

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/24/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

horse wellbeing

Rule Change Intent

Horses must be fit to compete at all times while participating in Federation licensed competitions. The discovery of blood on a horse, whether actively bleeding or evidence of recently having bled, may be grounds for elimination. Instances of blood in the mouth or flank, as well as blood caused by tack and equipment must result in elimination from further competition. In minor cases of blood, from a horse biting its tongue or lip, a participant may be permitted to rinse the horse's mouth and, if the bleed ceases, continue on in competition. All other blood discovered by a judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate may result in elimination at the discretion of the official.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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USEF Officers

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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

GR843 Blood

- 1. Any horse with blood on its flank or in its mouth must be eliminated from further competition. Exception: In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, the Steward or Technical Delegate may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the horse to continue; any further evidence of fresh blood in the mouth will result in elimination.**
- 2. Blood discovered elsewhere on the horse's body may result in elimination of the horse in the discretion of the Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate. If the blood is determined by the Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate to be caused by tack or equipment, the horse must be eliminated.**
- 3. Blood on horses must be reviewed on a case by case by the competition Steward or Technical Delegate. Eliminations for blood will be final.**