

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

Rule Change Intent

Horses require adequate rest and REM sleep in a 24-hour period. While horses can rest during the day, sleep typically occurs after midnight in the dark hours. Conditions unsuitable for sleep (e.g. loud environments, bright lights, etc.) may limit the ability of horses to get adequate sleep which can lead to sleep deprivation and excessive drowsiness, impacting equine performance and wellbeing. There is ample science showing how sleep deprivation causes stress in horses particularly noted through behavioral changes such as spookiness or even collapsing while standing waiting for a class. Limiting a horse's ability to sleep may create a higher risk of injury to both horse and rider. Horses who are sleep deprived may have little regard for balance and often exhibit erratic and wild behavior. After reviewing the feedback received during the comment period, the committee recommends updating the language to that outlined in Draft 2 to allow for flexibility based on venue and breed or discipline needs.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Safety	Katlynn Wilbers kwilbers@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions	
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline	
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/22/2023	
Council - Intl Discipline	
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 05/09/2023	Draft 2: The IDC voted to disapprove and discussed concerns/issues raised by the Sport Committees.
Council - Member Services	
Draft 2: Recommends Approval 05/09/2023	

GR1215 Stabling

3. At competitions which offer overnight stabling, adequate lighting must be provided.

4. For six consecutive hours overnight, stabling must have minimal lighting and noise to allow stabled horses to rest adequately.

4. 5. It is recommended that at Level 4 and Level 5 Dressage Competitions, and at competitions with an A rated division provide, upon request of the official competition veterinarian, a suitable area, protected from the elements, secured from public view, adequately lighted, with adequate electrical supply and running water, to serve as a first aid station for the emergency treatment of ill and injured horses.

5. 6. Additional stabling requirements for Dressage Competitions are listed in the Dressage Levels chart posted on the Federation website.