Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
DR 101.1	136-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)

DR101.1 Tracking #136-25 Draft #2 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Add statement to the Dressage rules on the principles of dressage that support the ethical treatment of horses.

Proponent Details

Dressage

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/23/2026

Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/15/2026

Draft 1: The committee would approve this rule change if the word "welfare" was added to the rule following "ethical treatment", because they feel that ethical treatment and the welfare of the horse are not the same and both should be mentioned in the rule.

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/13/2026

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/14/2026

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Council - Member Services

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 06/02/2026

Draft 2: The Council feels this rule change is unnecessary and that the language is redundant since it is already covered within the GR chapters.

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 05/26/2026

Draft 2: The Council feels this language is redundant and already covered within the GR rules.

Friesian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/15/2026

Draft 1: The committee does not agree with adding this rule as it is un-necessary since GR838 covers all breeds and disciplines.

Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/23/2026

Draft 1: The committee recommends that the added section gets moved to the top of the list, rather than being added as #9 to show its importance.

Morgan

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/16/2026

Draft 1: The committee disapproves due to this rule adding unnecessary verbiage to the chapter that is already covered in the GR chapters through GR838. The committee feels adding statements such as this set a precedent that some breeds or disciplines may care more about horse welfare than others, which is not true.

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/10/2026
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/21/2026

Draft 1: While we support the additional language being proposed, we disapprove as written. We believe that DR101.1 would work better if the paragraphs were reordered. We recommend that this new paragraph be moved to paragraph 2 and the remaining paragraphs renumbered accordingly. This order would provide for better flow and also highlights the importance of being placed on the welfare of the horse.
Draft 2: No additional comment

DR101 Object and General Principles of Dressage. Add new:

1. The object of dressage is the development of the horse into a happy athlete through harmonious education. As a result, it makes the horse calm, supple, loose and flexible, but also confident, attentive and keen, thus achieving perfect understanding with the rider.

2. Upholding a high standard of welfare, care and ethical treatment of all horses, ensuring their physical and mental well-being.

3. These qualities are demonstrated by:

a. The freedom and regularity of the gaits;

b. The harmony, lightness, and ease of the movements;

c. The lightness of the forehand and the engagement of the hindquarters, originating from a lively impulsion;

d. The acceptance of the bit, with submissiveness/throughness (Durchlässigkeit) without any tension or resistance.

4. The horse thus gives the impression of doing, of its own accord, what is required. Confident and attentive, submitting generously to the control of the rider, remaining absolutely straight in any movement on a straight line and bending accordingly when moving on curved lines.

5. The walk is regular, free, and unconstrained. The trot is free, supple, regular, and active. The canter is united, light, and balanced. The hindquarters are never inactive or sluggish. The horse responds to the slightest indication of the rider and thereby gives life and spirit to all the rest of its body.

6. By virtue of a lively impulsion and the suppleness of the joints, free from the paralyzing effects of resistance, the horse obeys willingly and without hesitation and responds to the various aids calmly and with precision, displaying a natural and harmonious balance both physically and mentally.

7. In all the work, even at the halt, the horse must be "on the bit." A horse is said to be "on the bit" when the neck is more or less raised and arched according to the stage of training and the extension or collection of the gait, accepting the bridle with a light and consistent soft submissive contact. The head should remain in a steady position, as a rule slightly in front of the vertical, with a supple poll as the highest point of the neck, and no resistance should be offered to the rider.

8. Cadence is shown in trot and canter and is the result of the proper harmony that a horse shows when it moves with well-marked regularity, impulsion, and balance. Cadence must be maintained in all the different trot or canter exercises and in all the variations of these gaits.

9. The regularity of the gaits is fundamental to dressage.