



## **USEF Statement of Position on Equine Overuse**

*Overuse of horses may be assessed by calendar year, competition period, month, week, competition, or by day. Indicators of overuse include a decline in performance, physical capabilities, movement, and/or mental well-being. Observable signs may involve physical signs of discomfort, exhaustion, lameness, changes in stride, resistance to move forward, use of both leads, and deterioration of jumping style. This is not an exhaustive list of symptoms or combinations thereof and it is imperative that officials use their experience, horsemanship skills, and equine knowledge to make an informed, non-biased decision regarding the horse or pony's health, safety, or well-being.*