Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
DC 908.1	249-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	Cynthia Wiseman	Approved (6/16/2026)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/15/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

USEF Proposed Rule Change Language in BOLD and CAPITALIZED

DC 908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements.

1. Open & Novice Advanced division: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate division CDEs , **TWO CAI2* FEI CDEs OR 1 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION CDE AND ONE CAI2* FEI CDE** with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less

1.1 1.1 Short Format Advanced divisions: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate Events, **TWO CAI2* FEI CDEs OR 1 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION CDE AND ONE CAI2* FEI CDE**

The revision of Combined Driving DC908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements (MER) 1. and 1.1 to include CAI2* FEI results would allow advancement at the National level along a similar pathway to the FEI levels. Applying the USEF imposed dressage score requirement to the CAI2* FEI completions would help maintain USEF's standard of preparation within the training scale prior to advancement. Currently athletes must choose between advancing within the USEF framework or the FEI framework and have a limited number of CDEs at which to attain MERs.

As of the date of this proposal, there are 13 USEF-sanctioned Combined Driving competitions scheduled for the 2026 season. More than half of those (7) are hosted from January through March in the state of Florida. There are 5 FEI Combined Driving Competitions listed for the 2026 season in the United States. Three of those are hosted in Florida from January through March. The other two are held in Tryon, North Carolina; 1 in April, the other in September. To advance to the Novice Advanced or Advanced Level within USEF, the athlete with High Performance aspirations may miss the limited FEI opportunities in an effort to gain USEF qualifications at the Intermediate level. These numbers do not even address the issue of Short Format events that account for several of the listed USEF-sanctioned Combined Driving competitions, but are not considered qualifiers for MER for Noviced Advanced and Open Advanced CDEs.

The USEF Intermediate Combined Driving Events are permitted to use either USEF Intermediate Dressage test or the CAI1* FEI Dressage Test. USEF Intermediate Level marathon consists of obstacles requiring gates A-E over a course 5-9 km long at 12-14 kph for horses or 11-13kph for ponies. USEF Intermediate Level cones are run at 220 mpm for Single and Pair Horses and Ponies or at 210 mpm for Four-In Hand Horses and Ponies.

The USEF Novice Advanced Combined Driving Events use the CAI2* FEI Dressage Test. THE USEF Open Advanced Combined Driving Events use the CAI 3* Dressage Test. USEF Novice Advanced and Open Advanced level marathon consists of obstacles requiring gates A-F. Both are run over a course 5-9km long at 12-14 kph for horses or 11-13 kph for ponies. Both USEF Novice Advanced and Open Advanced division cones are run at 260mpm for Single Ponies, 250 mpm for Pair Ponies, 240 mpm for Four-In Hand Ponies. Horse speeds are 250 mpm for singles and pairs and 240 mpm for Four-in Hand.

In comparison, the CAI2* FEI Combined Driving Event utilizes FEI CAI2* dressage. The CAI2* marathon and CAI3* consist of obstacles requiring gates A-F run over a course 5-9 km long at the same speeds as Intermediate, Novice Advanced and Open Advanced. The CAI2* and CAI3* cones phase requires the same speeds as the Novice Advanced and Open Advanced levels.

The CAI2* FEI Combined Driving Level is directly comparable to the USEF Novice Advanced Level, which is considered more difficult than the USEF Intermediate Level. Therefore, if a competitor has already completed CAI2* competitions including a dressage score that meets the USEF dictated minimum dressage score of 70, the athlete should be considered to be qualified to compete at Novice Advanced or Open Advanced.

REFERENCES:

1. MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

USEF DC-4 Eligibility. DC 908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements.

1. Open & Novice Advanced division: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate division CDEs with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less

1.1 Short Format Advanced divisions: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate Events.

FEI Driving Rules: Chapter IV Eligibiity: Article 913 Minimum Eligibility Requirements

Article 913 Minimum Eligibility Requirements/Qualification Criteria:

2* Athletes: Athletes who have successfully completed two CAI1* at different shows- Format 1, 2 (with Dressage) or 3 only - without Elimination, Retirement or Disqualification or alternatively, have successfully completed one CAI-B (under the previous Rules) or three CANs with Dressage, Marathon and Cones

3* Athletes: Athletes who have successfully completed two CAI2*, and/or CAI U25/J at different shows and/or CH EU J/CH EU U25 3 (Format 1, 2 or 3 only) and/or top 3 of a CH-M-PEA without Elimination, Retirement or Disqualification or alternatively, have successfully completed one CAI-A or three CAI-Bs under the previous FEI Driving Rules

2. DRESSAGE PHASE

USEF DC935 Driven Dressage Tests: Approved Tests

FEI Driving Rules: Chapter XI Driven Dressage. Article 951. Driven Dressage Tests
https://inside.fei.org/fei/your-role/organisers/driving/dressage-tests

3. MARATHON PHASE

USEF DC944 The Course: 2. Marathon: Combined Driving Event Sections

FEI Driving Rules: Chapter XII Marathon. Article 960 The Course. 1. The Marathon Course

4. CONES PHASE

USEF DC 958 Cones Phase: 1. Single Obstacles and Open Multiple obstacle settings. 1.1.2 Paces

FEI Driving Rules: Chapter XIII Cones: Article 974 Cones Phase Summary 1. Single Obstacles and Open Multiple Obstacles

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DC 908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements.

1. Open & Novice Advanced division: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate division CDEs , **TWO CAI2* FEI CDEs OR 1 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION CDE AND ONE CAI2* FEI CDE** with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less

1.1 1.1 Short Format Advanced divisions: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two Intermediate Events, **TWO CAI2* FEI CDEs OR 1 INTERMEDIATE DIVISION CDE AND ONE CAI2* FEI CDE**

IN CONCLUSION

When doing a direct comparison between USEF Intermediate, USEF Novice Advanced and USEF Advanced with CAI2* FEI and CAI3* FEI, the USEF Novice Advanced level is directly comparable with the CAI2* FEI Level. The USEF Open Advanced level is directly comparable with the CAI3* FEI Level. Therefore, if a competitor is eligible to compete at the CAI3* FEI Level through the successful completion of TWO CAI2* FEI, that same athlete should be considered capable of competing at the USEF Novice Advanced Level AND USEF Open Advanced Level. Although FEI does NOT list minimum dressage score requirements, USEF can uphold the minimum dressage score requirements by retaining the language "with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less".

This benefits the individual athlete as well as the USEF organization by permitting advancement within the sport of Combined Driving and appropriate preparation and qualification for the World Championships.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules | Comments

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Driving

Member Comments

DC908 Minimum Eligibility Requirements

1. Open & Novice Advanced division: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two ***of the following ~~Intermediate division CDEs~~*** with Dressage penalty points of 70 or less***: Intermediate CDE or FEI CAI2*.***

1.1 Short Format Advanced divisions: Open to any athlete who has completed at least two ***~~Intermediate events~~. of the following: Intermediate CDE or FEI CAI2*.***