

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	9/1/2024	4/8/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Extraordinary Change Reason

Consistency in application

Rule Change Intent

To clarify the existing penalty contradictions surrounding discrepancy for dress, coordinating all related rules to provide consistency in application for Licensed Officials.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

Hannah Seagle

hseagle@useventing.com

Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Eventing

EV120 Dressage Phase Elimination Chart

~~*Performing the test in incorrect dress: Elimination or a Yellow Warning Card, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. Reference: Subchapter EV-9.8 An Athlete who competes with prohibited dress in the Cross-Country and Show Jumping phases may be Eliminated or Issued a Yellow Warning Card, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. See EV120 for Dressage.*~~

Fault	Penalty	Applicable Level	Reference
Unauthorized Assistance	Elimination, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.	All	EV118.14
<i>Performing the test in incorrect dress</i>	<i>Elimination</i>	<i>All</i>	<i>Subchapter EV-9</i>
Not entering the arena within 90 seconds after signal from the Judge at C	Elimination	All	EV119.2c
Performing the test with improper saddlery, whip, or spurs	Elimination.	All	Subchapter EV-9 and EV-10
Marked lameness	Elimination.	All	EV118.8
Leaving the arena between the entry and final salute	Elimination.	All	EV118.9
Resistance	Elimination.	All	EV 118.10

EV-9.8

8. DRESS COMPLIANCE. Appointed personnel should inspect whips and spurs before any phase. The appointed personnel may refuse permission for an Athlete to start the phase whose whip or spurs are not permitted. The appointed personnel must immediately report the suspected violation to the Ground Jury, or Technical Delegate if the Ground Jury is unavailable, for confirmation. An Athlete who competes with an illegal whip or spurs must be Eliminated. ~~*An Athlete who competes with prohibited dress may be Eliminated or issued a Yellow Warning Card, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.*~~

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

Rule Change Intent

The above General Rule Change proposals would go into effect on December 1, 2024. As our field of play is too large to be covered by a Ground Jury, the use of footage must be permitted for Eventing. It is not practical that only footage from a videographer or production company can be used during cross-country due to the expense to organizers. Therefore, video and or pictures from fence judges must be admissible. The General Rule proposal does not contemplate still photography but that can also be a valuable assessment tool for the Ground Jury.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Amber Braun abraun@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
GR 150 (078-23)	

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline
Council - Member Services
Licensed Officials
USEA

EV115 Inquiries, Protests, and Appeals

5. VIDEO. As an exception to GR1219, and in addition to Official Video as defined in GR150, unaltered video or still photography is permitted for consideration by the Ground Jury and Technical Delegate for a cross-country field of play decision.

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

Rule Change Intent

Align the requalification period for horses and athletes so both can re-qualified by achieving two MERs at the next lower height level within any 6-month period and no sooner than 10 days following the loss of qualification.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

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

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

USEA

EV109 Loss of Qualification

EV109.2

f. Having lost qualification, a Horse may be re-qualified by achieving two MERs at the next lower height level within any 6-month period and no sooner than **10 days**~~1 month~~ following the loss of qualification.

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

Rule Change Intent

The adoption of the FEI's Dangerous Riding rule provides a more robust definition within the USEF Eventing Rules. This will provide licensed officials with clearer parameters of when to assess the Dangerous Riding penalty, in turn, promoting the safety and welfare of our horses and athletes. While it is not the intention to duplicate FEI language within the Eventing Rules, there were discrepancies between the national rule and the FEI that have caused enough confusion that an amended adoption will address. E.g., Willful Obstruction is penalized as an Elimination or Disqualification for national competition. Pressing a tired horse is Disqualification for national competition. Jumping Obstacles not part of the course is contradictory to EV122.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Eventing

Amber Braun

abraun@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Council - Member Services

Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare

USEA

EV113 Dangerous Riding

1. Dangerous Riding is considered any Athlete who rides in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety or well-being of the Athlete, Horse, other Athletes, their Horses, spectators, or others **during the competition**. **Dangerous Riding may include but is not limited to the following:**

- a. Riding out of control (Horse clearly not responding to the Athletes restraining or driving aids).*
- b. Riding Obstacles too fast or too slow.*
- c. Repeatedly standing off fences too far (pushing the Horse to the base of the Obstacle, firing the Horse to the fence).*
- d. Repeatedly being ahead or behind the Horse's movement when jumping.*
- e. Series of dangerous jumps.*
- f. Severe lack of responsiveness from the Horse or the Athlete.*
- g. Continuing after three clear refusals, a fall, or any form of Elimination.*
- h. Endangering the public in any way (e.g., jumping out of the roped track).*

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

Rule Change Intent

To remove the confusion of elimination at the national level for either retaking a jump or continuing. For consistency, the FEI wording/definition of a missed flag is being proposed as is the FEI wording/definition for a run-out.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle hseagle@useventing.com

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

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

Eventing

EV122 Cross-Country Phase Definitions of Faults

2. DISOBEDIENCES (REFUSALS and RUN-OUTS).

b. Runouts. It is considered a Disobedience if a Horse runs out, avoids the Obstacle or element to be jumped in such a way that it must be represented. An Athlete is permitted to change their mind as to where they jump an Obstacle or element at any time without penalty for a run-out, including because of a mistake at a previous Obstacle or element. **A Horse is considered to have run-out if, having been presented at an Obstacle on the course, it avoids it in such a way that the head, neck, and point of either shoulder fail to pass between the extremities of the Obstacle markers as flagged or the hindquarters have do not jumped the height of the solid part of the Obstacle. Continuing on course without representing will incur Elimination.**

~~5. MISSED FLAG~~

~~a. Clear: A horse is considered to have cleared the fence when the head, neck and points of both shoulders pass between the extremities of the obstacle as flagged. If a flag is dislodged, the hindquarters must jump the height of the solid part of the obstacle.~~

~~b. Missing a flag: A horse is considered to have missed a flag when the point of a shoulder fails to pass between the extremities of the obstacle as flagged. The head and neck must pass inside the extremities of the obstacle as flagged. If a flag is dislodged, the hindquarters must jump the height of the solid part of the obstacle.~~

~~5. MISSED MARKER. To clear an Obstacle, the Horse's head, neck, and shoulder must pass between the Obstacle markers. If the marker is dislodged, the hindquarters must jump the height of the solid part of the Obstacle. If the Obstacle is not navigated as described a 15 point penalty must be assessed.~~

6. ADDITIONAL ATTEMPTS AT OBSTACLES COMPOSED OF SEVERAL ELEMENTS.

7. WILLFUL DELAY. An Athlete is considered to have willfully delayed their finish if, between the last fence and the finish line, the Horse halts, walks, circles, or serpentine. The Athlete may be penalized for a Disobedience at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

8. RULE INTERPRETATION. If rule clarification is necessary for the judging of an Obstacle, the Technical Delegate, as directed by the Ground Jury, must provide the clarification and sketch, if necessary. This information must be shared with Athletes at the briefing or as soon as possible.

EV123 Cross-Country Phase Scoring – Chart

Add to table:

Missed Marker	15 penalties	All	EV122.5
----------------------	---------------------	------------	----------------

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

Rule Change Intent

To align Cross-Country and Show Jumping eliminations at the Modified level with the CCI1* and Preliminary levels and above. Alignment with Preliminary and above will make eliminations at all USEF Recognized levels consistent, and will make it easier for athletes and Licensed Officials to correctly follow and enforce the rules.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

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

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

USEA

EV123 Cross-Country Phase Scoring

Fault	Penalty	Applicable Level	Reference
First refusal, run-out or circle	20 penalties	All	EV122.2 & EV122.3
Second refusal, run-out or circle at the same Obstacle	40 penalties	All	EV122.2 & EV122.3
Third refusal, run-out or circle at the same Obstacle	Elimination	All	EV122.2 & EV122.3
Third penalized Disobedience on the entire course	Elimination	M , P, I, A	EV122.2
Fourth penalized Disobedience on the entire course	Elimination	BN, N, T, M	EV122.2

EV128 Show Jumping Phase Faults

Fault	Penalty	Applicable Level	Reference
Obstacle knocked down while jumping	4 penalties	All	
Going through the start line twice	4 penalties	All	
First Disobedience	4 penalties	All	EV127.3
Second Disobedience or other	Elimination	M , P, I, A	EV127.3
Second Disobedience or other	8 penalties	BN, N, T, M	EV127.3
Third Disobedience or other	Elimination	BN, N, T, M	EV127.3

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

Rule Change Intent

The proposed change is to confirm that it is permissible to alter the direction of the markers on the warm-up fences. However, in an effort to ensure this is done in the safest manner possible additional language is proposed. The direction must be consistent for all warm-up fences for the Preliminary level and below. It is felt that due to more the experienced level of athletes at the Intermediate and above, that the direction may be altered for individual jumps. It is important to be able to change the direction in order to provide the best warm-up possible – e.g., based on lighting, crowd placement, etc.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Amber Braun abraun@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
EV 135 (196-23)	

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

USEA

EV135 Exercising and Warmup Areas

2. EXERCISE AREAS

d. The warmup area for Show Jumping must include at least two adjustable oxers and two adjustable vertical practice fences. ***The direction of the markers for individual practice fences may be altered at the Intermediate level or higher. The direction of all practice fences must be consistent for the Preliminary level and below.***

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

Rule Change Intent

The proposed changes are aimed at providing more flexible warm-up fence options to provide a safer and more accommodating warm-up environment.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Eventing

Amber Braun

abraun@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

EV 135 (195-23)

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Council - Member Services

Licensed Officials

USEA

2. EXERCISE AREAS

d. ***For the Training levels and below***, the warmup area for Show Jumping must include at least two adjustable oxers and two adjustable vertical practice fences. ***For Modified levels and above, the warmup area for Show Jumping must include at least four Obstacles which are capable of being set as spreads. Where space or materials are limited for all levels, and with the permission of the Technical Delegate, the warmup may contain three Obstacles which are capable of being set as spreads.***

e. The warmup area for Cross-Country must include at least ~~three~~ ***two*** adjustable ~~fences, including at least one oxe~~ ***r capable of being set as spreads Obstacles capable of being set as spreads*** and one solid Cross-Country type Obstacle. Where space or materials are limited, and with the permission of the Technical Delegate, ~~either or both areas~~ ***the warmup*** may contain at least ~~three~~ ***one*** adjustable Obstacle capable of being set as a spread ***and one solid Cross-Country type Obstacle.***

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

Rule Change Intent

Align the jacket requirements for Dressage and Show Jumping

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

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

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline
Eventing
USEA

DRAFT #1

SUBCHAPTER EV-9 DRESS

5. DRESSAGE PHASE

b. Jackets. ~~Intermediate and Preliminary through~~ Advanced – Jackets are required. A jacket may be any solid color, tweed, or pinstripe. Tasteful, discreet accents, piping, and crystal decorations are permitted. Tailcoats are permitted. Beginner Novice through ~~Modified Preliminary~~ – Jackets are not required. If an Athlete wears a jacket, it may be any solid color, tweed, or pinstripe. Tasteful, discreet accents, piping, and crystals are permitted. Tailcoats are not permitted.

7. SHOW JUMPING PHASE.

b. Jackets. ~~Preliminary – Intermediate and~~ Advanced – Jackets are required unless all three phases of a Horse Trials are run over one day, in which case a jacket is not required. The jacket may be of a single color, tweed, or pinstripe with tasteful, discreet accents, piping or crystal decorations. Beginner Novice through ~~Modified Preliminary~~ – Jackets are not required. If an Athlete wears a jacket, it may be any solid color, tweed, or pinstripe. Tasteful, discreet accents, piping, and crystal decorations are permitted.

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

Rule Change Intent

Saddle pad colors are not currently referenced in the USEF Eventing rules for the dressage phase, so per EV101.3 reference is made to the FEI Rules which state: "Saddle pads should be white or off-white. Contrast coloring and piping is allowed. Striped or multicolored pads are not permitted". However, this rule is not being enforced at Eventing competitions. As this is not a horse welfare or safety issue, we are proposing that saddle pad colors be added to the Eventing chapter to allow any color of saddle pads.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

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

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

USEA

SUBCHAPTER EV-10 SADDLERY

2. DRESSAGE TEST

1. Saddle pads may be any single color. Contrast trim and piping are permitted. Striped or multi-colored pads are prohibited.

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

Rule Change Intent

To align Horse and Rider divisions for all levels, so that Training Horses and Riders cannot compete two levels above at Preliminary. As Modified was a new level in 2017, it was combined with Preliminary for this rule, since the level was not prevalent across the US. Now that the Modified has been in place for 5 years, and includes 194 competitions with 2,442 starters, the proposal is to sperate out the Modified from Preliminary in order align Horse and Rider divisions for all levels.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

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

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

USEA

APPENDIX 2 - PARTICIPATION IN HORSE TRIALS

1. SECTIONS

1.5 RIDER (R) - Open to Athletes who have not completed an Event above the next highest level in the 5 years preceding the date of the Event, e.g., a Novice Rider may have completed an Event at Training level, but not Modified ~~or Preliminary~~ level or higher in the 5 years preceding the date of the Event; a Training Rider may have completed an Event at the Modified ~~or Preliminary~~ level, but not the **Intermediate Preliminary** level or higher in the 5 years preceding the date of the Event.

1.6 HORSE (H) - Open to Athletes of any age, the Horse must not have completed an Event above the next high-est level. e.g., a Novice Horse may have completed an Event at Training level, but not Modified ~~or Preliminary~~ level or higher; a Training Horse may have completed an Event at Modified ~~or Preliminary~~ level, but not **Intermediate Preliminary** level or higher.

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

Rule Change Intent

To align with the FEI's exception for MERs. It should not be more difficult for horses competing at the national level to move forward when one of the two penalties has been incurred.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle hseagle@useventing.com

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

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

Eventing

2. DEFINITIONS

2.1 Completion: means having completed the entire Horse Trial with a numerical score.

2.2 Minimum Eligibility Requirement

2.3 All MERs obtained in previous years will be counted according to the rules in place at that time.

2.2.1 When achieved at a National Horse Trials an MER is achieved by completing the entire Horse Trial and scoring. -not more than 45 penalty points in the Dressage Test; and - No jumping penalties at obstacles on the Cross Country Test unless specified otherwise, and not more than 75 seconds (30 penalty points) exceeding the optimum time; and - not more than 16 penalties at obstacles in the Jumping Test. -25 penalty points received for Dangerous Riding will not achieve a National Qualifying result. Exceptions to the national qualification requirements noted below for the Advanced, CCI4*, and CCI5* levels may only be approved by an Ad Hoc Committee of the ESC. Requests for exceptions should be made 14 days prior to the closing date for the Advanced level and 14 days prior to the definite entry date for the CCI4* and CCI5* levels.

Exceptions for MERs: The ~~1st~~ first activation of a frangible/deformable device (11 penalties) or having 4 one missed marker flag (15 penalties) will maintain the MER result on Cross-Country-allow for an MER.

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

Rule Change Intent

Introduced in 2017, the Modified level was created to bridge the gap between the Training and Preliminary levels and to help provide a better preparation for athletes and horses progressing from the lower levels to upper levels. The goal of proposing the additional qualification requirements of two MERs at Modified is to promote safety and encourage optimal preparation for the Athletes and Horses moving to the Preliminary and CCI2* level. We have seen an increased number of falls (roughly 35% increase in percentage of falls per starter) at the Preliminary level since 2021 to substantiate this change.

The inclusion of Modified in competition offerings over the past 5 years has increased to 194 competitions with 2,442 starters in 2023 with representation in 9 of 10 Areas. The proposed rule would go into effect December 1, 2025, to allow for a phased implementation with the intention of allowing competitors and organizers time to prepare and plan accordingly for the changes. Below is a chart of how the eligibility requirements fit into the overall current MER structure:

Training

- **Athlete Requirements** N/A
- **Horse Requirements** N/A

Modified

- **Athlete Requirements** 2 MERs at Training or higher
- **Horse Requirements** N/A

Preliminary

- **Athlete Requirements** 6 MERs at Training or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 4 MERs at Training or higher

Intermediate

- **Athlete Requirements** 6 MERs at Preliminary or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 4 MERs at Preliminary or higher

Advanced

- **Athlete Requirements** 6 MERs at Intermediate or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 4 MERs at Intermediate or higher

CCI1*

- **Athlete Requirements** 1 MER at Modified or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 1 MER at Modified or higher

CCI2*-S

- **Athlete Requirements** 1 MER at Preliminary or higher
- **Horse Requirements** 1 MER at Preliminary or higher

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

Eventing

Alison Lloyd

alloyd@usef.org

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

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Eventing

USEA

APPENDIX 2 - PARTICIPATION IN HORSE TRIALS

3. LEVELS OF HORSE TRIALS AND EVENTS

3.5 PRELIMINARY (P) - Open to competitors from the beginning of the calendar year of their 14th birthday, on horses five years of age or older. The Athlete must have obtained an MER at six Horse Trials at the Training level or higher. ***Beginning December 1, 2025, the Athlete must have obtained an MER at ~~four~~ five Horse Trials at the Training level or higher and an MER at ~~two~~ one Horse Trials at the Modified level or higher.*** The Horse must have obtained an MER at four Horse Trials at the Training level or higher: One of the four MERs must be as a combination. Athletes with more than 10 MERs at the Preliminary level or higher are exempt from one MER in combination. Athletes with 20 or more MERs at the Preliminary level or higher: The Horse must have obtained an MER at two Horse Trials at the Training level or higher or one MER at a Horse Trial at the Training level or higher in combination with the Athlete.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	1/18/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

.80 does not affect the height but keeps the sequence between Starter at .70 to Novice at .90.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

Hannah Seagle

hseagle@useventing.com

Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Eventing

Appendix 3

Cross Country

Beginner Novice

Heights – Fixed ~~.79m (2'7")~~ **.80m (2'7")**

Jumping

Heights - ~~.79m (2'7")~~ **.80m (2'7")**

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

Rule Change Intent

It has been a normal practice in Eventing that if an athlete jumps an Obstacle of another level's track that it is not penalized provided they complete the Obstacles of the level in which they are competing in the correct sequence. At times this is used as a training opportunity. With the way the language is current stated, athletes would incur penalties for this practice. That was not the intention during the re-write. Therefore, the proposed additional language would permit athletes to practice this without penalty.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Amber Braun abraun@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

USEA

EV122 Cross-Country Phase Definitions of Faults

1. GENERAL. Faults (i.e., refusals, run-outs and circles) must be penalized, unless in the opinion of the appointed personnel, they are clearly not connected with the negotiation or attempted negotiation of a numbered Obstacle or element ***for the relevant level in progress***. The negotiation or attempted negotiation of an Obstacle commences with the presentation of the Horse to the Obstacle. Falls will be penalized wherever they occur on course between the start flags and the finish line.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	1/18/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Eventing Ground Jury Members have equal authority and responsibilities, and more flexibility is needed for positioning officials.

Proponent Details Contact Information

USEA

Hannah Seagle

hseagle@useventing.com

Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Council - Member Services

Eventing

Licensed Officials

EV 153

1. The following Licensed Officials are the minimum required at Horse Trials. Higher level Licensed Officials may serve in the roles listed below. A Second Eventing Technical Delegate of any level is required if an Event has more than 300 entries, any day where cross-country and show jumping phases will be running concurrently and ~~the President of the Ground Jury~~ **a member of the Ground Jury** will not be present on the course during the Cross-Country phase.