

Eventing Safety Measures Introduced in 2008

The following safety initiatives were the result of the work done during the safety discussions at the USEA Annual Meeting and Convention in Colorado Springs, the FEI Safety Summit in Copenhagen, Denmark, the USEF/USEA Safety Summit in Lexington, Kentucky, the USEA's Eventing Standard's Task Force and the USEA Safety Committee.

The immense amount of work accomplished in 2008 is testament to the dedication and commitment of the international groups who put the safety and welfare of our horses and riders above all else. Our thanks to all of them.

EVENTING SAFETY MEASURES INTRODUCED IN 2008

- **Elimination After One Fall on Cross-country.**

-As of May 19, 2008, the first fall of competitor on cross-country will result in elimination.

- **Qualifying Results**

-Except as noted below, National Qualifying Result (NQR): an NQR is achieved by completing the entire horse trials and scoring:

-Not more than 50 penalty points in the dressage test; and

-No jumping penalties at obstacles on the cross-country test, and not more than 90 seconds (36 penalty points) exceeding 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.

- **Requirements for Competition at National Horse Trials and Events**

-PRELIMINARY (1.10m) – The competitor must have obtained an NQR at four horse trials at the Training level or higher.

-INTERMEDIATE (1.15m) – Both the competitor and the horse, though not necessarily as a combination must have obtained an NQR at three horse trials at the Preliminary level or higher, plus an additional NQR with no more than 20 jumping penalties at obstacles on the cross-country test.

-ADVANCED (1.20m) – Both the competitor and the horse, though not necessarily as a combination, must have obtained an NQR at three Horse Trials at the Intermediate Level or higher, plus an additional NQR with no more than 20 jumping penalties at obstacles on the cross-country test.

- **Requirements for Competition in International Horse Trials and Events**

In all instances, at least one of the QRs must have been obtained in the current or preceding calendar year. All competitors and horses must meet the minimum requirements published by the FEI.

-CIC* Both the competitor and the horse, though not necessarily as a combination, must have achieved 3 NQRs at either national preliminary horse trials (CNC*) or national one-star three-day events. (CCN*)

-CCI* Both the competitor and the horse, though not necessarily as a combination, must have achieved 4 QRs at any combination of: CNC*, CCN*, CIC*.

-CIC** The horse and rider, though not necessarily as a combination must have achieved 2 QRs at a CNC** or higher.

-CCI** Having met the minimum requirements of the FEI, the horse and rider, though not necessarily as a combination must have achieved 3 QRs at a CNC** or higher.

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Loss of Establishment of Qualification

- A horse that is eliminated twice, for non-technical reasons, within any six-month period loses its qualification to compete at the level at which the eliminations occur.
- A horse that falls in competition two times in any six-month period loses its qualification to compete at the level at which the falls occur.
- A rider who falls in competition from the same horse during competition two times in any 12-month period will cause the horse to lose its qualification for the level at which the falls occur.
- Having lost qualification, a horse may be re-qualified by achieving 2 QRs at the next lower level within a six-month period following the loss of qualification.

•Dangerous Riding Penalty/Procedures

- The Ground Jury and the Technical Delegate have the authority to stop a rider on the cross-country course for dangerous riding, riding an exhausted horse, excessive pressing of a tired horse, riding an obviously lame horse, excessive use of the whip and/or spurs or riding in an unsafe way.
- The President of the Ground Jury may, in addition, designate one or several deputies (i.e. Eventing Officials up to the level for which they are licensed and not in an official function at the event, any Level III or Level IV USEA ICP Instructor or any rider who has represented the USA in a World Championship, Olympic Games, or Pan American Games) for the cross-country to advise the Ground Jury regarding any action described in 1 or 4 (above). Deputies and obstacle judges will be provided with a red flag to be waved at the rider, at the direction of the Ground Jury, to stop the rider if the situation continues or if the infringement of the above is deemed to be serious.

•Frangible Technology

- Obstacles constructed after December 1, 2008, for which approved frangible technology is appropriate, shall be constructed using this technology. Obstacles constructed prior to December 1, 2008, and for which the use of Approved Frangible Technology is appropriate, shall be retrofit using this technology prior to December 1, 2009. All open oxers at the preliminary (1.10 meters) level and above must be constructed using Approved Frangible Technology. Information on the appropriate applications of Frangible Technology in cross-country fence construction is available in the USEA Cross-country Obstacle Design Guidelines. Frangible Technology may be installed only by or under the supervision of course designers/course builders who have attended a USEA Seminar on frangible fence construction.

•Fall Forms

- The use of Fall Forms to record all falls occurring at obstacles during the cross-country phase has been implemented. Efforts are being made to ensure proper completion of the forms by officials in order to compile the information for submission to the FEI.

•Safety Studies and Research

- Pulmonary hemorrhage – Dr. Kent Allen and Dr. Catherine Kohn have formed a team to examine and investigate pulmonary events as causes of equine fatalities. The USEA is providing funding for necropsies for all equine fatalities that occur during an eventing competition.

•Speed Study

- A speed and motion study will be done in order to determine the range of speeds that horses must travel in order to achieve the optimum time at all levels. In addition, this study will track the maximum speed traveled at all levels. This study will relate to both the stress placed on the horse and the overall safety of horse and rider.

•FEI Eventing Rule Revisions

- The USEF Eventing Technical Committee has forwarded its comments on the proposed 2009 Revisions to the FEI Eventing Rules to the FEI Eventing Committee, including suggested changes to the FEI Qualifying Criteria.