

# Rule Interpretations

USEA Licensed  
Officials

2024





## FEI Rules When to use?

EV 101.3

3. CIRCUMSTANCES NOT COVERED IN THESE RULES. a. For any circumstances not specifically covered in these rules, reference must be made to the following FEI publications:

1. Rules for Eventing;
2. Rules for Dressage;
3. Rules for Jumping.

b. Every eventuality cannot be provided for in these rules. In unforeseen or exceptional circumstances, it is the Ground Jury's duty to make a decision in the best interest of the sport and closest to the intention of these rules.

# Technical Eliminations vs Eliminations

EV 104.8

- a. Technical Elimination: Any elimination may be recorded as a TE (technical elimination) if the fault is a rider error (i.e. omission of obstacle, third error of course in dressage, or missing start or finish flags), and not caused directly or indirectly by the horse's disobedient, weak, or aberrant performance.



# Dressage

# Dressage

- **When people learn the wrong test in dressage the rule implies you cannot tell them the entire test- only the next movement. There is some confusion and inconsistency in this being applied.**
- **The USEA LOC committee had discussed the fairest way to address riders that had learned the wrong test. There was quite a bit of confusion, and many riders felt it was unfair for a rider to be allowed to leave the arena and return after relearning the test. Technically if a rider leaves the arena, then it is competitors, elimination. But in fairness to all competitors, it was felt that a fairer way would be to tell the rider the test and see if they could complete the test. The competitor would automatically incur 2 points.**
- **This decision has been placed on the Dressage Fact sheets that were given to organizers and also to our LO's prior to the competition so that everyone is on the same page.**
- **It is a good idea to share the information with the dressage only judges prior to the competition so that there is consistency across the dressage rings.**

# EV 119.2.a & 120

## EV 119.2

2. The following are considered errors, and two points will be deducted per error, but they are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination: a. Entering the arena, or the space around the arena before the signal to start, with a whip (when they are forbidden) or with boots or bandages, or discrepancy of dress (e.g. lack of gloves at Intermediate and Advanced levels). The Judge at C may stop the Athlete and permit an assistant to enter the arena to remove the item(s). The Athlete may continue, and marks given before they were stopped, if any, are not changed;

- EV 120: chart: Performing the he test with improper: saddlery, whip, or spurs Elimination
- If a rider comes into the dressage ring with pointed rowel spurs (not permitted), they should be eliminated as the chart. This is not a discretionary rule. This also could have been caught by the stewards.

# EV 118 & EV 9 1.3

EV 118. 2. The following are considered errors, and two points will be deducted per error, but they are not cumulative and will not result in Elimination:

- a. Entering the arena, or the space around the arena before the signal to start, with a whip (when they are forbidden) or with boots or bandages, or discrepancy of dress (e.g. lack of gloves at Intermediate and Advanced levels). The Judge at C may stop the Athlete and permit an assistant to enter the arena to remove the item(s). The Athlete may continue, and marks given before they were stopped, if any, are not changed;

EV 9.3 . WHIPS. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2”) including lash may be carried when riding on the flat at any time. One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2”) may be carried during the Dressage phase except in USEF/USEA Championships and USEA Championship divisions. As an exception, Athletes competing sidesaddle may carry a whip in the Dressage phase at all Events, including championships. A standard lunge whip may be used when lunging a Horse. If a whip is carried in the Cross-Country and/or Show Jumping phase, or while jumping any obstacle before these phases, it must not be weighted at the end or exceed 75 cm (30”) in length. An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted Athlete.

# EV 9.5 Dress: Dressage

- a. Protective Headgear. Any color helmet is permitted. Tasteful and discreet accents, such as a different color piping or crystal decorations are acceptable, including national flags.
- b. Jackets. Intermediate and 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 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.
- c. Shirts. A shirt worn with a jacket may be any color or design. It may have tasteful and discreet accents. It must be worn with a stock and pin, choker, or tie. If an Athlete competes without a jacket, the Athlete must wear a shirt with sleeves and a collar tucked into riding breeches. It may be any color or design and may have tasteful and discreet accents. No neckwear is permitted.
- d. Gloves. Intermediate and Advanced – Gloves are required. Gloves worn by any Athlete must be a dark color or tan, beige or white.
- e. Breeches or jodphurs. Light color or white is permitted.
- f. Boots. Black, brown, or other dark hue, modest piping of a different color is permitted. Full chaps are not permitted. Half-chaps must be black or brown and full grain, smooth leather with matching leather boots.
- g. Members of armed and police forces are permitted to wear service dress, with regulation gloves, protective headgear and spurs, in compliance with Subchapter EV-9.1, is required.



# EV 10: Bit checks

## 4. INSPECTION OF SADDLERY.

- a. A steward should be appointed to check the **saddlery of each** horse before it enters the arena or starts a Test.
- b. In the Dressage Test, the checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution. When bit inspections require actual contact with the inside of the horse's mouth, the inspector must use a clean protective glove for each horse. If the competitor so requests, the bridle and bit may be checked immediately after the test has been completed. However, should the bridle or bit in such a case be found not to be permitted, the competitor shall be eliminated.

# Cross Country

Rules

# EV 121 Cross Country Phase Rules

- 1b. An enclosure approximately 5 m by 5 m must be built at the start with an open front through which Horses will start and a gap in one or both sides through which Horses may enter..... From that instant, the Athlete is on course and the time is recorded from when the signal to start is given. Leaving the start box in a way that puts any Horse or human at risk may subject the Athlete to penalties per EV113.2.
- 1c. If an Athlete starts early, time will be recorded from the moment they crossed the start line.

# EV122 & EV122.5

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.

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.~~

b. Runouts. 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 as flagged or the hindquarters have not jumped the height of the solid part of the obstacle. Continuing on course without representing will incur elimination.

# EV 122.5 continued.....

## 5. MISSED FLAG

1. 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.
2. 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.

# Cross Country 144.2

2. DISTANCES AND SPEEDS. The distances and speeds are determined by the intended difficulty of the whole phase. Within the limits outlined in Appendix 3, Course Designers may choose the distances and speeds most suitable to the terrain and to the quality and standard of preparation of the Athletes. The number of jumping efforts must not exceed an average of 1 per every 100 m commenced and any portion thereof (e.g., a course that is 2,980 m may have 29 jumping efforts).

# Show Jumping

- Question: Rider in Show Jumping jumps fence 7. The course map has a dotted line going left to fence 8. The rider goes right after fence 7 circling around right to fence 8. The question was because there was a dotted line on the map would she be penalized for going right.
- Answer: No the rider should not be penalized for going right. The rider did not circle or cross their tracks. The dotted lines is considered a suggestion for the direction. If the line is solid then the rider would have been required to take this track.

# Show Jumping 126, 127, 128 & 150

- Compulsory Retirement: EV 127.8
- 8. COMPULSORY RETIREMENT. An Athlete incurs 20 or more jump penalties at the Training level or higher. Compulsory Retirement is enforced at the end of the round unless the Athlete retires or is Eliminated. An Athlete who receives a CR will not be permitted to begin the Cross-Country phase.
- Compulsory Retirement: EV 128.4
  - 4. Compulsory Retirement is enforced at the end of the round, unless the Athlete retires or is Eliminated.
- Case: A Novice Rider had a stop at the second jump in a combo and the time was stopped to rebuild. When she reapproached the combination, she had a rail at the first jump in the combo and was clear on the second attempt of the entire combination.
  - A. Does the rail at A in the combo counted as 4 penalty points count since she has already jumped it once clear? Yes, it does count and should be scored as such. EV 127.7a
  - EV 150 10: d. Penalties for faults made at each element and during different attempts, are counted separately and added to the final score.
  - B. When does the clock start back? The clock should be started back at the point that the rider takes off at the A element of the combination. EV 126.7 a & b



# Show Jumping

- Show Jumping Penalties:
- Modified and Above:
- First stop: 4 penalties
- Second stop: Elimination

# EV 126.1 a & 149 Show Jumping Markers

- 126.1a. After the 45 second countdown signal is given, the Athlete's time on course starts the moment they pass the start line in the correct direction or when the 45 second countdown expires, whichever occurs first. Time is counted until the mounted Athlete jumps the last Obstacle and crosses the finish line in the correct direction.
- 149 .4. Athletes must pass between the flags, with red on their right and white on their left, at the start and finish lines and at Obstacles.

These two references allow the competitor to cross the start and finish either direction once the time has started and until the last obstacle has been jumped in the correction direction with no penalty.



# Odds and Ends

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- EV 138
- Accident Forms: Any accident on grounds during the show that meets the USEF definition of serious injury must have a USEF Accident Form completed and sent to the USEF.
- 1a. In the event of an accident in which an Athlete may be injured or concussed, they must be examined by designated medical personnel to determine if they may take part in another phase, ride another Horse, or if they are capable of leaving the grounds. Refusal to be examined may be penalized by a fine of \$100 (payable to the Organizer, at the discretion of the Ground Jury) and a mandatory Yellow Warning Card being issued.





# Odds and Ends

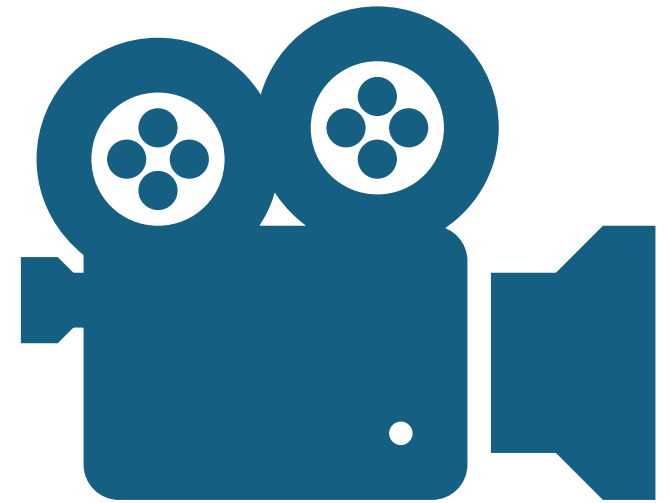
## EV117.4b

b. The Ground Jury, in consultation with the Organizer, ***may permit an Athlete who has been Eliminated in an earlier phase to participate in the subsequent phase(s)***. After Elimination in a previous phase, an Athlete who starts a subsequent phase without such permission may be fined up to \$100 payable to the Organizer.

- Can this rule be allowed to let a rider who has fallen on cross country or showjumping to continue onto to the final phase with the permission of the GJ and the organizers?
  - There should always be a discussion with the organizer about what they want to do if a rider is eliminated, in any phase, so the discussion about rider falls should be included.
  - Falls should not be scored as a technical elimination. They are scored as a Rider Fall and are a straight elimination.

# GR 150: Videos: new in 12/1/24

- GR150 – Official Video Official video is footage captured by the videographer or production company approved by the Federation or licensed competition.
- GR1219 Use of Official Video
- At Federation licensed competitions, Judges are barred from reviewing video footage or other electronic media when making field of play decisions, unless stated otherwise in the breed or discipline division rules. If judges are permitted to review video footage under breed or disciplines division rules, only original unaltered Official Video footage is permitted to be reviewed. See GR150.



# Questions?

