Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
EQ 117.1	147-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	USEF Executive Staff	Approved (6/16/2026)

EQ117.1 Tracking #147-25 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

This proposal seeks to remove all references to the Good Hands equitation classes and finals from the USEF Rule Book in a manner consistent with the recently approved rule change to remove all references to UPHA programs and classes. This is due to the fact that the Good Hands program owner, Mid-America Horse Shows Association declined to enter into an agreement with USEF to prohibit Good Hands classes from being held at any competition that does not prohibit persons on the USEF, FEI, or U.S. Center for Safe Sport banned or suspended lists from being on competition grounds or participating in the competitions.

Similar to other state and local association classes held at USEF competitions, the Good Hands classes can still be offered by the organizer as miscellaneous classes and the program owner, Mid-America Horse Show Association would assume the responsibility for how the classes are conducted, not the USEF.

Proponent Details

USEF Executive Staff

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/23/2026

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/16/2026

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/27/2026

Morgan

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/16/2026

Saddle Seat Eq

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/26/2026

Member Comments

SUBCHAPTER EQ-3 SADDLE SEAT EQUITATION SECTION

EQ117 Conduct

(see GR1210.1b – .1e)

1. Classes for junior and senior riders can be combined.
2. When entries warrant, it is recommended that competitions restrict Maiden, Novice, Limit and Intermediate riders to their respective categories.
3. DIVISION OF CLASSES.
   In ~~The Good Hands, and~~ Saddle Seat championship classes, judges must work competitors in groups of 20 or less. In USEF Saddle Seat Medal classes, judges must work competitors in groups of 15 or less. In USEF Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal Classes it is at the discretion of competition management whether or not to work competitors in groups of 15 or less. In all other Saddle Seat classes, if there are 20 or more en-tries in a class, it is recommended that the class be divided into separate sections by selecting every other number on the list of entries, and that separate trophies and ribbons be awarded. If there are 25 or more entries, the class must be divided and the notification of such publicly announced and posted at least two hours prior to the start of the class. In classes with eliminations, it is the prerogative of the judge, not of competition management, to determine the number of riders from any given section. The list of qualifying riders for the class finals will not be posted or an-nounced until all sections have been worked.

[...]

EQ119 Requirements for Specific Classes.

[...]

8. PLEASURE EQUITATION. For junior riders who have not reached their 18th birthday, riding Pleasure horses with full mane and tail with natural carriage. Classes may be divided as to sex and age of the rider. (For riders competing on American Saddlebreds: Horses cross entered in the Country Pleasure division at the same competition may not wear tailsets or bustles while on the grounds. Riders competing in these classes cannot compete in any other Saddle Seat Equitation classes at the same competition, except USEF Medal.~~, UPHA, The Good Hands~~ and American Saddlebred Pleasure Equitation Medallion Saddle Seat classes on Pleasure horses with full manes and tails with natural carriage. Riders competing in Pleasure Equitation classes are eligible to compete in the Open Saddle Seat Equitation Championship on a Pleasure horse with a full mane and tail with natural carriage only if a Pleasure Equitation Championship is not offered at that competition.

[...]

~~13. THE GOOD HANDS. For permission to offer this class and complete details, contact The Mid-America Horse Show Association, email admin@MidAmericaHorseShow.org or phone (847) 537-4743. There is a class fee.~~

~~a. THE GOOD HANDS QUALIFYING CLASSES. For juniors who have not reached their 18th birthday. To be judged as a group at a walk, trot and canter. A minimum of two riders are required to individually execute a figure eight at a canter, trot to the judge, stop and back. After which, Tests 1-16 may be called for. Judging is based 40% on railwork and 60% on individual workout. Horsemanship only to count. To fill a class, two competitors must compete with proper tack. A rider must place first or second to qualify to compete in The Good Hands Finals. One win eliminates the rider from further competition in this class for the remainder of the qualifying~~

season.

b. THE GOOD HANDS FINALS. To be eligible, entrant must have placed first or second in an official Good Hands qualifying class at an approved competition and must be properly certified by the secretary of the competition at which such win was made. The winner of this championship is not eligible for further participation in this particular event. Open to junior riders who have not reached their eighteenth birthday. The finals consist of two sections: Preliminaries and the Championship class. The preliminary class(es) shall also serve as an elimination for the Championship class. In the preliminary, all eligible competitors are to be judged as a group at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring and then are required to individually execute the mandatory workout consisting of a figure eight at the canter, trot back to the judge, stop and back. Judging is based 40% on railwork, 60% on individual workout. Judges shall select 10-15 contestants to compete in the Championship class. In the final phase, all contestants are to be judged as a group at the walk, trot and canter both ways of the ring. All contestants shall individually execute a prescribed workout. Further testing of any contestants may be requested at the judges' discretion. Again, judging is based on a 40% railwork, 60% individual workout analysis. A rider's performance in the preliminary has equal consideration as the performance in the final phase. In the event a horse becomes incapacitated, upon examination of the competition's veterinarian and a judge or steward, a substitution will be permitted.