams. **Bits must be attached to the bridle only as intended by design, in accordance with the manufacturer’s guidelines.** The type of bit should not vary from those pictured below except where specified. All bits must be smooth with a solid surface. Twisted bits, bits with “bumps”, bits with uncovered wire or cable, and bits that place mechanical restraint upon the tongue are prohibited. Joints that could trap or pinch the oral tissues are not permitted. ***Bits containing “slots” in the rings for attachment to the cheeks or reins are not permitted and no part of a rein or cheekpiece may be fixed using any similar design or mechanism.***

DR121.6 Tracking #233-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Dressage
Intent		

Curb bits with mouthpieces that have the effect of a tongue plate should not be permitted for the welfare of horses.

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment. Add new:

2.c.6. 5. The mouthpiece of a curb with a shaped mouthpiece may tilt forward no more than 45 degrees.

DR121.21 Tracking #228-25 Draft #1 Approved

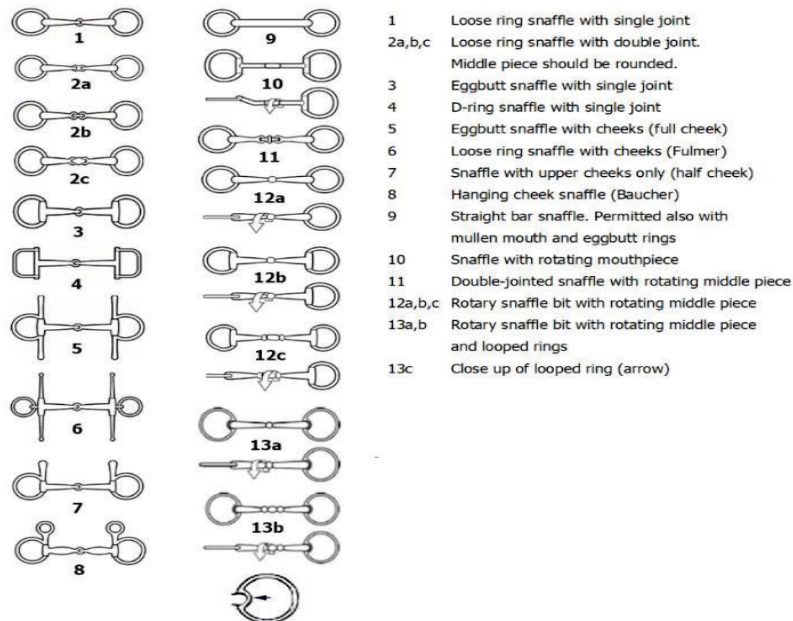
Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Dressage
Intent		

Correct illustration to match rule change that took effect in 2024 allowing half cheek bits with either an upper cheek or lower cheek.

DR121. Saddlery and Equipment. Change to read:

Figure 121.1: Permitted snaffle bits. The snaffles pictured and described here are permitted at any level (national and FEI) in which it is permitted to use a snaffle. However, keepers are only permitted in national level tests for full cheek, half cheek (**upper cheek only**), and fulmer snaffles pictured above (bits numbered 5, 6 and 7) See also Annex A posted on the Federation website for additional information on permitted and prohibited snaffle bits.

SNAFFLE BITS



- 1 Loose ring snaffle with single joint
- 2a,b,c Loose ring snaffle with double joint. Middle piece should be rounded.
- 3 Eggbutt snaffle with single joint
- 4 D-ring snaffle with single joint
- 5 Eggbutt snaffle with cheeks (full cheek)
- 6 Loose ring snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer)
- 7 Snaffle with upper cheeks only (half cheek)
- 8 Hanging cheek snaffle (Baucher)
- 9 Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with mullen mouth and eggbutt rings
- 10 Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece
- 11 Double-jointed snaffle with rotating middle piece
- 12a,b,c Rotary snaffle bit with rotating middle piece
- 13a,b Rotary snaffle bit with rotating middle piece and looped rings
- 13c Close up of looped ring (arrow)

Change:
 7. Snaffle with upper **or lower** cheeks **only** (half cheek)

Proposed Effective Date: Clarification. 12.1.25

Intent: Correct illustration to match rule change that took effect in 2024 allowing half cheek bits with either an upper cheek or lower cheek.

DR123.3 Tracking #230-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Dressage
Intent		

Correct terminology to reflect current information on dressage tests and in DR122.

Proposed Change

DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving. Change to read:

3. Individual Classification. In all competitions the **highest ranked** winner is the competitor **is the one** having the highest percentage, the second placed competitor is the one with the next highest percentage, and so on. In case of equality of ~~points~~ **percentages** the competitor with the highest **total** marks received under **Collective Marks** ~~General Impressions~~ shall be declared the **highest ranked** winner. When the scores for **Collective Marks** ~~General Impressions~~ are equal after coefficients have been applied... the horses must remain tied. Exceptions: (1) For Young Horse classes, the marks for “Submission” and “Perspective”/“General Impression” must be combined and divided by two in order to break the tie. If still equal, the “Submission” mark would decide. (2) For FEI Children classes: In case of equality of percentages, the competitor with the higher “technical” mark will be ranked highest. If still tied, the highest total median score of the Technical Judges will decide the placing. Errors on a test may not be used to break ties....

JP100.2 Tracking #258-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	USHJA
Intent		

The purpose of this proposed rule clarification is to align the rule book with current procedures. Members are no longer able to acquire a USHJA Horse Registration via www.usef.org or the USEF Horse Registration application form.

Proposed Change

2. [...]

a. [...]

b. Applications for USHJA Registration can be completed online at www.usnja.org. ~~or www.usef.org using the USEF Horse Registration application form.~~ Competition management is responsible for notifying exhibitors of this requirement in their prize list.

JP102.1 Tracking #259-25 Draft #1 Approved

Intent

Effective date Sept 1, 2026. The Warning Card System in GR 1037 has been updated to include “Recorded Warnings” for minor offenses so the following Jumper Chapter rules need to reflect this update. Clarification includes JP 102, JP 111, and JP 136

Proposed Change

JP102 Horse Welfare

1. Conduct in the competition ring:

a. Any action against a horse by a competitor in the ring, deemed excessive by the judge, may be penalized by any one or combination of the following: **Recorded Warning**, Yellow Warning Card, or elimination from the class.

b. Such action(s) could include, but are not limited to, excessive or improper use of the whip, spurs, reins, rider’s weight or rider’s hands.

c. In addition, after consultation with the Competition Manager and a Competition Steward, additional penalties, including one or more of the following: disqualification from competing within the upcoming 24-hour period, disqualification from the balance of the competition. d. All such violations must be recorded in the Steward’s Report.

2. Conduct outside of the competition ring: Any action(s) against a horse by an exhibitor, deemed excessive by a judge, Federation Steward, Certified Schooling Supervisor or Competition Veterinarian anywhere on the competition grounds may be punished by **Recorded Warning**, Yellow Warning Card or elimination from the class. Such action(s) could include, but are not limited to: excessive or improper use of the whip, spurs, reins, rider’s weight or rider’s hands; lunging a visibly exhausted horse; lunging an obviously lame horse; chasing a horse with a lunge whip or other inappropriate use of the whip; the use of a lunge whip with any type of appendage or attachment, including but not limited to bags and flags; excessive and/or disruptive cracking of the whip. In addition, after consultation with the Competition Manager and a Competition Steward, additional penalties, including one or more of the following: the issuance of a **Recorded Warning**, Yellow Warning Card, disqualification from competing within the upcoming 24-hour period, or disqualification from the balance of the competition. All such violations must be recorded in the Steward’s Report.

JP111 Tack and Attire

11. Attire

e. In cases where the above requirements are not followed, the penalty for a first or minor offense will be a warning and for repeated violations by the same exhibitor at the same event, the penalty may be

elimination.

12. (Back) Numbers: Any competitor who competes in a class without a number or with an incorrect number will be noted on the Judge's card and:

- a. will received a verbal warning for the first occurrence;
- b. may receive a **Recorded Warning** ~~yellow card~~ for the second occurrence at a competition; and
- c. may be eliminated by the judge, for the third occurrence at a competition.

JP136 General

17. A protest may not be made against a judge's decision occurring in the competition ring, provided it is not in violation of Federation rules. Decisions such as, but not limited to:

- a. Where the decision is based on a factual observation of performance during a class; whether an obstacle was knocked down; whether a horse was disobedient; whether a horse refused at an obstacle or knocked it down while jumping; whether a rider or horse has fallen; whether a horse circled in a combination or refused or ran out; the time taken for the round; whether an obstacle was jumped within the time; and/or whether, the particular track followed by a rider caused them to incur a penalty under the applicable rules.
- b. The Elimination or Disqualification of a horse for soundness reasons.
- c. The Elimination or Disqualification of a rider for medical reasons/fitness to compete.
- d. The imposition of a ~~Warning without additional penalties or of a~~ **Recorded Warning or** Yellow Warning Card.
- e. Elimination and/or Disqualification during an event.

JP111.1 Tracking #240-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Jumper
Intent		

This includes language to not allow reins to be configured in such a way as to cause a running martingale to function as a standing martingale. Standing martingales are not permitted in classes above 1.30m for safety reasons. For example, adjustable reins with one stopper. Effective asap or no later than April 1, 2026.

Proposed Change

1. Martingales. The following rules only apply to riders while in the competition ring.

b. Classes offered above 1.30m (and all classes restricted to young horses)—The only martingales permitted are running martingales used in the conventional manner. Running martingale used in the conventional manner: Only one martingale stopper per rein is allowed. The stopper must be positioned between the ring of the martingale and the attachment of the rein to the bit, hackamore or bridle. Exception: Irish martingales are permitted in all classes. **Adjustable reins may not be used with running martingales.**

JP111.3 Tracking #236-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Jumper
Intent		

The intent was for the new spur rule to be the same across the board but there are small and inconsequential differences in wording that are causing confusion. Included here for reference is the HU rule. Proposed effective date asap or no later than April 1, 2026.

Proposed Change

JP111 Tack and Attire

3. Spurs. Spurs must be made of smooth metal **or plastic**. Rowel spurs with serrated edges are not permitted. Hammer spurs are allowed. ~~Smooth Metal~~ Metal or plastic “impulse” spurs with round hard plastic or metal knobs and “Dummy” spurs ~~with no shank~~ are allowed. The contact surface with the horse and all edges must be smooth rounded. When mounted, athletes may wear only one spur on each boot.

HU106 Equipment

6. Spurs must be made of smooth metal or plastic. Rowel spurs with serrated edges are not permitted. Hammer spurs are allowed. Metal or plastic “impulse” spurs with round hard plastic or metal knobs and “Dummy” spurs are allowed. The contact surface with the horse and all edges must be smooth and rounded. Athletes when mounted may wear only one spur on each boot.

JP111.8 Tracking #241-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Jumper
Intent		

The exception in this rule has always been to allow any type of stirrup that the FEI allows to also be used in all Federation Jumper classes. This specific exception was included for the magnetic safety stirrups. Recently, there has been confusion regarding the words “device” and “approved” as well as the placement of

the exception so this clarification breaks up the current rule and correctly uses “allow” since the FEI does not approve stirrups. Effective date asap or no later than April 1, 2026.

Proposed Change

JP111 Tack and Attire

8. **Stirrups**

a. Tied Stirrups. Any rider competing with their stirrup, stirrup leather or foot tied and/or secured in any manner, will automatically be eliminated from that class. Riding anywhere on the competition grounds with stirrup, stirrup leather or foot tied or otherwise secured is cause for disqualification, by the steward, of that rider from the subsequent class in which the rider is entered. In the case of junior or amateur riders, the steward will note the trainer’s name(s) on the Steward’s Report and further disciplinary actions may be taken by the Federation.

b. ~~Exception: Devices approved~~ **Stirrups allowed** by the FEI are **also** allowed **in all Federation Jumper classes**.

JP117.3 Tracking #237-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Jumper
Intent		

This clarification adds the full range of fence heights into the title to match the class definition so that competitors know what to expect. Otherwise, they might think that by entering a class named “1.10 Young Jumper” can only have fence heights of 1.10m but the rule allows a range of 1.10-1.15m. This is how the Junior/Amateur Jumper classes are named as well. Additionally, JP 117.3c and 4c just changes the word “fences” to “courses” to keep it consistent with the other height categories in the Jumper Chapter. The speed for the lowest two height categories was mistakenly entered as 300 m/m but this is incorrect. Clarification effective asap or no later than April 1, 2026.

Proposed Change

JP117 Young Jumpers Sections/Classes Restricted by Age of Horse

3. 0.90/**.95**m Young Jumper:

...

c. Fences **Courses** to be set at 0.90-0.95m. Speed of ~~300~~ **325** m/m.

4. 1.00/**1.05**m Young Jumper:

...

c. Fences **Courses** to be set at 1.00-1.05m. Speed of ~~300~~ **325** m/m.

5. 1.10/**1.15**m Young Jumper:

...

c. Courses to be set at 1.10-1.15 m.

6. 1.20/**1.25**m Young Jumper:

...

c. Courses to be set at 1.20-1.25 m.

7. 1.30/**1.35**m Young Jumper:

...

c. Courses to be set at 1.30-1.35 m.

JP118.6 Tracking #238-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Jumper
Intent		

The new JP 118.6.c contradicts the old .d and .e. The new rule restricts athletes from competing in any Jr/Am Jumper class if they compete in a 5* which is why the references to 5* events in .d and .e need to be removed. Effective date asap or no later than April 1, 2026.

Proposed Change

JP118 Sections/Classes Restricted to Junior, Amateur or Young Riders

6. Restrictions

a. Any athlete that competes in an FEI Championship for Seniors (i.e. World Equestrian Games, Olympic Games, Pan-American Games, World Cup Finals) is ineligible to compete in any Junior and/or Amateur Jumper class with the same horse for a period of one year.

b. Any athlete that competes in a CSI4*, a CSI-W or CSIO is ineligible to compete in a Junior and/or Amateur Jumper class held below 1.40m at that same competition.

c. Any athlete that competes in a CSI5* is ineligible to compete in a Junior and/or Amateur Jumper class at that same competition.

d. Any athlete competing in open jumper classes held at the USEF High Performance Standard or CSI3*, **or** CSI4*, ~~or CSI5*~~ FEI Grand Prix classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money is ineligible to compete in any

Junior and/or Amateur Jumper class held below 1.20m at the same competition.

e. At competitions offering multiple height sections of Junior and/or Amateur Jumper classes at 1.20m and above, athletes are ineligible to compete in the class offering the most prize money in the lowest height section at the same competition in which they compete in the USEF High Performance Standard or CSI3*, ~~or~~ CSI4*, ~~or~~ CSI5* FEI Grand Prix classes offering \$25,000.

JP136.18 Tracking #239-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Jumper
Intent		

This clarification incorporates the current JP 144.3 into the new JP 136.18 so there is no confusion on the use of video or timing for the use of video. The wording for JP 144 is in effect now per a Pres Mod and remains effective until the rule is fixed which is why it is included here. Link to Pres Mod: haydon-ltr110424.pdf Clarification effective date is asap or no later than April 1, 2026.

Proposed Change

JP136 General

18. If a judging error occurs during a class that adversely impacts the results of that class, those results, may be corrected by the Judge that officiated that class, provided there is irrefutable proof of the error (to be determined by the Judge), and it is done within 24 hours of the original awards. ***If a video is used in rendering a decision, it must be made available within 60 minutes after the results are announced per JP 144.3.*** If more than one judge officiated the class, then they must unanimously agree to the correction.

If the original Judge is not available, a "R" Jumper Judge, approved by the Federation, may make the correction after reviewing all the necessary evidence.

All persons affected by the correction must be notified by Competition Management within 24 hours of the decision. Any corrections made must be included in the steward's report.

JP144 Violations

3. Use of Video. The Senior Judge, alone or with other members of the judge's panel, may, at their discretion, view an official video recording of all or part of a class in order to verify decisions involving scoring. A review of an official video recording is solely at the discretion of the Senior Judge. The Senior Judge may consult with a licensed 'R' Judge who may or may not be officiating at that competition. Upon review of such video recording, provided it is made available within 60 minutes after the results are announced the Senior judge may make corrections to the placing of the class. An official video recording is considered to be a recording made by the designated host broadcaster and/or a designated official video

recording company as named by horse show management. **As an exception to GR1219 and** Only under certain circumstances when there is no official video recording, the Senior Judge may consider using a private **unaltered** video. Note: A video may never be used to establish the time of a round

(The above JP 144.3 is current wording in effect under the following Pres Mod: [haydon-ltr110424.pdf](#))

JP146.3 Tracking #260-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Jumper
Intent		

Effective Sept 1, 2026. This is what happens now when the last competitor is the only one to go clear therefore no need for a jump-off but spelling it out makes it abundantly clear.

Proposed Change

JP146 TABLE II—Classes scored on Faults and Time

3. Time first jump-off

b. Table II, Sec. 2 (b)—The first round and first jump-off, if any, are decided by adding together the faults incurred over the course and any penalties for exceeding the Time Allowed. If a competitor has gone clear in the first round, the competitor will, without leaving the ring, upon an audible signal, commence the designated jump-off course. A competitor with a clear round may dismount, and with assistance if necessary, adjust tack and/or equipment; however, upon the audible signal to begin their round, the competitor is responsible to adhering to the 45 seconds rule as per JP137.3. In case of a fall of a Rider and/or Horse after crossing the finish line of the first round, the Rider/Horse combination may not continue to the jump-off, and will be placed according to their Score in the first round. A competitor who leaves the arena after a clear round (before or after the tone) will be considered to have withdrawn from the jump-off (exception JP138.1). If there are no clear rounds and a tie exists for first place, the results will be determined by the scores and time from that round. **If the final competitor is the only one to complete the round without penalty, there is no jump-off.** It is recommended that no more than twelve numbered obstacles be included in the first round when the class is scored under this table.

JP146.3 Tracking #262-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Jumper
Intent		

Effective Sept 1, 2026.

The Two Phase Competitions refer to a number of efforts when they should be referring to a number of

obstacles. The difference is spelled out in JP 125.1.

JP125 Jumper Courses

1. The term Obstacles refers to either single obstacles or combination obstacles. All obstacles are numbered numerically. Combination obstacles are those consisting of two or more jumping efforts, as indicated with the letters “A,” “B,” “C,” etc. Faults are accrued at all parts of a combination obstacle. The total number of Jumping efforts on a course includes each single obstacle and each part of any combination obstacles. Obstacles for jumping competitions may consist of any of the following: verticals, oxers, triple bars, combinations, water jumps, ditches, banks; as well as variations such as liverpools, fans, etc. Combination obstacles consist of two or more separate jumping efforts. For purposes of determining the minimum requirements in various jumping competitions held under USEF rules, the total number of jumping efforts will be the determining factor.

Proposed Change

JP146 TABLE II—Classes scored on Faults and Time

3. Time first jump-off

d. Table II, Sec. 2 (c)—Two Phase Competitions - The first phase to consist of 8 to 10 ~~jumping efforts~~ **obstacles with or without combinations** and the second phase of 5 to 7 ~~jumping efforts~~ **obstacles with or without combinations...**

e. Table II, Sec. 2 (d)—Two Phase Competitions - Each phase will consist of 5 to 7 obstacles **with or without combinations. The total number of obstacles in both phases is a minimum of 11 and a maximum of 13 obstacles. ...**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Jumper
Intent		

Effort Sept 1, 2026. These two rules are very specific in spelling out only what is allowed. Therefore, it could be interpreted that a common towel carried by most groom is not allowed according to #22.

Proposed Change

APPENDIX A USEF JUMPER SCHOOLING RULES

21. Only a Liverpool or materials used to simulate a Liverpool that are provided by Management may be used. No other materials may be used in the schooling area except as outlined in Schooling Rule #22.

22. Only a blanket, cooler, **towel** or tarp may be laid over the rail of a vertical or an oxer. If laid over an oxer,

the blanket, cooler, **towel** or tarp must only be laid over the front rail or rails.

MO209.14 Tracking #242-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	AMHA
Intent		

This clarification makes the rules for Morgan Fitting and Showmanship more simple for understanding by changing the numbering and indentations of the section.

Proposed Change

SUBCHAPTER MO-19 ADDITIONAL CLASSES

MO209 Additional Class Specifications

(...)

14. MORGAN FITTING AND SHOWMANSHIP RULES

a. The Morgan Fitting and Showmanship class (English or Western) demonstrates the exhibitor's ability to condition and show a horse to a designated person. Stallions are prohibited in classes limited to junior exhibitors (less than 18 years). The fitting and showmanship class is to be judged 40% on appearance and 60% on showmanship.

4a. Horse's Appearance—40%

ai. Condition—Horses should be healthy, alert, serviceably sound, and in good condition.

bii. Grooming

1. Coat clean and free of stains. Excessive amounts of oils, fly spray, and polish are discouraged.
2. Mane and tail clean and free of tangles.
3. If unshod, hooves must be trimmed and shaped. If the horse is shod, shoes must be trimmed and shaped, and shoes must fit, not show undue wear, and clinches should be smooth. Hoof dressing and/or polish may be used.
4. Excess hair should be clipped or trimmed from fetlocks, face, ears, throatlatch, and bridle path.
5. Braiding is optional if horse is shown under hunter tack.

ciii. Tack—Tack should be clean, neat, in a safe condition, fit properly, and be appropriate to the way the horse is shown (English or Western).

1. English-Show halter or bridle with one bit (weymouth curb or snaffle) and cavesson or bridle with one bit (snaffle, kimberwicke, weymouth curb with short shank and thick mouth, or pelham) and cavesson.
2. Western-Show halter or bridle with Western (snaffle or curb) bit.

2b. Showmanship—60%

ai. Leading

1. Enter leading the horse at a collected trot around the ring in a counterclockwise direction or as specified by the judge.
2. Recommended method is to lead on horse's left side holding reins or lead strap in right hand 4-10 inches from the bit or ring. The remaining portion of reins or strap should be held safely in the left hand.
3. Horse must work individually on the line at a walk and trot. Horse should lead readily. When making a turn, the horse should be turned to the right, exhibitor walking around the horse.

bii. Posing

1. When posing the horse, the exhibitor should stand toward the front, off the horse's shoulder facing the horse, always in a position where they can keep an eye on the horse and know the position of the judge. The judge should have an unobstructed view of the horse.
2. Horses must stand squarely on all four feet. Horses in Saddle Seat tack shown by handlers wearing

Saddle Seat attire may have rear legs placed slightly back.

3. Crowding should be penalized. The exhibitor should maintain a horse's length apart (8-10 feet) when leading or posing in a line head to tail. When lined up side-by-side, there should be plenty of room between entries. An exhibitor should not lead their horse between the judge and a horse the judge is observing.

4. The horse should be alert and mannerly.

*ei*iii. Poise, alertness, and attitude

1. The exhibitor should quickly recognize the conformation faults of the horse they are leading and show it to overcome its faults.

2. The horse should be shown at all times quietly and effectively. Exhibitors must not show just themselves.

3. The exhibitor should respond quickly to requests from the judge. They should be courteous and sportsmanlike at all times.

4. The exhibitor should not be distracted by persons and things inside or outside the ring. The exhibitor should remain alert and showing until the entire class has been worked and judged, and the winners have been announced.

div. Exhibitor Appearance—Clothes and person must be neat and clean. Suitable riding clothes are desirable and must be appropriate to the manner in which the horse is shown (saddle, hunt, or Western). Boots are mandatory. A whip, not to exceed 42 inches in length, is optional with English tack.

ec. Suggested Scorecard

4i. Horse's Appearance (40%)

21. Condition (15%)

32. Grooming (20%)

43. Tack (5%)

5ii. Showmanship (60%)

61. Ring Deportment/Actions (20%)

72. Leading (15%)

83. Posing (15%)

94. Attitude & Appearance (10%)

fd. Additional Testing

4i. Exhibitors may be asked to answer horse-related questions.

2ii. Exhibitors may be asked to perform additional tests at the discretion of the judge.

SB103.1 Tracking #243-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	American Saddlebred
Intent		

The committee wishes to clarify that in driving classes, a competitor may use a whip exceeding 6', including the lash, in length. This is currently the practice, however, based on the way the rule is written without the clarification those in driving classes are in violation of the current rule. The changes are cleaning up and clarifying language and do not pose any change to the current rules or practices in the warm-up and competition rings.

Proposed Change

SB103 General, Soundness, and Welfare

1. [...]

12. Attention getting devices **and**/or other noisemakers (including but not limited to tape measures, blow horns, bamboo poles, explosives, fire extinguishers, baby powder, whips longer than 6' (**See SB104.13**), etc.) are not

allowed in and around the ~~make-up~~ **warm up** and competition rings during scheduled competition sessions or at any times designated by Competition Management. All such items will be confiscated, and offenders will be reported to the USEF. (See also GR839)

13. [...]

SB104 Appointments

1. [...]

12. A competitor may carry or use a whip not exceeding 6' including lash **with the exception of driving classes**; the lash shall not have been altered in any way. It must be a standard whip of suitable style. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from further competition. (Exception: In-Hand. Refer to SB174.)

13. Whips longer than 6', including snapper or lash, are not allowed in the warm-up area, **except for a competitor preparing to enter a driving class.**

14. [...]

SB104.1 Tracking #264-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	American Saddlebred
Intent		

To align with the recent changes to other rule chapters and ensure nomenclature is correct and consistent.

Proposed Change

SB104 Appointments

- Horses shall be shown in traditional tack based on the type of class. Any entries shown in non-traditional tack and/or in anything that alters the intended use of the appointments as provided for in the description of a given class are ineligible for placement in that class.
 - The following are considered non-traditional for all sections: Hackamore bits and/or tie-down.
 - The following is considered non-traditional for all sections except for driving classes and two year olds in Snaffle Bridle Classes: Martingale.
 - The following are considered non-traditional tack for all sections except Dressage: A figure eight noseband, drop nose cavesson and/or flash cavesson.
 - The following is considered non-traditional tack for all sections except Driving classes, Hunter and Western and two year olds in Snaffle Bridle Classes: A single snaffle.
 - The following is considered non-traditional tack for all sections except Western: Hackamore bridle.
- Entries must be penalized for incomplete appointments, but not necessarily disqualified.
- Horses shall not be shown in/with artificial appliances. Exception: Artificial appliances listed within the SB chapter as acceptable.
- Tail sets, high crupper which attaches to the saddle, or other training devices are prohibited in the competition ring.
- The use of leather straps without appendages of any kind are permitted as action devices in warm up areas on the competition grounds during or before a competition. Rubber or elastic exercising devices attached with a fixed ring on a plain leather strap are permitted. Wool/fleece protective cover allowed. See also GR839.4h. The use of chains or rollers as action devices is prohibited at all times.
- Inconspicuously applied hair in mane or tail, a tail brace and ~~mouth controls~~ **tongue stabilizers** are permitted. Exceptions: See Pleasure sections.
- [...]

SB200 Appointments

1. English equipment:
 - a. Bridle: Horses must be shown in a Dressage-type or Hunter-type snaffle bridle with a smooth snaffle bit (as approved in DR121). Noseband must be a regular cavesson, a drop noseband, a flash noseband, or a figure eight noseband. Martingales of any type, draw reins, ~~mouth controls~~ **tongue stabilizers**, other artificial appliances, boots and bandages are prohibited in competition.
 - b. Saddle: Saddles shall be English Dressage or all-purpose English type saddle. Dressage type saddle pads are required and should be white or of conservative color
2. [...]

SB206 Ranch Riding Exceptions

Ranch Riding classes held in the Saddlebred Division to be conducted in accordance with SUBCHAPTER WS-6 RANCH SECTION, except as stated herein:

1. Hoof black is discouraged but will not be penalized.
 2. Tongue Ties **stabilizers** are permitted
 3. For Saddlebred Ranch Riding, patterns found on the ASHBA website are preferred
 4. [...]
-
3. In addition to the Tack/Equipment rules as seen in WS138.1, the following rules will apply for Saddlebred Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure:
 - a. Attire and tack should be clean and presentable.
 - b. Working tack is encouraged.
 - c. Hoof polish is not prohibited but is discouraged.
 - d. Split or romal reins are permitted.
 - e. Scarves or wild rags are allowed.
 - f. Tongue ties **stabilizers** are permitted.
 - g. Only one hand may be used on the reins, except for junior horses shown two- handed in a snaffle bit or hackamore/bosal. Hands must not be changed. For split reins, rider may place index finger between the reins. Romal reins shall be held with fingers around the reins, no fingers between the reins. Posting or standing at the extended trot is acceptable. Holding the saddle horn at any extended gait is permitted.
 - h. Tail extensions are not permitted. A long tail may be tied up in a neat fashion to prevent the horse from stepping on and/or breaking it.
 4. [...]

SB208 Ranch Trail Exceptions

1. [...]
 2. Optional obstacles: In addition to the optional obstacles listed in the WS Chapter Ranch Trail rules, the obstacles listed below are to be considered optional obstacles for Saddlebred Ranch Trail classes. The below obstacles will take precedence over similarly listed obstacles in the WS chapter.
 - a. A jump obstacle whose center height is not less than 12 inches and not more than 18 inches.
 - b. Drag an object. Object being dragged should be of a reasonable size and weight to challenge the horse but not so heavy as to not be manageable by all riders. Dally is required. Dally is defined as at least half a wrap around the saddle horn.
 - c. Lead horse through a gate
 3. Attire and tack should be clean and presentable. Working tack is encouraged.
 4. Hoof polish is not prohibited but is discouraged.
 5. Split or romal reins are permitted.
 6. Tongue ties **stabilizers** are permitted
- Scarves or wild rags are permitted.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Vaulting
Intent		

To fix inaccuracies and add missing language.

Proposed Change

VA117 Freestyle

8. Technique Score

a. 3*A Squad

1. Divided into Performance (70%) and DOD (30%).

2. Only the twenty-five (25) exercises with the highest Degree of Difficulty (DOD) will be counted. DOD D exercises count ~~0.40~~ 0.5 points, DOD M exercises count 0.3 points. DOD E Exercises count 0.1 points.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Proponent
Rule Clarification	4/15/2026	Western Dressage
Intent		

Currently, the language describing the half pass incorrectly states that the legs will cross in both the jog & lope. In reality, the legs only cross in the jog, and this proposal corrects this in the description of the movement.

Proposed Change

SUBCHAPTER WD-3 ADDITIONAL MOVEMENTS AND METHODS

WD113 Work on Two Tracks and the Lateral Movements

(...)

2. In all lateral movements - shoulder in, counter shoulder in, haunches in, haunches out, half-pass - the horse is slightly bent and moves with the forehand and the hindquarters on different tracks.

(...)

g. Half-pass. This movement is a variation of haunches-in, executed on a diagonal line instead of along the wall. The horse should be slightly bent around the inside leg of the rider and into the direction in which it is moving. The horse should maintain the same cadence and balance throughout the whole movement. In order to give more freedom and mobility to the shoulders, it is of great importance that the impulsion be maintained, especially the engagement of the inside hind leg. The horse's body is nearly parallel to the long side of the arena with the forehand slightly in advance of the hindquarters. The bend in the half-pass should increase with the steepness of the diagonal.

1. In the jog and the lope, the movement is performed in a series of forward/sideways strides, ~~Aims of the half-pass in the jog and the lope: Show~~ **with the aim of showing** a fluent collected movement on a diagonal line with a greater degree of bend than in shoulder-in. ~~Fore and hind legs cross,~~ Balance and cadence are maintained. **In the**

jog the outside fore and hind legs pass and cross in front of the inside legs.