

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The Modified specification on cross-country dimensions and speeds does not align with the FEI Specification for the 1 star level. America was the first to add the 3'5" Modified level and recognize it through the USEF. Then, the FEI added a 1-star level with different specifications. This is very confusing, especially when a Modified National Horse trial runs at the same event as a 1-Star FEI competition. We feel the Modified specifications should be changed to meet the FEI specifications. This would alleviate any confusion for the riders and officials.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle h temple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/24/2026

Member Comments

APPENDIX 3 - SPECIFICATIONS FOR HORSE TRIALS

For other specifications, such as depth of water, widths of water crossings, etc., See EV145.

	Beginner Novice	Novice	Training	Modified	Preliminary	Intermediate	Advanced
Dressage							
Federation Eventing tests	BN A BN B	Novice A Novice B	Training A Training B	Modified A Modified B Modified C	Preliminary A Preliminary B Preliminary C	Intermediate A Intermediate B Intermediate C	Advanced A Advanced B
Cross-Country							
Distances	1400 - 2000m	1600 - 2200m	2000 - 2600m	2200m - 3000m	2200 - 3120m	2600 - 3575m	3200 - 3990m
Speeds Optimum Time	300 - 350mpm	350 - 400mpm	420 - 470mpm	490-500mpm	520mpm	550mpm	570mpm
Speed Faults	420mpm	450mpm	520mpm	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Efforts	14-18	16-20	20-24	22-28	22-30	26-34	32-40
Heights Fixed Brush	.80m (2'7") .91m (3')	.90m (2'11") 1.10m (3'7")	1.00m (3'3") 1.20m (3'11")	1.05m (3'5") 1.25m (4'1")	1.10m (3'7") 1.30m (4'3")	1.15m (3'9") 1.35m (4'5")	1.20m (3'11") 1.40m (4'7")
Spreads Highest Point Base Without Height	84m (2'9") 1.22m (4') 1.22m (4')	1.00m (3'3") 1.50m (4'11") 2.00m (6'7")	1.20m (3'11") 1.8m (5'11") 2.40m (7'11")	1.30m (4'3") 1.20m (3'11") 2.04m (6'5") 1.80m (5'11") 2.6m (8'6") 2.40m (7'11")	1.40m (4'7") 2.10m (6'11") 2.80m (9'2")	1.60m (5'3") 1.60m (5'3") 2.40m (7'11") 3.20m (10'6")	1.80m (5'11") 1.80m (5'11") 2.70m (8'10") 3.60m (11'10")
Drops	1.01m (3'3")	1.20m (3'11")	1.40m (4'7")	1.5m (4'11") 1.40m (4'11")	1.60m (5'3")	1.80m (5'11")	2.00 (6'7")
Show Jumping							
Lengths	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m
Speeds	300mpm	320mpm	325mpm	325mpm	350mpm	350mpm	375mpm
Efforts	9-11	9-11	10-12	10-13	11-13	12-14	13-15
Heights	.80m (2'7")	.90m (2'11")	1.0m (3'3")	1.05m (3'5")	1.10m (3'7")	1.20m (3'11")	1.25m (4'1")
Overall Spreads of Oxers	1.00m (3'3")	1.10m (3'7")	1.20m (3'11")	1.25m (4'1")	1.30m (4'3")	1.40m (4'7")	1.45m (4'9")
Overall Spreads of Triple Bar	1.20m (3'11")	1.30m (4'3")	1.40m (4'7")	1.45m (4'9")	1.50m (4'11")	1.60m (5'3")	1.65m (5'5")

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

There have been multiple instances at events where an Athlete wished to withdraw from the FEI division following their Dressage Test (for reasons unrelated to horse welfare) and move to the National Event. EV108 only addresses Horses that are Eliminated for reasons unrelated to horse welfare. The proposed rule change expands the rule to permit Horses that Withdraw from FEI Events, for reason unrelated to horse welfare, to compete in the National Event at a level that they are qualified for, at the discretion of the Ground Jury.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

USEA	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/17/2026	Draft 1: The Board agrees with the intent of the proposed change, however recommend amendment as follows: if a Horse is Eliminated during or is Withdrawn after the Dressage Test for reasons unrelated to horse welfare

Member Comments

EV108 Participation

4. HORSES.

- a. Events are open to stallions, mares, or geldings. The age of the Horse must comply with the specifications of the Event.
- b. For Horse Trials and Classic Three-Day Events, Horses may only compete once and must be ridden by the same Athlete throughout all phases.
- c. At FEI Events running concurrently with a national Event, if a Horse is Eliminated **or is Withdrawn *in* during or after** the Dressage ***phase Test*** for reasons unrelated to horse welfare, ~~the national Ground Jury, in consultation with the Technical Delegate and the Organizer, may at their discretion, permit the Horse to compete in the national Event at the same height level or below.~~ ***the national Ground Jury may in their sole discretion, in consultation with the Technical Delegate and the Organizer, permit the Horse to compete in the national Event at a level for which they are qualified. Any Horse that has started the second phase of an FEI Event, it is not eligible to compete in the national Event.***
- d. As an exception to GR840, a Horse is eligible for Events even though it has complete loss of sight in one eye, provided sight in the other eye is normal and it meets the other requirements.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/11/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

To provide consistent application of Dangerous Riding across competitions. Currently, Dangerous Riding may receive three different penalties: 25 penalties, Elimination, and/or issued a Recorded Warning Card. To ensure fairness for all competitors, the proposed amends the penalties so that all cases of Dangerous Riding must receive a Recorded Warning. In addition to a Recorded Warning, 25 penalties or Elimination may be applied, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. The proposed penalties also align with the FEI rules for Dangerous Riding.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

USEA

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/17/2026

Member Comments

EV113 Dangerous Riding

1. Dangerous Riding is considered any Athlete who rides in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety or well-being of the Athlete, Horse, other Athletes, their Horses, spectators, or others during the competition. Dangerous Riding may include but is not limited to the following:

- a. Riding out of control (Horse clearly not responding to the Athletes restraining or driving aids).
- b. Riding Obstacles too fast or too slow.
- c. Repeatedly standing off fences too far (pushing the Horse to the base of the Obstacle, firing the Horse to the fence).
- d. Repeatedly being ahead or behind the Horse's movement when jumping.
- e. Series of dangerous jumps.
- f. Severe lack of responsiveness from the Horse or the Athlete.
- g. Continuing after three clear refusals, a fall, or any form of Elimination.
- h. Endangering the public in any way (e.g., jumping out of the roped track).

~~2. Dangerous Riding will be penalized accordingly, at the discretion of the Ground Jury. Athletes who engage in Dangerous Riding must receive 25 penalties, be Eliminated, and/or issued a Recorded Warning. The overall score for the Horse/Athlete combination must not count as a qualifying MER. All cases of Dangerous Riding must receive a Recorded Warning. The Ground Jury, in its discretion, may apply an additional penalty of Elimination or 25 penalties. If Dangerous Riding is reported, the Ground Jury must evaluate the evidence and determine if a penalty is appropriate. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury's decision in a case of Dangerous Riding.~~

~~3. If Dangerous Riding is reported, the Ground Jury must evaluate the evidence and determine if a penalty is appropriate. If a member of the Ground Jury observes Dangerous Riding, they may Eliminate or penalize the Athlete. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury's decision in a case of Dangerous Riding.~~

3. The Ground Jury, the Technical Delegate, and the Course Designer for the Event, when present solely in their role as Course Designer, have the authority to stop an Athlete on the Cross-Country course for Dangerous Riding.

4. The President of the Ground Jury may designate one or several deputies (i.e., Eventing Licensed Officials up to the level for which they are licensed and not in an official function at the Event, any Level IV or V USEA ECP Instructor or any Athlete who has represented the USA in a World Championship, Olympic Games, or Pan American Games) for the Cross-Country phase to advise the Ground Jury regarding any action described in 1 or 4 3 (above). Deputies and fence judges will be provided with a red flag to be waved at the Athlete, at the direction of Ground Jury, to stop the Athlete if the situation continues or for infringement of the above.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/11/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The proposal amends Compulsory Retirement (CR) so it is only applied when the Show Jumping phase occurs before the Cross Country phase. The intent of the rule is to prevent combinations with a poor Show Jumping performance from beginning the Cross-Country phase as a safety precaution. When Show Jumping occurs after Cross Country, there is no perceived benefit to risk management, so the proposed would allow athlete to finish on their numerical score as they have completed the competition.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Eventing	Alison Lloyd alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

USEA	
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/17/2026	Draft 1: Approved with recommended clarification to language - "only when the show jumping phase is before the cross-country phase" to ensure scorers don't apply CR to SJ when it is the last phase of competition.

Member Comments

EV127 Show Jumping Phase Penalties

8. COMPULSORY RETIREMENT. An Athlete incurs 20 or more jump penalties at the Training level or higher, *when the Show Jumping phase is before the Cross-Country phase*. Compulsory Retirement is enforced at the end of the round unless the Athlete retires or is Eliminated. An Athlete who receives a CR will not be permitted to begin the Cross-Country phase. *An Athlete that starts the Cross-Country phase after receiving a CR must be issued a Recorded Warning or Yellow Warning Card.*

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This language aims to clarify the circumstances under which a missed marker occurs.

Proponent Details Contact Information

Eventing

Alison Lloyd

alloyd@usef.org

Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

USEA

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/17/2026

Draft 1: The Board agrees with the intent of the rule but would like to ensure language of marker vs. flag remains consistent throughout. Another suggestion for added clarity was to apply following language "A horse is considered to have missed a marker when the point of the shoulder fails to pass between the original position of the obstacle markers."

Member Comments

EV122 Cross-Country Phase Definitions of Faults

2. DISOBEDIENCES (REFUSALS, RUN-OUTS, and MISSED MARKER).

c. Missed marker. To clear an Obstacle, the Horse's head, neck, and points of both shoulders must pass between the Obstacle markers. ***A Horse is considered to have missed a marker when the point of a shoulder fails to pass between the obstacle markers.*** If a marker is dislodged, the hindquarters must jump the height of the solid part of the obstacle. If the Obstacle is not navigated as described a 9-point penalty must be assessed.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Add clarifying language to distance requirement for ditches and steps used at the Beginner Novice and Novice level to better assist officials and riders.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle h temple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026
Eventing
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/24/2026

Member Comments

APPENDIX 1 - LEVELS OF HORSE TRIALS

1. Beginner Novice - The Beginner Novice level is designed to introduce green Horses and Athletes to Horse Trials. Beginner Novice is intended for Athletes and Horses that have experience in schooling Events in all three phases. The goal is an educational experience to build confidence and a desire to progress.

a. Dressage: Athletes should be prepared to do a walk, trot and canter Dressage test with 20 m figures and a halt.

b. Cross-Country: Obstacles, solid in appearance, with ground lines where appropriate to enhance the fence profile.

1. There must be no Obstacles before or after a water crossing within 78 ft (25 m) before and 54 ft (16 m) after.

2. A step up and down, but not in combination, may be included.

3. Ditches must be riveted and include a visible ground line with rounded edges and is at least 6 in (15 cm) above grade.

4. The track of the course must avoid turns of less than a 20 m radius.

5. The course must not include more than one combination composed of two elements, where the Obstacles must be a minimum of 33 ft apart ~~or 54 ft after a ditch or step up.~~

An Obstacle must be a minimum of 54 ft before a ditch or a minimum of 57 ft after a ditch. An Obstacle must be a minimum of 54 ft. after a step.

c. Show Jumping: The course should be inviting and straightforward, preferably with lines of 82 ft or more and may include only one double set on two strides, a minimum of 34 ft, which may include only one oxer at the "a" element of the combination.

1. Liverpools are prohibited at this level.

2. Novice—The Novice level is a continuing introduction to Horse Trials. It is designed for Athletes and Horses with some experience at lower levels or for experienced Athletes and Horses who are new to the discipline.

a. Dressage: Athletes should be prepared to do a walk, trot, and canter Dressage test with 20 m figures, and a halt.

b. Cross-Country: Obstacles, solid in appearance, with ground lines where appropriate to enhance the fence profile.

1. Obstacles in combinations should be a minimum of 33 ft apart, ~~and an Obstacle after a ditch or step up at no less than 42 ft apart.~~ ***An Obstacle must be a minimum of 42 ft***

before a ditch or a minimum of 45 ft after a ditch.

2. Steps in combination may include: a step up followed by a step down at a minimum of 30 ft, two steps up at a minimum of 33 ft, or an Obstacle after a step up at a minimum of 30 ft.

3. Water Obstacles may include a step or single Obstacle out of water or a single Obstacle 45 ft before the water and a single Obstacle 30 ft after water.

c. Show Jumping: The course should be inviting and straightforward, preferably with lines of 82 ft or more and must only include one or two doubles, set on two strides of a minimum of 34 ft. Each combination may only include one oxer at the "a" element of the combination.

1. Liverpools are prohibited at this level.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

fine tune show jumping specs, such as adjusting some spreads for a safer and more appropriate relationship to heights

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle h temple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026
Eventing Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/24/2026

Member Comments

APPENDIX 3 - SPECIFICATIONS FOR HORSE TRIALS

For other specifications, such as depth of water, widths of water crossings, etc., See EV145.

	Beginner Novice	Novice	Training	Modified	Preliminary	Intermediate	Advanced
Dressage							
Federation Eventing tests	BN A BN B	Novice A Novice B	Training A Training B	Modified A Modified B Modified C	Preliminary A Preliminary B Preliminary C	Intermediate A Intermediate B Intermediate C	Advanced A Advanced B
Cross-Country							
Distances	1400 - 2000m	1600 - 2200m	2000 - 2600m	2200m - 3000m	2200 - 3120m	2600 - 3575m	3200 - 3990m
Speeds	300 - 350mpm	350 - 400mpm	420 - 470mpm	490mpm	520mpm	550mpm	570mpm
Optimum Time							
Speed Faults	420mpm	450mpm	520mpm	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Efforts	14-18	16-20	20-24	22-28	22-30	26-34	32-40
Heights Fixed Brush	.80m (2'7") .91m (3')	.90m (2'11") 1.10m (3'7")	1.00m (3'3") 1.20m (3'11")	1.05m (3'5") 1.25m (4'1")	1.10m(3'7") 1.30m(4'3")	1.15m (3'9") 1.35m (4'5")	1.20m(3'11") 1.40m (4'7")
Spreads	84m (2'9")	1.00m (3'3")	1.20m (3'11")	1.30m (4'3")	1.40m (4'7")	1.60m (5'3")	1.80m (5'11")
Highest Point Base	1.22m (4') 1.22m (4')	1.50m (4'11") 2.00m (6'7")	1.8m (5'11") 2.40m (7'11")	2.04m (6'5") 2.6m (8'6")	2.10m (6'11") 2.80m (9'2")	2.40m (7'11") 3.20m (10'6")	2.70m (8'10") 3.60m (11'10")
Without Height							
Drops	1.01m (3'3")	1.20m (3'11")	1.40m (4'7")	1.5m (4'11")	1.60m (5'3")	1.80m (5'11")	2.00 (6'7")
Show Jumping							
Lengths	Maximum 600m 500m	Maximum 600m 500m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m	Maximum 600m
Speeds	300mpm	320mpm 325mpm	325mpm	325mpm 350mpm	350mpm	350mpm	375mpm
Efforts	9 - 11	9 - 11	10 - 12	10 - 13	11-13	12-14	13-15
Heights	0.80m	0.90m (2'11")	1.00m	1.05m	1.10m (3'7")	1.20m (3'11")	1.25m (4'1")
Overall Spreads of Oxers	1.00m (3'3") 0.90m (2'11")	1.10m (3'7") 1.00m (3'3")	1.20m (3'11") 1.15m (3'9")	1.25m (4'1")	1.30m (4'3")	1.40m (4'7")	1.45m (4'9")
Overall Spreads of Triple Bar	1.20m (3'11") N/A	1.30m (4'3") N/A	1.40m (4'7")	1.45m (4'9")	1.50m (4'11")	1.60m (5'3")	1.65m (5'5")

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/28/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Riders moving up the levels are not properly educated on the rules that apply at higher levels of competition. The lack of education directly impacts the safety of horse and rider during competition.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle h temple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/24/2026

Member Comments

EV127 Show Jumping Phase Penalties

8. COMPULSORY RETIREMENT. An Athlete incurs 20 or more jump penalties at the Training level or higher. Compulsory Retirement is enforced at the end of the round unless the Athlete retires or is eliminated. An Athlete who receives a CR will not be permitted to begin the Cross-Country phase. ***An Athlete who starts Cross-Country after receiving a CR will be issued a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Warning.***

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Permit the use of ear plugs in all phases of eventing. The removal of ear hoods following competition often poses safety risks to officials and volunteer stewards who are required to inspect the horse's ears for ear plugs. By permitting the use of ear plugs during competition, there would be no need to require ear hoods be removed for inspection, eliminating the safety risks of onsite personnel. National level competitions are primarily reliant on volunteers to cover the dressage inspections, who often do not have the horse experience or knowledge of how best to handle removal of bridles/safety handling horses, or what exactly an ear plug looks or feels like inside the ear.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle h temple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/24/2026

Member Comments

SUBCHAPTER EV-10 SADDLERY

2. DRESSAGE TEST.

- i. Ear hoods **and ear plugs** are permitted for all Tests and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must allow for ears to move freely and must not cover the horse's eyes ~~and ear plugs are not permitted (exception for prize giving ceremonies)~~. The ear hoods should be discreet in color and design. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

The rule change proposal intends to broaden the neckwear clothing requirements in dressage and show jumping. During the heat of summer, many of the lower-level competitors are often seen in violation of the rules as stock ties and pins are removed. Updated language ease neckwear requirements to a minimum of a shirt collar and broaden breeches color to all conservative colors. Utilizing modern apparel styles to be used in competition allows for better inclusivity of members.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle htemple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/26/2026

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/24/2026

Draft 1: The Committee believes that “conservative color” is vague and could be hard for Athletes and Licensed Officials to interpret. The Committee recommends aligning with USEF Dressage’s language: “Breeches or jodphurs. White, light, or dark colors are permitted. Bright colors or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed”.

Member Comments

SUBCHAPTER EV-9 DRESS

5. DRESSAGE PHASE

c. Shirts. A shirt worn with a jacket may be any color or design. It may have tasteful and discreet accents. ~~It must be worn with a stock and pin, choker, or tie.~~ **Neckwear must be worn that may include a closed shirt collar, stock and pin, choker, or tie.** If an Athlete competes without a jacket, the Athlete must wear a shirt with sleeves and a collar, tucked into riding breeches. It may be any color or design and may have tasteful and discreet accents. No neckwear is permitted.

e. Breeches or jodhpurs. ~~Light color or white Any conservative color is permitted.~~ **White, light or dark colored breeches or jodhpurs are permitted in competition. Bright colors or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.**

7. SHOW JUMPING PHASE

c. Shirts. A shirt worn with a jacket may be any color or design. It may have tasteful and discreet accents. ~~It must be worn with a stock and pin, choker, or tie.~~ **Neckwear must be worn that may include a closed shirt collar, stock and pin, choker, or tie.** If an Athlete competes without a jacket, the Athlete must wear a shirt with sleeves and a collar, tucked into riding breeches. It may be any color or design and may have tasteful and discreet accents. No neckwear is permitted.

e. Breeches or jodhpurs. ~~Light color or white Any conservative color is permitted.~~ **White, light or dark colored breeches or jodhpurs are permitted in competition. Bright colors or patterns are not permitted. Contrast piping is allowed.**

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	4/17/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Fitness to compete is an essential requirement of all equine athletes participating in competitions. The proposed language ensures that horses overall wellbeing is also taken into consideration in addition to soundness. To ensure the well-being of competition horses, Licensed Officials must feel authorized to identify an unfit or unsound horse to determine best welfare options for competition. Allowing the President of the Ground Jury to rely on support from the TD and Veterinarian creates a better nonbiased conversation to take place regarding horse welfare.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle htemple@useventing.com

Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

Council - Intl Discipline	
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 05/26/2026	Draft 2: The Council suggest the following language change within the rule: “Must Eliminate any Horse that is lame, sick, exhausted, or unfit to compete; and any Athlete who is unfit to continue.”

Council - Member Services	
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 06/02/2026	Draft 2: The Council does recommend that the portion of the current rule (not covered by this PRC) referencing “any Athlete who is unfit to continue” be thoroughly reviewed by the Eventing Sport Committee and the Human and Equine Safety & Welfare Committee to ensure there is a process and mechanism for determining whether an athlete is unfit or unsafe to continue.

Eventing	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/24/2026	Draft 1: The Committee recommends aligning with the procedure for lame, sick, and exhausted horses for a more consistent application among all welfare related matters. The Committee recommends the following language: “Must Eliminate any Horse that is lame, sick, exhausted, or unfit to compete; and any Athlete who is unfit to continue. If a Horse's fitness to compete is questioned, the Ground Jury must consult with the Veterinarian prior to Elimination. See also EV112, EV105. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury for these circumstances”.

Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/23/2026	Draft 1: The committee feels that the elimination of horse and athlete due to physical conditions should be addressed in two separate sections in this rule, and not combined. Additionally, the word 'unfit' should be changed to 'unsafe'. Also, if it is unsafe for an Athlete to continue, it should be determined in consultation with the competition QMP, as horses are evaluated with the competition veterinarian.

Licensed Officials	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/13/2026	Draft 1: The Committee agrees with the concept and supporting officials. The Committee would approve if the language was amended as suggested by the Eventing Sport Committee.

Member Comments

EV156 Ground Jury Qualifications and Duties

2. DUTIES:

b. The Ground Jury:

1. Will Judge the Dressage phase. Additional Judges may be appointed by the Organizer, in accordance with EV157, but the Ground Jury is responsible for all decisions.
2. Will be responsible for all arrangements made by the Organizer for the judging and timekeeping of the Cross-Country phase. The Ground Jury or the Technical Delegate must be available to adjudicate on unforeseen circumstances, inquiries, and protests.
3. Will be responsible for evaluating inquiries and protests on the Cross-Country phase. The Ground Jury's decision will supersede decisions rendered by a Licensed Official or appointed personnel of the Event.
4. Will be responsible for judging the Show Jumping phase. This duty may be delegated to an additional Judge, Technical Delegate, or a panel of Licensed Officials appointed by the Organizer, in accordance with EV157.
5. Must Eliminate any Horse that is lame, sick, or exhausted; and any Athlete who is unfit to continue. **If a Horse's fitness to compete is questioned in any regards, the Ground Jury must consult with the Veterinarian prior to Elimination. the President of the Ground Jury in consultation with the Veterinarian and Technical Delegate will convene to determine the best options for the welfare of the Horse and education of the rider.** See also EV112, EV105. There is no appeal against a Ground Jury determination for these circumstances.
6. At Classic Three-Day Events, the Ground Jury and the veterinarian will form the committee for the first and third Horse Inspections.
7. At Classic Three-Day Events, the President of the Ground Jury will be based at the control center (or elsewhere as decided by the President of the Ground Jury) to adjudicate any unforeseen circumstances. Another Ground Jury member and the veterinarian will form the Horse Inspection committee for the Inspection during the 10 minute halt.
8. For mixed level sections (EV133.1d), the Dressage Judge must be licensed to officiate at the level of the test for which they are responsible.

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	1/29/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

Align Modified qualifications with all other classic series divisions. Now that the Modified Level is established across the country, the allowance for Training Level MERs should be removed. One or more MER at the Modified Level need to be obtained to qualify for a Modified Classic Series event.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEA	Hannah Seagle htemple@useventing.com

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions
Council - Intl Discipline
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/19/2026
Eventing
Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/24/2026

Member Comments

APPENDIX 2 – Participation in Horse Trials

3. LEVELS OF HORSE TRIALS AND EVENTS

3.4.1 MODIFIED CLASSIC THREE-DAY EVENT- Open to Athletes of any age, on Horses five years of age or older. Both the Athlete and the Horse as a combination must achieve one or more MERs at ~~Horse Trials at the Training level or higher or one at the Modified level or higher.~~ An Athlete established at the Preliminary level may compete on a Horse which has obtained two MERs at the ~~Training~~ **Modified** level or higher. Qualifying Events must be completed within a 24-month period prior to the start of the Classic Three-Day Event.