| Rule | Tracking | Draft | Proposal Type | Effective Date | Proponent | Status |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| DR 135.1 | 232-25 | 1 | Rule Clarification | 9/1/2026 | Dressage | Approved (4/7/2026) |

# DR135.1 Tracking #232-25 Draft #1 Approved

| Rule Change Type | Effective Date | Draft Received | Board Action |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rule Clarification | 9/1/2026 | 11/14/2025 | Approved 4/7/2026 1 |

## Rule Change Intent

The current measurement requirements for dressage ponies has changed from the rules in DR135. Dressage TDs and owners are confused by rules that are significantly different from the new policies and requirements. Dressage volunteers and staff have worked diligently with the Measurement personnel to make sure the proposed changes reflect the new requirements and it is imperative that these changes are incorporated into the Rule Book as soon as possible.

## Proponent Details

Dressage

## Contact Information

Lauren Moore

lmoore@usef.org

## Linked Rules

## Comments

## Licensed Officials

**Draft 1:** Recommends Disapproval 04/13/2026

**Draft 1: The Committee felt this rule change does not meet the definition of a clarification and should be changed to a standard rule change. The Committee felt changing the submission requirement from 14 to five days would not be a clarification and should be discussed further to identify the need for the change and how it would be implemented when TD Reports are required to be submitted within 14 days. The Committee also suggests clarifying the language surrounding the usage of rubber mats and notes that this is a change and not a clarification. It would help to clarify if those measurements would also be considered "show purpose only" measurements (e.g. A suitable surface..... concrete slab or paved area. A hard rubber mat or thick sheet of plywood on a firm level surface is permitted if there is no concrete slab or paved area. Measurements conducted on a rubber mat or thick sheet of plywood will result in a "show purpose only" measurement.)**

## Member Comments

**DR135 Pony Measurement. Change to read:**

1. General

a. Any animal not over 148 centimeters without shoes, or 149 centimeters with shoes is classified as a pony. All other animals are classified as horses. For informational purposes only: 148 cm is approximately 14 hands 2 ¼ inches and 149 cm is approximately 14 hands 2 3/5 inches.

b. In order to be eligible to compete in Dressage classes, tests or awards limited to ponies or Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes, tests or awards limited to ponies, a copy of the Federation Standard or Temporary Measurement card must be submitted with the entry for each pony possessing a measurement card and competing at that competition.

c. If a pony, age three or over, is not in possession of a fully and correctly completed measurement certificate ~~or valid measurement form~~, or if competition management cannot confirm the measurement electronically with the Federation, the Competition Management must order the pony to be measured at that competition if entered in Dressage classes, tests or awards limited to ponies or Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes, tests or awards limited to ponies.

d. A current, valid Federation Hunter/Jumper measurement ***certificate*** ~~card~~ may also be acceptable as long as it is otherwise valid according to Dressage measurement requirements. ***For example, if the pony has a Standard Hunter/Jumper Certificate that was issued before 8 years of age, it will need to be remeasured for dressage purposes.***

e. Measurements must take place at a Licensed Competition in which the animal is entered to compete. All animals presented for measurement are subject to drug testing.

f. Measurement will be required yearly from age three until the pony has reached the age of eight years. Animals three through seven years of age will be issued an annual Temporary Certificate of Measurement which is good for the competition year. The pony will have to be remeasured each year until it reaches eight years of age. Animals eight years and older will be issued a Standard Certificate of Measurement which will not need to renewed. The pony will not need to be remeasured unless there is a protest of the pony's height.

g. Failure to allow the pony to be measured or the animal not measuring as a pony will result in the pony being disqualified at that competition from competing in pony classes or tests or for awards limited to ponies.

***h. During the measurement process, Technical Delegates (TDs) will complete a measurement worksheet which will be utilized to file the on-line measurement form.***

~~h.~~ ***i. Once the measurement process has started, the on-line m***easurement forms for every measurement ~~or~~ (those that measured as ponies) or measurement attempts (those that failed to measure as ponies) must be submitted to the Federation. ~~once the measurement process has started~~. Failure to submit an ***on-line*** measurement form will subject the official to charges or penalties per Chapter GR7.

***j. TDs are not allowed to measure for small horse competitions or classes.***

~~i~~ ***k.*** If the animal fails to measure as a pony, the ***on-line*** measurement form indicating the failure to measure is submitted to the Federation. ~~The form must not be given or sent to the owner, but must be sent to the USEF Horse Measurement Coordinator along with the name of the owner. On the uploaded form, put the USEF Horse Measurement Coordinator or yourself on the box for email address.~~

~~j~~. ***l.*** An owner or trainer of an animal declared ineligible on account of height may appeal the measurement to USEF. An attempt to remeasure the animal must follow the Procedures for an Appeal Measurement as outlined in DR 135.11. No additional measurement may occur except pursuant to an appeal.

2. Measurement Device and Measurement Surface

a. A Federation Approved Measuring Stick with a metric scale must be used. All Federation approved measurement sticks will be numbered and carry the Federation logo. The stick must be available throughout the competition. ***If a measurement stick is found to be non-functioning, it should no longer be used to measure. The USEF Measurement Coordinator should be notified of the stick's number and its issue.***

b. A suitable surface is defined as a flat, level, hard surface, preferably a concrete slab or paved area. ***A hard rubber mat or a thick sheet of plywood on a firm level surface is permitted if there is no concrete slab or paved area.*** If a suitable surface is not available, ~~a thick sheet of plywood may be used but~~ ***any measurement*** will result in a '~~competition only~~' ***'show purpose only'*** measurement.

3. Measurement Officials

a. Measurements must be conducted by an eligible Dressage Technical Delegate who is certified by the Federation to conduct Dressage pony measurements and is officiating at the competition, as well as the Competition Veterinarian.

b. If the official Competition Veterinarian is not present at the competition, or not available when on call, the measurement may be conducted by the Technical Delegate and a Judge officiating at the competition or another Technical Delegate officiating at the competition; however, the measurement will be for the purposes of that 'competition only' and no measurement ~~card~~ ***certificate*** will be issued. ***On-line m***easurement forms will be sent to the Federation~~, but will not be given to the owner. (DR 135.10)~~

c. A Technical Delegate may not measure an animal that is owned by a member of their family or by any of their or their family member's clients. (GR1041.2)

d. Technical Delegates and other competition officials who measure ponies at a competition are responsible for their true measurement and must use the Federation approved measurement stick. The names of the measuring officials will be printed on the measurement card and they may be subject to penalties per Chapter GR7 if it is subsequently determined that a measurement is incorrect.

4. Dressage Competition Levels Measurement Requirements, Procedures and Fees

a. All levels of Dressage Competitions holding Dressage classes, tests or awards limited to ponies or Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes, tests or awards limited to ponies are responsible for providing a Federation Approved Measurement Stick, and a suitable surface for measurements.

b. Level 3-5 competitions must make measurement of ponies available. If Level 1-2 competitions are not offering pony classes, awards or tests, they are not required to arrange measurements at their competition, but have the discretion to do so in accordance with all procedures contained in this rule.

c. When measurements are required pursuant to paragraphs a and b above, the prize list must include the official measurement time period when the necessary officials will be available to conduct measurements.

d. Measurement Times and Fees:

i. At all competitions (including Levels 1-5) where pony tests, classes or awards are offered and the official veterinarian is on call or on the grounds, the prize list must include the time period when the official competition veterinarian will be available to conduct measurements.

ii. Alternatively, when the competition veterinarian is on call and an additional measurement time is necessary, management must receive a written request for measurement from the owner or agent at least five days prior to the start of competition. When the veterinarian is required to be on the grounds, the measurement request must be received prior to the start of competition. Management must schedule the competition veterinarian to conduct the measurement.

iii. Only one total maximum fee of $150 per measurement can be charged when measurements are conducted during a time when the competition veterinarian is on call and only one total maximum fee of $50 per measurement can be charged when the competition veterinarian is on the grounds. If the maximum fee is paid to the veterinarian, neither management nor the veterinarian may charge an additional fee amount. The competition veterinarian shall agree not to charge more than the maximum fees stated above. The total fee paid to the veterinarian and the competition shall not exceed $150/animal when the veterinarian is on call and shall not exceed $50/animal when the veterinarian is on the grounds.

5. Memberships

a. Before any animal is measured, the person presenting the animal must have one of the following in his possession: the owner's USEF membership number, a signed statement that membership has been applied for, or proof of Equine Canada membership.

b. If the animal is leased, both the lessee and the lessor must be Federation Active Members in good standing at the time of the measurement. The lease must be recorded with the Federation. See GR1108 for rules pertaining to leases.

c. The animal must have a USEF Horse Recording number or Horse Identification number.

***d. The adult, whose presence is required at the measurement process (if not the owner/agent), is not required to be a USEF member.***

6. Completion of the Form

a. Measurements ***and relevant details should*** ~~must~~ be recorded on the Federation "Combined Driving and Dressage Pony Measurement ~~Form~~ ***worksheet and the information transferred to the on-line measurement form on the USEF website.*** ~~(paper version, uploaded electronically), according to GR501 and the requirements on the form~~. Measurements must be taken and recorded in centimeters.

b. The information on the top of the measurement ~~form~~ ***worksheet*** must be provided by the owner/agent***/presenter***, who must be 18 or over, prior to the measurement taking place. It must contain the name and title of the person

providing the information. ***The presenter (if not the owner/agent) is not required to be a USEF member.***
c. The TD must complete the competition name and number, the date of the measurement, and the measurement stick number. The animal's age, sex, color, breed, and markings must also be recorded.
d. The purpose of the measurement will be indicated on the ~~form~~ ***worksheet***. first measurement, a remeasurement to replace a temporary card, a protest or appeal measurement or a ~~competition only~~ ***show purpose only*** measurement.

7. Method of Measurement
a. Prior to presenting the animal for measurement, it is the responsibility of the owner, and in his/her interest, to ensure that the animal is handled properly, accustomed to the application of a measuring stick, and correctly prepared for measurement. Once the measurement process starts, it ~~will~~ ***must*** be continued to completion. The ***on-line*** form must be submitted to USEF regardless of the measurement result.
b. Federation officials may not perform "courtesy" or "trial" measurements.
c. An individual who is 18 or over must be present during the entire measurement process ***but is not required to be a USEF member***.
d. The animal may be presented for measurement with or without shoes, regardless of how it is shown, and must be presented in a halter. A maximum of two handlers may present the animal for measurement and may not interfere with the animal in any way that will prevent it from standing in the correct position, nor may they have any direct physical contact with the animal that would influence the measurement, except the handler may cover the animal's eyes.
e. Prior to measurement, the official Competition Veterinarian must confirm the age of the animal, observe the jog, and determine that it is sound. Upon verification of soundness, the measurement will continue forward and upon completion, the measurement will be final. If the animal is found to be lame by the official Competition Veterinarian, the measurement procedure will stop, the measurement will not be finalized and the animal is barred from showing in any classes at that competition. The ***on-line m***easurement form, indicating the attempt to measure will be sent to the Federation. (DR 135.1.g.)
f. The animal must stand squarely on all four feet, with the front legs vertical to the ground and the back of the hocks in a vertical line with the point of the animal's quarters. The head may be lowered to find the highest point of the withers but then must come up to its natural upright position.
g. With the animal in the aforementioned position, the Technical Delegate will measure the vertical distance from the highest point of the withers to the ground. The cross-piece, arm or bar of the measuring device must be placed over the highest point of the withers and no measurement may be taken at any other part of the animal's body. Undue pressure must not be applied to the cross-piece, arm or bar. The base of the stick must be on the ground.
~~h. The Technical Delegate will sign and submit the on-line measurement form. If the measurement form is in the current paper format, the TD will sign the form and it is then submitted to the USEF. A copy of the form can be given to the Owner. If the measurement is a 'competition only measurement', a copy of the form is not given to the Owner. If the on-line form is utilized for a 'competition only measurement', or the animal fails to measure, the email address of the owner must not be included on the form.~~
~~i. When using a paper form, any changes to the recorded height must be initialed by both measuring officials, prior to affixing a signature.~~
***h. On-line measurement forms mut be submitted within five working days of the last day of the show.***
~~j~~ ***i. On-line m***easurement forms received by the Federation that have inconsistencies or errors may result in the denial of a measurement ***certificate*** ~~card~~ at the discretion of the Federation. If a pony is denied a measurement ***certificate*** ~~card~~, the Federation will notify the owner of the animal that it will have to be measured again before being eligible to compete as a pony.

8. After the Measurement
~~a. Except in the case of 'Competition Only' measurements, the owner will be given or sent a copy of the measurement form by the TD which is valid for 45 days from the date of measurement. The certificate will be posted on the member's USEF dashboard.~~
~~b~~ ***a.*** The measurement specifications will be recorded by the Federation on a Certificate of Measurement. A copy of this Certificate will be sent to the owner of record.
~~c~~. ***b.*** Measurements are conducted solely for the internal use of the Federation, its licensed competitions and its licensed officials in connection with competing for prizes, and do not constitute any representation or warranty regarding measurement information; accordingly, the Federation, its Licensed Competitions and its licensed officials make no representation and shall have no liability whatsoever for measurement errors.

9. ~~Competition~~ ***Show Purpose*** Only Measurements
a. '~~Competition~~ ***Show Purpose*** Only Measurement' may occur if the Competition Veterinarian is not available and the animal is measured by the competition Technical Delegate and a Competition Judge or another Technical Delegate officiating at that Competition.
b. A '~~Competition Only~~ ***Show Purpose*** Measurement' may also occur if a suitable measuring surface is not available. ~~and the animal is measured on plywood.~~
~~c. In any situation warranting a 'Competition Only Measurement', the form is not given or sent to the owner.~~

10. Procedures for an Appeal Measurement
a. An owner or trainer of an animal declared ineligible as a pony on account of height may appeal the measurement. Any additional measurement of the animal may occur only after an appeal measurement request has been filed and must comply the procedures for an appeal measurement.
b. The appeal must be made to the Federation office in writing within fourteen (14) days of the measurement and must be accompanied by the required deposit
c. All expenses including veterinary fees must be paid to the Federation by the appellant. The owner or agent may be required to sign a waiver and consent on a form prepared by and acceptable to the Federation agreeing to the arrangements for the appeal measurement, agreeing to the administration of Lasix to the animal to aid in the collection of a urine sample for laboratory tests for Federation forbidden substances, agreeing that the appeal measurement shall be final and unappealable to a court of law, and agreeing that the owner and trainer of the animal each release and hold the Federation, and its officers, directors and licensed officials harmless from any claim whatsoever regarding the appeal measurement and respecting any measurement of the animal made prior to the appeal measurement.
d. The Federation will select a location and time for the appeal measurement as convenient for the appellant as possible. The owner or agent must deliver the animal to the location at his own expense within 45 days of filing the appeal.
e. The measurement must be performed by at least two persons appointed by the Federation which shall include one veterinarian who is a member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and one Registered Technical Delegate. The officials whose measurement is being appealed cannot be part of the team conducting the measurement appeal.
f. No animal submitted for an appeal measurement can show evidence of lameness. If found to be lame by the examining veterinarian, the animal cannot be remeasured for thirty (30) days and the appellant forfeits his deposit and any veterinary expenses incurred. Each animal submitted for an appeal measurement may be tested for drugs and medications in accordance with General Rules, Chapter GR4, GR405.
g. The measurement made pursuant to an appeal is final.

11. Procedures for a Protest Measurement
a. If a pony is in possession of a fully and correctly completed Measurement Certificate and its height is questioned by a competition official, the Technical Delegate must request, through the Federation, that the pony be remeasured by a licensed Dressage Technical Delegate and a Veterinarian, who are approved by the Federation. This measurement must be made within 30 days of the request. The Federation will select a location and time for the protest measurement as convenient for the owner as possible.