

USEF Western Dressage Committee and Rule Proposals

What the committee is responsible for accomplishing.

- The committee is responsible for reviewing rule proposals that are developed by the Affiliate and other committees within USEF as well as creating rule proposals as needed.
- The committee is also responsible for developing goals which aim to better the breed/discipline community. USEF committees are in place to support the recognized breeds and disciplines and it is the responsibility of the committee members to “wear their breed/discipline hat” when voting on materials and thinking of new projects.

Types of Rule Proposals

Clarifications: Contradictory language, missing or incorrect phrasing, and other wording or punctuation errors that cause inconsistent interpretations of the intent of a rule.

Extraordinary: A rule change that,

- (I) unless expedited, would create or continue a severe hardship or a gross unfairness to the Federation, its members or their horses, its licensed competitions, or its recognized Affiliate;
- (II) one that is certified by a recognized Affiliate Board or Executive Committee by a formal vote that without passage would disadvantage the membership of the Affiliate. The rule proposal form must contain a statement describing clearly how the proposed change meets the above criteria.

Standard: Any substantive changes

Rule Proposal Timelines

Clarifications and Extraordinary proposals are due on a rolling basis for which the deadlines are set based on the USEF Board meeting dates throughout the year. Effective dates occur throughout the year.

Standard proposal submission deadlines:

- September 1 –All General Rule proposals and proposals from individual members
- March 1 –All breed/discipline chapter final proposal drafts

*Standard proposals will have an effective date of 12/1 unless an alternative date is approved to accommodate qualifying dates.

Rule Proposal Process

- All standard proposals for the upcoming March 1 deadline should be drafted by November 1st.

- Mid-November, USEF hosts a virtual webinar for all members to socialize the upcoming standards and allow feedback to be received. The webinar link is sent to USEF members who indicate WD as their primary or secondary discipline/breed on their USEF profile.
- After the webinar, USEF has a month to socialize the standards with applicable internal committees (legal, safety committee, competition management, breed committees)
- After USEF committees have reviewed member feedback from the webinar and any USEF internal committee feedback, that information is given to the proponent (WDAA or USEF WD Committee) for review and consideration.

How rule changes are formatted

Rule changes must be presented in Microsoft Word

- written in the Arial font
- letter size 10

Addition of new language is presented as ***black bold/italicized*** text.

- Example of ***new language***.

Removal of language is presented with ~~strikethroughs~~.

- Example of ~~removal of language~~

USEF Members may submit rule change proposals by logging in to their member account and using the online form.

Visit <https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/rules-regulations/rule-changes> For all currently active standard proposed rule changes by category

If you have USEF rule submission related questions, please contact Sarah Kingsley at skingsley@usef.org.

If you have USEF rule interpretation questions, please contact Nicole Zerbee at nzerbee@usef.org