

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
------------------	----------------	----------------	--------------

Extraordinary

4/1/2025

9/10/2024

Extraordinary Change Reason

rider safety

Rule Change Intent

The intent of this rule is twofold:

1. As currently written, the protective headgear rule contained in GR801 has been found to be confusing. The re-organization and clean up of the protective headgear language does not substantiively change the rule, except that the exception to remove the protective headgear during prize giving is removed.
2. As modern equestrian apparel includes more stretchy fabrics, which are more likely to result in the possibility of getting caught and hang on hooks or other protrusions, this rule change introduces a prohibition on hooks or other upward projections/attachments on saddles, including stirrups with hook or open bar designs that could cause a rider's apparel to get stuck or cause injury to the rider.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
-------------------	---------------------

USEF Officers

Leslie Mangan

lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
--------------	----------

Committee Actions

SUBCHAPTER 8-A ATTIRE AND EQUIPMENT

GR801 ~~Dress Exhibitor Safety Equipment~~

1. ~~Protective Headgear.~~

- ~~a. It is the tradition of the competition ring that riders and drivers be correctly attired for the class in question, that attendants be neatly dressed, and horses be properly presented.~~
- ~~b. It is compulsory for all persons at Federation licensed hunter, jumper, or hunter/jumper competitions when mounted anywhere on the competition grounds, to wear properly fastened protective headgear in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website, **unless stated otherwise in the relevant division rules.** Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. **Exception:** In Hunter or Jumper classes, adults may be allowed to remove their headgear while accepting prizes and during the playing of the National Anthem only; they must refasten their headgear prior to the lap of honor. It is compulsory for riders in Paso Fino classes, both open and breed restricted including Hunter Hack, where jumping is required and when jumping anywhere on the competition grounds to wear properly fastened protective headgear. It must be properly fitted with harness secured. A Show Committee, Competition Management, and Licensed Officials must bar riders without protective headgear from entering the ring for classes in which protective headgear is required and may bar any entry or person from entering the ring if not suitably presented to appear before an audience.~~
- ~~c. Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, all sub-junior exhibitors in the Paso Fino division, while riding or driving or while in the driving cart anywhere on the competition grounds, must wear properly fitting protective headgear. Harness must be secured and properly fitted. Any rider violating this rule at any time must immediately be prohibited from further riding until such headgear is properly in place. For all exhibitors competing in the hunter, jumper, or hunter/jumping seat equitation section, if a rider's chin strap becomes unfastened, the rider may stop, re-fasten the chin strap and continue their round without penalty or elimination. A judge may, but is not required to stop a rider and ask them to refasten a chin strap which has become unfastened, again without penalty to the rider. Members of the Armed Services or the Police may wear the Service Dress Uniform.~~
- ~~d. **The Federation makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.**~~
- ~~e. **It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent, guardian, or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use and is properly fitted and in good condition. The Federation, Show Committee, Competition Management, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.**~~

2. ~~Body Protecting Vest.~~

- ~~a. Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear and/or a protective vest either body protecting or inflatable, specifically designed for use in equestrian sport in any division or class without penalty from the judge. The Federation recommends that the vest pass or surpass the current ASTM standard F1937 or be certified by the Safety Equipment Institute.~~
- ~~b. For Eventing, inflatable vests are permitted only when worn over a body protecting vest. Protective headgear must be in compliance with the accepted testing standards published on the Federation's website. Protective headgear must carry the applicable quality testing tag and/or label.~~

~~3. See DC928 for protective headgear requirement in Combined Driving.~~

~~4. See DR120 for protective headgear requirement in Dressage.~~

5. ~~See EN102 for protective headgear requirement in Endurance.~~
6. ~~Except as may otherwise be mandated by local law, the Federation strongly encourages all riders, while riding anywhere on the competition grounds, to wear protective headgear with harness secured. (Exception hunter, jumper, or hunter/jumper competitions refer to GR801.2) It is the responsibility of the rider, or the parent or guardian or trainer of the junior exhibitor to see to it that the headgear worn complies with appropriate safety standards for protective headgear intended for equestrian use, and is properly fitted and in good condition, and the Federation, Show Committee, Competition Management, and Licensed Officials are not responsible for checking headgear worn for such compliance.~~
7. ~~The Federation makes no representation or warranty, express or implied, about any protective headgear, and cautions riders that death or serious injury may result despite wearing such headgear as all equestrian sports involve inherent dangerous risk and as no helmet can protect against all foreseeable injuries.~~
8. ~~Refer to EQ106 and HU107.~~
9. **Boots.**
 - a. Boots/shoes worn while riding anywhere on the competition grounds must have a distinguishable heel. (Exception: Arabian, Hackney Pony, Morgan, National Show Horse, Parade, Roadster, American Saddlebred, and Saddle Seat Equitation).
10. **Assigned Numbers.** Competitors must display the correct number which must be clearly visible while performing in any class unless otherwise stated in the prize list. Competitors may be penalized at the discretion of the judge. Numbers to be supplied by management in compliance with GR1213.11. Refer to DR121.11 (Dressage) and DR207.8 (Dressage Sport Horse Breeding).
11. **Saddle Attachments.** *No piece of equipment shall be attached to a saddle that has an upward pointing projection, hook, or similar rigid object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups.*