

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2023	3/10/2023	Approved 6/20/2023

Rule Change Intent

The accurate identification of horses is essential. At Federation Licesned Competitions, the best manner in which to identify horses is through a Federation Horse Identification Number, which does not require recording with the Federation. During times of disease outbreak, natural disasters, theft, and to protect against fraud, microchipping of horses is fundamental to good horsemanship. The requirement for all horses competing at USEF licensed competitions to be microchipped is in the interest of horse welfare. While microchipping of horses will be required, members will be encouraged to explore the use of biothermal microchips that allow for Bluetooth connectivity for monitoring of horse temperatures.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Veterinary	Stephen Schumacher sschumacher@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions  
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/15/2023

Council - Intl Discipline

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/09/2023

Council - Member Services

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/09/2023

**Draft 2: The Council is in favor of this proposal and feels it is necessary and that it represents an important step in supporting bio-security measures and ensuring the health and well-being of competition horses. The Council would like to recommend, however, that the rule change proposal be amended to contain language that allows those competition horses that are already chipped with 10-digit microchips to be exempted from the requirement to undergo insertion of an additional 15-digit microchip. Since 10-digit microchips have not been used in approximately 20 years, those horses with these older chips will soon age out of the competition environment making the exception unnecessary in a relatively short period of time.**

1. All horses competing in Federation licensed competitions must be properly identified. For all such competitions, entries for each horse must include either a Federation-issued Unique Horse Identification Number or a registration number from a Federation Recognized Affiliate. Additionally, a Federation Recognized Discipline Affiliate may require horses to be registered with their organization, and if so, the entry must also include that registration number.

[...]

**10. Effective December 1, 2025, all horses competing at Federation Licensed and Endorsed Competitions must provide a microchip number that verifies the animal. A microchip used to verify identity must be a fifteen-digit ISO compliant 11784/11785 chip and be implanted in the nuchal ligament of the animal.**