

Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
GR 414.0	090-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	Veterinary	Active
GR 414.8	107-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	Veterinary	Active
GR 702.1	066-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	USEF Officers	Active
GR 801.1	063-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	USEF Officers	Active
GR 801.6	061-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	USEF Officers	Active
GR 839.1	062-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	USEF Officers	Active
GR 840.1	065-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	USEF Officers	Active
	060-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	USEF Officers	Active
GR 843.1	064-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	USEF Officers	Active
GR 1037.1	067-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	USEF Officers	Active
GR 1211.4	089-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	USEA	Active
AL 101.19	093-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	Andalusian/Lusitano Committee	Active
EV 112.3	091-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	Eventing	Active
EV 138.2	092-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	Active
EV 145.8	068-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	Eventing	Active
HJ 136.1	094-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	CEO - Bill Moroney	Active
JP 144.3	097-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	Jumper	Active
VA 105.1	095-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	Vaulting	Active
VA 127.1	096-24	1	Extraordinary	4/1/2025	Vaulting	Active

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	8/28/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

This is an issue that needs addressed as soon as possible. ESWT is being used by lay people on Federation grounds potentially putting horses at risk.

## Rule Change Intent

- Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy (ESWT) is a therapeutic modality intended to aid in the treatment of soft tissue and bone injuries. As ESWT can provide significant analgesia, this treatment is covered by the respective Veterinary Medical Practice Act in many states. The use of ESWT without the understanding of anatomy and training can decrease the therapeutic effectiveness and even put horses at risk. The intent of this rule change is to only permit veterinarians to conduct ESWT at Federation Licensed competitions. However, a veterinary assistant or technician, appropriately trained by the veterinarian may conduct ESWT if only under direct veterinary supervision. The prohibition on the use of ESWT on the limbs of horses will remain a prohibited practice within 72 hours or competing.

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

Linked Rules	Comments
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## Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Andalusian/Lusitano

Arabian

Connemara

Driving

Endurance

Friesian

Hackney

Morgan

National Hunter Committee

National Show Horse

ParaEquestrian

Paso Fino

GR 414 Prohibited Practices

**4. Only a licensed veterinarian may administer Shockwave Therapy on competition grounds. ~~may only be administered by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. No Shockwave Therapy is permitted within the 12 hours prior to competing.~~**

- a. If sedation is required for Shockwave Therapy, only sedation performed by a licensed veterinarian and administered at the same time as the Shockwave Therapy will be considered therapeutic and GR411 will apply. No sedation associated with Shockwave Therapy will be considered therapeutic if administered within 24 hours prior to competition. ~~No horse may be treated with Shockwave Therapy within the 3 days preceding competition with the following exception:~~
- b. ~~a- Shockwave Therapy administered within the three days preceding competition must be~~ **may be administered by a licensed veterinarian within the 3 day prohibited period, but no closer than 12 hours prior to competing, and is limited to application to the back and dorsal pelvis areas. No Shockwave Therapy is permitted within the 12 hours prior to competing.** This exception is permitted only when the "Trainer" as defined under GR404 properly files, or causes to be properly filed, an Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form after administration and prior to the horse competing. If an online form cannot be submitted due to lack of internet or phone service, a paper form may be submitted. The form must be filed with the Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative within one hour after the administration of Shockwave Therapy. If administration occurred outside of competition hours, the form must be filed within ~~or~~ one hour after the Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative returns to duty if the administration occurs at a time outside competition hours. The Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative shall sign and record the time of receipt on the Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	8/28/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

There are no legitimate reasons for trainer, owners, riders, and grooms to have these substances on the grounds of a Federation Licensed Competition, and horse welfare is at risk.

## Rule Change Intent

There are some substances that non-veterinarians should not have in their possession or use on the grounds of a Federation Licensed Competition, due to the potential threat of abuse for competitive advantage.

## Proponent Details

Veterinary

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Arabian

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Connemara

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Endurance

Friesian

Hackney

Morgan

National Hunter Committee

Paso Fino

Roadster

Saddle Seat Eq

Shetland

#### GR 414 Prohibited Practices

[...]

6. It is a prohibited practice to administer bisphosphonates, except in horses four years of age or older and when using bisphosphonates that are FDA approved for use in horses. GR 411 must be followed.

7. It is a prohibited practice to compete in Federation competitions with a tracheotomy/tracheostomy (i.e. surgical opening through the skin into the trachea).

**8. It is a prohibited practice to use and/or possess any of the following substances on competition grounds:**

- a. *Injectable ACTH***
- b. *Injectable Adenosine***
- c. *Injectable Formaldehyde***
- d. *Injectable Magnesium Sulfate***
- e. *Injectable Melatonin***
- f. *Injectable Oxytocin***
- g. *Injectable Pentobarbital, except by a veterinarian for the purpose of euthanasia***
- h. *Injectable Thiamine***
- i. *Injectable Tryptophan***
- j. *Liquid Nitrogen***
- k. *Any prescription medication in any formulation without a label identifying the horse for whom it is prescribed, pharmacy, prescription date, and prescribing veterinarian, unless it is in the possession of a veterinarian and not yet prescribed or otherwise prohibited under these rules.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/9/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

horse welfare

## Rule Change Intent

The Federation's investigation process is dependent on the participation of individuals with information. Witnesses to misconduct feel safer participating in the investigation process when it is compulsory. For those that manipulate the process, whether by obstruction, misrepresentation, or other means, should be held accountable under the Federation's rules. In order to hold bad actors accountable for their misconduct, such as Unethical Treatment of the Horse, USEF must have cooperation and participation of fact witnesses. The requirement to participate will compel otherwise reticent witnesses to participate and thereby aid in enforcing the rules and protecting the safety, welfare, and enjoyment of the sport. This rule change proposal will provide the Federation the ability to protect its investigation process by prohibiting manipulation with said process.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEF Officers	Leslie Mangan
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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
American Saddlebred
Andalusian/Lusitano
Arabian
Connemara
Driving
Endurance
Friesian
Hackney
Morgan
National Hunter Committee
National Show Horse
ParaEquestrian
Paso Fino



## GR702 Violations

1. A violation is any act prejudicial to the best interests of the Federation, including but not limited to the following:
  - a. Violation of the Code of Conduct or any rules of the Federation.
  - b. Disqualification by a Licensed Competition.
  - c. Determination that disciplinary action has been taken by an administrative agency, arbitration or other tribunal body, humane society, other National Governing Body, or a court of law.
  - d. Acting or inciting or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the rules of the Federation, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interests of the sport and the Federation.
  - e. Any act committed or remark made in connection with the competition considered offensive and/or made with the intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the licensed officials, approaching a judge before or after a decision without first obtaining permission from the show committee or steward/technical delegate, inspecting a judge's card without the judge's permission, or public verbal abuse of competition officials.
  - f. Physical assault upon a person and/or unethical treatment to the horse as defined in GR838, cruelty, or abuse to the horse.
  - g. Failure to obey any penalty imposed by the Federation.
  - h. Exhibiting any horse while in the care, training or custody of a suspended trainer.
  - i. Riding, exhibiting, coaching or training for the benefit, credit, reputation or satisfaction of a suspended person.
  - j. Failure to pay indebtedness to the Federation or indebtedness for hearing transcripts or other hearing expenses arranged through the Federation.
  - k. Participating in any manner at a licensed competition while not in good standing or competing horses not in good standing at a licensed competition. (See GR137)
  - l. Prescribing, dispensing, or administering a drug by a veterinarian which results in a finding of a prohibited substance. In the event a positive report is received by the Federation for a horse or pony to which a prohibited substance has been administered in any manner and the veterinarian is identified in any manner as the source of said prohibited substance, said violation will be addressed pursuant to GR412.
  - m. Any action which is subject to reciprocity by the Federation under the Federation Bylaws.
  - n. Retaliation against a person for making an allegation of any rule violation, for supporting a reporting party or witness, or for providing information relevant to a potential violation. Retaliation may be considered any adverse action taken by an individual against a person participating in a USEF proceeding.
  - o. Failure to cooperate with any investigation carried out by, or on behalf of, the Federation in relation to a possible violation of these rules, including, without limitation, failure to provide accurately, completely, and without undue delay any information and/or documentation and/or access or assistance requested by the Federation as part of such investigation.**
  - p. Obstruction or delay of any investigation that may be carried out by, or on behalf of, the Federation in relation to a possible violation of these rules, including without limitation concealing, tampering with, or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to the investigation, or precluding another person from participating in the process by written agreement.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/10/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

rider safety

## Rule Change Intent

The intent of this rule is twofold:

1. As currently written, the protective headgear rule contained in GR801 has been found to be confusing. The re-organization and clean up of the protective headgear language does not substantively change the rule, except that the exception to remove the protective headgear during prize giving is removed.
2. As modern equestrian apparel includes more stretchy fabrics, which are more likely to result in the possibility of getting caught and hang on hooks or other protrusions, this rule change introduces a prohibition on hooks or other upward projections/attachments on saddles, including stirrups with hook or open bar designs that could cause a rider's apparel to get stuck or cause injury to the rider.

## Proponent Details

USEF Officers

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Andalusian/Lusitano

Arabian

Connemara

Driving

Endurance

Friesian

Hackney

Morgan

National Hunter Committee

National Show Horse

ParaEquestrian



## **SUBCHAPTER 8-A ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT**

### **GR801 Dress Exhibitor Safety Equipment**

#### **1. Protective Headgear.**

- ~~a. It is the tradition of the competition ring that riders and drivers be correctly attired for the class in question, that attendants be neatly dressed, and horses be properly presented.~~
- ~~b. It is compulsory for all persons at Federation licensed hunter, jumper, or hunter/jumper competitions when mounted anywhere on the competition grounds, to wear properly fastened protective headgear in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website, **unless stated otherwise in the relevant division rules**. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. **Exception:** In Hunter or Jumper classes, adults may be allowed to remove their headgear while accepting prizes and during the playing of the National Anthem only; they must refasten their headgear prior to the lap of honor. It is compulsory for riders in Paso Fino classes, both open and breed restricted including Hunter Hack, where jumping is required and when jumping anywhere on the competition grounds to wear properly fastened protective headgear. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. A Show Committee, Competition Management, and Licensed Officials must bar riders without protective headgear from entering the ring for classes in which protective headgear is required and may bar any entry or person from entering the ring if not suitably presented to appear before an audience.~~
- ~~c. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, all sub-junior exhibitors in the Paso Fino division, while riding or driving or while in the driving cart anywhere on the competition grounds, must wear properly fitting protective headgear. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. For all exhibitors competing in the hunter, jumper, or hunter/jumping seat equitation section, if a rider's chin strap becomes unfastened, the rider may stop, re-fasten the chin strap and continue their round without penalty or elimination. A judge may, but is not required to stop a rider and ask them to refasten a chin strap which has become unfastened, again without penalty to the rider. Members of the Armed Services or the Police may wear the Service Dress Uniform.~~
- ~~d. **The Federation makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.**~~
- ~~e. **It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent, guardian, or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use and is properly fitted and in good condition. The Federation, Show Committee, Competition Management, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.**~~

#### **2. Body Protecting Vest.**

- ~~a. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear and/or a protective vest either body protecting or inflatable, specifically designed for use in equestrian sport in any division or class without penalty from the judge. The Federation recommends that the vest pass or surpass the current ASTM standard F1937 or be certified by the Safety Equipment Institute.~~
- ~~b. For Eventing, inflatable vests are permitted only when worn over a body protecting vest. Protective headgear must be in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label.~~

~~3. See DC928 for protective headgear requirement in Combined Driving.~~

~~4. See DR120 for protective headgear requirement in Dressage.~~

- ~~5. See EN102 for protective headgear requirement in Endurance.~~
- ~~6. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, the Federation strongly encourages all riders, while riding anywhere on the competition grounds, to wear protective headgear with harness secured. (Exception hunter, jumper, or hunter/jumper competitions refer to GR801.2) It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and in good condition, and the Federation, Show Committee, Competition Management, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.~~
- ~~7. The Federation makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.~~
- ~~8. Refer to EQ106 and HU107.~~
9. **Boots.**
  - a. Boots/shoes worn while riding anywhere on the competition grounds must have a distinguishable heel. (Exception: Arabian, Hackney Pony, Morgan, National Show Horse, Parade, Roadster, American Saddlebred, and Saddle Seat Equitation).
10. **Assigned Numbers.** Competitors must display the correct number which must be clearly visible while performing in any class unless otherwise stated in the prize list. Competitors may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Numbers to be supplied by management in compliance with GR1213.11. Refer to DR121.11 (Dressage) and DR207.8 (Dressage Sport Horse Breeding).
11. **Saddle Attachments.** *No piece of equipment shall be attached to a saddle that has an upward pointing projection, hook, or similar rigid object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups.*



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/9/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

participant and horse safety and well-being

## Rule Change Intent

The use of biometric sensors for both horse and human athletes can provide valuable safety and health information. The Federation supports the use of technology to promote safety and wellness. Under this newly proposed rule, biometric sensors will be permitted to be worn by horses and humans on the field of play.

## Proponent Details

USEF Officers

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Andalusian/Lusitano

Arabian

Connemara

Driving

Endurance

Friesian

Hackney

Morgan

National Hunter Committee

National Show Horse

ParaEquestrian

Paso Fino

Roadster

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/10/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

horse welfare

## Rule Change Intent

The rulebook currently contains different rules that address prohibited practices. In an effort to streamline and improve the rulebook, this rule change combines some existing prohibited practices in a single rule, while expanding the list to include other important sections, including obscuring the visibility of horses stabled on competition grounds, excessive use of draw reins, and augmented nosebands.

Regarding stabling, this proposal supports equine and human safety and wellbeing by ensuring the inside of stalls are observable by persons outside of the stalls and considers the variances in construction of stalls and venues, recognizing that in situations when the stall's original construction is such that the inside cannot be observed may occur, but is not the norm.

## Proponent Details

USEF Officers

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Andalusian/Lusitano

Arabian

Connemara

Driving

Endurance

Friesian

Hackney

Morgan

National Hunter Committee

National Show Horse

ParaEquestrian

#### **GR839 ~~Attention Getting Devices Prohibited Practices and Equipment~~**

*The following contains a non-exhaustive list of practices and equipment that are prohibited. Where there is a conflict with the division rules, the more restrictive rule will prevail.*

1. **Attention Getting Devices.** Attention getting devices and/or other noisemakers (including but not limited to tape measures, blow horns, altered bamboo poles, explosives, etc.) are not allowed in and around the make up/schooling/warm-up and competition rings during scheduled competition sessions. (Except for the National Show Horse division.) Use of explosives and fire extinguishers by or for exhibitors/competitors (except in the case of fire) is not allowed on competition grounds at any time.
2. **Excessive Use of Draw Reins.** *The excessive use of draw reins for extended periods of time and/or using draw reins in a manner that results in the horse's head being restricted near or between its knees or with its neck in a hyper-flexed position is prohibited.*
3. **Augmented Nosebands.** *Tack nosebands or nosebands that have been augmented, regardless of whether the noseband was manufactured in that manner or altered after purchase, with any object attached to the noseband that causes or is likely to cause a horse pain, a state of obvious distress, or unnecessary discomfort are prohibited from use on a horse at any time.*
4. **Poling.** *Manual poling, or the use of offsets, is prohibited.*
5. **Rubber Bands.** *The use of rubber bands or any other equipment that restricts the movement of a horse's limbs, head, or neck is prohibited.*
6. **Obscured Stalls.** *Any stall that a horse may be placed in for any reason, including for competition prep, care, or housing, must be open and observable from the aisle. The largest opening and line of sight into the stall cannot be obscured or covered by adding fabric, wood, or other material. All participants must adhere to the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies when using stalls as changing spaces.*

#### **GR843 ~~Poling~~**

~~Manual poling, or the use of offsets, is prohibited on competition grounds.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/9/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

participant safety

## Rule Change Intent

This rule change simplifies the Federation's return to sport process and requirements for individuals who sustain a fall at a competition. All individuals who have fallen from a horse or cart are required to be examined by qualified medical personnel prior to remounting their horse or cart and returning to competition. For those individuals who suffer a concussion or apparent concussion, the requirements to return to sport remain unchanged.

## Proponent Details

USEF Officers

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Andalusian/Lusitano

Arabian

Connemara

Driving

Endurance

Friesian

Hackney

Morgan

National Hunter Committee

National Show Horse

ParaEquestrian

Paso Fino

Roadster



#### GR848 Accidents Involving Individuals Concussions, Injuries, and Return to Sport

1. This rule pertains to accidents involving individuals at Federation Licensed or endorsed competitions. Any participant who has had a fall at a competition, must be examined by the competition Qualified Medical Personnel before returning to competition or re-mounting their horse or cart. The fallen person is fully responsible for ensuring that this examination takes place.
  2. Any participant who has had a fall at any competition, and who shows signs of a concussion or is apparently concussed, will be placed on the Federation Medical Ineligibility List until they have been examined by a physician, physician assistance, or nurse practitioner and a properly completed Return to Sport Form is received by the Federation.
  3. For all individuals evaluated pursuant to this rule, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a properly completed Accident/Injury Form to the Federation Director of Competitions with their Steward or TD Report, unless otherwise noted below.
  4. Competition Management must refuse entries to participate from any person on the Federation Medical Ineligibility List.
  5. The Steward or Technical Delegate at the competition must submit an Accident/Injury Report within 24 hours of any incident that gives rise to a concussion or apparent concussion.
  6. The Steward or Technical Delegate at the competition must immediately notify the Federation and submit an Accident/Injury Report within 24 hours, unless an exceptional circumstance exists for any serious injury or fatality that occurs.
3. Fatalities and Serious Injuries. In the event of a human fatality or serious injury, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall notify the Safety Coordinator, Competition Management, and the Federation immediately, or as soon as practicable. Within 24 hours, except in exceptional circumstances, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a completed Accident/Injury Report form to the Federation.
4. Unconsciousness/Concussion.
- a. In the event of a fall/accident where the competitor is apparently concussed or unconscious, the competitor is precluded from competing until evaluated by qualified medical personnel, as defined in GR 847.1.a. If the competitor refuses to be evaluated, he is disqualified from the competition and must follow the Return to Competition guidelines in accordance with the rules.
  - b. A Time Out may be called in accordance with applicable division rules.
  - c. If qualified medical personnel suspect that a competitor has sustained unconsciousness or a concussion, the competitor must be precluded from competing until cleared to compete in accordance with the Return to Competition rules.
  - d. The competition Steward or TD shall notify Competition Management and the Safety Coordinator of the fall/accident as soon as practicable. In the event that a Steward or Technical Delegate is unable to be present at an accident or injury, the Safety Coordinator or Manager must inform the senior Steward or Technical Delegate of said accident or injury within one hour for proper follow up and reporting, as required by the Federation.
  - e. For all competitors evaluated pursuant to this section, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a properly completed Accident/Injury Form, and, if applicable, any corresponding signed release to the Federation Director of Competitions within 24 hours of the fall/accident, except in exceptional circumstances.
5. Medical Suspension. Any competitor who is determined ineligible to compete under any of the preceding paragraphs will be placed on the Federation Medical Suspension List that will be posted on the Federation's website.
6. Return to Competition. In the event that a competitor is determined ineligible to compete under one of the preceding paragraphs, the competitor shall submit to the Federation, a signed release, which includes criteria established by the Federation from time to time, completed by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner in order to be eligible to once again compete in Federation Licensed or endorsed competitions.
7. Refusal of Entry. Any competitor on the Federation Medical Suspension List is responsible for not competing in any further Federation Licensed or endorsed competition until he is removed from the medical suspension list. Competitions management shall refuse entries of any competitor who is on the Federation Medical Suspension List, unless he submits to the Federation a properly signed release in accordance with the Return to Competition rules. Competition Management is responsible for checking the Medical Suspension List prior to accepting entries.
- a. Substitution. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the rules herein, if an entry is accepted prior to the time the competitor was added to the Federation Medical Suspension List, a substitute competitor may be named.
  - b. Refund. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the rules herein, for any competitor who appears on the Federation Medical Suspension List, a Federation Licensed or endorsed competition shall refund the entry fees and Jumper nominating fee, if applicable, less office fees, if applicable. Stabling fees may not be refunded, unless the stabling is filed.

#### GR1033.4.a.2

4. Forms – Forms submitted to the Federation must be on the correct competition year's form as provided by the Federation. Incomplete forms, prior year's forms, or illegible forms will not be accepted. The following forms must be submitted in a timely manner to:



[...]

2. *Accident/Injury Form for any serious accident or injury that occurs at the competition, including any incident that gives rise to a concussion or apparent concussion, Accident/Injury Report Forms on the official form provided by the Federation must be submitted to the Federation in accordance with GR848.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/9/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

Horse welfare and social license to operate

Rule Change Intent

Soundness and fitness to compete are requirements of all equine athletes participating in Federation licensed competitions. To ensure the well-being of competition horses, Licensed Officials must be empowered to remove an unfit or unsound horse from competition.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEF Officers	Leslie Mangan
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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Andalusian/Lusitano

Arabian

Connemara

Driving

Endurance

Friesian

Hackney

Morgan

National Hunter Committee

National Show Horse

Paso Fino

Roadster

Saddle Seat Eq

#### **GR840 Soundness and Fitness to Compete**

**a.** Unless specific division rules state otherwise, all animals except stallions and mares in Breeding classes must be serviceably sound for competition purposes i.e., such animal must not show evidence of lameness or broken wind. ***The competition Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate, in consultation with the competition veterinarian, must eliminate a horse that is not sound or fit to compete. Elimination is final.***

**b.** Animals with complete loss of sight in either eye may be found serviceably sound at the Judge's discretion, except in a class over fences where a Judge may ask a rider to change horses.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/24/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

horse wellbeing

## Rule Change Intent

Horses must be fit to compete at all times while participating in Federation licensed competitions. The discovery of blood on a horse, whether actively bleeding or evidence of recently having bled, may be grounds for elimination. Instances of blood in the mouth or flank, as well as blood caused by tack and equipment must result in elimination from further competition. In minor cases of blood, from a horse biting its tongue or lip, a participant may be permitted to rinse the horse's mouth and, if the bleed ceases, continue on in competition. All other blood discovered by a judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate may result in elimination at the discretion of the official.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
American Saddlebred
Andalusian/Lusitano
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Hackney
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National Hunter Committee
National Show Horse
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Paso Fino

#### **GR843 Blood**

- 1. Any horse with blood on its flank or in its mouth must be eliminated from further competition. Exception: In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, the Steward or Technical Delegate may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the horse to continue; any further evidence of fresh blood in the mouth will result in elimination.**
- 2. Blood discovered elsewhere on the horse's body may result in elimination of the horse in the discretion of the Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate. If the blood is determined by the Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate to be caused by tack or equipment, the horse must be eliminated.**
- 3. Blood on horses must be reviewed on a case by case by the competition Steward or Technical Delegate. Eliminations for blood will be final.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/25/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

Horse Welfare

## Rule Change Intent

This rule change will streamline the Yellow Warning Card rule and clarify the process of what occurs when an individual receives a Yellow Warning Card, as well as the penalties that may result from the receipt of multiple Yellow Warning Cards over a twelve month period. This rule change further introduces a Recorded Warning, which will be issued by Competition Officials in instances of less egregious behavior that does not warrant a Yellow Warning Card or disciplinary action on the part of the Federation. The rule change establishes the potential penalties for those who receive three or more Recorded Warnings in a twelve-month period.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEF Officers	Leslie Mangan
	lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
American Saddlebred
Andalusian/Lusitano
Arabian
Connemara
Driving
Endurance
Friesian
Hackney
Morgan
National Hunter Committee
National Show Horse
ParaEquestrian
Paso Fino

## GR1037 ~~Yellow~~ Warning Card System - Stewards and Technical Delegates

1. A **Recorded Warning** may be issued by a **Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate** at a competition to any person for minor offenses, including behavior that should not be repeated and that does not warrant a more severe penalty, including a **Yellow Warning Card** (e.g., instances of blood in a horse's mouth during a competition must result in at least a **Recorded Warning** and may warrant elimination).

2. A **Yellow Warning Card** may be issued by a **Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate, or Competition Official** working in any of these capacities at the a competition to any **person** competitor, spectator, or participant for improper conduct, or for noncompliance with the **Federation Rules**, **when the misconduct is not a minor offense but not severe enough to warrant formal disciplinary action through the Federation Regulation Department**. rules, provided the issuer considers the conduct not severe enough to cause the issuer to submit the matter to the Federation for a Disciplinary Action Complaint.

3. To issue a **Recorded Warning or Yellow Warning Card**, a **Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate, or Competition Official** must:

- a. complete and sign the **Recorded Warning form or Yellow Warning Card**;
3. b. **timely provide a** A copy of the signed **Recorded Warning form or Yellow Warning Card** must be provided to the **affected person, alleged offender** at the competition either in person or by any other suitable means; **and**
- c. **send a** A copy of the **Recorded Warning form or Yellow Warning Card** must then be sent to the Federation with the Steward's/Technical Delegate's Report Form and noted therein.

### **[Renumber accordingly]**

4. Upon receipt of the **Recorded Warning form or Yellow Warning Card**, the Federation will send an acknowledgment of its receipt of the **same Yellow Warning Card** to the **affected person alleged offender** advising of the provisions of this Rule.

5. The issuance of a **Recorded Warning or Yellow Warning Card** is **final and not appealable**. meant to replace the filing of a Disciplinary Action Complaint for a willful and serious violation of Federation rules, and in no case may a **Yellow Warning Card** be issued for abuse of a horse in any form. It is for lesser offenses only.

6. **The Federation will levy a fine or seek a suspension of no less than two months against any person who within a twelve-month period receives three or more Recorded Warnings or two or more Yellow Warning Cards.**

6. Immediately following receipt by the Federation of a third **Yellow Warning Card** indicating that a competitor, spectator, or participant has been issued three **Yellow Warning Cards** within a 16 month period the CEO or their designee shall either levy a fine ranging from \$500 to \$1000 or issue a formal Disciplinary Action Complaint pursuant to the Federation Bylaws. If the alleged offender is found in violation of any or all of said violations, they may be subject to the penalties set forth in Chapter 7 of the Rules.

7. **The issuance of a Recorded Warning or Yellow Warning Card does not preclude the Federation from seeking further penalties set forth in Chapter 7 of the Rules.**

8. **All Recorded Warnings and Yellow Warning Cards issued within the preceding twelve months**



*will be published to the membership.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	8/27/2024	

#### Extraordinary Change Reason

Financial Hardship on Organizers

#### Rule Change Intent

GR1211 current language misallocates resources by requiring officials when there is no need for them and not requiring them when EV153 has determined the need for additional resources.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle
	htemple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
ParaEquestrian

## GR1211 Appointment of Officials and Employees

### 4. Stewards/Technical Delegates.

[...]

e. Competitions are required to obtain the necessary Stewards or Technical Delegates in accordance with the restrictions below:

i. Competition Management is permitted to obtain more than the minimum number of Stewards or Technical Delegates required above.

ii. For any competitions holding ~~an~~ **the** eventing division, when the cross-country phase is running, it will count as one competition ring, regardless of the number of levels offered. ~~In addition, all dressage arenas will be counted as one ring.~~ **When the show jumping phase is running, each ring will count as one ring, regardless of the number of levels offered within that ring. For purposes of this rule, all dressage rings being run concurrently will be counted as one ring so long as all the rings are observable from the same vantage point.** Additional Eventing TD requirements contained in EV153 are intended to be in addition to the minimum TD requirements contained in the above chart.

iii. Competitions that host regionals, championships, or finals that occur on a rotating schedule, and create a significant change in horse entry numbers, may request a waiver to the Federation to utilize the horse entry count from the year prior to the regional, championship, or final. The waiver must be requested with the competition license renewal.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/1/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

This rule change is extraordinary due to the biosecurity concerns regarding competition officials when performing any type of routine inspection that involves the touching of a horse's muzzle, oral cavity, or bit. The changing of gloves between horse inspections should be a mandatory practice to reduce the chances of spreading pathogens amongst horses.

## Rule Change Intent

On a biosecurity front, with VS and other viral diseases, there is no requirement for a TD/Steward to change gloves after a bit inspection or an examination of the horse's muzzle or oral cavity. For the safety of horses, this is something that must be implemented in official rule form. There is a potential risk of spreading pathogens from horse to horse when handling multiple horses without changing gloves between horses. As far as best practice, it is currently recommended that gloves are changed between horses, or the rider is asked to drop the bridle to display the bit to the official as this would eliminate the need for the official to touch individual horses, but this is not an official rule, only a suggested best practice. This rule change seeks to inact this as a requirement for the health and safety of horses.

## Proponent Details

Andalusian/Lusitano Committee

## Contact Information

Ashton Street

astreet@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Committee Actions

## SUBCHAPTER AL-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

### AL101 Eligibility To Compete

(...)

19. Judges must excuse from the ring any horse that possesses a whip mark (welt) on any portion of the horse. A whip mark or welt is an inflammation of skin and subcutaneous tissue resulting in a swelling in extreme cases is an abrasion or laceration. The cardinal signs of inflammation include heat, pain (sensitivity or palpation) and swelling. The judge(s) finding of fact with respect to the presence or absence of a whip mark (welt) evident during a class shall be final and no appeal may be taken thereon. The judge(s) shall make written finds of fact which shall be delivered to the Federation steward with respect to any horse excused under this rule. In a class that is judged by more than one judge, if a judge in that class believed that an entry has a whip mark, that entry must be examined by all judges of the class and each judge must determine if a whip mark exists. If a majority of the judges of that class determine that whip mark exists, the entry must be excluded from the ring, according to the specification set forth in this article. If a majority of the judges determine there is not a whip mark, then each judge who is of the minority opinion shall submit their own written finding of fact and shall have the authority to eliminate said entry from further consideration.

**20. Any individual who is required to touch the muzzle, oral cavity, or bit of the horse for purposes of inspection shall utilize a new pair of gloves for each inspection. Once an inspection of the individual horse is complete, the gloves shall be properly disposed of in a trash container.**

**20.21.** The following classes do not affect Maiden status of the horse: English Pleasure Pro-Am, Western Pleasure Pro-Am, Versatility Driving to English, and Versatility English to Western.

**24.22.** Electronic communication devices used for purposes of coaching exhibitors during a competition shall be prohibited in all classes in the Andalusian/Lusitano Division. Exhibitors with a permanent hearing impairment are permitted to use an electronic communication device upon submission of a written certification from a treating medical professional's office certifying the permanent hearing impairment and certifying the requirement of an electronic communication device. The certifying medical certification must be provided to the competition Steward within a reasonable time prior to competing who shall attach a copy to the Steward report.

**22.23.** An exhibitor with a disability (other than hearing), will be provided reasonable accommodation upon submission of a written certification from a treating medical professional's office certifying the disability and identifying the accommodation necessary for the exhibitor to compete safely. The medical certification must be provided to the competition Steward within a reasonable time prior to competing who shall attach a copy to the Steward report.

**23.24.** No horse may be entered and shown in more than six (6) performance classes per day. This does not include halter, showmanship, and sport horse in-hand.

**24.25.** When the Dressage chapter is referenced herein, any rule or portion of a rule that is in direct reference to USEF/USDF or USEF National Championships shall be disregarded for the purpose of breed Dressage classes.

**25.26.** In the event coats are waived due to weather, an exhibitor may wear a short sleeved blouse/shirt with a closed collar and, if desired, an appropriate tie, scarf, brooch or pin. Polo Shirts are not permitted except in Sport Horse In-Hand classes. The remainder of the attire should conform with the rules of the class.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	5/16/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

This is requested to be implemented as an Extraordinary rule change because the current language, given the current climate in sport could be misinterpreted as permitting unethical treatment towards the horse which is not the intent or within the spirit of this rule.

Rule Change Intent

The intent of the proposed rule change is to modernize the language regarding the use of the whip. However, it does not change what is permitted use of a whip in competition. This proposal aligns with USEFs efforts to improve language in the Rulebook to support our Social License to Operate.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Amber Braun  abraun@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
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## EV112 Abuse of Horses

3. WHIP. The use of the whip must be ~~for a good reason, reasonably administered~~ at an appropriate time, ~~and~~ in the right place, ~~and with appropriate severity~~.

~~a. Reason:~~ The whip must only be used as an aid to encourage the Horse forward, ~~or as a reprimand. It must never be used to vent an Athlete's temper. Such use is always excessive.~~

b. Time: As an aid, the only appropriate time is when a Horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. ~~As a reprimand, the only appropriate time is immediately after a Horse has been disobedient, e.g., napping or refusing.~~ Instances of inappropriate use of the whip include the whip used after Elimination, after the last fence on course, and/or multiple times between Obstacles.

c. Place: ~~As an aid to go forward,~~ The whip may be used down the shoulder or behind the Athlete's leg. ~~As a reprimand, it must only be used behind the Athlete's leg.~~ It must never be used overhand (e.g., a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank). The use of a whip on a Horse's head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.

d. Severity: ~~As a reprimand only, a Horse may be hit hard. However, it~~ A whip should never be ~~hit~~ used more than two times for one incident. If a Horse's skin is broken or has visible marks from the use of the whip, that will be deemed excessive use. ~~It must never be used to vent an Athlete's temper. Such use is always excessive.~~



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	8/12/2024	

## Extraordinary Change Reason

To align return to play requirements as quickly as possible to ensure participants are working with medical providers to gain proper clearance to participate.

## Rule Change Intent

Requirements placed on competitors for return to competition following a suspected head injury must be continually updated based on evolving, evidence based medicine (or science). With the release of the 6th International Concussion in Sport Consensus Statement and the Sport Concussion Office Assessment Tool 6 (SCOAT 6) in June 2023, the USEF Medical Advisory Group reviewed the requirements for return to competition, and have recommended that all participants who sustain or are suspected of a concussion at a USEF licensed or endorsed competition, work directly with their medical provider to follow a staged (or graded) return to equestrian sport protocol.

Additionally, it is imperative to ensure each individual is evaluated by their provider against the relevant components of the SCOAT 6 in office. The mandatory suspension periods for equestrian competition should align with the current sport science with regards to concussion recovery and return to sport. Mandatory suspension periods may create the incorrect perception that following the passing of a mandatory suspension time period, every individual should be cleared to compete. Each individual may respond to concussion and recovery differently, and they should work cooperatively with their medical practitioner to determine the appropriate timeline to return to competitive sport.

With the removal of EV138.1, competitors will follow the return to play guidelines in GR848. Eventing is currently the only breed/discipline that follows the mandatory suspension period. This proposal will align with the other breed/disciplines and the current evidence-based medicine recommendations for head injuries.

## Proponent Details

Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare

## Contact Information

Katlynn Wilbers

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

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Committee Actions

## EV138 Medical Requirements

### 2. RETURN TO PLAY. See GR848.

~~2. In conjunction with GR848.6, the following apply in the case of a fall/accident or other injury that may have caused a concussion (as determined by qualified medical personnel):~~

~~a. No loss of consciousness and no sign of concussion—no mandatory suspension;~~

~~b. No loss of consciousness but with brief symptoms of concussion e.g., confusion, loss of memory, altered mental state (all symptoms of concussion must have resolved within 15 minutes both at rest and exercise)—minimum of seven days mandatory suspension. The day of the injury counts as the first day of the suspension period;~~

~~c. Any loss of consciousness, however brief, or symptoms of concussion persisting after 15 minutes—minimum 21 days mandatory suspension. The day of the injury counts as the first day of the suspension period.~~

~~d. Notwithstanding the above, Athletes who have established a baseline neurocognitive skills level through a Federation approved testing program (e.g., IMPACT test) may return to competition upon submission to the Federation a certification that they have passed an exam establishing that they have suffered no impairment of that level. In addition, they must submit clearance as required under GR848.6.~~

~~e. All other Athletes may, at the expiration of the mandatory suspension period, return to the Event by complying with the requirements of GR848.6~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	5/9/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

The proposed language adds additional guidance regarding the application of the frangible devices but does not alter the way in which it has been and should be applied. Frangible technology is a very important tool in mitigating the risk for athletes and horses during the Cross-Country phase.

Rule Change Intent

The proposed language adds additional guidance regarding the application of the frangible devices but does not alter the way in which it has been and should be applied. Frangible technology is a very important tool in mitigating the risk for athletes and horses during the Cross-Country phase.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Amber Braun  abraun@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
Driving

## EV145 Cross-Country Phase Obstacles

### 8. FRANGIBLE TECHNOLOGY

a. ~~Whenever possible, Obstacles for which frangible technology (e.g., frangible pins, MIM Clips, or any other load relieving device) is appropriate must be constructed or retrofitted with frangible technology for the Training level and above.~~ *For Training level and above, all open oxers, open corners, verticals or near verticals with open rails, top rail on triple bars and gates where the rail dimensions and weight fit the acceptable parameters of an FEI approved frangible device, must be fitted with frangible devices (e.g., frangible pins, MIM Clips, or any other load relieving device). At a minimum, frangible technology devices used at national Events must meet the FEI Updated Standard for Frangible/Deformable Cross Country Fences.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	10/9/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

This change is being submitted to close a loophole that members are using to circumvent the re-measurement and appeal processes. It needs to be adjusted as soon as possible to prevent the continued mis-use of the protest process.

Rule Change Intent

The protest measurement process has been used with increasing frequency as a way to circumvent the appeal or re-measurement process or to gain an additional opportunity to attempt to have a pony re-measured after a failed attempt at an appeal or a re-measurement. The protest process was intended to be used for individuals to protest other horses or ponies they believed to be competing in the incorrect height section and was not intended to be used as a "friendly protest" to re-measure horses or ponies into a lower height section. The intention of this rule change is to close the gap in the protest rule that currently allows for these "friendly protests."

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Kelsey Shanley
	kshanley@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
National Hunter Committee



## HJ136 Protesting Height

1. An owner or trainer may protest the height of only one horse or pony competing in a class in which they are also competing. ***In order to be considered, the basis of a protest must be that a horse or pony has been issued a measurement card for a division or section that is lower than the height of the horse or pony.***
2. A protest ~~questioning the height of a horse or pony showing in a division, section or class requiring measurement~~ must be filed with the steward and ~~must be filed at least one hour prior to the end of the competition day on which the horse or pony is showing in a division, section or class requiring measurement. Such measurement shall be conducted pursuant to HJ126-HJ138 rather than GR512-514.~~
3. The animal is required to be presented for measurement within one hour of the completion of the animal's last class on the day of the protest.
4. The animal may be presented for a protest measurement with or without shoes regardless of how shown.
5. Protest Results. If a horse or pony is found to be **above outside** the permitted height range that is determined by the animal's measurement card (e.g. Small Hunter Pony, Large Junior Hunter, etc.), the owner forfeits entry fees and winnings for that competition. All points accumulated for Horse of the Year and Zone Horse of the Year Awards to that date are forfeited. Said animal is suspended from competing in USEF Licensed Competitions for ninety (90) days from the date of the protest and a new measurement card will be issued to the owner at the end of the suspension period.
  - a. The current trainer and the Steward who conducted the original measurement of a horse or pony that is found to measure **above outside** of the permitted height range that is determined by the horse or pony's measurement card may be subject to penalty by the Federation.
  - b. If the horse or pony remains in its current height section, the animal may continue to compete as before.
  - c. The decision of the measuring officials is final unless an appeal is filed with the Federation within fourteen (14) days (see HJ137).
6. If a competition's steward is unable to notify an exhibitor of a protest before the exhibitor leaves the competition grounds, the protest will become void, and the steward will refund the protest fee. If a competition's steward notifies an exhibitor of a protest of an animal's height, and the exhibitor leaves the grounds before the measurement can be conducted, the protest will be filed with the Federation and an official protest measurement will be set up at the owner's expense, before the animal is eligible to compete again.
7. The measurement card, or valid measurement form of any animal that is found ineligible for the height section in which the animal was shown must be surrendered to the competition steward who must forward it to the Federation office with their report. If the owner is not in possession of the original measurement card at the time of the protest it is the owner's responsibility to surrender all measurement cards to the Federation Kentucky office within five (5) days of the protest.
8. The decision of competition officials is final unless an appeal is filed with the Federation.
9. Pony and Junior Hunter measurement protests.
  - a. The identity of the protestor will be revealed to the protestee by the competition steward. At the time the competition steward receives the protest, the competition steward will explain the protest measurement process to the parties involved and answer any questions. The competition steward will instruct the protestor and the protestee that any inappropriate behavior and/or

communication between parties will result in disciplinary action.

b. When the animal is presented for measurement, only the following individuals may be present: The owner of the animal, two representatives/handlers of the animal being protested, the protestor, the competition veterinarian(s), the competition steward(s), and any representative of the Federation. At least one competition steward must be certified to measure and that steward will conduct the measurement.

c. If an animal is protested and found to be within its height section, the animal's height cannot be protested again for the remainder of the competition year.

***10. A new measurement card lowering a horse or pony's height may only be issued through the Appeal (HJ138) or Re-measurement (HJ135) process.***



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	10/28/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

JP 144.3 was brought up in the beginning of this process but got overshadowed by another discipline’s related rule. After meeting with CEO Bill, it was suggested that an EO be submitted with a Pres Mod to cover the time between Dec 1st and April 1st so that the Jumper discipline could continue using JP 144.3. A Presidential Modification is being proposed to cover the time from Dec 1st, 2024 until this rule becomes effective on April 1, 2025.

Rule Change Intent

This ability for judges to use video including video not provided by an official videographer has been in the Jumper Chapter since at least 2007 with no issues. To only allow official video to be used per the new GR 1219 (effective 12/1/2024) would eliminate the ability for judges to view video at most all the lower-level jumper shows which isn’t fair to those exhibitors.

A Presidential Modification is being proposed to cover the time from Dec 1st, 2024 until this rule becomes effective on April 1, 2025.

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

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
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## JP144 Violations

3. Use of Video. The Senior Judge, alone or with other members of the judge's panel, may, at their discretion, view an official video recording of all or part of a class in order to verify decisions involving scoring. A review of an official video recording is solely at the discretion of the Senior Judge. The Senior Judge may consult with a licensed 'R' Judge who may or may not be officiating at that competition. Upon review of such video recording, provided it is made available within 60 minutes after the results are announced the Senior judge may make corrections to the placing of the class. An official video recording is considered to be a recording made by the designated host broadcaster and/or a designated official video recording company as named by horse show management. ***As an exception to GR1219 and o*** Only under certain circumstances when there is no official video recording, the Senior Judge may consider using a private ***unaltered*** video. Note: A video may never be used to establish the time of a round.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	10/25/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

Horse Welfare

Rule Change Intent

This is in the interest of limiting horse use at competitions especially when USEF and EVUSA competitions are occurring at the same time.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Vaulting	Michelle McQueen
	mmcqueen@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

## CHAPTER VA VAULTING DIVISION

### SUBCHAPTER VA-1 GENERAL

#### VA 105 Horse Use

1. Horses may be used for a maximum of ~~24~~ **18** units per day.
  - a. Squad Events:
    1. Squad Compulsories = 6 units
    2. Squad Freestyle = 6 units
  - b. Individual Events:
    1. 1 Compulsories = 1 unit

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	10/25/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

To align with current FEI rules

Rule Change Intent

This rule has shifted in point deduction and needs to be changed to reflect this change.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Vaulting	Michelle McQueen
	<a href="mailto:mmcqueen@usef.org">mmcqueen@usef.org</a>

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions



## VA127 Penalties and Deductions

1. Compulsories—*Pas de Deux*, Squad and Individual Events:
  - a. Up to one (1) point deducted for:
    1. Each landing other than on both feet only.
    2. ***Arm and leg are not raised simultaneously in Flag.***
  - b. One (1) point deducted for:
    1. Each stride less than 4 (Basic Seat, Flag, Stand).
    2. Each passing of the leg out of a 4-count rhythm in the Mill and the Half Mill.
    3. Interfering with lunge line or side reins.
    4. Touching neck in Flag without loss of form.
    5. No kneel (both knees) before Flag or Stand.
    6. Legs not closed throughout flight in dismount Swing off from the seat astride to the outside
  - c. Up to two (2) points deducted for:
    1. Time wasted: between taking grips and vaulting on, before commencing an exercise, and between parts of an exercise.
    2. Landing heavily on horse's back.
    3. Buttocks leaving horse during Mill or Half Mill.
  - d. Two (2) points deducted for:
    1. Exercise fails, but vaulter stays on and repeats successfully.
    2. Retaking grips in Basic Seat, Flag or Stand.
    3. Touching horse with hand behind surcingle in Mill or Half Mill.
    4. In Senior Events, when Basic Seat is shown. Flag receives the deduction.
    5. In Squad Events, a compulsory exercise shown out of order in which the vaulter stays on and repeats the correct exercise before dismounting.
    6. Repeating mount (first attempt unsuccessful; second attempt successful).
  - e. Score of zero (0) for:
    1. Coming off horse during a compulsory exercise.
    2. Retaking grips twice.
    3. Repeating a compulsory exercise twice.
    4. After Swing Backward, performing dismount in wrong direction (to outside). Swing Backward receives the zero.
    5. Turning the wrong way in the Scissors Forward and/or Scissors Backward (not turning toward the lunge).
    6. A compulsory, no part of which is performed at the required gait.
    7. Each compulsory exercise not performed.