

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	10/9/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

This change is being submitted to close a loophole that members are using to circumvent the re-measurement and appeal processes. It needs to be adjusted as soon as possible to prevent the continued mis-use of the protest process.

Rule Change Intent

The protest measurement process has been used with increasing frequency as a way to circumvent the appeal or re-measurement process or to gain an additional opportunity to attempt to have a pony re-measured after a failed attempt at an appeal or a re-measurement. The protest process was intended to be used for individuals to protest other horses or ponies they believed to be competing in the incorrect height section and was not intended to be used as a "friendly protest" to re-measure horses or ponies into a lower height section. The intention of this rule change is to close the gap in the protest rule that currently allows for these "friendly protests."

Proponent Details Contact Information

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

## HJ136 Protesting Height

1. An owner or trainer may protest the height of only one horse or pony competing in a class in which they are also competing. ***In order to be considered, the basis of a protest must be that a horse or pony has been issued a measurement card for a division or section that is lower than the height of the horse or pony.***
2. A protest ~~questioning the height of a horse or pony showing in a division, section or class requiring measurement~~ must be filed with the steward and ~~must be filed~~ at least one hour prior to the end of the competition day on which the horse or pony is showing in a division, section or class requiring measurement. ~~Such measurement shall be conducted pursuant to HJ126-HJ138 rather than GR512-514.~~
3. The animal is required to be presented for measurement within one hour of the completion of the animal's last class on the day of the protest.
4. The animal may be presented for a protest measurement with or without shoes regardless of how shown.
5. Protest Results. If a horse or pony is found to be ***above outside*** the permitted height range that is determined by the animal's measurement card (e.g. Small Hunter Pony, Large Junior Hunter, etc.), the owner forfeits entry fees and winnings for that competition. All points accumulated for Horse of the Year and Zone Horse of the Year Awards to that date are forfeited. Said animal is suspended from competing in USEF Licensed Competitions for ninety (90) days from the date of the protest and a new measurement card will be issued to the owner at the end of the suspension period.
  - a. The current trainer and the Steward who conducted the original measurement of a horse or pony that is found to measure ***above outside*** of the permitted height range that is determined by the horse or pony's measurement card may be subject to penalty by the Federation.
  - b. If the horse or pony remains in its current height section, the animal may continue to compete as before.
  - c. The decision of the measuring officials is final unless an appeal is filed with the Federation within fourteen (14) days (see HJ137).
6. If a competition's steward is unable to notify an exhibitor of a protest before the exhibitor leaves the competition grounds, the protest will become void, and the steward will refund the protest fee. If a competition's steward notifies an exhibitor of a protest of an animal's height, and the exhibitor leaves the grounds before the measurement can be conducted, the protest will be filed with the Federation and an official protest measurement will be set up at the owner's expense, before the animal is eligible to compete again.
7. The measurement card, or valid measurement form of any animal that is found ineligible for the height section in which the animal was shown must be surrendered to the competition steward who must forward it to the Federation office with their report. If the owner is not in possession of the original measurement card at the time of the protest it is the owner's responsibility to surrender all measurement cards to the Federation Kentucky office within five (5) days of the protest.
8. The decision of competition officials is final unless an appeal is filed with the Federation.
9. Pony and Junior Hunter measurement protests.
  - a. The identity of the protestor will be revealed to the protestee by the competition steward. At the time the competition steward receives the protest, the competition steward will explain the protest measurement process to the parties involved and answer any questions. The competition steward will instruct the protestor and the protestee that any inappropriate behavior and/or

communication between parties will result in disciplinary action.

b. When the animal is presented for measurement, only the following individuals may be present: The owner of the animal, two representatives/handlers of the animal being protested, the protestor, the competition veterinarian(s), the competition steward(s), and any representative of the Federation. At least one competition steward must be certified to measure and that steward will conduct the measurement.

c. If an animal is protested and found to be within its height section, the animal's height cannot be protested again for the remainder of the competition year.

***10. A new measurement card lowering a horse or pony's height may only be issued through the Appeal (HJ138) or Re-measurement (HJ135) process.***