



# UNITED STATES EVENTING ASSOCIATION RULE CHANGE PROPOSALS

*Status Report: December 10, 2020*

## US Equestrian Rulebook Designation: EV112 Dangerous Riding

**Proposal Title:** Dangerous Riding

**Origination:** USEA Eventing Licensed Officials Committee

**Information:** This rule change recognizes that licensed cross-country course designers by the nature of their training and licensing are qualified to identify dangerous riding. This will enable those designers to have the authority to stop a rider on course for dangerous riding.

### **Rule Change Language:**

#### **2) EV112 Dangerous Riding**

4. The Ground Jury, ~~and~~ the Technical Delegate, **and the Course Designer** 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.

**Status:** Scheduled for review by the USEA Board of Governors on December 15, 2020

## US Equestrian Rulebook Designation: EV113 Medical Requirements

**Proposal Title:** Penalties for refusal of inspection after fall/accident

**Origination:** USEA Cross-Country Safety Subcommittee

**Information:** After the review by the USEA Cross-Country Safety Subcommittee, Active Athletes, and a Task Force focused on Concussions it was determined that there needs to be more enforcement of mandatory inspection, and a validation of the importance of health before return to play of competitors following apparent injury or concussion.

### **Rule Change Language:**

EV113 Medical Requirements

#### **1. ACCIDENTS INVOLVING COMPETITORS**

- a. In the event of an accident in which a competitor is apparently injured or concussed, they must be examined by designated medical personnel to determine if they may take part in another test, ride another horse or if they are capable of leaving the grounds. Refusal to be examined shall be penalized by a fine of \$100 (Payable to the Organizing Committee) at the discretion of the Ground Jury **and a mandatory Yellow Warning Card being issued.**

**Status:** Approved by the USEA Board of Governors in concept awaiting USEA Eventing Licensed Officials Committee review.

## US Equestrian Rulebook Designation: EV 134 Dressage Rules

**Proposal Title:** Officials Break

**Origination:** USEA Eventing Licensed Officials Committee

**Information:** Out of respect for the focus required of eventing officials during the dressage phase of competition, to prevent exhaustion, and to better enable equality in scoring for all competitors this rule has been proposed.

**Rule Change Language:**

EV 134 Dressage Rules

~~18. No judge should be required to officiate longer than 8 hours in one day, and should not be required to be on the show grounds longer than 10 hours. Judges should be given at least a 45 minute lunch break and at least a 10 minute break every 2 hours.~~

*Judges must be given at least a 30-minute lunch break and at least a 10-minute break every 2 hours. Prior agreement is recommended if a judge will be required to officiate longer than 8 hours in one day, or be required to be on the show grounds longer than 10 hours.*

**Status:** Scheduled for review by the USEA Board of Governors on December 15, 2020

## US Equestrian Rulebook Designation: EV140 Cross-Country Obstacles

**Proposal Title:** Frangible Fences - Corners

**Origination:** USEA Cross-Country Safety Subcommittee and the USEA Course Designers/Builders Committee

**Information:** The Course Designers and Builders Committee recommends that the implementation of the recommended change be not less than 3 months and not more than 6 months after the USEA starts the Grant Program for Open Corners using the most recent approved MIM Corner Kits.

**Rule Change Language:**

9. FRANGIBLE FENCES

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b. At National Competitions above the Training Level, all rail fences for which frangible technology can be employed must use that technology (e.g. Frangible Pins, MIM Clips or any other load relieving device). These fences include, but are not limited to: verticals, gates, open corners, and all open oxers in all cases. At a minimum, these devices must be able to be activated by forces having both vertical and horizontal components. ~~Exception, the front rail at the point of an open corner, which may use a traditional forward pin. Obstacles constructed after September 1, 2018 must comply with the above requirements. Obstacles constructed prior to September 1, 2018 shall be retrofit per the above requirements prior to December 1, 2018.~~ *As of (Implementation Date?) the front rail at the point of an open corner may not use a traditional forward pin.* At all FEI competitions devices used to comply with the above requirement must be FEI approved.

**Status:** Approved by the USEA Board of Governors, and Deferred to USEA Course Designers/Builders Committee for Implementation Date

## US Equestrian Rulebook Designation: EV153 Faults

**Proposal Title:** Compulsory Retirement – 5 Knocked Down Jumping

**Origination:** USEA Cross-Country Safety Subcommittee

**Information:** This rule is being presented to reduce risk in the sport of eventing. The reasoning has been that in reviewing the incidence of poor riding at competitions the USEA Cross-Country Safety Subcommittee views it as important to highlight that poor Show Jumping performance should result in retirement. This should be equally applied regardless of whether SJ or XC occur first in the schedule of the competition. British Eventing instituted this rule for similar reasons and it would be an additional measure to lessen risk in the sport. In reviewing competition data along with the firm EquiRatings we have found the following:

**1) Question:** Is there a correlation between SJ rails and XC performance? Yes.

In the USEA data, we can see that as the number of SJ penalties increases the fall rates increase. There is a stronger correlation at the higher levels. Across the sport, there is an increase in risk of a horse fall at 16 SJ penalties and another increase at 20 penalties. For rider falls, there is still an increased risk at 20 penalties.

**2) Question:** What level should it be applied to? Training and above.

We must be aware that there are much fewer results in the system which have 4 rails, 5 rails and more and therefore we must accept therefore that the certainty at which you can have in the findings lessens (the confidence interval grows). We have used data from the last five years to try to counteract this. When looking at performance below training level, there have been no horse falls in the last 5 seasons from 16 penalties or more.

### **Rule Change Language:**

EV153 Faults

4. Faults are penalized in penalty points or by elimination as set out in this section (EV153).

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*Five obstacles knocked down*

*Compulsory Retirement enforced at end of round, unless competitor retires or is eliminated*

**Status:** Approved by the USEA Board of Governors. However, questions over implementation exist. Primarily should the retirement be based on penalty points incurred, or actual rails. Will be reviewed by the Board on December 15th.

## US Equestrian Rulebook Designation: EV171 – Ground Jury – Composition and Qualifications

**Proposal Title:** Ground Jury – Composition and Qualifications

**Origination:** USEA Eventing Licensed Officials Committee

**Information:**

### **Rule Change Language:**

1) EV171 Ground Jury – Composition and Qualifications

c. The following may not serve on the Ground Jury at an Event:

**3. A close relative or family member of the Cross-country Course Designer or the Eventing Jumper Course Designer.**

**Status:** Approved by the USEA Board of Governors