

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/23/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

In an effort to effectively manage the eventing calendar in a timely and efficient way, the intent is to remove the FEI and Advanced levels for Eventing from the mileage charts in GR3. The CCI4*-L, CCI4*-S, CCI3*-L, and Advanced levels are all bid levels. Therefore, they have been exempt from mileage boundaries and their inclusion in this chart is no longer applicable. The inclusion of the CCI3*-S, CCI2*-L, CCI2*-S, and CCI1* creates a contradictory review process because it could be approved or disapproved through the mileage exemption process but then a different outcome may result from the process mandated by the Policies and Procedures, and as it stands the outcome of the mileage exemption process would prevail because they would not be able to secure a license. Mileage exemptions are just reviewed by the Priority Date Holder. The review process through the Policies and Procedures are more robust. It is the expectation that the review that is conducted per the will consider the implications of any addition with the surrounding competitions because more people get to weigh in on the request.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Eventing

Amber Braun

abraun@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

Driving

Eventing

Draft #1

GR314 Mileage: b. Mileage Boundaries for Eventing Competitions and the chart.

1. Mileage Boundaries for Eventing Competitions.

- a. Eventing competitions are categorized by level offered, and mileage is applied to the applicant competition. Where an Eventing competition hosts more than one level, the highest applicable mileage radius will apply. ~~Exception: For Eventing competitions occurring on December 1, 2022 and thereafter, the mileage rule will not apply to FEI CCI4-L, CCI4-S, CCI3-L, or Federation Advanced level competitions, or any other level hosted therewith, e.g. the mileage rule will not apply to a CCI3-S hosted with an Advanced level competition.~~
- ~~b. The USEA American Eventing Championship is not subject to the modification process, and is eligible for renewal at a new location as needed. For Eventing competitions occurring on December 1, 2022 and thereafter, the radius will be zero for CCI4-L, CCI4-S, Advanced, and CCI3-L levels and the mileage chart for remaining levels will apply only to those competitions not hosting FEI CCI4-L, CCI4-S, CCI3-L, or Federation Advanced levels:~~

Eventing Mileage Chart Areas 1, 2, 3, and 8	
Level	Radius
CCI4-L	600
CCI4-S	250
Advanced	200
CCI3-L	600
CCI3-S	200
Intermediate	200
CCI2-L	300
CCI2-S	100
Preliminary	100
CCI4	100
Modified	100

Eventing Mileage Chart Areas 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10	
Level	Radius
CCI4-L	600
CCI4-S	400
Advanced	400
CCI3-L	600
CCI3-S	200
Intermediate	300
CCI2-L	300
CCI2-S	200
Preliminary	200
CCI4	200
Modified	200

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	12/1/2024	5/6/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Extraordinary Change Reason

Horse wellbeing is paramount to USEF and this proposal modernizes the horse abuse rule. This proposal accompanies GR702, a standard rule change currently under consideration. The effective date for this EO should align with the effective date for GR702 should the Board approve it.

Rule Change Intent

This proposal is intended to achieve the following: (1) expand the scope of USEF’s jurisdiction to include horse abuse that occurs outside of competition, including at home facilities; (2) clarify examples of what constitutes abuse in our sport; (3) mandate reporting of horse abuse; and (4) clarify that competition management and officials are empowered to eliminate, disqualify, and issue warnings for horse abuse at competitions.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEF Officers	Leslie Mangan lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 702 (082-23)	

- Committee Actions
- American Saddlebred
- Andalusian/Lusitano
- Arabian
- Athletes Advisory
- Carriage Pleasure Driving
- Competition Management
- Connemara
- Council - Intl Discipline
- Council - Member Services
- Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
- Dressage
- Driving
- Endurance

SUBCHAPTER 8-F WELFARE OF THE HORSE

GR838 *Unethical Treatment of the Horse—Cruelty to and Abuse of a Horse*

For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

A Covered Horse is defined as any horse that is or has been recorded with the Federation, has participated or is entered to participate in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, or is on the grounds of a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition or is in the care, custody, and control of a Participant.

A Participant is defined as any person who holds or has held a Federation membership; participated in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition as a rider, vaulter, driver, handler, exhibitor, trainer, coach, groom, competition veterinarian, or support personnel for any of these identified roles; or is present on the grounds of a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition.

1. Any Participant engaging in the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty. Except in exigent circumstances, the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is defined as any action or inaction that may negatively compromise the Covered Horse's health, safety, or well-being. It may include any action(s) or inaction(s) that causes or is likely to cause a horse pain, a state of obvious distress, or unnecessary discomfort.

Examples of Unethical Treatment of a Horse may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Misuse or excessive use of a whip, spur, or bit;*
- b. Misuse of any equipment or device, including tack;*
- c. Creation of hyper or hypo-sensitization of any physical part of a Covered Horse to enhance performance;*
- d. Any practice or use of devices or objects used to enhance a Covered Horse's performance based on fear or intimidation;*
- e. Training, riding, or competing a Covered Horse with raw, bleeding, or irritated skin or welts consistent with excessive, persistent, or inappropriate use of equipment, including spurs; and*
- f. Continued riding, driving, or lunging an obviously exhausted, lame, or injured Covered Horse.*

2. A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs at or in connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Additionally, any person who directs another as to the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty.

3. A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs after November 30, 2024 somewhere other than at or in connection with a USEF Licensed or Endorsed Competition. For the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse under this paragraph that occurs off U.S. soil by a Participant who is a member of a foreign National Federation, the Federation will refer the matter to the relevant National Federation and FEI for resolution.

4. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse at or in direct connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, must immediately report it to a Federation Licensed Official at the competition.

5. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse outside of a Federation Licensed Competition, should report it to the Federation and the relevant local authorities as soon as practicable.

6. A veterinarian may be appointed by the Federation, Competition Management, or a Licensed Official to inspect any horse on competition grounds, or any horse stabled off grounds that is entered to compete in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Refusal to submit an animal for such examination shall constitute a violation of this rule, and the owner and/or trainer may be subject to penalty by the Federation.

7. A Federation Licensed Official, Competition Management, or competition veterinarian at a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition may issue an official written warning, elimination, or disqualification against any Participant they deem to have Unethically Treated a Covered Horse on competition grounds or directly related to a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Additionally, any person may be removed from the competition grounds for Unethical Treatment of a Horse. Any report received of alleged Unethical Treatment or penalties imposed on a person(s) as a result of Unethical Treatment must be reported to the Federation. A Participant may be subject to further penalty by the Federation.

8. Anyone reporting a violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed is a violation. Any allegations that prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense and will be considered a violation of this rule, subjecting the reporting party to penalty by the Federation.

9. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Federation may pursue disciplinary action pursuant Bylaw 705.2(b).

1. Cruelty to or the abuse of a horse present on the grounds of any Licensed Competition is forbidden, constitutes a violation under Chapter 7, and renders the offender subject to penalty. The Show Committee, or Competition Management in the absence of a Show Committee must bar violators from further participation for the remainder of the competition. It is the duty of the competition officials to report to the Federation any person who indulges in this practice for such further action as may be deemed appropriate.
2. Any person or trainer, as defined by Federation rules, who presents for competition a horse that exhibits signs of recent cruelty or abuse will be subject to penalty under this rule.
3. The Federation or the Judge, Steward, or TD may appoint a veterinarian to inspect any animal on competition grounds or entered to compete. Refusal to submit an animal for examination by an authorized veterinarian after due notification shall constitute a violation.
4. The following are included under the words Cruelty and Abuse but are not limited thereto:
 - a. Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, before or during a competition, by any person.
 - b. except in emergency situations any striking of the horse's head (on the poll and forward of the poll) with the whip shall be deemed excessive.
 - c. Rapping the legs of a horse with the butt end of a riding crop or other implement;
 - d. Use of any substance or method to induce temporary heat.
 - e. Manual poling with any object;
 - f. Use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jump;
 - g. Use of electric device in schooling or showing;
 - h. Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices (not to be construed as rubber or elastic —exercising devices);
 - i. Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores around the coronets, pasterns, or legs;
 - j. Use of any explosive (e.g., fire crackers, torpedoes, fire extinguishers except in case of fire, etc.) or laser beam devices; anywhere on the competition grounds, except in an exhibition or if required in

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	6/3/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To ensure jurisdiction over USEF member's conduct relating to cruelty or abuse to actions that occur outside of a competition environment, regardless of any action taken in a civil or criminal court. Ensuring jurisdiction in this context aids in protecting the social license to operate and shows that supports USEF's no tolerance of equine cruelty or abuse by its members.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 838 (109-23)	

- Committee Actions
- American Saddlebred
- Andalusian/Lusitano
- Arabian
- Athletes Advisory
- Carriage Pleasure Driving
- Competition Management
- Connemara
- Council - Intl Discipline
- Council - Member Services
- Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
- Dressage
- Driving
- Endurance
- Eventing

GR702 Violations

1. A violation is any act prejudicial to the best interests of the Federation, including but not limited to the following:

[...]

f. Physical assault upon a person and/or ~~cruelty~~ ***unethical treatment to a the*** horse, as defined in GR838, ***cruelty, or abuse to the horse.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/31/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

As horses converge from varying barns and locations to licensed competitions, maintaining the health and safety of equine competitors is of paramount importance. In an effort to ensure the continued health and safety of horses at licensed competitions, competitors must agree to comply with disease prevention biosecurity measures imposed by the Federation, competition management, and state or federal animal health officials. This rule change will ensure this requirement is clearly understood.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Veterinary	Katie Flynn kflynn@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 871 (073-23)	

- Committee Actions
- American Saddlebred
- Andalusian/Lusitano
- Arabian
- Carriage Pleasure Driving
- Competition Management
- Connemara
- Council - Intl Discipline
- Council - Member Services
- Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
- Dressage
- Driving
- Endurance
- Eventing
- Friesian

SUBCHAPTER 8-H EQUINE HEALTH AND ISOLATION

GR870 Competitor Biosecurity Requirements

All riders, drivers, vaulters, handlers, owners, trainers, coaches, grooms, agents, and lessors must abide by and comply with biosecurity measures and equine health requirements imposed by the Federation, Competition Management, and local, state, and federal animal health officials.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/31/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

In order to ensure the highest levels of horse and human safety and health exist at licensed competitions, competition management must comply with applicable state and federal animal health requirements in effect. This rule will ensure this requirement is abided by.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Veterinary	Katie Flynn kflynn@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 870 (072-23)	

- Committee Actions
- American Saddlebred
- Andalusian/Lusitano
- Arabian
- Carriage Pleasure Driving
- Competition Management
- Connemara
- Council - Intl Discipline
- Council - Member Services
- Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
- Dressage
- Driving
- Endurance
- Eventing
- Friesian
- Hackney

SUBCHAPTER 8-H EQUINE HEALTH AND ISOLATION

GR871 Competition Management Biosecurity Requirements

Competition Management must ensure licensed competitions are conducted in accordance with all applicable Federation, local, state, and federal animal health requirements.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	8/31/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Isolation of a sick horse is critical to protecting the health of all other horses on competition grounds. The intent of this rule change is to create a separate rule containing all the requirements of the isolation plan, outside of the requirements of the accident preparedness plan, to ease the access to this information. Competitions are currently required to have an isolation plan in place prior to the start of the competition, this rule change does not impose a new requirement to that effect. Currently, the Federation does not provide guidance as to the location or quantity of isolation stalls. Based on questions received from competition organizers, this rule will provide a formulaic approach to structuring of an isolation stabling plan.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Veterinary

Katie Flynn

kflynn@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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GR 873 (074-23)

- Committee Actions
- American Saddlebred
- Andalusian/Lusitano
- Arabian
- Carriage Pleasure Driving
- Competition Management
- Connemara
- Council - Intl Discipline
- Council - Member Services
- Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
- Dressage
- Driving
- Endurance
- Eventing
- Friesian

GR845 Accident Preparedness Plan

1. All competitions must have in place, prior to the start of the competition, an accident preparedness plan. ~~In addition, all competitions must have in place an isolation protocol for horses. Competitions must report to the Chief Administrator of the Drugs & Medications Program, within 24 hours, any horse identified to Competition Management as showing symptoms of infectious disease, put into isolation at the competition, or that departs the competition to receive treatment for a potential infectious disease.~~
2. Competition Management is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate competition officials and competition staff are advised of the accident preparedness plan ~~and isolation protocol for horses~~, and that they are distributed accordingly.
3. The accident preparedness plan ~~and protocol~~ must be given to the Steward or Technical Delegate prior to the start of the competition.
4. The Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a copy of the accident preparedness plan ~~and protocol~~ to the Federation along with their Steward or Technical Delegate report.
5. At a minimum, the accident preparedness plan must include:
 - a. Emergency call/radio priority protocol;
 - b. List of emergency telephone numbers and directions to the competition that can be relayed to offsite responders; and
 - c. Name and contact information of the Safety Coordinator.

SUBCHAPTER 8-H EQUINE HEALTH AND ISOLATION

GR 874 Isolation Plan

1. **All competitions that have onsite stabling of competition horses must have in place a written isolation protocol for horses. The isolation plan must be submitted to the Federation no later than 14 days prior to the start of the competition. The isolation plan must include at a minimum the requirements enumerated in the Federation's template isolation plan available on the Federation's website.**
 - a. **An onsite isolation stabling plan is required if the Licensee of a competition is hosting competition(s) over more than ten consecutive days at the same location. For purposes of this rule, the ten consecutive days begin the first day stabling is open for horses entering the competition venue. The number of isolation stalls required is equivalent to one percent of the previous year's horse count up to a maximum of ten isolation stalls, if the competition has more than 1,000 horses.**
 - b. **If offsite isolation stabling is contemplated in the isolation plan, an agreement between competition management and the isolation facility is required.**
2. **Competition Management must report to the Federation's Equine Health and Biosecurity**

Veterinarian, within 24 hours, any horse identified to Competition Management as showing symptoms of infectious disease, put into isolation at the competition, or that departs the competition grounds to receive treatment for a potential infectious disease.

3. Competition Management is responsible for ensuring that all appropriate competition officials and competition staff are provided and aware of the isolation plan for horses prior to the start of the competition.

4. The isolation plan must be posted onsite during the competition.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	9/1/2023	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Amongst officials and competitors there is currently confusion surrounding when video can be used in rendering decisions and, if permitted, what video footage is permitted to be used. While some breeds and disciplines permit the use of video footage to aid in the making of decisions, the Federation's general rules are silent on the issue. With the addition of this definition, the use of video footage will be clarified and the integrity of the use of footage will be preserved by limiting the use to only official video footage.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
EV 115 (194-23)	

- Committee Actions
- American Saddlebred
- Andalusian/Lusitano
- Arabian
- Carriage Pleasure Driving
- Competition Management
- Connemara
- Council - Intl Discipline
- Council - Member Services
- Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
- Dressage
- Driving
- Endurance
- Eventing
- Friesian

GR150 – Official Video

Official video is footage captured by the videographer or production company approved by the Federation or licensed competition.

GR1219 Use of Official Video

At Federation licensed competitions, Judges are barred from reviewing video footage or other electronic media when making field of play decisions, unless stated otherwise in the breed or discipline division rules. If judges are permitted to review video footage under breed or disciplines division rules, only original unaltered Official Video footage is permitted to be reviewed. See GR150.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	6/3/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Individuals conducting business with the Federation, either as licensed competition Licensee or as signatories of Farms, must be Senior Active Members of the Federation as these are benefits provided by the Federation. Ensuring compliance with all requirements of membership is a priority to the Federation and individuals associated with and representing the interests of licensed competitions and Farms recorded with the Federation must maintain compliance with those requirements.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
CEO - Bill Moroney	Leslie Mangan lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions
American Saddlebred
Andalusian/Lusitano
Arabian
Carriage Pleasure Driving
Competition Management
Connemara
Council - Intl Discipline
Council - Member Services
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline
Dressage
Driving
Endurance
Eventing
Friesian

GR302 License Application Policies and Procedures

1. General Provisions.

a. License Duration. The duration of the License agreements will be one (1) year. All Licensed Competitions are subject to a Competition Evaluation.

[...]

j. A licensee may advertise a new or renewing competition prior to receiving a license provided that the advertising clearly and prominently states that the competition is pending Federation approval.

k. At least one of the Licensee's signatories who is authorized to legally bind the Licensee must be a Federation Senior Active Competing Member in good standing. See GR201.

GR1102 Horse Recordings

[...]

5. Horse recording applications are available from the Federation office or online at www.usef.org. **If the horse is recorded as owned by a Farm/Business, at least one owner of the Recorded Farm/Business must be a Federation Senior Active Competing Member in good standing. See GR201.** The recording fee is discounted for the life of a horse if applied for from birth to December 31st of year foaled. A recording may also be activated on an annual basis, using each horse's Unique Horse ID number. Exception: Horses must be recorded for life to be eligible to receive FEI or National Passports. To qualify for the age discount, registration papers and/or other proof of age must be provided. The fees can be found on the horse recording application at www.usef.org.

GR124 Farm/Business

1. Life Recorded Farm/Business. A Life Recorded Farm/Business is any farm, ranch, syndicate, partnership, corporation, business that attains Life Recording upon a single payment of the fee established by the Federation. ~~A Life Recorded Farm/Business shall have all the rights and privileges of membership and be subject to all liabilities and penalties, which may be imposed upon Members. They shall be exempt from annual dues.~~

GR202 Membership Requirements

4. If a horse(s) is owned by a farm or any other entity, at least one of the horse's **Farm/Business's** owners, ~~either Farm/Business or individual,~~ must **be a Federation Senior Active Competing Member in good standing. See GR201.** ~~also obtain an exhibitor registration pursuant to GR1106.~~

GR1106 Exhibitor Registration **Horse Recording Ownership Requirements**

1. Entries may be made in a name other than that of an individual for Horse of the Year Awards, provided such name (Stable/Farm, Corporation, etc.) is recorded with the Federation. Duplication of farm names is discouraged but not prohibited. Horses shown under a partnership, i.e., Smith & Smith, Jones & Jones, must be duly registered. All applications for registration of (Stable/Farm, Corporation, etc.) must be signed by each of the bona fide owners and accompanied by the required fee. The fees can be found on the Farm, Corporation, Syndicate or Partnership Recording application at www.usef.org.

2. In order for points to count toward Federation Horse of the Year Awards, at least one owner must be a Federation active Competing or Life member.

a. In order for points to count in Hunter/Jumper/Equitation divisions, one owner of the Stable/Farm/Corporation, etc. must be an Active/Competing individual member of USHJA.

3. Additional owners (including members of the family of the owner) may be included at no extra fee. Authorization to include additional owners must be made in writing and must be signed by each bona fide owner and will be effective the day such authorization is received in the Federation office.

