

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
EQ 106.3	025-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Janet Fall	Approved (6/17/2025)
HU 106.6	026-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Janet Fall	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 1015.1	027-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Licensed Officials	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 1006.5	028-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Licensed Officials	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 1033.5	030-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Jennifer Williams	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 1006.2	031-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Jennifer Williams	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 1040.4	032-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Jennifer Williams	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 301.1	034-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Jennifer Williams	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 1132.6	036-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	National Hunter Committee	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 1006.2	043-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Arabian	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 1128.1	044-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Connemara	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 843.0	046-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Veterinary Committee	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 821.1	054-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 310.3	056-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	CEO - Bill Moroney	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 202.1	057-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	CEO - Bill Moroney	Approved (6/17/2025)
HU App. A	124-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	National Hunter Committee	Approved (6/17/2025)
EQ 109.12	127-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
EQ 109.9	128-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
EQ 113.1	129-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
HJ 130.1	132-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
HU 116.4	135-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
HU 136.8	137-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
HU 148.7	138-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
HU 154.3	139-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
HU 173.2	140-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
JP 117.1	141-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
HU App. A	142-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
HU 138.7	143-24	3	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
JP 118.6	144-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 312.6	145-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA	Approved (6/17/2025)
EV 104.8	146-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USEA	Approved (6/17/2025)
EV App. 1	148-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Eventing	Approved (6/17/2025)
CP 115.5	149-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Carriage Pleasure Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)
CP 203.1	150-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Carriage Pleasure Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)
CP 108.1	151-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Carriage Pleasure Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)
CP 207.1	152-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Carriage Pleasure Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)
CP 217.3	153-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Carriage Pleasure Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)
CP 221.3	154-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Carriage Pleasure Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)
CP 210.4	155-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Carriage Pleasure Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)
CP 522.3	156-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Carriage Pleasure Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
DC 966.0	157-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)
DC 958.0	158-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)
EV 145.2	160-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Eventing	Approved (6/17/2025)
EV 109.1	161-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Eventing	Approved (6/17/2025)
HU 144.2	163-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	National Hunter Committee	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 123.1	164-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 121.1	165-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 107.3	166-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 128.1	167-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 121.8	168-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 121.9	169-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
EQ 111.7	170-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Jumper	Approved (6/17/2025)
JP 111.3	172-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Jumper	Approved (6/17/2025)
JP 124.4	173-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Jumper	Approved (6/17/2025)
JP 136.18	174-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Jumper	Approved (6/17/2025)
JP App. A	175-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Jumper	Approved (6/17/2025)
MO 103.4	176-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	AMHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 119.1	177-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 119.5	178-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
JP App. A	179-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Jumper	Approved (6/17/2025)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
DR 119.11	180-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 124.6	181-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 126.2	182-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 128.2	183-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 129.6	184-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 133.1	185-24	3	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 135.4	186-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 209.3	187-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
JP 118.5	188-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Jumper	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 125.4	189-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 126.2	190-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 122.3	191-24	3	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 121.19	192-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 121.13	193-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 121.4	194-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
HJ 130.1	195-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	USHJA Officers	Approved (6/17/2025)
DR 121.0	196-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
SB 152.2	197-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	American Saddlebred	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 131.1	198-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 228.1	199-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)



Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
AR 222.3	200-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Arabian	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 106.8	201-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 130.3	202-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 125.2	203-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 177.2	204-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 235.3	205-24	2	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 298.11	206-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 294.3	207-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 317.1	208-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
AL 236.3	209-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Andalusian/Lusitano	Approved (6/17/2025)
AL 114.0	210-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Andalusian/Lusitano	Approved (6/17/2025)
AL 236.10	211-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Andalusian/Lusitano	Approved (6/17/2025)
PF 145.2	212-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Paso Fino	Approved (6/17/2025)
PF 105.6	213-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Paso Fino	Approved (6/17/2025)
PF 102.5	214-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	PFHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
PF 112.0	215-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	PFHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
PF 155.1	216-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	PFHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
PF 152.0	217-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	PFHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
PF 155.1	218-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	PFHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
PF 125.4	219-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	PFHA	Approved (6/17/2025)

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
PF 145.2	220-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Paso Fino	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 229.1	221-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
WS 142.5	222-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	Western Committee	Approved (6/17/2025)
PF 130.0	223-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	PFHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
AR 110.2	225-24	1	Standard	12/1/2025	AHA	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 121.6	227-24	1	Extraordinary	9/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
WD 121.10	228-24	1	Extraordinary	9/1/2025	Western Dressage	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 402.1	240-24	2	Extraordinary	7/1/2025	USEF Executive Staff	Approved (6/17/2025)
GR 1040.3	241-24	1	Extraordinary	9/1/2025	Driving	Approved (6/17/2025)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

This would bring the Hunt Seat Equitation division more inline with the FEI rule on spurs. The FEI has been dealing with the issue of Social License to Operate longer than the US and I think we need to adapt some of their rules. If we do not pass this rule we must answer to the public why we allow Equipment to be used in this country that has been deemed inhumane in International Competitions.

## Proponent Details

Janet Fall

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

HU 106 (026-24), JP 111 (172-24)

## Comments

## EQ 106

3. Spurs, crops or bats are optional but if used must be a conservative color. ~~Only one spur may be worn on each boot. The contact surface of spurs and all edges must be smooth and rounded made of metal or plastic. Hammer spurs, "impulse spurs" with round knobs, spurs with flat discs, and "dummy spurs" with no shank are permitted. Rowel spurs, with a notched or serrated disc are prohibited. Spurs with a rotating disc that is not notched or serrated are permitted. 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.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

Thid would bring us more inline with the FEI whom has been dealing with scoial license to operate issues longer that the U.S.and I think we need to learn from that, If we don't put this rule into effect we wil have to answer to the public as to why we allow equipment to be used on our compititions that have been deemed inhumane in International Compititions.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Janet Fall	Janet Fall
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Linked Rules	Comments
EQ 106 (025-24), JP 111 (172-24)	

## HU106 Equipment

[...]

~~6. Spurs. Only one spur may be worn on each boot. The contact surface of spurs and all edges must be smooth and rounded made of metal or plastic. Hammer spurs, "impulse spurs" with round knobs, spurs with flat discs, and "dummy spurs" with no shank are permitted. Rowel spurs, with a notched or serrated disc are prohibited. Spurs with a rotating disc that is not notched or serrated are permitted. 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.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	7/9/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Special Cards approved by the Federation allow certain lower level officials to officiate as a higher level official at a specific competition. Chapter 10 includes officiating restrictions for 'r' C1 Stewards that receive a Special Card, but only for Hunter competitions. There should also be restrictions for the level of Jumper competitions Special Stewards can officiate. These changes would add that 'r' C1 Stewards that receive a Special Card are not permitted to officiate at Level 5 or higher Jumper competitions, similar to how 'r' C1 Stewards with a Special Card are not permitted to officiate at Premier rated Hunter competitions.

## Proponent Details

Licensed Officials

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

#### GR1015 Special Steward

1. A Special Category 1 (C1) steward is ~~Federation Competing member already enrolled as a Recorded C1 steward, to whom the Licensed Officials Department may grant permission to officiate as a Registered C1 steward at **Federation licensed National rated Hunter competitions or Level 3 or 4 Jumper competitions**~~ a National level hunter/jumper competition licensed by the Federation. If the Federation approves the issuance of such card, a Recorded Category 1 steward may officiate alone at **Federation licensed National rated Hunter competitions or Level 3 or 4 Jumper competitions** a National level hunter/jumper competition licensed by the Federation.

[...]

#### 3. Restrictions:

- a. Special cards will not be issued to anyone whose application for re-enrollment, promotion or change of status has been denied by the Federation for the respective license applied for.
- b. **Special cards will not be issued for Federation licensed Premier rated Hunter competitions or Level 5 or higher Jumper competitions.**
- c. Special Steward Cards for Category 2 stewards are prohibited; a Registered Category 2 steward must officiate as required per the Recorded Steward rules in Chapter 10.
- d. Authority to act as a Special Steward will not be granted to any person more than twice in a lifetime, in a particular division without the approval of the Licensed Officials Committee Chairman or their designee and any two members of the Licensed Officials Committee.



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The conflict of interest rules for apprentices should mirror the current conflict of interest rules for licensed officials. For example, Judge licensed official applicants should not apprentice classes where a conflicted individual is participating, whereas Steward, Technical Delegate, Certified Schooling Supervisor, and Course Designer licensed official applicants should not apprentice at competitions where a conflicted individual is participating. In addition, clarification should be added that apprentices should not have other duties at the competition, such as acting as the Manager, Secretary, Vet, etc. Although this has been a best practice suggested by the Licensed Officials Department, those restrictions should be included within these rules as well.

## Proponent Details

Licensed Officials

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## GR1006 Apprentice

[...]

### 5. Conflict of Interest

- a. Individuals may ~~may~~ **must** not apprentice, **shadow judge, sit-in, etc. ("apprentice")** with a family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, member of the household, client, employer, or employee. Any violation of this rule will lead to the ~~apprenticing experience not counting towards licensing requirements. Apprenticing experience completed in violation of this rule will be considered an extra apprentice experience.~~
- b. An individual shall not apprentice at a Federation licensed competition where a family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, member of the household, client, employer or employee is competing. Any violation of this rule will lead to the ~~apprenticing experience not counting towards licensing requirements. Apprenticing experience completed in violation of this rule will be considered an extra apprentice experience.~~ **Judge applicants must not apprentice in any classes where a family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, member of the household, client, employer, or employee is competing.**
- c. **Steward, Technical Delegate, Certified Schooling Supervisor, or Combined Driving Course Designer applicants must not apprentice at a Federation licensed competition where a family member, cohabitant, companion, domestic partner, housemate, member of the household, client, employer, or employee is competing.**
- d. An individual cannot compete in the same competition at which they apprentice, **shadow judge, sit-in, etc.**
- e. **Apprentices are not permitted to act as Competition Staff, Manager, Secretary, Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, or Veterinarian at the same competition.**
- f. **Any violation of this rule will lead to the apprenticing experience not counting towards licensing requirements. Apprenticing experience completed in violation of this rule will be considered an extra apprentice experience. In relation to this rule, the term apprenticing also applies to shadowing, observing, and the like.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	8/2/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

#### Rule Change Intent

There are currently few vaulting TDs available in North America (13 as of this writing), and there are an increasing number of Competition Organizers routinely offering two back-to-back competitions over one weekend (so-called "double competitions"). Currently, a "double competition" would consume two of the three permitted consecutive times a TD may officiate for a Licensee. Few competitions have multiple TDs within a reasonable area, and so a distant TD would have to be brought in at substantial cost for the next "double competition", which discourages management from USEF Licensing their show. Dressage specifically counts back-to-back show situations as one competition, and Vaulting should as well. This is intended to balance the need to rotate TDs with the need of Vaulting Competition Management to have reasonable access to TDs.

#### Proponent Details

Jennifer Williams

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#### Linked Rules

#### Comments

#### GR1033 Stewards and Technical Delegates

5. Except in Hawaii and Alaska, no Steward or Technical Delegate may officiate for more than three consecutive competitions run by the same Licensee. For the purposes of this rule, multiple, consecutive day Dressage *or Vaulting* Competitions that are run by the same Licensee and held within a six-day period will be counted as one competition.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

The intent of this proposal is to increase the number of apprenticing opportunities for vaulting officials' education, by allowing multiple apprentices. There are instances where license aspirants have been unable to apprentice at appropriate competitions, because of the current limits on numbers of apprentices.

- GR1006.2.a prohibits more than one apprentice per arena. In vaulting, there is no reason why both e.g. Judge A and Judge B should not be able to each have an apprentice judge working with them.
- GR 1006.2.b prohibits any Licensed Official from working with more than one apprentice at a time. There is no reason a Vaulting Technical Delegate could not work with, for example, two apprentice TDs. This has proven to be a concrete obstacle in training TDs on multiple occasions.

Vaulting judges are already charged with keeping order within their arenas, and they can be relied upon to ensure the presence of apprentice(s) is not disruptive. Similarly, TDs support the smooth and correct operation of competitions, and typically apprentices provide them with additional assistance in this objective. Neither Judge nor TD is compelled to accept an apprentice if they feel it is disruptive to them. Competition managers must already, and would continue to, approve the presence of apprentices. (GR1006.1).

### Proponent Details

Jennifer Williams

### Contact Information

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### Linked Rules

### Comments

## GR1006 Apprentice

1. An Apprentice shall be a Federation Competing Member who is at least 21 years of age. Information on apprenticing procedure for each license is located on the Federation website. An Apprentice shall request approval prior to apprenticing from the Licensed Competition first followed by approval by the licensed official(s) with whom the apprentice will be apprenticing.
2. Apprenticing restrictions at competitions:
  - a. Apprenticing is limited to one Apprentice per arena. Exception: Dressage Judge Group Apprenticing, Eventing, **Vaulting**, and Western Dressage Group Apprenticing.
  - b. Licensed officials are limited to one Apprentice at any one time. Exception: Dressage Judge and Western Dressage Group Apprenticing, **Vaulting, and** Eventing Cross-Country and Jumping Tests. ***Vaulting Technical Delegates may accept up to two apprentices at any one time, in the case of schedule or other constraints causing hardship for the additional apprentice.***
  - c. Individual dressage judge apprenticing is not allowed at any final selection trials for international representation (e.g. NAYC, HP Selection Trials, or HP Championship). Individual dressage judge apprenticing is also prohibited in USDF Regional Championships classes and the US Dressage Finals.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	8/2/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Rationale: Allow officials who have both FEI Steward and USEF TD licenses to serve in both roles for a competition manager who is SEQUENTIALLY running both an FEI competition (requiring their services as FEI TD) and a prior or subsequent USEF competition (requiring a USEF TD) on the same day. Currently, USEF GR1041.4 currently reads "Dressage, Eventing, and Vaulting Technical Delegates also holding licensure as a FEI Steward for Dressage, Para-Dressage, Driving, Eventing, and Vaulting are prohibited from serving in both roles on the same day(s)." - even if the competitions are separate. This places a huge financial and logistical burden on competition management, who must engage two separate officials (and pay for their fees and expenses) if the size of their competitions mandates completing one and starting the other on the same day. This rule also places an artificial burden on scheduling. For instance, if it would otherwise make sense to run the first compulsory Tests of their vaulting competition on the same day as the CVI closed, Management either has to bring in a different official just for those classes, or else "wait out" the rest of the day after the close of their FEI competition for no reason other than this rule.

## Proposals:

- Remove the word "Vaulting" from 1041.4.

## Proponent Details

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

**GR1040 Conflicts of Interest and Restrictions - Stewards and Technical Delegates (See also GR107 and GR1304)**

[...]

4. Dressage, ~~and Eventing, and Vaulting~~ Technical Delegates also holding licensure as a FEI Steward for Dressage, Para-Dressage, Driving, ~~and Eventing, and Vaulting~~ are prohibited from serving in both roles on the same day(s).



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	8/3/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The intent is to update the obsolete list of vaulting classes that is currently present in GR301.1.f.

Ref: VA102.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments

## GR301 Agreement

1. All applications for a Federation license are accepted with the explicit agreement of competition Licensee that all classes (rated or unrated) to be held on a Federation licensed date must be recognized by the Federation and are governed by all applicable Federation rules, and that no unrecognized classes will be held on any date for which Federation recognition is requested, except:
  - a. Horse Trials at Eventing competitions below the Modified Level.
  - b. Eventing Tests at all levels.
  - c. Draft Horses classes.
  - d. Miniature Horse classes.
  - e. Non-affiliated National Breed or discipline association classes.
  - f. Vaulting levels/classes below **3\* A Squad, 2\* B Squad, 1\* C Squad; 3\*, 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold, 2\* Silver, and 1\* Bronze Individual; and 3\* Open Pas de Deux, 2\* Pas de Deux, 1\* Pas De Deux** ~~A Teams, B Teams, C Teams, Senior Teams, Junior Teams, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Senior and Junior Individuals, and Open Pas de Deux, Senior Pas de Deux and Junior Pas de Deux.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The National Hunter Committee recommends changing how the points are accumulated for the USHJA Hunter sections to replicate the High Performance, Performance 3'6", and Performance 3'3" sections. The Committee feels the USHJA hunter classes are similar to the Performance Hunter classes, where the entries can be significantly different on one day versus the next. The Committee recommends having the points count for the USHJA hunter sections based on the entries for each individual class instead of the entries in the first class.

## Proponent Details

National Hunter Committee

## Contact Information

Jennifer Day

jday@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## GR1132 Hunter and Equitation Divisions

[...]

6. Points are calculated according to the Hunter Division Point Chart based on the number of horses that compete in the first performance class of the section. (Exception: where individual classes may be entered (~~High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunter 3'6", and Performance Hunter 3'3", and USHJA Hunter sections~~) in which case the points will be calculated by the number of entries that competed in each individual class (see HU119). In the under saddle classes points will be calculated on the number of horses entered.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	8/28/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The Arabian Committee seeks to allow for each judge to have an Apprentice in the arena. These Arabian competitions would be an exception to this rule of limiting Apprentices to one per arena. This desired exception to the rule, would allow for a greater number of future Arabian judges seeking licensure to gain valuable experience in the arena. The application of the current rule, as it stands, if both judges at an Arabian competition have an Apprentice, the two Apprentices must take turns in the arena, so that only one Apprentice is present in the arena at any given time.

## Proponent Details

Arabian

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## GR1006 Apprentice

1. An Apprentice shall be a Federation Competing Member who is at least 21 years of age. Information on apprenticing procedure for each license is located on the Federation website. An Apprentice shall request approval prior to apprenticing from the Licensed Competition first followed by approval by the licensed official(s) with whom the apprentice will be apprenticing.
2. Apprenticing restrictions at competitions:
  - a. Apprenticing is limited to one Apprentice per arena. Exception: **Arabian Apprenticing**, Dressage Judge Group Apprenticing, Eventing, and Western Dressage Group Apprenticing.
  - b. Licensed officials are limited to one Apprentice at any one time. Exception: Dressage Judge and Western Dressage Group Apprenticing, Eventing Cross-Country and Jumping Tests.
  - c. Individual dressage judge apprenticing is not allowed at any final selection trials for international representation (e.g. NAYC, HP Selection Trials, or HP Championship). Individual dressage judge apprenticing is also prohibited in USDF Regional Championships classes and the US Dressage Finals.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	8/28/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The Connemara Committee seeks to reorganize the Connemara HOTY section for better clarity of award sections. The McKenna Trophy category and the Clifden Trophy category fill gaps in the Open Award categories for their respective award divisions. To avoid any further confusion, the committee wants to move these two trophy categories into the list of Open awards in their respective slots based on award division where they fit into the list. These two award categories would now receive HOTY awards in the same manner as the other CO Open Awards, with the Special Trophy awarded to the winner in addition to the top 6 placings in the category being recognized and awarded. Currently, the two categories that the McKenna and Clifden trophies represent do not otherwise have an award category, with only the winner being recognized with the trophy. These two trophies were awarded prior to the creation of the other Connemara Open HOTY award categories, therefore were left as separate entities, but this change will make the Connemara HOTY Awards more universal throughout.

## Proponent Details

Connemara

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## GR1126 Connemara

1. Awards will be given in the following categories. To be eligible, horses competing in Federation Open Licensed Competition, must have breed registration papers, or verification of registration from the ACPS, filed with the Federation prior to the first day of competition in order for points at that competition to count.
  - a. Open Purebred Connemara Dressage (All Federation and FEI levels/tests)
  - b. Open Halfbred Connemara Dressage (All Federation and FEI levels/tests)
  - c. Open Purebred Connemara Eventing: awarded to purebred Connemaras competing in Beginner Novice through Training levels at Federation Eventing Competitions.
  - d. Open Halfbred Connemara Eventing: awarded to halfbred Connemaras competing in Beginner Novice through Training levels at Federation Eventing Competitions.
  - e. ***Open Purebred or Halfbred Connemara Eventing Modified through Advanced Levels: awarded to purebred or halfbred Connemaras competing in Modified through Advanced levels, including the equivalent FEI levels, at Federation Eventing Competitions, for which the Federation tabulates points. The McKenna Trophy is awarded to the highest ranking purebred or halfbred Connemara within this HOTY category.***
  - f. Open Purebred Connemara Jumper: Awarded to purebred Connemaras competing in Jumper classes which accrue National HOTY points per GR1134.5.
  - g. Open Halfbred Connemara Jumper: Awarded to halfbred Connemaras competing in Jumper classes which accrue National HOTY points per GR1134.5.
  - h. Open Purebred Connemara Hunter: Awarded to the highest ranking Purebred Connemara competing in Open Hunter classes, excluding Pony Hunter classes, which accrue National HOTY points per 1132 at Federation Licensed Competitions.
  - i. Open Halfbred Connemara Hunter: awarded to the highest ranking halfbred Connemara competing in Open Hunter classes which accrue National HOTY points per GR1132 at Federation Licensed Competitions.
  - j. ***Open Purebred Connemara Pony Hunter: Awarded to purebred Connemaras competing in the Regular Hunter Pony section, the Children's Hunter Pony section, and/or the Green Hunter Pony section in Federation Hunter Competitions. The Clifden Trophy is awarded to the highest ranking purebred Connemara within this HOTY Category.***
2. Special Awards  
Awards will be given in the following categories. To be eligible, horses competing in Federation Open Licensed Competitions, must have breed registration papers, or verification of registration from the ACPS, filed with the Federation prior to the first day of competition in order for the points at the competition to count.
  - a. ~~McKenna Trophy: awarded to the highest ranking purebred or halfbred Connemara in Modified through Advanced levels, including the equivalent FEI levels, at Federation Eventing Competitions, for which USEF tabulates points.~~
  - b. ~~Clifden Trophy: awarded to the highest ranking purebred Connemara competing in the Regular Hunter Pony section and/or the Green Hunter Pony section in Federation Hunter Competitions.~~
  - c. Seldom Seen Trophy: to be awarded to the highest placing purebred or halfbred Connemara ridden by a junior at USEF Dressage competitions.



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

Veterinarians are pivotal in keeping horses healthy and safe at USEF competitions. Requiring veterinarians to be registered with USEF will allow for distribution of information on topics of biosecurity, drugs & medications, collapse & fatality protocols, and relevant current infectious disease threats.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Veterinary Committee	Stephen Schumacher
	sschumacher@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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***GR843 Veterinary Services on Competition Grounds***

- 1. Competition Management must ensure the official veterinarian is registered with the Federation prior to the start of the competition.***
- 2. Any veterinarian providing veterinary services to horses on competition grounds must register with the Federation within 24 hours of providing the services.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The Western Dressage committee would like the opportunity to have the same exception applied to their discipline regarding the maximum allowable number of opportunity classes allowed at all Western Dressage competitions.

## Proponent Details

Western Dressage

## Contact Information

Lexie Stovel

lstovel@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## GR821 Opportunity Classes

1. Opportunity Classes:
  - a. may be held at breed restricted or Hunter and/or Hunter Jumper competitions with no FEI recognized classes, Western Dressage competitions, Western Regular or Local Competitions. Classes must be open to all breeds unless it is a breed restricted competition. In a breed restricted competition it must be stated in the prize list if the classes will be restricted or open. Exception: At any Federation Licensed Competition, opportunity classes may not be restricted to Friesians.
  - b. are limited to 10% of the total number of the competition's classes, with a maximum of 20 Opportunity Classes per competition, whichever is less (Exception: Dressage **and Western Dressage**).
  - c. Dressage Competitions, ~~Western Dressage Competitions~~, and Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes are limited to 20 Dressage ~~or Western Dressage~~ Opportunity Classes per day. **Western Dressage Competitions are limited to 10 Western Dressage Opportunity Classes per day.** The 10% requirement does not apply to Dressage ~~or Western Dressage~~.
  - d. may be held in addition to Exhibition Classes.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	9/9/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

Individuals acting as coaches and trainers at Federation licensed competitions must designate themselves as serving in that capacity by signing as coach/trainer on Federation entry blanks. Further, under GR202, individuals acting as coaches and trainers must be Senior Active Members in good standing. This requirement applies at licensed competitions. This rule change aligns the language of Local competitions with that covering other comeptitions.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan
	lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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#### GR310 Restrictions on Local Competitions

[...]

3. The Federation and applicable Federation Recognized Affiliate Association non-member/ShowPass fees will not apply. **Exception: Any individual signing and/or acting as a Trainer or Coach must be a Senior Active Member of the Federation in good standing. See GR202.**

[...]

7. Lite. Beginning December 1, 2022, Lite Competitions are a subtype of Local Licenses and are to be conducted in accordance with the General Chapters and applicable breed/discipline Chapter, except as stated otherwise below (Exception: Open Dressage classes are not permitted to be held at Lite Competitions):

[...]

#### 3. Safe Sport Requirements

- a. Any individual signing ~~and/or acting as a~~ ~~an entry blank as~~ Trainer or Coach, must have completed the ~~Safe Sport~~ **SafeSport** Training prior to the first day of competition.
- b. ~~The~~ Competition Manager(s), Secretary, and any ~~other~~ person acting in the role of a licensed official are bound by all requirements of the USEF Safe Sport Policy, **including the SafeSport Training.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	9/9/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This rule change alleviates redundant language related to the Non-Member Show Pass Fee and the restriction of multiple Non-Member Show Pass paymenets in a single competition year. Additionally, the rule creates ease in referencing the informaiton for Non-Members by including all relevant information in a single rule, GR205.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan
	lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## GR202 Membership Requirements

1. To be eligible to participate as a rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee, agent, coach, or trainer at Federation Licensed Competitions, persons must be **Junior or Senior Active** Members of the Federation as provided in Bylaw 212, **or pay a non-member Show Pass Fee (See GR205).**
2. No organization, other than the Federation and its Recognized Breed and Discipline Affiliates, may require mandatory membership or a non-member fee as a condition of participation in a Federation Licensed Competition. (See GR1210.12 for further information regarding the collection of mandatory participation fees at Federation Licensed competitions).
3. All Competing Members of the Federation must designate a primary breed/discipline affiliation upon joining or must do so annually upon renewing. A member will be deemed to continue their primary designation unless prior to the record date (November 30 of each year) such Life Member notifies the Federation in writing of change. This shall be considered the member's affiliation for the purpose of allocating Voting Director seats as provided in Bylaw 211.
4. Lessees are considered owners in connection with this membership requirement. If a horse(s) is owned by multiple individuals, only one owner need be a **Senior Active** Member or pay a **non-member Show Pass fee. The competition is responsible for listing either the active member or the owner that paid the non-member Show Pass fee in the results.**
5. If a horse(s) is owned by a farm or any other entity, at least one of the Farm/Business's owners, must also be a Federation Senior Active Competing Member in good standing. See GR201.
6. ~~Non-member riders, drivers, handlers, vaulters, longeurs, owners, lessees, and agents must pay a Show Pass fee. Eligible exhibitors are prohibited from obtaining more than one (1) Show Pass per competition year.~~
7. ~~Payment of Show Pass fees for purposes of competing does not entitle the individual to any other privileges of Federation membership.~~
8. To be eligible to compete at Federation Licensed Competitions, coaches, trainers, and legal guardians signing **and/or acting** as coaches or trainers on behalf of their minors must be Senior Active Members in good standing, as defined herein.

## GR205 Participation

A non-member, who wishes to participate as a rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee or agent, at Federation Licensed Competitions, **are eligible to obtain no more than one non-member Show Pass per competition year and** must pay **the requisite** a Show Pass fee for each competition in which competing. Lessees are considered owners in connection with this membership requirement. In the event of an entry under multiple ownership, only one owner need be a Member or pay a Show Pass fee. Eligible exhibitors are prohibited from obtaining more than one (1) Show pass fee per competition year. The competition is responsible for listing either the active member or the owner that paid the Show Pass fee in the results. **The amount of the non-member Show Pass fee will be established annually by the Federation.** Payment of Show Pass fees for purposes of competing does not entitle the individual to any other privileges of Federation membership.

## SUBCHAPTER 2-D FEDERATION FEES AND DUES

### GR206 ~~Show Pass~~ Recognized Affiliate Association Fees

1. ~~Federation Show Pass fee. The amount of the Show Pass fee will be established annually by the Federation. Eligible exhibitors are prohibited from obtaining more than one (1) Show Pass per~~



~~competition year.~~

2. Recognized Affiliate Association non-member fee. A Federation Recognized Affiliate Association as defined under Bylaw 222, Section 1(a) and 1(b) may establish a non-member fee for their respective breed or discipline. If established, the amount of the non-member fee will be determined annually by the applicable Recognized Affiliate Association. This fee must be collected by all appropriate Licensed Competitions and remitted to the Recognized Affiliate Association (for exceptions see GR901.9).

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	8/28/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

There has been an increased use of artificial materials in the schooling/exercise/warm-up arenas at hunter competitions, including lattices. There have been reported instances of these materials exceeding fence heights of the poles on standards, creating a potential safety hazard for horses and riders. In addition, these materials are expandable, meaning the areas which open could cause a horse to get their hooves caught. It has also been shared that wire is being used to wrap ivy and other greenery around the lattice, creating an additional safety concern. The National Hunter Committee recommends prohibiting these materials in the schooling/exercise/warm-up arenas in the interest of safety.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
National Hunter Committee	Jennifer Day  jday@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## Appendix A. U S E F Hunter Schooling Rules

(...)

22. The use of materials which proves dangerous is forbidden, *this includes but is not limited to lattices.*

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The intent of this proposal is to alleviate the confusion and concern surrounding the use of cavalettis, trot poles, or step poles at competitions

## Proponent Details

USHJA

## Contact Information

Katie Patrick

[kpatrick@ushja.org](mailto:kpatrick@ushja.org)

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## EQ109 Course Requirements

...

**11.** In Open Equitation classes for riders 12 years of age and older, the course must include at least two changes of direction, a combination including an oxer and 1/3 of the obstacles must be oxers. In addition, all courses must include at least three of the following:

- a. Bending Line
- b. Narrow Jump (5'6"-8')
- c. Roll-back Turn
- d. Fence at the end of the ring
- e. Long approach to a single jump

**12.** *Cavalettis, trot poles, or step poles are not permitted for use in competition. Exception: classes restricted to poles.*

**13.** If an option fence is used, a rider may choose to jump either fence. If the horse stops at one of the options, the rider is scored with a refusal and if the fence is dislodged must wait for the fence to be reset, but may then jump either option.

...

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/18/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The Hunter chapter already requires the first fence for ponies to be a vertical, HU114.4 states “for all Hunter classes restricted to ponies, the first obstacle of all courses must be a vertical...” It is necessary to align the Hunter and Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation course requirements for classes restricted to ponies based on safety. This rule change aligns the equitation requirements for ponies with the hunter ones since, many times, they are using the same courses.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick
	kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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EQ109 Course Requirements

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***9. For all Equitation classes restricted to ponies, the first obstacle of all courses must be a vertical.  
(renumber accordingly)***

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Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/18/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The intent of this proposal is to provide a simplified testing option for those riders in short stirrup classes.

## Proponent Details

USHJA

## Contact Information

Katie Patrick

[kpatrick@ushja.org](mailto:kpatrick@ushja.org)

## Linked Rules

## Comments



#### EQ113 Tests From Which Judges Must Choose

Tests may be performed either collectively or individually but no other tests may be used. Instructions must be publicly announced.

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1. Work collectively or individually at a walk, rising/posting trot, ~~and/or~~ sitting trot, and/or canter, ***and/or demonstrate a two- point or half seat position at the walk or trot.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/18/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

Horses and ponies are microchipped for identification purposes. Scanning the microchip and comparing it with what is written on the Measurement Form and in registration assures the identity of the horse being measured. If microchips do not match, or multiple microchips exist, adding this information to the Measurement Form or notes allows USEF to determine the outcome.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick
	kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## HJ 130 Completing the Measurement Form

...

1.b. It must include the name and email address of the owner and their Federation membership number, if applicable, must be given.

*c. For sections or divisions requiring measurement (Hunter Ponies, Jumper Ponies, Junior Hunters, Welsh Ponies, and Equitation), a microchip must be scanned and identified by the competition steward or official veterinarian prior to measurement. This includes measurements for show purposes only. If multiple microchips are found, or the microchip scanned does not match the one on record with the Federation, this information must be included on the Measurement Form prior to submission. Competition management will be responsible for providing a working microchip scanner.*

(renumber accordingly)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

#### Rule Change Intent

This is in the interest of fair competition and a level playing field, and to define parameters in which an exhibitor can meet with the judge. No exhibitor should be permitted to gain an advantage in the competition or attempt to leverage intimidation of the judge(s). Additional information/feedback on an individual's performance can be used as an unfair advantage in future classes during the same competition.

Additionally, the group strongly recommends the recording of the meeting with the judge(s) in the Stewards Competition Report, including the requestor's full name and Federation ID number.

#### Proponent Details

USHJA

#### Contact Information

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

#### Linked Rules

#### Comments

#### HU116 Judges

...

***4. In the Hunter sections and classes, an exhibitor, trainer, and/or rider may meet with the judge(s), if agreed to by the judge(s) and must be accompanied by the Steward. The exhibitor, trainer, and/or rider may ask questions about their performance only, and only after completion of competition in that arena for the day. All meetings must be documented in the steward's report, including the requestor's full name and Federation ID number.***

#### EQ107 Conduct

...

***9. In Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes, an exhibitor, trainer, and/or rider may meet with the judge(s), if agreed to by the judge(s) and must be accompanied by the Steward. The exhibitor, trainer, and/or rider may ask questions about their performance only, and only after completion of competition in that arena for the day. All meetings must be documented in the steward's report, including the requestor's full name and Federation ID number.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/19/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

At times, exhibitors do not return for the conformation portion of Pony Hunter or Green Pony Hunter, and Conformation Hunter classes. There is a need to explicitly state that failure to return for the conformation portion results in elimination; some believe they will be placed below those presenting for conformation in the class.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick
	kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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#### HU136 C onformation Hunter Sections

...

**8. When Option A jog is used, eight entries (if there are sufficient entries) must be called back to the ring at the end of the class to be judged for conformation. If competitors do not return for conformation, they will be eliminated for failing to complete the requirements of the class.**

**8–9. When Option B jog is used, ± two (2) additional entries in addition to the number of ribbons (if entries allow) must be called back to the ring at the end of the class to be judged for conformation.**  
(renumber accordingly)

#### HU142 Pony Hunter and Green Pony Hunter

...

##### 2. Class Specifications

...

e. In Conformation classes, **when Option B jog is used** two (2) additional entries in addition to the number of ribbons (if entries allow) must be called back to the ring at the end of the class to be judged for conformation. **When Option A jog is used, eight entries (if there are sufficient entries) must be called back to the ring at the end of the class to be judged for conformation. If competitors do not return for conformation, they will be eliminated for failing to complete the requirements of the class.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/19/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This rule change addresses a safety concern for handlers, other exhibitors, and show personnel. It can create a dangerous environment for Juniors and Amateur handlers to compete stallions in these classes with mixed company.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick
	kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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#### HU148 General

1. Classes will only accumulate Federation Horse of the Year Points from January 1 to November 30 of the current show year (see GR1115). (Exception: Pony Hunter Breeding will accumulate Zone Horse of the Year points.)

[...]

7. Additional classes and championships may be offered but will not count towards National or Zone Horse of the Year Awards. The prize list must clearly state which classes count for Horse of the Year Awards.

**8. Stallions are prohibited from Junior/Amateur Handler classes.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/19/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

There have been multiple cases where the first classes are not the largest classes. This rule change proposal is to address equitable splitting of these sections in all cases of fluctuating numbers.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
<div>USHJA</div>	<div>Katie Patrick</div> <div>kpatrick@ushja.org</div>

Linked Rules	Comments
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## HU166 Combining and Dividing Specific Sections

### 1. Performance Hunter and High Performance Hunter.

[....]

#### c. Dividing:

##### 1. In Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter and any other sections where individual classes

may be entered, **any class may split at 30 and must split at 50. See HU159.4** ~~the sections may only be divided after thirty (30) horses have competed in the first over fences class.~~ Subsequent classes may be divided once twelve (12) horses have competed in each class.

**2. For Championships, see HU154. If more than one class is California Split, championships must be awarded in accordance with the number of splits.**

## HU154 General

### 1. Show Championships must be offered in rated sections.

2. A Championship may not be offered in a section unless a minimum of two over fences classes and one Under Saddle class are held. A Championship will not count for points unless a minimum of three entries complete in at least two over fences classes and one under saddle class (Exception: Ladies Side Saddle, see HU151; Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter, and any other sections where individual classes may be entered, see HU154.3). If a competition offers more than one Under Saddle class in any one section, only one will count towards the Championship. (Exception: classes divided as to weight, height, age or breeding.) The prize list must specify the class to count.

3. The number of Championship and Reserve Championships that are awarded will be determined by the number of sections created from dividing the first over fences class. **Exception: Performance Hunter 3'3", Performance Hunter 3'6", and High Performance.** In order to award a section Championship in the Performance Hunter, High Performance Hunter, and any other sections where individual classes may be entered at least two (2) over fences classes per section and one (1) under saddle class must be held in which a minimum of three (3) entries complete. When multiple Championships are awarded when using the California Split method, under saddle classes with fewer than thirty (30) entries are not required to be split. When multiple Championships are awarded and only one under saddle class is held the points from the one under saddle class will be used to calculate the Championship for both sections. When a random split is used, multiple Championships may only be awarded if a minimum of two (2) over fences and one (1) under saddle class are held per section.

a. When a Championship is offered, management must keep a score card or chart of winnings throughout the competition, which must be prominently displayed so that exhibitors may inspect it at all times. Only the first six ribbons count towards Championships regardless of the number offered.

b. Ribbons won in classes with specifications restricting horses in any manner, will not count toward any Championship unless such classes are complementary and over the same course, affording equal opportunity to all horses competing. If, however, competition management, having reserved the right to do so in the prize list, combines two or more complementary classes because of insufficient entries, thus making one open class, ribbons won in such a class count toward the Championship.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/19/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The USHJA Pony Task Force recommends this rule change to reduce confusion, and to create a more streamlined process.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick
	kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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# HU173 National Horse of the Year Point Values

[...]

## 4. Pony Hunter Derby

Riders must declare the Pony Hunter or Green Pony Hunter section in which to earn HOTY points prior to competing. Only ponies eligible for the Green Pony Hunter Section may declare to earn points in the Green Pony Hunter section.

Base Points		One additional point per pony entered will be added to the base National HOTY points earned	
Place	Points	Place	Points
1st	75	7th	23
2nd	60	8th	15
3rd	54	9th	10
4th	45	10th	7
5th	38	11th	5
6th	30	12th	3

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The USHJA Young Jumper Task Force recommends this rule change because it would allow young jumpers to jump the height they need and allow for them to develop at an individual pace with courses designed for young horses. This change would also allow for horses to move up and down heights during the week.

## Proponent Details

USHJA

## Contact Information

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## JP109 Nominating Fees

Nominating Fees. A nominating fee may be charged for either the Jumper Division or for each Jumper Section, but not both. Exceptions:

1. An additional nominating fee may be charged for the highest prize money class at the show. If this fee is for a class offering \$25,000 or more in prize money, the total amount of Entry and Nominating fees assessed must not exceed 2% of prize money per JP151.6.
2. ***Nominating Fees may not be charged for Young Jumper classes or sections.***

## JP117 Young Jumpers Sections/Classes Restricted by Age of Horse

1. Eligibility. Age restricted classes are open only to horses recorded with the Federation and age verified in accordance with Federation Policies and Procedures. Age can be verified only through the following identification documents:
  - a. Registration papers, Certificate of Pedigree or passport issued by a breed or sport horse registry approved by the Federation.
  - b. Horse Identification Document issued by a breed or sport horse registry approved by the Federation that states the registered name of the horse, the registration number of the horse and age of the horse.
2. Boots: 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 350g (shoe excluded).
  - a. Hind Boots: Non-weighted non-performance enhancing (any boot that does anything but protect the horse's leg/ankle will be considered performance enhancing) hind ankle boots are permitted for horses entered in classes restricted to ~~4-, Five 5-, Six 6-, or Seven 7-~~year-olds while in age restricted competition or preparing for the age restricted class. No other hind boots are permitted for horses entered in age restricted classes during those times. All hind leg protections must have a maximum interior length of 16 cm; the width of the fastener must be at least five cm. The following criteria must be respected in relation to hind boots worn in classes restricted by age of horse:
    1. The inside of the protection must be 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.
    2. Only non-elastic Velcro-type fasteners are permitted; no hooks, buckles, clips or other methods of attaching the fasteners may be used;
    3. The rounded rigid part of the protection must be placed on the inside of the fetlock;
    4. No additional elements may be added to or inserted in the boot itself, other than a protective flap, providing it is soft and clearly intended for protection only.
3. ***0.90m Young Jumper:***
  - a. ***Open to horses that meet 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses cannot have shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.10m or higher.***
  - b. ***Classes will be scored under Table II (all clear rounds stay equal).***
  - c. ***Fences to be set at 0.90-0.95m. Speed of 300 m/m.***
  - d. ***Classes can be run concurrently, but the course must follow the .90m Young Jumper course requirements.***
4. ***1.00m Young Jumper:***
  - a. ***Open to horses that meet 4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses cannot have shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.20m or higher.***
  - b. ***Classes will be scored under Table II (all clear rounds stay equal).***
  - c. ***Fences to be set at 1.00-1.05m. Speed of 300 m/m.***
  - d. ***Classes can be run concurrently, but the course must follow the 1.00m Young Jumper***



**course requirements.**

5. ~~Five-Year-Old~~ **1.10m Young Jumper:**
  - a. Open to horses that meet ~~4-, 5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age~~ **eligibility** requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses ~~competing in classes restricted to Five-Year-Olds~~ cannot have ~~ever~~ shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.25m or higher.
  - b. Classes will be scored under Table II. (all clears stay equal). ~~After July 1, classes may be scored under Table II, Sec 2-a, b, or d.~~
  - c. ~~Before July 1, Courses to be set at 1.10- m to 1.15m. After July 1 courses must be set at 1.15-1.20 m. Speed of 325 m/m.~~
6. ~~Six-Year-Old~~ **1.20m Young Jumper:**
  - a. Open to horses that meet ~~5-, 6-, or 7-year-old age~~ **eligibility** requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses ~~competing in classes restricted to Six Year-Olds~~ cannot have ~~ever~~ shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money with fence heights of 1.35m or higher.
  - b. Classes may be scored under Table II, (all clears staying equal); or Table II Section 1 or 2a, b, or d.
  - c. ~~Before July 1, Courses to be set at 1.20- m to 1.25m. After July 1, courses must be set at 1.25-1.30 m. Speed of 350 m/m.~~
7. ~~Seven-Year-Old~~ **1.30m Young Jumper:**
  - a. Open to horses that meet ~~6-, or 7-year-old age~~ **eligibility** requirements listed in JP117.1. Horses ~~competing in classes restricted to Seven-Year-Olds~~ cannot have ~~ever~~ shown in Open Jumper Classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money held at the National or High Performance Standard.
  - b. Classes may be scored under Table II, Section 1 or 2 a, b, or d.
  - c. ~~All year, Courses to be set at 1.30- m to 1.35m. Speed 350 m/m.~~
8. Course Requirements
  - a. General for all ages:
    1. Before July 1, all courses must be set in ascending height and the first jump of the course and the first element of any combination must be set 5cm lower than the lowest height permissible under the rule for the age category.
    2. There should be at least two changes of direction, preferably more.
    3. The first obstacle should be inviting, not difficult (i.e. no blind corners).
  - b. ~~Five-Year-Old~~ **0.90m, 1.00m, 1.10m Young Jumpers**
    1. All courses must be basic and straight forward.
    2. Obstacles must be inviting.
    3. Before July 1, all courses must be set in ascending height and the maximum height cannot be used in the first 30% of the course.
    4. The first fence and the first element of any combination must be set 5cm lower than the height specified for the class.
    5. Combinations cannot be used before fence number four.
    6. Triple combinations cannot be included before July 1. **Triple combinations are not permitted in any 0.90m or 1.00m Young Jumper courses.**
    7. Only one spread obstacle may be included in ~~any per combination.~~ ~~before July 1.~~
    8. A Liverpool cannot be used as part of a combination.
    9. If a Liverpool is used, it must be used as an option. When using a Liverpool at a vertical, the rails must be in the center. When using a Liverpool at an oxer, the front edge of the Liverpool must be in line with the front element of the oxer.
    10. Three (3) stride lines cannot be used before July 1.
    11. Flower boxes or ground rails ~~can~~ **should** be used in front of ~~verticals~~ **obstacles** to encourage a visual aid.



12. Normal distances should be used in related lines, whether straight or bending.
  13. The fill must be consistent in each element **A, B, and C** of the combination and must not be a solid or visual distraction.
  14. Indoor arenas: Whenever possible, obstacles should not be placed directly on the wall.
- c. Six Year Old 1.20m Young Jumpers**
1. Before July 1, all courses must be set in ascending height and the maximum fence height cannot be used in the first 30% of the course.
  2. Triple combinations may only include one spread obstacle before July 1.
  3. Water jumps cannot exceed 11' (3.30m) and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing side. Water jumps should be in the second half of the course, and another obstacle must be offered as an option. The rail must be judged and if the lath is also judged, it must be marked on the course.
  4. A Liverpool cannot be used as part of a combination.
- d. Seven Year Old 1.30m Young Jumpers**
1. If a Liverpool is used in a combination, it may only be used as the first element, and may not be used before July 1.
  2. Water jumps cannot exceed 12' (3.60 m) and must use a rail over the water with a lath on the landing side, and another obstacle must be offered as an option.
9. Restrictions. See also specific restrictions in each age category above.
- ~~Horses competing in Five, Six, or Seven Year Old jumper classes are restricted from cross entering into any class at the same competition that is more than 10 centimeters higher than their respective age group's maximum height. For example, if a horse is jumping in a Five Year Old Jumper class at 1.20m (after July 1st), they may enter classes up to 1.30m, but not higher.~~
- a. **Horses may only compete in one Young Jumper height section each competition day.**
  - b. **4-year-olds may only compete in Young Jumper classes up to and including 1.10m.**
  - c. **5-year-olds may only compete in Young Jumper classes up to and including 1.20m.**
10. ~~Classes for age groups may be combined and run as one class when there are less than 4 in a given age height category. When classes are combined (see JP123.1.c), each age category must jump the height specified for that age category. Course guidelines, class specifications, and scoring must conform to those specified for the youngest age lowest height section jumping in the combined class.~~
11. ~~Classes for age groups may be combined with an open jumper class held at the same height. Course requirements, class specifications, and scoring must conform to those specified for the youngest age lowest height section jumping in the combined class.~~
- 12. National and Zone Horse of the Year points**
- a. Horses may compete in age restricted classes in the month of December but they will not be eligible for HOTY points (GR 1134.2).
  - b. **Horses will receive National and Zone HOTY points in the height section they competed in.**
13. Special Competitions. Exceptions to any of the above listed conditions may be made only with the permission of the Federation Jumping Sport Committee prior to the printing of the prize list. ~~For complete specifications for the USHJA Young Jumper Championship program please refer to [www.ushja.org/youngjumper](http://www.ushja.org/youngjumper).~~
14. For scheduled ~~Five, Six or Seven Year Old~~ **Young Jumper** classes, any schooling jump 1.00m or over must have a minimum of two rails, in cups, on the take-off side of the jump, regardless of whether a ground line is used. The lower rail must always be below 1.00m. See JP103.2.c.

## JP145 Table of Jumping Faults

4. Second cumulative disobedience anywhere on course (Exception: **Young Jumper** classes **held at 1.20m or below** designated for horses five years of age and under where penalty is 4 faults)  
..... Elimination
5. Third cumulative disobedience anywhere on course in **Young Jumper** classes **held at 1.20m or below** designated for horses five years of age and under ..... Elimination

## APPENDIX A

### USEF JUMPER SCHOOLING RULES

5. When schooling for a **Young Jumper** ~~Five, Six, or Seven Year Old~~ class in progress, jumps in the schooling area may not exceed the height or width by more than 10cm of the jumps in the class.
20. For scheduled **Young Jumper** ~~Five, Six, and/or Seven Year Old~~ classes, any schooling jump 1m (3'3") or over must have a minimum of two rails, in cups, on the take-off side of the jump, regardless of whether a ground line is used. The lower rail must always be below 1 m (3'3").

## GR1134 Jumpers

2. Point Tabulation. See GR1113-GR1119. 1.00/1.05m Junior Jumper, 1.10/1.15m Junior Jumper, 1.00/1.05m Amateur Jumper, 1.10/1.15m Amateur Jumper USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Awards and Pony, ~~5-Year Old, 6-Year Old, and 7/8-Year Old Jumper~~ **0.90m Young Jumper, 1.00m Young Jumper, 1.10m Young Jumper, 1.20m Young Jumper, 1.30m Young Jumper** National and USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be based on the following:

5. Award Categories. Federation National awards will be given in the following categories: 1.00/1.05m Junior, 1.10/1.15m Junior, 1.20/1.25m Junior, 1.30/1.35m Junior, 1.40/1.45m Junior, 1.00/1.05m Amateur, 1.10/1.15m Amateur, 1.20/1.25m Amateur, 1.30/1.35m Amateur, 1.40/1.45m Amateur, Open, Pony, **0.90m Young Jumper, 1.00m Young Jumper, 1.10m Young Jumper, 1.20m Young Jumper, 1.30m Young Jumper**, Thoroughbred Jumper, Young Rider and U25. Zone Horse of the Year Awards will be given by USHJA in the following categories (see JP119 for Zone specifications): 1.00/1.05m Junior, 1.10/1.15m Junior, 1.20/1.25m Junior, 1.30/1.34m, Junior, 1.40/1.45m Junior, 1.00/1.05m Amateur, 1.10/1.15m Amateur, 1.20/1.25m Amateur, 1.30/1.35m Amateur, 1.40/1.45m Amateur, Pony, Young Riders, U25 and Thoroughbred Jumper. National awards will be offered in two awards channels as follows:

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

To prevent falls and legs getting caught in draw reins.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick  kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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#### **Appendix A USEF Hunter Schooling Rules**

**[...]**

**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.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

The jogging of a circle at the conclusion of the round has shown to be an efficient way to confirm whether a horse is sound. It is now time to make the process more consistent across the rated sections in the hunters and equitation. Many riders do it as a matter of habit now, and it is a good habit that should be reinforced. With inconsistencies between rated sections, it just makes it more confusing and chaotic for judges and exhibitors.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USHJA	Katie Patrick
	kpatrick@ushja.org

Linked Rules	Comments
HU 118 (134-24)	

## EQ102 Judging

1. **SOUNDNESS.** *All horses/ponies must be serviceably sound. Horses/ponies that are unsound will be eliminated and ineligible for an award in that class. The judge's decision regarding soundness is final. The following options may be used to determine soundness in hunter/jumping seat equitation.*
  - a. *Option A: Trot a circle on a loose rein following any equitation round over fences. Exception: Jogging will not be required in testing phases.*
  - b. *Option B: In hand jog preceding a championship/finals class.*

Unsoundness does not penalize a competitor unless it is sufficiently severe to impair the required performance. In such cases, the imposition of a penalty is at the judge's discretion. (Exception: Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes held at Hunter Jumper Competitions where, in a case of unsoundness sufficiently severe to impair the required performance, the judge(s) must eliminate the competitor from that class and inform the competition manager, who in conjunction with the Official Veterinarian and the Steward, will evaluate disqualifying the horse from further participation in the competition.)

## HU138 Adult Amateur

[....]

~~5. Adult Amateur Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~

## HU139 Low Adult Amateur

[....]

~~2. Low Adult Amateur Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~

## HU144 Children's Hunter Sections

[....]

~~3. Children's Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~

4. Individual classes may be entered. (Exception: Under Saddle classes. See HU129.2).

## HU145 Low Children's Hunter Horse Sections

[....]

~~2. Low Children's Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~

## HU146 Low Children's Hunter Pony Sections

[....]

~~3. Low Children's Hunter Ponies are not required to jog for soundness.~~

## HU147 USHJA Hunter Sections

[....]

~~7. USHJA Hunters are not required to jog for soundness.~~



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	12/19/2024	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

With the nomenclature change of the Children's and Adult Amateur jumpers to Junior and Amateur Jumpers, the reference in cross entry restrictions in JP118.6 was not updated to reflect that it always prohibited the cross-entry in the 1.0m and 1.10m Children/Junior and Adult Amateur/Amateur jumper classes. As the rule requires updating, the consensus is that it should apply to all classes in the section, not just the highest money won class. CSI4\*, or CSI5\* FEI Grand Prix is struck out on the premise that the other rule change being proposed, USHJA tracking# 003-24 and USEF tracking#? will pass which already inserts language prohibiting those participants from cross-entering into any junior or amateur jumper section, which this committee supports.

## Proponent Details

USHJA

## Contact Information

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## 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 CSI5\*, 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 competing in open jumper classes held at the USEF High Performance Standard or CSI3\*, ~~CSI4\*, or CSI5\* FEI Grand Prix~~ classes offering \$25,000 or more in prize money ~~are~~ **is** not eligible to compete in the ~~highest money classes~~ **lowest 1.20/1.25m or lower** height section of Junior and/or Amateur Jumpers, offered at the same competition where more than one height section is offered for Junior and/or Amateur Jumpers.



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

USEF has requested that USHJA update the information in the rulebook on latest points and programs for USHJA programs. The changes include adding information about Zone Handy Hunter Challenge and 1.0/1.05m Junior/Amateur Zone Jumper Championships. Housekeeping updates also include some formatting updates and removal of a few mentions of the discontinued Stirrup Cup program. It also includes deleting the recently discontinued programs: Green Hunter Challenge and Jumper Classic.

## Proponent Details

USHJA

## Contact Information

Katie Patrick

kpatrick@ushja.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

#### HU170 Amateur Owner Hunter Championship

1. The USHJA, at its discretion may choose to hold a National or East and West Championship for Amateur Owner Hunters. This competition is designed to encourage and promote the basic training and development of Amateur Owner Hunters. The Championship must be offered for the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6 and the Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" section and may also be offered for the Adult Amateur Hunter and the Low Adult Amateur Hunter. Championship(s) must be run in accordance with USHJA specifications found at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org).

2. Eligibility.

- The horse must be recorded with the Federation and registered with USHJA on or before the first day of the Championship.
- The owner of record of the horse must be an Active member in good standing of the Federation and USHJA, i.e. horses must be shown in accordance with GR1102 and GR 1108 in order to be eligible to qualify.

3. Points.

All points are based on values below. In classes that have less than 10 entries, the point values will be one half of what is listed below

Placing	Under Saddle	Handy Hunter	Classic
First	100	250	250
Second	90	225	225
Third	80	200	200
Fourth	70	175	175
Fifth	60	150	150
Sixth	50	125	125
Seventh	40	100	100
Eighth	30	75	75
Ninth	20	50	50
Tenth	10	25	25

OVERALL (all sections)		
Champion	500	2.0 times the classic
Reserve	300	1.2 times the classic
Third	200	
Fourth	150	
Fifth	100	
Sixth	90	
Seventh	80	
Eighth	70	
Ninth	60	
Tenth	50	

4. Zone or Regional Championships.

- The Chairman of each Zone may request permission of the USHJA to hold a Zone or Regional Championship section for the riders of each Zone who have won a Champion or Reserve at a National or Premier rated Amateur Owner Hunter division within the previous competition year.
- Two or more Zone Chairmen may request permission to hold a Regional Championship section including several zones.
- Application must be made to the USHJA office at least sixty days in advance of the holding of the section.
- The location of these sections is subject to the approval of the USHJA.
- The Championships are conducted under the same regulations as the USHJA Amateur Owner Hunter

Championship. (Exception: All points awarded are based on Premier point values as per GR 1132.5).

#### **HU171 Membership Requirements**

Exhibitors must be Federation and USHJA active members and horses must be Federation recorded and USHJA registered in order to participate in the following programs. See [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org) for complete specifications.

1. ***USHJA Amateur Hunter Championships (exhibitors must be active Amateur members);***
2. USHJA Hunter Team Challenge (exhibitors must be active Junior or Amateur members);
- ~~2. USHJA Green Hunter Challenge;~~
3. USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Stake Class (horses must be enrolled);
4. USHJA Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship (horses must be enrolled);
5. USHJA Green Hunter Incentive National Championship (horses must be enrolled);
6. USHJA Hunter Sections (2'-3');
7. USHJA International Hunter Derby;
8. USHJA International Hunter Derby Championship (horses must be enrolled);
9. USHJA International Hunter Derby Regional Championship;
10. USHJA Pony Hunter Derby (exhibitors must be active Junior members);
11. USHJA Pony Hunter Derby Championship (exhibitors must be active Junior members);
12. USHJA World Championship Hunter Rider Program ;
13. USHJA WCHR Spectaculars;
14. USHJA WCHR Challenge classes;
15. USHJA Young Hunter Pony Championships (exhibitors must be active Junior members);
16. USHJA National Championship (exception: Affiliate classes);
17. USHJA National Hunter Derby;
18. ***USHJA 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby (exhibitors must be active Junior or Amateur members)***
- ~~18.~~ 19. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Championship;
- ~~19.~~ 20. USHJA Zone Handy Hunter Challenge (exhibitors must be active members in home zone); ***and***
- ~~20.~~ 21. USHJA Zone Horsemanship Class/Championship ***and***

Horses competing in these programs shall accrue Federation and/or Zone Horse of the Year points and/or money won in accordance with the point values and prize money won referenced in the class specifications available at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org) and outlined in GR1132 and HU173

#### **HU172 Competition Requirements**

The following classes may be held at the eligible competitions listed below

1. ***Amateur Hunter Championship- National, Premier or Regional;***
2. USHJA Hunter Team Challenge – National or Premier;
- ~~2. Green Hunter Challenge – National, Premier, Regional;~~

3. Green Hunter Incentive Stake Class– National, Premier or Regional;
4. Green Hunter Incentive Regional Championship– National or Premier;
5. Green Hunter Incentive National Championship– National or Premier;
6. USHJA Hunter Sections (2'-3'); – National, Premier or Regional;
7. International Hunter Derby; – National or Premier;
8. International Hunter Derby Championship; – National or Premier;
- 9. 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby– National, Premier or Regional;**
- ~~9. International Hunter Derby Welcome Stake; Licensed stand-alone IHD~~

[renumber accordingly]

10. Pony Hunter Derby – National, Premier or Regional;
11. Pony Hunter Derby Championship – National, Premier or Regional;
12. World Championship Hunter Rider Program – National or Premier;
13. WCHR Spectaculars – National or Premier;
14. WCHR Challenge classes – National or Premier;
15. Young Hunter Pony Championships – any USEF licensed competition;
16. USHJA National Championship – any USEF licensed competition;
17. National Hunter Derby– National, Premier or Regional;
18. Zone Horse of the Year Championship – National or Premier;
19. Zone Handy Hunter Challenge – any USEF licensed competition; **and**
20. Zone Horsemanship Class/Championship – National or Premier;~~and~~
- ~~21. Zone Stirrup Cup Championships– Regional~~

[....]

#### HU173 National Horse of the Year Point Values

- ~~1. USHJA Green Hunter Challenge Points to be credited to the respective Green Hunter section~~
  - ~~a. For a USHJA Green Hunter Challenge in which the first round is the last class of the Green Hunter 3'0"/3'3" Section, HOTY points will be awarded as follows: 1st 40 7th 12 2nd 32 8th 10 3rd 28 9th 8 4th 24 10th 6 5th 20 11th 4 6th 16 12th~~
  - ~~b. For a USHJA Green Hunter Challenge which is held as separate two round class, HOTY points will be awarded for a as follows: 1st 80 7th 24 2nd 64 8th 20 3rd 56 9th 16 4th 48 10th 12 5th 40 11th 8 6th 32 12th~~
- 4

[....]

3. National Hunter Derby (Zone Points, National Points and Money Won) Points and money won to be credited to each horse's respective section as declared at the time of entry in the following sections: Performance 3'3", Green 3'0", Green 3'3", Small Hunter, Amateur Owner 3'3", Adult Amateur, Junior Hunter 3'3", Children's Horse, Pony, and Young Hunters.

#### **7. 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby**

- a. Points accrued may be awarded to the declared Low Children's-Horse and the Low Adult Amateur sections.**
- b. The money won and points won in the USHJA 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby will only**

*be awarded towards the Hunter section for National and Zone HOTY points if a horse competes in the declared section a minimum of one (1) time during the competition year.*  
*d. At Channel I (Premier or National) rated competitions, or competitions approved for Special Competition status, National and Zone HOTY points will be awarded as follows :*

1st - 75  
2nd - 60  
3rd - 54  
4th - 45  
5th - 38  
6th - 30  
7th - 23  
8th - 15  
9th - 10  
10th - 7  
11th - 5  
12th - 3

*e. At Channel II (Regional) rated competitions, National and Zone HOTY points will be awarded as follows:*

*1st – 50*  
*2nd – 40*  
*3rd – 35*  
*4th – 30*  
*5th – 25*  
*6th – 20*  
*7th – 15*  
*8th – 10*  
*9th – 7*  
*10th – 5*  
*11th – 3*  
*12th – 2*



#### **8. Zone Handy Hunter Challenge**

**Participation in these classes accrues double points for the USHJA Zone Horse of the Year standings and double points for USEF National Horse of the Year standings.**

#### **JP113 USHJA Programs and Classes**

Exhibitors must be Federation and USHJA active members and horses must be USEF recorded and USHJA registered in order to participate in the following programs. See [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org) for complete specifications.

~~1. USHJA Jumper Classic Series;~~

2. USHJA Platinum Jumper Championship;

3. USHJA National Championship (exception: Affiliate classes);

4. USHJA Zone Jumper Team Championship;

5. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Championship;

**6. USHJA Young Jumper Championship; and**

**7. USHJA Zone Stirrup Cup Championships. USHJA 1.0/1.05m Junior/Amateur Zone Jumper Championship – Jumper Rating 3 and above**

Horses competing in these programs shall accrue USEF and/or USHJA Zone Horse of the Year points in accordance with the specifications available at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org)

Competitions eligible to host the following are:

~~1. USHJA Jumper Classic Series – Jumper Rating 1-6~~

2. USHJA Platinum Jumper Championship – Jumper Rating 3 and above

3. USHJA National Championship – Jumper Rating 1 - 6

4. USHJA Zone Jumper Team Championship – Jumper Rating 3 and above

5. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Championship – Jumper Rating 3-6

**6. USHJA Young Jumper Championship – Jumper Rating 1-6**

**7. USHJA Zone Stirrup Cup Championships – Jumper Rating 1 or 2. USHJA 1.0/1.05m Junior/Amateur Zone Jumper Championship – Jumper Rating 1-6**

#### **EQ111 Requirements for Specific Classes**

[....]

#### **9. USHJA Championships, Programs, and Special Classes**

For full specifications see [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org)

a. Exhibitors must be Federation and USHJA active competing members in order to participate in the following programs. See [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org) for complete specifications.

1. USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Class;

2. USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals;

3. USHJA Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic;

4. USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Class;

5. USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final;

6. USHJA National Championship (exception: Affiliate classes);

7. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Championship; **and**

8. USHJA Zone Horsemanship Class/Championship; **and**

~~9. USHJA Zone Stirrup Cup Championships.~~

Horses must be USHJA registered for Gladstone Cup Equitation Classic, USHJA National Championship Zone Horse of the Year Championship, **and** Zone Horsemanship Class/Championship ~~and Zone Stirrup Cup Championships.~~

b. Competitions eligible to host the following are:

1. USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Class – any USEF licensed Hunter competition;

2. USHJA 3'3" Hunter Seat Medal Finals – any USEF licensed Hunter competition;

3. USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Class – any USEF licensed competition;

4. USHJA 3'3" Jumping Seat Medal Final – any USEF licensed competition;

5. USHJA National Championship - any USEF licensed competition;
6. USHJA Zone Horse of the Year Championship Level; **and**
7. USHJA Zone Horsemanship Class/Championship - any USEF licensed competition; ~~and~~
- ~~8. USHJA Zone Stirrup Cup Championships - Regional~~

Competitors in the above programs shall accrue Zone Horse/Rider of the Year points in accordance with GR1132.

Effective 5/1/23

#### GR312 Determining Ratings

[....]

##### 6. Rated Hunter Section & Classes

HUNTER SECTION RATINGS AND CLASSES	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min-Max Required Classes	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min Money	Regional ("B") Multi-Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") One Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") Min
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[....]

##### Other Rated Classes

USHJA International Hunter Derby

~~USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome~~

USHJA National Hunter Derby

USHJA Green Hunter Incentive

~~USHJA Green Hunter Challenge~~

USHJA Pony Hunter Derby

**USHJA 2'6" Junior/Amateur Hunter Derby**

Hunter Classics

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/8/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The proposed rule change aims to enhance clarity and consistency in eventing competitions by providing a comprehensive definition of "Technical Elimination" (TE) to establish a clear distinction between eliminations for performance-related infractions and those arising from technical errors made by the Athlete. The proposal provides consistent application across all circumstances that would warrant at TE to ensure that officials, competitors, and organizers have a standardized framework for determining eliminations based on technical infractions, reducing ambiguity and enhancing fairness in enforcement.

## Proponent Details

USEA

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

#### EV104 Definitions

8. **ELIMINATION.** Unless otherwise specified, Elimination means that the Athlete/Horse combination in question may not continue to participate in the current Event.

*a. **Technical Elimination:** An Elimination may be recorded as a Technical Elimination (TE) if the fault is an Athlete error, and not a result of the horse's performance.*

#### EV117 CLASSIFICATION

4. **DISQUALIFICATION, ELIMINATION, WITHDRAWAL OR RETIRE.**

*b. The Ground Jury, in consultation with the Organizer, may permit an Athlete who has been Eliminated or **Technically Eliminated** in an earlier phase to participate in the subsequent phase(s). After Elimination in a previous phase, an Athlete who starts a subsequent phase without such permission may be fined up to \$100 payable to the Organizer*

#### EV118 Dressage Phase Rules

14. Unauthorized Assistance may be penalized by **Technical** Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

#### EV119 Dressage Phase Scoring

1. b. Errors of Course or Test will be penalized as follows:

1. 1st Time by 2 points
2. 2nd Time by 4 points
3. 3rd Time by **Technical** Elimination

2. The following are considered errors, and two points will be deducted per error, but they are not cumulative ~~and will not result in Elimination:~~

a. Entering the arena, or the space around the arena before the signal to start, with a whip (when they are forbidden) or with boots or bandages, or discrepancy of dress (e.g. lack of gloves at Intermediate and Advanced levels). The Judge at C may stop the Athlete and permit an assistant to enter the arena to remove the item(s). The Athlete may continue, and marks given before they were stopped, if any, are not changed;

b. Entering the arena before the signal is given; Not entering the arena within 45 seconds after the signal is given, but within 90 seconds is a two-point penalty. **Not entering the arena within 90 seconds after the signal from the Judge at C, except for a valid reason (losing shoe) will result in Technical Elimination or Elimination at the**

***discretion of the Ground Jury***

3. In the case of a Fall of a Horse and/or Athlete, the Athlete will not be Eliminated. The Athlete will be penalized by the effect of the Fall on the execution of the movement concerned and in the collective mark.

4. After Elimination ***or Technical Elimination***, an Athlete may complete their test, at the Judges' discretion.

EV120 Dressage Phase Elimination **Penalty** Summary Chart

Fault	Penalty	Applicable Level	Reference
Unauthorized Assistance	<del>Elimination</del> <b><i>Technical Elimination</i></b> , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV118.14
Not entering the arena within 90 seconds after the signal from the Judge at C, except for a valid reason (losing shoe)	<b><i>Elimination or Technical Elimination at the discretion of the Ground Jury</i></b>	All	EV119.2.b
<b><i>Performing the test in incorrect dress</i></b>	<b><i>2-point deduction from test per error, non-cumulative</i></b>	<b><i>All</i></b>	<b><i>EV 119.2.a</i></b>
Performing the test with improper: saddlery, whip, or spurs	<b><i>Technical Elimination</i></b>	All	Subchapter EV-9 and EV-10
Marked lameness	Elimination	All	EV118.8
Leaving the arena between the entry and final salute	Elimination	All	EV118.9
Resistance	Elimination	All	EV118.10
<b><i>Third cumulative error of course or test</i></b>	<b><i>Technical Elimination</i></b>	<b><i>All</i></b>	<b><i>EV 119.1.b</i></b>
<b><i>Fall of Horse or Athlete</i></b>	<b><i>Penalized by the effect of the fall on the execution of the movement concerned, and in the collective mark.</i></b>	<b><i>All</i></b>	<b><i>EV 119.3</i></b>



<i>Entering the arena before the Judge's signal to start, or between 45 &gt;90 seconds after signal</i>	<i>2-point deduction from test, non-cumulative, at Judge's discretion.</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>EV119.2.b</i>
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## EV121 Cross-Country Phase Rules

### 3. ERRORS OF COURSE.

- a. All compulsory passages and Obstacles, including all elements and/or options, must be passed or jumped in order, under penalty of Elimination *or Technical Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.*
- b. All red and white markers must be passed through correctly wherever they occur on the course, under penalty of *Technical* Elimination, except as provided for in EV122.5b.
- c. Retaking an Obstacle already jumped is prohibited, under penalty of *Technical* Elimination, except as provided for in EV122.5a

### 7. STOPPING ATHLETES.

- a. If any part of an Obstacle is obstructed by a Horse or Athlete in difficulty, if any Obstacle has been dismantled to release a fallen Horse, if an Obstacle has been broken and has not yet been rebuilt, or in any similar circumstances, subsequent Athletes must be halted. Athletes may be stopped at Obstacles or at stopping points on the course. In such a case, an appointed personnel should be posted in the path of the oncoming Athlete. They should wave a red flag, which indicates that the Athlete must stop. Failure to stop may be penalized by Elimination, *Yellow Warning Card, and/or \$100 fine* at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

### 8. UNAUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE

- b. Appointed personnel or spectators who draw the attention of an Athlete to a deviation from the course may result in the *Technical* Elimination of the Athlete.

### 9. AUTHORIZED ASSISTANCE.

- a. Whip, headgear, or spectacles may be handed to an Athlete at any time. *Accepting, while mounted, anything besides a whip, headgear and/or spectacles will results in Technical Elimination.*

10. AFTER ELIMINATION. An Athlete who was Eliminated or has retired must leave the course, mounted or dismounted, at the walk immediately, and may not continue. If the Athlete continues after being Eliminated or retiring, they must be reported to the Ground Jury. Violators must be warned or fined up to \$100 (payable to the Organizer), at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

#### EV123 CROSS COUNTRY PHASE SCORING

1. FAULTS AT OBSTACLES, DISOBEDIENCES AND FALLS. To facilitate accurate administration of EV109.2 (Loss of Qualification) Athlete Falls will be denoted as "RF" on official score sheets and results.

Fault	Penalty	Applicable Level	Reference
First refusal, run-out or circle	20 penalties	All	EV122.2 & EV122.3
Second refusal, run-out or circle at the same Obstacle	40 penalties	All	EV122.2 & EV122.3
Third refusal, run-out or circle at the same Obstacle	Elimination	All	EV122.2 & EV122.3
Third penalized Disobedience on the entire course	Elimination	M, P, I, A	EV122.2
Fourth penalized Disobedience on the entire course	Elimination	BN, N, T	EV122.2
Activating a frangible Obstacle in the jumping effort where the dimension of the Obstacle is modified	11 penalties	All	
Activating a frangible Obstacle as the result of	0 penalties	All	

a Fall or Disobedience			
First Athlete Fall	Elimination (RF)	<b>All</b>	EV122.4
First Horse Fall	Mandatory Retirement (MR)	All	EV122.4
Willful Delay between the last fence and the finish line	19 penalties	BN, N, T	EV122.6
Exceeding Optimum Time	0.4 penalty points per second	All	EV121.2a
Exceeding Time Limit	Elimination	All	EV121.2c
Speed faults	0.4 penalty points per second under Speed Fault Time	BN, N, T	EV121.2b
Competing with improper <b>dress or</b> saddlery	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	Subchapter EV-10.3
Error of course not rectified	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury</b>	All	EV121.3
Omission of Obstacle or compulsory passage	<del>Elimination</del> <b>or Technical Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury</b>	All	EV121.3a
Jumping an Obstacle in the wrong direction except when EV122.5b applies	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV121.3b
Retaking an Obstacle already jumped except when EV122.5a applies	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV121.3c
Jumping or attempting	<del>Elimination, at the</del>	All	Subchapter EV-9.1e



to jump any Obstacle without headgear, or with an unfastened retention harness	discretion of the Ground Jury <b>Technical Elimination</b>		
Willful obstruction of an overtaking Athlete, or failure to follow the instructions of the appointed personnel while being overtaken	Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV121.5c
Causing danger to another Athlete while overtaking that Athlete	Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	EV121.5c
Failure to stop when signaled	Elimination, <b>Yellow Warning, and/or \$100 fine, at the discretion of the Ground Jury</b>	All	EV121.7a, <b>EV121.10</b>
Unauthorized Assistance	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury</b>	All	EV121.8
Missed Marker	15 penalties	All	EV122.5
<b>Accepting, while mounted, anything besides a whip, headgear and/or spectacles</b>	<b>Technical Elimination</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>EV121.9.a</b>

#### EV124 Show Jumping Phase Signal

2. If the Athlete does not obey the signal to stop, they **may be penalized by Technical Elimination** at the discretion of the Ground Jury except where specifically provided for under EV126.8b.
3. If, after an interruption, the Athlete restarts and jumps or attempts to jump without waiting for the signal, they **will be penalized by Technical Elimination**.

EV125 Show Jumping Phase Unauthorized Assistance

2. Unauthorized Assistance may be penalized by **Technical** Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.
- b. Any help given to a mounted Athlete to adjust their saddlery or bridle or to hand them a whip during the round must incur **Technical** Elimination.
- d. Warning an Athlete of a deviation from the course must be penalized as Unauthorized Assistance. The Athlete and/or the individual who have the warning may **receive a Technical Elimination** or otherwise penalized, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

EV127 Show Jumping Phase Penalties

4. DEVIATION FROM THE COURSE
- b. An uncorrected deviation from the course must incur **Technical** Elimination

EV128 Show Jumping Phase Faults

1. Disobediences during the time when the round is interrupted (EV126.6b) must not be penalized.
2. Disobediences, Falls, etc., occurring between the signal to start and crossing the start line in the correct direction, must not be penalized.
3. Penalties for Disobediences accumulate, not just at the same Obstacle, but throughout the entire round.
4. Compulsory Retirement is enforced at the end of the round, unless the Athlete retires or is Eliminated.
5. Faults are penalized by penalty points, Elimination, **Technical Elimination** or Compulsory Retirement in accordance with this section.

Fault	Penalty	Applicable Level	Reference
Obstacle knocked down while jumping	4 penalties	All	
Going through the start line twice	4 penalties – <b>time starts on first crossing</b>	All	<b>EV124.1b</b>
First Disobedience	4 penalties	All	EV127.3
Second Disobedience or other	Elimination	M, P, I, A	EV127.3
Second Disobedience or other	8 penalties	BN, N, T	EV127.3
Third Disobedience or other	Elimination	BN, N, T	EV127.3
Fall of Horse and/or	Elimination	All	EV104.5, EV104.6b

Athlete			
Exceeding the Time Limit	Elimination	All	EV126.3
Exceeding the Time Allowed	0.4 penalties per second over	All	EV126.2
20 or more (jump) penalties	Compulsory Retirement	T, M, P, I, A	EV127.8
Jumping or attempting to jump an Obstacle in the arena before the start or after the completion of the round	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	
Starting before the signal is given and jumping the first Obstacle of the course	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV124.1b
A Horse resisting more than 45 consecutive seconds during the round	Elimination	All	EV127
Taking more than 45 second to jump the next Obstacle, or to jump the last Obstacle and cross the finish line	Elimination	All	
Jumping the first obstacle while omitting to cross the start line between the markers in the correct direction	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV127.4.a2
Attempting to or	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical</b>	All	EV127.4.a4

jumping an Obstacle which does not form part of the course during the round	<b>Elimination</b>		
Omitting to jump an Obstacle of the course or after a run out or refusal, failing to reattempt to jump the Obstacle where the fault was committed	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV127.4.a4
<i>After a run out or refusal, failing to reattempt the Obstacle where the fault was incurred</i>	<b>Technical Elimination</b>	<b>All</b>	<b>EV150.10.b</b>
Jumping an Obstacle in the wrong order	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV127.4.a3
Jumping an Obstacle in the wrong direction	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV127.4.a3
Following a refusal jumping or attempting to jump an Obstacle which has been knocked down before it is rebuilt	<b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	
Jumping or attempting to jump an Obstacle after an interruption without waiting for the signal	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV124.3
Not jumping all the elements of a combination again	<b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV150.10b

after a refusal or run-out			
Not crossing the finishing line between the markers in the correct direction after having jumped the last obstacle	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV127.4a.2
Horse leaving the arena without Ground Jury permission, including prior to starting	Elimination	All	
Accepting, while mounted, anything besides headgear and/or spectacles	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	EV125.2.c
Using a whip longer than 75cm or weighted at the end, using a whip substitute	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b>	All	Subchapter EV-9.3
An accident which prevents the Athlete or Horse from completing the Event	Elimination	All	
Not entering the arena when the Athlete's name or number is called	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b> , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	All	
Not entering or leaving the arena mounted ( <b>Exception: EV125.2.a)</b>	Elimination <b>or Technical Elimination</b> , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	<b>All</b>	EV125.2a
All Unauthorized Assistance except per	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b> , at the	<b>All</b>	EV125

EV125.2	discretion of the Ground Jury		
Not stopping when the signal is rung during the round	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b> , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	<b>All</b>	EV124.2
Entering the arena without permitted attire	<del>Elimination</del> <b>Technical Elimination</b> , at the discretion of the Ground Jury	<b>All</b>	Subchapter EV-9
Any reason the Horse or Athlete is unfit to continue the Event	<del>Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury</del>	<b>All</b>	

#### SUBCHAPTER EV-9 DRESS

##### 1. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR

e. Violation of this rule at any time, at the discretion of the Ground Jury, must be penalized by a Yellow Warning Card or **Technical Elimination**.

##### 2. PROTECTIVE VESTS.

b. Violation of this rule may be penalized at the discretion of the Ground Jury and may result in **Technical Elimination**.

8. DRESS COMPLIANCE. Appointed personnel should inspect whips and spurs before any phase. The appointed personnel may refuse permission for an Athlete to start the phase whose whip or spurs are not permitted. The appointed personnel must immediately report the suspected violation to the Ground Jury, or Technical Delegate if the Ground Jury is unavailable, for confirmation. An Athlete who competes with prohibited dress in the Cross-Country and Show Jumping phases may be **penalized by Technical Elimination** or issued a Yellow Warning Card, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. See EV120 for Dressage.

#### SUBCHAPTER EV-10 SADDLERY

##### 2. DRESSAGE TEST

f. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or



balancing reins, etc.), reins with any loops or hand attachments, and any form of blinkers, including earmuffs, earplugs, hoods, fly masks, goggles, and seat covers are, under penalty of **Technical** Elimination, strictly forbidden.

#### 4. INSPECTION OF SADDLERY

b. In the Dressage Test, the checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution. When bit inspections require actual contact with the inside of the horse's mouth, the inspector must use a clean protective glove for each horse. If the competitor so requests, the bridle and bit may be checked immediately after the test has been completed. However, should the bridle or bit in such a case be found not to be permitted, the competitor ***must be penalized by a Technical Elimination.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/10/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

Liverpools are currently permitted within the rules for any level. The proposal states that liverpools are not appropriate at the Beginner Novice and Novice levels for safety reasons, and should not be used.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd  alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## APPENDIX 1 - LEVELS OF HORSE TRIALS

1. Beginner Novice—The Beginner Novice level is designed to introduce green Horses and Athletes to Horse Trials. Beginner Novice is intended for Athletes and Horses that have experience in schooling Events in all three phases. The goal is an educational experience to build confidence and a desire to progress.

c. Show Jumping: The course should be inviting and straightforward, preferably with lines of 82 ft or more and may include only one double set on two strides, a minimum of 34 ft, which may include only one oxer at the “a” element of the combination.

***1. Liverpools are prohibited at this level.***

2. Novice—The Novice level is a continuing introduction to Horse Trials. It is designed for Athletes and Horses with some experience at lower levels or for experienced Athletes and Horses who are new to the discipline.

c. Show Jumping: The course should be inviting and straightforward, preferably with lines of 82 ft or more and must only include one or two doubles, set on two strides of a minimum of 34 ft. Each combination may only include one oxer at the “a” element of the combination.

***1. Liverpools are prohibited at this level.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/16/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The original intent of the rule for the allowance of boots has been lost in the current verbiage. This rule change will remove the allowance of boots in rail classes and clean-up the verbiage regarding the usage of boots in Carriage Pleasure Driving.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Carriage Pleasure Driving	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER CP-6 THE HORSE

### CP 115 Turnout for the Horse

(...)

5. Boots - Bell boots, shin boots and wraps are allowed in ~~Pleasure Driving Rail classes~~, Obstacle classes, and Pleasure Drives. ~~classes and They~~ may be allowed at the discretion of the judge in other classes due to adverse weather, except Driven Dressage. Boots protecting the sole of the foot are allowed in any ~~pleasure~~ class.

## SUBCHAPTER CP-9 PLEASURE DRIVING COMPETITIONS

### CP 207 Turnout

(...)

#### 3. Harness

(...)

g. Boots – Bell boots, shin boots and wraps are allowed in Pleasure Drives ~~classes~~ and may be allowed at the discretion of the judge in other classes due to ~~local conditions~~ **adverse weather**. Boots protecting the sole of the foot are allowed in any ~~pleasure~~ class.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/16/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

With the desire to have more Carriage Pleasure Driving classes offered throughout breed shows, ease of execution for these classes is of the utmost importance. This rule change removes the need for competition management to issue a new entry number if a driving vehicle is substituted due to safety. This rule change would allow for an entry to use the same entry number in the case of a vehicle substitution.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Carriage Pleasure Driving	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER CP-9 PLEASURE DRIVING COMPETITIONS

### CP203 Entry

1. Unless otherwise specified in the Prize List/Omnibus an entry is defined as a combination of horse(s), vehicle and driver and must be assigned a specific entry number. In the event that a vehicle is disabled or judged unsafe to start or continue, the substitution of another vehicle must be approved by an official. ~~A new entry number must be issued if requested by the judge.~~ Organizer may allow changes of an entry (i.e., using a different vehicle for cones while still compiling points for a Championship. This must be stated in the prize list).

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

The current verbiage in 207.2 regarding the proper usage of whips is confusing, contradictory, and muddled as written. This rule change cleans-up the verbiage of the rule by using proper terminology and dividing the section into multiple points instead of several long sentences. The change also more concisely provides the consequences for improper whip usage.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Carriage Pleasure Driving	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER CP-9 PLEASURE DRIVING COMPETITIONS

### CP 207 Turnout

(...)

~~2. A whip must be carried in hand at all times while driving. A driver not in compliance may be eliminated or disqualified. The thong of the whip should be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse. A driver not in compliance with the above may be penalized. A whip with its thong tied in a manner which renders it incapable of reaching the farthest horse is not allowed. Failure to comply must be severely penalized.~~

#### **2. Whip:**

- a. While in a class a whip must be carried in hand at all times. Failure to abide by this rule must result in elimination.*
- b. The thong of the whip must be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse. Failure to abide by this rule may result in a penalty.*
- c. A whip with its thong tied in a manner that renders it incapable of reaching the farthest horse is not permitted. Failure to abide by this rule may result in a penalty.*

### CP 108 Use of the Whip; Performing a Salute

1. An appropriate whip ~~should~~ **must** be carried in hand at all times while driving ~~in a class~~. The thong on the whip ~~should~~ **must** be long enough to reach the shoulder of the farthest horse and could be penalized at judge's discretion. (Exception: Obstacles CP207.2)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/16/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

There has been confusion over time in the industry of proper hunting attire in regards to stable livery. In carriage pleasure driving classes as of recent, the terminology of "hunting attire" has been mistaken for huntseat riding attire in which competitors are purchasing and arriving to a show with the incorrect attire for the division. To remove the potential for confusion, the removal of hunting attire from potential stable livery is being removed as an option.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Carriage Pleasure Driving	Lexie Stovel  lstovel@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments



## SUBCHAPTER CP-9 PLEASURE DRIVING COMPETITIONS

### CP 207 Turnout

(...)

#### 1. Attire for drivers, grooms, and passengers:

(...)

b. Grooms: Grooms of either sex may wear stable livery in any but the more formal vehicles where full livery is appropriate. Where it is specifically allowed in the Omnibus/Prize List or class description, less formal attire may be appropriate, but it should always be neat and clean. In all competitions, grooms shall wear a hat or protective headgear.

##### 1. Stable Livery consists of one of the following:

- a. A conservative suit, white shirt, dark tie, derby, dark shoes and leather gloves.
- b. A conservative jacket, jodhpurs or drill trousers, jodhpur or paddock boots, white shirt, stock or four-in-hand tie, leather gloves, derby or conservative cap.
- ~~c. Hunting attire with a hunting derby or bowler.~~
- d c. Full Livery consists of a close-fitting body coat with buttons of yellow or white metal to match the furnishings of the harness used (if possible), white breeches, black boots with tan tops, white stock, black top hat and brown leather gloves. The color of the coat remains the owner's preference, but preferred colors are conservative in nature and, where possible, complementary to the color of the vehicle.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/16/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Currently the rule for the Working class allows for a test to be called at the judge's discretion during a workout, but there are not supposed to be tests called for during a working class. This rule change removes the verbiage allowing for the use of tests during a workout in a working class.

## Proponent Details

Carriage Pleasure Driving

## Contact Information

Lexie Stovel

lstovel@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER CP-12 CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

### CP217 Working

(...)

3. All entries chosen for a workout may be worked both ways of the arena at any gait requested by the judge, and may be asked to execute appropriate tests.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/16/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Currently, in the Reinsmanship class, the rule allows for a judge to call for multiple tests during a workout. With the desire for more breed shows to add Carriage Pleasure Driving classes, having a judge do this would cause a show to run long. This rule change will allow for the judge to call for one appropriate test instead of multiple, improving competition scheduling.

## Proponent Details

Carriage Pleasure Driving

## Contact Information

Lexie Stovel

lstovel@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER CP-12 CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

### CP 221 Reinsmanship

(...)

3. All drivers chosen for a workout may be worked at any gait requested by the judge and may be asked to execute **an** appropriate tests.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/16/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

Currently in the definition and explanation of a reinback, there is unnecessary verbiage with terminology that is confusing to some exhibitors ("well in line"). This rule change simply removes the unnecessary verbiage from the rules regarding a reinback.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Carriage Pleasure Driving	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER CP-10 CLARIFICATION OF GAITS

### CP210 Description of Gaits

(...)

4. Reinback – Reinback is defined as a backward movement in which the legs are raised and set down simultaneously in diagonal pairs, ~~with the hind legs remaining well in line.~~ To be performed in two parts:

## SUBCHAPTER CP-20 GOVERNING REGULATIONS

### CP 505 Reinback

1. The reinback is a backward movement in which the feet are raised and set down simultaneously by diagonal pairs. ~~The feet should be well raised and the hind feet remain well in line.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/16/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

To bring the scoring of Driven Dressage in line with ridden Dressage by providing an easy to use and access template for each level that will help calculate a percentage score immediately at the competition by the scorers.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Carriage Pleasure Driving	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments



## SUBCHAPTER CP-20 GOVERNING REGULATIONS

### CP 522 Classification and Scoring

(...)

3. ~~At In Driven Dressage-only competitions classes, scores may must be shown as the average score minus the penalty points and/or at the discretion of the organizers, may be scored as in combined driving or shown in percentages as in ridden dressage competitions classes.~~ The formula to calculate the percentage score can be found on the Driven Dressage tests.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/21/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

Licensed Officials are a vital piece to our competitions, and as such should be accomodated whenever possible by the Organizing Committee. This rule change would require organizers to cover expenses and travel of Licensed Officials for Short Formats, Combined Tests, and Combined Driving Events.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Driving	Anna Brooks Thomas
	abthomas@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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### **DC966 Expenses**

The OC is responsible for the travel, meals and accommodations expenses of the Ground Jury, the Veterinary Commission, the Technical Delegate, and the Course Designer.

~~Exception: DC 966 does not apply to Short Format Driving Events.~~

### **DC967 Transportation during the Event**

If the situation necessitates, the OC must provide transportation for the President and Members of the Ground Jury, Veterinary Commission, Technical Delegate, and Course Designer.

~~Exception: DC 967 does not apply to Short Format Driving Events.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/21/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This rule addition submission adds in the required times for Para Driving competitors into the Cones course timetables.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Driving	Anna Brooks Thomas
	abthomas@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## DC958 Cones Competition

### 1.1.2 Paces

DIVISION		Single or Pair		Four-in-hand
Beginner/Training	VSE	150mpm		170mpm
	Horse/Pony	180mpm		190mpm
Preliminary	VSE	180mpm		170mpm
	Horse/Pony	200mpm		190mpm
Intermediate	VSE	190mpm		180mpm
	Horse/Pony	220mpm		210mpm
Advanced		Single	Pair	Four-in-Hand
	VSE	170mpm	170mpm	160mpm
	Pony	260mpm	250mpm	240mpm
	Horse	250mpm	250mpm	240mpm
<b>Para Driving</b>	<b>Horse/Pony</b>	<b>230mpm</b>		

- 1.1 Measurements for Closed Multiple obstacles, see Annexes.
- 1.2 Cones with reduced width: The width of up to five single obstacles can be reduced by 5 cm. for Pairs and Four-in-hand classes, and up to 10 single obstacles may be reduced by 5cm. for Single classes. Such obstacles will be marked differently (color of the cones).
- 1.3 Alternative options: A maximum of two single obstacles may offer an alternative single option (See Annex 7).
- 1.4 In Exceptional circumstances and in the interests of safety, the Ground Jury in consultation with the Course Designer and the Technical Delegate, may reduce the speed.
- 1.5 Drive-offs and Winning-Round: the obstacle width may be reduced up to 10 cm at the discretion of the Ground Jury in conjunction with the Course Designer and the Technical Delegate.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

To improve the language surrounding affixing portable obstacles to minimize the risk of movement. The current language's restrictions have a negative impact on risk management.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd  alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## EV145 Cross-Country Phase Obstacles

### 2. NATURE OF OBSTACLES.

a. The Obstacles must be fixed and imposing in shape and appearance. When natural Obstacles are used, they should, if necessary, be reinforced so they remain in the same state throughout the phase. All reasonable precautions must be taken to prevent the possibility of an Athlete being able to pass mounted under an obstacle. Portable fences ***should be affixed to the ground to minimize the risk of movement, rotating and/or tipping.*** ~~must be secured to the ground in a way that the fence cannot move.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

To align the FEI and National levels included in Loss of Qualification. The Modified level is not included in Loss of Qualification and for clarity and fairness to competitors, the proposed removes the FEI equivalent CCI1\*, so that the levels align.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd
	alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## EV109 Loss of Qualifications

For certain levels, Horses and Athletes must meet qualifying requirements, which are detailed in Appendix 2. Loss of these qualifications is outlined below and pertains to any combination of Federation and FEI Events.

1. LOSS OF QUALIFICATION (Preliminary/~~CCI1~~\* **CCI2**\* level and up) Loss of qualification will occur when penalties have been assessed during the Cross-Country phase of an Event as follows:

a. A Horse that is Eliminated, for Disobediences, three times within any 12-month period will lose its qualification to compete at the highest level at which an Elimination occurs.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

Effective 12/1/2024, adults may compete on ponies that are also being shown by a junior at the same competition. The language that is struck out in this rule change proposal aligns with the current rule (HU101) for adults showing ponies.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
National Hunter Committee	Jennifer Day
	jday@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## **HU144 Children's Hunter Sections**

1. If fence heights are changed to accommodate ponies in Children's Hunter classes, measurement cards in accordance with HJ127 are required for all entries.

### **2. Children's Hunter**

Competitions must offer Children's Hunter sections in accordance with the specifications of applicable USHJA Zone. The following specifications will apply for the Children's Hunter section unless addressed by specific USHJA Zone specifications (available at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org)):

a. To be ridden by exhibitors who have not reached their 18th birthday as of December 1 of the current competition year.

#### **b. Restrictions:**

1. Riders entered in Children's Hunter sections may not compete over fences in any other class at the same competition in which obstacles are required to exceed 3'3". (Exception: USHJA National Hunter Derby).

2. Horses and ponies entered in Children's Hunter classes may not cross enter into Junior Hunter 3'6" sections or Pony Hunter sections at the same competition.

3. Ponies shown in Children's Hunter Pony sections may ~~not~~ be shown by an adult at the same competition, ~~except in breeding classes in-hand.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is currently in effect via a Presidential Modification since August 2024. This rule change will reflect the Pres Mod verbiage into the rulebook. Being a current or retired member of the Armed Forces is an honor that should be recognized as such. These exhibitors are proud of their service to our country and should be able to display this through their attire while exhibiting their equine partner.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

### WD123 Attire

1. Required apparel:
  - a. Suitable western hat. Protective headgear may be worn without penalty. (see GR 801)
  - b. Long-sleeved shirt with any type of collar: short sleeves may be worn at the discretion of the judge.
  - c. Trousers, pants, a one-piece long sleeved equitation suit provided it includes a collar.
  - d. Boots. Tall English boots, clearly visible on the outside of the pants are not permitted.  
*Exception: Current and retired members of the Armed Services and police units may ride in the uniform of their service. All riders who choose to wear Armed Services or police uniforms must wear either the uniform's accompanying hat/head-cover or protective headgear. Members of the Armed Services or police units may wear summer uniforms at the discretion of the judge.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The committee would like to clarify that the use of colorful bridles, like those made of biothane or nylon, are permitted for use in Western Dressage classes, so long as they are still of a western-style.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

### WD121 Tack

1. Bridles:
  - a. Any western type headstall must be used. *This may include leather, leather-like, or nylon heads tails, any of which may be brightly colored.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The committee feels the current language regarding the Back can lead to confusion for competitors when completing the movement. The corrected language provides more clarification regarding the position of the horse during the back, and the correct method of performing a back series (or Swing).

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WD-2 GAITS

### WD107 The Back

(...)

3. Serious faults are: Anticipation of the movement, resistance to or evasion of the contact of the bit either by raising the neck, or going behind the bit, **or dropping the poll and neck below the withers**, deviation of the hindquarters from the straight line, spreading or inactive hind legs and dragging ~~fore feet~~ **feet**.
4. Steps are counted as each foreleg moves back. After completing the required number of steps backward, the horse should show a square stop or move forward in the required gait immediately. ~~In tests where a back of one horse's length is required, it should be executed with three or four steps.~~
5. A back series (**Swing**) is a combination of ~~two~~ **or more** backs with walk steps in between. It should be executed with fluent transitions and the required number of steps. **Except for the initial halt, a back series should be performed with continuous movement, with the horse stepping fluently forward into the required forward gait from the last step of the back.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The committee wishes to clarify that the reference to blood on the horse in WD128 is meant to refer to WD124, which specified "blood on a horse's mouth or sides".

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WD-7 COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

### WD128 Elimination

1. Horse and rider combinations shall be eliminated from the competition for "a, f and i" below; horse and rider combination shall be eliminated from the current or next class depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred for all others, under the following circumstances:

(...)

I. Evidence of blood on a horse's **mouth or sides** in the competition arena shall be cause for elimination from the class by the judge at "C". Evidence of blood on a horse's **mouth or sides** outside the competition arena shall be cause for elimination by competition management, after consultation with the steward, from either the last class in which the horse competed or next class in which it is scheduled to compete, depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred. Environmental causes such as insect bites shall normally not be cause for elimination.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This committee wishes to clarify that multiple styles of whip are permitted in Western Dressage.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel
	Istovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

### WD121 Tack

(...)

9. Whip: One *whip/bat/crop* no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm ) including lash, is permitted in all Classes/Tests.

## SUBCHAPTER WD-7 COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

### WD125 Warm Up Ring and Training Area

(...)

5. Only the following whips are permitted for schooling:

a. One *whip/bat/crop* no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm ), including lash, may be carried by the rider when mounted.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The committee wishes to clarify that bonnets and earmuffs are included as permitted equipment along with "Fly hoods", and subsequently wishes to remove earmuffs from the "exceptions for the warm-up ring" list.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

### WD121 Tack

(...)

9. **Bonnets/earmuffs**/fly hoods (ear covers) should be discreet in color and design and should not cover the horse's eyes.

## SUBCHAPTER WD-7 COMPETITION REQUIREMENTS

### WD125 Warm Up Ring and Training Area

1. The restrictions regarding Prohibited Equipment (see WD122) apply to warm-up and other training areas; however, training martingales (only with snaffle rein or plain snaffle bridle), boots, **and** bandages (without magnets) **and earmuffs** are permitted. A training martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth that does not provide downward pull; the extension of each strap must be connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side and must be free to slide. The rings through which the reins slide must be connected to a neck strap.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

As we review the 2024 Talent Search Finals and strive to improve the jumping programs and championships, removing the Talent Search Finals qualifying criteria, and requirements for officials from the rulebook will allow greater flexibility in adjusting the criteria used for Finals qualification, and selecting the most appropriate licensed officials, and guest judge for the Finals.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Jumper	Jennifer Haydon
	jhaydon@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments



## EQ 111 Requirements for Specific Classes

### 7. USEF SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH CLASS

#### ~~h. Qualifying For The Finals~~ **Talent Search Finals**

~~A graduated point scale based on difficulty and class specifications, a 3\* being the most difficult and a 1\* be the least difficult, will be used for Finals qualification.~~

Information about the USEF Show Jumping Talent Search Finals East and West, and qualifying procedures, **and requirements for officials**, for each can be found on the **USEF Federation's** web site by clicking [HERE](#). Qualifying procedures cannot be changed without the approval of the **USEF Federation's** Jumping Sport Committee following notification of USHJA of such changes.

#### ~~i. Talent Search Finals~~

~~The USEF SHOW JUMPING TALENT SEARCH FINALS will be judged by at least one judge who holds an 'R' Registered status in the Hunter Seat/Jumping Equitation Division. Additional individuals are eligible to judge with a guest card~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

This rule change proposal identifies parameters for types of spurs permitted. The language is based on the FEI Rule in Jumping Article 256.1.11

## Proponent Details

Jumper

## Contact Information

Jennifer Haydon

[jhaydon@usef.org](mailto:jhaydon@usef.org)

## Linked Rules

HU 106 (026-24), EQ 106 (025-24)

## Comments

## JP111 Tack and Attire

1. Martingales...

2. Whips...

*3. Spurs. Spurs must be made of smooth metal. Rowel spurs with serrated edges are not permitted. Hammer spurs are allowed. Smooth 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 and rounded. When mounted, athletes may wear only one spur on each boot.*

*[renumber]*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Flags mark the direction to be jumped and are not generally part of the obstacle to be scored. This proposal is for JP 124.4, JP 141.3 and JP 145.1

## Proponent Details

Jumper

## Contact Information

Jennifer Haydon

[jhaydon@usef.org](mailto:jhaydon@usef.org)

## Linked Rules

## Comments

#### JP124 Jump Equipment

4. Flags. All obstacles must be both flagged and numbered at competitions offering over \$2,500 in the Jumper Division. When flags are used at obstacles, they must be placed at the outside extremities of the elements to be jumped, the red flag on the right, white on the left. ***Only material (rails, gates, planks, walls, etc.) between the flags of an obstacle may be scored.***

#### JP141 Knockdowns

***3. Only material (rails, gates, planks, wall, etc.) between the flags of an obstacle (red on right, white on left) may be scored.***

#### JP145 Table of Jumping Faults

1. Knockdown:
  - a. Of obstacle or standard ***(jump material between the red and white flags)*** with any portion of horse, rider or equipment (excluding the horse's shoe/s when not attached), when jumping that obstacle,

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This will ensure results are correct in these rare situations.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Jumper	Jennifer Haydon
	<a href="mailto:jhaydon@usef.org">jhaydon@usef.org</a>

Linked Rules	Comments
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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 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.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Narrowing down what is permissible in the schooling area makes it clear for competitors and officials alike. Occasionally, people will come up with new materials (i.e. trellis, etc.) to bring into the schooling area. This would address all potential materials since it spells out exactly what is permitted rather than #22 which is broader.

## Proponent Details

Jumper

## Contact Information

Jennifer Haydon

jhaydon@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments



## USEF JUMPER SCHOOLING RULES

**21. Only a Liverpool or materials used to simulate a Liverpool that are provided by Management may be used. Blankets, coolers, tarps, or other materials used to simulate a Liverpool must not be placed on the ground in front of or under a jump.**

**22. A** ~~If an item (blanket, cooler, or tarp may be etc.) is laid over the rail of a vertical or an oxer. If laid over an oxer, the blanket, cooler, or tarp~~ it must only be laid over the front rail **or rails**. ~~If there is more than one rail on the front of the oxer the item may be laid over any of those rails.~~

~~22. The use of materials, which prove hazardous is forbidden.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

To increase the maximum length of toe of Classic Pleasure horses from 4 1/2 inches to 4 3/4 inches for the health and welfare of larger horses.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AMHA	Ashton Street
	astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER MO-1 GENERAL

### MO103 Shoeing Regulations

(...)

4. In Classic Pleasure classes the length of toe must not exceed  $4\frac{1}{2}$   ~~$\frac{3}{4}$~~   $\frac{3}{4}$ " including pads and shoes.

(...)

## SUBCHAPTER MO-12 MORGAN EQUITATION

### MO162 Morgan Saddle Seat Classic Equitation

(...)

2. Riders must be mounted on a Morgan horse eligible to compete as a Classic horse. The length of toe must not exceed  $4\frac{1}{2}$   ~~$\frac{3}{4}$~~   $\frac{3}{4}$ " including pads and shoes.

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Most references to USEF High Performance classes and championships are proposed to be removed from the rule book and included only in qualifying documents for those competitions. The language 'USEF High Performance' is outdated and no longer in use.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore
	lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
DR 119 (178-24), DR 119 (180-24), DR 126 (182-24), DR 128 (183-24), DR 129 (184-24), DR 122 (191-24), DR 121 (194-24), DR 121 (196-24)	

#### **DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions.**

1. Dressage classes are open to riders on horses, mules and/or ponies of any origin. ***Qualifying criteria for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, or selection trials and classes designated as qualifying classes for international competition, available on the Federation's website, may limit participation of mules and ponies.*** except that ponies or mules may not be ridden in USEF High Performance National Championships and USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. Mules and/or ponies are also ineligible to compete in (1) any other classes designated as qualifying or selection classes for international or international high performance competition (except championships for FEI Pony Riders), and (2) championships where such participation is prohibited in the championship selection procedures.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Riding Hors de Concours should not be permitted in some qualifying and championship classes because it is critical that a level playing field be maintained for all riders in these classes.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

## Linked Rules

DR 119 (177-24), DR 119 (180-24), DR 126 (182-24), DR 128 (183-24), DR 129 (184-24), DR 122 (191-24), DR 121 (194-24), DR 121 (196-24)

## Comments

#### **DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions**

5. Only with the permission of competition management may a horse/rider combination enter a class Hors de Concours. Such entries must pay the full entry fee but scores for these entries will not be published or recorded, nor shall they count towards any prizes, placings or year-end awards. Said permission must be granted prior to the start of the class(es) involved. Hors de Concours entries must follow all Federation General and Dressage Division rules that apply to other entries in the same class, except as described below. Having competed Hors de Concours at a competition, a horse is no longer eligible for further prizes, awards or placings at that competition except in situations of emergency substitutions of judges. Hors de Concours entries are not permitted in Federation/USDF Championship **or NAYC qualifying and championship** classes.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

It isn't possible to describe every example of tack and/or materials used to create tack because people come up with new tack and contraptions all the time. Therefore, this rule is written to cover more than what can be listed in the rulebook which will support Stewards and CSSs in their roll in preventing the use of this tack and contraptions that are contrary to the welfare of the horse.

## Proponent Details

Jumper

## Contact Information

Jennifer Haydon

jhaydon@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments



## USEF JUMPER SCHOOLING RULES

~~22. The use of materials, which prove hazardous is forbidden.~~ ***Any tack used in an unconventional manner or considered against the welfare of the horse will incur possible elimination from the class (upcoming or class in progress) or disqualification from the show. Items such as cables, wire, exposed chains, or unconventional materials are prohibited (curb chains used in the conventional manner are excluded).***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

References to USEF High Performance classes, Development programs and Emerging programs will be removed from the rule book. Program information, which is periodically updated, resides in the USEF Dressage Program Pathway document posted on the Federation website.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

## Linked Rules

DR 119 (177-24), DR 119 (178-24), DR 126 (182-24), DR 128 (183-24), DR 129 (184-24), DR 122 (191-24), DR 121 (194-24), DR 121 (196-24)

## Comments

## DR119 Participation in Dressage Competitions

**11. Qualifying criteria or selection procedures for U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, and USDF Championships, as published on the Federation's website, may include exceptions to Federation rules.** Definitions for the USEF High Performance Program, USEF Development Dressage Program and USEF Emerging Program:

**a. USEF HIGH PERFORMANCE DRESSAGE PROGRAM:** The purpose of this classification is to develop and implement the USOPC Strategic High Performance Plan (HPP) with the goal of selecting athletes and/or teams and maximizing the performance of these athletes and/or teams at Olympic, Pan American and World Championship competition and other designated international events. The USEF High Performance (HP) Dressage Program includes the USEF High Performance Dressage National Championships at the Intermediaire I and Grand Prix Levels, as well as qualifying and selection trials for those events. Published qualifying criteria for these championships take precedence over other published rules.

**b. USEF DEVELOPMENT DRESSAGE PROGRAM:** The purpose of this classification is to identify and recognize developing athlete and equine talent for the discipline of dressage. The USEF Development Dressage Program includes the USEF Grand Prix Dressage National Championship, USEF Intermediaire I Dressage National Championship, USEF Young Adult National Dressage Championship, and the USEF Developing Horse National Dressage Championships. These Championships and classes designated as qualifying for these Championships are not considered High Performance and therefore are not subject to rules applicable to High Performance classes unless otherwise specifically stated in the qualifying or selection procedures for these Championships. Published qualifying criteria for these championships take precedent over other published rules.

**c. USEF EMERGING DRESSAGE PROGRAMS:**

The purpose of this classification is to identify and recognize emerging athlete and equine talent for the discipline of dressage. The USEF Emerging Dressage Programs includes the USEF Young Horse Dressage National Championships, USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship, USEF Children Dressage National Championship, USEF Junior Dressage National Championship, and USEF Young Rider Dressage National Championship. These Championships and classes designated as qualifying for these Championships are not considered High Performance or Development programs and therefore are not subject to rules applicable to these classes unless otherwise specifically stated in the qualifying or selection procedures for these Championships. Published qualifying criteria for these championships take precedence over other published rules.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Delete rule that applies FEI "Blood" rules to all High Performance qualifying classes, selection trials and championships - the references to USEF High Performance classes are proposed to be removed from the rule book and this section of the rule would no longer be applicable.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

#### **DR124 Elimination**

6. For USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials only: If the Judge at "C" suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, they will stop the horse to check for blood. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the Judge through examination clarifies that the horse has no fresh blood, the horse may resume and finish its test. If the Equipment Check Steward, working at the direction of the Technical Delegate discovers fresh blood in the horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs during the equipment check at the end of the test, they inform the Judge at "C", who will eliminate the competitor. If there is blood elsewhere on the horse, the Technical Delegate will inform the Judge at "C". The majority of the veterinary panel is to be called to recommend if the horse is fit to continue in subsequent classes for which it is eligible. The Judge at "C" will make a decision on the horse's fitness to continue, based on the veterinary panel's advice. If the Judge at "C" decides the horse is not fit to continue, the horse will not be permitted to take part in any further competition(s) or tests at the Event, but the result(s) obtained by the athlete/horse combination in any competition(s) or tests already completed shall stand. Refer to Selection Procedures for the current championship year requirements.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

References to USEF High Performance classes are proposed to be removed from the rule book. The language 'USEF High Performance' is outdated and no longer in use.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore
	lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
DR 119 (177-24), DR 119 (178-24), DR 119 (180-24), DR 128 (183-24), DR 129 (184-24), DR 122 (191-24), DR 121 (194-24), DR 121 (196-24)	

## DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management

2.a.4. Where more than 25 entries are accepted for a particular class the class must be divided into separate divisions for awards purposes. USEF/USDF and other regional or local championship classes and ~~USEF High Performance Championships~~ **U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, their respective** qualifying **classes** and selection trials cannot be split.

.....  
2.f.10. A modified arena is one that is not exactly 20x60 meters or 20x40 meters, as required for the particular level and test. Use of a modified arena is permitted only for Level 1-2 competitions and only when the dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list. When a modified arena is used, it must not be shortened more than five meters in length or more than two meters in width. However, for all competition levels, **USEF/USDF Qualifying classes and Championships, USEF Festival of Champions High Performance classes and their qualifiers, Championships, qualifying and selection trials, and Freestyle classes** must be held in an unmodified standard size arena

.....  
3.a.1. Dressage Competitions or Regular or Local Competitions with open dressage classes must be categorized into one of five levels based on classes offered and mandatory criteria for each level:  
a. Level 5 - required for CDIs/CPEDIs, ~~USEF High Performance Selection Trials (Intermediaire I-Grand Prix, Para Dressage) and USEF National Championships~~ **and other designated competitions**.  
b. Level 4 - required for USEF/USDF Regional Championships, ~~High Performance qualifying competitions held separately from CDIs, and other competitions as required or as approved by the Federation (and USDF when required), upon application.~~  
c. Level 3 - required for ~~USEF Developing Program~~ **national** qualifying competitions and other competitions as required or as .....  
2. Holding classes of a lower level is optional at competition Levels 3-5.  
a. Standards for all non-CDI/CPEDI classes at a Level 5 competition must be Level 3 or higher.  
b. At a Level 4 competition, Level 4 standards are required for ~~High Performance Federation and Regional Championship classes; standards for all other classes must be at Level 3 or higher.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Update to current wording of the 24-hour rule for USEF qualifying classes, selection trials and championships. This update makes it clear that for the purposes of the rule, the competition starts when the horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds and clarifies the qualifying and championship classes in which it is applied.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

## Linked Rules

DR 119 (177-24), DR 119 (178-24), DR 119 (180-24), DR 126 (182-24), DR 129 (184-24), DR 122 (191-24), DR 121 (194-24), DR 121 (196-24)

## Comments



## DR128 USEF National Championships

**2.24 Hour Rule - For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds.**

**a.** For Federation **and NAYC** qualifying for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders **Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, Developing Horse** and **Brentina Cup (Young Adults) U25**: within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF Qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF championship qualifying purposes. **Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein.**

**b.** For USEF **and NAYC** championships for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders, **Grand Prix, Intermediaire I, Developing Horse, Young Horse** and **U25: Brentina Cup (Young Adults)** within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF **or NAYC** Championship class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse under penalty of elimination from the USEF championships. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. ~~For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds. This rule also applies for NAYC and USEF High Performance (HP) qualifying competitions and classes.~~

.....  
4. Qualifying scores for USEF National Championships **and NAYC**, including Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders, **U25 Brentina Cup (Young Adults)**, Young and Developing Horse, ~~and High Performance (Intermediate~~ **Intermediaire I** and **Grand Prix**), **and Para Dressage**, must be submitted by Competition Management to the Federation Dressage Department within 48 hours after the competition. Exception: Competitions held at the end of the qualifying period require submission of results within 24 hours after the competition. ~~This rule also applies to NAYC qualifying classes.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Update to current wording for USEF qualifying classes, selection trials and championships. References to USEF High Performance language are proposed to be removed from the rulebook, as this language is outdated and no longer in use.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

Lauren Moore

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## Linked Rules

DR 119 (177-24), DR 119 (178-24), DR 119 (180-24), DR 126 (182-24), DR 128 (183-24), DR 122 (191-24), DR 121 (194-24), DR 121 (196-24)

## Comments

**DR129 Musical Freestyle Ride**

6.e. Under penalty of elimination at the discretion of the judge at "C", a rider must enter the arena within 30 seconds of the music starting. ~~Exception: For USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, see DR122.5.~~ The music must cease at the final salute.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The proposed changes to the Dressage Seat Equitation chapter clarify that some rules apply both to standard Dressage Seat Equitation classes as well as Semi-Finals and Finals classes. It also clarifies that the sitting trot may be required in a Dressage Seat Equitation class, removes some outdated language, and updates other rules.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

Lauren Moore

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

### DR133 Dressage Seat Equitation

1. Dressage Seat Equitation classes. May be offered for Juniors, Young Riders, Adult Amateurs and/or Open riders according to the following specifications:

- a. Medium walk, working trot (**sitting and rising**) and **working** canter both ways of the ring must be performed. Equitation classes may also be offered that are limited to medium walk and working trot (**rising**). Dressage Seat Equitation classes may be held as Opportunity classes as specified in GR 821.2e. The rider's position, seat and specifically the correct use and effect of the aids required by the Training and First Level Dressage tests are to be judged as outlined in DR117.1.
- b. The movements shall be performed by the exhibitors simultaneously; however, the judge may ask for independent tests as listed below in DR133.2.i(4)-2.i(5).
- c. No change of horses shall be required.

**d. Dressage Division rules will apply, in particular:**

- i. Saddlery, Equipment and Dress as required for First Level.**
- ii. Unauthorized Assistance as defined in DR122.10 is prohibited.**
- iii. Use of voice will be penalized.**
- iv. Horses may be eliminated for lameness, as defined in DR122.6.**
- v. Elimination, as defined in DR124.2, except for .e, .h and .m.**

e. Whips and spurs are allowed. Horses shall be shown in plain snaffle. **Tailcoats are not permitted.**

f. The size of a group shall be limited to no more than 25 riders. Groups may be divided into smaller sections, at the discretion of the judges, for safety and convenience. Judges may limit the number of horses required to canter at the same time, at their discretion, **however no more than six horses shall be asked to canter at the same time if classes are held in a dressage arena.**

g. Only the rider is judged, ~~however, lameness of horses will be penalized per DR122.6.~~

h. Prizes are awarded to the rider, not the horse owner.

i. Two numbers (min. 3"x5") must be provided to Equitation riders and they must be positioned on each side of the saddle pad to be clearly visible at all times.

j. Judges are required to give a final percentage score to all riders competing in the class.

k. USEF Dressage Seat Equitation scoresheets must be used.

l. Stallions may not be ridden in Dressage Seat Equitation classes. **Exception: classes limited to riders ages 19 and older.**

m. Classes should be held in an enclosed ring that is larger than a standard dressage arena, if available. If such a space is not available, an open schooling area is permitted. If classes must be held in a dressage arena, it must be at least 20m x 60m, and no more than 6 horses shall be asked to canter at the same time.

n. Judges are encouraged to provide verbal comments to riders after the class, but scoresheets must not be posted.

### 2. Dressage Seat Medal Program

a. The purpose of the program is to promote and reward correct seat, position and use of aids in dressage for Junior riders.

b. Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Final Classes will be offered for Juniors in each of the nine USEF/USDF Regional Championships. One Semi-Finals class will be offered for Juniors ages thirteen and under and a second Semi-Finals class will be offered for Juniors ages fourteen through eighteen. A Regional Champion and Regional Reserve Champion will be named from each Semi-Finals class in each USDF region.

c. The top two riders in each Semi-Finals class will qualify to advance to the annual Federation Dressage Seat Medal Finals, which will be held in conjunction with the Federation Junior Dressage Team Championship or other designated competition. In case one of the top two riders in either Semi-Finals class does not compete in the Finals, the third placed rider in the respective class will be allowed to compete. Two finals classes will be held; one for Juniors age thirteen and under, and the other for Juniors age fourteen through eighteen. A National Champion and National Reserve Champion will be named from each Finals class.

d. Juniors who are named Regional Champions and Reserve Champions at age 13 or 18 will be eligible for the next year's final in the respective age group in which they qualified.

e. Federation Dressage Seat Medal Semi-Finals and Finals classes must be held on a weekend.

f. Qualification.

1. ~~Prior to 2012, Semi-Finals riders must have qualified to compete in the Semi-Finals according to the~~

~~criteria approved by the Federation Board of Directors. Effective August 1, 2011 for 2012 Semi-Finals and thereafter,~~  
~~R. Riders must qualify for the Semi-Finals according to criteria established by USDF and approved by the Federation Board of Directors. The criteria listed below in 2.f.(2)-2.f.(4) apply under both qualifying methods.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The intent of this rule change is to adopt some FEI fees for USEF levels in national competitions. Additional references to USEF High Performance classes are proposed to be removed as this language is outdated and no longer in use.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore
	lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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#### **DR135 Pony Measurement**

4.a.3. 3. Only one total maximum fee of ~~\$150~~ \$100 per measurement can be charged when measurements are conducted during a time when the competition veterinarian is on call and only one total maximum fee of ~~\$50~~ \$25 per measurement can be charged when the competition veterinarian is on the grounds. If the maximum fee is paid to the veterinarian, neither management nor the veterinarian may charge an additional fee amount. The competition veterinarian shall agree not to charge more than the maximum fees stated above. The total fee paid to the veterinarian and the competition shall not exceed ~~\$150~~ \$100 /animal when the veterinarian is on call and shall not exceed ~~\$50~~ \$25 animal when the veterinarian is on the grounds.



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Update judging procedures for DSHB in-hand classes. Horses often get loose when showing in DSHB "in-hand" classes and can be hard to catch when the triangle is not enclosed in a fenced area or indoor arena.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

Lauren Moore

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## DR209 Conduct of Classes

2. Horses being shown in-hand in groups.

a. Groups will be examined one group at a time, but not necessarily on the triangle. The judge must require all horses in the group to move at the walk and trot, either in line or moving around the arena. Horses shall stand for conformation judging before and/or after completion of the horse's movement.

3. *Horses being shown individually in hand or in groups may be asked to stand for conformation judging either by standing for the judge to move around the horse or by the judge remaining stationary (~~standing or seated~~ at a safe distance) and the handler turning the horse as instructed by the judge so that the horse can be judged on each side, from the front and from the back.*

4. ~~b.~~ The Judging Triangle: Two basic triangle designs are acceptable for presenting horses to the judge. Competition management may choose the triangle best suited for local conditions. Triangle corners should be well defined. Footing must be firm. Decorative fencing, plants or flowers are allowed. (Horses must travel to the right. The following diagram shows suggested use of triangle). The size of either triangle may be adjusted to meet local conditions, however, the back side of the triangle must be at least 25 meters in length and the other two sides must be at least 20 meters in length. *The triangle must be located within an enclosed area that can be accessed by one or more gates at least one entrance.*

5. ~~3.~~ Under Saddle and Materiale classes. Depending on local conditions, these classes may be divided at the judge's discretion. See DR202.10 *and DR204.2d.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/28/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

This rule change will protect the Junior/Amateur section from CSI5\* Athletes dipping back into this section where they could have an advantage from competing at the highest level of the sport (CSI5\* level).

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Jumper	Jennifer Haydon  jhaydon@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

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

### 5. 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 ~~CS15\*~~, CS14\*, 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 CS15\* is ineligible to compete in a Junior and/or Amateur Jumper class at that same competition.***

***[re-letter]***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/29/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The purpose of the rule change to DR125 and DR126 is to identify current needs and trends in the sport and development of new best practices.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore
	lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## DR125 Competition Licensing and Officials

3. Ground Jury. The invited judges compose the Ground Jury and must be selected from the current Roster of Recognized Dressage judges.
4. A Technical Delegate must be selected from the current Roster of Dressage Technical Delegates to officiate at all Dressage competitions, ~~and~~ Regular and Local Competitions offering "open" Dressage Division classes (i.e., classes which are not limited to certain breeds), ~~or~~ **and breed restricted** classes above ~~Third~~ **Fourth** Level **at Breed Restricted Competitions**. (Exception: A C2 Steward may officiate through Fourth Level of breed restricted Dressage classes at Licensed Breed Restricted Competitions and a dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate may officiate for any level Dressage class.) Open or breed restricted, at Licensed Breed Restricted Competition. All Open Dressage classes must be completed prior to the start of any other classes. When a dually licensed C2 Steward/Dressage Technical Delegate is officiating, the Open Dressage classes must be their sole responsibility until those classes are complete. At breed and multi-breed competitions, if there are additional non-Open Dressage classes occurring at the same time as the Open Dressage classes, a separate Dressage Technical Delegate must officiate for the Open Dressage classes. Horses competing in Open Dressage classes may not compete in any other divisions or classes on the same day(s) and are subject to all DR Chapter rules from the time of their arrival until the end of competition day. A Registered Dressage Technical Delegate must officiate at Level 4 and Level 5 Dressage Competitions. A Recorded Dressage Technical Delegate may officiate as the assistant to the Registered Technical Delegate(s) at Level 4 and Level 5 Dressage Competitions, and may officiate alone at Levels 1-3 Dressage Competitions. ***At least one Dressage Technical Delegate, who is officiating at the competition as a Dressage Technical Delegate, must be present on the show grounds for the Jog at an FEI licensed Dressage Event.***
5. Veterinarians.
  - a. Every Dressage Competition must have a qualified veterinarian present throughout the competition if the number of horses competing the previous year is 250 horses or higher. Exception: All USEF/USDF Regional Championships must have a veterinarian present on the grounds throughout the competition regardless of the number of horses competing. In the year after a competition has hosted a USEF/USDF Regional Championship, a veterinarian will be required to be present only if 250 or more horses competed the year prior to hosting the championship.
  - b. Level 4 and Level 5 Dressage Competitions must have a veterinarian present on the grounds throughout the competition regardless of the number of horses competing.
  - c. For purposes of this rule, the veterinarian must be present on the grounds designated for the Dressage Competition per DR126.1.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The purpose of the rule change to DR125, DR126 and the Levels Chart is to identify current needs and trends in the sport and the development of new best practices for competition management and officials.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore
	lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management

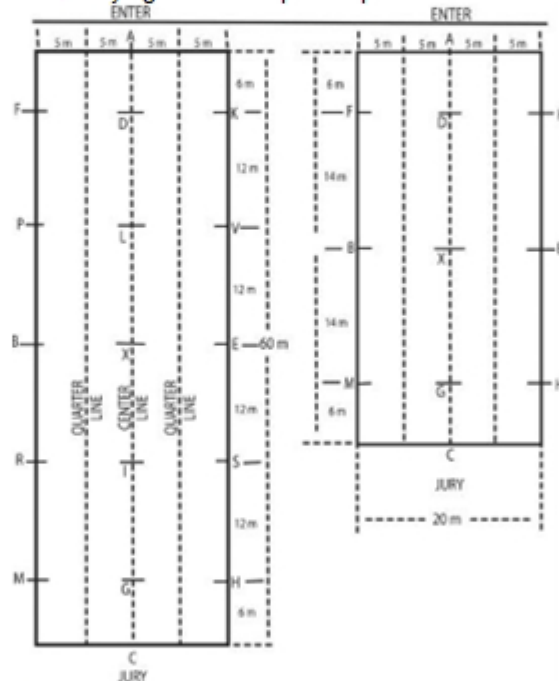
1. Designated competition grounds, exercise, and training areas. Horses may only be exercised and ridden in management-designated areas on the competition grounds. Management must post a map in the show office outlining the "designated competition grounds" where horses may be ridden and exercised. Any restricted areas must also be noted. Under no circumstance is it allowed to school horses in the stables.
2. The following requirements apply to all Levels 1-5 of Dressage Competitions, except where noted. Specific requirements for specific levels of competitions are listed under .2, below.
  - a. Competition Levels, Divisions and Classes.
    1. The competition Level and all classes must be listed in the prize list.
    2. When permitted by the rules or special criteria, classes may be divided into separate divisions or sections based on qualifications, age or other eligibility of horses or riders.
    3. Divisions or sections of a class are considered to be a separate "class" only if listed as such in the prize list. Divisions or sections of a class may be held in different rings and judged by different judges. When divisions or sections are held under different conditions (i.e, different ring or judges), separate awards must be given.
    4. Where more than 25 entries are accepted for a particular class the class must be divided into separate divisions for awards purposes. USEF/USDF and other regional or local championship classes and USEF High Performance Championships, qualifying and selection trials cannot be split.
    5. When entries warrant competitions are encouraged to split classes into separate divisions, and to provide separate awards, for Open riders, Adult Amateurs, and Junior/Young Riders **or other divisions**, Horses may be ridden only once in any class, including separate divisions or sections of the same class. See DR119.1.
  - b. Competition Schedule.
    1. A tentative class schedule must be included in the prize list.
    2. Organizers must prepare a time schedule including all rides. If possible, competitors should be notified of their riding times prior to arrival at the competition.
    3. The time schedule must be posted in electronic format and/or in an area where social distancing can be adhered to by noon the day before the competition. The method to be utilized for posting the time schedule must be printed in the prize list. Ride times may not be changed after noon the day before the start of the entire competition, except in compliance with GR830.5. Competitions may reserve the right to fill a competitor's subsequent ride times if that competitor fails to notify the competition secretary of their intention to scratch (i.e. is a "no show").
    4. Dressage classes must be run in their entirety and rides may only be scheduled out of sequence to allow a reasonable interval between two or more horses entered by the same rider in the same class or in different classes. Also, when preparing a time schedule consideration must be given to riders entered in more than one class or riding more than one horse. At least 50 minutes must be scheduled between start times for a rider's tests on different horses **and at least 25 minutes scheduled between start times for a rider on the same horse** unless they have agreed, in writing, to a shorter interval between tests. Time intervals should be allowed between rides for judge's breaks and awards presentations.
    5. If Grand Prix Freestyle and/or Grand Prix Special classes are offered at a competition, at least one Grand Prix class must be offered and scheduled prior to the Freestyle and the



- Special (i.e., only one Grand Prix is required to be offered and scheduled prior to the Freestyle and Special in a multi-day competition).
6. If a competitor cannot show due to a change in the day a competitor must ride, their entry fees must be refunded.
- c. Arena Specifications.
1. The arena should be on as flat and as level ground as possible. It is recommended that the difference in elevation across the diagonal or along the length of the arena shall not exceed 0.60 meters. It is recommended that the difference in elevation along the short side of the arena shall not exceed 0.20 meters.
  2. The Standard Arena is 60 meters long and 20 meters wide. The Small Arena is 40 meters long and 20 meters wide. Arena measurements are for the interior of the enclosure.
  3. The enclosure itself must consist of a low fence about 0.3 meters high and must be completely enclosed, except for the entrance at "A". The width of the entrance must be at least two meters **and no greater than four meters**.
  4. The fence should be such to prevent the horse's hooves from becoming entangled and arena stakes, if used, must be covered with a ball or similar object so as to prevent injury. Rope, concrete or unbreakable chain fencing is not allowed.
  5. The part of the fence at A should be easy to remove to let the competitors in and out of the arena in a suitable way. The part of the fence at A can remain open except each Federation/USDF Regional Championship may elect to close the gate for championship classes. Decisions to either close the gate or leave it open must be consistent for all championship classes in that competition. Each Federation/USDF Regional Championship competition management must publish in its official prize list if the gate will be closed in championship classes. The gate must be closed for Federation/USDF National Championship and Federation National Championship classes.
  6. Except for the letter "A", the letters outside the enclosure should be placed about 0.5 meters from the fence and clearly marked. So that the judges can note the exact point on the track opposite each letter, it is compulsory to place a marker on the fence itself, level with and in addition to the letter concerned. It is not permitted to place the letters on the arena fence, however, one-sided (flat) letters may be placed on the wall of an indoor arena when such an arena is permitted under (7) through (9) below. The letter A should be placed at least five meters away from the arena.
  7. No publicity is permitted anywhere on the **dressage** arena fence **except in Level 5 classes at Level 5 competitions**. It is permissible to decorate the letters with flowers or greenery to enhance the appearance of the arena, however, letters must be visible from all sides at Level 3-5 competitions.
  8. It is recommended that arenas be separated from the public (people, horses and other activities) by a distance of not less than 15 meters, with a minimum allowed distance at any point around the arena of 3 meters. For indoor competitions, the recommended minimum distance from the public is 3 meters, with a minimum allowed distance at any point around the arena of 1.5 meters. For Level 1 and Level 2 competitions, where tall solid walls preclude public access or visibility, arenas are exempt from this requirement. Indoor and outdoor arenas must be separated by a minimum of 5 meters at Level 3-5 competitions and 2 meters at Level 1-2 competitions.
  9. Where severe inclement weather threatens to disrupt participation in the competition due to concerns for footing or safety, Level 3-5 competitions are permitted to follow the same arena specifications as **for Level 1-2 competitions** as in #8, above.
  10. A modified arena is one that is not exactly 20x60 meters or 20x40 meters, as required for

the particular level and test. Use of a modified arena is permitted only for Level 1-2 competitions and only when the dimensions of the arena to be used are clearly specified in the prize list. When a modified arena is used, it must not be shortened more than five meters in length or more than two meters in width. **Arenas must never be shortened between M, F, H and K, and their respective corners.** However, for all competition levels, Qualifying, Championship, USEF High Performance Championships, qualifying and selection trials and Freestyle classes must be held in an unmodified standard size arena.

11. Entry and exit must be at "A" for Level 3, 4 and 5 competitions. For Level 1-3 2 competitions: If competitors enter and exit at any location other than "A", the arena fence must be completely closed for the duration of the ride.
12. For all classes or tests, **excluding Materiale and Equitation**, where the arena size is optional or may be modified, the size must be stated in the prize list.
13. The following tests and classes must be held in a Standard Arena:
  - a. First Level Dressage tests and above, FEI Dressage tests; and musical freestyles, except those tests written for a small arena.
  - b. USEF/USDF Qualifying and Championship Classes at all levels.



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14. At the discretion of competition management, all tests for Para Dressage may be ridden in a Standard arena. (Exception: Grade I - III freestyle tests must be held in a small arena. Grade IV - V freestyle tests must be held in a standard arena.) The arena sizes to be used must be indicated in the prize list. For the USEF National Para Dressage Championships and Para Dressage Selection Trials, all tests for Grades I - III must be ridden in a small arena and Grades IV - V must be ridden in a standard size arena.
- d. Footing Maintenance.
  1. Competition management must make every effort to provide the best possible footing in competition and schooling areas.
  2. Provisions should be made (by having on hand proper equipment and scheduling sufficient breaks in the schedule) to maintain throughout the competition the footing in all riding areas by dragging, watering and, if necessary, raking.



e. Location of Judges.

1. If there is only one judge, they are preferably placed a maximum of five meters and minimum of three meters from the end of the arena and must be opposite the letter C. Except in Young Horse Tests, when two judges are used one is placed at C and the other at B or E, preferably a maximum of five meters and minimum of three meters opposite the letter. When three judges are used, one is placed at C, the second at B or E, and the third must be placed at the end of the arena on a line with the judge at C and 2.5 meters in from the edge of the long side of the arena at H or M (If the second judge is at B, the third should be at H and vice versa). If this is not possible, judges should be placed at the end of the arena, one at C, one 2.5 meters in from the long side of the arena at M, and the other 2.5 meters from the long side of the arena at H.
2. At indoor competitions, judges must be placed a minimum of 3 meters from the arena, unless modifications are permitted by application to the Federation Dressage Sport Committee.
3. Except in Young Horse tests a separate enclosure (booth, tent, trailer) or platform for indoor classes must be provided for each judge.
4. Each judges booth or platform must be raised at least 0.5 meters (20 inches), for Freestyle Tests possibly a little higher above the ground to give the Judge(s) a good view of the ring.
5. The booth/hut/platform must be large enough to accommodate three people except that the booth at C must accommodate four people for Young Horse Championship classes.
6. Judges' booths placed at E and B must be equipped with side windows.
7. **Judge booths or platforms must be separated from other arenas by a minimum distance of 3 meters.**
8. The jury for the FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses and USEF Dressage Test for 4- year old horses must be seated together at "C" and may comprise a maximum of three judges. (Exception: See Selection Procedures for the USEF National Championships for Young Horses for the number and placement of judges in the Young Horse championship competition.) The number

and placement of judges in classes and championships for FEI 7-year-old horses must be as described in DR122.43 ~~.14-15~~ or, if applicable, the Selection Procedures for the World Breeding Championships for 7-year-old horses. **See DR122.17 for placement of Judges for the FEI Children Classes.** Judge booths or platforms must be separated from other arenas by a minimum distance of 3 meters.

f. Judges and Technical Delegates.

1. No judge shall be required to officiate longer than 8 hours (**actual judging time**) in one day, unless the judge has agreed in writing, and cannot be required to be on the competition grounds longer than 10 hours.
2. Judges must be given at least a 45-minute lunch break and at least a 10 minute break every 2 hours.
3. Judges and technical delegates are not to be housed in private homes unless the judge or technical delegate has agreed to it prior to the competition.
4. Judges' comments, while judging, may not be audio-recorded without prior written permission of the judge(s), the specific competitor(s) and management.
5. Judges and Technical Delegates are required to provide email addresses to management for communication of officiating agreements, prize lists and other information related to the competition.

g. Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas.

1. Tack Inspections. Inspection of saddlery and equipment (except bits) must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. Ring stewards appointed by competition management

are required to inspect the saddlery, dress and equipment worn by at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. In championship classes, saddlery, dress and equipment inspections are required for each horse. When an inspection is conducted, all equipment including fly hoods, nosebands, curb chains, whips, bits, and spurs on both sides must be inspected. The ring steward must also inspect the horse for evidence of blood.

- 1.a. Exhibitors must present bridles and bits, if and when requested, to the technical delegate for inspection utilizing the methods, timeframe(s) and location(s) identified by competition management with the agreement of the technical delegate. These methods must be communicated to the competitors prior to the start of the competition. The technical delegate must inspect at least 50% of the bits and bridles of horses entered in the competition. Technical Delegates must also conduct random ringside bit checks immediately after rides are completed, some of which can be included in the 50%, using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse.
- 1.b. Inspection of saddlery and equipment is not required nor advised for group classes such as Dressage Seat Equitation and Materiale. When close inspection of saddlery, bits and equipment is required in order to determine compliance with DR 121 or other equipment provisions, a TD shall accompany the horse to its stall, trailer or other designated area to conduct such equipment inspections.
- 1.c. In Breed restricted classes at Regular competitions, a ring steward, at the direction of the technical delegate or C2 Steward (if eligible for the classes held), will do a hands-on inspection of saddlery and equipment including bits of at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena. New disposable protective gloves must be utilized with one on each hand for each horse.
- 1.d. When non-permitted bits, saddlery, or equipment are identified prior to the horse having worn the non-permitted items, there will be no elimination. Elimination will occur only when the horse is wearing non-permitted items or they are identified immediately after use.
2. When a competition operates two or more rings or warmup areas, the competition must have a sufficient number of stewards to adequately monitor all schooling and warmup areas, as well as competition rings.
3. Schooling and warmup areas must be monitored by stewards starting at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled ride.
4. **Bit Equipment** inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. Gloves must be provided by competition management. The bridle must be checked with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their **heads and** mouths.
5. When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the Federation Dressage Department prior to the competition.
6. In USEF/USDF Championship classes, a steward must be appointed to check the saddlery and bits of each horse immediately after it has completed its test and has left the arena, and any discrepancy to the saddlery rules will entail immediate elimination. (See DR126.2.i.1)
- h. Scribes.
  1. Scribes should have a knowledge of the tests being ridden.
  2. **At Level 1 and 2 competitions, scribes** (including electronic scribes) **must should** not be an owner, coach, trainer or family member of a competitor/horse in the



- class(es) in which they are scribing. **At Level 3 and above competitions, scribes (including electronic scribes) must not be an owner, coach, trainer or family member of a competitor/horse in the class(es) in which they are scribing.**
3. Scribe changes should not be made more than once per day for each judge.
  4. It is strongly recommended that scribes not compete before judges with whom they have worked at the same competition. Apprentices are prohibited from competing before judges with whom they apprentice at the same competition.
  5. First-time scribes must not be assigned to foreign judges or judges for FEI level classes.
  6. Scribes. Only one scribe to be provided for the judging panel for the FEI Dressage Tests for 4-year old, 5-year old and 6-year old horses and the USEF Dressage Test for 4-year old horses.
- i. Schooling and Lungeing.
1. One or more schooling areas must be provided far enough away from the arena(s) so as not to disturb the competitors during their tests. Schooling areas must be of sufficient size for several competitors to prepare their horses at the same time. For competition Levels 3-5, the sum of the warmup space, excluding the perimeter around competition arenas, must be at least 80% of the sum of the areas of all competition arenas (20x60 and/or 20x40 m). Lungeing areas are included in the calculation of the warmup space.
  2. If possible, at least one practice arena with perimeters and letters should be provided.
  3. It is strongly recommended that a lungeing area be provided separate from and in addition to *mounted schooling areas and that it be available throughout the competition. If the fence between lungeing and mounted horses is not a minimum of 3' feet high, then lungeing horses must be separated by a minimum distance of 10 meters from mounted horses.*
  4. If a separate lungeing area is not provided, lungeing is not permitted at any time within the same area at the same time as mounted schooling. See Dressage Levels chart for requirements for specific competition levels.
  5. **Daily schooling and lungeing hours must be provided to competitors and posted at the show office by noon prior to the first day of competition.**
  6. Competitors will not be allowed in or around the arena while a class is in progress or inside the arena at other times except under the following conditions:
    - a. Management must post and announce, in advance, designated times that competitors may school inside the arena(s);
    - b. Competitors should be permitted by management or the Ground Jury to enter the arena prior to their ride if arena conditions do not permit riding around the perimeter of the arena prior to entry. Such permission must be announced prior to the start of the class.
  7. Competitions are not permitted to charge warm-up or schooling fees prior to or during a competition for horses entered in the competition.
  8. When visually impaired or blind riders are to compete, it is recommended that a separate warm up area be provided.
- j. Miscellaneous.
1. Management must provide judges, technical delegates, and ring stewards with copies of Federation Presidential Modification letters or Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificates they have received, prior to the classes where those riders compete under those judges. Competitors will not be allowed to compete with modifications unless a copy of their Presidential Modification letter or Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate is provided to the competition secretary by the beginning of the competition.

2. Background music, of a suitable composition and volume so as not to disturb the competitors and judges, may be played during all classes except when freestyle music is being played. Specific background music may not be requested or supplied by competitors for their rides except for freestyle tests.
  3. It is strongly recommended that organizers avoid running freestyle classes at the same time as non- freestyle classes that are held in close proximity.
  4. A separate number must be issued for each horse/rider combination. Horses or riders are required to display only one number and may not be penalized for displaying only one number. See GR1213.11.
  5. Two numbers (min. 3" x 5") must be provided to and worn by Materiale class entries and they must be positioned on each side of the saddle pad to be clearly visible at all times.
3. Specific requirements for Dressage Competition Levels.
- a. Categories and Criteria.
    1. Dressage Competitions or Regular or Local Competitions with open dressage classes must be categorized into one of five levels based on classes offered and mandatory criteria for each level:
      - a. Level 5 - required for CDIs/CPEDIs, USEF High Performance Selection Trials (Intermediaire I- Grand Prix, Para Dressage) and USEF National Championships.
      - b. Level 4 - required for USEF/USDF Regional Championships, High Performance qualifying competitions held separately from CDIs, and other competitions as required or as approved by the Federation (and USDF when required), upon application.
      - c. Level 3 - required for USEF Developing Program qualifying competitions and other competitions as required or as approved by the Federation (and USDF when required), upon application.
      - d. Level 2 - required for competitions that do not meet the criteria for Levels 3-5 or exceed Level 1 requirements.
      - e. Level 1 - required for Federation Licensed Competitions that do not meet the criteria for Levels 2- 5.
      - f. Level 1 is primarily intended as an introduction for new competitions wishing to hold a Federation Licensed Competition with fewer mandatory requirements.
    2. ~~If standards will be at a lower level for eligible classes at competition Levels 3-5, the competition prize list must state which classes and which criteria will be at a lower level.~~  
***Classes offered at Level 4 or 5 competitions that are below Level 4 or 5, respectively, will automatically be considered to be held at Level 3 standards unless otherwise indicated in the prize list.***
    3. Holding classes of a lower level is optional at competition Levels 3-5.
      - a. Standards for all non-CDI/CPEDI classes at a Level 5 competition must be Level 3 or higher.
      - b. At a Level 4 competition, Level 4 standards are required for High Performance and Regional Championship classes; standards for all other classes must be at Level 3 or higher.
      - c. At a Level 3 competition, Level 3 standards are required for USEF Developing program qualifying classes; standards for other classes must be at Level 2 or higher.
      - d. At a Level 2 competition, standards for all classes must be at Level 2 or higher.
      - e. At a Level 1 competition, standards for all classes must be at Level 1 or higher.
    4. Specific criteria for each competition level are listed in the Dressage Levels chart (see DR126.4). The chart indicates which criteria may be at a lower level for eligible classes at a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 competition.

- b. Management, Officials and Staff.
  - 1. The manager of a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 Dressage Competition must be eligible according to the criteria listed in DR126 and listed in the Dressage Levels chart (see DR126.4). During competition hours, at least one manager or co-manager of each Level 3, 4 or 5 Dressage Competition must be physically present on the competition grounds throughout each licensed day.
  - 2. The secretary of a Level 3, Level 4 or Level 5 Dressage Competition must be eligible according to the criteria listed in DR126 and listed in the Dressage Levels chart. Specific duties of Dressage Competition Management are listed in the Dressage Levels chart (see DR126.4). During competition hours, at least one secretary or co-secretary of each Level 3, 4 or 5 Dressage Competition must be physically present on the competition grounds throughout each licensed day.
  - 3. Specific requirements for staff and officials for Dressage Competitions are listed in the Dressage Levels chart (see DR126.3).
- c. Facilities, Equipment, Services and Amenities.
  - 1. Additional requirements for Dressage Competitions regarding facilities, services and amenities are listed in the Dressage Levels chart (see DR126.4).

4. Dressage Levels Chart.

(for Federation Dressage Competitions or Regular or Local Competitions with Open Dressage Classes per Federation GR314.2c)

(DSHB classes can be held with any Level. Shows offering only DSHB can choose Level 1 or Level 2 criteria.) Criteria at competition Levels 3-5 are highlighted in gray below that can be held at a lower level, if competition advertises classes held at a lower level.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

Adopt some FEI penalty rules for USEF levels in national competitions. Additional references to USEF High Performance classes are proposed to be removed as this language is outdated and no longer in use.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore
	lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
DR 119 (177-24), DR 119 (178-24), DR 119 (180-24), DR 126 (182-24), DR 128 (183-24), DR 129 (184-24), DR 121 (194-24), DR 121 (196-24)	



### DR122 Execution and Judging of Tests.

3. Voice. The use of the voice or other intentional audio aids in any way whatsoever or clicking the tongue once or repeatedly is a serious fault involving the deduction of two marks from those that would otherwise have been awarded for the movement where this occurred. In movements with a coefficient, judges must deduct only one mark so that the final mark, after the coefficient is applied, is deducted by two versus four points.

#### 5.j. Other Penalties (Technical Faults).

1. For **all national tests and levels**, designated USEF High Performance classes all of the following are considered (technical faults), and 0.5% (zero point five percentage points) will be deducted per (fault) by each judge. These deductions are not cumulative and will not result in elimination (including for Freestyle tests) except as noted below. It is the responsibility of the Judge at C to decide whether a penalty should be applied and the other judges' sheets should be marked accordingly to ensure consistency.

~~1. Entering the space around the arena with a whip or with boots/bandages on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves);~~

~~2. Entering the dressage arena with whip or with boots/bandages on the horse's legs or with discrepancy in dress (e.g. lack of gloves) will entail elimination;~~

~~3. Not entering the arena within forty-five (45) seconds; entering more than ninety (90) seconds after the bell entails elimination;~~

~~4. Entering the arena before the sound of the bell;~~

i. 5. For Freestyle classes, entering the arena after more than thirty (30) seconds of music but within ninety (90) seconds;

ii. 6. If the Freestyle test is longer or shorter than stipulated on the test sheet, zero point five percentage points (0.5%) will be deducted from the total artistic score; for other technical faults 0.5% (zero point five percentage points) will be deducted per fault from the technical score.

~~iii. 7. Using voice or clicking the tongue repeatedly;~~

iv. 8. Athletes not taking the reins in one (1) hand at the salute.

**2. Please review the championship format for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, available on the Federation's website, for specific rules for that competition.**

k. Judges may not mark or deduct points for an error for any reason other than as described in DR122.5; i.e. dress code violations (DR120) cannot be penalized by an error.

~~l. For USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, if **if** the Freestyle test is longer or shorter than the stipulated time on the test sheet, zero point five percent (0.5%) will be deducted from the total artistic score.~~

7. l. After the sound of the bell, the competitor should enter the arena at A as soon as possible.

Exceeding 45 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination. In the Freestyle, the rider has 45 seconds to signal to start the music; however, exceeding 75 seconds before entering the arena after the bell has sounded will entail elimination. ~~Exception: For USEF High Performance **U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions**, NAYC qualifying **classes** and selection trials, entering the arena over 45 seconds but within 90 seconds after the bell has sounded be penalized for an error as specified under DR122.5. Exceeding 90 seconds will entail elimination except where a valid reason is accepted by the Judge at "C" (losing a shoe, etc.).~~ No competitor can be required to ride prior to their scheduled time except as required in GR830.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Some numbers, especially those in a personal numbering format, are too small to read and are partially obscured by the encasement which presents problems to judges, ring stewards and technical delegates trying to identify a horse.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

#### **DR121 Saddlery and Equipment**

19. Numbers. All competitors must complete check-in at the show office and receive a show number, before schooling or riding on the show grounds. Failure to check in at the show office prior to schooling will result in the issuance of a Warning Card. Competition-assigned numbers, or the same number in a personal numbering format, must be worn and visible at all times when a horse is being hand-walked, exercised or ridden, under penalty of elimination. *Each digit of a number must be a minimum of 1.5 inches in height and a minimum of 3/8 inches in width and cannot be obscured by the encasement/holder.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/29/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Several brands of nose nets are now available in the market for use with head shaking syndrome. It is no longer necessary to list approved brands on the USEF website.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

HU 106 (133-24)

## Comments

#### DR121 Saddlery and Equipment

13. Nose net. A nose net may be used in the warm up and in competition provided the entry is accompanied by a signed letter from the horse's veterinarian. A copy of this letter must be attached to each test or class sheet. The letter must be written on the veterinarian's stationery and clearly state that the horse has been diagnosed with head shaking syndrome and the syndrome is improved with the use of a nose net. ~~The letter must also state the brand of nose net to be used. The Federation's website has a list of nose net brands that are approved for dressage.~~ ***A nose net is made of fine mesh material. It covers the horse's nostrils extending no higher than the noseband, no further to the sides than the cheekpieces and covers the nostrils but not the lips. No part of the nose net should encircle the horse's face.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/29/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

References to USEF High Performance classes are proposed to be removed from the rule book as this language is outdated and no longer in use. This rule change also expands the prohibition of breastplates and cruppers. The prohibition of running martingales in warmup will also be expanded.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

Lauren Moore

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## Linked Rules

DR 119 (177-24), DR 119 (178-24), DR 119 (180-24), DR 126 (182-24), DR 128 (183-24), DR 129 (184-24), DR 122 (191-24), DR 121 (196-24)

## Comments

#### **DR121 Saddlery and Equipment**

4. Martingales. Martingales are, under penalty of elimination, prohibited in competition. In warm-up and other training areas, a running martingale may be used only with the rein of a snaffle bridle. Exception: running martingales are prohibited for horses entered in ~~USEF High Performance~~ **U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC, their respective** qualifying **classes** and selection trials. A running martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth or breastplate at the front of the horse's chest and with the extension of each strap connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side. The reins must slide freely through the rings. The rings may not be incorporated into a neck strap.

...

6. Breastplates and cruppers. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used. Exception: a breastplate is prohibited in ~~USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance~~ **U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, NAYC and their respective** Qualifying **classes**, and Selection Trials.

9. Ear plugs. Ear plugs and ear muffs are, under penalty of elimination, prohibited. Exception: Ear plugs are permitted at prize-giving ceremonies for horses competing at any level. ~~including High Performance classes.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/29/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

To update the rule to allow any USEF member who is 18 years of age and older who signs the entry blank to provide the necessary information prior to measurement and not restrict it to trainers. Currently it specifies that a trainer must sign the information for the measurement. The intent of the rule change is to allow the owner or rider that is 18 years or older to sign also.

## Proponent Details

USHJA Officers

## Contact Information

Katie Patrick

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## Linked Rules

## Comments



## HJ130 Completing the Measurement Form

1. The measurement form must be filled out completely before measurement takes place. Measurement cards will not be issued if the form is not completely filled out and legible. Exhibitors are cautioned to make sure their measurement forms are filled out accurately and completely.

a. It must include the name and date of the competition, the height of the animal, name, color and markings or absence thereof, sex, year foaled which must be verified by the official competition veterinarian at time of measurement.

b. It must include the name and email address of the owner and their Federation membership number must be given.

c. ~~The owner, rider, trainer, or coach~~ ~~The trainer~~ who **has signed** the entry blank at the competition must furnish the above information immediately before the pony is measured, this individual is certifying that all information is complete and correct. ~~and that they are~~ **This individual must be a Federation Senior Active Member 18 years or older.** The form must be signed by the measurement official appointed to measure.

d. Disciplinary action pursuant to the Bylaws and GR7 may result for noncompliance with this Rule. If a horse or pony is presented for measurement by a person under the age of 18 and the measurement is submitted to the Federation office, the measurement will be invalid. The official completing the form must designate on the form that the owner is a current member or that the membership has been applied for (See HJ128) and that the horse or pony is entered in a class at that competition. A copy is provided to the owner or trainer and a copy is submitted to the Federation.

e. No changes can be made to such information once the form is signed. Any alterations, scratch outs, or rewrites to any part of the height must be clearly indicated and initialed by the measuring official.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

References to USEF High Performance classes and championships are proposed to be removed from the rule book and book and included only in documents containing the rules for qualifying for those competitions. Other program requirements have been expanded/updated.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore
	lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
DR 119 (177-24), DR 119 (178-24), DR 119 (180-24), DR 126 (182-24), DR 128 (183-24), DR 129 (184-24), DR 122 (191-24), DR 121 (194-24)	

## DR121 Saddlery and Equipment.

Figure 121.7: Bridle with jowl strap and throat latch (left). Bit snaps may not be used with this bridle. Combined noseband (no throatlatch) permitted for use in at any level (including USEF High Performance classes) and in warm-up with either a snaffle (middle left) or double bridle (middle right) as appropriate for the level. When used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the noseband (flash attachment pictured with the snaffle on left), is prohibited. Limits for placement of jowl strap (right).

...

j. Bridles allowed in Federation (national) competitions:

4. Qualifying and championship classes. Either a snaffle bridle or double bridle **is permitted (as shown in Figure 121.11)** ~~is permitted for USEF High Performance and USEF Young Adult for U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions and its respective~~ qualifying classes held at national competitions. ~~A double bridle is required for USEF Grand Prix and Young Adult championship classes at the USEF Festival of Champions. Snaffle bridles are permitted for NAYC qualifying and championship classes, USEF Young Rider qualifying and championship classes, and USEF Junior qualifying and championship classes.~~

...

18. Whips. The length of the lash is included in measurements of the length of the whip. For schooling the rider while mounted is permitted to carry one whip that is no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) or 100 cm (39.4 inches) for FEI Pony Riders. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) may be carried in all classes except, under penalty of elimination, **in USEF/USDF Championships. Please review the championship format for the U.S. Dressage Festival of Champions, available on the Federation's website, for specific rules for that competition.** ~~USEF National Dressage Championships, USEF High Performance Championships, and USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials.~~ Exception: Competitors riding side-saddle may carry a whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) in USEF/USDF Championships. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2 inches) may be carried in all qualifying classes (including ~~NAYRC and NAJC~~ **NAYC**) unless such use is otherwise prohibited by FEI or Federation rules or selection procedures for the classes. However, when a whip is permitted for FEI Pony Tests, the maximum length is 100 cm (39.4 inches). An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider. The use of one lungeing whip is permitted only when lungeing. There is no restriction on the length of whip permitted for working a horse in hand or on the lunge.

~~Rules regarding whip use at USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials. The following rules (17.1 and 17.2) apply exclusively to use of a whip at USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials:~~

- ~~a. Upon arrival on the showground, only the rider while riding, walking, leading or lungeing a horse (lunge whip allowed) is allowed to use a whip (maximum 120 cm) in connection with the training of the horse. The groom may also walk, lead and lunge a horse as above.~~
- ~~b. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the rider will be penalized for an error (see DR122.5.j).~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

To align with recent horse welfare movements, the committee is proposing that one leather rim pad on country pleasure horses be permitted in competition to enhance the horse's comfort . Shoeing would no longer be necessary upon arrival and before departure from shows.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
American Saddlebred	Emily McSweeney  emcsweeney@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## **SUBCHAPTER SB-9 ENGLISH COUNTRY PLEASURE**

### **SB152 General**

SB 152.2 English Country Pleasure horses must be plain shod or unshod. Permissible as plain shod shall be a shoe (inclusive of caulks), which may be thicker at the heel and may include toe clips and side clips. ***One leather rim pad, no thicker than ¼" allowed. The rim pad is not to be any wider than the shoe.*** Also permissible is an eggbar shoe. Not permissible as plain shod: bands, bars, ***synthetic*** pads of any kind, wedges, lead, springs, any attachment that extends below the bottom of the shoe, and any foreign substance not specified as permissible. The sole and entire frog of the foot must be visible. Any animal with prohibited shoeing must be disqualified from further competition at that competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Quarter boots and bell boots are permitted only in Five-Gaited classes.

## **SUBCHAPTER SB-10 WESTERN**

### **SB157 General**

SB157.2 Western Country Pleasure horses must be plain shod or unshod. Permissible as plain shod shall be a shoe (inclusive of caulks), which may be thicker at the heel and may include toe clips and side clips. ***One leather rim pad, no thicker than ¼" allowed. The rim pad is not to be any wider than the shoe.*** Also permissible is an eggbar shoe. Not permissible as plain shod: bands, bars, ***synthetic*** pads of any kind, wedges, lead, springs, any attachment that extends below the bottom of the shoe, and any foreign substance not specified as permissible. The sole and entire frog of the foot must be visible. Any animal with prohibited shoeing must be disqualified from further competition at that competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Quarter boots and bell boots are permitted only in Five-Gaited classes.

## **SUBCHAPTER SB-11 HUNTER COUNTRY PLEASURE**

### **SB162 General**

SB 162.2 Hunter Country Pleasure horses must be plain shod or unshod. Permissible as plain shod shall be a shoe (inclusive of caulks), which may be thicker at the heel and may include toe clips and side clips. ***One leather rim pad, no thicker than ¼" allowed. The rim pad is not to be any wider than the shoe.*** Also permissible is an eggbar shoe. Not permissible as plain shod: bands, bars, ***synthetic*** pads of any kind, wedges, lead, springs, any attachment that extends below the bottom of the shoe, and any foreign substance not specified as permissible. The sole and entire frog of the foot must be visible. Any animal with prohibited shoeing must be disqualified from further competition at that competition and forfeit all entry fees and winnings. Quarter boots and bell boots are permitted only in Five-Gaited classes.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The current Western Dressage Freestyle rule is not well organized, and doesn't clarify all freestyle classes competitions can offer. This rewrite of the WD-9 Freestyle Subchapter offers more clear guidance of the rules that dictate all Musical Freestyle classes, including clarifying that costumes may only be permitted during specifically designated Costume Freestyle classes, and adds a Pairs Freestyle class that competition management can offer.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel
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Linked Rules	Comments



## SUBCHAPTER WD-9 FREESTYLE

### WD131 Western *Dressage* Musical Freestyle

1. A Western Dressage Freestyle is a performance utilizing the gaits and movements of the discipline ridden to music. Each test includes the required movements, gaits and paces of the standard Western Dressage Tests for that level. The competitor is absolutely free in the form and manner of the presentation they choose within a fixed time provided. The performance should clearly show the unity between rider and horse as well as harmony in all the movements and transitions. The horse and rider should appear as one; lightness of contact is the hallmark of Western Dressage Freestyle.
  - a. The competitor must declare to the management (and consequently the judge) at what level they will be riding. *Horse/rider combinations competing in walk jog events are not eligible to compete at levels that include the lope and horses competing in lope classes are not eligible to compete in Intro Freestyle at the same competition.*
  - b. Music: The competitor must provide two (2) recordings of the music to which the Freestyle will be performed. Management must provide time for a sound check. *In case of rider's music failing before or during a test and in cases where there is no backup system, the riders can, with permission of the judge at "C", leave the arena or start at a later time. There should be minimum interference with the starting times of the other riders and the affected riders should return to complete or restart their test during a scheduled break in the competition or at the end of the competition. The riders may decide whether to restart the test from the beginning or to commence from the point where the music failed. Judging must restart at the point of interruption, not changing marks already given. It is the rider's responsibility to notify the judge if there is an issue with the music once the test starts. This includes the wrong music or music that cuts out or is corrupted in some way. The riders should stop riding the test and let the judge at C know about the issue with the music.*
  - c. The Freestyle ride must not exceed the time limit listed on the test. Time begins when the horse moves forward out of the initial halt and ends with the final halt and salute. Both halts are mandatory. *Movements performed after the time limit has elapsed will not be scored.*
  - d. The judge will provide two (2) sets of scores; one for the technical correctness of the movements performed and one for the artistic merit. *Technical Execution Marks may be given in half or full points. Artistic Impression Marks may be given in one tenth (.1) points (recommended to decrease frequency of ties). In case of a tie, the higher total for "Artistic Impression" will break the tie.*
    - 1) The artistic score is comprised of several elements:
      - (a) Harmony between horse and rider.
      - (b) Choreography: use of arena, design and creativity. Not "test-like".
      - (c) Degree of difficulty: points are only awarded when the attempts are performed well.
      - (d) Music: suitability to the horse *and cohesiveness*. Edits in music are smooth/flowing.
      - (e) Interpretation: music must express gaits and paces, *with use of lyrics and dynamics to enhance performance.*
      - (f) *Freestyles are to be ridden in the large (20 X 60 meter) ring unless otherwise specified in the prize list.*
    - 2) Technical correctness:
      - (a) Judged on the execution of required technical movements in the test i.e. figures, gaits/paces and transitions.
      - (b) Certain movements (leg yield, half-pass etc.) must be performed in both directions.
      - (c) Riders are permitted to switch from one hand to two hands or vice versa during their test.
2. Penalties:
  - a. Within 45 seconds of the entry bell the rider must either enter the arena, signal the sound engineer, or be eliminated. The rider must enter the arena within 20 seconds of the start of the music, or may be eliminated, at the discretion of the judge.
  - b. Time Limit Deductions: One (1) point is deducted from the total for artistic merit for exceeding the time limit. There is no minimum time, or specified deduction.
  - c. *All Compulsory Elements for the level must be incorporated into the freestyle program. These are listed on the scoresheet under Technical Execution. Performing a dressage movement (including figures and transitions) only found in a higher-level test than the one being declared is strictly forbidden.* Four (4) points will be deducted for forbidden movements and above the level movements. They are not cumulative and will not result in elimination. *Any figures, pattern, combinations, or transitions composed of elements permitted in the declared level are permitted.*
  - d. *The first and final halt and salute must be near the centerline facing C.*
3. *Costumed Freestyle:*  
*Costumes are allowed only in specially designated costume classes and only if permitted in the prize*

list. Costumes should be designed to enhance the theme of the ride and interpretation of the music. All tack rules in WD121 and WD122 apply to Costumed freestyle. Officials may request removal of any accessories they consider unsafe for other horses and/or riders in the warm up ring. Colorful leg wraps, ribbons, flowers etc. may be used as part of the costume. Riders are encouraged to wear a costume or themed attire, but specific style is left up to their discretion. Headgear is optional. Boots or shoes with a discernable heel must be worn.

4. *Pairs Freestyle:*

*Pairs Freestyle is an artistic program created to present two horses and riders performing together. Pairs Freestyle must include movements and figures choreographed to meet the technical requirements of the particular level with music chosen to highlight the pair. It is judged according to the "Technical Execution" (performance as a pair, required elements, impulsion and submission), and the "Artistic Impression" (Harmony, Choreography, Music and Interpretation). It is performed in a standard dressage arena (20x60 m) unless otherwise specified in the prize list. A copy of the program is not required to be submitted in advance. Current WDAA scoresheets must be used. Pairs Freestyle may be offered at any level.*

- a. *Competitors must declare the level they are riding at. Horses competing in walk jog events are not eligible to compete at levels that include the lope.*
- b. *Time: There is no minimum time requirement. There is a maximum time limit of five minutes for Intro, Basic, and Level 1 and six minutes for Level Two and higher. Movements performed after the time limit has elapsed will not be scored. One point will be deducted from the total points for "Artistic Impression" for exceeding the time limit. The first rider must enter the arena or signal the sound engineer within 45 seconds of the entry bell or the team may be eliminated. The first rider must enter the arena within 20 seconds of the start of the music or the team may be eliminated at the discretion of the Judge. Pairs must salute the judge at C at the beginning and end of the test. The program is timed and judged from the move off the initial halt and salute. Timing and judging will cease at the final salute.*
- c. *Music: Music is mandatory. Refer to WD131.1(b).*
- d. *Equipment and turnout: Attire and equipment must conform with Federation rules, with the following exceptions: Colorful leg wraps may be used. Costumes are allowed only in designated costume classes and only if permitted in the prize list. Similarity of equipment and turnout will be considered in the scoring. Riding with one hand is permitted. Riders in a Pairs Freestyle are permitted to hold hands for the duration of one movement when safe to do so, during each test*



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

In the Arabian Trail classes, more than one gait may be involved in the execution of a single obstacle. A horse can perform a significant portion of an obstacle correctly and should not receive a "0" score. Currently, horses can be overly penalized for an infraction that is of less or equal magnitude to the 3 and 5 point penalties listed in the rule.

AHA Resolution P-24

## Proponent Details

AHA

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### AR228 Trail Scoring

#### 1. General

(...)

#### d. Penalties

(...)

#### iii. Disqualified 0 – Score

(...)

~~8. Failure to ever demonstrate correct gait as designated.~~ ***Failure to perform every segment of an obstacle at the correct gait.***

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Currently the rule conflicts with Federation Steward/TD rules; Stewards and Technical Delegates must have no other responsibilities at a competition. This rule change clarifies that an Arabian Trail Course Designer must not also serve as the Steward/TD at a Federation licensed competition nor judge at an AHA National Championship. Other than these two exceptions, the Arabian Trail Course Designer is permitted to serve as a Competition Official, as defined in GR113 (Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, Manager, Secretary, and Veterinarians).

## Proponent Details

Arabian

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### ~~AR242~~ **AR222** Arabian Trail Course Designers

1. If a Course Designer is contracted, their name must appear in the prize list. It is recommended that the Course Designer be always present and available to the trail arena during the trail classes.
2. It is required that a Course Designer, separate from one of the judges, be contracted at every AHA National Championship Competition and their name appears in the prize list. At AHA National Competitions, the Course Designer must be always present and available to the trail arena during the trail classes.
3. The Course Designer is permitted to ***serve as a Competition Official judge*** (except for judging at AHA National Championship competitions ***or acting as a Steward or Technical Delegate at any Federation licensed competition***). ~~or be an official.~~
4. At the AHA Regional and National level, neither the Course Designer nor a member of their family can be a trainer, coach, or exhibitor in classes which they design.
5. The Course Designer must supply the judges and office with copies of the trail courses each day, to comply with course posting requirements.
6. ~~The Course Designer must be a Federation/EC Senior Member in good standing.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

This change will allow the banding of manes and forelocks in Reining and Reining Seat Equitation. It is common practice at reining events to band manes and forelocks to keep a horse's mane from being caught in the reins. There is a desire from Arabian exhibitors to allow for this practice.

(AHA Resolution 4-24)

## Proponent Details

AHA

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-1 GENERAL SECTION

### AR106 Shoeing Regulations, Artificial Markings and Appliances

(...)

8. Purebred Arabian horses must wear a long, natural, unbraided/unbanded mane and/or tail (with or without clipped bridle path). Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses are not required to have a long mane and/or tail, but an unbraided/unbanded mane and/or tail is mandatory. Exceptions: Horses shown with Hunter, Jumper, Show Hack, Sport Horse or Dressage appointments, or in Western Dressage classes, are permitted to show with a shortened, pulled, or braided mane and/or tail. Decorative items in manes and tails, are prohibited. Only simple bows made from the yarn to secure braid(s) are permitted. Cutting horses may be shown with a roached/shaved mane. ***Manes and forelocks may be banded in Reining, Reining Seat Equitation, and Reining Seat Medal classes.*** For Carriage Pleasure Driving see division chapter CP. All horses must have a natural unaltered, unset, and ungingered tail as described in AR105.3 - Ginger, Capsaicin, and other Irritants.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This rule change adds in the two new test levels (Advanced Walk/Jog & Level 6) that WDAA is currently drafting tests for. Because the increase in difficulty from the current Level 4 & Level 5 was seen as too steep, the current Level 5 description and test will be changed to Level 6, and a new description and tests will be added as in between these two levels, as Level 5.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WD-8 TESTS

### WD130 General

The WDAA approves and issues tests for use at Federation licensed and WDAA recognized competitions in the United States. Tests cannot be modified without approval of the WDAA with the exception that gaited horses must be ridden at the saddle gait instead of the jog in Western Dressage classes. A link to the tests is located on the Federation website at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Competitions are permitted to hold gaited classes but they are to be held as separate classes. If gaited classes are not being held at a competition, then gaited and non-gaited horses are permitted to compete together in the same class. The gaits required in lieu of the jog are defined in Subchapter WD-2.

#### **Walk/Jog Tests:**

1. Introductory Level. Tests provide an introduction to the discipline of Western Dressage; the horse performs only at the gaits of walk and jog. The rider may sit or post the jog. The rider should demonstrate correct basic position, use of basic aids, and understanding of the figures. The horse should show relaxation and harmony between horse and rider is important. The horse accepts the aids and influence of the rider. The jog should be a natural gait within the horse's scope and should demonstrate a swinging back. To be eligible for Intro Level, a horse/rider combination must not have shown in a Western Dressage Test at Level 1 or above in the same competition year.

**2. Advanced Walk/Jog. Tests provide a more advanced understanding of the aids. The rider should demonstrate correct position and use of the aids. The horse should demonstrate improved balance and the beginnings of engagement in the jog and show suppleness of the topline, a harmonious performance, and be softly on the aids. The regularity and quality of the gaits are considered in all movements.**

#### **Walk/Jog/Lope Tests:**

2.1. Basic. Tests confirm that the horse is supple and moves freely forward in a clear and steady rhythm, accepting light contact with the bit. The horse demonstrates a greater understanding of the aids and calm acceptance of the bridle; greater emphasis is placed on relaxation, willing cooperation, harmony, rideability and pure gaits. The horse is beginning to develop more impulsion and balance.

3.2. Level 1. Tests confirm that the horse is building on the elements from lower levels and is developing more engagement to show sufficient impulsion as the lengthened jog and lope are performed. The horse demonstrates a more consistent light contact with the bit. These tests introduce some collection and lateral and longitudinal balance, suppleness, and emphasize harmony and rideability.

4.3. Level 2. To confirm that the horse, having achieved the impulsion required in Level 1, now accepts more weight on the hindquarters (collection); moves with an uphill tendency; especially in the lengthened paces; and is reliably and lightly on the bit. A greater degree of straightness, bending, suppleness, balance and self-carriage is required than at Level 1.

5.4. Level 3. To confirm that the horse has achieved the impulsion required in Level 2, now accepts more weight on the hindquarters (collection); moves with a greater degree of an uphill tendency as required in the collected gaits especially in the collected lope **and rein release**. The horse must maintain a light contact on the bit showing balance, self-carriage and energy that result from improved engagement and weight-carrying by the hindquarters as performed in the collected lope. The movements should be performed with greater bending, suppleness, balance and self-carriage than in Level 2.

6.5. Level 4. To confirm that the horse has achieved the impulsion, engagement, uphill balance and self-carriage required in Level 3. Level 4 movements should be performed with greater engagement, straightness, suppleness and balance. The marked lightness of the forehand results from a distinct lowering of the haunches and thoroughness required to perform the partial lope pirouette. A solid foundation is evidenced throughout by a correct, willing, harmonious performance softly on the aids.

**6. Level 5. Tests confirm that the horse has achieved the suppleness, impulsion, thoroughness and clear uphill balance required in Level 4. The marked lightness of the forehand resulting from improved engagement and collection is demonstrated in the half lope pirouette. The flying lead changes reveal the responsiveness and obedience of the horse to the aids. A solid foundation is evidenced throughout by a calm, willing, harmonious performance. The regularity and quality of the gaits are considered in all movements.**

7. Level 5.6. To Confirm that the horse has achieved the suppleness, impulsion, thoroughness and clear uphill balance required in Level 5. The marked lightness of the forehead resulting from improved engagement and collection is demonstrated in the full lope pirouette. ~~The flying lead changes in series reveal the responsiveness and obedience of the horse to the aids.~~ **Obedience to the aids and adjustability is confirmed through more**



***demanding transitions and movements.*** A solid foundation is evidenced throughout by a calm, ~~willing~~ *willing*, harmonious performance *with light use of aids*. *The regularity and quality of the gaits are considered in all movements.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

This change will allow for Designated Runner Exemptions in the Performance Halter division. As a breed and an Association, AHA wishes to encourage participation in horse shows and to encourage exhibitors who need assistance, but still wish to compete. AHA's base of exhibitors is aging and we wish to encourage those that want to remain active. Other organizations have acknowledged and addressed this same challenge in their own right. As a breed and an Association, we wish to encourage all to participate and we do not want to discriminate against anyone physically unable. The Arabian breed is a kind and charismatic horse that we should continue to promote as such.

(Resolution 5-24)

## Proponent Details

AHA

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-4 Performance Halter Section

### AR125 Procedures

(...)

2. A horse must be handled and shown throughout the entire class by the same person, except in instances of illness or injury that require a substitute handler ~~or a designated runner exemption has been granted~~. Time allowed for the change of handler shall be in accordance with AR108 Time Out Rules. No handler is permitted to show more than one horse per class. *A designated runner exemption may be granted under the following conditions:*

- a. An exhibitor in any youth or amateur Performance Halter class who is unable to perform the trot portion as determined by a physician, may appoint a designated runner and submit to the competition at the time of check in to the show office a designated runner exemption form along with a signed physician statement. The physician statement must state the exhibitor is unable to perform the trot in hand portions of the class and the effective dates of the physician letter are not to exceed one year.*
- b. It is the show management's responsibility to inform judge(s) of any designated runner exemptions.*
- c. The designated runner must hold current memberships as required by the competition and these rules, and satisfy the eligibility requirements of the class. In addition to the handler, the designated runner must sign the entry blank as an exhibitor.*
- d. The designated runner must be appropriately attired in accordance with the class or section requirements.*
- e. The designated runner will handle the horse at the trot upon entrance and upon completion of the stand-up conformation judging. The exchange between the handlers will take place upon completion of the trot entrance and following completion of the stand-up conformation judging. The designated runner will remain in the arena for the duration of the class at a safe and reasonable distance dependent upon the configuration of the arena. In the event the handler requires emergency assistance, the designated runner may assist the handler, however any other coaching or assistance is prohibited.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management was modified for the 2024 competition year to update the procedures for tack inspections, including bits, conducted by the ring steward for Breed restricted classes. These bit inspections specify, in part, that the ring steward is to insert a gloved finger into the horse's mouth and feel for illegal bits and foreign objects. This can be a challenge for Arabian competition management to find volunteer ring stewards who are able to safely and expertly identify permissible dressage bits by feel. The Arabian Dressage competition management should have the option of the technical delegate or C2 steward being called to assist in completing the bit inspection when it might be deemed unsafe or if they need a particular bit further inspected. In addition, DR126.2. i.1 also currently states that championship classes are to have every horse inspected. This proposal will give competition management the option to inspect at least one third of the class or every horse at regional championship competitions while clarifying that at National Championships every horse will be inspected.

(AHA Resolution 7-24)

## Proponent Details

AHA

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-16 DRESSAGE SECTION

### AR177 Conduct

(...)

2. Dressage classes held in the Arabian Division to be conducted in accordance with Dressage Chapter DR, except as stated herein:

(...)

***k. DR126.2.i.1 will apply with these exceptions:***

***1. Equipment inspections at Region and National Dressage Championships***

***a. At Arabian Regional Championships, show management will have the discretion to check at least one third of the horses in the class or every horse upon exiting the arena.***

***b. At Arabian National Championships, equipment inspections are required for each horse in the class upon exiting the arena.***

***2. The tack inspections process will be performed as described in DR126.2. i.1.c for all Arabian/Half-Arabian breed restriction classes. During any hands-on equipment checking, if the ring steward/equipment checker determines it to be unsafe to conduct the hands-on bit inspection portion on a selected horse, or in the event of questions regarding the bit, the technical delegate or C2 steward may be called to follow the horse back to their barn, stall or trailer, where the bridle can be dropped to conduct the bit inspection.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Cow horse classes have been declining; and the goal is to increase the opportunity for riders of multiple skill levels to participate in a variety of VRH Limited Cow Work events. The VRH grouping of classes has become popular in the working western industry as a whole and there is great interest for expansion of this division in the Arabian Breed. It is in the best interest of the Arabian breed and AHA Association to facilitate classes that increase participation and marketability of Arabian and Half Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses. The Box Drive in Reined Cow Horse class is a component specific of that class and should not be confused with the VRH Box-Drive-Box-Drive class.

AHA Resolution 10-24

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AHA	Ashton Street  astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### AR235 Reined Cow Horse and Herd Work Class Specifications

(...)

3. Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse, and Box Drive (**Reined Cow Horse**) classes are for non-pro/amateur exhibitors. Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse and Box Drive (**Reined Cow Horse**) classes are for amateur and junior exhibitors who have not shown down the fence for 3 runs in any judged classes or events with the exception of horse sales. Exhibitors who have not shown in any cowhorse class down the fence for 5 years are eligible for the class. Being entered in a class that includes the fence work will be counted as going down the fence regardless if the exhibitor boxed the cow and pulled up before the run was completed. This class is also open to approved Non-Pro Limited riders who comply with all eligibility rules (See NRCHA Non-Pro eligibility rules/Federation Amateur rules). After Non-Pro competitors reach the age of fifty (50), they may fall back into the Non-Pro Boxing/Limited class (Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse).

The Non-Pro Boxing/Limited Competitors

- a. May not go down the fence again in any judged class(es) or event(s), with the exception of horse sales.
- b. May return back into the Non-Pro Limited Reined Cow Horse division/class only once.
- c. Versatility Ranch CowWork Classes affect the eligibility of an exhibitor to compete in the Boxing/Limited Reined Cow Horse classes and vice versa as follows: Exhibitors in the Boxing/Limited Reined Cow VRH Limited amateur and VRH Limited youth Ranch CowWork may not have shown more than three times down the fence in any CowHorse class, Reined CowHorse class or VRH CowWork class.
- d. A Non-Pro exhibitor may show in both the Reined CowHorse and Box-Drive (**Reined Cow Horse**) classes or both the Boxing/Limited Reined Cow and Box-Drive classes (**Reined Cow Horse**), but not both the Reined Cow and Boxing Classes.

### AR275 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) General

Note: ~~"Open VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work" classes may be held at the AHA Local and Regional level (not an AHA National Level class).~~ **Open, Amateur (Adult/Youth), Amateur Restricted (Adult/Youth), Jr Horse classes may be offered at Local, Regional, and National level.**

1. Exhibitors in the VRH Limited amateur and VRH Limited youth Ranch Cow Work (**Box - Drive - Box - Drive**) ~~Amateur (Adult/Youth) may not have shown more than three times~~ **have previously shown** down the fence (**meaning: this is a specific class where a rider boxes the cow at the end of the arena, followed by guiding the cow along side the arena fence, making a turn in each direction, and lastly, circling or roping the cow in the middle of the arena**) in any CowHorse class, Reined CowHorse class or VRH CowWork class.
2. **Exhibitors in the VRH Limited Amateur and VRH Limited Youth Ranch Cow Work (Box - Drive - Box - Drive) Open and Junior Horse may have previously shown down the fence in any Cow Horse Class, Reined Cow Horse Class, or VRH Cow Work Class.**
3. **Exhibitors in the VRH Limited Amateur and VRH Limited Youth Ranch Cow Work (Box - Drive - Box - Drive) Amateur Restricted (Adult/Youth) cannot have shown more than three (3) times down the fence in any Cow Horse, Reined Cow Horse Class, or VRH Cow Work Class.**
4. **Exhibitors in any VRH Limited Amateur and VRH Limited Youth Ranch Cow Work (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) classes may not cross enter in any (down the fence) Cow Horse class, Reined Cow class at the same show with the same horse. However, exhibitors may cross enter Herd Work and Limited Reined Cow Horse Classes.**  
**EXAMPLE: Rider A may show Horse A in "Down the Fence classes", Rider A may not show Horse A in any Box-Drive classes at the same show. However, Rider B may show Horse A in the Box-Drive Classes at the same show.**

AR276 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) Class Specifications

1. ~~Limited Ranch Cow Work~~ Exhibitors are allotted one minute and forty-five seconds to complete the work. When there is 50 seconds left, the announcer will announce, "50 seconds remaining." At one minute and forty-five seconds, the announcer will call for time.

(...)

AR277 VRH Limited Ranch Cow Work Amateur/Youth (Box-Drive-Box-Drive) Scoring

(...)

5. The following penalties will be applied to each occurrence and be deducted from the final score:
  - a. VRH Ranch Limited Cow Work **(Box-Drive-Box-Drive)** Penalties – VRH Ranch Limited Cow Work **(Box-Drive-Box-Drive)** Penalties must follow the current AQHA penalties with the following exceptions:

(...)



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Currently the Dressage Seat Equitation/Medal rules and USDF judging Guidelines do not address what should happen in the event an exhibitor does not complete the pattern as it is written. The other equitation divisions do specify whether the off-pattern situation would be penalized or cause elimination. This proposal adds clarity and consistency to the rules so both judges and exhibitors have the same understanding for both an off pattern situation or in the event a rider does not complete a phase of the class. The references to the individual tests are also being updated to include both the DR and AR sections that apply.

AHA Resolution 11-24

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AHA	Ashton Street  astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-28 EQUITATION SECTION

### AR298 Dressage Seat Equitation

(...)

11. In Regional and National Championship shows, all riders in a class must perform independent tests. The judges may, at their discretion, choose to require independent tests in Recognized shows, and they may select any number of riders in the class to perform one or more independent tests.
  - a. *When a pattern is provided: A rider going off pattern will not result in an elimination but will be penalized.*
  - b. *If the class requires both rail and pattern and the rider does not complete both sections, they will be eliminated.*

### AR299 AHA Medal Class Requirements

(...)

20. Class specification for AHA Medal classes are as follows:

(...)

- f. AHA Dressage Seat Medal class (Requires Dressage Judge).

1. *In addition to rail work, all contestants are required to perform three or more individual tests from DR133, AR298.9, or AR298.10.*
2. *A rider going off pattern will not result in elimination but will be penalized.*
3. *If a rider does not complete both the rail and the pattern phases of the class, they will be eliminated.*

- ~~g. In addition to rail work, all contestants are required to perform three or more individual tests from DR133.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

AR294.3 is antiquated and no longer used with the scoring system. AHA's Education Evaluation Committee has been educating its judges on the proper use of the Showmanship Score Card for the past five years and supports the posting of the Showmanship Score Card. This proposal continues the progress with the use of the Showmanship Score Card and adding that these score cards must be posted.

AHA Resolution 12-24

## Proponent Details

AHA

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-29 SHOWMANSHIP SECTION

### AR294 Class Conduct

(...)

~~3. Handlers may be asked to perform additional tests at the judge's discretion.~~

### AR297 Scoring

The scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers are scored in ½ point increments for a low of -3 to a high of +3 with 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty. Penalty points will be applied as they occur. A final score of 0 to +5 will be given for the overall form and effectiveness at the completion of each run.

**1. Judges must use the prescribed Showmanship Score Card. At all multi judge competitions, multi judge Regional competitions and National competitions, score cards must be posted one hour after the completion of the session. Competitions posting cards must have a designated walker and scribe.**

#### **12. Penalties**

##### **a. Minor (1 point penalty)**

1. Break of gait at walk or trot up to two strides
2. Over or under turning up to an 1/8 of a turn
3. Ticking or hitting cone/marker
4. Sliding or lifting pivot foot
5. Lifting the pivot foot and replacing it in the same place
6. Lifting foot and replacing it in same place during presentation

##### **b. Major (3 point penalty)**

1. Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides
2. Splitting cone/marker (cone/marker between horse and handler)
3. Stepping out of set up during presentation
4. Steps out of or moving pivot foot during a pivot or turn
5. Over or under turn 1/8 to ¼ of turn

##### **c. Severe (5 point penalty)**

1. Exhibitor not in required position during inspection.
2. Touching the horse
3. Standing directly in front of horse
4. Loss of lead shank or two hands on lead shank
5. Completely stepping out of or moving hindquarter significantly during a pivot or turn
6. Severe disobedience to include but not limited to: biting, pawing, rearing, kicking out or continuously circling exhibitor.
7. Goes off pattern; wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait
8. Knocking over cone/marker
9. Fall of horse or handler

#### **23. Mandatory Eliminations**

- a. Horse escapes from Exhibitor
- b. Inhumane treatment and undue stress, see AR 105.6
- c. Excessive schooling or training
- d. Loss of control or severe disobedience that endangers other exhibitors, to include but not limited to: bolting, lunging or kicking out.
- e. Whip marks
- f. Prohibited equipment: chain through the horse's mouth, over nose or through the bit, modified cavessons, western bridle or bosal, reins only attached to one side of the bridle.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

It is of great importance to encourage adult riders that are just being introduced to horses or are returning to horses after an extended absence from horse activities. Many exhibitors would like to stay involved with horses as their physical skills begin to wane or medical conditions prevent competing in canter/lope classes. This proposal adds an Adult Amateur Walk-Trot/Jog class for these exhibitors' needs.

AHA Resolution 14-24

## Proponent Details

AHA

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-31 ATR/JTR/AATR WALK-TROT/WALK-JOG 11 AND OVER SECTION

### AR317 Class Requirements

Open to Amateur or Junior Exhibitors 11 years old and older as of December 1 of the current competition year. An Amateur card is not required for **JTR, ATR, or AATR** Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 11 and over classes.

#### 1. Division of Classes

- a. Classes may be **held as JTR, ATR, and/or AATR and may be** divided by age of exhibitor.
- b. Separate classes for Arabians and Half/Anglo Arabians may be offered OR classes may be combined.
- c. Pleasure or Sport Horse under Saddle classes must not be combined with Equitation classes.
- d. Pleasure classes may be combined into a single class.
- e. Equitation classes may be combined into a single class (Exception: Dressage Seat Equitation and Western Dressage Seat Equitation must not be combined with any other equitation class).
- f. Dressage Introductory Walk-Trot Tests must not be combined with any other class.
- g. Western Dressage Introductory Walk-Jog Tests must not be combined with any other class.

#### 2. Classes may be offered for ~~Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, Sport Horse Under Saddle, Western Seat Equitation, Hunter Seat Equitation Not to Jump, Saddle Seat Equitation, Dressage Seat Equitation, Ranch Horse, Dressage, Western Dressage, and Western Dressage Seat Equitation~~ in any seat and any discipline. **Exceptions: Reining, Reined Cow Horse, and Working Cow Horse.** (See AR317.1.e).

(...)

5. An exhibitor that shows in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 and Over classes may show in classes requiring a canter or lope at a later show in that show season, but, once they do so, become ineligible to compete in Walk/Trot or Jog classes for the remainder of that show season. Exception: Cross Rail Riders **and Short Stirrup Reining.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

The change will clarify that the Sport Horse In-Hand Showmanship Scoresheet must be used for the class and where it can be found. Also, there has been confusion amongst both exhibitors and officials regarding the manner in which the class is performed in regard to the manner in which the horse is shown. This change will make clear that the horses are not to be shown or judged using the quarter system; the scoresheet has specified judging topics to be used in determining scores and placement for the class.

## Proponent Details

Andalusian/Lusitano

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AL-42 SPORT HORSE

### AL236 Sport Horse In-Hand Classes

(...)

#### 3. Class Conduct

a. The IALHA Sport Horse Showmanship Score Sheet ~~shall~~ **must** be used **and is available at [usef.org](http://usef.org)**. Each judge will be assigned a scribe who will record scores and comments as dictated by the judge. Horses will be shown individually on the triangle. The IALHA score sheets will be provided to competition management by IALHA. Competition Management may make as many individual copies as necessary for their competition.

(...)

c. The horse is to be shown in an "open position." The traditional way of showing open position would be with the right front leg slightly back and the right hind leg slightly forward; but as long as all four legs of the horse are visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse, this stance would be acceptable. The horse's head and neck should be allowed to show in a natural and comfortable carriage, and the handler should stand away from the horse with a loose lead line. **Horses are not shown or judged using the quarter system.** Handlers may use treats to keep horse's attention and focus.

(...)



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

In order to align the current application of the Best Movement Class and the Best Movement Scoresheet with the diagram provided in the rulebook, this rule change is necessary. This rule change is removing the current pattern diagram and replacing it with the pattern diagram that is currently used in competition and presented on the scoresheet for the class. The diagram changes include: removing the center line as the class is shown on the rail with no reference to center line; removing the words "& Out" from the depiction of the gate due to some competitions having separate in and out gates for the arena; removing "position C" as there is no mention of it in the pattern description; swapping "position A" and "position B" for correct placement of how the class is currently performed.

## Proponent Details

Andalusian/Lusitano

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

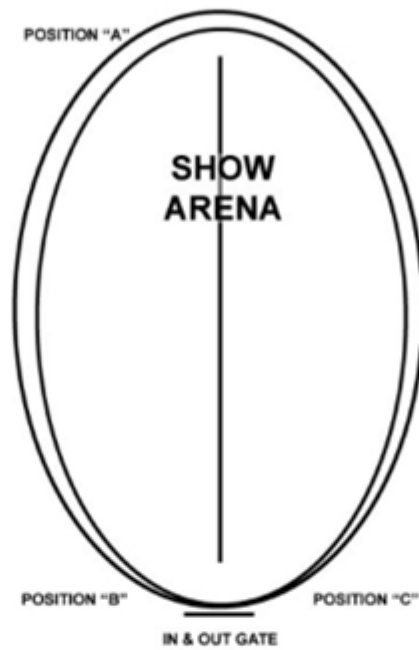
## Linked Rules

## Comments

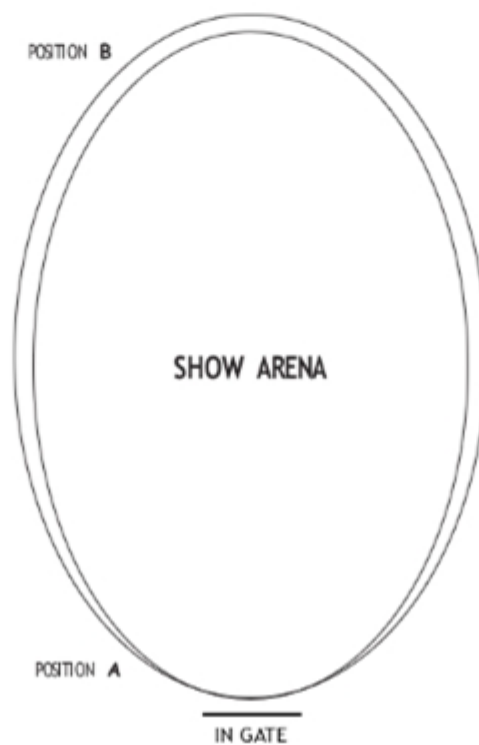
## SUBCHAPTER AL-4 BEST MOVEMENT

### AL114 Best Movement Class Specifications

*(remove below diagram)*



*(replace with below diagram)*



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

The Andalusian/Lusitano breed has a large number of Amateur exhibitors that have had questions regarding what determines the term "balding". This rule change serves to add more definition to the term balding and what hair is allowed to be shaved down and the hair that is not to be removed.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Andalusian/Lusitano	Ashton Street  astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AL-42 SPORT HORSE

### AL236 Sport Horse In-Hand Classes

(...)

10. An entry must be penalized for:

(...)

b. ~~Balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils.~~ ***The removal of the body hair down to the skin (balding with a razor blade or surgical clippers) or the eyelashes attached to the eye lid. The long whiskers on the ocular arch, below the eye, and on the muzzle and nostrils may be trimmed.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

In order to keep the PFHA and Federation rulebooks in alignment, this addition is needed for the complete description of how exhibitors are to execute the class. Currently, the verbiage is confusing as well, due to the sentence "In the remaining gaits...", but missing the necessary verbiage prior to this sentence to describe the proper execution of the class.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Paso Fino	Ashton Street  astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER PF-9 SPECIALTY CLASSES

### PF145 Paso Versatility Class

(...)

2. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. The sequence of gaits shall be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, collected canter, flat walk, reverse and repeat. ***While executing the walk, riders shall space themselves to avoid bunching up and maintain their relative positions on the rail.*** In the remaining gaits, exhibitors shall remain on the rail except to pass. Riders shall be asked individually to back, execute a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto, and take a jump from the canter.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

This change will align the Federation rulebook and the PFHA rulebook on how the Paso Versatility gaits are to be performed. In the original creation of the Paso Versatility class, it was meant to be performed similarly to the Paso Performance class with more collection and animation. Over time, this class has evolved to be performed more similarly to the Paso Pleasure class utilizing milder collection and relaxed demeanor. Currently, the Paso Versatility class gaits are performed in the more relaxed manner and this change will align both the Federation and PFHA rulebooks, and the manner in which the class is currently ridden.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Paso Fino	Ashton Street
	astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

### PF105 Gaits

(...)

#### 6. Qualifying Gaits

##### a. Walk—Smooth, steady, evenly-spaced four-beat gait.

1. Collected Walk - Evenly-spaced four-beat gait, cadenced, straight, brisk, animated and rhythmic. This gait is executed with collection, style and brilliance. This gait is called for in **the** Paso Performance and **Paso Versatility** classes.

2. Flat Walk - True, evenly-spaced four-beat, flat-footed, smooth gait executed with mild collection. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed. This gait is called for in Paso Pleasure, **Paso Versatility**, Paso Trail, and Paso Western Pleasure classes.

(...)

c. Paso Corto— Evenly spaced four-beat gait executed with moderate forward speed and extension. Horse should be smooth, balanced and exhibit symmetry in flexion and stride. Forward speed is ground covering but unhurried. Movements should be fluid, willing, relaxed, balanced and free-moving. The horse's head carriage is natural and relaxed.

(...)

2. In the Paso Performance and **Paso Versatility** classes the horse is well-collected, animated, proud and brilliant.

3. In the Paso Pleasure, **Paso Versatility**, Paso Trail and Paso Western Pleasure classes collection and carriage are natural and relaxed with slightly more collection required in the Paso Pleasure class.

d. Paso Largo— Forward speed is rapid and the gait is executed with longer extension and faster cadence than the Paso Corto. Extension and flexion must be harmonious with no tendency to become light on the front or strung out behind. A definite change of speed from the Paso Corto must be observed. A significant difference will be rewarded. The even four-beat cadence must be retained. Forward speed varies with the individual horse, since each horse should attain its top speed in harmony with its own natural stride and cadence.

(...)

2. In Paso Performance and **Paso Versatility**, the gait is collected, bold and animated.

3. In **the** Paso Pleasure and **Paso Versatility** classes, collection is mild and carriage is natural and relaxed.



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This rule change adds specifications for calling the class placement for a Championship class. Currently, this differentiation is absent from the rule.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
PFHA	Ashton Street
	astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER PF-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

### PF102 General Rules

(...)

5. Calling Class Placement. After a class has been pinned and Judge's Card turned in, any non-placing horses shall be excused from the ring. Non-winners of ribbons in any class should remain in the ring until excused. The placement of the class shall be called starting with honorable mention seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) and proceeding sixth (6<sup>th</sup>) through first (1<sup>st</sup>). ***For Championship classes, placements are called starting with honorable mention (5<sup>th</sup>), then fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) place through first (1<sup>st</sup>) place.*** The first (1<sup>st</sup>) place horse shall have the option of making a victory ride once around the ring. The first (1<sup>st</sup>) and second (2<sup>nd</sup>) places shall have the option of going down the sounding board.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

### Rule Change Intent

This rule change is necessary in order to match the standards for the Youth International Equitation classes to the International Paso Mundial Competition's standards. Aligning the rules with this international competition will provide exhibitors with a more cohesive show environment.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
PFHA	Ashton Street  astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER PF-2 PASO FINO YOUTH SECTION

### PF112 Appointments

The tack shall be English type. Schooling tack is not acceptable. *The stirrup leathers must not exceed five centimeters (5cm) or two inches (2 in) in width. The stirrups can be metal or leather. Stirrups must be symmetrical in all parts, including the footrest.* The attire shall ~~must be: the official Paso Fino show costume.~~ ~~(See PF128.1 Official Paso Fino Show Costume.)~~ *black leather boots, black trousers with a length that does not surpass the heel of the boot while the rider is mounted, black jacket, and a white or cream hat with black or white ribbon; any other type of hat is prohibited.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

Currently, the rulebook is silent in terms of use for divisional judging. This rule change specifies the permitted use for divisional judging. Divisional judging is the selection of judges based on the classes being judged. A different judge could potentially officiate different divisions based on their expertise or qualifications.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
PFHA	Ashton Street  astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER PF-12 SHOW CONDUCT

### PF155 Grand National Championship Show

#### 1. Specifications

(...)

c. Selection of Judges. The selection of the National Show's judging system shall be made for the next National Show at the January Board of Director's meeting and the judges shall be selected at the Spring Board of Director's meeting. The selection of judges shall be made from a list of qualified judges supplied by the Judges and Stewards Committee. Conferencing of judges shall be allowed if desired by the Board of Directors. However, each judge will individually pre-sent their placements on a judge's card. Each judge shall be a Certified judge of the Association and hold a Federation recorded 'r', Registered 'R', or a Guest Judge card. No judge shall be eligible to judge two (2) consecutive Association National Championship Shows. Those judges selected must be in good standing with the Association at the time of selection and at the time of the Grand National Championship Show. Judges that submit their names for consideration to officiate at the Grand National Championship Show will provide a résumé for the Board of Directors through the Judges and Stewards Committee. ***Divisional judging may be used for the National Show if approved by the PFHA Board of Directors.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

This proposal adds a new division to the Amateur Adult Equitation.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
PFHA	Ashton Street
	astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER PF-10 AMATEUR ADULT EQUITATION

### ***PF152 Amateur Adult International Equitation Class***

***Regional Group shows are permitted to offer this class at their discretion. The class specification, judging criteria, procedures, and appointments will follow the International Paso Equitation Divisions (PF119). Class Separations may be offered as Adult Open 18 & Older.***

\*\*\***(ALL PF SECTION NUMBERS WOULD NEED TO BE CHANGED (+1) BEGINNING WITH THE CURRENT PF152 "CHAMPIONSHIP CLASSES" SECTION)**\*\*\*



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This proposal eliminates the entry requirements for the Paso Costume Class in order to foster an increase in participation in the class at the National Show.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
PFHA	Ashton Street
	astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER PF-12 SHOW CONDUCT

### PF155 Grand National Championship Show

#### 1. Specifications

(...)

f. Eligibility. Except as provided in the next sentence, to be eligible for entry and competition in the Association National Championship Show, an entry must have accumulated, in the specific division in which ~~it/he/she is~~ **they are** entering, a minimum of twenty (20) points in Association sanctioned shows during that show year. The Walk-Corto Leadline class, **Paso Costume Class**, and the Paso Pleasure Driving Class have no entry requirements.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This proposal gives more clarity to the schooling status of horses in explicit terms that are simple to understand. There have been issues with exhibitors entering their schooling horses in the inappropriate age level classes.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
PFHA	Ashton Street
	astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER PF-4 PERFORMANCE CLASSES (UNDER SADDLE)

### PF125 Schooling Classes

(...)

~~4. Restriction on Schooling Status. Once a horse has been shown in a regular Paso Performance, Paso Pleasure or Classic Fino class at a show that offers Schooling horse classes, it can never be shown again in a Schooling class in that Division. A schooling horse (36-60 months) must be shown in classes appropriate for its age, with the exception of championships or open classes that have no age restrictions. This class does not qualify for Amateur Performance Championship.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

In order to match the PFHA rulebook, to avoid confusion for licensed officials and exhibitors, the removal of the word "collected" needs to be removed from the canter for Paso Fino Versatility Classes.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Paso Fino	Ashton Street
	astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER PF-9 SPECIALTY CLASSES

### PF145 Paso Versatility Class

(...)

2. Procedures. The exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail at a Paso Corto and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner. The sequence of gaits shall be: Paso Corto, Paso Largo, flat walk, **collected** canter, flat walk, reverse and repeat. In the remaining gaits, exhibitors shall remain on the rail except to pass. Riders shall be asked individually to back, execute a figure eight maneuver at a Paso Corto, and take a jump from the canter.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

There is a need to give older individuals that have not had the benefit of exposure to western horses, at a young age, an introductory division. Walk/Trot classes are already in existence in the main ring and are also very popular classes with the Western stock breeds. Adding the 11 & Over class to the Working Western Walk-Trot classes will allow more exhibitors the ability to compete.

AHA Resolution 9-24

## Proponent Details

AHA

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-26 WORKING WESTERN SECTION

### AR229 Walk-Trot/Jog Trail Class Requirements

1. ~~For 10 & under classes, Exhibitors may~~ **must** not be more than ten years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year. ~~Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in AR215 for Western Walk/Jog Trail and English Walk/Trot Trail. The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. Exception: Exhibitors may have cantered in Short Stirrup Reining and Cross Rails 10 & Under classes.~~
    - a. ~~The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. (Exception: Short Stirrup Reining exhibitors and Cross Rails 10 & Under).~~
  2. ~~For 11 & over classes, exhibitors must be eleven (11) years of age or older as of December 1 of the current competition year.~~
    - a. ~~Exhibitors must NOT show in any other class at the same competition that requires exhibitors to show at the canter or lope, but may enter any class that does not require a canter or lope. (Exception: Cross Rail exhibitors).~~
      - i. ~~An exhibitor that shows in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 & Over classes may show in classes requiring a canter or lope at a later competition in that competition year, but once they do so, become ineligible to compete in Walk/Trot or Jog classes for the remainder of the competition year. (Exception: Cross Rail exhibitors).~~
        1. ~~Eligibility to compete in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 and Over classes begins anew with each competition year regardless of whether the exhibitor has competed in a previous competition year in classes that require a canter or lope.~~
  3. ~~Horse and exhibitor must follow the appointments as set forth in AR215 for Western Walk/Jog Trail and English Walk/Trot Trail.~~
- 2 4. Permitted Obstacles
- (...)
- f. ~~Open Gates – Exhibitors 10 & Under shall not be asked to open and close a gate; however, simulation of doing so by touching gate standards is permitted. A single non-elevated walk over pole may be placed in the “open” gate. Exhibitors 11 & Over may be asked to open and close a gate.~~
- (...)
- j. ~~Side pass – A single ground pole up to 6" high is allowed for the 11 & Over age division.~~
- 3 5. Prohibited Obstacles
- (...)
- e. ~~Closed gates for the 10 & Under age division~~
  - f. ~~Side pass for the 10 & Under age division~~

### AR243 Ranch Horse Riding Walk-Trot 40 & Under General

1. ~~For 10 & under classes, Exhibitors must~~ not be more than ten (10) years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year.
  - a. ~~The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. (Exception: Short Stirrup Reining exhibitors and Cross Rails 10 & Under).~~
2. ~~The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. (Exception: Short Stirrup Reining exhibitors and Cross Rails 10 & Under). For 11 & over classes, exhibitors must be eleven (11) years of age or older as of December 1 of the current competition year.~~
  - a. ~~Exhibitors must NOT show in any other class at the same competition that requires~~



*exhibitors to show at the canter or lope, but may enter any class that does not require a canter or lope. (Exception: Cross Rail exhibitors).*

*i. An exhibitor that shows in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 & Over classes may show in classes requiring a canter or lope at a later competition in that competition year, but once they do so, become ineligible to compete in Walk/Trot or Jog classes for the remainder of the competition year. (Exception: Cross Rail exhibitors).*

*1. Eligibility to compete in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 and Over classes begins anew with each competition year regardless of whether the exhibitor has competed in a previous competition year in classes that require a canter or lope.*

AR244 Ranch Horse Riding Walk-Trot 10 & Under Appointments

(...)

AR245 Ranch Riding Patterns for Walk-Trot 10 & Under

(...)

AR252 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under General

1. *For 10 & under classes, Exhibitors must not be more than ten (10) years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year.*
2.
  - a. *The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. Exception: Short Stirrup Reining exhibitors and Cross Rails 10 & Under.*
2. *For 11 & over classes, exhibitors must be eleven (11) years of age or older as of December 1 of the current competition year.*
  - a. *Exhibitors must NOT show in any other class at the same competition that requires exhibitors to show at the canter or lope, but may enter any class that does not require a canter or lope. (Exception: Cross Rail exhibitors).*
    - i. *An exhibitor that shows in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 & Over classes may show in classes requiring a canter or lope at a later competition in that competition year, but once they do so, become ineligible to compete in Walk/Trot or Jog classes for the remainder of the competition year. (Exception: Cross Rail exhibitors).*
      1. *Eligibility to compete in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 and Over classes begins anew with each competition year regardless of whether the exhibitor has competed in a previous competition year in classes that require a canter or lope.*

AR253 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under Appointments

(...)

AR254 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under Class Specifications

(...)

AR255 Ranch Horse Rail Pleasure Walk-Trot 10 & Under Scoring

(...)

AR267 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot 10 & Under General

1. **For 10 & under classes**, Exhibitors must not be more than ten (10) years of age as of December 1 of the current competition year.
2. The exhibitor must never have been judged in a class at a Licensed Competition that required a canter or lope. Exception: Short Stirrup Reining exhibitors and Cross Rails 10 & Under.
2. **For 11 & over classes**, exhibitors must be eleven (11) years of age or older as of December 1 of the current competition year.
  - a. Exhibitors must NOT show in any other class at the same competition that requires exhibitors to show at the canter or lope, but may enter any class that does not require a canter or lope. (Exception: Cross Rail exhibitors).
    - i. An exhibitor that shows in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 & Over classes may show in classes requiring a canter or lope at a later competition in that competition year, but once they do so, become ineligible to compete in Walk/Trot or Jog classes for the remainder of the competition year. (Exception: Cross Rail exhibitors).
    2. Eligibility to compete in Walk/Trot or Jog 11 and Over classes begins anew with each competition year regardless of whether the exhibitor has competed in a previous competition year in classes that require a canter or lope.

AR268 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot 10 & Under Appointments

(...)

AR269 Ranch Horse Trail Walk-Trot 10 & Under Course Information

1. ~~Acceptable~~ **Permitted** Obstacles:
  - (...)
  - c. Open Gates- Exhibitors **10 & Under** shall not be asked to open and close a gate; however, simulation of doing so by touching gate standards is encouraged. A single non-elevated walk over pole may be placed in the "open" gate. **Exhibitors 11 & Over may be asked to open and close a gate.**
  - (...)
  - g. Trot throughs ~~cones~~: **cones markers** must be spaced a minimum of ten (10) feet apart. **Markers may be cones, plants, hay bales, etc.**
  - (...)
2. **For 11 & Over, optional obstacles may be used provided the obstacles can be found in everyday ranch work. Optional obstacles from which selections can be made include, but are not limited to:**
  - a. Remove and replace materials from a mailbox
  - b. Stand to mount with mounting block
  - c. Open gate on foot.
  - d. Pick up feet.
  - e. Ground tie. (Hobbles are allowed)
  - f. Lead at the trot.
  - g. Side pass – A single ground pole up to 6" high is allowed for the 11 & Over division.
23. Prohibited Obstacles
  - a. Water or Water boxes
  - b. Drags

- c. Closed gates *for the 10 & Under age division*
- d. Pick up objects
- e. Side pass *for the 10 & Under age division*
- f. Swing rope or throw rope at a dummy steer head

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

Currently "off-pattern" is listed as both a 10 point penalty and an OP (Off Pattern) in the Ranch Horse Trail section of the WS chapter. We have removed the "OP" section of the scoring, and consolidated all of those infractions under the 10 point penalty deduction. There are also a few minor grammatical corrections that are made.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Committee	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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## SUBCHAPTER WS-6 RANCH SECTION

### WS142 Ranch Horse Trail

(...)

#### 5. Credits and Penalties

(...)

c. Penalties are ~~accessed~~ **assessed** as follows:

(...)

iv) Ten (10) Point Penalties:

- a. Unnatural ranch horse appearance (Horse's tail is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner in every maneuver);
- b. Off pattern (~~eliminates or adds a maneuver, incomplete maneuver, failure to complete pattern as written~~);
- c. Failure to open and shut gate or failure to complete gate.
- d. 3<sup>rd</sup> refusal;**
- e. Failure to dally and remain dallied.**

v) Zero (0) Score:

- a. Repeated blatant disobedience;
- b. More than one (1) finger between split reins or any fingers between romal reins;
- c. Use of two (2) hands (except for junior horses five (5) years and under in a snaffle bit/hackamore);

~~vi) Off Pattern (OP):~~

- ~~a. Breaking pattern;~~
- ~~b. 3<sup>rd</sup> refusal;~~
- ~~c. Failure to dally and remain dallied;~~  
~~Exhibitors cannot place above others who completed the pattern correctly;~~

~~vii) vi) Disqualification (DQ):~~

- a. Lameness;
- b. Abuse;
- c. Leaving working area before the pattern is complete;
- d. Prohibited equipment;
- e. Disrespect or misconduct;
- f. Improper Western attire;
- g. Fall of horse/exhibitor.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/31/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

This rule change is necessary to align the PFHA rulebook and Federation PF chapter. PFHA has removed the section for International Fino, due to many Paso Fino competitions using the word "International" in their competition title to attract more international exhibitors from out of the country to attend the competition. With the current rule section of International Fino, competitions that use the word "international" in their competition name would be required to operate under the international fino rules and procedures and many of these competitions were not in favor of this. PFHA's Board of Directors discussed the feedback they were receiving from competition managers and made the decision to remove the international fino section of rules and requirements from the rulebook.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
PFHA	Ashton Street  astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments



## SUBCHAPTER PF-5 CLASSIC FINO DIVISION

### PF130 Procedures

Exhibitors will enter the ring to the right on the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or halt. Horses must work both directions, reverse, halt and proceed in gait and traverse the sounding board when available. Breaking gait on reverses, stops or starts shall be penalized. A figure eight may be requested to demonstrate flexibility, responsiveness, and steadiness of gait, but diminishing circles are not allowed. Only inanimate objects may be used as "posts" for the figure eight as long as they do not present a danger to horse or rider. Judges may call for horses to perform a serpentine at the classic fino as an optional test. Judges may call for horses to work parallel together at the classic fino as an optional test. A solid, ground level, hard surface sounding board 48' or longer shall be used in this class to clearly exhibit the rhythmic consistency of the horse's cadence and impact when available. The performance of the horse on the sounding board shall not be given preference over the horse's work on the rail. During competition, while being judged, exhibitors are not allowed to turn on the sounding board. Backing of horses may be requested. The judge is prohibited from requiring a horse to perform the Paso Largo on the sounding board.

#### International Fino

At International Competitions, the following procedures will be performed in all Fino Classes:

1. Exhibitors shall enter the ring to the right on the rail and circle the arena in a counterclockwise manner until instructed to reverse or halt. Horses must work both directions, reverse, halt and proceed in gait. The reverses must be performed towards the center of the ring. After completing the rail work, horses must traverse the sounding board in both directions then line up. Breaking gait on reverses, stops or starts shall be penalized. Only inanimate objects may be used as "posts" for the figure eight as long as they do not present a danger to horse or rider. The distance between the posts shall be 3 meters (9.9 feet). A solid, continuous surface allowing no more than one-half inch of space between the boards, ground level, hard surface sounding board forty-eight (48) feet or longer shall be used in this class to clearly exhibit the rhythmic consistency of the horse's cadence and impact when available. The performance of the horse on the sounding board shall not be given preference over the horse's work on the rail. During competition while being judged, exhibitors are not allowed to turn on the sounding board.
2. After line up inspection is complete all horses moving forward in competition will be required to perform individually 3 figure eights (2 in one direction, make a straight line then one additional eight in opposite direction); halt in the center between post; back 4 to 6 steps; traverse the sounding board in both directions.
3. Should additional work-offs be requested it must be requested in the following order: 1) Reverse of directions on the rail four times. 2) Traverse the sounding board in both directions. 3) A parallel comparison up and back. 4) Circle the entry 3 times in one direction then change direction to perform 3 additional circles in the opposite direction. These tests can't be combined and must be performed independently and in sequential order starting with #1 with two or more horses. After the first test is completed, if the judges are not ready to pin, they can request the next test in the order and so on.
4. Any show that uses in their title/description/rating using the word "International" will need to comply with Fino class descriptions that describes International Fino.

## SUBCHAPTER PF-12 SHOW CONDUCT

### PF154 Competitions

(...)

2. Classification. For the purpose of equalizing competition for High Point awards and Society of Merit awards, and to promote PFHA-Federation All Breed shows, PFHA approved shows shall fall into one of four classifications: All Breed

(\*AB\*), All Paso (\*AP\*), ~~All Paso International (\*AP-I\*)~~, and Local (\*L\*). These shows must be sponsored by a recognized Regional Group. These do not include the PFHA National Championship Show.

(...)



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	1/30/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Rule Change Intent

This proposal is addressing a Professional moving back to Amateur status in the Leveling Program. The Leveling program was created to allow riders of like ability to compete together insuring fairness. Riders who held a Professional status in the industry and later obtain their Amateur Card by following the USEF requirements for obtaining Amateur status have an advantage in the show ring over true Amateur Select and Amateur Choice riders.

AHA Resolution 15-24

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AHA	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER AR-1 GENERAL SECTION

### AR110 Abbreviations of Class Specifications/Junior Exhibitor/Amateur Requirements/Ages

(...)

#### 2. Achievement Leveling Program

- a. The following class sections may be offered at Federation Regular Arabian Competitions, AHA Regional Championship Competitions, and AHA National Championship Competitions. (see AHA Achievement Leveling Chart in the AHA Handbook for below definitions):
- b. Open- Select Open, Choice Open and Elite Open
- c. Amateur- Select Amateur, Choice Amateur, Elite Amateur and Prime Time Amateur
- d. Youth- Select Youth, Choice Youth, Elite Youth, Walk-Trot/Jog
- e. Achievement point requirements for each level/category will be determined each year by the AHA Competition Advisory Committee and will be posted on the AHA website prior to December 1 of the next competition year.
- f. AHA compilation of Achievement Points will govern rider eligibility for each level/category. AHA Achievement Points will include all points earned from the 2002 competition year forward.
- g. When Leveling classes are offered a rider may enter their appropriate level or opt to enter a higher level instead. A show may elect to allow exhibitors to enter their appropriate achievement level and/or any higher level(s) (all appropriate qualifications would be required, if applicable). Riders who are deemed Choice by their leveling points may not level down to Select. In addition, Elite riders may not level down to Choice or Select. In Working Western Classes where levels are run concurrently, a show may elect to allow riders to enter up (not down) in all levels in which appropriate qualifications and entry fees are applied in any circumstance. ***Any Amateur who has been a Professional (as defined in GR1306) may not compete in any division in the Amateur Select/Choice/Primetime levels or the Open Select/Choice Levels; and the Non-Pro Rookie/Limited/Intermediate/Primetime and Open Limited/Intermediate levels in Reining regardless of their leveling point status. These amateurs may only compete in the Elite Amateur or Open in all current leveling seats and Non-Pro and Open in Reining.***
- h. ***Professionals moving to Amateurs status must contact the Arabian Horse Association office to have their leveling record recorded as an Elite/Non-Pro rider.***

(...)

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	9/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Extraordinary Change Reason

Safety

Rule Change Intent

In the Western Dressage discipline, the committee and WDAA have been fielding questions regarding if an exhibitor may compete without the use of a girth or cinch on their saddle. The committee aims to make the rules perfectly clear that a fastened girth or cinch is a required part of the Western Saddle to be used in Western Dressage competition.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel  lstovel@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

WD121 Tack

(...)

6. Saddle:

A standard American Western stock saddle with swells, a seat, cantle, skirt, fenders, ~~and~~ Western stirrups, ***and fastened girth or cinch*** is required. A working Western side saddle is also acceptable.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	9/1/2025	1/27/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

#### Extraordinary Change Reason

Equine Welfare

#### Rule Change Intent

This rule change clarifies that artificial tails are permitted for Western Dressage, but weighted artificial tails are prohibited. This new rule adds parameters to the type and method of using artificial tails.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Lexie Stovel
	lstovel@usef.org
Linked Rules	Comments

## SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

### WD121 Tack

(...)

***10. Artificial tails consisting of fabric and hair without additional attachments are permitted. The use of weighted tails is prohibited.***

### WD122 Prohibited Equipment

(...)

***11. Weighted artificial tails.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	7/1/2025	6/18/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Extraordinary Change Reason

Horse Welfare and Fair Competition

## Rule Change Intent

In the interest of horse welfare and fair competition, testing Samples (as defined in the Chapter), in addition to urine and blood is necessary to keep pace with technology and strengthen our program. USEF has received credible reports about the usage of some substances prohibited by USEF rules, and intended to enhance performance in competition. USEF has the ability to collect and have tested hair samples from horses that are participating in USEF competitions. This would enhance the ability to detect prohibited substances in horses that may otherwise evade testing detection. Other regulatory authorities such as horse racing have incorporated hair testing into their anti-doping effort.

## Proponent Details

USEF Executive Staff

## Contact Information

Sonja Keating

skeating@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## CHAPTER 4 DRUGS AND MEDICATIONS

*For purposes of this Chapter, the following definitions apply:*

**Drug Testing Personnel.** Includes (i) any licensed veterinarian appointed by the Federation to perform duties under this Chapter; and (ii) any technician appointed by a Federation-appointed licensed veterinarian to perform duties under this Chapter.

**Sample.** Unless otherwise specified herein, means any biological or other material, including any tissue, body fluid, excreta, hair, skin scraping or swab collected for the purposes of analysis under the Federation rules.

### GR402 Testing

1. Horses and/or ponies competing at a Licensed Competition are subject to examination by a licensed veterinarian who must be appointed by the Administrator of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program ~~Federation~~. Said appointed veterinarian, with the approval of the Administrator, may appoint a technician to perform certain duties under this Rule ~~Chapter 4~~. The examination may include physical, ~~collection of Samples~~ urine, blood tests and/or any other test or procedure at the discretion of said veterinarian necessary to effectuate the purposes of this rule ~~Chapter 4~~. Said veterinarian may examine any or all ~~Horses and/or ponies~~ in a class or all classes in a competition or any ~~Horses and/or ponies~~ entered in any class, whether in competition or not, if on the competition grounds, or any ~~Horse and/or pony~~ withdrawn by any exhibitor within 24 hours prior to a class for which it has been entered.
2. Whether a ~~Horse and/or pony~~ is in competition or not, refusal to submit the ~~Horse and/or pony~~ for examination or to cooperate with **Drug Testing Personnel** the veterinarian or their agents constitutes a violation and subjects the responsible person to penalties under GR406.
3. Trainers who are not able to accompany ~~Federation~~ **Drug Testing Personnel** and the ~~Horse and/or pony~~ to the location where a ~~Sample~~ collection is to take place, to act as witness to the collection and sealing of blood and urine ~~Samples~~, and to sign the drug collection documents in the appropriate places as witness, must appoint an agent to do so. The absence of such a witness shall constitute a waiver of any objection to the identification of the ~~Horse and/or pony~~ tested and the manner of collection and sealing of the ~~Samples~~.
4. Upon the collection of a sufficient number of tubes of blood from the ~~Horse or pony~~, the tubes shall be divided into two groups. One group shall be labeled and identified as Blood Sample A and the other as Blood Sample B, and they shall be sealed accordingly. Upon the collection of a sufficient volume of urine from the ~~Horse or pony~~, a portion of the sample shall be poured into a second urine sample container. One container shall be labeled and identified as Urine Sample A and the other as Urine Sample B, and they shall be sealed accordingly. **Upon collection of a sufficient amount of any other Sample from the Horse, a portion of the sample shall be placed into a second sample container. One container shall be labeled and identified as Sample A and the other as Sample B, and they shall be sealed accordingly. NOTE: There is no Sample B for swabs.** These procedures shall be performed whether or not the trainer or their appointed witness is present as provided for in Section 3 above.
5. In the event reasonable attempts at ~~Sample~~ collections from the ~~Horse or pony~~ do not provide a sufficient **quantity of Sample material** number of tubes of blood or a sufficient volume of urine to be divided, labeled, and identified as Samples A and B, as determined by **Drug Testing Personnel** the testing veterinarian and/or technician, the ~~Sample(s)~~ obtained (if obtained) shall be labeled and identified as Sample(s) A only, and it shall be recorded in the records of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program that the corresponding Sample(s) B does (do) not exist, in which event the obtained Sample(s) shall be subject to testing.
6. A blood ~~Sample~~ may be retested under these Rules at any time exclusively at the direction of the Federation. The retesting of a sample may lead to a violation only if the sample was retested within three (3) years from the sample collection date. In order to constitute a violation under these rules, the substance detected in the retested sample must (i) have been prohibited at the time of sample collection; and (ii) not a therapeutic substance, which for purposes of this rule includes only the Controlled Medications on the FEI



Prohibited Substances List (available at <http://www.fei.org/fei/cleansport>) in effect on the sample collection date.

7. In the event that the retested ~~S~~sample proves positive, and the retest was conducted more than one (1) year since the date of collection, no prizes or awards will be required to be returned.

#### GR403 Cooperation

1. Cooperation with **Drug Testing Personnel** ~~the veterinarian and/or their agent(s)~~ includes:
  - a. Taking the ~~H~~horse and/or pony and **Drug Testing Personnel** ~~the veterinarian and/or their agent(s)~~ immediately to the location selected by **Drug Testing Personnel** ~~said veterinarian and/or their agent(s)~~ for testing the ~~H~~horse and/or pony and presenting it for testing.
  - b. Assisting **Drug Testing Personnel** ~~the veterinarian and/or their agent(s)~~ in procuring the ~~S~~samples promptly, including but not limited to removing equipment from the ~~H~~horse and/or pony, leaving it quietly in the stall and avoiding any distractions to it. Schooling, lengthy cooling out, bandaging and other delays of this type shall be construed as noncooperation.
  - c. Polite attitude and actions toward ~~the veterinarian and/or their agent(s)~~ **Drug Testing Personnel**.
2. ***It is a violation for any individual to attempt to intimidate or interfere with Drug Testing Personnel.***

#### GR405 Equine Drugs and Medications Testing in Connection with an Appeal Measurement

1. Each animal submitted for an appeal measurement is subject to the Drugs and Medications Chapter at the time of said measurement and/or concurrent examinations, and said animal must be in compliance therewith.
2. Each animal submitted for an appeal measurement must have ~~drug testing s~~samples collected at the time of said measurement and/or concurrent examinations. No ~~S~~sample is a ~~drug testing S~~sample ***as required under this rule Chapter 4*** unless it is collected by and/or under the direct supervision of ~~Federation Drug Testing P~~Personnel, who must be appointed by the ~~Administrator of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program Federation~~ to collect ~~S~~samples from the animal in question in connection with said measurement.
3. Each animal submitted for an appeal measurement must have ~~both a urine sample and a blood samples~~ collected at the time of said measurement and/or concurrent examinations. ***All Samples*** ~~Both the urine sample and the blood sample~~ must be of sufficient volume ***and amount*** for drug testing purposes, as determined by the ~~Administrator of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program Federation~~. Said ~~S~~sample collections shall be conducted in accordance with procedures which are the sole prerogative of the ~~Federation d~~Drug Testing ~~p~~Personnel. As deemed necessary by the Federation testing veterinarian, the animal shall be administered furosemide to cause it to produce a ~~u~~Urine ~~s~~Sample in a timely manner.
4. Every ~~Sample blood sample and/or urine sample~~ collected in connection with an appeal measurement and all portions thereof are the sole property of the Federation. Said ~~s~~Samples and all portions thereof must remain in the sole custody of the ~~Federation d~~Drug Testing ~~p~~Personnel at all times during said measurement and/or concurrent examinations, and subsequently they must be submitted to the Federation's designated laboratory for testing in accordance with the instructions of the ~~Federation Administrator of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program~~.
5. The entire cost of ~~S~~sample collections and testing conducted in connection with an appeal measurement, including the fees and expenses of ~~Federation d~~Drug Testing ~~p~~Personnel, shipping costs for equipment and samples, laboratory charges, etc., as determined by the ~~Administrator of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program Federation~~, must be paid in full by the appellant within 30 days of the submission of an invoice, regardless of the outcome of said measurement, and regardless of the laboratory results. A deposit in cash or certified check equal to the costs of sampling and testing, as estimated by the ~~Administrator of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program Federation~~, may be required prior to the measurement.
6. No appeal measurement is valid absent written affirmation of the CEO or their designee confirming the receipt of negative drug testing results from the Federation's designated laboratory, indicating that ~~both the urine and blood all Sample sample~~ collected from the animal in question in connection with said measurement and/or concurrent examinations were found to contain no prohibited substance, said results having been issued to the ~~Administrator of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program Federation~~. Any instance involving a finding of prohibited substance shall additionally result in a violation of Chapter 4 for adjudication by the Hearing Committee in accordance with the Federation Bylaws.



## GR406 Results, Confirmatory Analysis, and Retest

1. ~~Blood and urine~~ **S**amples labeled and identified as Samples A shall be subjected to chemical analysis by the Federation's designated laboratory. ~~Blood and urine~~ **S**amples labeled and identified as Samples B shall be stored securely, unopened, at the Federation's designated laboratory, to be used in the event of a confirmatory analysis, or in the event of a future analysis. Samples collected by the Federation are the property of the Federation, and the Federation is entitled to determine all matters regarding access to and the analysis and disposal of such ~~S~~samples.
2. In the event the chemical analysis of ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample A is negative, i.e., no prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof is found to be present in the ~~S~~sample, the corresponding ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample B may be frozen **or stored, as appropriate**, and maintained, at the Federation's designated laboratory, for possible future chemical analysis.
3. In the event the chemical analysis of ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample A is positive, i.e., a prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof is found to be present in the ~~S~~sample, this shall be prima facie evidence that the prohibited substance was administered in some manner to said ~~H~~horse or pony, whether intentionally or unintentionally, or otherwise was caused to be present in the tissues, body fluids or excreta of the ~~H~~horse or pony at the competition, whether intentionally or unintentionally, such that the trainer(s) deemed responsible and accountable for its condition is (are) liable under the provisions of GR404.
4. In the event the chemical analysis of ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample A is positive, the Federation shall notify the Trainer, Persons Responsible (if applicable), and the Owner of the Horse of their right to promptly request the analysis of the B ~~S~~sample. They may waive analysis of the B ~~S~~sample in which case they shall be deemed to accept the A ~~S~~sample analytical results. If waived, the Federation may nonetheless elect to proceed with the B ~~S~~sample analysis at its own expense. The Trainer, Persons Responsible (if applicable), and the Owner of the Horse are deemed to have waived their right to a B Sample analysis if the Confirmatory Analysis Request Form is not received by the Federation within 10 calendar days from notification of the right to request such analysis. Upon receipt of the duly executed Confirmatory Analysis Request Form, the Federation shall make arrangements for analysis of the B ~~S~~sample without undue delay. The party requesting the B ~~S~~sample analysis must pay the costs associated therewith in advance, but if the B ~~S~~sample analysis does not substantially confirm the A ~~S~~sample analysis, such costs will be reimbursed by the Federation. If such costs required to be paid in advance are not paid to the Federation within five business days following the issuance of the invoice, the right to have the B ~~S~~sample analysis performed will be deemed waived.
5. The party requesting the confirmatory analysis may elect to have the B ~~S~~sample analyzed at a different laboratory than the one which performed the A ~~S~~sample analysis. If such election is made, the Federation will select the B ~~S~~sample laboratory. The choice of laboratory used for the confirmatory analysis of the corresponding ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample B will be determined exclusively by the Federation from the Federation Equestre Internationale list of approved laboratories or a laboratory recognized by the agency appointed by the Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority as meeting their laboratory standards. The Federation will inform the requesting party which laboratory it selected to analyze the corresponding B ~~S~~sample.
6. The party requesting the analysis of the B sample may send a representative (witness) to be present for the opening and identification of the B sample, **if possible**, unless the Federation determines that allowing such representative (witness) may present a threat to the integrity of the analysis process. Such person does not have any right to witness the analysis of the B sample. If the appointed representative (witness) claims that they are not available on the scheduled date indicated by the Federation, the Federation will liaise with the testing laboratory and propose two alternative dates. If the appointed representative (witness) claims not to be available on the alternative dates proposed, the Federation will instruct the testing laboratory to proceed without the representative (witness) present.
7. In the event that the Federation's designated laboratory conducts both the analysis of the Sample A and the confirmatory analysis of the Sample B, both the results of the analysis of Sample A (and supporting data) and the results of the confirmatory analysis of the corresponding Sample B, if any (and supporting data, if any), shall be admissible as evidence in any hearing or proceeding pertaining to this matter.
8. In the event the corresponding ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample B does not exist, or is of insufficient volume to permit a confirmatory analysis, and there exists a remaining aliquot of ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample A which is of sufficient volume to permit a retest, as determined by the Federation, the party who requests the retest of ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample A must make the request in writing to the Federation and it must be received within 7 days of the determination that the corresponding ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample B does not exist or is of insufficient volume to permit a confirmatory analysis. The party requesting the re-test must pay the costs associated therewith in



advance, but if the re-test does not substantially confirm the A Sample analysis, such costs will be reimbursed by the Federation. If such costs required to be paid in advance are not paid to the Federation within five business days following the issuance of the invoice, the right to have the re-test performed will be deemed waived.

9. Any requested re-test of the remaining aliquot of ~~Blood or Urine~~ Sample A, provided it is of sufficient volume to permit a retest, shall be performed by the Federation's designated laboratory.
10. ~~The party requesting the re-test may send a representative (witness) to be present for the opening and identification of the remaining aliquot of Blood or Urine Sample A, unless the Federation determines that allowing such representative (witness) may present a threat to the integrity of the analysis process. Such person does not have any right to witness the analysis of the sample. If the appointed representative (witness) claims that they are not available on the scheduled date indicated by the Federation, the Federation will liaise with the testing laboratory and propose two alternative dates. If the appointed representative (witness) claims not to be available on the alternative dates proposed, the Federation will instruct the testing laboratory to proceed without the representative (witness) present.~~
11. After chemical analysis of the B Sample, or in the absence of the B Sample the re-test of the A Sample, if the laboratory's confirmatory analysis:
  - a. Does not substantially confirm the Federation's designated laboratory's findings, then any allegations that the substance in question was present at the time that the samples were collected shall be dismissed; or
  - b. Substantially confirms the Federation's designated laboratory's findings, the finding shall be considered conclusive.
12. In the case of a ~~Horse and/or pony~~ competing under the Therapeutic Substance Provisions, if the chemical analysis of the ~~S~~sample taken from such ~~Horse and/or pony~~ indicates the presence of a prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof and all the requirements of GR411 have been fully complied with, the information contained in said Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form and any other relevant evidence will be considered by the Federation in determining whether a rule violation was committed by any person(s) responsible or accountable for the condition of the ~~Horse and/or pony~~ under the provisions of this rule.
13. No trainer, responsible or accountable for the condition of said ~~Horse and/or pony~~, will be suspended, or a ~~Horse and/or pony~~ barred from competition, until after an administrative penalty has been assessed or after the conclusion of a hearing and a written ruling thereon has been made.
14. The owner or owners of a ~~Horse and/or pony~~ found to contain a prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof may be required to forfeit all prize money, sweepstakes, added money and any trophies, ribbons and "points" won at said competition by said ~~Horse and/or pony~~ and the same will be redistributed accordingly. The owner must pay a fee to said competition. Points accumulated toward Horse of the Year Awards prior to said competition may be nullified and redistributed at the discretion of the Hearing Committee. If, prior to or at a hearing, the Federation as the charging party, determines that one or more persons, not previously charged as a trainer should also be charged as a trainer, then, upon application by the Federation, the Hearing Committee may, in its discretion, continue or adjourn the hearing, in whole or in part, to permit a new or amended Disciplinary Action Complaint to be issued (unless the person(s) to be charged waive notice).
15. A trainer of a ~~Horse and/or pony~~ found to contain such prohibited substance or any metabolite or analogue thereof is subject to whatever penalty is assessed in accordance with the Federation Bylaws, rules, and published penalty guidelines.
16. If the Hearing Committee determines that any violation or attempted violation of this Rule was willful and/or intentional, there shall not be any limit to the period of a suspension, and the Hearing Committee may impose other and significantly greater penalties than it would have in the absence of such a determination.
17. A ~~blood~~ Sample may be retested under these Rules at any time exclusively at the direction of the Federation. The retesting of a sample may lead to a violation only if the sample was retested within three (3) years from the sample collection date. In order to constitute a violation under these rules, the substance detected in the retested sample must (i) have been prohibited at the time of sample collection; and (ii) not a therapeutic substance, which for purposes of this rule includes only the Controlled Medications on the FEI Prohibited Substances List (available at <http://www.fei.org/fei/cleansport>) in effect on the sample collection date.
18. In the event that the retested Sample proves positive, and the retest was conducted more than one (1) year since the date of collection, no prizes or awards will be required to be returned.

## GR407 Management Procedures

1. To provide funds for research, inspection and enforcement of rules regarding use of medications and drugs, each Licensed Competition, except where prohibited by law, must assess the exhibitors a fee for each ~~H~~horse and/or pony entered in the competition. Participants in the following classes or competitions are exempted from payment:
  - a. leadline
  - b. exhibitions
  - c. games and races,
  - d. classes for 4-H members,
  - e. Recognized Academy classes at Dressage competitions.
  - f. Opportunity classes
  - g. Classes at Regular or Local Competitions restricted to breeds or disciplines whose rules are not included in the USEF rulebook.
  - h. Lite Competitions
  - i. However, these classes or competitions are not exempt from the Drugs and Medications Chapter itself. Within 10 days after a competition, competition management must forward to the Federation a sum representing the above fee times the number of ~~H~~horses and/or ponies entered in the nonexempt classes of the competition plus the number of ~~H~~horses and/or ponies scratched where the fee is not refunded, such sum to be held by the Federation in a separate fund for use to accomplish the purpose set forth above.
2. It is a violation for a Licensee to assess and/or collect a drug enforcement fee in excess of or in addition to that specified and required by GR407.1 of these rules, unless said assessment is approved in writing by the Federation in advance, and then only under the terms and conditions set forth.
3. It is a violation for a Licensee to withhold from the Federation any or all of the drug fees collected in accordance with GR407.1, for any purpose, including to defray the expenses incurred providing stalls, passes, and other items to ~~the Federation~~ **Drug Testing Personnel**, as required by GR407.4 and .5.
4. Each Licensed Competition shall, at its own cost and expense, set aside and make available to ~~The Federation~~ **Drug Testing Personnel** upon request suitable facilities conveniently located for **Drug Testing Personnel** the veterinarian appointed by the Federation and their technicians to collect equine blood and urine samples. Suitable facilities means one or more stalls if available, as requested, that are well lit, clean, dry, freshly bedded, and having a door or gate that can be secured.
5. Each Licensed Competition, upon request, must furnish the veterinarian appointed by The Federation ~~and/or the Administrator of the Equine Drugs and Medications Program~~ by mail forthwith, with the requested number of official passes and parking passes for **Drug Testing Personnel** the veterinarians and technicians to have immediate and free access to all areas at said Licensed Competition.
6. Competition management must cooperate with and exhibit polite attitude and actions toward **Drug Testing Personnel** the veterinarian and/or his agents.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	9/1/2025	3/31/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

## Extraordinary Change Reason

Financial Hardship to Organizers

## Rule Change Intent

This proposed change would allow an FEI Driving Technical Delegate to also act as the national Combined Driving Technical Delegate at dually licensed FEI and national Driving competitions. It is currently permitted for an FEI Driving Steward to also act as the national Combined Driving Technical Delegate. Prior to 2025, this was a common practice but the changes to GR1040 have made this unintentionally prohibited. The proposed change is necessary to ensure there is not unintended financial hardship on organizers by needing two officials for these responsibilities

## Proponent Details

Driving

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments



#### GR1040 Conflicts of Interest and Restrictions – Stewards and Technical Delegates

3. Stewards and Technical Delegates are not to be used as Competition Staff, a Competition Official (Directors, Officers, Chairman of the Show Committee, Manager, Secretary, Judge, Veterinarian, and Course Designer), FEI Official, or in any other paid position not related to their proper duties at Licensed Competitions where they are officiating with the following exceptions:

c. Federation Combined Driving Technical Delegates and FEI Driving Stewards holding both licenses may serve in both roles at dually licensed FEI/Federation Driving Competitions. ***Federation Combined Driving Technical Delegates and FEI Driving Technical Delegates holding both licenses may serve in both roles at dually licensed FEI/Federation Driving Competitions. FEI Driving Stewards and FEI Driving Technical Delegates may serve as Federation Combined Driving Technical Delegates per DC971 and GR1005.***