Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
EV App. 1	214-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)

EV App. 1 Tracking #214-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Add clarifying language to distance requirement for ditches and steps used at the Beginner Novice and Novice level to better assist officials and riders.

Proponent Details

USEA

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/24/2026

Member Comments

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.

a. Dressage: Athletes should be prepared to do a walk, trot and canter Dressage test with 20 m figures and a halt.

b. Cross-Country: Obstacles, solid in appearance, with ground lines where appropriate to enhance the fence profile.

1. There must be no Obstacles before or after a water crossing within 78 ft (25 m) before and 54 ft (16 m) after.

2. A step up and down, but not in combination, may be included.

3. Ditches must be riveted and include a visible ground line with rounded edges and is at least 6 in (15 cm) above grade.

4. The track of the course must avoid turns of less than a 20 m radius.

5. The course must not include more than one combination composed of two elements, where the Obstacles must be a minimum of 33 ft apart ~~or 54 ft after a ditch or step up.~~ ***An Obstacle must be a minimum of 54 ft before a ditch or a minimum of 57 ft after a ditch. An Obstacle must be a minimum of 54 ft. after a step.***

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.

a. Dressage: Athletes should be prepared to do a walk, trot, and canter Dressage test with 20 m figures, and a halt.

b. Cross-Country: Obstacles, solid in appearance, with ground lines where appropriate to enhance the fence profile.

1. Obstacles in combinations should be a minimum of 33 ft apart, ~~and an Obstacle after a ditch or step up at no less than 42 ft apart.~~ ***An Obstacle must be a minimum of 42 ft***

before a ditch or a minimum of 45 ft after a ditch.

2. Steps in combination may include: a step up followed by a step down at a minimum of 30 ft, two steps up at a minimum of 33 ft, or an Obstacle after a step up at a minimum of 30 ft.

3. Water Obstacles may include a step or single Obstacle out of water or a single Obstacle 45 ft before the water and a single Obstacle 30 ft after water.

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.