Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
WD 121.5	204-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	Western Dressage	Approved (6/16/2026)

WD121.5 Tracking #204-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/5/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This proposal would allow the shortening of the distance between the hands on a romal during reconnection after the lengthening required for an extended gait. Currently, competitors would be technically unable to shorten reins again efficiently due to the hands being required to be 16" apart at all times.

Proponent Details

Western Dressage

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/16/2026

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Draft 1: The Council approves of the request but would like to see the language adjusted to "16 inches of rein between the hands"

Friesian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/18/2026

Morgan

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/16/2026

Draft 1: The original rule verbiage and the added verbiage do not match: the current rule states "at least 16" of rein between the hands" and the new added verbiage states " 16 inches between the hands" which leaves out the "of rein" portion. The committee also feels that the new verbiage is not necessary as when reins are shortened there would already be 16 inches of rein between the hands and the action of shortening would provide more length of rein between the hands during the action, which makes the rule a moot point.

Member Comments

SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

WD121 Tack

(…)

5. Reins:
(…)
c. Hand Position on reins:

1. In the case of Romal reins, the Romal is held in one hand with no fingers between the individual reins. The end of the Romal may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep the Romal from swinging and to adjust the position of the rein. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands. ***However, for the purpose of reconnecting after a free or lengthened gait to a collected or working gait, a rider is allowed to bring their hands closer together only to adjust the length of the reins before resuming the maintenance of 16 inches between the hands.***