

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	9/1/2024	3/26/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Extraordinary Change Reason

Annex B is being updated to reflect updates to rules regarding CDI5*/CDIO5* Events to uphold the standard of those representing the USA to compete abroad, particularly in Europe.

Rule Change Intent

The intent for the changes made to Annex B regarding CDI5*/CDIO5* Events is to uphold the standard of those representing the USA to compete abroad, particularly in Europe.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Dressage

Lauren Moore

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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/16/2024

Draft 1: No additional comment

Member Comments



USA Dressage Minimum Entry Requirements for CDIs

updated 2.26.2024

For purposes of this chart, only one score per respective test may be earned over the course of a weekend.

	Canada, Central/South America, Asia,	Europe	USA
Big Tour	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in the FEI Grand Prix, FEI Grand Prix Special, FEI Intermediate II or USEF Developing Grand Prix at 2 different CDI events or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.	Athlete/horse combinations must have an overall average of 66% or higher on the USEF Grand Prix 12-month ranking list. If the combination resides outside of the U.S., they must have competed in two CDN (national competition) events in the FEI Grand Prix or FEI Grand Prix Special earning 68% or higher from a panel of two or more judges.	Athlete must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in a CDI or national level Grand Prix, Grand Prix Special or consecutive level (see chart in DR 119), at two different CDI or national competitions from two different judges, within the 3 competition years preceding the CDI competition.
Medium Tour	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in the FEI Intermediate A, FEI Intermediate B, or FEI Intermediate II Tests at two different CDI events or 66% at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.		Athlete must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in a CDI or national level Intermediate A or Intermediate B or consecutive level (see chart in DR 119), at two different CDI or national competitions from two different judges, within the 3 competition years preceding the CDI competition.
Small Tour	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in the FEI Prix St. Georges or FEI Intermediate I at 2 different CDI events or 66% or higher at 2 different CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.		Athlete must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher in a CDI or national level Prix St. Georges, Intermediate I or consecutive level (see chart in DR 119), at two different CDI or national competitions from two different judges, within the 3 competition years preceding the CDI.
U-25	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall score of 60% or higher in the FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Test or the FEI Intermediate II Test at 2 different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.	Athlete/horse combinations must have achieved an overall score of 64% or higher in 2 FEI Grand Prix 16-25 Tests or FEI Intermediate II Tests at 2 different CDI or CDN events within 12 months of the start dates of the event from	No requirement
Young Rider, Junior, Pony Rider, Children	Athlete/Horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 60% or higher from their relevant Team/Individual Test at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start date of the event from a panel of two or more judges.	Athlete/Horse combinations must have achieved an overall average of 64% or higher from their relevant Team/Individual at two different CDI or NAVC/USEF Qualifying Competitions within 12 months of the start date of the event. Scores from European CDN (national competition) events with two more Judges officiating may also be considered.	No requirement
Young Horse (5, 6 year old)	Horse must have achieved an average over a 7.5 (75%) in their relevant tests at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event. Tests of the equivalent level may also meet this requirement.	Horse must have achieved an average over 8.0 (80%) in their relevant tests (or tests of equivalent level) at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event.	No requirement
Young Horse (7 year old)	Horse must have achieved an overall average of 7.0 (70%) or higher in their relevant tests (combined quality & technical marks) at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of the start of the event. Tests of the equivalent level may also meet this requirement.	Horse must have achieved an overall average over 7.5 (75%) or higher in their relevant tests (combined quality & technical marks; scores from tests of equivalent levels may also count) at two different CDI or CDN (national competition) events within 12 months of	No requirement
Amateur	No requirement	No requirement	No requirement

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1. OVERSUBSCRIPTION AT CDI EVENTS

Unless another method of selection has been published for the event, should there be more applications than invitations, on the deadline of FEI Definite Entry for the event; an athlete's ranking on the Grand Prix 12-month Ranking List (or for other categories, 12-month ranking of applicants from FEI and USEF/NAYC Dressage Qualifying classes) will be used to determine the invitations.

USEF may designate certain events as selection or observation events as part of selection processes for Games, Championships, Finals, etc. Athletes in contention for these Games, Championships, Finals, etc. may be given priority over other athletes. Additionally, athletes which are part of a designated European Tour, the Elite Program, Pre-Elite List, Development Program or Emerging Program may receive priority for an invitation if the event is one of their pre-established targets.

2. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

CDI5* Events

Athlete/horse combinations that have achieved the minimum FEI Criteria to compete at CDI5*/CDIO5* events per FEI Rules **and have a minimum of 70% on the USEF 12-month Grand Prix Ranking List. In extraordinary circumstances, for U.S. events only, a waiver may be requested by those athlete/horse combinations that have achieved a minimum of 68% on the USEF 12-month Grand Prix Ranking List. The waiver request will follow the same process as foreign competition waiver requests as seen below.**

CDIO Events

Applications are required to be considered to compete at a CDIO (Team Competition). All such applications will be subject to approval and selection per the Selection Procedures published for CDIO events. The complete selection procedures for CDIO events can be found [HERE](#) on the USEF website.

3. APPLICATION TO COMPETE IN FOREIGN COMPETITIONS

A. Applications to compete outside of the U.S. are found by:

1. Sign-in to the Athlete's USEF Account [HERE](#).
2. Scroll down to: FEI Competition Entry & Competing Abroad
3. Open Online Application to Compete Abroad

B. Application Fees (Non-refundable):

- v' \$75 application fee for each competition
- v' \$200 waiver request fee (if applicable)

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- v' \$750 Prepaid annual application fee (optional): this fee is due when submitting the first application for the competition year. This fee applies to the first ten (10) FEI competitions held outside of the U.S. Athletes competing less than 10 competitions do not receive a refund, credit, or partial credit for the prepaid application fee.
- ✓ \$75 late fee: An athlete who submits an application 14 days or less from the start of the competition may be subject to an additional late fee. The late fee may be applied even if an athlete provides payment for the prepaid annual application fee.

FOREIGN COMPETITION WAIVERS

If an athlete or horse does not meet the criteria noted above to enter a foreign CDI, under extraordinary circumstances, the USEF Dressage Sport Committee, or its designees, may grant a waiver to the above criteria to compete at foreign CDIs. Athletes must submit the Waiver Request found [here](#). **Athletes needing to submit a waiver should do so as early as possible, please allow up to 3 weeks for processing waiver requests.** The following criteria will be used to evaluate Waiver Requests:

- Previous international experience of the athlete, and/or athlete/horse combination. Including but not limited to:
 - Athlete's experience on a Championship Team(s)
 - Combination has met part of the requirement to compete abroad (ie. has one score from a CDI or CDN at the same level as the request but not second score)
 - Athlete has met the score requirements for membership to the Elite or Pre-Elite program
 - For YH divisions, the experience of just the horse may be considered
- The impact that the event may have on the success at a future team event, Championships, etc.
- The impact that the event may have on the development of the athlete, the horse or the combination.
- The athlete and/or horse recently moved up to the level and had success in their more recent level.
- Applicant provides other competition records that demonstrate they have an upward trajectory of scores and likelihood of achieving over 70% at the applicable level.
- Veterinary or Medical circumstances that may have prohibited the athlete and/or horse from competing (additional information may be requested to verify these circumstances)
- Athlete and/or horse have relocated or are currently training in an area outside of the US.

USEF Athlete Services will not request invitations to CDIs until a waiver has been granted.



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If a waiver is approved the combination or horse must receive a score greater than or equal to the minimum eligibility score or average (ie. 66% in the FEI Grand Prix for Big Tour) to participate in another event of the same level without resubmitting a waiver request.

USEF Athlete Services will not request invitations to CDIs until a waiver has been granted. All entries are subject to FEI nominated and definite entry dates listed in applicable FEI Definite Schedules.

WITHDRAWAL FROM CDI EVENTS

Once an athlete has submitted an application to compete and should you need to withdraw, the following steps are to be taken immediately:

REMINDER: USEF fees are non-refundable regardless if you compete or withdraw.

A. Withdrawing from competition before an entry has been submitted on your behalf or before the Organizing Committee has confirmed an invitation:

- ✓ Send an email to USEF Athlete Services (feientries@usef.org) and include the reason for the withdrawal.

B. Withdrawing from a competition after an entry has been submitted on your behalf and/or after the Organizing Committee has confirmed your invitation:

Concurrently email USEF Athlete Services (feientries@usef.org) and the Organizing Committee. The email is to state the reason for the withdrawal and an apology to the Organizing Committee for any inconvenience your withdrawal may have caused. The Organizing Committee's contact information can be found in the schedule for that particular event.

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Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To be in compliance with FEI rules effective 1.1.24.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/16/2024

Draft 1: No additional comment

Member Comments

DR117 The Position and Aids of the Rider.

4. Riding with both hands is obligatory at all national and International Dressage Events. However, riding with one hand is permitted in the Freestyle Tests and when leaving the arena. ***For FEI Freestyle tests, see also Directives for Judges – Freestyle tests and Directives for assessing the degree of difficulty in a Freestyle test available at www.fei.org.*** Individuals holding a Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate may use bridged or special adaptive reins for use with one or no hand(s), if the equipment is listed on the Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate. Apart from the halt and salute, where the athlete must take the reins in one hand, riding with the reins in both hands is obligatory in Dressage classes, but a discreet 'pat on the neck' for a well performed exercise, or for reassurance, is perfectly acceptable (as is the situation of an athlete needing to wipe a fly from their eye, or other situations such as adjusting clothing, saddle pads etc). However, if the rider intentionally takes the reins into one hand in order to use either the reins or the other hand to produce more impulsion from the horse, or to promote applause from the spectators during the test, it will be considered a fault and will be reflected in the mark for both the movement and the collective mark for 'Rider'.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

Updating spur rules to be in compliance with FEI rules effective 1.1.24.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/16/2024

Draft 1: No additional comment

Member Comments

DR120 Dress

4.1 If spurs are worn, a separate spur must be worn on each boot. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. However, swan necked spurs are permitted.

The inside arm of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have rubber covers. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard knobs (**metal or plastic**) on the shank are permitted ("Impuls" spur) **and the knobs may rotate**. "Dummy" spurs (without shank) are permitted. Armless spurs are permitted.

4.2 Spurs are **optional** mandatory during competition in **all** FEI Tests. ~~However, spurs are optional for all of the FEI Children tests, FEI Pony tests, and the FEI and USEF test for 4-year old horses.~~

4.3 The maximum length for spurs in all classes except the FEI Children tests and the FEI Pony tests is 5.08cm (2 inches) including rowels. Only blunt metal spurs (i.e., with no rowels) no longer than 3.5cm are permitted for FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI tests for Children. ~~Except for FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI tests for Children, the length of the spur~~ **Spur length** is measured from the base to the end of the shank. ~~For FEI Pony Rider tests and FEI tests for Children spur length is measured from the boot to the tip of the spur.~~

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Rule Clarification	9/1/2024	7/5/2024	Approved 7/12/2024

Rule Change Intent

There are recent reports of riders being eliminated for carrying cell phones in pockets while in the competition ring. The intent of the original rule was to penalize for "using" cell phone/electronic devices, not simply carrying them in a pocket.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Member Comments

DR120 Dress. Change to read:

5. Electronic Communication Devices. ***The use of*** earphones and/or other electronic communication devices ~~are~~ ***is*** strictly prohibited while competing and such usage is penalized by elimination. ***There is no penalty for having cell phones or other electronic devices worn or carried in clothing while competing as long as they are not in use.*** Electronic devices that transmit and/or receive information may be used in the stabling area and in warm up areas. The unsafe use of electronic devices, as determined by the competition Technical Delegate in their sole discretion, including cell phones, with or without earphones/buds, while mounted is prohibited in all areas designated for schooling and exercise, and while lungeing horses on competition grounds. Exception: medical devices, such as hearing aids are allowed to be used for the medical condition for which they are prescribed.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Rule Clarification	9/1/2024	3/21/2024	Approved 4/22/2024

Rule Change Intent

Shapes and styles of bridle crownpieces and pads have expanded and are not adequately covered by current rules. This change would clarify what is permitted.

Proponent Details Contact Information

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/16/2024

Draft 1: No additional comment

Member Comments

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment

3. Bridle. Permitted bridles and bits must be used in a conventional manner. The headstall (**except browband**) and noseband must be made of leather or leather-like material except the buckles, wear tabs on cheek pieces and reins, and a small disk of sheepskin used at the intersection of the two leather straps of a crossed noseband. Nylon or other non-metallic material may be used to reinforce leather in the headstall but must not come in direct contact with the horse. Elastic inserts are permitted only in the crownpiece and cheekpieces. Bit snaps, buckles, or hooks/studs to attach cheekpieces to the bit are permitted.

a. Crownpiece. The crownpiece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll, but it may not be fitted to lie on the vertebrae behind the skull (Figure 121.6). The crownpiece may be padded and it may have elastic inserts. Any padding **must be smooth and continuous across the poll while on the horse, and rectangular or in the same shape as the crownpiece. Padding is limited to may extend no more than 1.5 centimeters beyond** the dimensions for the crownpiece as indicated in Figure 121.6. **The only material contacting the horse's head must be the leather, leather-like material, or elastic, of the crownpiece or the additional padding material.** Any piece of tack or equipment that impairs the ears to move freely is not permitted.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Rule Clarification	9/1/2024	7/5/2024	Approved 7/12/2024

Rule Change Intent

To clarify that a throatlatch may be stitched or attached to the crownpiece or browband with a ring, snap, or buckle. The FEI does allow a snap at a throatlatch and our rules should specify this piece to avoid any further confusion.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Member Comments

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment. Change to read:

b. Browband. A browband is required and, except for the parts that attach to the crownpiece or headstall, is not required to be made of leather or leather-like material. At any level of competition, a browband may be multicolored and may be decorated with metal, beads, gemstones and crystals.

c. Throat latch. A throat latch ~~and/or a jowl strap~~ is required **and may be stitched or attached to the crownpiece or browband with a ring, snap, or buckle.**

~~A jowl strap is considered a throat latch that can be used to replace or used in addition to a traditional throat latch. In order to replace the throat latch,~~ The jowl strap must be fitted around or immediately below the horse's jowl (Figure 121.7). Nosebands with one or two lower (chin) straps must also have a throat latch, as described above. Exception: Micklem Bridle. The back strap (or chin strap) of a noseband cannot also be considered a jowl strap.

Figure 121.7: Bridle with jowl strap ~~replacing~~ **and** throat latch (left). Bit snaps may not be used with this bridle. Combined noseband (no throatlatch) permitted for use in at any level (including USEF High Performance classes) and in warm-up with either a snaffle (middle left) or double bridle (middle right) as appropriate for the level. When used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the noseband (flash attachment pictured with the snaffle on left), is prohibited. Limits for placement of jowl strap (right).

NOTE: upon Board approval an updated figure 121.7 will be supplied for the rulebook

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	3/20/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

The FEI is changing its requirements for combined nosebands and is no longer allowing a jowl strap to replace the throat latch. The FEI will now require a bridle with a jowl strap to also have a throatlatch. The "jowl strap" cavessons are widely used in both FEI and national competitions and immediate clarification is needed. (Updated illustration of the bridle on the left will be provided).

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/16/2024

Draft 1: It is suggested under the caption for figure 121.7, the third sentence be modified or deleted as it seems contrary to this rule change proposal.

Member Comments

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment

3.c. Throat latch. A throat latch ~~and/or a jowl strap~~ is required. A jowl strap ~~is considered a throat latch that can be used to replace or used~~ in addition to a traditional throat latch. ~~In order to replace the throat latch, the~~ *The* jowl strap must be fitted around or immediately below the horse's jowl (Figure 121.7). Nosebands with one or two lower (chin) straps must also have a throat latch, as described above. Exception: Micklem Bridle. The back strap (or chin strap) of a noseband cannot also be considered a jowl strap.

Figure 121.7: Bridle with jowl strap ~~replacing and~~ throat latch (left). Bit snaps may not be used with this bridle. Combined noseband (no throatlatch) permitted for use in at any level (including USEF High Performance classes) and in warm-up with either a snaffle (middle left) or double bridle (middle right) as appropriate for the level. When used as a double bridle, the lower strap of the noseband (flash attachment pictured with the snaffle on left), is prohibited. Limits for placement of jowl strap (right).

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To be in compliance with FEI rules effective 1.1.24.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/16/2024

Draft 1: No additional comment

Member Comments

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment

2. Bits

a. Snaffle bits

4. A snaffle bit may be unjointed, single-jointed, or double-jointed. **Single or double jointed snaffles may be used with upper or lower cheeks, full cheeks or Fulmer cheeks. Loose rings may have a narrow sleeve fitted around part of the ring.** The center link in a double-jointed snaffle must be smooth and curved on all surfaces as in a lozenge-shaped link. It may not have the effect of a tongue plate. Dr. Bristol and French link bits are not allowed. The center joint or link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece and may have a bushing, barrel, coupling, or ball joints. The surface of the center piece must be solid or have only one rolling part in the center of the mouthpiece, as pictured in Figure 121.1.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To be in compliance with FEI rules effective 1.1.24.

Proponent Details Contact Information

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Linked Rules Comments

DR 123 (228-23)

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/16/2024

Draft 1: No additional comment

Member Comments

DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving.

1. After each performance and after each judge has given their Collective Marks which must be done with due consideration, and signed the test, the judges' sheets pass into the hands of the scorers. Scores and comments must be written in ink. Any corrected score must be initialed by the judge having made the correction. The marks are multiplied by the corresponding co-efficients where applicable and then totaled. Penalty points incurred for errors in the execution of the test are then deducted on each judge's sheet. ***In Children classes and classes for 7-Year-Old Horses, penalty percentage points must be deducted from both technical judges' and quality judges' score sheets.*** Scores and comments may also be recorded electronically, and must be signed either electronically, or by hand, by the judge(s) for the test or class, before being tabulated.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To be in compliance with FEI Rules effective 1.1.24

Proponent Details Contact Information

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Linked Rules Comments

DR 123 (227-23)

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/16/2024

Draft 1: No additional comment

Member Comments

DR123 Scoring, Classification and Prize-Giving. Change to read:

3. Individual Classification. In all competitions the winner is the competitor having the highest percentage, the second placed competitor is the one with the next highest percentage, and so on. In case of equality of points the competitor with the highest marks received under General Impressions shall be declared the winner. When the scores for General Impressions are equal after coefficients have been applied, the horses must remain tied. Exceptions: **(1)** For Young Horse classes, the marks for "Submission" and "Perspective"/"General Impression" must be combined and divided by two in order to break the tie. If still equal, the "Submission" mark would decide. **(2) For FEI Children classes: In case of equality of percentages, the competitor with the higher "technical" mark will be ranked highest. If still tied, the highest total median score of the Technical Judges will decide the placing.** Errors on a test may not be used to break ties. Final

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
FEI Rule Change	9/1/2024	2/16/2024	Approved 6/17/2024

Rule Change Intent

To make USEF rules for visually impaired riders reflect current FEI rules.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Dressage

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/28/2024

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/16/2024

Draft 1: No additional comment

Member Comments

DR310 Athletes who are Blind or Have Visual Impairment, Commanders (Readers) and Callers (Living Letters).

6. Callers (Living Letters) may only call the name of the letter(s). Only the lead caller (who may also Command (Read) where approved) may be in the center of the arena. All other Callers must be positioned outside the arena, and may move from one marker to another, provided they do not obscure the judge's line of vision. There shall be no more than ~~thirteen (13) Callers, in a 20 x 60 meter arena and nine (9) Callers in a 20 x 40 meter arena~~ **four (4) Human Callers placed around the arena and one (1) Caller at X**, but Athletes with visual impairment are encouraged to use as few Callers as possible. **Electronic callers can be placed at every letter.** The Caller at C may be exchanged for a beacon or beeper which is to be provided by the Athlete.