

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	2/1/2024	

Rule Change Intent

This rule amendment addresses two identified problematic areas within the rule.

1. There is a shortage of dressage technical delegates and the addition of DR126 1.a. mandatorily requiring a TD to check the bits and bridles of 50% of all horses entered in the competition, could potentially mean a TD is in violation and, subject to penalties, if the cannot be achieved due to other negating circumstances at the competition. This undo stress is a deterrent to both current TDs and new applicants.
2. The new GR 1211 4.e. rule lists 1 TD is required for 0-250 horses with 1-7 rings. It also lists 1 TD for 251-500 horses with 1-3 rings. While DR125 5. requires 2 TDs for over 300 rides, this still could amount to 150 horses or more. Mathematically, if a competition has 299 rides, and 1 TD, requiring management and the TD to arrange for 75-149 competitors to present their bits an bridles for inspection will be daunting and unmanageable.

The language in DR126 1.a. states: "The technical delegate "must" inspect at least 50% of the bits and bridles of horses entered in the competition."

New language for this sentence: "The technical delegate "should try" to inspect at least 50% of the bits and bridles of horses entered in the competition."

The intent of the rule is maintained and, the threat of penalization is eliminated.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions	
Dressage	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/01/2023	Draft 1: In the event an official is unable to comply with the rule, filling out an addendum with an explanation is sufficient.
Licensed Officials	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/19/2023	Draft 1: The LOC felt "should try" is too subjective of a statement and the USEF Rulebook should only include objective amounts. The 50% rule at least guarantees a minimum standard across competitions. A "should try" statement may result in a wider variety of compliance and therefore having a level playing field may be affected negatively.
Morgan	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/28/2023	Draft 1: The current rule is substantial and this rule change is not necessary.
USDF	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/18/2023	Draft 1: Changing the inspection requirement from "must inspect" to "should try to inspect" is far too ambiguous. While it is certainly possible that a circumstance may arise at a show that would make it impossible for a TD to meet the 50% requirement, that situation can be addressed by an explanation in the TD report.

DR126 Requirements for Dressage Competition Management

[...]

i. Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas.

1. Tack Inspections. Inspection of saddlery and equipment (except bits) must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. Ring stewards appointed by competition management are required to inspect the saddlery, dress and equipment worn by at least one-third of the horses in a class immediately as the horse leaves the arena using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse. In championship classes, saddlery, dress and equipment inspections are required for each horse. When an inspection is conducted, all equipment including fly hoods, nosebands, curb chains, whips, bits, and spurs on both sides must be inspected. The ring steward must also inspect the horse for evidence of blood.

1.a. Exhibitors must present bridles and bits, if and when requested, to the technical delegate for inspection utilizing the methods, timeframe(s) and location(s) identified by competition management with the agreement of the technical delegate. These methods must be communicated to the competitors prior to the start of the competition. The technical delegate ~~should try to~~ **must attempt to** inspect at least 50% of the bits and bridles of horses entered in the competition. Technical Delegates must also conduct random ringside bit checks immediately after rides are completed, some of which can be included in the 50%, using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse.