

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	6/3/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

The intent of the opportunity class is to allow emerging athletes an opportunity to compete without paying the high show entry fees with the hope of attracting more para athletes to the sport by making it more affordable. To make showing more affordable for riders who are just starting out in para dressage, many of the para riders start out on borrowed horses and this gives them a chance to experience licensed competition without additional fees, giving us an opportunity to grow our program from the grass roots. By offering para dressage classes as opportunity classes, more riders will have exposure to the licensed competition environment.

Proponent Details Contact Information

ParaEquestrian

Laureen Johnson

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 05/28/2024

Draft 2: The Council fully supports the intent of this proposal but feels the language needs to be adjusted to ensure that competition management receives a copy of the athlete's dispensation/classification certificate.

Council - Member Services

Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 05/20/2024

Draft 2: The Council fully supports the intent of this proposal but feels the language needs to be adjusted to ensure that competition management receives a copy of the athlete's dispensation/classification certificate. This is essential for management to determine the athlete's eligibility, grade, and authorized competing aids. The Council would recommend approval of this proposal if the wording in the second to the last sentence in GR821.2.e.1.f is changed to read: "The rider must have a national dispensation/classification certificate or FEI classification on file with the Federation and must provide such certificate or classification to competition management."

GR821 Opportunity Classes.

2. Opportunity Classes:

e. Dressage classes may be offered as Opportunity classes at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes as described below:

1. Classes are limited to the following competition levels and dressage tests:

a. Level 1 competitions may offer three tests and only three classes per level per day at Introductory - Fourth Level.

b. Level 2 competitions may offer three tests and only three classes per level per day at Introductory - Third Level.

c. Level 3 competitions may offer three tests and only three classes per level per day at Introductory - Second Level.

d. Level 1, 2, and 3 competitions may offer two Eventing Test of Choice classes per day in addition to the

tests, classes, and levels list above in Section 1.a – 1.c.

e. Level 1, 2, and 3 competitions may also offer two dressage seat equitation classes per day in addition to the tests, classes, and levels listed above in Section 1.a – 1.c.

***f. Level 1, 2, and 3 competitions may offer up to two para dressage test of choice classes per day in addition to the tests, classes, and levels listed above in Section 1.a– 1.c. The rider must have a national dispensation/classification certificate or FEI classification on file with the Federation and must provide said certificate or classification to competition management. See DR119.12– DR119.14. Riders are prohibited from riding above or below their classified grade.***

g. Level 4 and Level 5 competitions may not offer Opportunity classes.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/24/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

In an effort to improve member experience and processing times, the Federation is moving away from paper applications and replacing them with online applications. This rule change is to remove all references in the rulebook to paper application for horse and membership forms and the post competition report.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Bill Moroney	Lisa Owens  lowens@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 411 (084-23)	

Committee Actions	
	Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 05/20/2024	<b>Draft 1: The Council strongly feels that the forms need to remain available online for downloading, due to the large number of exhibitors in the Amish communities and exhibitors of Spanish speaking origin. These downloadable forms could be used for assistance in getting the information in the online format.</b>
	Council - Intl Discipline
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024	
	Council - Member Services
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024	

## GR201 Membership

### 1. Competing Membership(s)

Competing members are those individuals who desire to participate in Federation Licensed Competitions as Life or Active members as defined in Bylaw 212.

- a. Life Member. Life Members are those persons who have made a single payment of the fee, established by the Federation. They shall be exempt from annual dues.
- b. Active Member. Active Members are those Members who have paid the requisite annual dues. For purposes of these rules, 'Senior Active Members' are those Active or Life Members who have reached their 18th birthday. 'Junior Active Members' are those Active or Life Members who have not reached their 18th birthday, as provided for in GR128.

### 2. Non-competing Membership(s)

Non-competing members are those individuals who do not desire to participate in Federation Licensed Competitions. Non-competing members are not eligible to participate as a licensed official, rider, driver, handler, vaulter, longeur, owner, lessee, agent, trainer, coach, competition manager, or competition secretary. The non-competing membership options are described on the membership application form.

## GR203 Effective Date of Membership

### 1. Effective Date of Memberships

a. Membership is effective the date the correct application and fees are received **by** in the Federation office, with the following exceptions:

- ~~1. For applications submitted at Licensed Dressage Competitions, applications are considered effective on the date the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary provided the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary on that same day.~~
21. Applications completed online at any Dressage competition are effective the date the application is submitted.
- ~~3. For applications submitted at all Competitions other than Dressage Competitions, applications are considered effective on the start date of said Competition provided the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary and the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary during the period of the Competition.~~
42. Applications completed online at any competition other than Dressage are effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, the start date of the Competition.

## GR302 License Application Policies and Procedures

### 1. General Provisions.

[...]

h. License Modification. Any changes to the License agreement including location, dates, rating, level, or prize money, will require a license modification request and payment of a fee. Any modifications resulting in a conflict will result in the loss of Priority Date Holder status. Any modification not resulting in a conflict shall comply with the provisions set forth below in order to retain Priority Date Holder status. The Federation may or may not approve the requested changes. Exception: Eventing competitions without mileage conflict requesting changes outlined in GR302.1h5 must follow the Eventing competition modification process outlined in GR302.2g.

1. Holding a competition on a date(s) other than that approved shall constitute a violation of the rules unless a request to change the date(s) is received ~~in~~ **by** the Federation's ~~office~~ at least 30 calendar days prior to the competition and permission is duly given. Exception: Eventing competitions.
2. Holding a competition at a location other than as stated on the date application shall constitute a violation of the rules unless a request to change the location is received ~~in~~ **by** the Federation's ~~office~~ at least 60 calendar days prior to the competition date and permission is duly given. Exception: Eventing Competitions. For eventing competitions, requests for change of location must be received at least 240 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition.

#### GR308 National Championships

The Federation shall have the exclusive right to designate national championships in the disciplines for which the Federation is designated as the National Governing Body by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and in the disciplines for which the Federation is designated as the National Federation by the Federation Equestre Internationale (Dressage, Driving, Endurance, Reining, Show Jumping, Three-Day Eventing, Para-Equestrian and Vaulting). The allocation of national championships in the foregoing disciplines, including issuance of date approvals, licensing of officials, approval of name and all copyright, trademark, trade name, television, video and other broadcast rights and all sponsorship matters shall be solely reserved to the CEO acting upon the advice and recommendation of the relevant Council. All persons or organizations, including affiliate organizations, organizing committees and/or competitions managements, wishing to receive Federation approval to hold a national championship in the foregoing divisions must apply to the Federation in writing on appropriate form(s) provided by the Federation and received by the Federation's ~~office~~ by the applicable deadline. The CEO shall be entitled to condition the Federation's designation and granting of approval for a national championship in any manner that they deem appropriate in their discretion.

#### GR501 Other Measurement Rules

For all measurements, references to the measurement form implies ~~either the paper or~~ electronic version of the form. The rules in Chapter 5 do not apply to measurement of entries in Hunter, Jumper, and Welsh Pony Divisions: refer to rules HJ126-138. For Combined Driving, see Appendix DC-A Measurement of Combined Driving Ponies. For Dressage, see DR135. For all other measurements, see GR502-518.

#### GR514 Results of Questioning or Protesting

1. The measurement card or valid measurement form of any pony that is required to transfer into another division or section must be surrendered to the competition steward or technical delegate who must forward it to the Federation ~~office~~ with their report.

#### GR1011 Special Judge

4. Application must be received ~~in~~ **by** the Federation ~~office~~ at least 21 days prior to the start of the competition. In cases where special applications are received prior to the competition, but less than 21 days prior, the competition must pay a processing fee. If management disputes that the application was not timely filed or that the above fine is not properly owing, it may request a procedural review of these issues before the CoChairs of the Hearing Committee or their designees, provided that the request is made in writing to the Federation within 30 days of management's receipt of the Federation's notice of fine, specifying the grounds for the procedural review. The Co-Chairs of the Hearing Committee or their designees may waive a part or all of the fee upon a finding of good cause why the application was not

timely filed and/or a finding that extreme hardship results from the fee.

#### GR1015 Special Steward

4. Application must be received ~~in~~ **by** the Federation ~~office~~ at least 21 days prior to the competition. In cases where the special applications are received prior to the competition, but less than 21 days prior, the competition must pay a processing fee. If management disputes that the application was not timely filed or that the above fine is not properly owing, it may request a procedural review of these issues before the Co-Chairs of the Hearing Committee or their designees, provided that the request is made within 30 days of management's receipt of the Federation's notice of fine, specifying the grounds for the appeal. The Co-Chairs of the Hearing Committee or their designees may waive a part or all of the fine upon a finding of good cause why the application was not timely filed and/or a finding that extreme hardship results from the fee.

#### GR1024 Special Hunter Course Designer

4. Application must be received ~~in~~ **by** the Federation ~~office~~ at least 21 days prior to the start of the competition. In cases where special applications are received prior to the competition, but less than 21 days prior, the competition must pay a processing fee. If management disputes that the application was not timely filed or that the above fine is not properly owing, it may appeal in writing to the Federation within 30 days of management's receipt of the Federation's notice of fine, specifying the grounds for the appeal. The Federation's CEO or their designee, a special committee appointed by the President or the Hearing Committee will consider the appeal and may waive a part or all of the fee upon a finding of good cause why the application was not timely filed and/or a finding that extreme hardship results from the fee.

#### GR1025 Special Jumper Course Designer

4. Application must be received ~~in~~ **by** the Federation ~~office~~ at least 21 days prior to the start of the competition. In cases where special applications are received prior to the competition, but less than 21 days prior, the competition must pay a processing fee. If management disputes that the application was not timely filed or that the above fine is not properly owing, it may appeal in writing to the Federation within 30 days of management's receipt of the Federation's notice of fine, specifying the grounds for the appeal. The Federation's CEO or their designee, a special committee appointed by the President or the Hearing Committee will consider the appeal and may waive a part or all of the fee upon a finding of good cause why the application was not timely filed and/or a finding that extreme hardship results from the fee.

#### GR1101 Horse Identification Number and Horse Identification Form

1. All horses competing in Federation licensed competitions must be properly identified. For all such competitions, entries for each horse must include a Federation-issued Unique Horse Identification Number. Additionally, a Federation Recognized Discipline Affiliate may require horses to be registered with their organization, and if so, the entry must also include that registration number.
2. The Federation will issue only one Unique Horse ID Number per horse. This Unique Horse ID number must subsequently remain with the horse in perpetuity, and shall not be changed for any reason, including upgrade from Unique Horse ID to a Recording, change of ownership, change of name, or death.
3. Prior to submitting an application for a new Unique Horse ID number, it is the owner's responsibility to verify the current ID status of a horse through a Horse Recording/ID search, (the

assistance of Federation staff may be requested). Anyone who knowingly seeks to obtain an additional Unique Horse ID Number for a horse which has previously been issued one is subject to disciplinary action.

4. The Federation must be notified of any change of ownership and/or competition name of the horse.

5. Owners are requested to notify the Federation of corrections to previously submitted information, e.g., names, addresses, breed registration, pedigree, or markings.

6. A Unique Horse ID number can be upgraded to Federation recording. The Unique Horse ID Number will remain the same.

7. Applications for Unique Horse ID Numbers and/or recordings can be completed online at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) using the Horse application form which can also be downloaded. ~~The ID application form is also available on request from the Federation office, and from competition management.~~

8. Competition management is responsible for notifying exhibitors in their prize lists of the Unique Horse ID Number requirement, and availability of Horse ID Number application ~~forms~~ **on the Federation website.**

9. There will be no charge for Unique Horse ID Numbers that are issued via the internet to members of USEF or its affiliates for: 1) horses that are life recorded, registered or otherwise identified or listed with a USEF discipline affiliate, or 2) horses registered with a USEF breed affiliate. Horses not meeting the above criteria must have a completed USEF Horse application indicating on the application the request for a Horse ID before a number will be issued. This form can be completed on the internet, free of charge, at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

#### **GR1102 Horse Recordings**

1. Using each horse's Unique Horse ID number the Federation maintains the only official record of winnings for Federation awards, Federation ranking lists, Federation qualifying classes and Federation championships of horses at all Regular Competitions. To keep these records consistent, a horse should be recorded with the Federation in the same name of horse and owner under which it is exhibited at competitions. The Federation's horse recording records are not a title registry and the Federation does not decide, otherwise resolve, or become involved in ownership disputes.

2. Horses must be recorded in order to be eligible for National, Regional, or Zone Horse of the Year Awards (see GR1110), and to enter a USEF Show Jumping Ranking List class. (Exception: Horses entered in a USEF Show Jumping Ranking List class that are owned by a member of another National Federation and, have proof, in English, of current membership in good standing of their own National Federation, GR901.9, item 9.)

3. Horses must be recorded in order to be eligible to compete in USEF/USDF qualifying classes for dressage championships and will not be credited with qualifying for the Regional Finals for Dressage Championships until they are recorded in the name of the current owner or lessee of record and unless they are entered in qualifying classes under their official recorded names and ownership. The responsibility for such recording rests entirely with the exhibitor.

4. Horses competing in divisions restricted to a particular breed may be recorded with the Federation under any name but if registered in a Breed Registry, the registered name must also be given.

a. To maintain breeding identification, exhibitors may not shorten horses' names by dropping registered prefixes.

5. Horse recording applications are available ~~from the Federation office~~ or online at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). The recording fee is discounted for the life of a horse if applied for from birth to December 31st of year foaled. A recording may also be activated on an annual basis, using each horse's Unique Horse ID number. Exception: Horses must be recorded for life to be eligible to receive FEI or National Passports. To qualify for the age discount, registration papers and/or other proof of age must be provided. The fees can be found on the horse recording application at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

6. Once a foal year has been submitted to the Federation office, the original date cannot be changed without a copy of the animal's breed registration papers or a signed statement from a veterinarian certifying the animal's age.
7. A horse's Federation Recording may be made retroactive to cover bad points earned at Federation Licensed Competitions (Exception: Dressage) so long as a complete horse recording is received by the Federation within ten days of the Federation sending notification of bad points earned to the owner.

### **GR1103 FEI Horse Passports**

1. Horses must be life recorded with the Federation. To be listed in the passport, the owner(s) of the horse must be active member(s) of the Federation. The passport application and applicable fee must be submitted by the recorded owner (agent's signature is not acceptable) for a specific horse.
2. FEI passport applications can be found on the Federation website ~~or obtained from the Federation office~~. The horse's name on the passport must match its life recording with the Federation exactly.
3. Group-rate passports are available for Pairs and Teams of driving horses as follows:
  - a. For Pairs of two, three, or four horses and Teams of four, five, or six horses (all horses with the same owner), the first FEI Horse passport is issued for the current individual rate and each additional FEI Horse passport (up to six) is issued for 50% of the cost of the initial passport. To qualify for this group rate, the passport applications for all horses in the Pair or Team must be submitted (by the owner) simultaneously and clearly marked "Driving Pair / Horses" or "Driving Team / Horses."
  - b. If an existing Pair or Team has FEI Horse passports and a horse is replaced, the new horse will be issued an FEI Horse Passport at the current individual rate (see also GR1103.5 and .6).
4. Group-rate passports are available for Pairs and Teams of driving ponies as follows:
  - a. For Pairs of two, three, or four ponies and Teams of four, five, or six ponies (all ponies with the same owner), the first FEI Pony Passport is issued for the current individual rate and each additional FEI Pony Passport (up to six) is issued for 50% of the cost of the initial passport. To qualify for this group rate, the passport applications for all ponies in the Pair or Team must be submitted (by the owner) simultaneously and clearly marked "Driving Pair / Ponies" or "Driving Team / Ponies."
  - b. If an existing Pair or Team has FEI Pony Passports and a pony is replaced, the new pony will be issued an FEI Pony Passport at the current individual rate (see also GR1103.5 and .6).
5. In accordance with GR1105 and GR1107, any change of the horse's name, or ownership must be recorded with and the passport sent in to the Federation for processing.
6. Passports in need of change of ownership or nationality must be submitted to the Federation; applications and fee structure are available on the Federation website ~~or obtained from the Federation office~~. The horse must be recorded with the National Federation of the new owner.
7. All passports sent to the Federation for processing will be reviewed for compliance with current FEI regulations including those for Equine Influenza.
8. Passports must be revalidated every four years. Applications are available on the Federation website or obtained from the Federation office.
9. Duplicate passports may be issued for lost or filled passports. The request *application* for a duplicate passport must be signed by the owner of record, and in the case the passport is filled, the old passport must *be sent to the USEF office* ~~accompany the letter of request~~.

### **GR1105 Transfer of Ownership**

1. Ownership of a Federation recorded horse may be transferred during the year without affecting the animal's points provided proper authorization and fee are received by the Federation office. Authorization for transfer of ownership of a horse holding a recording with the Federation may be submitted in the form of a signed Federation recording certificate or a proper bill of sale. Authorization



must be signed by the previously recorded owner(s). If these documents are unavailable, a Federation transfer affidavit may be obtained from the Federation office which must be completed, signed, notarized and returned to the Federation office with proof of ownership. Transfer documents and payment must be submitted online via the new owner's MY USEF account or mailed to the Federation office. A horse will not be eligible to receive points under its new ownership until the conditions of GR1110 and GR1111 are met. The fees can be found on the horse transfer form at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

~~2. Authorization for transfer of ownership of a horse or pony that is or has been in possession of a Federation measurement card may be submitted in the form of a bill of sale signed by the previous owner or a copy of breed registration papers issued to the new owner. There is no fee to transfer ownership of a horse or pony possessing only a Federation measurement card.~~

3. Authorization for transfer of ownership within a family (as defined in GR123) may be submitted **online** ~~in writing~~ and signed by the previous owner(s) and the new owner(s). There is no fee to transfer a horse/pony within a family.

#### GR1107 Change of Name

1. The recorded name of a horse competing in divisions that do not require breed registration may be changed by submission of the recording certificate to the Federation office accompanied by the required fee. The recorded name of a horse can also be changed by submitting the Horse Name Change Request form which lists the fee and can be found at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org). Name changes may also be submitted online via the owner's MY USEF account.

#### GR1110 General

1. Points toward any Horse of the Year Award will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's recording, exhibitor's registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owner(s) and owner's Senior Active, Junior Active or Life membership are received by the Federation offices. ***For these points to count with respect to any competition, the required materials and fees must be received by the Federation on or before the first licensed day of such competition.*** Furthermore, points toward any Horse of the Year Awards defined in GR1132, GR1133 or GR1134, will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's USHJA Horse Registration and the owner's USHJA Active or USHJA Life membership are received by the USHJA offices. Exception: Applications for Federation and USHJA Individual Membership and Horse Recordings submitted **online** at Licensed Competitions:

a. For Dressage Competitions:

~~1. Applications are considered effective on the date the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary provided the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary on that same day.~~

~~2. Applications completed online at the competition are effective the date the application is submitted.~~

b. For all Competitions other than Dressage Competitions:

~~1. Applications are considered effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of said Competition provided the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary and the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary during the period of the Competition.~~

~~2. Applications completed online at the competition are effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of the Competition.~~

~~2. For points to count with respect to any competition, the required materials and fees must be received by the Federation office (or by the Competition Secretary – see below) on or before the first licensed day~~

~~of such competition. Furthermore, for points to count in Hunter/Jumper/Equitation divisions, applicable materials and fees must be received by the USHJA office on or before the first licensed day of such competition. Exception: Applications for Federation and/or USHJA Individual Membership and Horse Recordings submitted at Licensed Competitions:~~

~~1. For Dressage Competitions:~~

~~a. Applications are considered effective on the date the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary provided the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary on that same day.~~

~~2. Applications completed online at the competition are effective the date the application is submitted.~~

~~b. For all Competitions other than Dressage Competitions:~~

~~1. Applications are considered effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of said Competition provided the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary and the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary during the period of the Competition.~~

~~2. Applications completed online at the competition are effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of the Competition.~~

## GR1132 Hunter and Equitation Divisions

### 1. Eligibility

a. Points toward any Horse of the Year Award for the Hunter Division will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's recording, exhibitor's registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owner(s) and owner's Senior Active, Junior Active or Life membership are received **online** by the Federation offices. Furthermore, points toward any Horse of the Year Awards for the Hunter Division will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's USHJA Horse Registration, transfer of ownership, name change, or addition of owner(s) and the owner's USHJA Active or USHJA Life membership are received by the USHJA offices. Exception: Applications for Federation and USHJA Individual Membership and **USHJA Horse Recordings Registrations** submitted at Licensed Competitions.

b. USHJA Zone points toward any Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Division Rider of the Year Awards will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's USHJA registration, and rider's USEF and USHJA's active membership are received by the Federation and USHJA offices. Exception: Applications for Federation and USHJA Individual Membership and USHJA Horse Registration submitted at Licensed Competitions.

## GR1133 Pony Hunter Breeding and Hunter Breeding

1. Eligibility- Points toward any Horse of the Year Award will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's recording, exhibitor's registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owner(s) and owner's Senior Active, Junior Active or Life membership are received **online** by the Federation offices. Furthermore, points toward any Horse of the Year Awards will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's USHJA Horse Registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owners(s) and the owner's USHJA Active or USHJA Life membership are received by the

USHJA offices. Exception: Applications for Federation and USHJA Individual Membership and Horse Recordings submitted at Licensed Competitions.

### GR1134 Jumpers

1. **Eligibility.** Points toward any Horse of the Year Award will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's recording, exhibitor's registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owner(s) and owner's Senior Active, Junior Active or Life membership are received by the Federation office. Furthermore, points toward any Horse of the Year Awards will not be credited until the applications and fees for the horse's USHJA Horse Registration, transfer of ownership, name change or addition of owner(s) and the owner's USHJA Active or USHJA Life membership are received by the USHJA offices. Exception: Applications for Federation and USHJA Individual Membership and Horse Recordings submitted at Licensed Competitions.

### GR1210 General

Apply annually to the Federation for dates for the competition.

#### 1. Medal Classes.

- a. Competitions offering Hunter/Jumping Seat Medal classes must offer at least three additional classes under Federation rules suitable for those competitors who are eligible to compete in the Medal. These classes do not have to be Equitation classes.
  - b. Competitions cannot restrict cross entries between Medal classes.
  - c. NOTE: Permission to hold a Medal class will not be granted to more than one, one day Licensed Competition held on consecutive days with the same management at the same location.
  - d. Following the holding of the USEF Hunter Seat Medal, the USEF Adult Equitation Class and/or the USEF Pony Medal Class, Competition Management shall forward to the Federation a total amount representing the per entry fee in each class.
  - e. Following the holding of Federation Saddle Seat Medal and Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal classes, Competition Management shall forward to the Federation a total amount representing the per entry fee in each class.
  - f. Following the holding of USEF Western Equitation Junior Medal and Adult Amateur Medal Classes, Competition Management shall forward to the Federation a fee per rider in each class.
2. National competition grounds must have a level surface area for measurement (when there are divisions that require measurement) in accordance with GR507.
  3. See that animals required to be measured are correctly measured by the rules and order the measurement of any horse whose height or length of foot is protested by an exhibitor.
  4. Competition management must place a minimum of one (1) sharps container per competition, regardless of whether stabling is provided.
    - a. If stabling is provided, for every fifty (50) occupied stalls, one (1) sharps container must be provided for the disposal of needles and other disposable sharp instruments. These containers must be placed in visible, accessible, and convenient locations in barns housing competition horses.
    - b. Sharps Containers: A sharps container is made of puncture-resistant plastic with leak-resistant sides and bottom. It has a tight fitting, puncture resistant lid, which does not allow sharps to come out of the container. Sharps containers must be properly labeled to warn of hazardous waste inside the container. Sharps containers must not be altered in any way from its manufactured form, such as

removal of security measures or drilling of the plastic. Sharps containers must be protected from the elements as to not collect rainwater.

c. It is competition management's responsibility to dispose of contents of sharps containers when the container is three-quarters (3/4) full, in accordance with community guidelines for proper disposal methods. Competition management may fine any individuals including trainers, owners, exhibitors, or their agents up to \$100.00 for improper disposal of needles or other sharp disposable instruments. d. If local law has more stringent requirements than the above, related to sharps containers or disposal, local law will prevail. Competitions that fail to place the required number of containers on the competition grounds or dispose of the contents properly will be considered in violation of the rules and may be subject to penalty as determined by the CEO or their designee and/or the Hearing Committee.

5. Competition Management is required to submit a Post Competition Report, along with the appropriate fees, to the Federation, ~~postmarked or~~ electronic date stamped within 10 calendar days after the close of the competition. Fees must be submitted by ~~cashier/company/personal~~ check, money order, credit card, or wire transfer; cash will not be accepted as proper payment. For purposes of this rule, a Post Competition Report shall include all appropriate fees ~~and the following properly completed forms: a Post Competition Report Form, Membership Applications and Horse Recording Applications.~~ A fine of \$100 will be imposed on any Competition Management which fails to submit any appropriate fees with the Post Competition Report ~~postmarked or~~ electronic date stamped within 10 calendar days after the end of the competition. Competition Management disputing that the fee/fine is properly owing may appeal in writing to the Federation within 30 days of the date of the notice of outstanding fees and fines. The Federation's CEO or their designee will consider the appeal and may waive part or all of the fine upon a finding of good cause why the payment was not submitted in a timely fashion and/or a finding that extreme hardship results from the automatic penalty.

### GR1213 Entries

1. The name of any exhibitor whose fees are not negotiable must be reported in writing to the Federation within 90 days of the close of the competition. (See GR913).
2. If there is a closing date, the competition must acknowledge all entries made by that date.
3. Ensure that no entry will compete until or unless the exhibitor and the rider, driver, or handler and trainer, or agent(s) of such person(s), have signed an entry blank, including all post entries. In the case of a rider, driver or handler under 18, their parent or guardian, or if not available, the trainer, must sign an entry blank on the minor's behalf.
4. ~~Have available applications for amateur status.~~ If a rider or driver in amateur classes does not possess current amateur certification, the secretary must require the individual to complete the necessary **online status declaration** application (see GR1307).

### GR1302 Duties

1. Every exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, and trainer or their agent(s) must sign an entry blank (see GR404 and GR908.2). In the case of a rider, driver, or handler under 18, their parent or guardian, or if not available, the trainer, must sign an entry blank on the minor's behalf.
2. Every exhibitor, rider, driver, handler, and trainer or their agents must provide on the competition entry blank, all information required under Federation rules. Exhibitors are responsible for their own

errors and those of their agents in the preparation of entry blanks.

a. The following credentials must be made available to Competition Management. Competitions may, at their discretion, confirm any of the below electronically with the Federation Office:

1. Original or copies of Federation membership cards., ~~Exemption: Applications completed at the competition. The member will retain the pink copy of the membership application form which, when properly signed by Competition Secretary, is valid for 45 days from the date signed or until the membership card is received from the Federation.~~

2. Copies of Federation Measurement cards;

3. Federation Amateur Certification;

4. Federation horse recordings for USEF/USDF qualifying classes for dressage championships and USEF/USDF Dressage Championships (see DR127.2).

5. Registration papers showing proof of ownership or a copy of the registration papers with a Certificate of Eligibility to Show issued by the American Saddlebred Registry for horses entered in classes restricted to American Saddlebreds must be submitted either with entry form at the time of making entry or submitted to the show office before show numbers will be released. If a copy is sent with the entry form, the copy of registration papers will be returned when exhibitors pick up their numbers, if requested by the exhibitor. Original or copies of United States Hunter Jumper Association, Inc., membership card, if applicable.

b. Exhibitors are urged to submit photostatic copy of all required credentials with their entry blanks. (Exception: measurement cards, see Rules GR502.1 and HJ135).

c. If an exhibitor does not submit the proper membership documentation to the competition and the competition cannot verify such information, (with the exception of Federation measurement cards) the exhibitor will be responsible to pay a Show Pass fee which is non-refundable.

### **GR1307 Amateur Status**

1. Only Senior Active Members of the Federation may obtain amateur status. Every person who has reached their 18th birthday and competes in classes for amateurs under Federation rules must possess current amateur status issued by the Federation. Amateur status will be issued only ~~on receipt of the application properly signed, or~~ on receipt of an online status declaration, and is revocable at any time for cause. Any person who has not reached their 18th birthday is an amateur and does not require amateur status. Exceptions:

a. Amateur status is not required for Arabian ATR/AATR Walk-Trot/Walk-Jog 11 and Over classes or Opportunity classes or Lite Competitions except for the Dressage classes and divisions that are restricted to amateurs. If Opportunity classes are offered at Dressage Competitions or Regular/Local Competitions with "Open" Dressage classes and are restricted to amateurs, riders are required to have amateur status with the Federation.

b. Equestrian Canada members in possession of current EC membership may sign for Federation Amateur status on a show by show basis at no cost.

2. Foreign riders requesting Federation Amateur status, must be a Senior, or Life Competing Member of the Federation.

3. There is no fee for amateur status. An amateur continues to be such until they have received a change in status from the Federation. Any amateur who wishes to be re-classified on the grounds that they have engaged in or is planning on engaging in activities which would prevent them from continuing to remain an amateur must notify the Federation in writing.

4. Any professional who wishes to be reclassified as an amateur on the grounds that they have not engaged in the activities which made them a professional within the last twelve months must complete the reclassification process outlined below.

- a. Such person shall submit to the Hearing Committee an amateur reclassification request which is supported by:
  - i. A notarized letter signed by themselves briefly outlining their previous horse related professional activities and outlining their current activities performed within the twelve months since professional activities have ceased;
  - ii. Two or more notarized letters from any Active Competing Federation members stating the relationship with the applicant, outlining the applicants activities for the previous twelve-month period, and testifying that the applicant has not engaged in any activities which would make them a professional as outlined in GR1306 during that period;
  - iii. A processing fee; and
  - iv. Sign and declare amateur status on a current *online* Federation membership application or through an online status declaration. The burden of proof of proving amateur status is on the applicant. The Hearing Committee may call for and/or consider any and all further evidence and facts which it deems pertinent. The decision of the Hearing Committee on the reclassification request shall be final.
  - v. EXCEPTION: Any amateur 25 and under, who has engaged in professional activities (as defined herein) may reapply for their amateur status utilizing a 3-month waiting period. The 3 month option is only available for a one-time use. Any subsequent application for amateur status would require a twelve-month waiting period.

Please contact the Federation office for information regarding international/professional licenses.

### GR1308 Membership and Document Requirements

1. To be eligible to participate as a rider, driver, owner, handler, vaulter, longeur, lessee or agent at Federation Licensed Competitions, persons must be Members of the Federation as provided in GR202 or if not a member, must pay a Show Pass fee as provided in GR206 (for exceptions see GR901.9).  
Exception: Applications for Federation Individual Membership and Horse Recordings submitted *online* at Licensed Competitions:
  - a. For Dressage Competitions:
    - ~~1. Applications are considered effective on the date the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary provided the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary on that same day.~~
    2. Applications completed online at the competition are effective the date the application is submitted.
  - b. For all Competitions other than Dressage Competitions:
    - ~~1. Applications are considered effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of said Competition provided the application and dues are received by the Competition Secretary and the application is signed and dated by the Competition Secretary during the period of the Competition.~~
    2. Applications completed online at the competition are effective, for points and eligibility to compete only, on the start date of the Competition.
  - c. Lessees are considered owners in connection with this membership requirement. When an entry is under multiple ownership, only one owner need be a Member or pay a Show Pass fee.
2. ~~Memberships completed at the competition must be forwarded to the Federation office within ten (10) days of the close of the competition as part of the full competition results, which are defined in GR1214. The member's copy of the application is valid for 45 days or until the membership card is~~

received from the Federation.

- a. The following credentials must be available to Competition Management and the Federation steward/technical delegate. Competitions may, at their discretion, confirm any of the below electronically with the Federation office:
  1. Amateur Status.
  2. Copies of Junior Hunter and pony measurement cards.
  3. Federation membership cards or a copy thereof. ~~Exception: Applications completed at the competition. The member will retain the pink copy of the membership application form which, when properly signed by the Competition Secretary, is valid for 45 days from the date signed.~~
  4. Federation horse recordings for USEF/USDF qualifying classes for dressage championships (see DR127.2), and USEF/USDF Dressage Championships (see DR127.2).

#### **AR110 Abbreviations of Class Specifications/Junior Exhibitor/Amateur Requirements/Ages**

##### **7. Adult Amateur Exhibitor Classes – Age**

- b. Every adult amateur contestant that has reached their 19th birthday as of December 1 of the previous calendar year must hold amateur status.
  1. Every person who has reached their 19th birthday and competes in classes for amateurs under Federation rules must possess current amateur certification issued by the Federation. This certification must be available for inspection or the competitor must have lodged with the competition secretary, at least one hour prior to such class. An application form for such certification may be obtained *online* from the Federation. Certification will be issued only on receipt of the application properly signed and is revocable at any time for cause.

#### **DR127 USEF/USDF Qualifying and Championship Classes and USEF/USDF National Championships for Dressage**

1. The Federation recognizes special competitions for Dressage Championships. Competitions licensed by the Federation in the Competition category of “Dressage Competition” and who wish to hold qualifying classes for one or more of these Championships should request information from the International Disciplines Department at the Federation or from USDF. Dressage Competitions offering these classes shall make a complete report to the Federation and to USDF in order that membership and horse recordings can be checked. Complete results must be submitted to the Federation and USDF in compliance with GR1214, including names, addresses, individual membership numbers and horse recording numbers of all class entries and the number of all ribbon winners.
2. Unless specified otherwise in published selection procedures, all qualifying competitions for USEF/USDF Championships are open only to horses that have been recorded with the Federation, ridden by Junior Active, Senior Active, or Life Members. Annual or lifetime Horse Recording is required and horses with only HID numbers are not eligible. Horse owners must also be Junior Active, Senior Active or Life Members. If the horse has more than one owner, at least one owner must have both active Federation Junior Active, Senior Active or Life membership and active USDF Participating or Business Membership. For a business or farm to be the valid owner under this requirement, it must be listed as an owner of the horse with both the Federation and USDF. Responsibility to record their horse(s) with and become members of the Federation rests entirely with the competitors. Qualifications will not count until the applications and fees for the horse’s recording and rider’s and owner’s Junior Active, Senior Active, or Life Membership are received by the Federation, unless submitted according to the provisions of GR203.1 and GR1309.1. Horses must be entered in qualifying and championship classes under their official recorded names and ownership as specified in GR1102.3, and transfers of ownership or lease registrations must be completed in compliance with GR1105 and GR1108 prior to the competition in order for the horse to compete under the name of the new owner or lessee. It is further provided that

for qualifications to count with respect to any competition, such materials and fees must be received by the Federation office on or before the first recognized day of such competition, unless submitted according to the provisions of GR201.7 and GR1309.1. Qualifications are not retroactive. Competition secretaries of Federation Dressage Competitions are responsible to the Federation to ensure that horses in qualifying and championship classes are recorded in compliance with GR1102 and riders and owners are current members of the Federation and meet other requirements as set forth in the description of the Championship Classes, including that USDF membership and horse registration requirements are current. Copies of documents submitted by competitors to verify Federation and USDF membership and horse recording must be available in the competition office. Information on USDF membership and horse registration requirements is available through the USDF office. Affidavits will not be accepted for Federation or USDF membership or horse recording verification purposes for entry in Championship classes.

#### **EQ111 Requirements for Specific Classes**

5. USEF ADULT EQUITATION CLASS. Open to Amateur Senior Members of the Federation and USHJA. Application for membership and amateur certification can be made ~~online directly to the Federation, or the exhibitor can join prior to the class through the Federation Steward.~~ Only one rider per horse. To be shown over a course of not less than eight obstacles at 3'3". The course must include one combination which includes an oxer and two changes of direction after the first obstacle. Two or more tests of the top four competitors are required (See EQ113 for approved tests). To fill a class three competitors must complete the course. The winner will receive an embossed certificate from the Federation. Points will count as follows toward the annual USEF High Point Adult Equitation Rider Award. Classes where six (6) or more entries complete the course: 7, 5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Classes where three (3) to five (5) entries complete the course: 3, 2, 1. If there are 50 or more entries at the beginning of this class, it must be divided by every other number and run as two separate classes.

#### **EQ119 Requirements for Specific Classes**

12. USEF SADDLE SEAT MEDAL CLASS (17 & Under and Adult/Amateur).

a. Conditions Governing Competitors in USEF Saddle Seat Medal Classes

1. USEF Medal Classes are open to Individual Junior Members in good standing who have not reached their 18th birthday in accordance with GR128. Exception: Saddle Seat Adult Amateur classes are open to amateur riders 18 years of age or older. Affiliated Members are not eligible. No credit will be given for winnings before a competitor becomes a member.

2. Application for membership can be made directly to the Federation, ~~or the exhibitor can join prior to the class through the steward.~~

3. In Saddle Seat only the first place winner is eliminated from further qualifying classes during that year. In Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal classes a win does not eliminate a rider from further competition for the remainder of the year.

4. The winner of a Medal Class Final is no longer eligible to compete in Medal classes in the division in which the Final was won. (Exception: Winners of the Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal Final will be eliminated from further competition in Saddle Seat Adult Amateur Medal classes after two (2) consecutive or non-consecutive wins of the Final).

#### **HJ127 General**

1. Horses or ponies competing in any division, section, or class where height is a requirement must be measured. Measurements will be conducted in accordance with Subchapter HJ-7 Measurement.

2. Competition Management is required to check measurement cards for horses or ponies showing in



divisions, sections, or classes where height is a requirement. Management shall not provide a back number to an animal entered in such sections unless the exhibitor or their agent is in possession of:

- a. the original or a copy of a measurement card issued by the Federation.
- b. a copy of a valid measurement form.

3. It is the responsibility of each owner to possess a valid measurement card for horses and ponies showing in divisions, sections, or classes where height is a requirement.

4. Failure to comply with this rule by the owner, trainer or competition may result in disciplinary action.

5. Competition management may, at its discretion, confirm any of the foregoing information electronically with the Federation office.

6. All horses and ponies that are presented for measurement of any kind are subject to drug testing.

7. Measurements must be performed by a steward certified to measure and the official competition veterinarian. The official competition veterinarian must confirm the age of the horse or pony and that it was jogged and is serviceably sound. Upon the official competition veterinarian's verification of soundness, the steward's measurement is final. The steward shall sign the measurement form. A steward may not measure a horse or pony that is owned by a member of their family or by any of theirs or their family member's clients. (See GR1041.4)

a. ~~Written or e~~Electronic reports of every measurement or attempt to measure must be ~~sent~~ **submitted** to the Federation office together with the Steward's Report, or the steward may be subject to penalties per Chapter GR7.

b. The steward shall be either a steward officiating at the competition or a steward authorized in writing to conduct the measurement by the Federation CEO or their designee. The steward must be certified to measure. If the official competition veterinarian is not present at the competition, or not available when on call (see GR1211.5) the measurement may be conducted by a steward and a judge officiating at the competition, or another steward officiating at the competition; however, the measurement will be for the purposes of that competition only and no measurement card will be issued. Measurement forms will be ~~sent~~ **submitted** to the Federation, but will not be given to the owner. (Exception: Exhibitors will not be penalized by having points withheld for measurement forms that are incorrectly filled out by USEF stewards and/or competition management and/or competition veterinarians.

8. Stewards who perform measurements and other competition officials present who measure horses or ponies at a competition are responsible for their true measurement and must use the Federation approved measurement stick (See HJ130). The names of the measuring stewards will be ~~printed~~ **displayed** on the measurement card and they and other measuring officials may be subject to penalties per Chapter GR7 if it is subsequently determined that a measurement is incorrect.

9. Measurements are 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.

10. Measurements must take place at a Licensed Competition in which the horse or pony is entered to compete. Once the pony or horse has been measured the measurement is effective whether or not the pony or horse does in fact compete; whether or not the pony or horse competes, it is also subject to drug testing.

11. Measurement forms received by the Federation that have inconsistencies or errors may be denied a measurement card at the discretion of the Federation. If the horse or pony is denied a measurement

card, the Federation will notify the owner of the horse or pony and the horse or pony must be measured before they are eligible to show.

### **HJ129 Membership Requirements and Fees**

Before any animal is measured the person presenting the animal must have in their possession the owner's Federation and USHJA membership number, ~~a signed statement signifying that membership has been applied for or proof of Equine Canada membership.~~

### **HJ130 Completing the Measurement Form**

1. The measurement form must be filled out completely ~~in triplicate~~ before measurement takes place. Measurement cards will not be issued if the form is not completely filled out and legible. Exhibitors are cautioned to make sure their measurement forms are filled out accurately and completely.

- a. It must include the name and date of the competition, the height of the animal, name, color and markings or absence thereof, sex, year foaled which must be verified by the official competition veterinarian at time of measurement.
- b. It must include the name and email address of the owner and their Federation membership number, ~~if applicable,~~ must be given.
- c. The trainer who signs the entry blank at the competition must furnish the above information immediately before the pony is measured, this individual is certifying that all information is complete and correct and that they are 18 years or older. The form must be signed by the measurement official appointed to measure.
- d. Disciplinary action pursuant to the Bylaws and GR7 may result for noncompliance with this Rule. If a horse or pony is presented for measurement by a person under the age of 18 and the measurement is submitted to the Federation office, the measurement will be invalid. The official completing the form must designate on the form that the owner is a current member or that the membership has been applied for (See HJ128) and that the horse or pony is entered in a class at that competition. ~~The white A copy is given~~ **provided** to the owner or trainer and a copy, is ~~returned~~ **submitted** to the Federation office.
- e. No changes can be made to such information once the form is signed. Any alterations, scratch outs, or rewrites to any part of the height must be clearly indicated and initialed by the measuring official.

2. Before an animal is measured for a measurement card, the animal must be jogged for soundness on a firm, level surface with the official competition veterinarian in attendance, and show no evidence of lameness. If found to be lame by the official competition veterinarian, said animal cannot show at that competition and no measurement may be conducted. If an animal whose height has been protested is found to be lame by the official competition veterinarian, the measurement card will be held by the Federation and the owners must request an appeal measurement in order to reinstate the card.

3. Federation officials will not perform "courtesy", "trial", or repeat measurements. Once a pony or horse is presented for measurement, the owner/agent must accept the resulting measurement.

4. The owner will receive a copy which, when properly signed by the steward who made the measurement, is valid for 45 days from the time the animal is measured, regardless of age.

5. Once a foal year has been submitted to the Federation office, the original date cannot be changed without a copy of the animal's breed registration papers or a signed statement from a veterinarian certifying the animal's age.

### **JP100 Eligibility**

1. In order to compete in any Jumper classes at licensed competitions as an exhibitor, rider, trainer, or their agent(s), a person must be an Active member of the United States Hunter Jumper Association, Inc., or pay a Show Pass fee to the United States Hunter Jumper Association, Inc. Exception: Local Competitions, competitions restricted to a particular breed, and exceptions listed in GR901.9.

#### **2. USHJA Horse Registrations**

a. All horses competing in Federation licensed and/or USHJA sanctioned competitions with Hunter, Hunter Breeding, Jumper and Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes (except those activities enumerated in GR901.9, items 1-9) not restricted by breed must be properly identified in accordance with GR1101, and must also be registered with USHJA (see GR1101.1). The USEF/USHJA registration number for each horse must be entered on all entry forms for licensed competitions. Effective 5/1/23

b. Applications for USHJA Registration can be completed online at [www.ushja.org](http://www.ushja.org) or [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) using the USEF Horse Registration application form. ~~This form is also available from the USHJA or Federation office, or as a download from the USHJA or Federation website or from competition management.~~ Competition management is responsible for notifying exhibitors of this requirement in their prize list.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	6/3/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

In an effort to increase the pool of licensed Stewards and Technical Delegates (TDs) and to provide individuals interested in becoming stewards and TDs with officiating experience, the Federation approved the use of Applicant Stewards and Applicant TDs (subject to completion of certain requirements and training including Safe Sport, background check, and educational modules) to officiate at USEF Lite Competitions. This also helps USEF Lite competition organizers, who are often working with limited resources, offset the cost of hiring a steward or TD and provides them with a larger pool of eligible individuals who are in closer proximity to their competition. Since performing Federation measurements takes specialized training and additional certification (even for already licensed Steward and TDs), it would not be prudent to mandate the requirement for measurement cards at USEF Lite competitions for those classes limited by size of horse or pony. Many participants at USEF Lite competitions are not interested in using the competitions for purposes of earning points or qualification, but even if they are using USEF Lite competitions for eligibility for a USEF licensed championship or final, they would have to have possession of a valid Federation measurement card in order to be able to enter and compete at said championship or final, so those individuals will still have to be compliant with the measurement rules.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan  lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions

	Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 05/20/2024	Draft 2: <b>The Council would approve of this rule change if the verbiage were removed from those breed/discipline chapters that do not require measurement cards or host classes based on the height of the horse or pony: Connemara, Friesian, and Morgan.</b>
	Council - Intl Discipline
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024	
	Council - Member Services
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024	

## SUBCHAPTER 3-B COMPETITION CLASSIFICATION

### GR310 Restrictions on Local Competitions

[...]

7. Lite. Beginning December 1, 2022, Lite Competitions are a subtype of Local Licenses and are to be conducted in accordance with the General Chapters and applicable breed/discipline Chapter, except as stated otherwise below (Exception: Open Dressage classes are not permitted to be held at Lite Competitions):

[...]

#### **7. Measurement**

***a. A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.***

### AR162 Height of Obstacles

1. Regular Hunter Divisions/Classes to be determined as follows (Note: any class offered at an AHA approved show that does not specifically adhere to the following nomenclature and specifications will be considered an unrated class):

[...]

k. 14.2 hands and under Working Hunter Over Fences - Open - 2'6" - must have a Federation measurement card or a Federation valid measurement form issued by the Federation in accordance with AR159.4. ***Exception: In Lite Competitions. (see GR310.7) A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.***

l. 14.2 hands and under Working Hunter JTR, AATR, ATR, AOTR - 2'3" - must have a Federation measurement card or a valid Federation measurement form issued by the Federation in accordance with AR159.4. ***Exception: In Lite Competitions. (see GR310.7) A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.***

m. 14.2 hand and under Green Hunter over Fences - Open - 2'3" - must have a Federation/EC measurement card or a valid Federation measurement form issued by the Federation in accordance with AR159.4. ***Exception: In Lite Competitions. (see GR310.7) A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.***

### CP114 Classification by Size

[...]

***7. A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.***

### HJ127 General

1. Horses or ponies competing in any division, section or class where height is a requirement must be measured. Measurements will be conducted in accordance with Subchapter HJ-7 Measurement.

***Exception: Lite competitions (see GR310.7)***

2. Competition Management is required to check measurement cards for horses or ponies showing in divisions, sections, or classes where height is a requirement. ***Exception: Lite competitions (See GR310.7).*** Management shall not provide a back number to an animal entered in such sections unless the exhibitor or their agent is in possession of:

- a. the original or a copy of a measurement card issued by the Federation.
- b. a copy of a valid measurement form.

## HK103 Height

[...]

2. Ponies shown in the Harness Pony and Roadster Pony sections must possess a current measurement card or valid measurement form issued by the Federation. (See GR502).  
**Exception: ~~In Lite Competitions. (see GR310.7)~~ A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.**

## HK134 General

[...]

3. Ponies may not be shown in a Roadster performance class unless the owner possesses a current measurement card or valid measurement form issued by the Federation or Management can confirm the measurement electronically with the Federation (see General Rules, GR502).  
**Exception: ~~In Lite Competitions. (see GR310.7)~~ A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.**

## NS106 Division of Classes

1. Classes may be divided according to:

- a. Sex or age of horse.
- b. Height—15.2 hands and under; over 15.2 hands. **A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.**
- c. Sex or Age of rider.
- d. With or without Championships.

## NS147 Classes Offered and Specifications

1. Quality, animation and expression are paramount. Classes may be divided according to:

- a. Sex—Mares, Stallions/Geldings.
- b. Height—over 14.2 hands and not exceeding 15 hands; 15.2 hands and under; over 15.2 hands. **A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.**

## RD101 Eligibility

[...]

2. Roadster Ponies: Registration is not required for ponies competing in the Roadster division. Ponies may not be shown in a performance class unless the owner possesses a current Measurement Card or valid Measurement Form issued by the Federation (see GR502).  
**Exception: ~~In Lite Competitions. (see GR310.7)~~ A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.**  
All Roadster Ponies must be re-measured and issued new measurement cards prior to competing in licensed competitions for the year 2004 and beyond.

## SB145 Division of Classes

1. Classes may be divided according to:

- a. Sex or age of horse.
- b. Height—over 15.2 hands; 15.2 hands and under; 14.2 hands and under. Entries 14.2 hands and under must possess a valid measurement card or form, the measurement to be done as per

SB204.3. ~~Exception: In Lite Competitions. (see GR310.7)~~ A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.

#### SB204 Eligibility

1. Ponies must be ridden by Junior Exhibitors; therefore, manners are paramount and the ponies should have agreeable attitudes.

2. American Saddlebred-type Pony classes are restricted to mares and geldings 14.2 hands and under (see SB204.3c). The owner must possess a current USEF Measurement Card or a valid measurement form issued by the Federation. See GR502. ~~Exception: In Lite Competitions. (see GR310.7)~~ A Federation measurement card or form is not required for entry into Lite classes restricted by the height of the horse or pony. However, horses and ponies must be within the correct height range when competing in classes restricted by height.

#### SP107 Height

2. A pony shall not be shown in a Performance class unless the owner is in possession of a current ASPC or Federation Measurement Card or valid measurement form issued by ASPC or the Federation or Management can confirm the measurement electronically with the Federation. (See GR502.) ~~Exception: Lite competitions (See GR310.7).~~

#### WL102 Height

2. Management shall not permit an animal to be shown in any Welsh performance class at a Federation Licensed Competition unless the person presenting the animal is in possession of one of the following:

- a. A measurement card issued by the Federation bearing the date of August 15, 1993 or thereafter; ~~Exception: Lite competitions (See GR310.7);~~ or
- b. Certified measurement card applied for prior to December 1, 1987; ~~Exception: Lite competitions (See GR310.7);~~ or
- c. A copy of a valid measurement form. Competition management may, at its discretion, confirm any of the foregoing information electronically with the Federation Office. ~~Exception: Lite competitions (See GR310.7).~~
- d. A copy of a valid permanent measurement card issued by WPCSA or two copies of a temporary measurement card issued by WPCSA.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/31/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

As horses converge from varying barns and locations to licensed competitions, maintaining the health and safety of equine competitors is of paramount importance. In an effort to ensure the continued health and safety of horses at licensed competitions, competitors must agree to comply with disease prevention biosecurity measures imposed by the Federation, competition management, and state or federal animal health officials. This rule change will ensure this requirement is clearly understood.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Veterinary	Katie Flynn
	kflynn@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 871 (073-23)	

Committee Actions	
	Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024	
	Council - Intl Discipline
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024	
	Council - Member Services
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024	



**SUBCHAPTER 8-H EQUINE HEALTH AND ISOLATION**

**GR870 Competitor Biosecurity Requirements**

***All riders, drivers, vaulters, handlers, owners, trainers, coaches, grooms, agents, and lessors must abide by and comply with biosecurity measures and equine health requirements imposed by the Federation, Competition Management, and local, state, and federal animal health officials.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/31/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

In order to ensure the highest levels of horse and human safety and health exist at licensed competitions, competition management must comply with applicable state and federal animal health requirements in effect. This rule will ensure this requirement is abided by.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Veterinary	Katie Flynn kflynn@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 870 (072-23)	

Committee Actions
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024
Council - Intl Discipline Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024
Council - Member Services Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024

**SUBCHAPTER 8-H EQUINE HEALTH AND ISOLATION**

**GR871 Competition Management Biosecurity Requirements**

***Competition Management must ensure licensed competitions are conducted in accordance with all applicable Federation, local, state, and federal animal health requirements.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/31/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Isolation of a sick horse is critical to protecting the health of all other horses on competition grounds. The intent of this rule change is to create a separate rule containing all the requirements of the isolation plan, outside of the requirements of the accident preparedness plan, to ease the access to this information. Competitions are currently required to have an isolation plan in place prior to the start of the competition, this rule change does not impose a new requirement to that effect. Currently, the Federation does not provide guidance as to the location or quantity of isolation stalls. Based on questions received from competition organizers, this rule will provide a formulaic approach to structuring of an isolation stabling plan.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Veterinary

Katie Flynn

kflynn@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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GR 873 (074-23)

Committee Actions

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

Council - Member Services

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024

## **GR845 Accident Preparedness Plan**

1. All competitions must have in place, prior to the start of the competition, an accident preparedness plan. ~~In addition, all competitions must have in place an isolation protocol for horses. Competitions must report to the Chief Administrator of the Drugs & Medications Program, within 24 hours, any horse identified to Competition Management as showing symptoms of infectious disease, put into isolation at the competition, or that departs the competition to receive treatment for a potential infectious disease.~~
2. Competition Management is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate competition officials and competition staff are advised of the accident preparedness plan ~~and isolation protocol for horses~~, and that they are distributed accordingly.
3. The accident preparedness plan ~~and protocol~~ must be given to the Steward or Technical Delegate prior to the start of the competition.
4. The Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a copy of the accident preparedness plan ~~and protocol~~ to the Federation along with their Steward or Technical Delegate report.
5. At a minimum, the accident preparedness plan must include:
  - a. Emergency call/radio priority protocol;
  - b. List of emergency telephone numbers and directions to the competition that can be relayed to offsite responders; and
  - c. Name and contact information of the Safety Coordinator.

## **SUBCHAPTER 8-H EQUINE HEALTH AND ISOLATION**

### ***GR 874 Isolation Plan***

1. ***All competitions that have onsite stabling of competition horses must have in place a written isolation protocol for horses. The isolation plan must be submitted to the Federation no later than 14 days prior to the start of the competition. The isolation plan must include at a minimum the requirements enumerated in the Federation's template isolation plan available on the Federation's website.***
  - a. ***An onsite isolation stabling plan is required if the Licensee of a competition is hosting competition(s) over more than ten consecutive days at the same location. For purposes of this rule, the ten consecutive days begin the first day stabling is open for horses entering the competition venue. The number of isolation stalls required is equivalent to one percent of the previous year's horse count up to a maximum of ten isolation stalls, if the competition has more than 1,000 horses.***
  - b. ***If offsite isolation stabling is contemplated in the isolation plan, an agreement between competition management and the isolation facility is required.***
2. ***Competition Management must report to the Federation's Equine Health and Biosecurity***

***Veterinarian, within 24 hours, any horse identified to Competition Management as showing symptoms of infectious disease, put into isolation at the competition, or that departs the competition grounds to receive treatment for a potential infectious disease.***

***3. Competition Management is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate competition officials and competition staff are provided and aware of the isolation plan for horses prior to the start of the competition.***

***4. The isolation plan must be posted onsite during the competition.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	6/3/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Individuals conducting business with the Federation, either as licensed competition Licensee or as signatories of Farms, must be Senior Active Members of the Federation as these are benefits provided by the Federation. Ensuring compliance with all requirements of membership is a priority to the Federation and individuals associated with and representing the interests of licensed competitions and Farms recorded with the Federation must maintain compliance with those requirements.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions	
	Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 05/20/2024	<b>Draft 1: The Council strongly feels that downloadable forms need to be available for those within the Amish community or of Spanish speaking origin. The Council would like verbiage to be added into the rule informing that downloadable forms are available upon request and would be accepted.</b>
	Council - Intl Discipline
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024	
	Council - Member Services
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024	

## GR302 License Application Policies and Procedures

### 1. General Provisions.

a. License Duration. The duration of the License agreements will be one (1) year. All Licensed Competitions are subject to a Competition Evaluation.

[...]

j. A licensee may advertise a new or renewing competition prior to receiving a license provided that the advertising clearly and prominently states that the competition is pending Federation approval.

**k. At least one of the Licensee's signatories who is authorized to legally bind the Licensee must be a Federation Senior Active Competing Member in good standing. See GR201.**

## GR1102 Horse Recordings

[...]

5. Horse recording applications are available ~~from the Federation office or online at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org)~~. **If the horse is recorded as owned by a Farm/Business, at least one owner of the Recorded Farm/Business must be a Federation Senior Active Competing Member in good standing. See GR201.** The recording fee is discounted for the life of a horse if applied for from birth to December 31st of year foaled. A recording may also be activated on an annual basis, using each horse's Unique Horse ID number. Exception: Horses must be recorded for life to be eligible to receive FEI or National Passports. To qualify for the age discount, registration papers and/or other proof of age must be provided. The fees can be found on the horse recording application at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

## GR124 Farm/Business

1. Life Recorded Farm/Business. A Life Recorded Farm/Business is any farm, ranch, syndicate, partnership, corporation, business that attains Life Recording upon a single payment of the fee established by the Federation. ~~A Life Recorded Farm/Business shall have all the rights and privileges of membership and be subject to all liabilities and penalties, which may be imposed upon Members. They shall be exempt from annual dues.~~

## GR202 Membership Requirements

4. If a horse(s) is owned by a farm or any other entity, at least one of the ~~horse's Farm/Business's~~ owners, ~~either Farm/Business or individual,~~ must **be a Federation Senior Active Competing Member in good standing. See GR201** ~~also obtain an exhibitor registration pursuant to GR1106.~~

## GR1106 ~~Exhibitor Registration~~ **Horse Recording Ownership Requirements**

1. Entries may be made in a name other than that of an individual for Horse of the Year Awards, provided such name (Stable/Farm, Corporation, etc.) is recorded with the Federation. Duplication of farm names is discouraged but not prohibited. Horses shown under a partnership, i.e., Smith & Smith, Jones & Jones, must be duly registered. All applications for registration of (Stable/Farm, Corporation, etc.) must be signed by each of the bona fide owners and accompanied by the required fee. The fees can be found on the Farm, Corporation, Syndicate or Partnership Recording application at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org).

2. In order for points to count toward Federation Horse of the Year Awards, at least one owner must be a Federation active Competing or Life member.

a. In order for points to count in Hunter/Jumper/Equitation divisions, one owner of the Stable/Farm/Corporation, etc. must be an Active/Competing individual member of USHJA.

3. Additional owners (including members of the family of the owner) may be included at no extra fee.

Authorization to include additional owners must be made in writing and must be signed by each bona fide owner and will be effective the day such authorization is received in the Federation office.



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	9/1/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Amongst officials and competitors there is currently confusion surrounding when video can be used in rendering decisions and, if permitted, what video footage is permitted to be used. While some breeds and disciplines permit the use of video footage to aid in the making of decisions, the Federation's general rules are silent on the issue. With the addition of this definition, the use of video footage will be clarified and the integrity of the use of footage will be preserved by limiting the use to only official video footage.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
EV 115 (194-23)	

Committee Actions
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024
Council - Intl Discipline Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024
Council - Member Services Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024

**GR150 – Official Video**

***Official video is footage captured by the videographer or production company approved by the Federation or licensed competition.***

**GR1219 Use of Official Video**

***At Federation licensed competitions, Judges are barred from reviewing video footage or other electronic media when making field of play decisions, unless stated otherwise in the breed or discipline division rules. If judges are permitted to review video footage under breed or disciplines division rules, only original unaltered Official Video footage is permitted to be reviewed. See GR150.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	2/1/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

The nomenclature used throughout Chapter 3 is inconsistent and over time, confusion has arisen amongst competition Licensees. In an effort to provide clear processes and timelines, this rule change makes consistent the terms used throughout the chapter, adds definitions to commonly used terms, and updates written procedures to better align with practices.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan  lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline <b>Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024</b>
Council - Intl Discipline <b>Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024</b>
Council - Member Services <b>Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024</b>

## **CHAPTER 3 COMPETITION LICENSING**

### **SUBCHAPTER 3-A COMPETITION LICENSE APPLICATIONS**

GR301 Agreement

GR302 License Application Policies and Procedures

GR303 Competition Fees, Account Review, and Insurance

GR304 Competition Sale and Issuance of a New License

GR305 Cancellation of Competitions or Classes

GR306 Inactive Competitions

### **SUBCHAPTER 3-B COMPETITION CLASSIFICATION**

GR307 Classification

GR308 National Championships

GR309 Special Competitions

GR310 Restrictions on Local Competitions

GR311 Awards Rating Classifications

GR312 Determining Ratings

GR313 Special Conditions

### **SUBCHAPTER 3-C COMPETITION MILEAGE**

GR314 Mileage

### **SUBCHAPTER 3-D MILEAGE EXEMPTION AND COMPETITION LICENSE DISPUTES**

GR315 Mileage Exemption

GR 316 License Application Disputes and Resolution

Preamble

The licensing authority, licensing decisions, and calendar management rest solely with the Federation. The Federation seeks to provide a competition environment that is in the best interest of the sport of Equestrian, provides sufficient opportunity for the development of equine and human athletes, and provides for viable competitions to meet the needs of the sport at all levels within a geographic area.

## CHAPTER 3 COMPETITION LICENSING

### SUBCHAPTER 3-A COMPETITION LICENSE APPLICATIONS

For Eventing ~~FEI CCI4-L, CCI4-S, CCI3-L, or Advanced level~~ competitions occurring on December 1, 2022 and thereafter, if there is a conflict between these rules and the USEF FEI Eventing Calendar Policies and Procedures, the latter shall prevail. It should be noted that nationally rated Eventing competitions hosted with a FEI Eventing competition are subject to the USEF FEI Eventing Calendar Policies and Procedures. ~~Exception: For Eventing competitions consisting exclusively of Showcases or Arena Eventing, occurring on December 1, 2022 and thereafter, the following rules apply regardless of level.~~

#### GR301 Agreement

1. All applications for a Federation license are accepted with the explicit agreement of competition Licensee that all classes (rated or unrated) to be held on a Federation licensed date must be recognized by the Federation and are governed by all applicable Federation rules, and that no unrecognized classes will be held on any date for which Federation recognition is requested, except that:
  - a. Horse Trials at Eventing ~~competitions~~ ~~Competitions~~ below the Modified Level.
  - b. Eventing Tests at all levels.
  - c. Draft Horses classes.
  - d. Miniature Horse classes.
  - e. Non-affiliated National Breed or discipline association classes.
  - f. Vaulting levels/classes below A-Teams, B-Teams, C-Teams, Senior Teams, Junior Teams, Gold, Silver, Bronze, Senior and Junior Individuals, and Open Pas de Deux, Senior Pas de Deux and Junior Pas de Deux.
  - g. Academy classes.
  - h. ~~Qualifying classes for Youth Reining classes or Reining classes at USA Reining and NRHA approved competitions.~~
  - i. Exhibitions, ~~which are defined for purposes of these rules as a demonstration class(es) or competition in a non-competitive manner of a breed or discipline whether recognized in the Federation rules or not. The distribution of prize money is prohibited in exhibitions~~ for which there are no breed or division rules.
  - j. ~~Hunter/Jumper competitions designated "Outreach" competitions~~ ~~classes designated~~ by USHJA at ~~Hunter/Jumper competitions~~ and limited to either one competition day or multiple competition days with a maximum of two competition rings (one hunter ring and one jumper ring) per day.
  - k. ~~Unrecognized classes may be held in conjunction with or during a Federation licensed~~ ~~Licensed~~ Paso Fino competitions.
2. ~~These above named classes/levels can be held as are~~ unrecognized only provided a separate entry blank is used and the prize list and/or Omnibus ~~must~~ clearly states that the classes are not recognized by the Federation.
3. Exception: FEI rules take precedence as to international classes and events over Federation rules at all FEI Sanctioned ~~competitions~~ ~~Competitions~~. Federation rules take precedence as to national classes and events which are not FEI Sanctioned at FEI Sanctioned ~~competitions~~ ~~Competitions~~.
4. **Competition Management is responsible for verifying eligibility of participants to compete and/or be on competitions grounds.**

#### GR302 License Application Policies and Procedures

1. General Provisions.
  - a. License Duration. The duration of the License ~~license~~ agreements will be one (1) year. All ~~Licensed licensed competitions~~ ~~Competitions~~ are subject to a Competition Evaluation.
  - b. Discretion to Approve or Deny Application. The approval of a new or renewal License ~~license application~~ ~~Application~~ shall not be unreasonably withheld. However, the Federation may reject a new or renewal License ~~license application~~ ~~Application~~, if the Chief Executive Officer determines that the Licensee is unsuitable to host a Federation competition based on any of the following factors or any other

factors that may be prejudicial to the best interest of the Federation or equestrian sport:

- i. Financial viability concerns;
  - ii. Safety matters;
  - iii. Failure to comply with any Federation rules;
  - iv. Breach of any Federation competition license agreement;
  - v. Information that the Licensee has a relationship with a third-party to host the competition for a fee or remuneration to the Licensee, or otherwise transfers benefits and obligations under the Federation ~~license agreement~~ **License Agreement** to another party for remuneration; or
  - vi. Licensee is not actively engaged in hosting the competition.
- c. Submission of Competition License Applications. Complete ~~license applications~~ **License Applications** must be accompanied by all appropriate fees. Applications should be sent to the Federation using a method that provides delivery confirmation. The Federation is not responsible for undelivered applications. Applications must be received by the date specified in the policies. Applications for competitions, which are not made in accordance with the preceding requirements, will not be considered. The Federation shall provide written acknowledgement to all license applicants within 14 working days of receiving a completed license application and the applicable fees. **The Federation processes requests and applications in the order in which they were received.**
- d. Holding of License Applications. License applications for competitions unable to be approved for any reason, excluding mileage conflicts and competitions that are awarded through a bid process, will be sent written notification by the Competitions Department and held for a period of 30 calendar days from the date of that notification to allow the competition in question to submit the information required, seek alternative dates, or make other license modifications. At the end of the 30-day period, if the application has not been completed or the 30-day period has not been extended by the Competitions Licensing Department following the submission of a written request, the application will be considered to have been withdrawn and the dues will be refunded less a withdrawal fee pursuant.
- i. Except as provided herein, there will be no holding of applications or dues, and applicants must reapply annually. Applications that seek approval for a ~~license~~ **License** to conduct a competition on a date that has been open for more than the web posting period will be accepted at any time with respect to the deadlines outlined in GR302. All applications for dates that have been open for more than the open date web posting period will be considered in the order received.
- e. Competition Inspection. The Federation shall determine when a competition venue requires inspection(s). If the competition facility is not complete at the time of inspection, the Licensee must submit evidence that the facility will be complete by the competition start date to the satisfaction of the Federation. Any Federation required inspection(s) of a competition venue will be conducted at the applicant's expense.
- f. Requests for Additional Information. The Federation may, at its discretion, request additional information from an applicant, *i.e. facility lease agreement, etc.* Applicants are expected to supply all relevant information with their application. The license will define the obligations of both the Federation and the Licensee and are subject to nonrenewal or termination by either party.
- g. Competition Calendar. Existing licensed dates and locations are posted on the Federation website. Competitions listed on the FEI calendar remain subject to Federation approval and may be removed from the FEI calendar if approval is not granted. When a date that has been licensed becomes available (New Open Date), it will be posted on the Federation website for 30 calendar days. Reasons a date may become available include, but are not limited to:
- i. A renewal license application and/or payment not being received by the Federation in accordance with the application requirements;
  - ii. **Non-renewal or denial of a license application** ~~Failure of the existing competition to achieve a satisfactory Competition Evaluation;~~
  - iii. Licensee is not in "good standing" with the Federation, or any other issues that may be prejudicial to the best interest of the sport;
  - iv. A cancellation, withdrawal, or revocation of a license.
- h. License Modification. Any changes to the ~~license~~ **License** agreement **following its execution** including location, dates, rating, level, or prize money, will require a license modification request and payment of a fee. Any modifications resulting in a conflict will result in the loss of Priority Date Holder status. Any modification not resulting in a conflict shall comply with the provisions set forth below in order to retain Priority Date Holder status. The Federation may or may not approve the requested changes. Exception:

Eventing competitions offering intermediate level and below without mileage conflict requesting changes outlined in GR302.1h5 must follow the Eventing competition modification process outlined in GR302.2g

- i. Holding a competition on a date(s) other than that approved shall constitute a violation of the rules unless a request to change the date(s) is received in the Federation's office at least 30 calendar days prior to the competition and permission is duly given. Exception: Eventing competitions.
    - a. For Eventing competitions, requests for change of competition date(s) that add or drop a day from the competition license must be received at least 10 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition.
    - b. For eventing competitions, requests for change of competition date(s) where the competition is requesting to move off the licensed or comparable week, must be received at least 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition.
  - ii. Holding a competition at a location other than ~~that approved as stated on the date application~~ shall constitute a violation of the rules unless a request to change the location is received in the Federation's office at least 60 calendar days prior to the competition date and permission is duly given. Exception: Eventing Competitions. For eventing competitions, requests for change of location must be received at least 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition.
  - iii. Failure to obtain the permission of the Federation at least 30 calendar days prior to the competition to add a division, not offer an approved division, or change the rating of an approved division, constitutes a violation of the rules. Exception: Eventing ~~competitions~~ **Competitions**.
    - a. For Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below, requests to add a level above the highest level currently licensed, must be received at least 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition. Requests to cancel a level must be received at least 10 calendar days prior to the first day of competition.
  - iv. A Licensee requesting a license modification involving a change of location that results in a mileage conflict may request to maintain Priority Date Holder status at the new location. Competitions that **exist within the applicable mileage and those that have pending applications within the applicable mileage, will** ~~would be impacted by the change of location~~ shall have the opportunity to submit written comments to the Federation prior to a determination. If a Licensee's request to maintain Priority Date Holder Status is denied, the Licensee may still request a mileage exemption.
  - v. For Eventing competitions, offering Intermediate level and below, any substantive change to the competition license (including request to add a level above the highest level currently licensed, change in location, change in comparable or licensed week) without mileage conflict shall follow the Eventing competition modification process outlined in GR302.42g. ***The USEA American Eventing Championship is not subject to the modification process and is eligible for renewal at a new location and/or date.***
  - i. Competitions that are not conducted in accordance with the terms of the license agreement will have breached the terms of the license agreement. Such breach may result in cancellation or nonrenewal of the license agreement, the Licensee may be ineligible for a license in the future, or other penalties under the provisions of GR707.
  - j. A ~~licensee~~ **Licensee** may advertise a new or renewing competition prior to receiving a license provided that the advertising clearly and prominently states that the competition is pending Federation approval.
  - k. ***For purposes of these rules, a Priority Date Holder is a Licensee whose competition is afforded mileage protection under these rules or a pending competition applicant against whom there would be a mileage conflict or mileage exemption request if the competition application is approved.***
2. New Competitions Without Mileage Conflicts.
- a. License applications for new competitions will be accepted beginning December 1 of each year for the subsequent competition year.
  - b. A competition year begins on December 1 of the prior calendar year.
  - c. Applicants should refer to the Federation ~~competitions calendar~~ **Competitions Calendar** for open dates.
  - d. Applications for a new competition license agreement must be made on the form provided by the Federation and received by the Federation at least ~~30~~ **60** calendar days prior to the start date of the competition. ***If applications for a new competition license are received by the Federation between 60 and 30 days prior to the start date of the competition, it will be subject to applicable late fees.*** ~~The Federation may accept applications for a new competition license agreement, subject to applicable~~

~~late fees, between 60 and 30 calendar days prior to the start date of the competition. Exception: Eventing competitions, see GR302.2g4.~~

- e. In the event that an applicant competition has a mileage conflict with an existing competition(s), **the application will be denied and** ~~and~~ the applicant may seek a mileage exemption in accordance with GR315.
  - f. License **applications** ~~Applications~~ for new competitions that the Federation disapproves for any reason, including mileage conflicts, will be sent written notification by the Federation.
  - g. ~~Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below without mileage conflict:~~
    - i. ~~Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below without mileage conflict must submit a competition application or a request for modification to an existing competition or license, to the Federation no later than 120 calendar days prior to the start of competition. Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below with mileage conflicts are bound by the application timelines outlined in GR315 Mileage Exemption.~~
    - ii. ~~Within 30 calendar days of receiving a new Eventing competition application or request for modification, the Federation's Competitions Department will notify the USEA of the application or request.~~
    - iii. ~~Within 30 calendar days of receiving the application(s) and/or request(s) for modification from the Federation, the USEA shall provide the Federation with its recommendations regarding endorsement or licensure for all provided applications/requests.~~
    - iv. ~~Within 15 calendar days of receipt of written comments from the USEA, the Federation CEO, or their designee, will convene with the Competitions Department to review all materials submitted with the competition application, and to provide a decision on the application.~~
    - v. ~~Within 7 calendar days of the decision, the Federation's Competitions Department will issue a decision letter to the applicant.~~
3. **Renewing Competitions.**
- a. License renewals, including the applicable fees, must be received within 60 calendar days of the last day of the licensed competition.
    - i. License renewal applications received more than 60 calendar days after the last day of the applicable competition under an existing license will be considered as a new application consistent with GR302. ~~A Licensee may request to renew their competition license by completing the applicable information on the post-competition report providing that the Licensee signs this report and submits the applicable fee.~~
    - ii. The Federation shall notify a Licensee in writing as soon as possible, but no more than 90 days from receipt of a renewal request, if there are conflicts or other issues preventing renewal.
    - iii. The Federation shall provide a **license agreement** ~~License Agreement~~ to a Licensee as soon as possible, but not later than 90 days from receipt of a renewal request, if there are no conflicts or other issues preventing renewal.
  - b. **A competition seeking renewal with a change to location, comparable date(s), rating(s), level(s), prize money, or breed(s) and/or discipline(s) offered will, for purposes of these rules, be renewed in accordance with these rules and simultaneously reviewed as a modification in accordance with GR302.1.h. A competition seeking renewal and a modification that results in a mileage conflict will be denied and may undergo the mileage exemption process in accordance with GR315.** A competition will be eligible for renewal on comparable dates at the same location as long as the following conditions are met:
    - i. The renewal and applicable fee is submitted within 60 calendar days after the last day of the current year's competition;
    - ii. The competition has a satisfactory Competition Evaluation;
    - iii. The Licensee is in good standing and does not have any outstanding dues, fines or fees owed to the Federation;
    - iv. A renewal is subject in all respects to the mileage rule and all other applicable rules, policies, and procedures in existence at the time of renewal.
  - c. **Competition Evaluation**
    - i. To the extent appropriate, additional information on the applicable Competition Evaluation process and procedures will be referenced in the **license** ~~License~~ agreement. It is the responsibility of the Licensee to comply with all applicable published or otherwise noticed requirements for **licensed**



~~competitions Licensed Competitions.~~

- ii. Federation ~~licensed competitions~~ ~~Licensed Competitions~~ will be subject to a Competition Evaluation. The Evaluation is utilized to assist the Federation in determining if renewal of a license and the continued use of Federation dates are in the best interest of the sport of equestrian.
  - ii. ~~Competition Evaluations~~ will be conducted in accordance with Federation **Competition Evaluation** ~~competition evaluation~~ processes and procedures in addition to Competition Evaluation Reports, reports from Federation assigned Stewards and Technical Delegates, and Recognized Affiliate evaluation reports.
- d. Date Rotation. For competitions beginning December 1, 2008 or later, the following provisions will be in effect
- i. For the 2009 competition year and thereafter, comparable dates will be based on a competition's 2006 dates using the Memorial Day Date Rotation Axis. Under the Memorial Day Date Rotation Axis, all Federation competition dates rotate in conjunction with Memorial Day.
  - ii. ~~For the 2009 competition year, any competition that did not hold a license for the 2006 competition year, but received a license for the 2007 and/or 2008 competition year, will have priority over new competitions requesting dates. However, competitions with licenses for the 2006 competition year will have priority over any of the above mentioned competitions.~~
- BOD 6/20/23 Effective 12/1/23*

**4. Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below without mileage conflict:**

- i. **Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below without mileage conflict must submit a competition application or a request for modification to an existing competition or license, to the Federation no later than 120 calendar days prior to the start of competition. Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below with mileage conflicts are bound by the application timelines outlined in GR315 Mileage Exemption.**
- ii. **Within 30 calendar days of receiving a new Eventing competition application or request for modification, the Federation's Competitions Department will notify the USEA of the application or request.**
- iii. **Within 30 calendar days of receiving the application(s) and/or request(s) for modification from the Federation, the USEA shall provide the Federation with its recommendations regarding endorsement or licensure for all provided applications/requests.**
- iv. **Within 15 calendar days of receipt of written comments from the USEA, the Federation CEO, or their designee, will convene with the Competitions Department to review all materials submitted with the competition application, and to provide a decision on the application.**
- v. **Within 7 calendar days of the decision, the Federation's Competitions Department will issue a decision letter to the applicant.**

### **GR303 Competition Fees, Account Review, and Insurance**

1. Competition Fees. Competition fees will be posted to the Federation website and noted on applicable competition forms. Any changes to competition fees will be posted on the Federation website and will apply to the next competition year.
2. No competition dates will be licensed for a Licensee that has outstanding past due fees, fines, or other obligations of 60 days or more owing to the Federation with respect to any past **licensed competitions** ~~Licensed Competitions~~.
3. Any Licensee who fails to pay sums owed to the Federation, or who makes payment for fees to the Federation which is not negotiable, will be notified by the Federation of its indebtedness and subject to the applicable policies of the Federation. The Federation will provide Licensees with online access to review their entire competition accounts.
  - a. If any Licensee affected by GR303.3 disputes that the amounts in question are owed or unpaid, the Licensee may request to have a procedural review by the Co-Chairs of the Hearing Committee or their designees, provided their written statement specifying the grounds for such review is received at the Federation's office, along with a fee, in accordance with the applicable policies. The fee will be refunded if the dispute is settled in favor of the Licensee.
  - b. In the event a Licensee makes non-negotiable payment for fees to the Federation on three or more

occasions, said Licensee is subject to further disciplinary action.

4. A Licensee may request an account review from the Federation. The request must be submitted in writing and a fee for each competition and each requested account review year will be charged. An account review is an investigation into a Licensee's financial dealings with the Federation. If material staff error is discovered, the fee will be refunded.
- ~~5. A Licensee may request a research of Federation records concerning the history of a competition date. The request must be submitted in writing and a fee will be charged per each request. The fee must accompany the request. If material staff error is discovered, the fee will be refunded.~~
6. Competition Licensees must provide the Federation with a valid certificate of insurance, which names the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. as an additional insured for each day of the competition, including set-up and take-down days, with at least \$1,000,000.00 coverage for third party general liability and \$50,000.00 coverage for equipment and property. Such certificate of insurance must be received by the Federation at least 15 days prior to the first day of the competition.

Noncompliance with this rule will result in a fine and/or termination of the ~~Competition~~ **competition license agreement** and cancellation of the competition pursuant to GR304, in accordance with the following:

- a. Fine. A ~~Competition~~ **competition** Licensee will be issued a fine when a certificate of insurance is not received at least 15 days prior to the start of the competition, or a deficiency is not cured at least 10 days prior to the first day of the competition.
  - b. Termination of the ~~license agreement~~ **license agreement** and cancellation of the competition pursuant to GR304 will occur when a certificate of insurance is not received by the Federation at least 10 days prior to the start of the competition, or deficiencies are not cured at least 10 days prior to the start of the competition. If this occurs, but the competition still goes forward, then the Competition Licensee must notify all competition participants, in writing, that the competition is not a Federation ~~licensed competitions~~ **licensed competitions**.
7. Any competition that states in the prize list that the competition is licensed before the competition has been granted licensing by the Federation may be subject to a penalty.

## GR304 Competition Sale and Issuance of a New License

1. A Federation ~~Competition~~ **competition license** ~~License agreement~~ is the Federation document giving a Licensee permission to conduct a Federation event on a given date, at a given venue, and at a given rating and/or level.
- ~~2. Competition Sale. A Licensee does not own the date on the Federation competition calendar. A Federation Competition license License Agreement agreement is a governance tool and not a commodity. As such, neither a Federation competition license agreement nor placement on the Federation competition calendar can be conveyed in a sale of a competition. A new Federation competition license agreement must be obtained by the purchaser in order to maintain a date on the Federation competition calendar. a sale of a competition should be contingent on Federation approval and issuance of a new license~~
3. Issuance of a New Competition License. The granting of a new license to a Purchaser of a **competition** Licensee will not be unreasonably denied, **will be determined in the Federation's sole discretion and is** subject to **any** certain conditions **deemed warranted by the Federation** or criteria including date, venue, rating, and/or level of the competition and completion of applicable forms and submission of a fee. The Purchaser Licensee will retain the applicable Priority Date Holder protections of the **existing** Seller Licensee, **as approved by the Federation**. The Issuance of a new Competition License is subject to the following terms and conditions:
  - a. ~~The issuance of a new Competition License due to a competition sale is subject to the approval of the Federation, following consultation with the applicable Recognized Affiliate;~~
  - b. ~~The final decision to approve or deny the issuance of a new Competition License is at the sole discretion of the Federation;~~
  - c. ~~In considering the approval or disapproval of the issuance of a new Competition License, the Federation shall consider the best interest of the sport including consideration of the growth and development of the~~

- ~~sport. The Federation may consider concentration of dates in the control of a single Licensee or group of related Licensees when determining the appropriateness of the issuance of a new competition license;~~
- ~~d. The Purchaser Licensee must have demonstrated an ability to comply with rules, requirements, and standards that are in effect or established for the Competition Rating and/or Level at the time the issuance of a new Competition License;~~
- ~~e. Both the Seller and the Purchaser of the competition must disclose all proposed terms of the competition sale and must apply and obtain Federation approval before the issuance of a new license can be completed. All information will be considered confidential. Prior to any such approval or denial by the Federation, the Recognized National or FEI Affiliate, if any, may be consulted in regard to the request for issuance of a new license. The Federation may share, on a confidential basis, with the Recognized National or FEI Affiliate all of the terms or conditions of the issuance of a new Competition License, and all special conditions or other considerations. Such approval or denial by the Federation shall not subject the Federation to any liability or obligate it to any third party. Both Seller and Purchaser of the competition must agree to indemnify and hold harmless both the Federation and the Recognized National or FEI Affiliate from any liability or legal expense arising from approval or denial of the agreement. Failure to completely disclose terms and conditions of a competition sale may result in termination of the License by the Federation and any sanctions, penalties, or other remedies available to the Federation.~~
4. The Seller Licensee shall remain financially responsible until the following conditions are met:
    - a. Payment of the applicable fees;
    - b. The Federation issues written approval of the issuance of a new competition license; and
    - c. Seller has met all other financial obligations to the Federation.
  5. The Purchaser Licensee will have the right to apply for renewal of comparable dates upon issuance of a new competition license.

### **GR305 Cancellation of Competitions or Classes**

1. A Licensee may cancel an existing **licensed competition** ~~Licensed Competition~~ by notifying the Federation of the cancellation ~~and returning the License to the Federation~~ not less than 300 calendar days prior to next competition date under the **License** ~~license without penalty~~.
  - a. ~~When~~ **If** a Cancellation is received more than 90 calendar days but less than 300 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition date under the **license** ~~License~~, 75% of competition dues will be refunded, subject to a minimum processing fee.
  - b. If written notice of a cancellation is received less than 90 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition, the Licensee will forfeit the application fee and will also be assessed a processing fee equal to that of the minimum competition dues, unless the cancellation is due to an Act of God under GR305.4.
2. If a **licensed competition** ~~Licensed Competition~~ is cancelled for two consecutive years for a reason other than an act of God, or due to extenuating circumstances approved by the CEO or their Designee, **or Inactive for one year and cancelled the following year**, the applicable license will not be eligible for renewal or application for a new license by the same licensee ~~Licensee~~ or any entity associated with the same licensee ~~Licensee~~ **Licensee** for a period of two years. If the licensee ~~Licensee~~ **Licensee** is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity.
3. Cancellation of 50% or more of Open Dressage classes as listed in the prize list by any Recognized competition for two consecutive years for any reason other than Acts of God shall constitute relinquishment of comparable dates and loss of priority date status.
4. Competitions declaring cancellation due to an Act of God must provide written documentation, such as newspaper articles or photographs of the extenuating circumstances. Absent severe and unusual circumstances, such as hurricane winds, floods, tornadoes, or blizzards, weather conditions shall not be considered Acts of God. The CEO or their designee shall decide whether a cancellation is due to an Act of God. Any Licensee that cancels three or more competitions in a competition year shall not have priority for comparable dates for the cancelled competitions for the following competition year. However, this provision shall not be applicable to a competition cancelled due to an Act of God, loss of a facility, or due to extenuating circumstances, based upon a review by the CEO or their designee.

### **GR306 Inactive Competitions**

1. Any ~~previously licensed competition~~ **Licensed Competition** held the ~~previous year~~ **prior** that notifies the Federation, ~~prior to obtaining its renewal and~~ at least 120 days prior to its competition date that it will not hold a competition that year, may retain Inactive status for a fee in addition to the application and/or competition fees. In such cases, the renewal license application will be subject to the current fees.
2. An Inactive Competition ~~competition~~ will be listed as "Inactive" on the Federation website and other Federation competition lists, and will retain its date priority for the following year, provided it meets the applicable date and competition requirements of the Federation.
3. If an Inactive Competition ~~competition~~ cancels the following year, that cancellation will constitute a second cancellation in a row per GR305, and the applicable license will be revoked and not eligible for renewal or application for a new license by the same ~~licensee~~ **Licensee** or any entity associated with the same ~~licensee~~ **Licensee** for a period of two years. If the ~~licensee~~ **Licensee** is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity. This provision shall not be applicable to a competition cancelled due to an Act of God or due to extenuating circumstances approved by the CEO or their designee.

## SUBCHAPTER 3-B COMPETITION CLASSIFICATION

### GR307 Classification

1. ~~Licensed Competitions~~ **Competitions may are licensed classified as Regular, Local, or Special. be** classified as Regular Competitions, Local Competitions, Eventing Competitions, Dressage Competitions, Driving Competitions, Endurance Competitions, Reining Competitions, and Vaulting Competitions.
2. **Competitions may be licensed for any individual breed or discipline or combination thereof for which division rules exist in this Rulebook. Ratings and levels as defined by the division chapter will apply.** Divisions and sections of Regular Competitions ~~competitions~~ are classified as follows for the purpose of reckoning points toward the Federation Annual Horse of the Year Awards (**HOTY**). (Exception: Jumper Division, see GR1133):
  - a. ~~A, B, or C; or Premier (previously referred to as "AA"), National (previously referred to as "A"), or Regional (previously referred to as "B"), hunter, or~~
  - b. **To include any of the following, individually or combined:**
    - i. ~~Andalucian/Lusitano;~~
    - ii. ~~Arabian;~~
    - iii. ~~Connemara;~~
    - iv. ~~Carriage Pleasure Driving;~~
    - v. ~~English Pleasure;~~
    - vi. ~~Friesian;~~
    - vii. ~~Hackney;~~
    - viii. ~~National Show Horse;~~
    - ix. ~~Morgan;~~
    - x. ~~Paso Fino;~~
    - xi. ~~Parade Horse & Saddle Horse or Pony, Western Equipment;~~
    - xii. ~~Reining Horse;~~
    - xiii. ~~Roadster;~~
    - xiv. ~~American Saddlebred;~~
    - xv. ~~Shetland;~~
    - xvi. ~~Welsh Pony;~~
    - xvii. ~~Western; and~~
    - xviii. ~~Western Dressage;~~
    - xix. ~~English Pleasure.~~
3. ~~Divisions and sections of Local, Dressage, Driving Competitions competitions, Endurance Competitions competitions, Reining Competitions competitions, Vaulting Competitions competitions, and Eventing Competitions competitions are not rated. However, Dressage Competitions competitions are categorized by levels.~~
4. Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes must be held at a competition that holds at a minimum, a Regional Hunter Rating. Competitions choosing to offer only Hunter and/or Jumping Seat Equitation classes must obtain a Regional Hunter ~~license~~ **License**, and the Regional mileage will apply (see GR314 Mileage).

5. Federation Endorsed ~~Competitions~~ **competitions**, Divisions, or Levels or those events receiving approval pursuant to the Federation Bylaws.
  - a. Eventing competitions may be eligible for either licensure or endorsed designation. The Federation may endorse Eventing competitions at the Training Level and below. The Federation may license Eventing competitions at the Modified Level and above. An Eventing **licensed competition** ~~Licensed Competitions~~ and an Eventing Endorsed ~~Competition~~ **competition** may run concurrently.
6. Heritage Designations
  - a. Heritage designations are reserved for those competitions within the sport of equestrian that have been established for a long period of time and that exemplify the best characteristics of equestrian sport, uphold high standards at their designated rating or level, demonstrate sustainability and value within the community, and continue to contribute toward the development and promotion of the sport of equestrian, both within the sport and as well as within the broader community, by achieving, maintaining, and promoting the equestrian ideals of sportsmanship and competition.
  - b. Approval for all Heritage Designations requires:
    - i. Documented recommendation by the Federation Recognized Affiliate Association primarily represented by the competition;
    - ii. Approval by the Federation CEO;
    - iii. Heritage Designation will be granted for a period of five years. In order to maintain the designation, each competition must successfully undergo a review process every five years thereafter.
  - c. Heritage designation may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Federation Board of Directors if the competition no longer fulfills the requirements when applying for redesignation.
  - d. Eligibility for Heritage Designation requires:
    - i. Minimum of 25 consecutive years of operation with a Federation license excluding any Act of God and a clean compliance record with no major compliance issues;
    - ii. Invitation from the representing affiliate to the license holder to apply for Heritage status;
    - iii. The ~~Competition~~ **competition** must be in good standing with both the Federation and the representing affiliate;
    - iv. Significant contribution to and support from the community where the competition is held. The application should include evidence of a mutually supportive relationship by documenting how the community is benefitted, and how the community supports the competition. A symbiotic relationship is to be demonstrated through submission of letters from community leaders displaying community support, and feedback collected from competitors that have attended the competition in the past.
    - v. Significant contribution to the ideals of equestrian sport such as sportsmanship, horsemanship, and uniting the equine community;
    - vi. Recognition by the equestrian community as a competition that exemplifies the best characteristics of sport at its designated rating or level, upholds high standards, and demonstrates sustainability with high quality and unique character.
  - e. Heritage competitions are permitted and encouraged to advertise their status as Heritage competitions. The Federation will support Heritage competitions through promotional and marketing materials.

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### GR308 National Championships

The Federation shall have the exclusive right to designate national championships in the disciplines for which the Federation is designated as the National Governing Body by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and in the disciplines for which the Federation is designated as the National Federation by the Federation Equestre Internationale (Dressage, Driving, Endurance, ~~Reining~~, Show Jumping, Three-Day Eventing, Para-Equestrian and Vaulting). The allocation of national championships in the foregoing disciplines, including issuance of date approvals, licensing of officials, approval of name and all copyright, trademark, trade name, television, video and other broadcast rights and all sponsorship matters shall be solely reserved to the CEO acting upon the advice and recommendation of the relevant Council. All persons or organizations, including affiliate organizations, organizing committees and/or competitions managements, wishing to receive Federation approval to hold a national championship in the foregoing divisions must apply to the Federation in writing on appropriate form(s) provided by the Federation and received by the Federation's office by the applicable deadline.

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The CEO shall be entitled to condition the Federation's designation and granting of approval for a national championship in any manner that they deem appropriate in their discretion.

## GR309 Special Competitions

For the purposes of this rule, the term "Special" relates to the type of competition license and is not associated with the merits or quality of the competition.

1. The Federation Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may approve or deny an application for Special ~~Competition~~ **competition** status in accordance with Federation rules, policy and procedure. If approved, a Special ~~Competition~~ **competition** will be added to the USEF ~~Competition~~ **competition calendar** ~~Calendar~~ without regard for existing mileage rules and conflicts and will receive no mileage protection from new or existing competitions. A Special ~~Competition~~ **competition** may be held as a stand-alone event or in conjunction with an existing Federation ~~licensed~~ **competition** ~~Licensed Competitions~~. A Special ~~Competition~~ **competition** may not fully meet the requirements to obtain a Federation ~~competition license~~ **Competition License**.
2. Special Competitions are categorized in the following manner and shall be reviewed in accordance with Section 4.
  - a. Category I – FEI-named ~~Competitions~~ **competitions** and FEI Championships which are part of a competitive bid process, including but not limited to Olympic Games or Trials; Pan Am Games or Trials; World Equestrian Games or Trials; World Cup Finals or Qualifiers; Nations Cup Finals or Qualifiers; and Nations Cup CIOs. These competitions may or may not include additional FEI-only classes.; **or**
  - b. Category II - Federation National Finals, Federation National Championships and Federation Mandatory Outings, which do not fully meet the requirements to obtain a Federation ~~competition license~~ **Competition License**; **or**
  - c. Category III - Federation Recognized Affiliate Organization Championships or Finals which do not fully meet the requirements to obtain a Federation ~~competition license~~ **Competition License**; **or**
  - d. Category IV - A competition for which Federation breed or discipline rules do not exist that an applicant wishes to have approved by the Federation and which the Board of Directors, in their sole discretion, deems to be in the best interest of the sport.
3. Application Process.
  - a. An application for consideration of a Special ~~Competition~~ **competition** must be submitted to the Federation a minimum of 180 days in advance of the start date of the proposed competition. Generally, an application should not be submitted more than 365 days prior to the start date of the proposed competition. However, unusual circumstances may require an earlier submission. Such circumstances must be included on the application and will be considered in the review process.
  - b. An application for a Special ~~Competition~~ **competition** will not be considered complete and will not be processed until all applicable fees have been paid, except when the application is part of a competitive application or bid process (e.g. FEI World Cup Qualifiers, certain USEF National Championships, etc.). When an application is part of a competitive application or bid process, the fee will not be required until a determination is made regarding the awarding of the competition.
  - c. An application for a Special ~~Competition~~ **competition** must include the following:
    - i. All classes, sections, demonstrations, and exhibitions to be held during the proposed competition dates, including all prize money, bonus money, or other awards;
    - ii. The basis for competition's inability to meet Federation rules regarding competition licensing; and
    - iii. The basis for competition's inability to meet Federation rules regarding specific breed/discipline rules.
  - d. The inability to meet Federation rules under section (ii) or (iii) above shall not result from a need to obtain an exception to existing Federation rules, or program requirements, or from circumstances within the applicant's control. However, the Federation recognizes that situations may arise whereby an applicant cannot meet Federation rules due to the actions of the FEI or the Federation and such actions may qualify as permissible explanation.
  - e. Special ~~Competition~~ **competition** are not intended as a means of circumventing the Federation's licensing rules in GR Chapter 3. If an application for a Special ~~Competition~~ **competition** includes an FEI competition not identified in Section 2(a) above, a national competition, or a combination of both which creates a mileage conflict, that portion of the application will be required to utilize the Mileage Exemption

process for approval. In the event of a need for a mileage exemption, the Federation may alter the timelines set forth in GR315.

- f. For licensing purposes, all jumper prize money from FEI and national competitions will be combined and counted in determining a competition's Jumper Level.
  - g. If a **Special Competition competition** is combined with an existing priority date holder competition, the priority date holder competition will retain priority status at its original rating and/or level.
4. **Application Review Process.**  
Depending on the category of a **Special Competition competition**, the application may be reviewed by one or more entities of the Federation and its Recognized Affiliates before being submitted to the **Federation Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Federation CEO** for their consideration and final decision. The Board of Directors reserves the right to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review applications and render a final decision.
- a. Applications for a Category I competition shall be reviewed by the applicable Federation Councils **and approved by the Federation CEO.**
  - b. Applications for a Category II or III competition shall be reviewed by the applicable Federation Committees and Councils **and approved by the Federation CEO.**
  - c. Applications for a Category IV competition shall be reviewed by the applicable Federation Recognized Affiliates, Committees and Councils **and approved by the Federation Executive Committee or Board of Directors.**
5. **Modifications or Amendments to an Approved Special Competition competition.**  
Modifications or amendments to an approved **Special Competition competition** are not permitted unless approved by the Federation in writing. A modification to an approved **Special Competition competition** must be approved in writing by the Federation after review by the CEO or their designee, following consultation with the Director of Competition Services or their designee and the Director of Sport or their designee(s) for the applicable breed or discipline. Modifications to an approved **Special Competition competition** must be received by the Federation at least 30 days prior to the start of competition.

### GR310 Restrictions on Local Competitions

1. The total cash prizes shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00). Except ~~Open Western Division (see GR310.5),~~ 100% sweepstakes, and Reining **Competitions competitions**; not including value of trophies offered; **Western Division competitions may retain Local competition status regardless of the amount of prize money offered.** For Hunter and/or Jumper Lite competitions, the value of any in-kind gifts and awards shall count toward the total amount of prize money offered and cannot exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) total for the competition.
2. The designation **Local Competition competition** must be stated on the cover of the prize list.
3. The Federation and applicable Federation Recognized Affiliate Association non-member/~~Show Pass~~ fee will not apply. **The following Federation membership and USEF Safe Sport requirements apply at Local competitions:**
  - a. **Any individual acting as a Trainer or Coach or signing an entry blank as Trainer or Coach, must be an Active Competing Member of the Federation and must have completed the SafeSport Training prior to the first day of competition.**
4. **Local Competitions competitions** benefit from all the general rules of the Federation and must abide by applicable division rules unless class specifications are printed otherwise in the prize list.
5. ~~Western Division competitions may retain Local Competition status regardless of the amount of prize money offered.~~
6. Hunter Division competitions or competitions restricted to Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation must obtain a Regular **Competition competition license License** or a Lite competition license. Competitions offering any Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Medal classes with a National Year-End Final are not eligible for Lite competition status and must obtain a Regular competition license.
7. Lite. Beginning December 1, 2022, Lite **Competitions competitions** are a subtype of **the Local competition license Licenses Category** and are to be conducted in accordance with the General **Rules Chapters** and applicable breed/discipline Chapter **s** except as stated otherwise below (Exception: Open Dressage classes are not permitted to be held at Lite **Competitions competitions**):

2. License requirements
  - a. Eligibility Requirements. The following competitions are eligible to be licensed as Lite:
    - i. A first-time competition;
    - ii. A competition that has only ever been run as a Lite competition in the past three (3) years; or
    - iii. ~~A competition that has not been Federation *licensed*~~ **Licensed** in the past three (3) years; or
    - iv. A competition that does not meet the above criteria may submit a request to be licensed as Lite. The licensing request will be reviewed and a decision will be rendered in the Federation's Chief Executive Officer's sole discretion.
  - b. Licensing Requirements.
    - i. License applications and a copy of the prize list must be submitted thirty (30) days prior to the first day of competition.
    - ii. Competitions may operate under a Lite license for no more than three (3) consecutive years.
    - iii. ~~The licensees~~ **Licenseses** of (i) Lite ~~licensed competition~~ **Licensed Competitions** that have operated for three (3) consecutive years or (ii) competitions that have operated under a regular competition license in any of the previous three (3) year(s) are prohibited from submitting a new application for comparable dates in an attempt to downgrade to a Lite license by the same ~~licensee~~ **Licensee** or any entity associated with the ~~licensee~~ **Licensee** for a period of two (2) years. If the ~~licensee~~ **Licensee** is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity.
3. ~~Membership Requirements~~
4. ~~Safe Sport Requirements~~
5. Steward and Technical Delegate requirements
  - a. Competitions must have at least one Steward or Technical Delegate who meets the following criteria:
    - i. Enrolled in and pursuing a Federation Steward or Technical Delegate license and have completed the Designated Applicant Training; or
    - ii. Licensed Federation Steward or Technical Delegate.
6. ~~Federation Horse of The Year (National HOTY) Points~~
7. Prize List requirements
  - a. A Prize List is required to be submitted to the Federation for review thirty (30) days prior to the start of the competition.
  - b. Prize Lists are required to include all statements listed under GR901
    - i. Exceptions: GR901.9 and 901.12

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## GR311 Awards Rating Classifications

1. For the purpose of equalizing competitions for the National ~~HOTY Horse of the Year~~ Awards, divisions and sections of Regular ~~Competitions~~ **competitions** fall into one of three classifications: "A", "B," or "C" ~~rated or~~ Premier, National, or Regional Hunter.
2. In the Hunter division, points for ribbons won in any rated section will be awarded in two awards channels using the applicable point chart. Channel I includes Premier and National rated hunter competitions and Channel II includes Regional rated hunter competitions. Points earned in a channel are exclusive to that award channel.
  - a. In the Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunter 3'3" and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" and High Performance Conformation Hunter, standings for the National ~~Horse of the Year~~ **HOTY** Awards based on money won will be determined by dollars won in the horses respective sections. See GR1132.

## GR312 Determining Ratings

1. A division or section rating or classification is determined from the number of classes, amount of cash premiums offered in these classes and the holding of required classes in certain divisions. A competition may not offer the minimum requirements for a rating higher than the rating approved by the Federation. Exception: Hunter competitions. See Ratings Charts.
2. A competition may qualify for several different ratings. Some competitions will earn an "A" or "B" rating in all divisions and sections; others may earn a combination of ratings. Exception: Hunter competitions will qualify for one rating, Regional, National or Premier. If more than the minimum number of classes is offered, prize money should be increased proportionately.
3. The Paso Fino Division is rated "C" regardless of the number of classes or amount of prize money offered. A competition may apply for an "A" rating if offering a minimum of \$2,000 and prior year competition had more than 250 horses. The PFHA National show shall be an "A" rated Federation ~~licensed competition~~ **Licensed Competition** as per PF155.1i. Exception: the Paso Fino Division may be offered at Local ~~Competitions~~ **competitions**.
4. In Stake classes in "A" and "B" divisions or sections or at Premier and National hunter competitions, competitions must guarantee amount offered as prize money except where the monies offered in other classes are sufficient to meet the ~~Horse of the Year~~ **HOTY** Award minimum requirements. In such cases, Stake classes may run as sweepstakes.
5. The Connemara and Half-bred Connemara is "C" rated, regardless of the number of classes or amount of prize money offered. Exception: the Connemara and Half-bred Connemara Division may be offered at Local ~~Competitions~~ **competitions**.
6. Rated Hunter Section & Classes

HUNTER SECTION RATINGS AND CLASSES	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min-Max Required Classes	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min Money	Regional ("B") Multi-Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") One Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") Min
Open Hunter Sections					
Green Conformation Hunter	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
High Performance Conformation Hunter	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
High Performance Hunter	3-5	750	3-5***	3-4***	0
Performance Hunter 3'3"	3-5	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Performance Hunter 3'6"	3-5	500	3-5***	3-4***	0

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<b>Green Hunter Sections</b>					
Green Hunter 3'0"	4-6	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Hunter 3'3"	4-6	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Hunter 3'6"	4-6	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Hunter 3'9"	4-6	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
<b>Young Hunter Sections</b>					
Young Hunter 5 and under	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Young Hunter 6 and under	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Young Hunter 7 and under	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
<b>Amateur Owner Hunter Sections</b>					
Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" 18-35	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" 36 & over	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 18-35	4-5	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 36 & over	4-5	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
<b>Junior Hunter Sections</b>					
Small Junior Hunter 3'6" 15 & under	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Small Junior Hunter 3'6" 16-17	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Large Junior Hunter 3'6" 15 & under	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Large Junior Hunter 3'6" 16-17	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Small Junior Hunter 3'3" 15 & under	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Small Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Large Junior Hunter 3'3" 15 & under	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Large Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
<b>Hunter &amp; Green Hunter Pony Section</b>					
Small Pony Hunter	4-5*	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Medium Pony Hunter	4-5*	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Large Pony Hunter	4-5*	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Small Pony Hunter	4-5*	250	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Medium Pony Hunter	4-5*	250	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Large Pony Hunter	4-5*	250	3-5***	3-4***	0
<b>Children's Hunter Sections+</b>					

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Children's Hunter Younger	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Children's Hunter Older	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Children's Hunter Pony Small/Medium	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Children's Hunter Pony Large	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Low Children's Hunter Horse	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Low Children's Hunter Pony	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Adult Amateur Hunter Sections+					
Adult Amateur Hunter Younger	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Adult Amateur Hunter Middle	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Adult Amateur Hunter Older	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Low Adult Amateur Hunter	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Ladies Side Saddle Hunter Breeding	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Small Hunter	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Thoroughbred Hunter	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0

USHJA Hunter Sections

USHJA Hunter 2'0"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
USHJA Hunter 2'3"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
USHJA Hunter 2'6"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
USHJA Hunter 2'9"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
USHJA Hunter 3'0"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0

Other Rated Classes

- USHJA International Hunter Derby
- USHJA International Hunter Derby Welcome
- USHJA National Hunter Derby
- USHJA Green Hunter Incentive
- USHJA Green Hunter Challenge
- USHJA Pony Hunter Derby
- Hunter Classics

(+ Denotes sections which may have USHJA Zone Specifications that govern number of classes and prize money)

(\*See HU163.3, HU117 regarding Model Classes, and other class requirements).

See HU154.2 for requirements regarding minimum number of classes to award a championship.

\*\*\*No more than two (2) one-day Regional competitions or one (1) multi-day Regional competition may be held by the same ~~licensee~~ Licensee or any entity associated with the same ~~licensee~~ Licensee during any calendar week (Monday through Sunday). If the ~~licensee~~ Licensee is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity. (See HJ112 and HJ113).

7. All classes offered in a licensed Open Western Division shall be conducted in accordance with GR818, unless the competition has applied for and received a rating. (See ratings chart GR312.)
8. Any breed-restricted division, or combination of breed-restricted divisions, may be offered at Local Regular ~~Competitions~~ competitions, in accordance with GR310.
9. IMPORTANT: See Chapter HU and HJ. There are special conditions and requirements for determining the ratings of Hunter sections. Management's attention is directed to these conditions in particular, HU131 and HJ127 - 133.

Section. If a section is divided in any way (by age: Jr and Adult or divided by section: A/B, C/D, Half/Part) each split section must meet the minimum requirements for prize money and number of classes.	*A* Rating Requirements	
	minimum number classes	minimum prize money
Welsh		
Welsh English Pleasure Sec. A & B, 12.2 & Under (junior to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh English Pleasure Sec B, over 12.2 & up to 14.2 (junior to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh English Pleasure Sec C & D (junior/adult to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh English Pleasure Sec A & B (adult to ride)	3	\$50
Half/Part-Bred Welsh English Pleasure (junior/ adult to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh Pleasure Driving Sec A & B (junior/adult to drive)	3	\$50
Welsh Hunter Sec A & B (junior to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh Hunter Sec C & D (junior/adult to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh Hunter Sec A & B (adult to ride)	3	\$50
Half/Part-Bred Welsh Hunter (junior/adult to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh Western Pleasure Sections A, B, C, D and Half/Part-Bred Welsh (junior/ adult to ride)	3	\$50

Section. If a section is divided in any way (by age: Jr and Adult or divided by section: A/B, C/D, Half/Part) each split section must meet the minimum requirements for prize money and number of classes.	*A* Rating Requirements	
	minimum number classes	minimum prize money
Western **		
Reining	2	\$100
Trail	2	\$100
Pleasure	2	\$100

Any class or section not meeting the requirements shown in this chart will be rated "C."

\*Western Division competitions may retain Local ~~Competition~~ **competition** status regardless of the amount of prize money offered.

### GR313 Special Conditions

1. Monies offered to classes restricted to established futurity/maturity programs, local restricted jackpots, sweepstakes, or other breed specific programs offered by a recognized breed affiliate or by the National Reining Horse Association will not be included in tabulation of competition dues or in determining division ratings.
2. The following classes do not count toward the minimum number of classes nor toward the minimum prize money required for any division or section rating; these following classes do not count toward HOTY awards unless included in the specific division award rules:

- a. Breeding;
- b. Classes restricted as to area;
- c. Classes, such as Maiden, Novice, Limit and other such rider restricted classes, which restrict the number of ribbons won by any rider, handler or driver, e.g., except for Select, Choice, and Elite classes in the Arabian Division.
- d. Owners, except in Amateur Owner sections and Paso Fino Division;
- e. Classes that do not count toward a Hunter or Jumper Championship;
- f. Bareback, Grooms, Consolation, Races, Parades, Command, Cutting classes, and except in the Paso Fino Divisions, Costume classes, Calcutta classes;
- g. Exhibitions;
- h. Classes restricted to one breed (except in one breed divisions), type or color;
- i. Classes restricted to horse or rider (e.g. age or sex, unless complementary classes are offered for other entries). Ladies classes will count toward the rating requirement even if complementary classes for Gentlemen are not offered;
- j. Any class in which the judging specifications are not in accordance with the Federation;
- k. Opportunity classes;
- l. Academy classes;
- m. Classes held as part of a USHJA Outreach competition.

## **SUBCHAPTER 3-C COMPETITION MILEAGE**

### **GR314 Mileage**

1. Determining Applicable Mileage.
  - a. Mileage is applied Division by Division as defined in the Federation Rulebook.
  - b. To determine a mile radius, the distance shall be measured using mapping software to measure the distance between the locations where the competitions are being conducted (i.e. address of the facility where each of the competitions will be held or the longitude and latitude if an exact address does not exist), except between Long Island and the mainland. Application of this process will not adversely affect the license rights of competitions already licensed.
  - c. In any instance where the shortest road mileage distance between the competition facility locations is greater than one and one half (1 1/2) times the radial mileage between the competition facility locations, the required mileage distances between competitions shall be based upon the road mileage distance rather than radial mileage.
  - d. Mileage between competitions within Zones or Regions utilizing different mileage will be subjected to the lower of the mileage requirements.
  - e. Long Island, N.Y. The distances between competitions held on Long Island, NY, and competitions held on the mainland shall be determined by measuring a straight line distance from the point at which Interstate Highway 278 (across the Triborough Bridge) intersects the shore of Long Island, to the location where the Long Island competition is being conducted (i.e. address of the facility where each of the competitions will be held or the longitude and latitude if an exact address does not exist) and by measuring the mile radius from the bridge to the location where the other competition is being conducted (i.e. address of the facility where each of the competitions will be held or the longitude and latitude if an exact address does not exist). The application of this process will not adversely affect the license rights of competitions already licensed.
  - f. If the mileage between competitions is less than the applicable distance specified by this rule, conflicting dates may be approved by the Federation in accordance with GR315 and providing all other requirements for recognition are met.
  - g. The foregoing distance rules do not apply to events comprised exclusively of classes recognized by the FEI and the USOPC (example: Olympic Trials or Olympic Games). The National Championships for Dressage and Dressage ~~Competitions~~ **competitions** offering Federation ~~High Performance~~ qualifying or selection trials, or observation classes and National classes held in conjunction with a CDI are exempted from the mileage rule. When a CDI is approved on one or more days where another competition has date priority, national classes can only be held on the day of the FEI Jog and on days where at least one CDI class is held or is not held due to no entries. When CDI classes are not held on all approved CDI dates

(except due to no entries) the competition might not be granted approval for those dates in subsequent years. Certain competitions held in conjunction with events also holding FEI competitions and/or selection trials for international competitions, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, may be exempted from the mileage rule.

- ~~h. Existing competition is a licensed competition that may or may not be within the mileage indicated of the new license applicant.~~
- ~~i. Proposals to change mileage rule or rules may be submitted for consideration by the Federation Board of Directors. Any such mileage rule change will have an effective date of December 1 of the following calendar year. In no event will changes to mileage become effective in less than 12 months from the date of the rule change approval. Proposals for mileage rule changes submitted by Affiliates may only be considered after they have been considered at the annual meeting of the appropriate recognized National Affiliate.~~

2. Mileage Boundaries. Mileage consideration may be applicable to more than one mileage provision.

- a. The below divisions will be conducted under the following mileage:
  - a. Andalusian/Lusitano: 250 miles;
  - b. Arabian: 250 miles;
  - c. Friesian: 250 miles;
  - d. Hackney: 100 miles;
  - e. Morgan: 100 miles;
  - f. National Show Horse: 50 miles;
  - g. Roadster: 100 miles;
  - h. Shetland: 100 miles;
  - i. American Saddlebred: 100 miles;
  - j. Local Regular: Any breed competition restricted to one breed or multi-breed competition including any of the above listed breeds (1-9), regardless of number of classes offered: 50 miles;
  - k. Western Dressage: 100 miles.
- b. Mileage Boundaries for Hunter and/or Jumper Sections.
  - a. Hunter and/or Jumper competitions are categorized by Rating and/or Level. Additional criteria required for each Rating and/or Level in the Hunter and Jumper Mileage Charts can be found on the Federation website at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) under ~~Competitions~~ **competitions**.
  - b. Jumper Levels are based on the prize money offered. See JP104.
  - c. Hunter mileage shall be independent of the Jumper mileage and applied separately to each division of a competition
  - d. The distances between **licensed competitions** ~~Licensed Competitions~~ held in USHJA Zones 1 & 2 (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NJ, NY, and PA) offering hunter or jumper divisions shall be in accordance with the mileage tables (H1 & J1) shown below effective 12-01-22.

Hunter Mileage Chart – H1 USHJA Zones 1&2				
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division			
		Premier (*AA*)	National (*A*)	Regional (*B*)
	Premier (*AA*)	125	125	0
	National (*A*)	125	125	0
	Regional (*B*)	0	0	50

Jumper Mileage Chart – J1 USHJA 1 & 2						
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division					
		Level 5 & 6	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
	Level 5 & 6	125	125	90	0	0

Level 4	125	125	90	0	0
Level 3	90	90	75	0	0
Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
Level 1	0	0	0	0	0

5. The distances between **licensed competitions** ~~Licensed Competitions~~ held in USHJA Zones 3 thru 10 and Canada [with the exception of Florida in the first trimester - December through March – see GR314.5] offering hunter or jumper divisions shall be in accordance with the mileage tables (H2 & J2) shown below effective 12-01-22.

Hunter Mileage Chart – H2 USHJA Zones 3 thru 12 and Canada (excluding FL in 1st trimester)				
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w Same Rated Division			
		Premier ("AA")	National ("A")	Regional ("B")
	Premier ("AA")	250	250	0
	National ("A")	250	250	0
	Regional ("B")	0	0	50

Jumper Mileage Chart – J2 USHJA Zones 3 thru 12 and Canada (excluding FL in 1st trimester)						
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w Same Rated Division					
		Level 5 & 6	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
	Level 5 & 6	250	250	100	0	0
	Level 4	250	250	100	0	0
	Level 3	200	200	100	0	0
	Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
	Level 1	0	0	0	0	0

6. The distances between **licensed competitions** ~~Licensed Competitions~~ held in Florida in the first trimester (December through March) offering hunter or jumper divisions shall be in accordance with the mileage tables (H3 & J3) shown below effective 12-01-08.

Hunter Mileage Chart – H3 (1st trimester Florida)				
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w Same Rated Division			
		Premier ("AA")	National ("A")	Regional ("B")
	Premier ("AA")	225	200	0
	National ("A")	200	200	0
Regional ("B")	0	0	50	

Jumper Mileage Chart – J3 (1st trimester Florida)				
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Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division					
		Level 5 & 6	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Level 5 & 6		225	200	100	0	0
Level 4		200	200	100	0	0
Level 3		200	200	100	0	0
Level 2		0	0	0	0	0
Level 1		0	0	0	0	0

3. Mileage Boundaries for Dressage Competitions.

- a. In the case of a Regular or Local ~~Competition competition~~ holding Open Dressage Division classes, the question of conflict shall be determined with reference only to those dates, inclusive, during which Open Dressage classes are to be held. See DR127.15 for a map of USDF regions.
- b. Applicable Mileage:
  - i. A 75-mile radius shall apply to Dressage ~~Competition competitions~~ held in contiguous USDF regions, for which different distances are specified, in the case of Dressage ~~Competition competitions~~, Regular ~~Competition competitions~~, or Local ~~Competition competitions~~ holding "open" Dressage Division classes.
  - ii. A 50-mile radius shall apply for Dressage ~~Competition competitions~~ in USDF Regions 1, 2, 6, & 8 holding "open" Dressage classes (excluding competitions restricted to one breed).
  - iii. A 100-mile radius shall apply for Dressage ~~Competition competitions~~ in USDF Regions 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 holding "open" Dressage classes (excluding competitions restricted to one breed).
- c. Two or more Dressage ~~Competition competitions~~ may not be held at the same or adjacent locations on the same days.
  - i. Exception: Dressage ~~Competition competitions~~ that are limited to Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes may be held at the same or adjacent location or within the applicable mileage radius as another Dressage ~~Competition competition~~ that does not offer Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes.
- d. All dressage competitions are categorized by Level. See DR126 for criteria for each level.

4. Mileage Boundaries for Eventing ~~Competition competitions~~.

- a. Eventing competitions are categorized by level offered, and mileage is applied to the applicant competition. Where an Eventing competition hosts more than one level, the highest applicable mileage radius will apply, *e.g. an Intermediate and Modified applicant competition runs against a Priority Date Holder CCI2-L competition in Area 2, the applicable mileage is 200 miles (the applicant competition's highest applicable mileage radius tied to its Intermediate level)*. Exception: For Eventing competitions occurring on December 1, 2022 and thereafter, the mileage rule will not apply to FEI CCI4-L, CCI4-S, CCI3-L, or Federation Advanced level competitions, or any other level hosted therewith, e.g. the mileage rule will not apply to a CCI3-S hosted with an Advanced level competition.
- b. ~~The USEA American Eventing Championship is not subject to the modification process, and is eligible for renewal at a new location as needed.~~ For Eventing competitions occurring on December 1, 2022 and thereafter, the radius will be zero for CCI4-L, CCI4-S, Advanced, and CCI3-L levels, **including any lower levels hosted at these competitions**, and the mileage chart for remaining levels will apply only to those competitions not hosting FEI CCI4-L, CCI4-S, CCI3-L, or Federation Advanced levels:

Eventing Mileage Chart Areas 1, 2, 3, and 8	
Level	Radius
CCI4-L	600
CCI4-S	250

Eventing Mileage Chart Areas 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10	
Level	Radius
CCI4-L	600
CCI4-S	400

Advanced	200
CCI3-L	600
CCI3-S	200
Intermediate	200
CCI2-L	300
CCI2-S	100
Preliminary	100
CCI1	100
Modified	100

Advanced	400
CCI3-L	600
CCI3-S	200
Intermediate	300
CCI2-L	300
CCI2-S	200
Preliminary	200
CCI1	200
Modified	200

## SUBCHAPTER 3-D MILEAGE EXEMPTION AND COMPETITION LICENSE DISPUTES

### GR315 Mileage Exemption

1. Mileage Exemption. When a competition license application is denied by the Federation due to a mileage conflict, the **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ may seek a mileage exemption to allow the competition to occur. The decision to grant a mileage exemption is discretionary and made by the Federation Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, based on the criteria enumerated below.
2. The Federation may consider different criteria in determining whether a mileage exemption is warranted. The relative weight accorded to each such criteria is in the sole discretion of the Federation Chief Executive Officer, or their designee. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Competition Standards: Priority Date Holder's adherence to competition standards.
    - i. Whether the **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition may alleviate concerns about the safety and welfare of horses, competitors, and/or spectators for a given rating and/or level at a Priority Date Holder's competition;
    - ii. Whether the **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition may enable a Priority Date Holder to better achieve the competition standards for a given rating and/or level;
    - iii. Whether the **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition may alleviate overcrowding of horses and/or competitors in a given geographic area at a given venue.
  - b. Competition and Calendar Factors:
    - i. a Priority Date Holder's costs to competitors or offered ratings and/or levels;
    - ii. Whether the **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition serves a need that the Priority Date Holder does not serve as to the schedule of classes, sections, and divisions, which may be too limited;
    - iii. Whether the **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition should be given an opportunity to enter the marketplace where a Priority Date Holder seemingly dominates the calendar in a given geographical area, ~~which may create unilateral competition effects;~~
    - iv. Whether the **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition alleviates the negative impact on competitors that may occur when the number of consecutive competitions of the same rating and/or level in a given geographic area ~~at a given venue creates unilateral competition effects.~~
    - v. For Eventing competitions; Federation **licensed** ~~Licensed~~ Eventing **competitions** ~~Competitions~~ occurring a minimum of two weeks prior to, and two weeks following the applicant competition, will be taken into consideration when determining the **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition's impact on the competition calendar, regardless of mileage boundary.
  - c. Sport Growth and Visibility:

Whether the **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition may create growth and visibility of the sport in one of the following ways, which is not exclusive:

    - i. The **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition is warranted due to community support and/or involvement;
    - ii. The **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition may broaden access to competitors at all levels of the sport;
    - iii. The **applicant** ~~Applicant~~ competition is unique and provides exceptional promotional benefits to the sport.

- d. In addition, the Federation will consider the following factors in determining whether a mileage exemption should be granted:
    - i. Geographic location and time of year with regard to concentration and migration of competitors;
    - ii. Experience and expertise of competition management;
    - iii. Competitions outside of boundary mileage of Priority Date Holder and **applicant Applicant** ~~Competition competition~~, which may affect density and competitive level of competitors;
    - iv. Density and competitive level of competitors in a given geographic area at a given time of year; and
    - v. Any other circumstances that the Federation may deem to support, further, promote, or advance the best interests of the sport.
3. Mileage Exemption Procedure

An **applicant Applicant** may first contact the Priority Date Holder(s) and seek cooperation in running the proposed event.

- a. ~~If the Priority Date Holder(s) agrees to the exemption request, then the terms and conditions of any agreement must be fully disclosed to the Federation in writing along with submission of the Mileage Exemption Response Form. Submission of these materials indicates that the parties acknowledge and agree that the Federation is not responsible for the enforcement or performance of the terms and conditions of the agreement and that the parties expressly waive any claim against the Federation for failure to perform.~~
- b. ~~If the Priority Date Holder(s) does not agree to the exemption request, then the~~ **The applicant Applicant** shall submit the Mileage Exemption Request Form to the Federation in accordance with these rules. The **applicant Applicant** shall submit the Mileage Exemption Request Form, fully completed, to the Federation no earlier than 360 calendar days and no later than 180 calendar days before the start date of the proposed competition. The fully completed Mileage Exemption Request Form must be accompanied with the non-refundable application fee. A mileage exemption request will not be accepted unless the Mileage Exemption Request Form is fully completed and the application fee is paid in full. Within 21 days of acceptance of a properly submitted request and application fee, the Federation will notify the **applicant Applicant** and the Priority Date Holder(s) that the request is being processed. The notification will include a copy of the submitted Mileage Exemption Request Form and a Mileage Exemption Response Form for the Priority Date Holder(s) to complete. The Priority Date Holder(s) has 10 calendar days from the date of the Notification letter to submit to the Federation, with a copy to the **applicant Applicant**, a fully completed Mileage Exemption Response Form. The Priority Date Holder(s) must provide written comments explaining the basis for their objection to the mileage exemption request, based on the criteria listed in paragraph 2 above.
- c. ***If the Priority Date Holder(s) agrees to the exemption request, then the terms and conditions of any agreement must be fully disclosed to the Federation in writing along with submission of the Mileage Exemption Response Form. Submission of these materials indicates that the parties acknowledge and agree that the Federation is not responsible for the enforcement or performance of the terms and conditions of the agreement and that the parties expressly waive any claim against the Federation for failure to perform.***
- d. In the case of mileage exemption renewal requests where an agreement has been reached with the affected competition(s), the following applies: Within 15 calendar days of receipt of a completed Mileage Exemption Response Form and the terms and conditions of an agreement, if such agreement was reached between the affected parties, the request will be reviewed by the Federation and a determination will be made whether to grant the renewal request.
- e. In the case of first time mileage exemption requests or renewal requests where an agreement could not be reached with the affected competition(s) or the affected competition(s) failed to timely respond, the following applies: Within 10 calendar days of receipt of a completed Mileage Exemption Response Form from Priority Date Holder(s) objecting to the request, or the expiration of the 10 day response period if no completed Mileage Exemption Response Form is submitted, the Federation will notify the applicable Recognized Breed/Discipline Affiliate and provide all documentation received in the process from any party. Within the time prescribed by the Federation, the applicable Recognized Breed/Discipline Affiliate is invited to submit written feedback for consideration by the Federation in reaching a decision whether to approve or disapprove the request, including specific feedback on the criteria listed in paragraph 2 above. If the Federation learns that an individual with a conflict of interest was present when an Affiliate

considers its recommendation under this Chapter, then such recommendation will be not be considered by the Federation.

- f. ***For Hunter, Jumper, Hunter/Jumper licensed competitions in Florida occurring within the first trimester of the competition year, the mileage exemption process shall be governed in accordance with the timeline posted on the Federation's website.***
4. Modifications or amendments to an approved exemption are not permitted unless approved by the Federation in writing.
5. Mileage Exemptions are granted for one year only. Approval in one year does not guarantee future approval of a mileage exemption request.
6. ~~All licensed competitions~~ ***Licensed Competitions*** operating under an approved mileage exemption shall have the applicable mileage protection against new competitions pursuant to these rules. Additionally, these competitions will have the applicable mileage protection for the following year's comparable dates, provided that the license application and applicable fees are received within 60 calendar days of the last day of the current year's competition. This does not preclude the Federation from granting additional mileage exemption requests for new competitions to be held within any mileage boundary.
7. Competitions with an approved mileage exemption which have been held for two or more consecutive years may apply for designation as a perpetual mileage exemption. If approved, the competition shall apply annually for renewal under GR 302.3. To be eligible for this designation, the competition must indicate this request on the application and pay the requisite mileage exemption fee. Any conditions associated with the approved mileage exemption shall remain in place. Upon receiving this designation, any changes to location, rating and/or level will result in loss of this designation and the competition will be required to apply for a mileage exemption. Designated perpetual mileage exemption competitions shall have the applicable mileage protection against new competitions. This does not preclude the Federation from granting additional mileage exemption requests for new competitions to be held within any mileage boundary. The Federation may revoke this designation at any time.
8. The Federation will provide a written decision to the ~~applicant~~ ***Applicant*** and Priority Date Holder(s) within 30 days of receipt of the Recognized Affiliate ~~or Federation committee's~~ ***recommendation, whichever is later.*** If the 30-day time period cannot be met, the parties will be notified in writing when they can expect to receive a decision. ***Subject to GR315.3.f above, for Hunter, Jumper, Hunter/Jumper licensed competitions in Florida occurring within the first trimester of the competition year, the Federation will provide a written decision to the applicant and Priority Date Holder(s) in accordance with the schedule posted on the Federation's website.***
9. Computing Time. For purposes of computing time ***related to the timelines established in the Mileage Exemption and license Modification processes*** under ~~this Chapter GR315,~~ the following rules apply:
  - a. exclude the day of the event that triggers the period;
  - b. count every day, including intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, excluding legal holidays and week days that the Federation offices are closed;
  - c. include the last day of the period, but if the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or day that the Federation offices are closed, the period continues to run until the end of the next day that the office is open.

*BOD 6/20/23 Effective 12/1/23*

## **GR 316 License Application Disputes and Resolution**

1. Any competition license applicant may dispute the denial of a license application or renewal. In addition, a Mileage Exemption Request applicant and Priority Date Holder(s) may dispute a mileage exemption request decision. The initiation of a license dispute can be made by submitting a fully completed Federation Mileage Exemption Dispute Form to [disputes@usef.org](mailto:disputes@usef.org) and to the Federation General Counsel within 10 calendar days of the date on the Federation notice of the approval or denial, along with the filing fee. The submission must include the basis for the appeal.
2. Upon notification by the Federation of a properly filed dispute, the affected parties will have 10 calendar days to file a substantive response. License disputes will be decided by the Federation Hearing Committee in accordance with the Federation rules and procedures. The Hearing Committee Panel may review the decision based upon the parties' written submissions and the record below. The parties may be represented by counsel. In its discretion, the Hearing Committee Panel may hold a hearing. Hearings will be conducted via videoconference or teleconference as directed by the Hearing Committee Panel. The Hearing Committee

Panel shall only determine whether the challenged decision was made in accordance with the Federation rules. The Hearing Committee shall issue a written decision as soon as practicable. If the appealing party prevails, half of the fee shall be refunded.

3. The Hearing Committee's decision is final and not appealable within the Federation.

#### GR111 Competition Dates

A competition or competition date begins at 12:01 am on the calendar date on which the first class (or Horse Inspection, if applicable) is scheduled and ends at midnight on the calendar date on which the last class is scheduled.

***For purposes of Chapter 3 of these rules, an "existing competition" is a licensed or comparable competition.***

#### GR152 Rule Change Procedures

These rules may be added to, altered or amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of those present as provided herein below. The Federation Legislative Committee is responsible for review, analysis, and oversight of the Federation's rule change process, subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors. Rule Change Categories: Standard, Clarification, Extraordinary, and FEI.

Federation Senior Staff, Federation Committees, Recognized Affiliate Associations (Recognized Associations and International Discipline Associations), and eligible Individual Federation members may propose rule changes. Individual Federation members are eligible so long as the member is a Lifetime member or has held a Federation Senior Active membership for at least five (5) consecutive years. If an Individual Federation member is ineligible to submit a rule change due to these requirements, the member may contact the appropriate Recognized Affiliate Association or Federation committee and request that either one consider proposing their desired rule change.

[...]

4. FEI Rule Changes. In order to comply in a timely manner with changes in FEI rules, which may be published by the FEI outside the Federation's normal rule change schedule, certification is waived and the Board of Directors may consider and act to conform to any FEI rule change as deemed necessary.
5. ~~Proposals to change mileage boundaries herein may be submitted for consideration by the Federation Board of Directors. Any such mileage rule change will have an effective date of December 1 of the following calendar year. In no event will changes to mileage become effective in less than 12 months from the date of the rule change approval. Proposals for mileage rule changes submitted by Affiliates may only be considered after they have been considered at the annual meeting of the appropriate recognized National Affiliate.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	6/3/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To ensure jurisdiction over USEF member's conduct relating to cruelty or abuse to actions that occur outside of a competition environment, regardless of any action taken in a civil or criminal court. Ensuring jurisdiction in this context aids in protecting the social license to operate and shows that supports USEF's no tolerance of equine cruelty or abuse by its members.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 838 (109-23)	

Committee Actions	
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024	Draft 1: The Council approves under the condition that if Tracking #109-23 is approved, the language in this proposal would be amended to match where necessary.
Council - Intl Discipline	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024	
Council - Member Services	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024	Draft 1: The Council recommends approval of this proposal but wants to note that the language in GR702.1.f should be changed from "cruelty and abuse" to "unethical treatment" to align with the definition in GR838.

GR702 Violations

1. A violation is any act prejudicial to the best interests of the Federation, including but not limited to the following:

[...]

f. Physical assault upon a person and/or ~~cruelty~~ *unethical treatment to a the* horse, as defined in GR838, *cruelty, or abuse to the horse*.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	2/1/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

**Rule Change Intent**

In an effort to improve member experience and processing times, the Federation is moving away from paper applications and replacing them with online applications. This rule change is intended to remove the paper forms related to drug and medication administration from the rulebook. These forms are available electronically. As the forms are submitted electronically, the timing of submission has been adjusted to prior to the first time the horse competes.

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

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 201 (067-23)	

Committee Actions
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline <b>Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024</b>
Council - Intl Discipline <b>Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024</b>
Council - Member Services <b>Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024</b>



#### GR411 Conditions For Therapeutic Administrations of Prohibited Substances

1. A horse and/or pony exhibiting at a Licensed Competition pursuant to the Therapeutic Substance Provisions that receives any medication which contains a prohibited substance is not eligible for competition unless all of the following requirements have been met and the facts are furnished in writing on a timely-submitted official Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form online. *A form is timely-submitted when the electronic form is submitted following administration and before the horse competes (See (i) for paper forms):*

[...]

i. Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form filed *following administration and prior to the horse competing, with the Steward/Technical Delegate or Designated Competition Office Representative within one hour after administration or one hour after the Steward/Technical Delegate or Designated Competition Office Representative returns to duty if administration is at a time other than during competition hours.* If an online form cannot be submitted due to lack of internet or phone service, a paper form may be submitted. This option may only be used when submitting the online form is impossible. *The form must be filed with the Steward/Technical Delegate or Designated Competition Office Representative within one hour after administration. If administration occurred outside of competition hours, the form must be filed within one hour after the Steward/Technical Delegate or Designated Competition Office Representative returns to duty if administration took place at a time other than during competition hours.*

#### GR 414 Prohibited Practices

2. The above exceptions are permitted only when (i) the substance is administered by a licensed veterinarian and no less than 6 hours prior to competing; and (ii) the "Trainer" as defined under General Rule 404 properly files, or causes to be properly filed, an Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form *following administration and prior to the horse competing with the Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative within one hour after the administration of the substance 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.*

[...]

4. Shockwave Therapy may only be administered by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. 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:

a. Shockwave Therapy 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	12/1/2024	5/6/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Extraordinary Change Reason

Horse wellbeing is paramount to USEF and this proposal modernizes the horse abuse rule. This proposal accompanies GR702, a standard rule change currently under consideration. The effective date for this EO should align with the effective date for GR702 should the Board approve it.

Rule Change Intent

This proposal is intended to achieve the following: (1) expand the scope of USEF's jurisdiction to include horse abuse that occurs outside of competition, including at home facilities; (2) clarify examples of what constitutes abuse in our sport; (3) mandate reporting of horse abuse; and (4) clarify that competition management and officials are empowered to eliminate, disqualify, and issue warnings for horse abuse at competitions.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEF Officers

Leslie Mangan

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Linked Rules Comments

GR 702 (082-23)

Committee Actions

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

Council - Member Services

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024

## **SUBCHAPTER 8-F WELFARE OF THE HORSE**

### **GR838 *Unethical Treatment of the Horse—Cruelty to and Abuse of a Horse***

*For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:*

*A Covered Horse is defined as any horse that is or has been recorded with the Federation, has participated or is entered to participate in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, or is on the grounds of a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition or is in the care, custody, and control of a Participant.*

*A Participant is defined as any person who holds or has held a Federation membership; participated in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition as a rider, vaulter, driver, handler, exhibitor, trainer, coach, groom, competition veterinarian, or support personnel for any of these identified roles; or is present on the grounds of a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition.*

*1. Any Participant engaging in the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty. Except in exigent circumstances, the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is defined as any action or inaction that may negatively compromise the Covered Horse's health, safety, or well-being. It may include any action(s) or inaction(s) that causes or is likely to cause a horse pain, a state of obvious distress, or unnecessary discomfort.*

*Examples of Unethical Treatment of a Horse may include, but are not limited to:*

- a. Misuse or excessive use of a whip, spur, or bit;*
- b. Misuse of any equipment or device, including tack;*
- c. Creation of hyper or hypo-sensitization of any physical part of a Covered Horse to enhance performance;*
- d. Any practice or use of devices or objects used to enhance a Covered Horse's performance based on fear or intimidation;*
- e. Training, riding, or competing a Covered Horse with raw, bleeding, or irritated skin or welts consistent with excessive, persistent, or inappropriate use of equipment, including spurs; and*
- f. Continued riding, driving, or lunging an obviously exhausted, lame, or injured Covered Horse.*

*2. A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs at or in connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Additionally, any person who directs another as to the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty.*

*3. A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs after November 30, 2024 somewhere other than at or in connection with a USEF Licensed or Endorsed Competition. For the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse under this paragraph that occurs off U.S. soil by a Participant who is a member of a foreign National Federation, the Federation will refer the matter to the relevant National Federation and FEI for resolution.*

*4. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse at or in direct connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, must immediately report it to a Federation Licensed Official at the competition.*

*5. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse outside of a Federation Licensed Competition, should report it to the Federation and the relevant local authorities as soon as practicable.*

6. A veterinarian may be appointed by the Federation, Competition Management, or a Licensed Official to inspect any horse on competition grounds, or any horse stabled off grounds that is entered to compete in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Refusal to submit an animal for such examination shall constitute a violation of this rule, and the owner and/or trainer may be subject to penalty by the Federation.

7. A Federation Licensed Official, Competition Management, or competition veterinarian at a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition may issue an official written warning, elimination, or disqualification against any Participant they deem to have Unethically Treated a Covered Horse on competition grounds or directly related to a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Additionally, any person may be removed from the competition grounds for Unethical Treatment of a Horse. Any report received of alleged Unethical Treatment or penalties imposed on a person(s) as a result of Unethical Treatment must be reported to the Federation. A Participant may be subject to further penalty by the Federation.

8. Anyone reporting a violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed is a violation. Any allegations that prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense and will be considered a violation of this rule, subjecting the reporting party to penalty by the Federation.

9. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Federation may pursue disciplinary action pursuant Bylaw 705.2(b).

1. Cruelty to or the abuse of a horse present on the grounds of any Licensed Competition is forbidden, constitutes a violation under Chapter 7, and renders the offender subject to penalty. The Show Committee, or Competition Management in the absence of a Show Committee must bar violators from further participation for the remainder of the competition. It is the duty of the competition officials to report to the Federation any person who indulges in this practice for such further action as may be deemed appropriate.
2. Any person or trainer, as defined by Federation rules, who presents for competition a horse that exhibits signs of recent cruelty or abuse will be subject to penalty under this rule.
3. The Federation or the Judge, Steward, or TD may appoint a veterinarian to inspect any animal on competition grounds or entered to compete. Refusal to submit an animal for examination by an authorized veterinarian after due notification shall constitute a violation.
4. The following are included under the words Cruelty and Abuse but are not limited thereto:
  - a. Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, before or during a competition, by any person.
  - b. except in emergency situations any striking of the horse's head (on the poll and forward of the poll) with the whip shall be deemed excessive.
  - c. Rapping the legs of a horse with the butt end of a riding crop or other implement;
  - d. Use of any substance or method to induce temporary heat.
  - e. Manual poling with any object;
  - f. Use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jump;
  - g. Use of electric device in schooling or showing;
  - h. Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices (not to be construed as rubber or elastic exercising devices);
  - i. Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores around the coronets, pasterns, or legs;
  - j. Use of any explosive (e.g., fire crackers, torpedoes, fire extinguishers except in case of fire, etc.) or laser beam devices; anywhere on the competition grounds, except in an exhibition or if required in

class specifications.

k. Withholding of feed and water for prolonged periods;

l. Letting blood from a horse for other than diagnostic purposes;

m. Inhumane treatment of a horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, by any person.

n. Use of any object that prevents the horse's ability to close its mouth. (Exception: use of an oral speculum by a veterinarian or equine dentist to provide legitimate dental/oral medical care.)

o. Soring and/or the use of an action device on any limb of a Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, or Spotted Saddle Horse (each a breed not recognized by the Federation) in any class at a Federation Licensed Competition is prohibited. An action device is defined by the USDA as any boot,

collar, chain, roller, or other device that encircles or is placed upon the lower extremity of the leg of a horse in such a manner that it can rotate around the leg or slide up and down the leg so as to cause friction or strike the hoof, coronet band, fetlock joint or pastern of the horse. (Protective bell boots or heel boots are specifically excluded from this definition). The use of a weighted shoe, pad, wedge, in conjunction with a hoof band or other device or material (commonly referred to as a performance package) placed on, inserted in, or attached to any limb of a Tennessee Walking Horse,

a Racking Horse, or Spotted Saddle Horse (each a breed not recognized by the Federation) constructed to artificially alter the gait of such a horse, and which are not protective or therapeutic in nature at a Federation Licensed Competition is prohibited.

p. Soring of any horse, including but not limited to the application of caustic chemicals to a horse's legs or hooves, in order to cause pain and/or affect a horse's performance, and/or used as a training technique.

5. Any action(s) against a horse by any person, which are deemed excessive by a Federation judge, Federation steward, technical delegate or competition veterinarian, in the competition ring or anywhere on the competition grounds or evidence of action(s) described above on a horse on competition grounds may be punished by official warning or elimination. Such action(s) could include but are not limited to excessive or inappropriate use of equipment, including but not limited to the whip or spurs. Evidence may include raw, bleeding, or irritated skin, or welts consistent with excessive use or inappropriate use of equipment

For the purposes of this rule, the term "soring" is defined by the Horse Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §1821.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	1/24/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Judges should not have to stand or sit in the sun or in rain with no shelter when classes are held outside.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

Council - Member Services

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/20/2024

**DR202 General Regulations.**

10. The requirements of DR126.2.d and DR123.9 apply to DSHB divisions and classes, *including the requirement to provide shelter from weather for judges at outdoor competitions.*



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	5/6/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To allow more flexibility in dress that is permitted in extremely cold weather.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

## DR120 Dress

2. Weather Conditions. In locations with high average heat and humidity on the date of a competition, competition management may publish in its prize list that jackets will be waived for the duration of the competition. Alternatively, management may announce prior to or during a competition that competitors may show without jackets when extreme heat and/or humidity is forecasted. ~~When temperatures below 45 degrees F are forecast, riders may wear windbreakers or parkas instead of riding jackets.~~ Also, when very cold weather conditions are forecasted on the date of a competition, competition management may publish in its prize list that windbreakers or parkas may be worn, rather than riding jackets, for the duration of the competition. Alternatively, management may announce prior to or during a competition that competitors may wear windbreakers or parkas rather than riding jackets when very cold weather is forecasted. ~~This~~ These waivers apply to national classes at a USEF licensed-USDF recognized dressage competition.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To be in compliance with FEI rules effective 1.1.24.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

#### **DR117 The Position and Aids of the Rider.**

4. Riding with both hands is obligatory at all national and International Dressage Events. However, riding with one hand is permitted in the Freestyle Tests and when leaving the arena. ***For FEI Freestyle tests, see also Directives for Judges – Freestyle tests and Directives for assessing the degree of difficulty in a Freestyle test available at [www.fei.org](http://www.fei.org).*** Individuals holding a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate may use bridged or special adaptive reins for use with one or no hand(s), if the equipment is listed on the Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate. Apart from the halt and salute, where the athlete must take the reins in one hand, riding with the reins in both hands is obligatory in Dressage classes, but a discreet 'pat on the neck' for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of an athlete needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc). However, if the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand in order to use either the reins or the other hand to produce more impulsion from the horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark for 'Rider'.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To be in compliance with FEI rules effective 1.1.24.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

DR 123 (228-23)

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

**DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving.**

1. After each performance and after each judge has given their Collective Marks which must be done with due consideration, and signed the test, the judges' sheets pass into the hands of the scorers. Scores and comments must be written in ink. Any corrected score must be initialed by the judge having made the correction. The marks are multiplied by the corresponding co-efficients where applicable and then totaled. Penalty points incurred for errors in the execution of the test are then deducted on each judge's sheet. ***In Children classes and classes for 7-Year-Old Horses, penalty percentage points must be deducted from both technical judges' and quality judges' score sheets.*** Scores and comments may also be recorded electronically, and must be signed either electronically, or by hand, by the judge(s) for the test or class, before being tabulated.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To be in compliance with FEI Rules effective 1.1.24

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

DR 123 (227-23)

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

**DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving. Change to read:**

3. Individual Classification. In all competitions the winner is the competitor having the highest percentage, the second placed competitor is the one with the next highest percentage, and so on. In case of equality of points the competitor with the highest marks received under General Impressions shall be declared the winner. When the scores for General Impressions are equal after coefficients have been applied, the horses must remain tied. Exceptions: **(1)** For Young Horse classes, the marks for "Submission" and "Perspective"/"General Impression" must be combined and divided by two in order to break the tie. If still equal, the "Submission" mark would decide. **(2) For FEI Children classes: In case of equality of percentages, the competitor with the higher "technical" mark will be ranked highest. If still tied, the highest total median score of the Technical Judges will decide the placing.** Errors on a test may not be used to break ties. Final



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Updating spur rules to be in compliance with FEI rules effective 1.1.24.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

## DR120 Dress

4.1 If spurs are worn, a separate spur must be worn on each boot. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are permitted.

The inside arm of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have rubber covers. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard knobs (*metal or plastic*) on the shank are permitted ("Impuls" spur) **and the knobs may rotate**. "Dummy" spurs (without shank) are permitted. Armless spurs are permitted.

4.2 Spurs are **optional** ~~mandatory~~ during competition in **all** FEI Tests. ~~However, spurs are optional for all of the FEI Children tests, FEI Pony tests, and the FEI and USEF test for 4-year-old horses.~~

4.3 The maximum length for spurs in all classes except the FEI Children tests and the FEI Pony tests is 5.08cm (2 inches) including rowels. Only blunt metal spurs (i.e., with no rowels) no longer than 3.5cm are permitted for FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI tests for Children. ~~Except for FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI tests for Children, the length of the spur~~ **Spur length** is measured from the base to the end of the shank. ~~For FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI tests for Children spur length is measured from the boot to the tip of the spur.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To be in compliance with FEI rules effective 1.1.24.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

## DR121 Saddlery and Equipment

### 2. Bits

#### a. Snaffle bits

4. A snaffle bit may be unjointed, single-jointed, or double-jointed. **Single or double jointed snaffles may be used with upper or lower cheeks, full cheeks or Fulmer cheeks. Loose rings may have a narrow sleeve fitted around part of the ring.** The center link in a double-jointed snaffle must be smooth and curved on all surfaces as in a lozenge-shaped link. It may not have the effect of a tongue plate. Dr. Bristol and French link bits are not allowed. The center joint or link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece and may have a bushing, barrel, coupling, or ball joints. The surface of the center piece must be solid or have only one rolling part in the center of the mouthpiece, as pictured in Figure 121.1.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To make USEF rules for visually impaired riders reflect current FEI rules.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Dressage	Lauren Moore lmoore@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

**DR310 Athletes who are Blind or Have Visual Impairment, Commanders (Readers) and Callers (Living Letters).**

6. Callers (Living Letters) may only call the name of the letter(s). Only the lead caller (who may also Command (Read) where approved) may be in the center of the arena. All other Callers must be positioned outside the arena, and may move from one marker to another, provided they do not obscure the judge's line of vision. There shall be no more than ~~thirteen (13) Callers, in a 20 x 60 meter arena and nine (9) Callers in a 20 x 40 meter arena~~ **four (4) Human Callers placed around the arena and one (1) Caller at X**, but Athletes with visual impairment are encouraged to use as few Callers as possible. **Electronic callers can be placed at every letter.** The Caller at C may be exchanged for a beacon or beeper which is to be provided by the Athlete.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	3/20/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

The FEI is changing its requirements for combined nosebands and is no longer allowing a jowl strap to replace the throat latch. The FEI will now require a bridle with a jowl strap to also have a throatlatch. The "jowl strap" cavessons are widely used in both FEI and national competitions and immediate clarification is needed. (Updated illustration of the bridle on the left will be provided).

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

### DR121 Saddlery and Equipment

3.c. Throat latch. A throat latch ~~and/or a jowl strap~~ is required. A jowl strap is ~~considered a throat latch that can be used to replace or used~~ in addition to a traditional throat latch. ~~In order to replace the throat latch, the~~ *The* jowl strap must be fitted around or immediately below the horse's jowl (Figure 121.7). Nosebands with one or two lower (chin) straps must also have a throat latch, as described above. Exception: Micklem Bridle. The back strap (or chin strap) of a noseband cannot also be considered a jowl strap.

Figure 121.7: Bridle with jowl strap replacing *and* throat latch (left). Bit snaps may not be used with this bridle. Combined noseband (no throatlatch) permitted for use in at any level (including USEF High Performance classes) and in warm-up with either a snaffle (middle left) or double bridle (middle right) as appropriate for the level. When used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the noseband (flash attachment pictured with the snaffle on left), is prohibited. Limits for placement of jowl strap (right).



Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	9/1/2024	3/26/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Extraordinary Change Reason

Annex B is being updated to reflect updates to rules regarding CDI5\*/CDIO5\* Events to uphold the standard of those representing the USA to compete abroad, particularly in Europe.

Rule Change Intent

The intent for the changes made to Annex B regarding CDI5\*/CDIO5\* Events is to uphold the standard of those representing the USA to compete abroad, particularly in Europe.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Dressage

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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

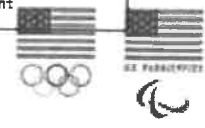


## USA Dressage Minimum Entry Requirements for CDIs

updated 2.26.2024

For purposes of this chart, only one score per respective test may be earned over the course of a weekend.

	Canada, Central/South America, Asia,	Europe	USA
<b>Big Tour</b>	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in the FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special, FEI Intermediate II or USEF Developing Grand Prix at 2 different CDI events or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.	Athlete/horse combinations must have an overall average of 66% or higher on the USEF Grand Prix 12-month ranking list. If the combination resides outside of the U.S., they must have competed in two CDN (national competition) events in the FEI Grand Prix or FEI Grand Prix Special earning 68% or higher from a panel of two or more judges.	Athlete must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in a CDI or national level Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special or consecutive level (see chart in DR 119), at two different CDI or national competitions from two different judges, within the 3 competition years preceding the CDI competition.
<b>Medium Tour</b>	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in the FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, or FEI Intermediate II Tests at two different CDI events or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.		Athlete must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in a CDI or national level Intermediate A or Intermediate B or consecutive level (see chart in DR 119), at two different CDI or national competitions from two different judges, within the 3 competition years preceding the CDI competition.
<b>Small Tour</b>	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in the FEI Prix St. Georges or FEI Intermediate I at 2 different CDI events or 66% or higher at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.		Athlete must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in a CDI or national level Prix St. Georges, Intermediate I or consecutive level (see chart in DR 119), at two different CDI or national competitions from two different judges, within the 3 competition years preceding the CDI.
<b>U-25</b>	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall score of 60% or higher in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test or the FEI Intermediate II Test at 2 different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall score of 64% or higher in 2 FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Tests or FEI Intermediate II Tests at 2 different CDI or CDN events within 12 months of the start dates of the event from	No requirement
<b>Young Rider, Junior, Pony Rider, Children</b>	Athlete/Horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 60% or higher from their relevant Team/Individual Test at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.	Athlete/Horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher from their relevant Team/Individual at two different CDI or NAYC/USEF Qualifying Competitions within 12 months of the start date of the event. Scores from European CDN (national competition) events with two more Judges officiating may also be considered.	No requirement
<b>Young Horse (5, 6 year old)</b>	Horse must have achieved an average over 7.5 (75%) in their relevant tests at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event. Tests of the equivalent level may also meet this requirement.	Horse must have achieved an average over 8.0 (80%) in their relevant tests (or tests of equivalent level) at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event.	No requirement
<b>Young Horse (7 year old)</b>	Horse must have achieved an overall average of 7.0 (70%) or higher in their relevant tests (combined quality & technical marks) at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event. Tests of the equivalent level may also meet this requirement.	Horse must have achieved an overall average over 7.5 (75%) or higher in their relevant tests (combined quality & technical marks; scores from tests of equivalent levels may also count) at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of	No requirement
<b>Amateur</b>	No requirement	No requirement	No requirement



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### **1. OVERSUBSCRIPTION AT CDI EVENTS**

Unless another method of selection has been published for the event, should there be more applications than invitations, on the deadline of FEI Definite Entry for the event; an athlete's ranking on the Grand Prix 12-month Ranking List (or for other categories, 12-month ranking of applicants from FEI and USEF/NAYC Dressage Qualifying classes) will be used to determine the invitations.

USEF may designate certain events as selection or observation events as part of selection processes for Games, Championships, Finals, etc. Athletes in contention for these Games, Championships, Finals, etc. may be given priority over other athletes. Additionally, athletes which are part of a designated European Tour, the Elite Program, Pre-Elite List, Development Program or Emerging Program may receive priority for an invitation if the event is one of their pre-established targets.

### **2. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

#### **CDI5\* Events**

Athlete/horse combinations that have achieved the minimum FEI Criteria to compete at CDI5\*/CDIO5\* events per FEI Rules and have a minimum of 70% on the USEF 12-month Grand Prix Ranking List. In extraordinary circumstances, for U.S. events only, a waiver may be requested by those athlete/horse combinations that have achieved a minimum of 68% on the USEF 12-month Grand Prix Ranking List. The waiver request will follow the same process as foreign competition waiver requests as seen below.

#### **CDIO Events**

Applications are required to be considered to compete at a CDIO (Team Competition). All such applications will be subject to approval and selection per the Selection Procedures published for CDIO events. The complete selection procedures for CDIO events can be found [HERE](#) on the USEF website.

### **3. APPLICATION TO COMPETE IN FOREIGN COMPETITIONS**

#### **A. Applications to compete outside of the U.S. are found by:**

1. Sign-in to the Athlete's USEF Account [HERE](#).
2. Scroll down to: FEI Competition Entry & Competing Abroad
3. Open Online Application to Compete Abroad

#### **B. Application Fees (Non-refundable):**

- v' \$75 application fee for each competition
- v' \$200 waiver request fee (if applicable)

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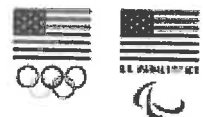
- v' \$750 Prepaid annual application fee (optional): this fee is due when submitting the first application for the competition year. This fee applies to the first ten (10) FEI competitions held outside of the U.S. Athletes competing less than 10 competitions do not receive a refund, credit, or partial credit for the prepaid application fee.
- ✓ \$75 late fee: An athlete who submits an application 14 days or less from the start of the competition may be subject to an additional late fee. The late fee may be applied even if an athlete provides payment for the prepaid annual application fee.

### **FOREIGN COMPETITION WAIVERS**

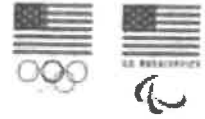
If an athlete or horse does not meet the criteria noted above to enter a foreign CDI, under extraordinary circumstances, the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, may grant a waiver to the above criteria to compete at foreign CDIs. Athletes must submit the Waiver Request found [here](#). **Athletes needing to submit a waiver should do so as early as possible, please allow up to 3 weeks for processing waiver requests.** The following criteria will be used to evaluate Waiver Requests:

- Previous international experience of the athlete, and/or athlete/horse combination. Including but not limited to:
  - Athlete's experience on a Championship Team(s)
  - Combination has met part of the requirement to compete abroad (ie. has one score from a CDI or CDN at the same level as the request but not second score)
  - Athlete has met the score requirements for membership to the Elite or Pre-Elite program
  - For YH divisions, the experience of just the horse may be considered
- The impact that the event may have on the success at a future team event, Championships, etc.
- The impact that the event may have on the development of the athlete, the horse or the combination.
- The athlete and/or horse recently moved up to the level and had success in their more recent level.
- Applicant provides other competition records that demonstrate they have an upward trajectory of scores and likelihood of achieving over 70% at the applicable level.
- Veterinary or Medical circumstances that may have prohibited the athlete and/or horse from competing (additional information may be requested to verify these circumstances)
- Athlete and/or horse have relocated or are currently training in an area outside of the US.

*USEF Athlete Services will not request invitations to CDIs until a waiver has been granted.*



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If a waiver is approved the combination or horse must receive a score greater than or equal to the minimum eligibility score or average (ie. 66% in the FEI Grand Prix for Big Tour) to participate in another event of the same level without resubmitting a waiver request.

*USEF Athlete Services will not request invitations to CDIs until a waiver has been granted. All entries are subject to FEI nominated and definite entry dates listed in applicable FEI Definite Schedules.*

#### **WITHDRAWAL FROM CDI EVENTS**

Once an athlete has submitted an application to compete and should you need to withdraw, the following steps are to be taken immediately:

**REMINDER:** USEF fees are non-refundable regardless if you compete or withdraw.

**A. Withdrawing from competition before an entry has been submitted on your behalf or before the Organizing Committee has confirmed an invitation:**

- ✓ Send an email to USEF Athlete Services ([feientries@usef.org](mailto:feientries@usef.org)) and include the reason for the withdrawal.

**B. Withdrawing from a competition after an entry has been submitted on your behalf and/or after the Organizing Committee has confirmed your invitation:**

Concurrently email USEF Athlete Services ([feientries@usef.org](mailto:feientries@usef.org)) and the Organizing Committee. The email is to state the reason for the withdrawal and an apology to the Organizing Committee for any inconvenience your withdrawal may have caused. The Organizing Committee's contact information can be found in the schedule for that particular event.

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