

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	12/19/2024	
Extraordinary Change Reason			
participant safety			
Rule Change Intent			
<p>This rule change simplifies the Federation's return to sport process and requirements for individuals who sustain a fall at a competition. All individuals who have fallen from a horse or cart are required to be examined by qualified medical personnel prior to remounting their horse or cart and returning to competition. For those individuals who suffer a concussion or apparent concussion, the requirements to return to sport remain unchanged.</p>			
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 would like to propose that we classify the types of falls. They understand the intent but for those that slide off a horse and land on their feet, should they be required to be evaluated by medical personnel? Often medical personnel may not be readily available so in these cases how would that be handled? Would a time-out be charged and to whom? How long would they be willing to hold the class/show?	
Andalusian/Lusitano			
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/04/2024		Draft 1: The committee is in agreeance with the intent of this rule change, but would like a fall on one's feet to be considered for revision to not count as a "fall" requiring medical evaluation.	
Arabian			
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/26/2024		Draft 1: The committee has several concerns regarding this rule change: Landing on one's feet should not be considered a "fall". The potential of holding a class and waiting for the EMT to arrive to complete the evaluation. The committee would also like point 6 to be addressed in regards to the reporting; is every single fall now supposed to be reported?	
Carriage Pleasure Driving			
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/05/2024		Draft 1: The committee supports the intent of this rule, but have a few minor adjustments they would like to see - first, they want the language in the rule to change from "cart" to "horse drawn vehicle", as the word cart denotes a specific type of vehicle in pleasure driving, rather than any horse drawn vehicle. They also would like "fall" to be defined more clearly in the rule, as they feel currently it is too vague.	
Competition Management			
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/03/2024		Draft 1: The committee agrees with all changes in this rule, other than the requirement for all participants to be evaluated by QMP at the event should they separate from their horse. They believe the focus should remain on those with injuries or exhibiting symptoms of concussion. There is a current shortage of QMP across the country, and with events which operate many rings, this could remove priority from those injured to examine someone who has, for example, fallen from their horse but landed on their feet without injury. Additionally, the committee noted that the responsibility to obtain evaluation from the QMP at the event is on the member, but feels this is unenforceable. It was also noted that requiring this type of evaluation was incompatible with Vaulting and Endurance disciplines.	
Connemara			
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/26/2024			
Dressage			
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/13/2024		Draft 1: Approve with the following recommendations: Point 4 - Competition management must refuse entries to participate, ADD: 'or refund if already entered', any person on the Federation Medical Ineligibility List. Point 6 - requires a comma after 'unless an exceptional circumstance exists. ...	

Driving	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/15/2024	Draft 1: While we agree with the use of helmets, we see the lack of specific language as it relates to driving and the different roles of those on carriage as a problem. We are happy to collaborate offline on language for both drivers and navigators to fall under this rule.
Endurance	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/19/2024	Draft 1: While the ESC understands the importance of ensuring athlete safety, the proposed changes are incompatible with the competition format for the discipline of endurance. Currently, there are processes in place at competitions to ensure qualified medical personnel can reach an athlete should there be an injury on trail. If a fall occurs with no need for immediate medical attention, then the athlete re-mounts as per EN105.4b and may be examined once back at base camp. Athletes may be miles out on a loop when a fall occurs where it could take qualified medical personnel considerable time to reach the athlete. Due to the negative impact on an athlete's time, the ESC is concerned that this proposal would encourage athletes to not disclose falls and/or potential injuries/concussions. The ESC also worries that athletes may not seek medical attention once they come into base camp out of fear of consequence for not being examined out on loop. Additionally, the enforceability of the proposal is near impossible for endurance as only small portions of the trail is seen by officials or participants other than the athletes themselves.
Eventing	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/19/2024	Draft 1: The Committee would like to know how the proposed rule change would affect the Eventing rules where remounting after an athlete fall is permitted (e.g. an athlete who falls in the Dressage test is permitted to remount and continue their test). Additionally, "apparently concussed" should be clearly defined.
Friesian	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/18/2024	Draft 1: The committee is in agreeance with the rule change with the exception that they feel a fall on one's feet, should not constitute a "fall" by definition of this rule; falling on one's feet does not warrant an examination by qualified medical personnel to return to play.
Hackney	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/20/2024	Draft 1: The committee asked if the types of falls could be categorized. They understand the intent but for those that slide off a horse and land on their feet, should they be required to be evaluated by medical personnel? Often medical personnel may not be readily available so in these cases how would that be handled? How long would they be willing to hold the class/show and who would the timeout be charged to ?
Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/16/2024	Draft 1: The committee agrees with the intent of this rule, but would like to see the following changes: 1-The submission of non-serious/non-concussion accident reports appears to be inadvertently removed from the rule, but the group believes that all injuries should be reported to the Federation as has been done in the past. 2-Rather than all falls require evaluation prior to the return to riding (some land on feet, or slide off of horse), the committee recommends that any competition official (stewards/tds/judges/etc.), medical personnel, competition management, or competition staff be permitted to intervene after witnessing a fall and require a rider get evaluation before return to riding. Additionally, the committee felt if the responsibility to seek evaluation fell solely on the participant, it would likely not be enforceable/trackable.
Jumper	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/18/2024	
Licensed Officials	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/09/2024	Draft 1: The committee understands the intent of the rules and is concerned with participant welfare, but does not agree with the language as written and will look forward to a draft 2 to review.
Morgan	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/04/2024	Draft 1: The committee would like a revision to be considered to make an exception to the mandatory examination by medical personnel if a person was to fall, but land on one's feet; this should not be considered a "fall" under this rule.
National Hunter Committee	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/03/2024	Draft 1: The committee agreed with the concussion piece of this rule, however, they feel the requirement of being examined after every fall would be difficult to enforce and would delay the competition schedule.
National Show Horse	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/27/2024	Draft 1: The committee feels that overall this rule change needs revision to consider several points: falling on one's feet should not be considered a fall under the guidelines of this rule; the potential outcomes from this rule such as: making EMTs harder to find and employ for competitions (due to the added liability on them for these decisions); the potential for EMT's to err on the side of caution during examination by not allowing the return to competition due to them being held responsible for this examination and determination (liability of their decision on return to play). The committee would like it considered to leave the rule as is, where it is the rider's responsibility and decision on being examined or not and returning to play.
ParaEquestrian	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/15/2024	
Paso Fino	

Roadster	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/21/2024	Draft 1: The committee had some reservations. Could we classify types of falls? Should a person who slides off and lands on their feet be required to be evaluated versus someone who is thrown from their horse? Often EMT's or other qualified medical staff are not readily available. How long would we hold the show to determine if this individual could continue?
Saddle Seat Eq	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/21/2024	Draft 1: The committee would like to propose that we classify the types of falls. They understand the intent but for those that slide off a horse and land on their feet, should they be required to be evaluated by medical personnel? Often medical personnel may not be readily available till the competition starts so in the cases of falls occurring prior to the start of competition, how would that be handled? The current rule states "competition qualified medical personnel".
Shetland	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/27/2024	Draft 1: The committee would like to see a clearer definition of a fall included in the rule, as there are many ways one could "fall" off a cart, some of which may not require medical personnel. For classes where many horses are judged at once, how long would a class "hold" before continuing on?
USHJA	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/12/2024	Draft 1: Not all falls may rise to the level that require this much address.
Vaulting	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/12/2024	Draft 1: GR840.1, tracking 65-24: Disapproval with the following comment: The VSC appreciates the proposal's intent to ensure participant safety; however, the current language is not only unsuitable for Vaulting but also risks negatively impacting the sport by failing to account for its unique nuances and requirements. GR122 only defines a fall for riders and not vaulters or drivers. Since there is not a definition of fall for vaulters in the USEF Rulebook, a fall is open to interpretation that could negatively disrupt competition and training as vaulters often separate from the horse during a performance. The VSC requests an exception from this rule for vaulting with reference to the USA Gymnastics concussion guidelines. USA Gymnastics notes that a concussion should be suspected in any gymnast who experiences appropriate mechanism of injury with mechanism of injury being defined as sustaining direct, indirect or rotational impact to the head, face, neck or body; experiencing whiplash effect, where the head forcibly moves forward & backward due to impact elsewhere on the body; and/or jarring effect from the trunk up to the head and brain (such as a hard fall to the buttocks). It should at all times be the fallen person's responsibility to stop vaulting in the instance of a fall as defined above but the VSC would be in favor of adopting this definition for purposes of this rule so judges can stop a performance and require an exam by the qualified medical personnel should they feel a fall has occurred with this definition of mechanism of injury. In training at competitions, it would be under the purview of TDs to stop a vaulter from continuing to vault should they feel a fall has occurred with this definition of mechanism of injury. In addition, it has been noticed that for riders in all disciplines the definition of fall in GR122 as currently written would consider dismounting to be a fall since GR122 defines a rider fall as a rider separating from their horse. The VSC suggests the definition of fall per GR122 be reviewed in conjunction with this proposal.
Welsh	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/05/2024	
Western Committee	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/17/2024	Draft 1: The committee feels that this proposal needs far more clarification. What defines a fall? How long is competition management expected to hold classes for an evaluation? Does this require reporting for every fall?
Western Dressage	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/16/2024	Draft 1: The committee understands the intent of the rule but feels it needs further clarification. How long are competitions expected to hold classes for evaluations? What happens in the instance where someone falls from an object, rather than a horse? Should individuals who land on their feet be required to be examined by medical personnel?

Judith Chamberlain

Draft #1

I heartily agree with this rule change. Now maybe we will stop putting people (especially kids) back on their horses after a fall and applauding them! However, in #2, the correct term is "Physician Assistant", not "Physician Assistance".

GR848 Accidents Involving Individuals Concussions, Injuries, and Return to Sport

1. This rule pertains to accidents involving individuals at Federation Licensed or endorsed competitions. Any participant who has had a fall at a competition, must be examined by the competition Qualified Medical Personnel, a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner before returning to competition or re-mounting their any horse or cart. The fallen person is fully responsible for ensuring that this examination takes place.
 2. Any participant who has had a fall at any competition, and who shows signs of a concussion or is apparently concussed, will be placed on the Federation Medical Ineligibility List until they have been examined by a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner and a properly completed Return to Sport Form is received by the Federation.
 3. For all individuals evaluated pursuant to this rule, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a properly completed Accident/Injury Form to the Federation Director of Competitions with their Steward or TD Report, unless otherwise noted below.
 4. Competition Management must refuse entries to participate from any person on the Federation Medical Ineligibility List.
 5. The Steward or Technical Delegate at the competition must submit an Accident/Injury Report within 24 hours of any incident that gives rise to a concussion or apparent concussion.
 6. The Steward or Technical Delegate at the competition must immediately notify the Federation and submit an Accident/Injury Report within 24 hours, unless an exceptional circumstance exists for any serious injury or fatality that occurs.
3. Fatalities and Serious Injuries. In the event of a human fatality or serious injury, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall notify the Safety Coordinator, Competition Management, and the Federation immediately, or as soon as practicable. Within 24 hours, except in exceptional circumstances, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a completed Accident/Injury Report form to the Federation.
4. Unconsciousness/Concussion.
- a. In the event of a fall/accident where the competitor is apparently concussed or unconscious, the competitor is precluded from competing until evaluated by qualified medical personnel, as defined in GR 847.1.a. If the competitor refuses to be evaluated, he is disqualified from the competition and must follow the Return to Competition guidelines in accordance with the rules.
 - b. A Time Out may be called in accordance with applicable division rules.
 - c. If qualified medical personnel suspect that a competitor has sustained unconsciousness or a concussion, the competitor must be precluded from competing until cleared to compete in accordance with the Return to Competition rules.
 - d. The competition Steward or TD shall notify Competition Management and the Safety Coordinator of the fall/accident as soon as practicable. In the event that a Steward or Technical Delegate is unable to be present at an accident or injury, the Safety Coordinator or Manager must inform the senior Steward or Technical Delegate of said accident or injury within one hour for proper follow up and reporting, as required by the Federation.
 - e. For all competitors evaluated pursuant to this section, the Steward or Technical Delegate shall submit a properly completed Accident/Injury Form, and, if applicable, any corresponding signed release to the Federation Director of Competitions within 24 hours of the fall/accident, except in exceptional circumstances.
5. Medical Suspension. Any competitor who is determined ineligible to compete under any of the preceding paragraphs will be placed on the Federation Medical Suspension List that will be posted on the Federation's website.
6. Return to Competition. In the event that a competitor is determined ineligible to compete under one of the preceding paragraphs, the competitor shall submit to the Federation, a signed release, which includes criteria established by the Federation from time to time, completed by a licensed physician, physician assistant, or a nurse practitioner in order to be eligible to once again compete in Federation Licensed or endorsed competitions.
7. Refusal of Entry. Any competitor on the Federation Medical Suspension List is responsible for not competing in any further Federation Licensed or endorsed competition until he is removed from the medical suspension list. Competition management shall refuse entries of any competitor who is on the Federation Medical Suspension List, unless he submits to the Federation a properly signed release in accordance with the Return to Competition rules. Competition Management is responsible for checking the Medical Suspension List prior to accepting entries.
- a. Substitution. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the rules herein, if an entry is accepted prior to the time the competitor was added to the Federation Medical Suspension List, a substitute competitor may be named.
 - b. Refund. Notwithstanding any other provisions of the rules herein, for any competitor who appears on the Federation Medical Suspension List, a Federation Licensed or endorsed competition shall refund the entry fees and Jumper nominating fee, if applicable, less office fees, if applicable. Stabling fees may not be refunded, unless the stabling is filled.

GR1033.4.a.2

4. Forms – Forms submitted to the Federation must be on the correct competition year's form as provided by the Federation. Incomplete forms, prior year's forms, or illegible forms will not be accepted. The following forms must be submitted in a timely manner to:

[...]

2. *Accident/Injury Form for any serious accident or injury that occurs at the competition, including any incident that gives rise to a concussion or apparent concussion, Accident/Injury Report Forms on the official form provided by the Federation must be submitted to the Federation in accordance with GR848.*