Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
HU App. A	169-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USHJA	Approved (6/16/2026)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/2/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The purpose is for the protection of the horse. The scientific study Mechanical Effect of Performance Pressure Boots on Cadaveric Equine Hindlimb Fetlock Biomechanics, March 30, 2021, demonstrates that increased fetlock stiffness demonstrates the impact of pressure boots applied to the hind limbs of showjumping horses on the fetlock biomechanics and concludes via research that pressure boots increased fetlock stiffness and load, suggesting a potential enhancement of tensile loading on palmar tendons and ligaments, which could lead to musculoskeletal injury. Therefore, the Hunter Working Group concludes that the Hunter Schooling rules for hind boots should mirror the Jumper rules as Jumper Rules Working Group is currently proposing in the best interest of the horse.

Proponent Details

USHJA

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/27/2026

National Hunter Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/13/2026

Member Comments

Appendix A. USEF Hunter Schooling Rules

[...]

25. Any action deemed not in the best interest of the horse will not be allowed.

26. The total maximum weight of equipment allowed to be added to a horse's leg, front or hind (single or multiple boots, fetlock rings, etc.), is 500 grams or 17.637 ounces (shoe excluded). Failure to comply with this paragraph will incur disqualification.

a. The following also applies to hind boots while schooling. Fasteners may only be Velcro, stud type, or hook type. No mechanism that allows the fastener to double back on itself or any kind of leverage to be applied to the fastener is permitted. No additional elements may be added to or inserted in the boot itself. The inside of the boot must be non-abrasive and smooth, that is, the surface must be even and there may not be any pressure points on the inside of the boot. Sheepskin linings are allowed.

27. The use of draw reins, chambons, de gogues, or similar tack when schooling over fences must be done in a safe manner. If draw reins, chambons, de gogues, or other similar tack attach to the girth between the legs, they must be run through a yoke or neck strap, and if attached on the side, they must be attached to the saddle or billets.