

## WHO CAN ELIMINATE THE COMPETITOR AND FOR WHAT?

This descriptive list is an aid to the TD in recognizing who has responsibility for eliminations. **Judge** elimination concerns are in **red**, **competition management in blue** and shared, either the **judge in the ring or competition mgt.** outside of the ring in **green**. **Warning Cards are in purple**.

### DR124 Elimination

1. In the Dressage division “disqualification”, as defined in GR117, includes elimination, except for designated qualifying classes for regional or national championships where scores may be disqualified for championship qualifying purposes and the entry may retain the scores for class ranking and reporting purposes.

2. Horse and rider combinations shall be eliminated from the competition (for a, .f and .i, below) or from the current or next class depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred (for all others), under the following circumstances:

a. Misrepresentation of entry or inappropriate entry (GR907 and DR119);

b. Elimination by the judge at “C” for dress code violations inside the competition ring is mandatory (DR120).

c. Use of illegal equipment (DR121);

d. Unauthorized assistance (DR122);

e. Errors of the course and/or test (DR122);

f. Horse’s tongue tied down (DR122);

g. Late entry into the arena (DR122);

h. All four feet of the horse leave the arena with or without rider (DR122);

i. Cruelty (GR838);

j. Marked lameness (DR122);

k. Resistance of longer than 20 seconds (DR122);

l. Concern for the safety of rider, other exhibitors or their entries (GR1032.11/12);

m. Evidence of blood on a horse in the competition arena shall be cause for elimination from the class by the judge at “C”. Evidence of blood on a horse outside the competition arena shall be cause for elimination by competition management, after consultation with the technical delegate, from either the last class in which the horse competed or next class in which it is scheduled to compete, depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred. Environmental causes such as insect bites shall normally not be cause for elimination.

n. Failure to wear competitor number (DR121.18 and GR801.10);

o. Fall of horse and/or rider (DR122.7(f))

p. Any situation where a direct rule violation can be cited. Where a violation cannot be cited, a competitor is not eliminated.

3. When a judge suspects a violation or ineligibility listed under any GR or DR rule, in particular DR120, DR121, DR122 or DR124, the judge must request, as soon as possible, that the ring steward and/or TD investigate the possible infraction.

5. Except as noted below, only the Judge at “C” may eliminate a competitor for a rule violation listed under DR120 (DRESS) or DR122,(EXECUTION AND JUDGING OF TESTS) only from the test in question, and (except for late entry into the arena) only after the competitor has entered the arena. Members of the Ground Jury have no authority to eliminate under any other circumstances, except during a class or test,

the Judge at "C" has the authority to eliminate for use of illegal equipment, non-compliance with protective headgear rules, not wearing a number, cruelty and abuse or leaving the arena without the judges' permission. Authority for rule enforcement outside the competition ring rests solely with the Show Committee (see General Rules, GR1217). Competition Management/Show Committee has the authority to eliminate for use of illegal equipment or violations of protective headgear rules during a test that is discovered after the competitor has left the arena. Competition Management also has the authority to eliminate entries and/or remove individuals from the competition grounds for violations of protective headgear rules as described in DR120 and GR801.

6. For USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials only: If the Judge at C suspects fresh blood anywhere on the horse during the test, he will stop the horse to check for blood. If the horse shows fresh blood, it will be eliminated. The elimination is final. If the Judge through examination clarifies that the horse has no fresh blood, the horse may resume and finish its test. If the Technical Delegate discovers fresh blood in the horse's mouth or in the area of the spurs during the equipment check at the end of the test, he informs the Judge at C, who will eliminate the competitor. If there is blood elsewhere on the horse, the majority of the veterinary panel is to be called to recommend if the horse is fit to continue in subsequent classes for which it is eligible. Refer to Selection Procedures for the current championship year requirements.

### **Separate Elimination or Warning Card issuance causes in DR120, DR121, DR122, DR128, DR129.**

DR 120.5 Electronic Communication Devices. The use of earphones and/or other electronic communication devices are strictly prohibited while competing and such usage is penalized by elimination. There is no penalty for having cell phones or other electronic devices worn or carried in clothing while competing as long as they are not in use. Electronic devices that transmit and/or receive information may be used in the stabling area and in warm up areas. The unsafe use of electronic devices, as determined by the competition Technical Delegate in their sole discretion, including cell phones, with or without earphones/buds, while mounted is prohibited in all areas designated for schooling and exercise, and while lungeing horses on competition grounds. Exception: medical devices, such as hearing aids are allowed to be used for the medical condition for which they are prescribed. 5.1 Electronic devices are permitted for Para Dressage riders if stated on their Federation Dispensation/Classification Certificate.

DR 121.1.c Seat covers. Seat covers are, under penalty of elimination, strictly prohibited. However, saddle covers are permitted in inclement weather.

DR 121.4 Martingales. Martingales are, under penalty of elimination, prohibited in competition.

DR 121.5 Gadgets such as bearing reins, side reins, running reins, balancing reins and auxiliary reins. In the warm up and in classes gadgets such as bearing reins, side reins, running reins and balancing reins, are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden.

DR 121.7 Neck Straps. Neck straps of any material are not permitted in the warm up or in competition.

DR 121.8.d Blinkers/goggles are prohibited in the competition ring.

DR 121.9 Ear plugs. Ear plugs and ear muffs are, under penalty of elimination, prohibited. Exception: Ear plugs are permitted at prize-giving ceremonies for horses competing at any level, including High Performance classes.

DR 121.10 Body Tape and body bands. The use of equine body tape (kinesiology tape) and resistive or elasticated body bands are prohibited on the show grounds.

DR 121.11 Boots and bandages. Boots and bandages without magnets are permitted in the warm up and other training areas. In competition the use of any kind of boots or bandages that contact the horse's legs on or above the hairline at the coronet or tail bandages are under penalty of elimination, prohibited. Exception: leg bandages are allowed in Pas de Deux and Quadrille classes.

DR 121.14 Nasal strips, bit guards, and tongue ties are, under penalty of elimination, prohibited during exercise or in competition.

DR 121.16 Mouth. Any type of white substance applied around the horse's mouth to imitate foaming is strictly prohibited under penalty of elimination.

DR 121.19 Numbers. All competitors must complete check-in at the show office and receive a show number, before schooling or riding on the show grounds. Failure to check in at the show office prior to schooling will result in the issuance of a Warning Card. Competition-assigned numbers, or the same number in a personal numbering format, must be worn and visible at all times when a horse is being hand-walked, exercised or ridden, under penalty of elimination.

DR 122.10 Unauthorized Assistance is forbidden under penalty of elimination. Any intervention by a third party, including members of the Jury, with the object of facilitating the task of the competitor, including voice, signals, remounting, catching a horse inside the ring, etc., is illegal assistance. Except in the case of an error, any outside assistance provided by or authorized by a member of the Jury will result in elimination. A member of the Jury may not discuss a ride with a competitor before the bell or after the final salute. Use of any kind of noisemaking devices or equipment including "clickers" is considered unauthorized assistance and shall be penalized by elimination.

DR 128.2. For Federation qualifying for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders and Brentina Cup (Young Adults), within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF Qualifying class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse, under penalty of disqualification from the class for USEF championship qualifying purposes. For USEF championships for Children, Pony Riders, Juniors, Young Riders and Brentina Cup (Young Adults), within 24 hours prior and at no time during the competition, may any horse entered in a USEF Championship class be ridden by anyone other than the athlete entered in that class on that horse under penalty of elimination from the USEF championships. Exception: grooms riding on a loose rein. For purposes of this rule, the competition starts when horse and athlete arrive on the show grounds. This rule also applies for NAYC and USEF High Performance (HP) qualifying competitions and classes.

DR 129.3 In Freestyles: Equipment and attire must be dignified and conform to the requirements set forth for the corresponding Federation or FEI level. Under penalty of elimination, a rider's hat may not be intentionally removed.