

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	12/19/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

horse wellbeing

Rule Change Intent

Horses must be fit to compete at all times while participating in Federation licensed competitions. The discovery of blood on a horse, whether actively bleeding or evidence of recently having bled, may be grounds for elimination. Instances of blood in the mouth or flank, as well as blood caused by tack and equipment must result in elimination from further competition. In minor cases of blood, from a horse biting its tongue or lip, a participant may be permitted to rinse the horse's mouth and, if the bleed ceases, continue on in competition. All other blood discovered by a judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate may result in elimination at the discretion of the official.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEF Officers	Leslie Mangan
	lmangan@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
--------------	----------

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/18/2024

Draft 1: The committee was in favor of the intent but had several questions regarding the proposal. More clarity should be added to clarify elimination. Is elimination from the class or the whole competition? If a horse is eliminated from the class, would they be eligible to show back in the Championship if they were previously entered? A judge should be added to the language in GR843.1 because often a steward is not around. This would allow the judge to call a timeout to evaluate the horse. If a timeout is called, who would be charged the timeout?

Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/04/2024

Draft 1: The committee has many concerns they feel should be addressed regarding this rule change: what is minor vs major in terms of blood?; "un-intentional action" should be taken into consideration; certain non-blood instances should be addressed in the rule such as the Hackamore/Bosal horse – having raw spots on the chin and interrupted skin (raw, clear fluid seeping instead of blood), the judge needs to understand these type circumstances; also spurs can be abusive without causing blood but causing the same type of raw spots. The committee feels that the rules are clarifying without any definition which in turn causes more confusion in the enforcement of these rules. Also, the committee would like to point out the current similar rules that are present in the AL Chapter: AL101.18 makes a horse with a cut/abrasion/blood ineligible to receive an award in the class, also in the AL Reining and Doma Vaquera divisions fresh blood requires elimination from the class.

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/26/2024

Draft 1: The committee feels that this rule change needs major revisions to address a list of questions and potential issues: What is the horse eliminated from; class, competition? What are the procedures for examining/rinsing of the mouth; stopping a class, wait until the class is completed? Who has the authority to eliminate and how is this handled along with breed specific blood rules? The committee also has several concerns: blood caused during "field of play", accidental, etc.; how does this rule allow for those instances? The rule should be addressing blood that is athlete induced, not blood that is at no fault of the rider, or caused by field of play in the sport or an accident not on the part of the rider. The decision making process regarding the rule is concerning; not giving the ride the benefit of the doubt. The committee fears elimination regarding blood that is by no fault of the rider or abuse type situations.

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/05/2024

Draft 1: The committee is in favor of the intent, but feels that the language needs to be reworked as it is unclear. One of their major concerns was whether this would necessitate holding up classes while the horse in question is examined, which could slow down the competition flow.

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/26/2024

Draft 1: While the committee agrees with the intent of this rule change, they feel that better defining of elements within the rules is needed. The committee would like to see an exception of inspecting bits, the addition of "rider induced" verbiage for the presence of blood, the addition of procedures for a bleeding mouth including the rinsing aspect, and quantifying the differing scenarios involved with this rule.

Dressage	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/13/2024	Draft 1: Dressage has more stringent rules on blood which would take precedence, but we do not believe TDs should be authorized to eliminate. We are also not in favor the ability to wipe blood away to see if it reappears, and if this is intended to be outside the competition ring, that needs to be stated within the rule.
Driving	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/15/2024	
Endurance	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/19/2024	
Eventing	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/19/2024	Draft 1: The Committee supports the rule in concept, but in order to recommend approval, they would like to see the language amended to allow flexibility in cases where blood is not cause by tack or equipment. Due to the nature of the sport, there could be minor cases of blood on the horse's flank or in the mouth from environmental factors that should not result in automatic Elimination (Ex. blood as a result of a cut from a brush fence on Cross Country). The Committee believes any evidence of blood caused from tack should be Elimination, but for all other cases it should be reviewed case by case. Additionally, they do not believe that Stewards should not have the power to Eliminate the horse; they recommend the President of the Ground Jury, Veterinarian, or Judge should have the final say on the Elimination.
Friesian	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/18/2024	Draft 1: The committee has concerns regarding the rule not making exceptions or differentiation for blood caused accidentally, at no fault of the rider, "field of play" type situations. Also, the committee feels that the verbiage "minor blood" needs defining as currently, how does one determine if the presence of blood is minor. The committee feels that consideration should be given regarding how or why there is blood present in the mouth; a horse biting its lip or tongue is at no fault of the exhibitor. The committee also would like to see the procedure/process of elimination included in the rule verbiage.
Hackney	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/20/2024	Draft 1: The committee was in favor of the intent but had several questions regarding the proposal. More clarity should be added to clarify elimination. Is the elimination from the class or the whole competition? If a horse is eliminated from the class, would they be eligible to show back in the Championship if they were previously entered?
Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/16/2024	Draft 1: The Committee agrees with the intent of the rule change, but would like all breed and disciplines to fall under the same welfare rules, to reflect harmonization across disciplines and standardization of welfare rules for all without exceptions.
Jumper	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/18/2024	Draft 1: The JSC disapproves because of the current discussions at the FEI level from their implementation of a similar rule which has caused unintended consequences. This needs further discussion to include discretion on case-by-case situations.
Licensed Officials	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/09/2024	Draft 1: The committee does not believe that there should be clarification around if a steward/TD should be permitted to eliminate a horse. It appears to vary in practice across breeds/disciplines.
Morgan	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/04/2024	Draft 1: The committee feels that this rule change needs revisions based on the following: accidental incidences that are caused by playing the sport should not cause penalties (athlete induced only); what is the horse being eliminated from?; what is the procedure for this examination to take place?; would an elimination from a qualifying class, eliminate a horse from competing in the championship class?
National Hunter Committee	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/03/2024	Draft 1: The committee felt this topic would be better suited within GR838.
National Show Horse	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/27/2024	Draft 1: Overall the committee feels that this rule change needs revisions and more thought time. The committee appreciates the giving consideration of differing circumstances, but feels that the mouth should be separate consideration from blood on the body.
ParaEquestrian	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/15/2024	
Paso Fino	
Roadster	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/21/2024	Draft 1: While the committee is in favor of the intent, there were several questions around the following: Who would the timeout be charged to if the official asked for the horse's mouth to be rinsed? ; If a horse is eliminated from the class, will they be eligible to show back in the Championship class if entered prior? ; Does elimination mean from the class or the competition?

Saddle Seat Eq

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/21/2024

Draft 1: The committee agrees that horses with fresh blood should not be competing, however, they had several clarifying questions for the proposal. More clarity should be added surrounding the elimination. Is the elimination from the class or the whole competition? If a horse is eliminated from the class, would they be eligible to show back in the Championship if they were previously entered? If a timeout is called for a judge to evaluate, who would be charged the timeout?

Shetland

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/27/2024

Draft 1: The committee would like clarification on whether the elimination is from the specific class, or from the entire competition. They would also like to support a language change to refer to "athlete induced blood", as sometimes equipment can accidentally cause a mark or rub that doesn't have ill-intent.

USHJA

Draft 1: No Action 12/12/2024

Draft 1: Would like to see another draft. It would be better located this with the rest of the GR838 welfare rules.

Vaulting

Veterinary

Welsh

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/05/2024

Western Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/17/2024

Draft 1: The committee feels the rule needs further clarification. Will the individual be eliminated from the entire competition, or just from one class? What is the definition of "minor blood" vs. a major bleed?

Western Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/16/2024

Heather Sullivan

Draft #1

It must be made clear that blood on the legs or body as a result of an insect bite should not be grounds for elimination. Horses with light coloring will show blood from minor insect bites and should not be eliminated as a result.

GR843 Blood

- ~~1. Any horse with blood on its flank or in its mouth must be eliminated from further competition. Exception: In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, the Steward or Technical Delegate may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the horse to continue; any further evidence of fresh blood in the mouth will result in elimination.~~
 - ~~2. Blood discovered elsewhere on the horse's body may result in elimination of the horse in the discretion of the Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate. If the blood is determined by the Judge, Steward, or Technical Delegate to be caused by tack or equipment, the horse must be eliminated.~~
 - ~~3. Blood on horses must be reviewed on a case-by-case by the competition Steward or Technical Delegate. Eliminations for blood will be final.~~
1. Blood on horses must be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Eliminations for blood are final.
 2. A judge must call an official time out for the examination of any horse with blood in its mouth or elsewhere on its body.
 3. In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, the judge may authorize the rinsing or wiping of the mouth and allow the horse to continue. Any further evidence of fresh blood in the mouth will result in elimination from the relevant class. In all other circumstances, any horse with blood in its mouth must be eliminated from the relevant class.
 4. Blood discovered elsewhere on the horse's body may result in elimination of the horse in the discretion of the judge. If the blood is determined by the judge to be athlete induced or caused by tack or equipment, the horse must be eliminated from the relevant class.
 5. Where a horse is eliminated from a class that is a qualifier for a championship or other class, the eliminated horse may compete in the championship or other class, if the horse is otherwise qualified to do so and the blood is resolved prior to the championship or other class.