

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
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Extraordinary

4/1/2025

9/10/2024

Extraordinary Change Reason

horse welfare

Rule Change Intent

The rulebook currently contains different rules that address prohibited practices. In an effort to streamline and improve the rulebook, this rule change combines some existing prohibited practices in a single rule, while expanding the list to include other important sections, including obscuring the visibility of horses stabled on competition grounds, excessive use of draw reins, and augmented nosebands.

Regarding stabling, this proposal supports equine and human safety and wellbeing by ensuring the inside of stalls are observable by persons outside of the stalls and considers the variances in construction of stalls and venues, recognizing that in situations when the stall's original construction is such that the inside cannot be observed may occur, but is not the norm.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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USEF Officers

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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

GR839 ~~Attention Getting Devices Prohibited Practices and Equipment~~

The following contains a non-exhaustive list of practices and equipment that are prohibited. Where there is a conflict with the division rules, the more restrictive rule will prevail.

1. ***Attention Getting Devices.*** Attention getting devices and/or other noisemakers (including but not limited to tape measures, blow horns, altered bamboo poles, explosives, etc.) are not allowed in and around the make up/schooling/warm-up and competition rings during scheduled competition sessions. (Except for the National Show Horse division.) Use of explosives and fire extinguishers by or for exhibitors/competitors (except in the case of fire) is not allowed on competition grounds at any time.
2. ***Excessive Use of Draw Reins.*** *The excessive use of draw reins for extended periods of time and/or using draw reins in a manner that results in the horse's head being restricted near or between its knees or with its neck in a hyper-flexed position is prohibited.*
3. ***Augmented Nosebands.*** *Tack nosebands or nosebands that have been augmented, regardless of whether the noseband was manufactured in that manner or altered after purchase, with any object attached to the noseband that causes or is likely to cause a horse pain, a state of obvious distress, or unnecessary discomfort are prohibited from use on a horse at any time.*
4. ***Poling.*** *Manual poling, or the use of offsets, is prohibited.*
5. ***Rubber Bands.*** *The use of rubber bands or any other equipment that restricts the movement of a horse's limbs, head, or neck is prohibited.*
6. ***Obscured Stalls.*** *Any stall that a horse may be placed in for any reason, including for competition prep, care, or housing, must be open and observable from the aisle. The largest opening and line of sight into the stall cannot be obscured or covered by adding fabric, wood, or other material. All participants must adhere to the Minor Athlete Abuse Prevention Policies when using stalls as changing spaces.*

GR843 Poling

~~Manual poling, or the use of offsets, is prohibited on competition grounds.~~