

## **CHAPTER 3 COMPETITION LICENSING**

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#### Preamble

The licensing authority, licensing decisions, and calendar management rest solely with the Federation. The Federation seeks to provide a competition environment that is in the best interest of the sport of Equestrian, provides sufficient opportunity for the development of equine and human athletes, and provides for viable competitions to meet the needs of the sport at all levels within a geographic area.

## CHAPTER 3 COMPETITION LICENSING

### SUBCHAPTER 3-A COMPETITION LICENSE APPLICATIONS

For Eventing FEI CCI4-L, CCI4-S, CCI3-L, or Advanced level competitions occurring on December 1, 2022 and thereafter, if there is a conflict between these rules and the USEF FEI Eventing Calendar Policies and Procedures, the latter shall prevail. It should be noted that nationally rated Eventing competitions hosted with a FEI Eventing competition are subject to the USEF FEI Eventing Calendar Policies and Procedures. Exception: Showcases or Arena Eventing.

#### GR301 Agreement

1. All applications for a Federation license are accepted with the explicit agreement of competition Licensee that all classes (rated or unrated) to be held on a Federation licensed date must be recognized by the Federation and are governed by all applicable Federation rules, and that no unrecognized classes will be held on any date for which Federation recognition is requested, except:
  - a. Horse Trials at Eventing competitions below the Modified Level.
  - b. Eventing Tests at all levels.
  - c. Draft Horses classes.
  - d. Miniature Horse classes.
  - e. Non-affiliated National Breed or discipline association classes.
  - f. Vaulting levels/classes below **3\* A Squad, 2\* B Squad, 1\* C Squad; 3\*, 2\* Young Vaulters/Gold, 2\* Silver, and 1\* Bronze Individual; and 3\* Open Pas de Deux, 2\* Pas de Deux, 1\* Pas de Deux.**
  - g. Academy classes.
  - h. Exhibitions for which there are no division rules.
  - i. "Outreach" classes designed by USHJA at Hunter/Jumper competitions and limited to a maximum of two competition rings (one hunter ring and one jumper ring) per day.
  - j. Federation licensed Paso Fino competitions.
2. The above named classes/levels are unrecognized and the prize list and/or Omnibus must clearly state that.
3. Exception: FEI rules take precedence as to international classes and events over Federation rules at all FEI Sanctioned competitions. Federation rules take precedence as to national classes and events which are not FEI Sanctioned at FEI Sanctioned competitions.
4. Competition Management is responsible for verifying eligibility of participants to compete and/or be on competitions grounds.

**BOD 06/17/2025 Effective 12/01/2025**

#### GR302 License Application

1. General Provisions.
  - a. License Duration. The duration of the license agreements will be one (1) year. All licensed competitions are subject to a Competition Evaluation.
  - b. Discretion to Approve or Deny Application. The approval of a new or renewal license application shall not be unreasonably withheld. However, the Federation may reject a new or renewal license application, if the Chief Executive Officer determines that the Licensee is unsuitable to host a Federation competition based on any of the following factors or any other factors that may be prejudicial to the best interest of the Federation or equestrian sport:
    1. Financial viability concerns;
    2. Safety matters;
    3. Failure to comply with any Federation rules;
    4. Breach of any Federation competition license agreement;
    5. Information that the Licensee has a relationship with a third-party to host the competition for a fee or remuneration to the Licensee, or otherwise transfers benefits and obligations under the Federation license agreement to another party for remuneration; or
    6. Licensee is not actively engaged in hosting the competition.

- c. Submission of Competition License Applications. Complete license applications must be accompanied by all appropriate fees. Applications should be sent to the Federation using a method that provides delivery confirmation. The Federation is not responsible for undelivered applications. Applications must be received by the date specified in the policies. Applications for competitions, which are not made in accordance with the preceding requirements, will not be considered. The Federation shall provide written acknowledgement to all license applicants within 14 working days of receiving a completed license application and the applicable fees. The Federation processes requests and applications in the order in which they were received.
- d. Holding of License Applications. License applications for competitions unable to be approved for any reason, excluding mileage conflicts and competitions that are awarded through a bid process, will be sent written notification by the Competitions Department and held for a period of 30 calendar days from the date of that notification to allow the competition in question to submit the information required, seek alternative dates, or make other license modifications. At the end of the 30-day period, if the application has not been completed or the 30-day period has not been extended by the Competitions Department following the submission of a written request, the application will be considered to have been withdrawn and the dues will be refunded less a withdrawal fee pursuant.
  - 1. Except as provided herein, there will be no holding of applications or dues, and applicants must reapply annually. Applications that seek approval for a license to conduct a competition on a date that has been open for more than the web posting period will be accepted at any time with respect to the deadlines outlined in GR302. All applications for dates that have been open for more than the open date web posting period will be considered in the order received.
- e. Competition Inspection. The Federation shall determine when a competition venue requires inspection(s). If the competition facility is not complete at the time of inspection, the Licensee must submit evidence that the facility will be complete by the competition start date to the satisfaction of the Federation. Any Federation required inspection(s) of a competition venue will be conducted at the applicant's expense.
- f. Requests for Additional Information. The Federation may, at its discretion, request additional information from an applicant, i.e. facility lease agreement, etc. Applicants are expected to supply all relevant information with their application. The license will define the obligations of both the Federation and the Licensee and are subject to nonrenewal or termination by either party.
- g. Competition Calendar. Existing licensed dates and locations are posted on the Federation website. Competitions listed on the FEI calendar remain subject to Federation approval and may be removed from the FEI calendar if approval is not granted. When a date that has been licensed becomes available (New Open Date), it will be posted on the Federation website for 30 calendar days. Reasons a date may become available include, but are not limited to:
  - 1. A renewal license application and/or payment not being received by the Federation in accordance with the application requirements;
  - 2. Non-renewal or denial of a license application;
  - 3. Licensee is not in "good standing" with the Federation, or any other issues that may be prejudicial to the best interest of the sport;
  - 4. A cancellation, withdrawal, or revocation of a license.
- h. License Modification. Any changes to the license agreement following its execution including location, dates, rating, level, or prize money, will require a license modification request and payment of a fee. Any modifications resulting in a conflict will result in the loss of Priority Date Holder status. Any modification not resulting in a conflict shall comply with the provisions set forth below in order to retain Priority Date Holder status. The Federation may or may not approve the requested changes. Exception: Eventing competitions offering intermediate level and below without mileage conflict requesting changes outlined in GR302.1h5 must follow the Eventing competition modification process outlined in GR302.2g
  - 1. Holding a competition on a date(s) other than that approved shall constitute a violation of the rules unless a request to change the date(s) is received by the Federation at least 30 calendar days prior to the competition and permission is duly given. Exception: Eventing competitions.
    - a. For Eventing competitions, requests for change of competition date(s) that add or drop a day from the competition license must be received at least 10 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition.
    - b. For eventing competitions, requests for change of competition date(s) where the competition is requesting to move off the licensed or comparable week, must be received at least 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition.

2. Holding a competition at a location other than that approved shall constitute a violation of the rules unless a request to change the location is received by the Federation's at least 60 calendar days prior to the competition date and permission is duly given. Exception: Eventing Competitions. For eventing competitions, requests for change of location must be received at least 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition.
3. Failure to obtain the permission of the Federation at least 30 calendar days prior to the competition to add a division, not offer an approved division, or change the rating of an approved division, constitutes a violation of the rules. Exception: Eventing competitions.
  - a. For Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below, requests to add a level above the highest level currently licensed, must be received at least 120 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition. Requests to cancel a level must be received at least 10 calendar days prior to the first day of competition.
4. A Licensee requesting a license modification involving a change of location that results in a mileage conflict may request to maintain Priority Date Holder status at the new location. Competitions that exist within the applicable mileage and those that have pending applications within the applicable mileage, will have the opportunity to submit written comments to the Federation prior to a determination. If a Licensee's request to maintain Priority Date Holder Status is denied, the Licensee may still request a mileage exemption.
5. For Eventing competitions, offering Intermediate level and below, any substantive change to the competition license (including request to add a level above the highest level currently licensed, change in location, change in comparable or licensed week) without mileage conflict shall follow the Eventing competition modification process outlined in GR302. The USEA American Eventing Championship is not subject to the modification process and is eligible for renewal at a new location and/or date.
  - i. Competitions that are not conducted in accordance with the terms of the license agreement will have breached the terms of the license agreement. Such breach may result in cancellation or nonrenewal of the license agreement, the Licensee may be ineligible for a license in the future, or other penalties under the provisions of GR707.
  - j. A Licensee may advertise a new or renewing competition prior to receiving a license provided that the advertising clearly and prominently states that the competition is pending Federation approval.
  - k. At least one of the Licensee's signatories who is authorized to legally bind the Licensee must be a Federation Senior Active Competing Member in good standing. See GR201.
  - l. For purposes of these rules, a Priority Date Holder is a Licensee whose competition is afforded mileage protection under these rules or a pending competition applicant against whom there would be a mileage conflict or mileage exemption request if the competition application is approved.
2. New Competitions Without Mileage Conflicts.
  - a. License applications for new competitions will be accepted beginning December 1 of each year for the subsequent competition year.
  - b. A competition year begins on December 1 of the prior calendar year.
  - c. Applicants should refer to the Federation competitions calendar for open dates.
  - d. Applications for a new competition license agreement must be made on the form provided by the Federation and received by the Federation at least 30 calendar days prior to the start date of the competition. If applications for a new competition license are received by the Federation between 60 and 30 days prior to the start date of the competition, it will be subject to applicable late fees. Exception: Eventing competitions, see GR302.4.
  - e. In the event that an applicant competition has a mileage conflict with an existing competition(s), the application will be denied and the applicant may seek a mileage exemption in accordance with GR315.
  - f. License applications for new competitions that the Federation disapproves for any reason, including mileage conflicts, will be sent written notification by the Federation.
3. Renewing Competitions.
  - a. License renewals, including the applicable fees, must be received within 60 calendar days of the last day of the licensed competition.
    1. License renewal applications received more than 60 calendar days after the last day of the applicable competition under an existing license will be considered as a new application consistent with GR302.
    2. The Federation shall notify a Licensee in writing as soon as possible, but no more than 90 days from receipt of a renewal request, if there are conflicts or other issues preventing renewal.

3. The Federation shall provide a license agreement to a Licensee as soon as possible, but not later than 90 days from receipt of a renewal request, if there are no conflicts or other issues preventing renewal.
- b. A competition seeking renewal with a change to location, comparable date(s), rating(s), level(s), prize money, or breed(s) and/or discipline(s) offered will, for purposes of these rules, be renewed in accordance with these rules and simultaneously reviewed as a modification in accordance with GR302.1.h. A competition seeking renewal and a modification that results in a mileage conflict will be denied and may undergo the mileage exemption process in accordance with GR315. A competition will be eligible for renewal on comparable dates at the same location as long as the following conditions are met:
  1. The renewal and applicable fee is submitted within 60 calendar days after the last day of the current year's competition;
  2. The competition has a satisfactory Competition Evaluation;
  3. The Licensee is in good standing and does not have any outstanding dues, fines or fees owed to the Federation;
  4. A renewal is subject in all respects to the mileage rule and all other applicable rules, policies, and procedures in existence at the time of renewal.
- c. Competition Evaluation
  1. To the extent appropriate, additional information on the applicable Competition Evaluation process and procedures will be referenced in the license agreement. It is the responsibility of the Licensee to comply with all applicable published or otherwise noticed requirements for licensed competitions.
  2. Federation Licensed Competitions will be subject to a Competition Evaluation. The Evaluation is utilized to assist the Federation in determining if renewal of a license and the continued use of Federation dates are in the best interest of the sport of equestrian.
  3. Competition Evaluations will be conducted in accordance with Federation competition evaluation processes and procedures in addition to Competition Evaluation Reports, reports from Federation assigned Stewards and Technical Delegates, and Recognized Affiliate evaluation reports.
- d. Date Rotation. For competitions beginning December 1, 2008 or later, the following provisions will be in effect:
  1. For the 2009 competition year and thereafter, comparable dates will be based on a competition's 2006 dates using the Memorial Day Date Rotation Axis. Under the Memorial Day Date Rotation Axis, all Federation competition dates rotate in conjunction with Memorial Day.
4. Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below without mileage conflict:
  1. Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below without mileage conflict must submit a competition application or a request for modification to an existing competition or license, to the Federation no later than 120 calendar days prior to the start of competition. Eventing competitions offering Intermediate level and below with mileage conflicts are bound by the application timelines outlined in GR315 Mileage Exemption.
  2. Within 30 calendar days of receiving a new Eventing competition application or request for modification, the Federation's Competitions Department will notify the USEA of the application or request.
  3. Within 30 calendar days of receiving the application(s) and/or request(s) for modification from the Federation, the USEA shall provide the Federation with its recommendations regarding endorsement or licensure for all provided applications/requests.
  4. Within 15 calendar days of receipt of written comments from the USEA, the Federation CEO, or their designee, will convene with the Competitions Department to review all materials submitted with the competition application, and to provide a decision on the application.
  5. Within 7 calendar days of the decision, the Federation's Competitions Department will issue a decision letter to the applicant.

### **GR303 Competition Fees, Account Review, and Insurance**

1. Competition Fees. Competition fees will be posted to the Federation website and noted on applicable competition forms. Any changes to competition fees will be posted on the Federation website and will apply to the next competition year.

2. No competition dates will be licensed for a Licensee that has outstanding past due fees, fines, or other obligations of 60 days or more owing to the Federation with respect to any past licensed competitions.
3. Any Licensee who fails to pay sums owed to the Federation, or who makes payment for fees to the Federation which is not negotiable, will be notified by the Federation of its indebtedness and subject to the applicable policies of the Federation. The Federation will provide Licensees with online access to review their entire competition accounts.
  - a. If any Licensee affected by GR303.3 disputes that the amounts in question are owed or unpaid, the Licensee may request to have a procedural review by the Co-Chairs of the Hearing Committee or their designees, provided their written statement specifying the grounds for such review is received at the Federation's office, along with a fee, in accordance with the applicable policies. The fee will be refunded if the dispute is settled in favor of the Licensee.
  - b. In the event a Licensee makes non-negotiable payment for fees to the Federation on three or more occasions, said Licensee is subject to further disciplinary action.
4. A Licensee may request an account review from the Federation. The request must be submitted in writing and a fee for each competition and each requested account review year will be charged. An account review is an investigation into a Licensee's financial dealings with the Federation. If material staff error is discovered, the fee will be refunded.
5. Competition Licensees must provide the Federation with a valid certificate of insurance, which names the United States Equestrian Federation, Inc. as an additional insured for each day of the competition, including set-up and take-down days, with at least \$1,000,000.00 coverage for third party general liability and \$50,000.00 coverage for equipment and property. Such certificate of insurance must be received by the Federation at least 15 days prior to the first day of the competition.

Noncompliance with this rule will result in a fine and/or termination of the competition license agreement and cancellation of the competition pursuant to GR304, in accordance with the following:

- (a) Fine. A competition Licensee will be issued a fine when a certificate of insurance is not received at least 15 days prior to the start of the competition, or a deficiency is not cured at least 10 days prior to the first day of the competition.
  - (b) Termination of the license agreement and cancellation of the competition pursuant to GR304 will occur when a certificate of insurance is not received by the Federation at least 10 days prior to the start of the competition, or deficiencies are not cured at least 10 days prior to the start of the competition. If this occurs, but the competition still goes forward, then the Competition Licensee must notify all competition participants, in writing, that the competition is not a Federation licensed competitions.
6. Any competition that states in the prize list that the competition is licensed before the competition has been granted licensing by the Federation may be subject to a penalty.

## **GR304 Competition Sale and Issuance of a New License**

1. A Federation competition license agreement is the Federation document giving a Licensee permission to conduct a Federation event on a given date, at a given venue, and at a given rating and/or level.
2. Competition Sale. A Licensee does not own the date on the Federation competition calendar. A Federation competition license agreement is not a commodity. As such, neither a Federation competition license agreement nor placement on the Federation competition calendar can be conveyed in a sale of a competition. A new Federation competition license agreement must be obtained by the purchaser in order to maintain a date on the Federation competition calendar.
3. Issuance of a New Competition License. The granting of a new license to a Purchaser of a competition, will be determined in the Federation's sole discretion and is subject to any conditions deemed warranted by the Federation. The Purchaser will retain the applicable Priority Date Holder protections of the existing Licensee, as approved by the Federation.
4. The Seller Licensee shall remain financially responsible until the following conditions are met:
  - a. Payment of the applicable fees;
  - b. The Federation issues written approval of the issuance of a new competition license; and
  - c. Seller has met all other financial obligations to the Federation.

5. The Purchaser Licensee will have the right to apply for renewal of comparable dates upon issuance of a new competition license.

### **GR305 Cancellation of Competitions or Classes**

1. A Licensee may cancel an existing licensed competition by notifying the Federation of the cancellation and not less than 300 calendar days prior to next competition date under the license without penalty.
  - a. If a Cancellation is received more than 90 calendar days but less than 300 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition date under the license, 75% of competition dues will be refunded, subject to a minimum processing fee.
  - b. If written notice of a cancellation is received less than 90 calendar days prior to the first day of the competition, the Licensee will forfeit the application fee and will also be assessed a processing fee equal to that of the minimum competition dues, unless the cancellation is due to an Act of God under GR305.4.
2. If a licensed competition is cancelled for two consecutive years for a reason other than an act of God, or due to extenuating circumstances approved by the CEO or their Designee, or Inactive for one year and cancelled the following year, the applicable license will not be eligible for renewal or application for a new license by the same Licensee or any entity associated with the same Licensee for a period of two years. If the Licensee is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity.
3. Cancellation of 50% or more of Open Dressage classes as listed in the prize list by any Recognized competition for two consecutive years for any reason other than Acts of God shall constitute relinquishment of comparable dates and loss of priority date status.
4. Competitions declaring cancellation due to an Act of God must provide written documentation, such as newspaper articles or photographs of the extenuating circumstances. Absent severe and unusual circumstances, such as hurricane winds, floods, tornadoes, or blizzards, weather conditions shall not be considered Acts of God. The CEO or their designee shall decide whether a cancellation is due to an Act of God. Any Licensee that cancels three or more competitions in a competition year shall not have priority for comparable dates for the cancelled competitions for the following competition year. However, this provision shall not be applicable to a competition cancelled due to an Act of God, loss of a facility, or due to extenuating circumstances, based upon a review by the CEO or their designee.

### **GR306 Inactive Competitions**

1. Any previously licensed competition held the year prior that notifies the Federation prior to obtaining its renewal and at least 120 days prior to its competition date that it will not hold a competition that year, may retain Inactive status for a fee in addition to the application and/or competition fees. In such cases, the renewal license application will be subject to the current fees.
2. An Inactive competition will be listed as "Inactive" on the Federation website and other Federation competition lists, and will retain its date priority for the following year, provided it meets the applicable date and competition requirements of the Federation.
3. If an Inactive competition cancels the following year, that cancellation will constitute a second cancellation in a row per GR305, and the applicable license will be revoked and not eligible for renewal or application for a new license by the same Licensee or any entity associated with the same Licensee for a period of two years. If the Licensee is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity. This provision shall not be applicable to a competition cancelled due to an Act of God or due to extenuating circumstances approved by the CEO or their designee.

## **SUBCHAPTER 3-B COMPETITION CLASSIFICATION**

### **GR307 Classification**

1. Competitions are classified as Regular, Local, or Special.
2. Competitions may be licensed for any individual breed or discipline or combination thereof for which division rules exist in this Rulebook. Ratings and levels as defined by the division chapter will apply.

3. Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation classes must be held at a competition that holds at a minimum, a Regional Hunter Rating. Competitions choosing to offer only Hunter and/or Jumping Seat Equitation classes must obtain a Regional Hunter license, and the Regional mileage will apply (see GR314 Mileage).
4. Federation Endorsed competitions, Divisions, or Levels or those events receiving approval pursuant to the Federation Bylaws.
  - a. Eventing competitions may be eligible for either licensure or endorsed designation. The Federation may endorse Eventing competitions at the Training Level and below. The Federation may license Eventing competitions at the Modified Level and above. An Eventing licensed competition and an Eventing Endorsed competition may run concurrently.
5. Heritage Designations
  - a. Heritage designations are reserved for those competitions within the sport of equestrian that have been established for a long period of time and that exemplify the best characteristics of equestrian sport, uphold high standards at their designated rating or level, demonstrate sustainability and value within the community, and continue to contribute toward the development and promotion of the sport of equestrian, both within the sport and as well as within the broader community, by achieving, maintaining, and promoting the equestrian ideals of sportsmanship and competition.
  - b. Approval for all Heritage Designations requires:
    1. Documented recommendation by the Federation Recognized Affiliate Association primarily represented by the competition;
    2. Approval by the Federation CEO;
    3. Heritage Designation will be granted for a period of five years. In order to maintain the designation, each competition must successfully undergo a review process every five years thereafter.
  - c. Heritage designation may be removed by a two-thirds vote of the Federation Board of Directors if the competition no longer fulfills the requirements when applying for redesignation.
  - d. Eligibility for Heritage Designation requires:
    1. Minimum of 25 consecutive years of operation with a Federation license excluding any Act of God and a clean compliance record with no major compliance issues;
    2. Invitation from the representing affiliate to the license holder to apply for Heritage status;
    3. The competition must be in good standing with both the Federation and the representing affiliate;
    4. Significant contribution to and support from the community where the competition is held. The application should include evidence of a mutually supportive relationship by documenting how the community is benefitted, and how the community supports the competition. A symbiotic relationship is to be demonstrated through submission of letters from community leaders displaying community support, and feedback collected from competitors that have attended the competition in the past.
    5. Significant contribution to the ideals of equestrian sport such as sportsmanship, horsemanship, and uniting the equine community;
    6. Recognition by the equestrian community as a competition that exemplifies the best characteristics of sport at its designated rating or level, upholds high standards, and demonstrates sustainability with high quality and unique character.
  - e. Heritage competitions are permitted and encouraged to advertise their status as Heritage competitions. The Federation will support Heritage competitions through promotional and marketing materials.

## **GR308 National Championships**

The Federation shall have the exclusive right to designate national championships in the disciplines for which the Federation is designated as the National Governing Body by the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee and in the disciplines for which the Federation is designated as the National Federation by the Federation Equestre Internationale (Dressage, Driving, Endurance, Show Jumping, Three-Day Eventing, Para-Equestrian and Vaulting). The allocation of national championships in the foregoing disciplines, including issuance of date approvals, licensing of officials, approval of name and all copyright, trademark, trade name, television, video and other broadcast rights and all sponsorship matters shall be solely reserved to the CEO acting upon the advice and recommendation of the relevant Council. All persons or organizations, including affiliate organizations, organizing committees and/or competitions managements, wishing to receive Federation approval to hold a national championship in the foregoing divisions must apply to the Federation in writing on appropriate form(s) provided by the Federation and received by the Federation by the applicable deadline. The CEO shall be entitled

to condition the Federation's designation and granting of approval for a national championship in any manner that they deem appropriate in their discretion.

## **GR309 Special Competitions**

For the purposes of this rule, the term "Special" relates to the type of competition license and is not associated with the merits or quality of the competition.

1. The Federation Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may approve or deny an application for Special competition status in accordance with Federation rules, policy and procedure. If approved, a Special competition will be added to the USEF competition Calendar without regard for existing mileage rules and conflicts and will receive no mileage protection from new or existing competitions. A Special competition may be held as a stand-alone event or in conjunction with an existing Federation Licensed Competition. A Special competition may not fully meet the requirements to obtain a Federation competition license.
2. Special Competitions are categorized in the following manner and shall be reviewed in accordance with Section 4.
  - a. Category I – FEI-named competitions and FEI Championships which are part of a competitive bid process, including but not limited to Olympic Games or Trials; Pan Am Games or Trials; World Equestrian Games or Trials; World Cup Finals or Qualifiers; Nations Cup Finals or Qualifiers; and Nations Cup CIOs. These competitions may or may not include additional FEI-only classes; or
  - b. Category II - Federation National Finals, Federation National Championships and Federation Mandatory Outings, which do not fully meet the requirements to obtain a Federation competition license; or
  - c. Category III - Federation Recognized Affiliate Organization Championships or Finals which do not fully meet the requirements to obtain a Federation competition license; or
  - d. Category IV - A competition for which Federation breed or discipline rules do not exist that an applicant wishes to have approved by the Federation and which the Board of Directors, in their sole discretion, deems to be in the best interest of the sport.
3. Application Process.
  - a. An application for consideration of a Special competition must be submitted to the Federation a minimum of 180 days in advance of the start date of the proposed competition. Generally, an application should not be submitted more than 365 days prior to the start date of the proposed competition. However, unusual circumstances may require an earlier submission. Such circumstances must be included on the application and will be considered in the review process.
  - b. An application for a Special competition will not be considered complete and will not be processed until all applicable fees have been paid, except when the application is part of a competitive application or bid process (e.g. FEI World Cup Qualifiers, certain USEF National Championships, etc.). When an application is part of a competitive application or bid process, the fee will not be required until a determination is made regarding the awarding of the competition.
  - c. An application for a Special competition must include the following:
    1. All classes, sections, demonstrations, and exhibitions to be held during the proposed competition dates, including all prize money, bonus money, or other awards;
    2. The basis for competition's inability to meet Federation rules regarding competition licensing; and
    3. The basis for competition's inability to meet Federation rules regarding specific breed/discipline rules.
  - d. The inability to meet Federation rules under section (ii) or (iii) above shall not result from a need to obtain an exception to existing Federation rules, or program requirements, or from circumstances within the applicant's control. However, the Federation recognizes that situations may arise whereby an applicant cannot meet Federation rules due to the actions of the FEI or the Federation and such actions may qualify as permissible explanation.
  - e. Special competitions are not intended as a means of circumventing the Federation's licensing rules in GR Chapter 3. If an application for a Special competition includes an FEI competition not identified in Section 2(a) above, a national competition, or a combination of both which creates a mileage conflict, that portion of the application will be required to utilize the Mileage Exemption process for approval. In the event of a need for a mileage exemption, the Federation may alter the timelines set forth in GR315.
  - f. For licensing purposes, all jumper prize money from FEI and national competitions will be combined and counted in determining a competition's Jumper Level.

- g. If a Special competition is combined with an existing priority date holder competition, the priority date holder competition will retain priority status at its original rating and/or level.
- 4. Application Review Process.
 

Depending on the category of a Special competition, the application may be reviewed by one or more entities of the Federation and its Recognized Affiliates before being submitted to the Federation Board of Directors, Executive Committee, or Federation CEO for their consideration and final decision. The Board of Directors reserves the right to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review applications and render a final decision.

  - a. Applications for a Category I competition shall be reviewed by the applicable Federation Councils and approved by the Federation CEO.
  - b. Applications for a Category II or III competition shall be reviewed by the applicable Federation Committees and Councils and approved by the Federation CEO.
  - c. Applications for a Category IV competition shall be reviewed by the applicable Federation Recognized Affiliates, Committees and Councils and approved by the Federation Executive Committee or Board of Directors.
- 5. Modifications or Amendments to an Approved Special competition.
 

Modifications or amendments to an approved Special competition are not permitted unless approved by the Federation in writing. A modification to an approved Special competition must be approved in writing by the Federation after review by the CEO or their designee, following consultation with the Director of Competition Services or their designee and the Director of Sport or their designee(s) for the applicable breed or discipline. Modifications to an approved Special competition must be received by the Federation at least 30 days prior to the start of competition.

## GR310 Restrictions on Local Competitions

- 1. Unless otherwise approved by the Federation no later than 60 days prior to the start of the competition, the total cash prizes shall not exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00), except 100% sweepstakes, and Reining competitions; not including value of trophies offered. Western Division competitions may retain Local competition status regardless of the amount of prize money offered. For Hunter and/or Jumper Lite competitions, the value of any in-kind gifts and awards shall count toward the total amount of prize money offered and unless otherwise approved by the Federation no later than 60 days prior to the start of the competition, cannot exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) total for the competition.
- 2. The designation Local competition must be stated on the cover of the prize list.
- 3. **The Federation and applicable Federation Recognized Affiliate Association non-member/ShowPass fees will not apply. Exception: Any individual signing and/or acting as a Trainer or Coach must be a Senior Active Member of the Federation in good standing. See GR202.**
- 4. The applicable Federation Recognized Affiliate Association non-member fee will not apply. The following Federation membership and USEF Safe Sport requirements apply at Local competitions:
  - a. Any individual acting as a Trainer or Coach or signing an entry blank as Trainer or Coach, must be an Active Competing Member of the Federation and must have completed the SafeSport Training prior to the first day of competition.
- 5. Local competitions benefit from all the general rules of the Federation and must abide by applicable division rules unless class specifications are printed otherwise in the prize list.
- 6. Hunter Division competitions or competitions restricted to Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation must obtain a Regular competition license or a Lite competition license. Competitions offering any Hunter/Jumping Seat Equitation Medal classes with a National Year-End Final are not eligible for Lite competition status and must obtain a Regular competition license.
- 7. Lite. Beginning December 1, 2022, Lite competitions are a subtype of the Local competition license Category and are to be conducted in accordance with the General Rules Chapters and applicable breed/discipline Chapter, except as stated otherwise below (Exception: Open Dressage classes are not permitted to be held at Lite competitions):
  - 2. License requirements
    - a. Eligibility Requirements. The following competitions are eligible to be licensed as Lite:
      - 1. A first-time competition;
      - 2. A competition that has only ever been run as a Lite competition in the past

- three (3) years;
- 3. A competition that has not been Federation licensed in the past three (3) years; or
- 4. A competition that meets the criteria listed on the Federation website.
- 5. A competition that does not meet the above criteria may submit a request to be licensed as Lite. The licensing request will be reviewed and a decision will be rendered in the Federation's Chief Executive Officer's sole discretion.
- b. Licensing Requirements.
  - 1. License applications and a copy of the prize list must be submitted thirty (30) days prior to the first day of competition.
  - 2. Competitions may operate under a Lite license for no more than three (3) consecutive years. Exception: competitions that meet the criteria listed on the Federation website.
  - 3. The Licensees of (i) Lite licensed competitions that have operated for three (3) consecutive years or (ii) competitions that have operated under a regular competition license in any of the previous three (3) year(s) are prohibited from submitting a new application for comparable dates in an attempt to downgrade to a Lite license by the same Licensee or any entity associated with the Licensee for a period of two (2) years. Exception: competitions that meet the criteria listed on the Federation website. If the Licensee is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity.
- 3. **SafeSport Requirements**
  - a. Any individual signing **and/or acting as a** Trainer or Coach, must have completed the **SafeSport Training** prior to the first day of competition.
  - b. **The** Competition Manager(s), Secretary, and any **other** person acting in the role of a licensed official are bound by all requirements of the USEF SafeSport Policy, **including SafeSport Training**.
- 4. Steward and Technical Delegate requirements
  - a. Competitions must have at least one Steward or Technical Delegate who meets the following criteria:
    - 1. Enrolled in and pursuing a Federation Steward or Technical Delegate license and have completed the Designated Applicant Training; or
    - 2. Licensed Federation Steward or Technical Delegate.
- 5. (National HOTY) Points
  - a. For HOTY Points Associated with the Horse. Lite competitions will award half-value points to all USEF Recorded horses, whose owner is a Federation Active Competing Member and meets any applicable breed/discipline required memberships. Exception: No Federation National or USHJA Zone HOTY points will be awarded at Hunter and/or Jumper Lite competitions.
  - b. For HOTY Points Associated with the Rider. Lite competitions will award half-value points to all riders who are Federation Active Competing Members and meet any applicable breed/discipline required memberships. Exception: No Federation National or USHJA Zone HOTY points will be awarded at Hunter and/or Jumper Lite competitions.
- 6. Prize List requirements
  - a. A Prize List is required to be submitted to the Federation for review thirty (30) days prior to the start of the competition.
  - b. Prize Lists are required to include all statements listed under GR901
    - 1. Exceptions: GR901.9 and 901.12

**BOD 06/17/2025 Effective 12/01/2025**

## **GR311 Awards Rating Classifications**

1. For the purpose of equalizing competitions for the National HOTY Awards, divisions and sections of Regular competitions fall into one of three classifications: Premier, National or Regional Hunter.

2. In the Hunter division, points for ribbons won in any rated section will be awarded in two awards channels using the applicable point chart. Channel I includes Premier and National rated hunter competitions and Channel II includes Regional rated hunter competitions. Points earned in a channel are exclusive to that award channel.
  - a. In the Green Hunter 3'0", 3'3", 3'6" and 3'9", Young Hunter 5 and under, Young Hunter 6 and under, Young Hunter 7 and under, High Performance Hunter, Performance Hunter 3'3" and 3'6", Green Conformation Hunter 3'6" and High Performance Conformation Hunter, standings for the National HOTY Awards based on money won will be determined by dollars won in the horses respective sections. See GR1132.

## **GR312 Determining Ratings**

1. A division or section rating or classification is determined from the number of classes, amount of cash premiums offered in these classes and the holding of required classes in certain divisions. A competition may not offer the minimum requirements for a rating higher than the rating approved by the Federation. Exception: Hunter competitions. See Ratings Charts.
2. A competition may qualify for several different ratings. Some competitions will earn an "A" or "B" rating in all divisions and sections; others may earn a combination of ratings. Exception: Hunter competitions will qualify for one rating, Regional, National or Premier. If more than the minimum number of classes is offered, prize money should be increased proportionately.
3. The Paso Fino Division is rated "C" regardless of the number of classes or amount of prize money offered. A competition may apply for an "A" rating if offering a minimum of \$2,000 and prior year competition had more than 250 horses. The PFHA National show shall be an "A" rated Federation licensed competition as per PF155.1i. Exception: the Paso Fino Division may be offered at Local competitions.
4. In Stake classes in "A" and "B" divisions or sections or at Premier and National hunter competitions, competitions must guarantee amount offered as prize money except where the monies offered in other classes are sufficient to meet the HOTY Award minimum requirements. In such cases, Stake classes may run as sweepstakes.
5. The Connemara and Half-bred Connemara is "C" rated, regardless of the number of classes or amount of prize money offered. Exception: the Connemara and Half-bred Connemara Division may be offered at Local competitions.
6. Rated Hunter Section & Classes

HUNTER SECTION RATINGS AND CLASSES	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min-Max Required Classes	Premier/National ("AA"/"A") Min Money	Regional ("B") Multi-Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") One Day Comp Min/Max Required Classes	Regional ("B") Min
Open Hunter Sections					
Green Conformation Hunter	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
High Performance Conformation Hunter	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
High Performance Hunter	3-5	750	3-5***	3-4***	0
Performance Hunter 3'3"	3-5	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Performance Hunter 3'6"	3-5	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Hunter Sections					
Green Hunter 3'0"	4-6	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Hunter 3'3"	4-6	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Hunter 3'6"	4-6	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Hunter 3'9"	4-6	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Young Hunter Sections					
Young Hunter 5 and under	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Young Hunter 6 and under	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Young Hunter 7 and under	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Amateur Owner Hunter Sections					
Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" 18-35	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Amateur Owner Hunter 3'6" 36 & over	4-6*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 18-35	4-5	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Amateur Owner Hunter 3'3" 36 & over	4-5	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Junior Hunter Sections					
Small Junior Hunter 3'6" 15 & under	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Small Junior Hunter 3'6" 16-17	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0

Large Junior Hunter 3'6" 15 & under	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Large Junior Hunter 3'6" 16-17	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Small Junior Hunter 3'3" 15 & under	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Small Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Large Junior Hunter 3'3" 15 & under	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Large Junior Hunter 3'3" 16-17	4-5*	500	3-5***	3-4***	0
Hunter & Green Hunter Pony Section					
Small Pony Hunter	4-5*	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Medium Pony Hunter	4-5*	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Large Pony Hunter	4-5*	400	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Small Pony Hunter	4-5*	250	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Medium Pony Hunter	4-5*	250	3-5***	3-4***	0
Green Large Pony Hunter	4-5*	250	3-5***	3-4***	0
Children's Hunter Sections+					
Children's Hunter Younger	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Children's Hunter Older	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Children's Hunter Pony Small/Medium	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Children's Hunter Pony Large	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Low Children's Hunter Horse	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Low Children's Hunter Pony	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Adult Amateur Hunter Sections+					
Adult Amateur Hunter Younger	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Adult Amateur Hunter Middle	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Adult Amateur Hunter Older	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Low Adult Amateur Hunter	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Ladies Side Saddle Hunter Breeding	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
Small Hunter	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0

Thoroughbred Hunter	4-6/3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
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USHJA Hunter Sections

USHJA Hunter 2'0"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
USHJA Hunter 2'3"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
USHJA Hunter 2'6"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
USHJA Hunter 2'9"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0
USHJA Hunter 3'0"	3-5	0	3-5***	3-4***	0

Other Rated Classes

USHJA International  
Hunter Derby

USHJA International  
Hunter Derby Welcome

USHJA National  
Hunter Derby

USHJA Green Hunter  
Incentive

USHJA Green Hunter  
Challenge

USHJA Pony Hunter  
Derby

Hunter Classics

(+ Denotes sections which may have USHJA Zone Specifications that govern number of classes and prize money)

(\*See HU163.3, HU117 regarding Model Classes, and other class requirements).

See HU154.2 for requirements regarding minimum number of classes to award a championship.

\*\*\*No more than two (2) one-day Regional competitions or one (1) multi-day Regional competition may be held by the same Licensee or any entity associated with the same Licensee during any calendar week (Monday through Sunday). If the Licensee is a business entity, this provision includes all persons listed as principals of the business entity. (See HJ112 and HJ113).

7. All classes offered in a licensed Open Western Division shall be conducted in accordance with GR818, unless the competition has applied for and received a rating. (See ratings chart GR312.)
8. Any breed-restricted division, or combination of breed-restricted divisions, may be offered at Local Regular competitions, in accordance with GR310.
9. IMPORTANT: See Chapter HU and HJ. There are special conditions and requirements for determining the ratings of Hunter sections. Management's attention is directed to these conditions in particular, HU131 and HJ109 – HJ114.

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Section. If a section is divided in any way (by age: Jr and Adult or divided by section: A/B, C/D, Half/Part) each split section must meet the minimum requirements for prize money and number of classes.	"A" Rating Requirements	
	minimum number classes	minimum prize money
Welsh		
Welsh English Pleasure Sec. A & B, 12.2 & Under (junior to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh English Pleasure Sec B, over 12.2 & up to 14.2 (junior to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh English Pleasure Sec C & D (junior/adult to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh English Pleasure Sec A & B (adult to ride)	3	\$50
Half/Part-Bred Welsh English Pleasure (junior/ adult to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh Pleasure Driving Sec A & B (junior/adult to drive)	3	\$50
Welsh Hunter Sec A & B (junior to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh Hunter Sec C & D (junior/adult to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh Hunter Sec A & B (adult to ride)	3	\$50
Half/Part-Bred Welsh Hunter (junior/adult to ride)	3	\$50
Welsh Western Pleasure Sections A, B, C, D and Half/Part-Bred Welsh (junior/ adult to ride)	3	\$50

Section. If a section is divided in any way (by age: Jr and Adult or divided by section: A/B, C/D, Half/Part) each split section must meet the minimum requirements for prize money and number of classes.	"A" Rating Requirements	
	minimum number classes	minimum prize money
Western **		
Reining	2	\$100
Trail	2	\$100
Pleasure	2	\$100

Any class or section not meeting the requirements shown in this chart will be rated "C."

\*Western Division competitions may retain Local competition status regardless of the amount of prize money offered.

**BOD 06/17/2025 Effective 12/01/2025**

### GR313 Special Conditions

1. Monies offered to classes restricted to established futurity/maturity programs, local restricted jackpots, sweepstakes, or other breed specific programs offered by a recognized breed affiliate or by the National Reining Horse Association will not be included in tabulation of competition dues or in determining division ratings.
2. The following classes do not count toward the minimum number of classes nor toward the minimum prize money required for any division or section rating; these following classes do not count toward HOTY awards unless included in the specific division award rules:

- a. Breeding;
- b. Classes restricted as to area;
- c. Classes, such as Maiden, Novice, Limit and other such rider restricted classes, which restrict the number of ribbons won by any rider, handler or driver, e.g., except for Select, Choice, and Elite classes in the Arabian Division.
- d. Owners, except in Amateur Owner sections and Paso Fino Division;
- e. Classes that do not count toward a Hunter or Jumper Championship;
- f. Bareback, Grooms, Consolation, Races, Parades, Command, Cutting classes, and except in the Paso Fino Divisions, Costume classes, Calcutta classes;
- g. Exhibitions;
- h. Classes restricted to one breed (except in one breed divisions), type or color;
- i. Classes restricted to horse or rider (e.g. age or sex, unless complementary classes are offered for other entries). Ladies classes will count toward the rating requirement even if complementary classes for Gentlemen are not offered;
- j. Any class in which the judging specifications are not in accordance with the Federation;
- k. Opportunity classes;
- l. Academy classes;
- m. Classes held as part of a USHJA Outreach competition.

## **SUBCHAPTER 3-C COMPETITION MILEAGE**

### **GR314 Mileage**

1. Determining Applicable Mileage.
  - a. Mileage is applied Division by Division as defined in the Federation Rulebook.
  - b. To determine a mile radius, the distance shall be measured using mapping software to measure the distance between the locations where the competitions are being conducted (i.e. address of the facility where each of the competitions will be held or the longitude and latitude if an exact address does not exist), except between Long Island and the mainland. Application of this process will not adversely affect the license rights of competitions already licensed.
  - c. In any instance where the shortest road mileage distance between the competition facility locations is greater than one and one half (1 1/2) times the radial mileage between the competition facility locations, the required mileage distances between competitions shall be based upon the road mileage distance rather than radial mileage.
  - d. Mileage between competitions within Zones or Regions utilizing different mileage will be subjected to the lower of the mileage requirements.
  - e. Long Island, N.Y. The distances between competitions held on Long Island, NY, and competitions held on the mainland shall be determined by measuring a straight line distance from the point at which Interstate Highway 278 (across the Triborough Bridge) intersects the shore of Long Island, to the location where the Long Island competition is being conducted (i.e. address of the facility where each of the competitions will be held or the longitude and latitude if an exact address does not exist) and by measuring the mile radius from the bridge to the location where the other competition is being conducted (i.e. address of the facility where each of the competitions will be held or the longitude and latitude if an exact address does not exist). The application of this process will not adversely affect the license rights of competitions already licensed.
  - f. If the mileage between competitions is less than the applicable distance specified by this rule, conflicting dates may be approved by the Federation in accordance with GR315 and providing all other requirements for recognition are met.
  - g. The foregoing distance rules do not apply to events comprised exclusively of classes recognized by the FEI and the USOPC (example: Olympic Trials or Olympic Games). The National Championships for Dressage and Dressage competitions offering Federation qualifying or selection trials, or observation classes and National classes held in conjunction with a CDI are exempted from the mileage rule. When a CDI is approved on one or more days where another competition has date priority, national classes can only be held on the day of the FEI Jog and on days where at least one CDI class is held or is not held due to no entries. When CDI classes are not held on all approved CDI dates (except due to no entries) the competition might not be granted approval for those dates in subsequent years. Certain competitions held

in conjunction with events also holding FEI competitions and/or selection trials for international competitions, at the discretion of the Board of Directors, may be exempted from the mileage rule.

2. Mileage Boundaries. Mileage consideration may be applicable to more than one mileage provision.
  - a. The below divisions will be conducted under the following mileage:
    1. Andalusian/Lusitano: 250 miles;
    2. Arabian: 250 miles;
    3. Friesian: 250 miles;
    4. Hackney: 100 miles;
    5. Morgan: 100 miles;
    6. National Show Horse: 50 miles;
    7. Roadster: 100 miles;
    8. Shetland: 100 miles;
    9. American Saddlebred: 100 miles;
    10. Local Regular: Any breed competition restricted to one breed or multi-breed competition including any of the above listed breeds (1-9), regardless of number of classes offered: 50 miles;
    11. Western Dressage: 100 miles.
  - b. Mileage Boundaries for Hunter and/or Jumper Sections.
    1. Hunter and/or Jumper competitions are categorized by Rating and/or Level. Additional criteria required for each Rating and/or Level in the Hunter and Jumper Mileage Charts can be found on the Federation website at [www.usef.org](http://www.usef.org) under competitions.
    2. Jumper Levels are based on the prize money offered. See JP104.
    3. Hunter mileage shall be independent of the Jumper mileage and applied separately to each division of a competition
    4. The distances between licensed competitions held in USHJA Zones 1 & 2 (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NJ, NY, and PA) offering hunter or jumper divisions shall be in accordance with the mileage tables (H1 & J1) shown below effective 12-01-22.

Hunter Mileage Chart – H1 USHJA Zones 1&2				
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division			
		Premier (“AA”)	National (“A”)	Regional (“B”)
	Premier (“AA”)	125	125	0
	National (“A”)	125	125	0
	Regional (“B”)	0	0	50

Jumper Mileage Chart – J1 USHJA 1 & 2						
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division					
		Level 5 & 6	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
	Level 5 & 6	125	125	90	0	0
	Level 4	125	125	90	0	0
	Level 3	90	90	75	0	0
	Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
	Level 1	0	0	0	0	0

Effective 12/01/2026

For competition licensing purposes, beginning 12/01/2026, the distances between Licensed Competitions held in USHJA Zones 1 & 2 (ME, NH, VT, MA, CT, RI, NJ, NY, and PA) offering hunter or jumper divisions shall be in accordance with the mileage tables (H1 & J1) shown below.

Competitions approved in the 2026 competition year with comparable dates in 2027 will be grandfathered at their current dates, locations, ratings and levels, and will not be subject to the mileage below.

Hunter Mileage Chart – H1 USHJA Zones 1&2				
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division			
		Premier (“AA”)	National (“A”)	Regional (“B”)
	Premier (“AA”)	125	125	50
	National (“A”)	125	125	50
	Regional (“B”)	50	50	50

Jumper Mileage Chart – J1 USHJA 1 & 2						
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division					
		Level 5 & 6	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
	Level 5 & 6	125	125	90	0	0
	Level 4	125	125	90	0	0
	Level 3	90	90	75	0	0
	Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
	Level 1	0	0	0	0	0

- The distances between licensed competitions held in USHJA Zones 3 thru 10 and Canada [with the exception of Florida in the first trimester - December through March – see GR314.5] offering hunter or jumper divisions shall be in accordance with the mileage tables (H2 & J2) shown below effective 12-01-22.

Hunter Mileage Chart – H2 USHJA Zones 3 thru 12 and Canada (excluding FL in 1st trimester)				
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division			
		Premier (“AA”)	National (“A”)	Regional (“B”)
	Premier (“AA”)	250	250	0
	National (“A”)	250	250	0
Regional (“B”)	0	0	50	

Jumper Mileage Chart – J2 USHJA Zones 3 thru 12 and Canada (excluding FL in 1st trimester)						
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division					
		Level 5 & 6	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
	Level 5 & 6	250	250	100	0	0
	Level 4	250	250	100	0	0
	Level 3	200	200	100	0	0

	Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
	Level 1	0	0	0	0	0

**Effective 12/01/2026**

**For competition licensing purposes, beginning 12-01-2026, the distances between licensed competitions held in USHJA Zones 3 thru 10 and Canada [with the exception of Florida in the first trimester - December through March – see GR314.5] offering hunter or jumper divisions shall be in accordance with the mileage tables (H2 & J2) shown below.**

**Competitions approved in the 2026 competition year with comparable dates in 2027 will be grandfathered at their current dates, locations, ratings and levels, and will not be subject to the mileage below.**

Hunter Mileage Chart – H2 USHJA Zones 3 thru 12 and Canada (excluding FL in 1st trimester)				
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division			
		Premier (“AA”)	National (“A”)	Regional (“B”)
	Premier (“AA”)	250	250	100
	National (“A”)	250	250	100
	Regional (“B”)	100	100	50

Jumper Mileage Chart – J2 USHJA Zones 3 thru 12 and Canada (excluding FL in 1st trimester)						
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division					
		Level 5 & 6	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
	Level 5 & 6	250	250	100	0	0
	Level 4	250	250	100	0	0
	Level 3	200	200	100	0	0
	Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
	Level 1	0	0	0	0	0

4. The distances between licensed competitions held in Florida in the first trimester (December through March) offering hunter or jumper divisions shall be in accordance with the mileage tables (H3 & J3) shown below effective 12-01-08.

Hunter Mileage Chart – H3 (1st trimester Florida)				
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division			
		Premier (“AA”)	National (“A”)	Regional (“B”)
	Premier (“AA”)	225	200	0
	National (“A”)	200	200	0
Regional (“B”)	0	0	50	

Jumper Mileage Chart – J3 (1st trimester Florida)				
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Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division					
		Level 5 & 6	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
	Level 5 & 6	225	200	100	0	0
	Level 4	200	200	100	0	0
	Level 3	200	200	100	0	0
	Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
	Level 1	0	0	0	0	0

**Effective 12/01/2026**

**For competition licensing purposes, beginning 12-01-2026, the distances between licensed competitions held in Florida in the first trimester (December through March) offering hunter or jumper divisions shall be in accordance with the mileage tables (H3 & J3) shown below.**

**Competitions approved in the 2026 competition year with comparable dates in 2027 will be grandfathered at their current dates, locations, ratings and levels, and will not be subject to the mileage below.**

Hunter Mileage Chart – H3 (1st trimester Florida)				
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division			
		Premier (“AA”)	National (“A”)	Regional (“B”)
	Premier (“AA”)	225	200	100
	National (“A”)	200	200	100
	Regional (“B”)	100	100	50

Jumper Mileage Chart – J3 (1st trimester Florida)						
Priority Date Holders	New Competitions w/ Same Rated Division					
		Level 5 & 6	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
	Level 5 & 6	225	200	100	0	0
	Level 4	200	200	100	0	0
	Level 3	200	200	100	0	0
	Level 2	0	0	0	0	0
	Level 1	0	0	0	0	0

- a. Mileage Boundaries for Dressage Competitions.
  1. In the case of a Regular or Local competition holding Open Dressage Division classes, the question of conflict shall be determined with reference only to those dates, inclusive, during which Open Dressage classes are to be held. See DR127.15 for a map of USDF regions.
  2. Applicable Mileage:
    - a. A 75 mile radius shall apply to Dressage competitions held in contiguous USDF regions, for which different distances are specified, in the case of Dressage competitions, Regular competitions, or Local competitions holding “open” Dressage Division classes.
    - b. A 50-mile radius shall apply for Dressage competitions in USDF Regions 1, 2, 6, & 8 holding “open” Dressage classes (excluding competitions restricted to one breed).

- c. A 100-mile radius shall apply for Dressage competitions in USDF Regions 3, 4, 5, 7 and 9 holding “open” Dressage classes (excluding competitions restricted to one breed).
- 3. Two or more Dressage competitions may not be held at the same or adjacent locations on the same days.
  - a. Exception: Dressage competitions that are limited to Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes may be held at the same or adjacent location or within the applicable mileage radius as another Dressage competition that does not offer Dressage Sport Horse Breeding classes.
- 4. All dressage competitions are categorized by Level. See DR126 for criteria for each level.
- b. Mileage Boundaries for Eventing competitions.
  - 1. Eventing competitions are categorized by level offered, and mileage is applied to the applicant competition. Where an Eventing competition hosts more than one level, the highest applicable mileage radius will apply, e.g. an Intermediate and Modified applicant competition runs against a Priority Date Holder CCI2-L competition in Area 2, the applicable mileage is 200 miles (the applicant competition’s highest applicable mileage radius tied to its Intermediate level).
  - 2. For Eventing competitions occurring on December 1, 2022 and thereafter, the mileage chart, including any lower levels hosted at these competitions, will apply only to those competitions not hosting FEI CCI4-L, CCI4-S, CCI3-L, or Advanced levels:

Eventing Mileage Chart Areas 1, 2, 3, and 8	
Level	Radius
Intermediate	200
Preliminary	100
Modified	100

Eventing Mileage Chart Areas 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, and 10	
Level	Radius
Intermediate	300
Preliminary	200
Modified	200

## **SUBCHAPTER 3-D MILEAGE EXEMPTION AND COMPETITION LICENSE DISPUTES**

### **GR315 Mileage Exemption**

- 1. Mileage Exemption. When a competition license application is denied by the Federation due to a mileage conflict, the applicant may seek a mileage exemption to allow the competition to occur. The decision to grant a mileage exemption is discretionary and made by the Federation Chief Executive Officer, or his designee, based on the criteria enumerated below.
- 2. The Federation may consider different criteria in determining whether a mileage exemption is warranted. The relative weight accorded to each such criteria is in the sole discretion of the Federation Chief Executive Officer, or their designee. These include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - a. Competition Standards: Priority Date Holder’s adherence to competition standards.
    - 1. Whether the applicant competition may alleviate concerns about the safety and welfare of horses, competitors, and/or spectators for a given rating and/or level at a Priority Date Holder’s competition;
    - 2. Whether the applicant competition may enable a Priority Date Holder to better achieve the competition standards for a given rating and/or level;
    - 3. Whether the applicant competition may alleviate overcrowding of horses and/or competitors in a given geographic area at a given venue.
  - b. Competition and Calendar Factors:
    - 1. Whether the applicant competition provides access to competitors that may need a choice based on a Priority Date Holder’s costs to competitors or offered ratings and/or levels;
    - 2. Whether the applicant competition serves a need that the Priority Date Holder does not serve as to the schedule of classes, sections, and divisions, which may be too limited;
    - 3. Whether the applicant competition should be given an opportunity to enter the marketplace where a Priority Date Holder seemingly dominates the calendar in a given geographical area;
    - 4. Whether the applicant competition alleviates the negative impact on competitors that may occur when the number of consecutive competitions of the same rating and/or level in a given geographic area.

5. For Eventing competitions; Federation licensed Eventing competitions occurring a minimum of two weeks prior to, and two weeks following the applicant competition, will be taken into consideration when determining the applicant competition's impact on the competition calendar, regardless of mileage boundary.
  - c. Sport Growth and Visibility:  
Whether the applicant competition may create growth and visibility of the sport in one of the following ways, which is not exclusive:
    1. The applicant competition is warranted due to community support and/or involvement;
    2. The applicant competition may broaden access to competitors at all levels of the sport;
    3. The applicant competition is unique and provides exceptional promotional benefits to the sport.
  - d. In addition, the Federation will consider the following factors in determining whether a mileage exemption should be granted:
    1. Geographic location and time of year with regard to concentration and migration of competitors;
    2. Experience and expertise of competition management;
    3. Competitions outside of boundary mileage of Priority Date Holder and applicant competition, which may affect density and competitive level of competitors;
    4. Density and competitive level of competitors in a given geographic area at a given time of year; and
    5. Any other circumstances that the Federation may deem to support, further, promote, or advance the best interests of the sport.
3. Mileage Exemption Procedure

An applicant may first contact the Priority Date Holder(s) and seek cooperation in running the proposed event.

- a. The applicant shall submit the Mileage Exemption Request Form to the Federation in accordance with these rules. The applicant shall submit the Mileage Exemption Request Form, fully completed, to the Federation no earlier than 360 calendar days and no later than 180 calendar days before the start date of the proposed competition. The fully completed Mileage Exemption Request Form must be accompanied with the non-refundable application fee. A mileage exemption request will not be accepted unless the Mileage Exemption Request Form is fully completed and the application fee is paid in full. Within 21 days of acceptance of a properly submitted request and application fee, the Federation will notify the applicant and the Priority Date Holder(s) that the request is being processed. The notification will include a copy of the submitted Mileage Exemption Request Form and a Mileage Exemption Response Form for the Priority Date Holder(s) to complete. The Priority Date Holder(s) has 10 calendar days from the date of the Notification letter to submit to the Federation, with a copy to the applicant, a fully completed Mileage Exemption Response Form. The Priority Date Holder(s) must provide written comments explaining the basis for their objection to the mileage exemption request, based on the criteria listed in paragraph 2 above.
- b. If the Priority Date Holder(s) agrees to the exemption request, then the terms and conditions of any agreement must be fully disclosed to the Federation in writing along with submission of the Mileage Exemption Response Form. Submission of these materials indicates that the parties acknowledge and agree that the Federation is not responsible for the enforcement or performance of the terms and conditions of the agreement and that the parties expressly waive any claim against the Federation for failure to perform.
- c. In the case of mileage exemption renewal requests where an agreement has been reached with the affected competition(s), the following applies: Within 15 calendar days of receipt of a completed Mileage Exemption Response Form and the terms and conditions of an agreement, if such agreement was reached between the affected parties, the request will be reviewed by the Federation and a determination will be made whether to grant the renewal request.
- d. In the case of first time mileage exemption requests or renewal requests where an agreement could not be reached with the affected competition(s) or the affected competition(s) failed to timely respond, the following applies: Within 10 calendar days of receipt of a completed Mileage Exemption Response Form from Priority Date Holder(s) objecting to the request, or the expiration of the 10 day response period if no completed Mileage Exemption Response Form is submitted, the Federation will notify the applicable Recognized Breed/Discipline Affiliate and provide all documentation received in the process from any party. Within the time prescribed by the Federation, the applicable Recognized Breed/Discipline Affiliate is invited to submit written feedback for consideration by the Federation in reaching a decision whether to approve or disapprove the request, including specific feedback on the criteria listed in paragraph 2 above.

If the Federation learns that an individual with a conflict of interest was present when an Affiliate considers its recommendation under this Chapter, then such recommendation will be not be considered by the Federation.

- e. For Hunter, Jumper, Hunter/Jumper licensed competitions in Florida occurring within the first trimester of the competition year, the mileage exemption process shall be governed in accordance with the timeline posted on the Federation's website.
4. Modifications or amendments to an approved exemption are not permitted unless approved by the Federation in writing.
5. Mileage Exemptions are granted for one year only. Approval in one year does not guarantee future approval of a mileage exemption request.
6. All licensed competitions operating under an approved mileage exemption shall have the applicable mileage protection against new competitions pursuant to these rules. Additionally, these competitions will have the applicable mileage protection for the following year's comparable dates, provided that the license application and applicable fees are received within 60 calendar days of the last day of the current year's competition. This does not preclude the Federation from granting additional mileage exemption requests for new competitions to be held within any mileage boundary.
7. Competitions with an approved mileage exemption which have been held for two or more consecutive years may apply for designation as a perpetual mileage exemption. If approved, the competition shall apply annually for renewal under GR 302.3. To be eligible for this designation, the competition must indicate this request on the application and pay the requisite mileage exemption fee. Any conditions associated with the approved mileage exemption shall remain in place. Upon receiving this designation, any changes to location, rating and/or level will result in loss of this designation and the competition will be required to apply for a mileage exemption. Designated perpetual mileage exemption competitions shall have the applicable mileage protection against new competitions. This does not preclude the Federation from granting additional mileage exemption requests for new competitions to be held within any mileage boundary. The Federation may revoke this designation at any time.
8. The Federation will provide a written decision to the applicant and Priority Date Holder(s) within 30 days of receipt of the Recognized Affiliate's or Federation committee's recommendation, whichever is later. If the 30-day time period cannot be met, the parties will be notified in writing when they can expect to receive a decision. Subject to GR315.3.f above, for Hunter, Jumper, Hunter/Jumper licensed competitions in Florida occurring within the first trimester of the competition year, the Federation will provide a written decision to the applicant and Priority Date Holder(s) in accordance with the schedule posted on the Federation's website.
9. Computing Time. For purposes of computing time related to the timelines established in the Mileage Exemption and License Modification processes under this Chapter under this Chapter, the following rules apply:
  - a. exclude the day of the event that triggers the period;
  - b. count every day, including intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, excluding legal holidays and week days that the Federation offices are closed;
  - c. include the last day of the period, but if the last day is a Saturday, Sunday, or day that the Federation offices are closed, the period continues to run until the end of the next day that the office is open.

## **GR 316 License Application Disputes and Resolution**

1. Any competition license applicant may dispute the denial of a license application or renewal. In addition, a Mileage Exemption Request applicant and Priority Date Holder(s) may dispute a mileage exemption request decision. The initiation of a license dispute can be made by submitting a fully completed Federation Mileage Exemption Dispute Form to [disputes@usef.org](mailto:disputes@usef.org) and to the Federation General Counsel within 10 calendar days of the date on the Federation notice of the approval or denial, along with the filing fee. The submission must include the basis for the appeal.
2. Upon notification by the Federation of a properly filed dispute, the affected parties will have 10 calendar days to file a substantive response. License disputes will be decided by the Federation Hearing Committee in accordance with the Federation rules and procedures. The Hearing Committee Panel may review the decision based upon the parties' written submissions and the record below. The parties may be represented by counsel. In its discretion, the Hearing Committee Panel may hold a hearing. Hearings will be conducted via videoconference or teleconference as directed by the Hearing Committee Panel. The Hearing Committee

Panel shall only determine whether the challenged decision was made in accordance with the Federation rules. The Hearing Committee shall issue a written decision as soon as practicable. If the appealing party prevails, half of the fee shall be refunded.

3. The Hearing Committee's decision is final and not appealable within the Federation.