

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	8/28/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

This is an issue that needs addressed as soon as possible. ESWT is being used by lay people on Federation grounds potentially putting horses at risk.

Rule Change Intent

- Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy (ESWT) is a therapeutic modality intended to aid in the treatment of soft tissue and bone injuries. As ESWT can provide significant analgesia, this treatment is covered by the respective Veterinary Medical Practice Act in many states. The use of ESWT without the understanding of anatomy and training can decrease the therapeutic effectiveness and even put horses at risk. The intent of this rule change is to only permit veterinarians to conduct ESWT at Federation Licensed competitions. However, a veterinary assistant or technician, appropriately trained by the veterinarian may conduct ESWT if only under direct veterinary supervision. The prohibition on the use of ESWT on the limbs of horses will remain a prohibited practice within 72 hours or competing.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Veterinary	Stephen Schumacher sschumacher@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Andalusian/Lusitano

Arabian

Connemara

Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/15/2024

Friesian

Hackney

Morgan

National Show Horse

ParaEquestrian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/15/2024

Paso Fino

Roadster

Saddle Seat Eq

Agree with the rule change.

4. Only a licensed veterinarian may administer Shockwave Therapy on competition grounds. ~~may only be administered by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. No Shockwave Therapy is permitted within the 12 hours prior to competing.~~

- a. If sedation is required for Shockwave Therapy, only sedation performed by a licensed veterinarian and administered at the same time as the Shockwave Therapy will be considered therapeutic and GR411 will apply. No sedation associated with Shockwave Therapy will be considered therapeutic if administered within 24 hours prior to competition. ~~No horse may be treated with Shockwave Therapy within the 3 days preceding competition with the following exception:~~
- b. ~~a-~~ Shockwave Therapy **administered within the three days preceding competition must be** ~~may be administered by a licensed veterinarian within the 3 day prohibited period, but no closer than 12 hours prior to competing, and is limited to application to the back and dorsal pelvis areas. No Shockwave Therapy is permitted within the 12 hours prior to competing.~~ This exception is permitted only when the "Trainer" as defined under GR404 properly files, or causes to be properly filed, an Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form after administration and prior to the horse competing. If an online form cannot be submitted due to lack of internet or phone service, a paper form may be submitted. The form must be filed with the Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative within one hour after the administration of Shockwave Therapy. If administration occurred outside of competition hours, the form must be filed within ~~or~~ one hour after the Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative returns to duty if the administration occurs at a time outside competition hours. The Steward/Technical Delegate or competition office representative shall sign and record the time of receipt on the Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form.