

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2017	1/2/2017	Approved 1/14/2017

Proposed Change

GR844 Mandatory Necropsy [CHAPTER 8-F Welfare of the Horse]

This rule applies to fatalities of horses/ponies. For purposes of this rule, a "fatality" is defined as a death by any means including euthanasia at any time from when entries arrive at the venue until departure from the venue or a death by any means including euthanasia at any time occurring as a result of any fatal injury or illness sustained during a Licensed Competition or after a Licensed Competition where such fatal injury or illness is related to the horse's participation in the Licensed Competition.

- The trainer, as defined by Federation rules, or the owner if the trainer is unavailable, or the rider if the trainer and owner are both unavailable, shall notify the Steward/Technical Delegate as soon as possible but no later than one hour after such occurrence of any fatality of a horse or pony. When a fatality occurs outside of competition hours or before the competition begins, notification must occur as soon as possible but no later than one hour after the Steward/TD reports to the show or returns to duty.*
- The Steward/TD shall report to Competition Management and the Federation as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after the incident.*
- If a Federation appointed testing veterinarian is not available, at the Federation's cost, the Steward/TD shall ensure that the appointed Competition Veterinarian collects urine and blood samples at the earliest opportunity and submits the samples for analysis to the Federation's laboratory.*
- In addition to the duties set forth in GR 1034, the Steward/Technical Delegate shall file an Equine Fatality Report Form with the Federation within 24 hours of notification, except in exceptional circumstances such as no internet access at the venue.*
- Competition Management must identify prior to the start of the competition the nearest Veterinary Pathology laboratory to facilitate a rapid and accurate post-mortem.*
- A gross post mortem examination must be carried out in all incidents of euthanasia or fatality, except where the nearest Veterinary Pathology laboratory is further than 200 miles from where the equine fatality or euthanasia occurred. If a horse is uninsured or a post mortem is not required by the owner's insurance, the Federation will cover the cost of the gross post mortem and transport costs to the appropriate veterinary facility, up to a maximum in total of \$1,000.00, unless a greater amount is pre-approved by the Federation should the circumstances warrant. If the Federation covers the cost of the post mortem and the relevant post mortem report is provided to the owner's insurance, the Federation will only be responsible for half of the cost of the post mortem up to a maximum in total of \$500.00. If a post mortem is required by the owner's insurance, at no cost to the Federation, the horse's owner shall provide the Federation a copy of the post mortem report within 24 hours of receipt of such report.*
- In certain circumstances, as approved by the Chief Administrator of the Federation's Equine Drugs and Medications Program, who may be contacted at 1-800-633-2472, a necropsy may not be warranted.*
- The Federation Chief Administrator of Equine Drugs and Medications Program must be consulted by the horse's owner and in prior agreement for any further diagnostic investigations, such as histopathology, unless required by the owner's insurance. Within 12 hours of the horse leaving competition grounds, Competition Management shall provide the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program with the contact details of the applicable Veterinary Pathology laboratory.*
- The owner shall provide the preliminary and final reports of any post mortem to the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program within 24 hours of the pathologist completing their report or the owner's receipt of the report, but no later than 7 days after the horse's death.*
- The cause of death and, if relevant, the method of euthanasia should be included in the Post Mortem Report.*
- The Competition and/or treating veterinarian shall submit all information regarding any substance(s) administered to the horse prior to or during competition and before or during death or euthanasia using the Equine Drugs and Medications Report Form to the Federation Equine Drugs and Medications Program within 12 hours.*

Proponent Details

Horse Welfare Initiative Task Force

Contact Information

Sonja Keating

skeating@usef.org

Rule Change Intent

In the tragic event that a horse encounters a fatal incident while at a Licensed Competition, it is imperative that the Federation be able to gather information about that horse, which could lead to saving other horses from a similar fate.

Currently, the Federation does not have a necropsy requirement for horses that die while at a Licensed Competition. However, in requiring a necropsy and having access to the results of necropsies, the Federation will be able to gather critical information regarding the horse fatalities that occur at Licensed Competitions. This information would be used for research on the health and safety of horses.

The following information is intended to provide Committees and Federation members with the necessary background and addresses the requirements of the proposed necropsy rule change.

Introduction: The Federation is dedicated to maintaining a safe competition environment for all our members and their horses. The Federation is committed to the welfare of the horse.

Currently, the Federation does not have a necropsy requirement for equine fatalities that occur at Licensed Competitions. However, in requiring a necropsy and having access to the results of necropsies, the Federation will be able to gather critical information regarding the horse fatalities that occur at Licensed Competitions. This information would be used primarily to conduct research on the health and safety of horses. This requirement will also lead to the implementation of safety mechanisms that protect the horse and rider at all Licensed Competitions.

Q&A:

- Is the Federation aware of what an emotional time this can be for an owner? Absolutely. The Federation recognizes that the loss of an equine companion is devastating. The supporters of this rule have all experienced the loss of their horse. However, this rule change proposal is for the greater good of all competing horses.

- What if there is no veterinary pathology lab within 200 miles? This rule change proposal only applies when there is a lab within 200 miles. A list of available veterinary pathology laboratories will be provided to Competition Management and available on the Federation's website.
- Who will pay for samples to be drawn from a deceased horse? The Federation will cover all costs of drawing samples by using a testing veterinarian or covering the costs of a Competition Veterinarian.
- What costs associated with the necropsy and transportation will the Federation cover? If your horse is uninsured, the Federation will cover the cost of the required necropsy up to \$1,000. If the cost of a necropsy exceeds \$1,000, the Federation will cover the excess cost only in the event that the cost has been pre-approved by the Federation. If the horse is insured and a copy of the necropsy report is provided to the insurance company, the Federation will only cover half of the cost of a necropsy, up to \$500. If your insurance company requires a necropsy be performed on your horse, the Federation will not cover the costs of a necropsy.
- What are the additional burdens on Licensed Officials? This proposed rule change places no new responsibilities on Licensed Officials.
- Will this rule be a burden on Competition Management? No. We share a common goal with Competition Management that is to provide the safest environment possible to competitors. By working together, the Federation and Competition Management will be able to improve the safety and welfare of horses and riders.
- Is this rule change manageable? Yes. As evidenced by the FEI and USEA's similar policies regarding necropsies, the Federation is confident that this rule change will have a positive effect on future competitions and will lead to further improvements of horse welfare.

Timeline under proposed rule change:

- The trainer, owner, or rider must report the fatality to the Steward/TD as soon as possible but no later than one hour after the fatality.
- Steward/TD must report fatality to Competition Management and the Federation as soon as possible but no later than 24 hours after incident.
- Steward/TD must file an Equine Fatality Report Form with the Federation no later than 24 hours after incident, except in exceptional circumstances.
- Competition Management must ensure that samples are collected and sent to the Federation for testing at the earliest opportunity.
- Competition Management must give the Federation the contact information for the Veterinary Pathology laboratory within 12 hours of the horse leaving the grounds.
- Competition and/or treating veterinarian must provide the Equine Drugs and Medications Program with a complete list of all substances administered to the horse within 12 hours.
- the horse's owner must provide the Federation with a copy of the post mortem report within 24 hours of receiving it, but no later than 7 days after the fatality.

Linked Rules	Comments
Web: horse fatality	
Committee Actions	
Andalusian/Lusitano	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/03/2016 Draft 2: No Action Draft 3: No Action	Draft 1: Committee disagrees with leaving the owner out of the say in this decision. Committee disagrees with adding this responsibility to competition management and is concerned with the additional financial responsibility beyond what is covered by the Federation. Draft 2: No Comments Draft 3: No Comments
Arabian	
Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/03/2016 Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 11/03/2016 Draft 3: No Action	Draft 1: Too expensive Draft 2: Too expensive Draft 3: No Comments
Breeds/Disciplines	
Draft 1: No Action Draft 2: No Action Draft 3: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments Draft 2: No Comments Draft 3: No Comments
Equine Drugs & Medications	
Draft 1: No Action Draft 2: Recommends Approval 11/22/2016 Draft 3: Recommends Approval 01/11/2017	Draft 1: No Comments Draft 2: The Committee understands the emotionally charged issue this rule raises with owners, but it's important to gather as much information as possible. Draft 3: No Comments
Dressage	
Draft 1: No Action Draft 2: Recommends Approval 12/01/2016 Draft 3: Recommends Approval 01/03/2017	Draft 1: No Comments Draft 2: No Comments Draft 3: No Comments
Eventing	
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 12/10/2016 Draft 3: Recommends Approval 01/04/2017	Draft 2: No Comments Draft 3: No Comments
Hackney	
Draft 1: No Action Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 11/29/2016 Draft 3: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments Draft 2: Committee feels this is overregulation; USEF should not be conducting research at the expense of the owners. A necropsy should not be mandatory for a horse with an obvious cause of death. Not all horses are insured and this would be a huge expense. Committee is fine with taking a blood and urine samples for all types of death. Draft 3: No Comments
Licensed Officials	
Draft 1: No Action Draft 2: Recommends Approval 12/12/2016 Draft 3: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments Draft 2: No Comments Draft 3: No Comments

Morgan

Draft 1: No Action 11/01/2016
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

National Hunter Committee

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 12/13/2016
Draft 3: Recommends Disapproval 01/03/2017

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: Needs to identify when the rule becomes active at a competition and clarify what is meant by the phrase "after a licensed competition where such fatal injury or illness is related to the horse's participation in the Licensed Competition"

Paso Fino

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/27/2016
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 11/22/2016
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Roadster

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/21/2016
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: Committee believes that this should not be mandatory when death occurs from an issue that is obviously not a welfare issue.
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Saddle Seat Eq

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 11/28/2016
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: Feel a necropsy should not be mandatory in all cases. There should be strong implications there is a welfare issue for a mandatory necropsy. This would be a major expense for a horse that is not insured.
Draft 3: No Comments

American Saddlebred

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/15/2016
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: Committee is concerned with making this mandatory for all types of death. If a horse dies or is euthanatized from an issue that is obviously not a welfare issue a necropsy should not be required. The committee does not have an issue with taking blood and urine samples from all types of deaths.
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Shetland

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/21/2016
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: Many scenarios where death would not be a result of a welfare issue and this requirement would be difficult for a distraught owner.
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Competition Management

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 12/19/2016
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: Needs to identify when the rule becomes active at a competition, clarify what is meant by the phrase "after a Licensed Competition where such fatal injury or illness is related to the horse's participation in the Licensed Competition.", and amend point 5 to state "identify" vs "make arrangements"
Draft 3: No Comments

Veterinary

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 11/22/2016
Draft 3: Recommends Approval 01/11/2017

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: The Committee feels strongly that there needs to be an educational approach to the membership regarding this rule if it passes. It is a very emotional topic, and one that the Federation is very sensitive to. However, the information that may be obtained could be very beneficial to other horses and warrants this rule change.
Draft 3: No Comments

Connemara

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 11/18/2016
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: This is difficult to implement, especially for rural competitions.
Draft 3: No Comments

Western Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/08/2016
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: Concerned with making this mandatory. An owner (particularly youth) should not be subjected to more trauma and expense by requiring their horse to have a necropsy if it dies from old age or something that is obviously not a welfare issue. Would be fine with requiring mandatory blood and fluid samples be taken from any horse dying on competition grounds. Recommend necropsy be done on a case by case basis if welfare issues or abuse is suspected by the veterinarian. If there are obvious signs of abuse recommend the owner have to pay the full cost. If there are not obvious signs of abuse recommend USEF pay the full cost.
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

HP - Dressage

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

HP - Eventing

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

HP - Jumping

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Friesian

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/25/2016
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: Heavy emotional stress already for exhibitor. Who pays the additional costs?
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

USHJA

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 12/15/2016
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: Needs to identify when the rule becomes active at a competition, clarify what is meant by the phrase "after a Licensed Competition where such fatal injury or illness is related to the horse's participation in the Licensed Competition.", and amend point 5 to state "identify" vs "make arrangements"
Draft 3: No Comments

Carriage Pleasure Driving

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 10/26/2016
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Welsh

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 11/17/2016
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: In favor of the idea, but will cover additional costs? What if the death is obvious such as a severely broken limb?
Draft 3: No Comments

NSH

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/03/2016
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: Too expensive
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Western Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 10/25/2016
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: No Action

Draft 1: Need more information regarding costs, locations, etc.
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Council - Admin & Finance

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 12/21/2016
Draft 3: Recommends Approval 01/12/2017

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: Recommends Approval 01/04/2017

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: No Action 12/22/2016
Draft 3: Recommends Approval 01/04/2017

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: All agree in principle, but feel competition management should only have to identify places to get a necropsy done, that there should be a limit on the back end for deaths after the competition (3 days suggested) and since the Steward typically interacts with the USEF, they should be responsible for getting the samples taken at the competition.
Draft 3: No Comments