

EMERGENCY PROTOCOLS FIELD GUIDE

This guide is intended to help you navigate difficult emergency situations. It is an overview of the relative rules and should not be used in lieu of referencing the rule book specific rules for the complete rule citation.

USEF Contact Numbers:

***If a crisis occurs during regular business hours, call **USEF at (859) 810-8733**.

***If a crisis occurs at night or on the weekend, call or text **USEF at (859) 312-5186**.

Prior to the competition starting, review the following:

- 1) Accident Preparedness Plan – do you have the APP and understand their protocol? Are they prepared?
- 2) Safety Coordinator – identify who this is, have a visual on them and have their cell number.
- 3) Medical Personnel – identified, location, contact method – phone #/Walkie Talkie channel. If you have DSHB classes, have them in close proximity.
- 4) Ambulance on grounds? On call? Emergency protocol – what would the arrival point be if an ambulance is called? Does management understand about cautioning for no sirens, no flashing lights when they enter the grounds?

Refer to GR 848 How to record an accident/injury

- a. Respond immediately if you are alerted to an incident. Notify the manager if necessary. Do not get in the way of the medical personnel but assist if needed. Introduce yourself. Be respectful of the nature of the incident/extent of injury. Quietly obtain the necessary information from those involved or those who witnessed the incident. You obtaining the required information that you will need for the report form is secondary to the care of the individual or the horse.
- b. If a concussion or suspected concussion has occurred, inspect the rider's helmet for the appropriate certification.
- c. If an ambulance has been called, assist management in arranging this safely. No sirens, no lights.

A. Human accident/injury

1. Fatalities and Serious Injuries. Notify the Safety Coordinator, Competition Management, and call the Federation immediately, or as soon as practicable. Submit a completed Accident/Injury Report form to the Federation within 24 hours, except in exceptional circumstances.

a. USEF defines **serious**: a fatality, crush injury, a concussion, is not conscious at the time of transport, is transported via helicopter, suffers an injury that could lead to impairment or loss of life, is a life altering injury, suffers a severe lower body injury that would impair movement (ex. Compound fracture of a lower limb, pelvis, spine, etc. but not including breaks/fractures such as arm or clavicle).

2. Unconsciousness/Concussion – notify the Safety Coordinator/competition mgt. ASAP.

a. If the medical personnel think the competitor possibly has or does have a concussion, they are precluded from competing until they are further evaluated by outside qualified medical personnel.

b. If the competitor refuses to be evaluated, he/she is disqualified from the competition and must follow the Return to Competition guidelines.

c. Submit an accident form to USEF within 24 hours. A copy of their entry form/signed release must be included.

3. Medical Suspension. Any competitor determined ineligible to compete will be placed on the Federation Medical Suspension List that will be posted on the Federation's website. They cannot compete until removed from this list.

a. Return to Competition. The competitor shall submit to the USEF, the Return to Competition Medical Release or a written release signed by a licensed physician, physician assistant or a nurse practitioner in accordance with the rules.

b. Competition management must refuse entries of any competitor who is on the Federation Medical Suspension List, unless he submits to the Federation a properly signed release in accordance with the Return to Competition rules.

4. Other types of accidents to report - any evaluation done by the competition medical personnel on anyone on the competition grounds. Talk to the medical personnel at the start of the competition about reporting these instances to you.

B. Equine Accident/Injury

1. In preparation for the possibility, ask if the competition has tarps/screens if a situation does occur?
2. Speak with the competition veterinarian and ask that they alert you if there is an accident or injury.

C. Equine Death – due to any cause or euthanasia from time of arrival to departure or later, if death occurred due to any cause from the competition.

1. Notification:
 - a. TD should be notified no later than one hour after the occurrence of any fatality.
 - b. If before/after hours, TD should be notified when arriving on the grounds.
 - c. TD notifies competition management and USEF ASAP but no later than 24 hours after incident.
 - d. File Equine Fatality Report with USEF within 24 hours of notification.
2. Arrange for either the USEF testing vet, if available, or show vet to collect urine and blood samples to be sent to USEF. You should have a copy of the Blood Collection Guidelines and be able to give it to the vet if necessary.
3. Necropsy is usually required but call USEF at 1-800-633-2472 to determine this. Dr. Schumacher (USEF) is the only one that can waive this requirement. He can negotiate the cost for owners who are uninsured. Mgt. must identify the closest lab for this and if distance from show grounds (200 miles) may affect requirement. Refer to GR 842 for details.
4. What is the carcass removal route/plan?

D. Infectious Disease – competition must have an Isolation Protocol for horses.

1. Isolation/quarantine stalls – location, prepared?
2. If any horse shows signs of infectious disease, is put into isolation at the competition, or that departs the competition to receive treatment for a potential infectious disease, call USEF 1-800-633-2472 (Dr. Stephen Schumacher) within 24 hours.

E. Mandatory Reporting and Cooperation of Horse/Pony Collapse

1. A “collapse” is defined as a fall to the ground with no apparent cause at any time from when entries arrive at the venue until departure from the venue.
2. You should be notified as soon as possible (but no later than 3 hrs. after occurrence). If before/after competition hours, you should be notified no later than 3 hrs. after arrival on grounds.
3. Submit an Accident/Injury/Equine Collapse Report Form to the Federation within 24 hours of notification, except in exceptional circumstances. Include a copy of the relevant entry form.
4. The Federation, at its expense, may appoint a veterinarian to inspect the horse or pony that has collapsed and provide a full report to the Federation. Refusal to submit an animal for examination by an authorized veterinarian after due notification shall constitute a violation of this rule.
5. Any horse/pony that collapses at a competition is subject to drug and medication testing. If a USEF testing vet is on grounds, use them. If not, the official competition veterinarian is authorized to collect and submit fluid samples.
6. Any horse/pony that collapses is prohibited from competing for 72 hours after said collapse. Exception: Upon examination by a veterinarian and submission of a statement by the veterinarian certifying the horse/pony’s fitness to compete, a horse/pony that collapses is permitted to return to competition 24 hours after said collapse.

Accident Report Forms – make sure you are using the most current form, complete these on any instance/issue brought to your attention where the medical personnel evaluated the human or equine. Include a copy of the relevant entry form when you submit this report.