

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
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Extraordinary

4/1/2025

9/9/2024

Extraordinary Change Reason

Horse welfare and social license to operate

Rule Change Intent

Soundness and fitness to compete are requirements of all equine athletes participating in Federation licensed competitions. To ensure the well-being of competition horses, Licensed Officials must be empowered to remove an unfit or unsound horse from competition.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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USEF Officers

Leslie Mangan

lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

#### **GR840 Soundness and Fitness to Compete**

**a.** Unless specific division rules state otherwise, all animals except stallions and mares in Breeding classes must be serviceably sound for competition purposes i.e., such animal must not show evidence of lameness or broken wind. ***The competition Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate, in consultation with the competition veterinarian, must eliminate a horse that is not sound or fit to compete. Elimination is final.***

**b.** Animals with complete loss of sight in either eye may be found serviceably sound at the Judge's discretion, except in a class over fences where a Judge may ask a rider to change horses.