| Rule | Tracking | Draft | Proposal Type | Effective Date | Proponent | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DR 121.8 | 257-25 | 1 | Extraordinary | 9/1/2026 | Dressage | Approved (6/16/2026) |

# DR121.8 Tracking #257-25 Draft #1 Approved

| Rule Change Type | Effective Date | Draft Received | Board Action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Extraordinary | 9/1/2026 | 3/24/2026 | Approved 6/16/2026 |

## Extraordinary Change Reason

Safety Concerns

## Rule Change Intent

There have been reports of dangerous situations occuring during tack inspections following the completion of tests, specifically regarding the removal of fly hoods. No longer requiring fly hoods to be removed for some horses after their tests would improve safety procedures during the equipment check for all involved. Multiple occurences arose this season, where horses reacted poorly to the checking of fly hoods during tack inspections resulting in horses losing bridles, getting loose, flying backwards, etc. This resulted in dangerous situations for horses/riders/officials, and others in the vicinity.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

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## Linked Rules

## Comments

| Andalusian/Lusitano | |
|---|---|
| **Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 04/15/2026 | **Draft 1: Since ear plugs are still prohibited for use in Dressage, the committee is not in favor of this rule change, as removing hoods is necessary to check for prohibited equipment.** |
| **Arabian** | |
| **Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 04/13/2026 | **Draft 1: The committee feels that the removal of fly hoods is still necessary since ear plugs are prohibited and to check for such appliances, the fly hood must be removed. The committee suggests the rule be proposed that "riders must dismount for equipment checking", which would negate some of the safety concerns proposed through the rule change. The equipment checking could also take place in the stabling area similar to bit checking. The committee feels that ear plugs are not much of an issue now due to competitors knowing they could be checked, but with this rule change, ear plugs are likely to be used due to competitors knowing that there will not be an official check for them by removing their horse's hood, which concerns the committee.** |
| **Connemara** | |
| **Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 04/14/2026 | |
| **Council - Intl Discipline** | |
| **Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 05/26/2026 | |
| **Council - Natl Breed & Discipline** | |
| **Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 05/26/2026 | |
| **Friesian** | |
| **Draft 1:** No Action 04/15/2026 | |
| **Morgan** | |
| **Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 04/16/2026 | **Draft 1: The committee is not in favor of this rule change due to ear plugs being prohibited and without the removal of the fly hood, ear plugs cannot be properly inspected for.** |
| **USDF** | |
| **Draft 1:** Recommends Approval 05/21/2026 | **Draft 1: No additional comment** |

## Member Comments

Maria Ignacia Bustamante — Draft #1

Agree and allow for ear plugs therefore no violation

Since earplugs are prohibited, fly hoods must be removed to check for compliance.  Riders need to make responsible choices regarding dismounting, having a halter available and/or being sure their horse is able to stand quietly for this procedure.

**DR121 Saddlery and Equipment. Delete and renumber:**

8. Fly hoods. Fly hoods (ear covers) that do not cover the horse's eyes can be used to protect horses from insects. Fly hoods may not be attached to the noseband. They should be discreet in color and design, and may have a promotional or manufacturer's logo that is in compliance with DR121.1.b.

a. Fly hoods are permitted in the warm up and other training areas and for all classes.

b. Fly hoods may be noise-cancelling in manufactured state but cannot be used with earplugs.

c. ~~If a tack inspection is performed after completion of the test, the rider or their representative is responsible for removing the fly hood and presenting it for inspection to the designated ring steward who will ensure that nothing prohibited has been added, such as ear plugs.~~

d. Blinkers or goggles (with clear or tinted full eye cups) that cover the horse's eyes but do not obstruct the horse's vision are permitted in the warmup but are prohibited in the competition arena. Fly masks are forbidden in warmup, training areas and competition.

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**DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management. Change to read:**

2. g. Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas.

1. Tack Inspections. Inspection of saddlery and equipment (except bits) must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. Ring stewards appointed by competition management are required to inspect the saddlery, dress and equipment worn by at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. In championship classes, saddlery, dress and equipment inspections are required for each horse. When an inspection is conducted, all equipment including ~~fly hoods,~~ nosebands, curb chains, whips, bits, and spurs on both sides must be inspected. The ring steward must also inspect the horse for evidence of blood.