

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Extraordinary	12/1/2024	5/6/2024	

Extraordinary Change Reason

Horse wellbeing is paramount to USEF and this proposal modernizes the horse abuse rule. This proposal accompanies GR702, a standard rule change currently under consideration. The effective date for this EO should align with the effective date for GR702 should the Board approve it.

Rule Change Intent

This proposal is intended to achieve the following: (1) expand the scope of USEF’s jurisdiction to include horse abuse that occurs outside of competition, including at home facilities; (2) clarify examples of what constitutes abuse in our sport; (3) mandate reporting of horse abuse; and (4) clarify that competition management and officials are empowered to eliminate, disqualify, and issue warnings for horse abuse at competitions.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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USEF Officers

Leslie Mangan

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Linked Rules	Comments
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GR 702 (082-23)

Committee Actions

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/04/2024

Draft 1: Discussion included concerns on the alteration of videos and photographs, the need for definitions and/or replacement of vague words, the verbiage in the existing rule being outdated and not inclusive of safe training practices, and how to manage false accusations and the reputations from these that will precede trainers. There was also discussion that the rule change may not be necessary because the committee felt many of the concerns were addressed throughout the USEF code of conduct. The code of conduct covers enforcement and anti-retaliation. For those reasons, the committee voted to disapprove.

Andalusian/Lusitano

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/20/2024

Draft 1: The discussion included: questions regarding if the rule change would be retroactive and the official effective date; the need for more definition on the examples of abuse listed, for example: hock hobbles are not abusive when used appropriately; the concern for anonymous reporting and how they would be handled; the concern for reports made in a malicious intent or in retaliation; the suggestion for removing the specific examples of abusive equipment and replacing with the verbiage “misuse or inappropriate use of training equipment/aids” or potentially categorizing items; questions and concerns for the plans of the Federation in allocating resources for the enforcement of this rule; the main concern of the committee regarding the misuse of this rule; questions regarding the potential for this not being an official rule, but a policy or best practice; the suggestion for looking into Alabama’s, Florida’s, and Texas’ definitions of abuse within the state law enforcement as an example; the concern, stemming from previous experiences with the Federation not following thru on enforcement, of USEF’s ability and willingness to enforce this rule; the concern that this rule change should have been handled with a two vote process to include a vote on agreeance of the intent of the rule and a vote on the actual rule change verbiage; the concern that the current verbiage has too much “grey area” open to interpretation; the suggestion and desire from the committee for USEF to create a “SafeHorse” program used as an education platform that would require members to be trained and educated on the rule books, acceptable practices, more definitive parameters of the sport, and would focus on the positive instead of the negative; the committee’s desire to be informed of the planned education to go along with this rule change; and the suggestion to create an educational resource regarding potential controversial equipment use and use comparisons to human equipment in order to bridge the gap of the person’s mind of why and how certain things are being used on a particular horse. Although the committee agrees with the overall intent of the rule change and the intent in principle, the committee feels that there is much work to be done before this can be an official rule.

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/07/2024

Draft 1: Discussion included the verbiage "improper training techniques" being too broad and subjective, questioning the scenario of a certified veterinarian "signing off" on a practice, in which case what would happen with an accusation of abuse, the process for a circumstance where the accused party denies an interview, the concern for a simultaneous criminal case and how it would be handled, the concern for allegations from or toward someone who is not a USEF member, the concern for the rule including "vague language" throughout making the committee question who actually makes the decision on if an action constitutes abuse, the concern that if accused and investigated, would insurance companies be notified and this affect a person's or business' insurance prices and policies, and the suggestion to expand GR838.2 to include a statement regarding reporting to the local authorities.

Athletes Advisory

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 02/26/2024

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/05/2024

Draft 1: The committee would like to see a definition for what constitutes the different example actions as "excessive".

Connemara

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/19/2024

Draft 1: The discussion included: the concern for the definition of "horse abuse" being too broad and needing more specification; questions regarding the scope of the rule; the concern for equipment such as "hobbles" being included in the rule due to the ability for the equipment to be non-abusive when used properly; the concern that this rule change is too far over-reaching on the part of the Federation; the concern for being "guilty until proven innocent" instead of the reverse; the need for major improvements to the verbiage of this rule change; the concern of issues regarding retaliation; the concern for the continued inclusion of the TN Walking Horse verbiage in the rule change; the concern for non-USEF members making abuse claims; the concern regarding the current absence of verbiage regarding local, state, and federal law enforcement within the rule change; the overall thought of the committee that this rule change will provide no actual protection for the horse, a fine, revoking of membership, etc. does not address the fact that the horse itself is in trouble/danger of abuse, these actions are nothing but a "slap on the wrist", but the horse is still left in the situation of abuse; the main need for law enforcement to be involved in these processes and for the Federation to take a leadership/educational role in this topic in order to assist law enforcement in handling cases of abuse, but not be the official governing on these abuse cases. Although the committee agrees with the overall intent of the rule change and the intent in principle, the committee feels that there is much work to be done before this can be an official rule.

Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/08/2024

Draft 1: The committee agrees in principle with the objectives in Draft 1 but believes the revisions in the Working Draft 2 address concerns previously raised.

Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/26/2024

Draft 1: The group approves of the current draft of this EO. However, knowing that a second draft is coming, they would like to be included for review of the second draft as well to ensure it keeps with their current thoughts on the rule.

Endurance

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/12/2024

Draft 1: The ESC agrees with the intent and supports the direction of this rule proposal but does recommend the language of "unnecessary discomfort" under GR838.1 be altered to a more definite term that would have less chance of misinterpretation. The committee also recommends review of the points under GR838 to ensure any descriptor language being used is enforceable and avoids ambiguity.

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/26/2024

Draft 1: The Eventing Sport Committee recommends approval of the concept but not the language as currently written. The Committee would like to see a second draft of the proposal with consideration of the following: - Clearly define what the veterinary jurisdiction is, especially around veterinary examinations after suspected abuse. - Concerns regarding the use of the language "must" for Mandatory Reporting/Is there a penalty if a member is found not to have reported a case of Abuse? - Concerns regarding the vagueness of the terms "improper" training technique and "excessive" lunging. - Provide education that if you report, it does not mandate your participation in a case. - Address the scope of "responsible party" when staff or others are aware and complicit in Abuse. - Concerned the impact this rule will have on Federation resources which could be allocated otherwise. - Address the consequences for false allegations/Will there be a baseline minimum penalty for making a false allegation? - How far does the association reach in terms of "responsible party" when penalties are being assessed (e.g., taking a clinic)? - Consult veterinarians on desensitizing/sensitizing techniques to ensure medically valid techniques are not wrongly pursued. - Concerns about how this may be applied by Licensed Officials, despite education on the topic. - Would like to see assurance that cases are only pursued after the effective date of the rule, and cases are not entertained retroactively. - Recommends consulting with the FEI, who already operate in this way, to inform our rule/processes from what they have learnt.

Friesian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/13/2024

Draft 1: The committee approves with the stipulation of knowing this rule change will undergo a second draft. The discussion included the concern for the projected cost for USEF with governing this rule, the concern for this rule's relation to local/state/federal criminal processes, the concern of allegations from a "disgruntled groom" as a form of revenge or retaliation, questions regarding the accused's relation with USEF (being a member), the desire for the verbiage to be re-vamped throughout the rule change, questions regarding the inclusion of the Horse Protection Act verbiage when it is not applicable (GR838.1.u), the suggestion for replacing the verbiage in point U from "each a breed not recognized by the Federation" to "breeds not affiliated with the Federation", the concern for confusion with Saddleseat breed practices for the verbiage included in U about the shoeing of a horse, the concern for not wanting to "condemn breeds" in the USEF rulebook, and the desire to see more education regarding the topic of abuse and the processes of this rule.

Hackney

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/08/2024

Draft 1: Discussion included how the current rule is cumbersome and easy to misinterpret. The second draft must be noticeably clear in outlining when the tack/equipment, or training techniques become cruel/abusive to horses, who should you report to and how to act. The committee feels strongly that when the rule is approved, the USEF code of conduct should also be included to highlight the standards that all members are held to, as well as the enforcement and anti-retaliation policies. It was also suggested that the code of conduct be referenced within the rule change proposal. For concern that the current proposal is not in its final edition and the reasons stated above, the committee voted to disapprove.

Human and Equine, Safety & Welfare

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/15/2024

Draft 1: The committee agrees with the intent of this rule, but understands that a second draft is being produced and recognizes that many of the comments on Draft 1 will be addressed through Draft 2. The committee looks forward to reviewing Draft 2.

Jumper

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/08/2024

Draft 1: Disapproved 1st draft but like the concept for the second draft and look forward to reviewing it.

Licensed Officials

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/16/2024

Draft 1: The LOC agrees with the intent of the rule change proposal but recommends adding clarity about who the Person Responsible would be in situations related to horse welfare concerns. Also, the Committee stressed the importance of educating members on how to report and to encourage reporting overall. It is the Committee's understanding that a second draft will be developed.

Morgan

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/13/2024

Draft 1: Discussion included questions regarding the hearing process and if any immediate disciplinary action will be enforced in abuse cases, concern for accusations being publicized, the concern for due diligence to be completed for every reporting, the desire for USEF horse professionals to provide guidance and decisions on a case instead of random public citizens which is in agreeance with the USEF investigation process, the concern for anonymous accusations, questions regarding how the people to sit on a case's hearing committee would be chosen, the need for more definition on certain equipment items (hobbles, shackles, attention getting devices) in order to allow for non-abusive uses of the equipment with the suggested verbiage of "improper use of...", and questions regarding handling a situation at a competition. The committee disapproves of the rule as currently written, feeling that it needs more definition and clarification of language.

National Hunter Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/19/2024

Draft 1: The National Hunter Committee recommends approval with the clarification of using of kick chains as a means for safety in GR838.1i.

National Show Horse

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/06/2024

Draft 1: Discussion included the need to clarify and define the word "excessive" in the examples of abuse, the concern for overwhelming USEF & the hearing committee with allegations, the concern for someone's reputation who is being investigated and accused of an action, but is later exonerated, the concern for what and who defines what is considered "excessive lunging", the concern for who exactly will be deciding if an action qualifies as "abuse", and questions regarding the notification process for if you are accused and being investigated for alleged abuse. The committee was extremely split in voting, but the majority voted in approval (3-2 vote with 1 abstention).

Natl Breed & Disciplines Council - Advisory

ParaEquestrian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/12/2024

Draft 1: The Para Equestrian Sport Committee approves with the addition of language that all cases will be reviewed through the USEF regulatory process.

Paso Fino

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/26/2024

Draft 1: Discussion included concerns and questions regarding this rule overlapping jurisdiction with organizations such as the humane society; the suggestion of a reward system for those people and organizations that are strongly assisting with this initiative (an acknowledgment of "abuse free" affiliates) to help with the "positive story telling" narrative; questions regarding what the catalyst was to bring forth this rule change; the concern for the inclusion of point U of the rule due to TN Walking horses not being a USEF recognized breed, but is included in the rule; the concern for the verbiage "instructs" when referencing someone being told to take an abusive action by another individual, with the suggestion of the verbiage "directs" instead; the concern for extenuating circumstances and situations that aren't necessarily abuse or purposeful abuse as there are many amateurs in the sport that may not be educated enough on the practice to know that it is abusive. The committee was shown a "working draft 2" of the proposal and agreed with the direction being taken in the second draft.

Roadster

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/27/2024

Draft 1: Discussion included that some of the verbiage used throughout is harsh and should be changed to something more palatable for exhibitors, there were also concerns that the proposed rule could be interpreted quite literally, and training practices would now be deemed cruel and abusive. The committee was presented with some new proposed language for a draft #2 and felt that they would be in favor if the rule change evolved to that version.

Saddle Seat Eq

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/04/2024

Draft 1: Discussion included concerns on false allegations, the verbiage in the existing rule being outdated and not inclusive of safe training practices, and the ability for the local authorities to step in and take a stance. The committee ultimately was in favor of the intent but voted to disapprove due to much needed updates. The committee would like to see the vague words being used throughout i.e., excessive more clearly defined, defining when certain training practices listed would be proper i.e., hobbles, and the language in 2 to be consistent. Number 2 states must report and then goes on to say should be reported. The committee feels strongly that this rule has excessive reach and will be hard to enforce.

Shetland

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 04/17/2024

Draft 1: The discussion included: concerns that the current "punishments" that USEF imposes on guilty members is not severe enough; the desire for a meeting with stewards, TDs, and schooling advisors to cover their authority limits at a competition; the need of the Federation to be more proactive in notifying all parties of actions and outcomes of investigations/cases/accusations; the concern that before a rule with this large scope is enforced, that the Federation needs to be more efficient in handling accusations in the current scope of competitions; questions regarding the boundaries for this rule and how enforceable it will actually be; questions regarding having a "bound duty" to report abuse if witnessed; questions regarding if a suspended horse is sold, will it still be suspended; questions regarding if all USEF members can make a report; and the concern that USEF should not be handling these types of issues, but the local authorities can handle cases of abuse. The committee was shown a "working second draft" of the rule, in which they did like the verbiage better than the original PRC.

USDF

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/22/2024

Draft 1: We strongly support the concept and intent behind this RCP. However, we have concerns with the degree of specificity or in some cases, the lack thereof, of some of the specific examples. Clearly, the USEF must have jurisdiction over and the authority to take action against horse abuse whether that occurs on or off the competition grounds, but a number of the examples of abuse are too vague and too easily subject to misinterpretation.

USEA

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 04/19/2024

Draft 1: Approves with the stipulation of knowing this rule change will undergo a second draft.

USHJA

Vaulting

Veterinary

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/18/2024

Western Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 03/12/2024

Draft 1: Discussion included concerns of false reporting of abuse anonymously or by a non-USEF member and how that would be handled, questions regarding if an allegation of abuse was made against a breed or discipline that is not recognized by the USEF, the need for more definition and information regarding the inclusion of hobbles on the abuse example practices list in the rule, the need for more defined terminology of what constitutes excessive lunging and over competing, questions regarding who would be held accountable for an abuse allegation where a trainer gave orders of particular action to a groom that was then reported as an abusive action, and questions regarding how abuse allegations will be handled regarding the happenings on a farm/private facility. The committee disapproves the rule as currently written, with the desire to see more outlined processes and detail.

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/06/2024

Draft 1: The discussion included the need for the terms “excessive lunging” and “overshowing” to be fully defined with parameters, the concern for hobbles being included on the list of abuse, due to the common practice use of hobbles for breeding, questions regarding a non-member bringing forward allegations, questions regarding the involvement of local law enforcement in abuse cases, the concern for employee intimidation with the responsibility to report policy, questions regarding the circumstances for banning a person from the Federation and it’s competitions, the concern for an assistant that is following orders being punished for the actions and instructions given by the owner/trainer, the concern for the finances of the Federation in taking on these abuse cases and the litigation budget, and the suggestion for more communication with the membership during the process of enacting this rule such as “town halls” and webinars.

Following feedback received from Committees, Affiliates, and members, an update has been made to Tracking #109-23, General Rule 838. Below is a brief description of notable changes:

The updated draft includes detailed descriptions of horses falling under the rule’s jurisdiction and the individuals subject to penalty. Horses covered by the rule will include any horse:

- that is (or has been) recorded with USEF;
- has participated, is participating, or is on the grounds of a Licensed Competition; or
- that is in the care, custody, and control of a Participant.

A Participant includes any person:

- who holds or has held a USEF membership;
- who has participated in a USEF Licensed Competition as a rider, vaulter, driver, handler, exhibitor, trainer, coach, groom, competition veterinarian, or support personnel for any of these identified roles; or
- who is present on the grounds of a USEF Licensed Competition.

Participants found to be engaging in unethical treatment of a horse under this rule may be subject penalty. Additionally, any person who directs another to treat a horse unethically is subject to penalty.

In accordance with the feedback received, the use of the term “abuse” has been replaced with “unethical treatment.” The enumerated list of prohibited practices has been replaced with broad categories of unethical treatment. The described unethical treatment must be reported to competition officials when observed on competition grounds. Beginning December 1, 2024, any unethical treatment observed anywhere other than competition grounds should be reported to the Federation and authorities. If the unethical treatment is conducted by a Participant (as defined in GR838) who is a member of a foreign National Federation, USEF will refer the matter to that National Federation and the FEI for resolution.

Those responsible for the enforcement of this rule, including USEF Licensed Officials, Competition Management, and competition veterinarians at USEF Licensed Competitions, may issue an official written warning, elimination, or disqualification. Additionally, anyone found to have unethically treated a horse on competition grounds may be removed from the grounds.

Finally, all reports under this rule must be made in good faith and on reasonable grounds. Any malicious or false allegations will be considered a violation of this rule and may subject the reporting party to penalty.

Who is subject to penalty?	-any person who holds or has held a Federation membership; or participated in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition as a rider, owner, trainer, coach, groom, veterinarian, or support personnel for any of these identified roles. -any person who directs another as to the Unethical Treatment of the Horse is subject to penalty.
What is prohibited?	any action or inaction that may negatively compromise the Horse’s health, safety, or well-being. It may include actions or inactions that cause or are likely to cause a Horse pain, a state of obvious distress, or unnecessary discomfort.
Which horses are protected under this rule?	any horse that is or has been recorded with the Federation, has participated or is entered to participate in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, or is stabled on the grounds of a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition and is in the care, custody, and control of a Participant.
What are the time limitations under the rule?	-for Unethical Treatment occurring somewhere other than at or in direct connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, such mistreatment must have occurred after November 30, 2024, for this rule to apply.
How is the rule enforced?	-management, officials, and competition vet can issue a written warning, disqualification,

	elimination, or expulsion from grounds for mistreatment that occurs at or in direct connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition -disciplinary proceedings in accordance with Part VII of the Bylaws -reciprocity under Bylaws
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SUBCHAPTER 8-F WELFARE OF THE HORSE

GR838 *Unethical Treatment of the Horse—Cruelty to and Abuse of a Horse*

For purposes of this rule, the following definitions apply:

A Covered Horse is defined as any horse that is or has been recorded with the Federation, has participated or is entered to participate in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, or is on the grounds of a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition or is in the care, custody, and control of a Participant.

A Participant is defined as any person who holds or has held a Federation membership; participated in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition as a rider, vaulter, driver, handler, exhibitor, trainer, coach, groom, competition veterinarian, or support personnel for any of these identified roles; or is present on the grounds of a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition.

1. Any Participant engaging in the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty. Except in exigent circumstances, the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is defined as any action or inaction that may negatively compromise the Covered Horse's health, safety, or well-being. It may include any action(s) or inaction(s) that causes or is likely to cause a horse pain, a state of obvious distress, or unnecessary discomfort.

Examples of Unethical Treatment of a Horse may include, but are not limited to:

- a. Misuse or excessive use of a whip, spur, or bit;*
- b. Misuse of any equipment or device, including tack;*
- c. Creation of hyper or hypo-sensitization of any physical part of a Covered Horse to enhance performance;*
- d. Any practice or use of devices or objects used to enhance a Covered Horse's performance based on fear or intimidation;*
- e. Training, riding, or competing a Covered Horse with raw, bleeding, or irritated skin or welts consistent with excessive, persistent, or inappropriate use of equipment, including spurs; and*
- f. Continued riding, driving, or lunging an obviously exhausted, lame, or injured Covered Horse.*

2. A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs at or in connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Additionally, any person who directs another as to the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse is subject to penalty.

3. A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs after November 30, 2024 somewhere other than at or in connection with a USEF Licensed or Endorsed Competition. For the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse under this paragraph that occurs off U.S. soil by a Participant who is a member of a foreign National Federation, the Federation will refer the matter to the relevant National Federation and FEI for resolution.

4. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse at or in direct connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, must immediately report it to a Federation Licensed Official at the competition.

5. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse outside of a Federation Licensed Competition, should report it to the Federation and the relevant local authorities as soon as practicable.

6. A veterinarian may be appointed by the Federation, Competition Management, or a Licensed Official to inspect any horse on competition grounds, or any horse stabled off grounds that is entered to compete in a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Refusal to submit an animal for such examination shall constitute a violation of this rule, and the owner and/or trainer may be subject to penalty by the Federation.

7. A Federation Licensed Official, Competition Management, or competition veterinarian at a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition may issue an official written warning, elimination, or disqualification against any Participant they deem to have Unethically Treated a Covered Horse on competition grounds or directly related to a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition. Additionally, any person may be removed from the competition grounds for Unethical Treatment of a Horse. Any report received of alleged Unethical Treatment or penalties imposed on a person(s) as a result of Unethical Treatment must be reported to the Federation. A Participant may be subject to further penalty by the Federation.

8. Anyone reporting a violation must be acting in good faith and have reasonable grounds for believing the information disclosed is a violation. Any allegations that prove to have been made maliciously or knowingly to be false will be viewed as a serious disciplinary offense and will be considered a violation of this rule, subjecting the reporting party to penalty by the Federation.

9. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Federation may pursue disciplinary action pursuant Bylaw 705.2(b).

1. Cruelty to or the abuse of a horse present on the grounds of any Licensed Competition is forbidden, constitutes a violation under Chapter 7, and renders the offender subject to penalty. The Show Committee, or Competition Management in the absence of a Show Committee must bar violators from further participation for the remainder of the competition. It is the duty of the competition officials to report to the Federation any person who indulges in this practice for such further action as may be deemed appropriate.
2. Any person or trainer, as defined by Federation rules, who presents for competition a horse that exhibits signs of recent cruelty or abuse will be subject to penalty under this rule.
3. The Federation or the Judge, Steward, or TD may appoint a veterinarian to inspect any animal on competition grounds or entered to compete. Refusal to submit an animal for examination by an authorized veterinarian after due notification shall constitute a violation.
4. The following are included under the words Cruelty and Abuse but are not limited thereto:
 - a. Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, before or during a competition, by any person.
 - b. except in emergency situations any striking of the horse's head (on the poll and forward of the poll) with the whip shall be deemed excessive.
 - c. Rapping the legs of a horse with the butt end of a riding crop or other implement;
 - d. Use of any substance or method to induce temporary heat.
 - e. Manual poling with any object;
 - f. Use of a wire or chain in conjunction with any schooling jump;
 - g. Use of electric device in schooling or showing;
 - h. Use of shackles, hock hobbles and similar devices (not to be construed as rubber or elastic —exercising devices);
 - i. Showing a horse with raw or bleeding sores around the coronets, pasterns, or legs;
 - j. Use of any explosive (e.g., fire crackers, torpedoes, fire extinguishers except in case of fire, etc.) or laser beam devices; anywhere on the competition grounds, except in an exhibition or if required in

class specifications.

k. Withholding of feed and water for prolonged periods;

l. Letting blood from a horse for other than diagnostic purposes;

m. Inhumane treatment of a horse in a stall, runway, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds, by any person.

n. Use of any object that prevents the horse's ability to close its mouth. (Exception: use of an oral speculum by a veterinarian or equine dentist to provide legitimate dental/oral medical care.)

o. Soring and/or the use of an action device on any limb of a Tennessee Walking Horse, Racking Horse, or Spotted Saddle Horse (each a breed not recognized by the Federation) in any class at a Federation Licensed Competition is prohibited. An action device is defined by the USDA as any boot,

collar, chain, roller, or other device that encircles or is placed upon the lower extremity of the leg of a horse in such a manner that it can rotate around the leg or slide up and down the leg so as to cause friction or strike the hoof, coronet band, fetlock joint or pastern of the horse. (Protective bell boots or heel boots are specifically excluded from this definition). The use of a weighted shoe, pad, wedge, in conjunction with a hoof band or other device or material (commonly referred to as a performance package) placed on, inserted in, or attached to any limb of a Tennessee Walking Horse,

a Racking Horse, or Spotted Saddle Horse (each a breed not recognized by the Federation) constructed to artificially alter the gait of such a horse, and which are not protective or therapeutic in nature at a Federation Licensed Competition is prohibited.

p. Soring of any horse, including but not limited to the application of caustic chemicals to a horse's legs or hooves, in order to cause pain and/or affect a horse's performance, and/or used as a training technique.

5.—Any action(s) against a horse by any person, which are deemed excessive by a Federation judge, Federation steward, technical delegate or competition veterinarian, in the competition ring or anywhere on the competition grounds or evidence of action(s) described above on a horse on competition grounds may be punished by official warning or elimination. Such action(s) could include but are not limited to excessive or inappropriate use of equipment, including but not limited to the whip or spurs. Evidence may include raw, bleeding, or irritated skin, or welts consistent with excessive use or inappropriate use of equipment

For the purposes of this rule, the term "soring" is defined by the Horse Protection Act, 15 U.S.C. §1821.