Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
EV 156.2	220-25	2	Standard	12/1/2026	USEA	Approved (6/16/2026)

EV156.2 Tracking #220-25 Draft #2 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Fitness to compete is an essential requirement of all equine athletes participating in competitions. The proposed language ensures that horses overall wellbeing is also taken into consideration in addition to soundness. To ensure the well-being of competition horses, Licensed Officials must feel authorized to identify an unfit or unsound horse to determine best welfare options for competition. Allowing the President of the Ground Jury to rely on support from the TD and Veterinarian creates a better nonbiased conversation to take place regarding horse welfare.

Proponent Details

USEA

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Council - Intl Discipline	
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 05/26/2026	**Draft 2: The Council suggest the following language change within the rule: "Must Eliminate any Horse that is lame, sick, exhausted, or unfit to compete; and any Athlete who is unfit to continue."**
Council - Member Services	
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 06/02/2026	**Draft 2: The Council does recommend that the portion of the current rule (not covered by this PRC) referencing "any Athlete who is unfit to continue" be thoroughly reviewed by the Eventing Sport Committee and the Human and Equine Safety & Welfare Committee to ensure there is a process and mechanism for determining whether an athlete is unfit or unsafe to continue.**
Eventing	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/24/2026	**Draft 1: The Committee recommends aligning with the procedure for lame, sick, and exhausted horses for a more consistent application among all welfare related matters. The Committee recommends the following language: "Must Eliminate any Horse that is lame, sick, exhausted, or unfit to compete; and any Athlete who is unfit to continue. If a Horse's fitness to compete is questioned, the Ground Jury must consult with the Veterinarian prior to Elimination. See also EV112, EV105. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury for these circumstances".**
Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/23/2026	**Draft 1: The committee feels that the elimination of horse and athlete due to physical conditions should be addressed in two separate sections in this rule, and not combined. Additionally, the word 'unfit' should be changed to 'unsafe'. Also, if it is unsafe for an Athlete to continue, it should be determined in consultation with the competition QMP, as horses are evaluated with the competition veterinarian.**
Licensed Officials	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/13/2026	**Draft 1: The Committee agrees with the concept and supporting officials. The Committee would approve if the language was amended as suggested by the Eventing Sport Committee.**

Member Comments

EV156 Ground Jury Qualifications and Duties

2. DUTIES:

b. The Ground Jury:

1. Will Judge the Dressage phase. Additional Judges may be appointed by the Organizer, in accordance with EV157, but the Ground Jury is responsible for all decisions.

2. Will be responsible for all arrangements made by the Organizer for the judging and timekeeping of the Cross-Country phase. The Ground Jury or the Technical Delegate must be available to adjudicate on unforeseen circumstances, inquiries, and protests.

3. Will be responsible for evaluating inquiries and protests on the Cross-Country phase. The Ground Jury's decision will supersede decisions rendered by a Licensed Official or appointed personnel of the Event.

4. Will be responsible for judging the Show Jumping phase. This duty may be delegated to an additional Judge, Technical Delegate, or a panel of Licensed Officials appointed by the Organizer, in accordance with EV157.

5. Must Eliminate any Horse that is lame, sick, or exhausted; and any Athlete who is unfit to continue. **If a Horse's fitness to compete is questioned ~~in any regards~~, the Ground Jury must consult with the Veterinarian prior to Elimination. ~~the President of the Ground Jury in consultation with the Veterinarian and Technical Delegate will convene to determine the best options for the welfare of the Horse and education of the rider.~~** See also EV112, EV105. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury determination for these circumstances.

6. At Classic Three-Day Events, the Ground Jury and the veterinarian will form the committee for the first and third Horse Inspections.

7. At Classic Three-Day Events, the President of the Ground Jury will be based at the control center (or elsewhere as decided by the President of the Ground Jury) to adjudicate any unforeseen circumstances. Another Ground Jury member and the veterinarian will form the Horse Inspection committee for the Inspection during the 10 minute halt.

8. For mixed level sections (EV133.1d), the Dressage Judge must be licensed to officiate at the level of the test for which they are responsible.