

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	4/1/2025	9/1/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

This rule change is extraordinary due to the biosecurity concerns regarding competition officials when performing any type of routine inspection that involves the touching of a horse's muzzle, oral cavity, or bit. The changing of gloves between horse inspections should be a mandatory practice to reduce the chances of spreading pathogens amongst horses.

Rule Change Intent

On a biosecurity front, with VS and other viral diseases, there is no requirement for a TD/Steward to change gloves after a bit inspection or an examination of the horse's muzzle or oral cavity. For the safety of horses, this is something that must be implemented in official rule form. There is a potential risk of spreading pathogens from horse to horse when handling multiple horses without changing gloves between horses. As far as best practice, it is currently recommended that gloves are changed between horses, or the rider is asked to drop the bridle to display the bit to the official as this would eliminate the need for the official to touch individual horses, but this is not an official rule, only a suggested best practice. This rule change seeks to enact this as a requirement for the health and safety of horses.

Proponent Details

Andalusian/Lusitano Committee

Contact Information

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Linked Rules

Comments

Committee Actions

SUBCHAPTER AL-1 GENERAL QUALIFICATIONS

AL101 Eligibility To Compete

(...)

19. Judges must excuse from the ring any horse that possesses a whip mark (welt) on any portion of the horse. A whip mark or welt is an inflammation of skin and subcutaneous tissue resulting in a swelling in extreme cases is an abrasion or laceration. The cardinal signs of inflammation include heat, pain (sensitivity or palpation) and swelling. The judge(s) finding of fact with respect to the presence or absence of a whip mark (welt) evident during a class shall be final and no appeal may be taken thereon. The judge(s) shall make written finds of fact which shall be delivered to the Federation steward with respect to any horse excused under this rule. In a class that is judged by more than one judge, if a judge in that class believed that an entry has a whip mark, that entry must be examined by all judges of the class and each judge must determine if a whip mark exists. If a majority of the judges of that class determine that whip mark exists, the entry must be excluded from the ring, according to the specification set forth in this article. If a majority of the judges determine there is not a whip mark, then each judge who is of the minority opinion shall submit their own written finding of fact and shall have the authority to eliminate said entry from further consideration.

20. Any individual who is required to touch the muzzle, oral cavity, or bit of the horse for purposes of inspection shall utilize a new pair of gloves for each inspection. Once an inspection of the individual horse is complete, the gloves shall be properly disposed of in a trash container.

2021. The following classes do not affect Maiden status of the horse: English Pleasure Pro-Am, Western Pleasure Pro-Am, Versatility Driving to English, and Versatility English to Western

2422. Electronic communication devices used for purposes of coaching exhibitors during a competition shall be prohibited in all classes in the Andalusian/Lusitano Division. Exhibitors with a permanent hearing impairment are permitted to use an electronic communication device upon submission of a written certification from a treating medical professional's office certifying the permanent hearing impairment and certifying the requirement of an electronic communication device. The certifying medical certification must be provided to the competition Steward within a reasonable time prior to competing who shall attach a copy to the Steward report.

2223. An exhibitor with a disability (other than hearing), will be provided reasonable accommodation upon submission of a written certification from a treating medical professional's office certifying the disability and identifying the accommodation necessary for the exhibitor to compete safely. The medical certification must be provided to the competition Steward within a reasonable time prior to competing who shall attach a copy to the Steward report.

2324. No horse may be entered and shown in more than six (6) performance classes per day. This does not include halter, showmanship, and sport horse in-hand.

2425. When the Dressage chapter is referenced herein, any rule or portion of a rule that is in direct reference to USEF/USDF or USEF National Championships shall be disregarded for the purpose of breed Dressage classes.

2526. In the event coats are waived due to weather, an exhibitor may wear a short sleeved blouse/shirt with a closed collar and, if desired, an appropriate tie, scarf, brooch or pin. Polo Shirts are not permitted except in Sport Horse In-Hand classes. The remainder of the attire should conform with the rules of the class.