

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/9/2024	Approved 1/25/2025

Extraordinary Change Reason

horse welfare

Rule Change Intent

The Federation's investigation process is dependent on the participation of individuals with information. Witnesses to misconduct feel safer participating in the investigation process when it is compulsory. For those that manipulate the process, whether by obstruction, misrepresentation, or other means, should be held accountable under the Federation's rules. In order to hold bad actors accountable for their misconduct, such as Unethical Treatment of the Horse, USEF must have cooperation and participation of fact witnesses. The requirement to participate will compel otherwise reticent witnesses to participate and thereby aid in enforcing the rules and protecting the safety, welfare, and enjoyment of the sport. This rule change proposal will provide the Federation the ability to protect its investigation process by prohibiting manipulation with said process.

Proponent Details Contact Information

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Linked Rules Comments

GR702 Violations

1. A violation is any act prejudicial to the best interests of the Federation, including but not limited to the following:
 - a. Violation of the Code of Conduct or any rules of the Federation.
 - b. Disqualification by a Licensed Competition.
 - c. Determination that disciplinary action has been taken by an administrative agency, arbitration or other tribunal body, humane society, other National Governing Body, or a court of law.
 - d. Acting or inciting or permitting any other to act in a manner contrary to the rules of the Federation, or in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interests of the sport and the Federation.
 - e. Any act committed or remark made in connection with the competition considered offensive and/or made with the intent to influence or cast aspersions on the character or integrity of the licensed officials, approaching a judge before or after a decision without first obtaining permission from the show committee or steward/technical delegate, inspecting a judge's card without the judge's permission, or public verbal abuse of competition officials.
 - f. Physical assault upon a person and/or unethical treatment to the horse as defined in GR838, cruelty, or abuse to the horse.
 - g. Failure to obey any penalty imposed by the Federation.
 - h. Exhibiting any horse while in the care, training or custody of a suspended trainer.
 - i. Riding, exhibiting, coaching or training for the benefit, credit, reputation or satisfaction of a suspended person.
 - j. Failure to pay indebtedness to the Federation or indebtedness for hearing transcripts or other hearing expenses arranged through the Federation.
 - k. Participating in any manner at a licensed competition while not in good standing or competing horses not in good standing at a licensed competition. (See GR137)
 - l. Prescribing, dispensing, or administering a drug by a veterinarian which results in a finding of a prohibited substance. In the event a positive report is received by the Federation for a horse or pony to which a prohibited substance has been administered in any manner and the veterinarian is identified in any manner as the source of said prohibited substance, said violation will be addressed pursuant to GR412.
 - m. Any action which is subject to reciprocity by the Federation under the Federation Bylaws.
 - n. Retaliation against a person for making an allegation of any rule violation, for supporting a reporting party or witness, or for providing information relevant to a potential violation. Retaliation may be considered any adverse action taken by an individual against a person participating in a USEF proceeding.
 - o. Failure to cooperate with any investigation carried out by, or on behalf of, the Federation in relation to a possible violation of these rules, including, without limitation, failure to provide accurately, completely, and without undue delay any information and/or documentation and/or access or assistance requested by the Federation as part of such investigation.***
 - p. Obstruction or delay of any investigation that may be carried out by, or on behalf of, the Federation in relation to a possible violation of these rules, including without limitation concealing, tampering with, or destroying any documentation or other information that may be relevant to the investigation, or precluding another person from participating in the process by written agreement.***