Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
EV 122.3	081-25	1	FEI Rule Change	2/1/2026	Eventing	Approved (1/18/2026)

EV122.3 Tracking #081-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	2/1/2026	11/20/2025	Approved 1/18/2026

Rule Change Intent

At dually licensed USEF/ FEI competitions, many of the Cross-Country courses will remain the same between the equivalent FEI level and USEF level. As such, the USEF rules regarding Cross Country tend to align with the FEI rules, in order to make it easier and financially sustainable for Course Designers to comply with the rules when using the same course for an FEI level and USEF level.

The intent of the USEF and FEI rules were to penalize athletes who try to avoid the question set by the Course Designer, however, the current language can also penalize an athlete who may choose the black flag alternative. Black flag alternatives provide a viable option for athletes/horses, and the current language accidentally restricts a Course Designer when planning out appropriate black flag alternates, especially when they may be constrained by area, terrain, time, or budget. The FEI approved a rule change to ensure athletes are being penalized correctly and does not inadvertently penalize them when taking the appropriate black flag alternates. The proposed is to align with this language change.

Proponent Details

Eventing

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 01/06/2026

USEA

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/17/2025

Member Comments

EV122 Cross-Country Phase Definitions of Faults

3. CIRCLES.

a. At an Obstacle composed of several elements (e.g., A, B, C, etc.) a Horse must be penalized once it has jumped the first element and before it has jumped the last if:

1. The Horse passes around the back of ~~any~~ ***the next*** element of the lettered combination that it subsequently jumps.

2. The Horse crosses between the elements. See diagrams in Appendix 7. Also, see EV145.1c for possible exceptions at options.

b. After being penalized for a refusal, run-out or circle, an Athlete is permitted to cross their original track, without penalty, in order to make another attempt and may also circle one or more times without penalty, until they represent their Horse at the Obstacle.

c. At separately numbered Obstacles, an Athlete may circle between or around the Obstacles, without penalty, provided they have not represented their Horse at the second or subsequent Obstacles.