

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	5/16/2024	Approved 1/25/2025

Extraordinary Change Reason

This is requested to be implemented as an Extraordinary rule change because the current language, given the current climate in sport could be misinterpreted as permitting unethical treatment towards the horse which is not the intent or within the spirit of this rule.

Rule Change Intent

The intent of the proposed rule change is to modernize the language regarding the use of the whip. However, it does not change what is permitted use of a whip in competition. This proposal aligns with USEFs efforts to improve language in the Rulebook to support our Social License to Operate.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Eventing

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Linked Rules Comments

EV112 Abuse of Horses

3. WHIP. The use of the whip must be ~~for a good reason, reasonably administered~~ at an appropriate time, ~~and~~ in the right place, ~~and with appropriate severity~~.

~~a. Reason: The whip must only be used as an aid to encourage the Horse forward, or as a reprimand. It must never be used to vent an Athlete's temper. Such use is always excessive.~~

b. Time: As an aid, the only appropriate time is when a Horse is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of the seat and legs. ~~As a reprimand, the only appropriate time is immediately after a Horse has been disobedient, e.g., napping or refusing.~~ Instances of inappropriate use of the whip include the whip used after Elimination, after the last fence on course, and/or multiple times between Obstacles.

c. Place: ~~As an aid to go forward,~~ The whip may be used down the shoulder or behind the Athlete's leg. ~~As a reprimand, it must only be used behind the Athlete's leg.~~ It must never be used overhand (e.g., a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank). The use of a whip on a Horse's head, neck, etc., is always excessive use.

d. Severity: ~~As a reprimand only, a Horse may be hit hard. However, it~~ A whip should never be ~~hit used~~ more than two times for one incident. If a Horse's skin is broken or has visible marks from the use of the whip, that will be deemed excessive use. ~~It must never be used to vent an Athlete's temper. Such use is always excessive.~~