

AHA Rule
Change
Processes
Fall 2024
USEF/EC



AHA Resolutions Pre-AHA Convention Process

- Potential USEF rule changes are brought forward from AHA Committees to the Arabian Rules Committee or as AHA Resolutions
- AHA Resolutions are developed by Committees, Boards, Clubs, Regions or the President of AHA
- AHA Resolutions are submitted to Agenda & Resolutions by 8/15 as either Standard or Extraordinary
 - Standard Effective Dates- 12/31 following year of AHA Resolution approval pending approval of USEF/EC
 - Extraordinary Effective Date – 12/31 of year of AHA Resolution approval pending approval of USEF/EC
 - Executive Committee may override effective date of AHA Resolution
- A&R and respective committees review AHA Proposed Resolutions
- AHA staff develop AHA impact statement for AHA Proposed Resolutions
- AHA sends proposed AHA resolutions requiring USEF approval to USEF by 9/1 to get in the cue
- Notice of Proposed Resolutions are sent to delegates and posted 45 days prior to AHA Convention



AHA Resolutions Approved by AHA Convention

- The USEF Arabian Rules Committee reviews at AHA Convention
- AHA Delegates approve
 - All resolutions state "when approved by USEF/EC"
 - What does that really mean?



USEF Council & Committee Structure



Post Convention – What Happens to an AHA Approved Resolution that is a Standard USEF Rule Change

- AHA Sr. Director of Competitions and Convention sends approved resolutions to USEF AR Liaison for drafting of USEF rule change"
- Arabian rules committee reviews at January meeting for feedback on the drafted PRCs from the Resolutions before their submission 2/1 with no official vote at that time.
- Deadline to submit rule changes to the AR chapter is February 1st
- USEF legal review – enforceability & defensibility – through February
- February 21- April 20 – Open USEF Committee/Member comment period – website
 - Arabian rules committee will review and take action. This will be to officially list their vote in the rule change system. The committee will have already reviewed and provided their feedback at AHA Convention.
- May 5 – May 30 - All USEF Councils review – and vote recommendations
- Mid June – USEF Board – votes
 - Disapproval calendar
 - Approval calendar
 - Voting calendar



USEF BOD Outcomes

- USEF BOD approves – resolution is effective December 1
- USEF BOD disapproves – resolution is finished
 - -This is what happened to A1-7-22 Shoeing Rule Modification – USEF tracking 233-22 (all committees and councils recommended disapproval)
- USEF postpones – it is brought back at future USEF Board meeting with additional information (September and again in November)
 - This is what happened with A2-8-22 USEF tracking 183-22 regarding AR 106.11 Tongue Stabilizers
- At that point USEF Board approves with an effective date of December 1 or disapproves



Rule Changes from the Arabian Rules Committee Path

- Committee meets approximately monthly
- Rule changes are due September 1 each year for the General Chapters and November 1st for the AR Chapter.
- USEF Arabian Committee proposals are shared at AHA Convention.
- USEF legal review – enforceability & defensibility – through December
- Any Changes to the Arabian Rules committee proposals following convention will be discussed in January with the committee. Final Draft will be submitted February 1st.
- February 21- April 20 – Open USEF Committee/Member comment period – website
- May 5 – May 30 - All USEF Councils review – and vote recommendations
- Mid June – USEF Board – votes
 - Disapproval calendar
 - Approval calendar
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USEF Rule 152 Change Procedures

GR 152 Rule Change Procedures

These rules may be added to, altered or amended at any meeting of the Board of Directors by a majority vote of those present as provided herein below. The Federation Legislative Committee is responsible for review, analysis, and oversight of the Federation's rule change process, subject to review and approval by the Board of Directors. Rule Change Categories: Standard, Clarification, Extraordinary, and FEI.

Federation Senior Staff, Federation Committees, Recognized Affiliate Associations (Recognized Associations and International Discipline Associations), and eligible Individual Federation members may propose rule changes. Individual Federation members are eligible so long as the member is a Lifetime member or has held a Federation Senior Active membership for at least five (5) consecutive years. If an Individual Federation member is ineligible to submit a rule change due to these requirements, the member may contact the appropriate Recognized Affiliate Association or Federation committee and request that either one consider proposing their desired rule change.



Other Rule Change Types

- Presidential Modification – Special Circumstances and Severe Hardship
- Extraordinary
 - A rule change that
 - 1) 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
 - 2) 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.
 - If the Legislative Committee approves for them to go forward, then the Committees/Affiliates, and Nat. Breeds/Discipline Council get to vote on if they recommend approval or not. If approved these go to the USEF Board for a vote.
- Clarifications
 - Contradictory language, missing or incorrect phrasing and other wording, punctuation errors that cause inconsistent interpretations of the intent of a rule
 - If the Legislative Committee approves for them to go forward, then the Committees/Affiliates and General Counsel, get to vote on if they recommend approval or not
- Standard – Any substantive changes



Extraordinary Resolution/Rule Change –by AHA

- AHA submitted to USEF September 1 pending changes at AHA Convention
- If changes are made during AHA Convention AHA will submit post AHA Convention when in final format typically the deadline is around the first of the year.
 - Goes to Committees & Councils in Feb/March, Board vote in March or April with an early Spring effective date
- If more changes need to be made post Convention
 - Submit post AHA Convention when in final format typically the deadline is around the first of the year.
 - Goes to Committees & Councils in Feb/March, Board vote in March or April with an early Spring effective date



Extraordinary Rule Change/EO – USEF

- Fall 2024 EO submission deadline October 25th
 - Comment period Nov 15-Jan 9th
 - Feedback deadline Jan 10, 2025
 - BOD at annual meeting (January)
 - Effective 4/1/25
- Spring 2025 EO submission deadline early April
 - Comment period late April-late May
 - Feedback deadline late May
 - BOD at Mid Year Meeting (June)
 - Effective early September
- Note: This timeline will slightly change every year. USEF is only accepting EO's twice a year now. Once in the Spring to go to Mid-year and once in the Fall to go to the end of year Board meeting.
- USEF can provide an updated timeline each August for this presentation.



Standard Rule Change Calendar - USEF

- 9/1 General Rule Submission Deadline
- 1/14 End of Comment Period
- 1/15 Black out Period – 2 weeks – no comments
- 1/30 End of Black out – 2nd Draft Due
- 2/1 Breed/Discipline Submission Deadline
- 4/20 End of Comment Period
- 4/21 Black out Period- 2 weeks – no comments
- 5/4 End of Black out – 3rd Draft Due
- 5/30 End of Council Comment Period
- Mid June Board of Directors Vote



Presidential Modification– USEF- requested by AHA

- May be requested by AHA President and AHA staff liaison to USEF President through USEF Affiliate Portal
- Must clearly satisfy both the special circumstance and severe hardship
- If approved the rule will be modified and will be effective immediately through 12/1 of the following year when the standard rule change will take effect for the following year.
- Any subsequent rule changes from either the Arabian Rules committee or the AHA Convention will not have an effective date until the Presidential Modification period has been completed.



Equestrian Canada

- Evergreen Rules Process – The Equestrian Canada rulebooks are updated annually, effective January 1st.
- Deadline for Rule Change Suggestions –May 31.
- Suggestions reviewed by appropriate discipline/breed sport EC committees. The AHA rule may be rejected by Equestrian Canada regardless of USEF approval
- Those moving forward are posted on the EC website and have a 30 day review period.
- Rule changes are posted on the EC website in December prior to their becoming effective January 1.



Equestrian Canada

- Extraordinary rule amendments are only for FEI changes, safety, monetary, clarification, ethical and equine welfare reasons.
- Extraordinary rule amendments are effective when published by EC.

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