

Dressage & Blood on the Horse



- DR 124.1.n. 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.

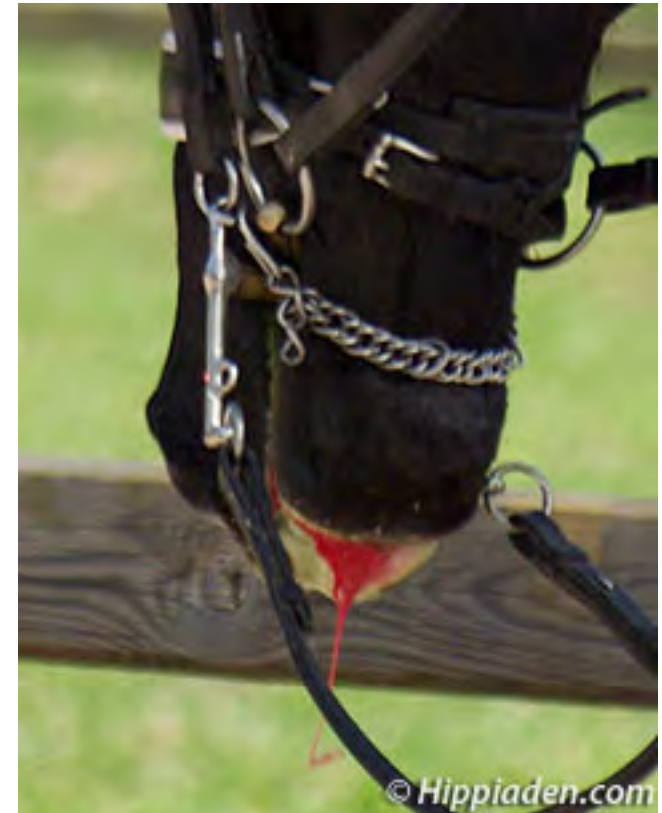
Evidence of blood on a horse in the competition arena shall be cause for elimination from the class by the judge at “C”.



Outside of the competition ring



- Evidence of blood on a horse outside the competition arena shall be cause for elimination by competition management, after consultation with the technical delegate,...

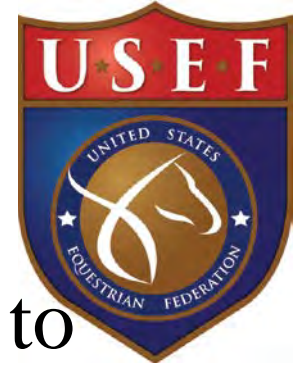


The rule continued...



- ❑ from either the last class in which the horse competed...
- ❑ If blood was found during the bit check after a class, discuss this with the manager. The cause of the blood is an important factor in this discussion. It may mean elimination from the class.

The rule continued...



- ...or next class in which it is scheduled to compete, depending on which is closest to the time the incident occurred.
- If blood is found at some other time or in preparation for a class, a discussion needs to take place with the show manager concerning what the ramifications will be. The cause of the blood is an important factor in the discussion.

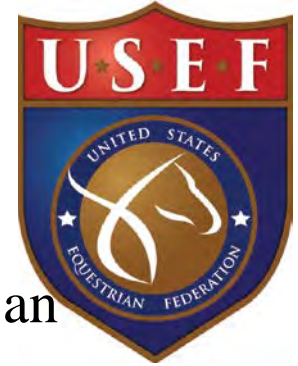
The rule continued...



- Environmental causes such as insect bites shall normally not be cause for elimination.
- These could be such things as insect bites, the horse has rubbed his nose on the stall or has run into a nail in his stall.



If environmental,



- ❑ Did the rider let you know before the class that there was an issue. This oftentimes happens where they will bring the horse before they compete and show you what has occurred that has created an area of concern.
- ❑ You can tell them that you will put it on your radar, and if the judge queries it, that you will let them know what the situation was and that the competitor showed you the problem area before the test.
- ❑ If the problem area is dry, healing or crusted over, it might open up during the test. During the equipment check, if you take a tissue and blot the area with the tissue (do not rub) and it comes away dry (no blood) it is an area of potential concern but is not blood.

Blood clearly caused by the rider



Use a tissue or white cloth and run it over the area.

Take a picture with your camera.



Swelling in the spur area



- This is a difficult area of concern. A rider may have inherited a horse who had the bruising from previous riders and it is not of their creation. They have to deal with it as best they can.
- Or the rider could be creating the bruising and needs to become better educated about it and how to prevent it from happening or developing further.
- We cannot control this other than to advise the rider that it is an area of concern and may lead to problems in the future that we will have to act upon.

Not good but not bleeding.



Not good and possibly bleeding...



With either of these, if a tissue does not indicate active bleeding, it falls into the advising the competitor area.

Explaining to others

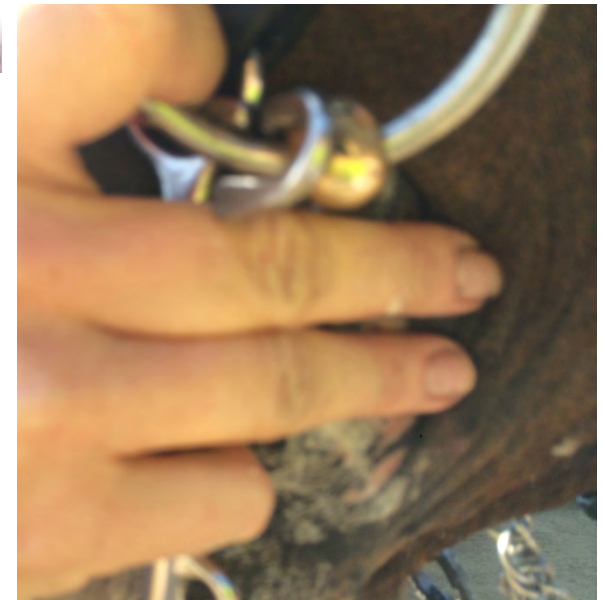


- ❑ Some people will be very concerned and will question the presence of spur area swellings and why we (TD's) are not doing something.
- ❑ 'All bruising is bad, therefore this rider is bad and something should happen to this rider right now.'
- ❑ We need to make sure we explain why we cannot. They need to know what we do in monitoring the bruising and if it should turn into a blood situation that we can act on it but otherwise we advise the competitor.

Blood - work related



Work related issues...



Is this actively bleeding?



Take a tissue or white cloth and blot the area. If it comes away with no blood, it is not actively bleeding.

Caution the competitor about it, that it may break open and then it will be problematical. Right now it would not be cause for elimination.

Is it caused by equipment?



Work or environment?



Is it bleeding or just pink?



This was crusted over before the test but broke open during the test. The judge did not see it. Cause for elimination in consultation with the show manager.





The horse had no injury before the test but was found after the test with an open wound on the inside of the front leg.

Cause for elimination in consultation with the show manager.

Work with your equipment checkers



- Included in the bit checking routine that they are doing, they need to look at the overall horse as they are working around him to see if there is any evidence of blood.
- If blood is found on their glove(s) during the bit check, they should tell the rider that they need to call the TD and that the rider should wait. They should not let the rider or anyone on the ground touch the horse and wipe the blood away.
- If blood is found on the glove, if possible, train the equipment checkers to utilize a white tissue and to gather more evidence on the tissue.

Evidence



How to handle a blood issue



- ❑ When you arrive, listen to the equipment checker. Note what they have found.
- ❑ After putting on gloves, go in with a tissue and swab the area for blood.
- ❑ If there is blood, explain to the rider what you have found and where. You could say something like ‘I am so sorry but it appears that we have blood on/in the -It appears that he has bitten his tongue, has torn his lip, the flash cavesson has rubbed his face and it is bleeding, he has blood evidently from your spur, he has kicked himself and there is blood on his leg...
- ❑ If you can, get a picture of the bloody area. It is always better to have as much evidence as you can.

What to do next...



- ❑ Is the blood from a rider influenced source or is it environmental?
- ❑ Explain to the rider that you will have to take this to show management.
- ❑ If the cause is environmental, management will most likely not eliminate them from the test.
- ❑ If it is non environmental, explain that it is likely that this will mean they are eliminated from the test.

Follow through...



- ❑ Tell the competitor that you will get back in touch with them as soon as you know Management's decision. Note their rider number in your notebook. Get their phone number.
- ❑ They may be concerned about whether they will be allowed to compete in other tests if they are eliminated. Assure them that they will but that the issue needs careful attention in between.
- ❑ After talking to the manager, if the rider is eliminated, follow through with scoring so that a score is not posted.
- ❑ Follow through with the competitor.
- ❑ It is good to follow through with the judge at some time as to why the competitor was eliminated. They review the score boards and will note that the rider was eliminated.

FEI or International Competitions



- ❑ The blood rules at competitions that are CDI's are **different** from the blood rules in USEF recognized/National competitions.
- ❑ You may have competitors who compete in both, CDI's and National shows. In our National shows, the USEF rules prevail.
- ❑ Competitors may be confused about the differences between the two blood rules.
- ❑ Some officials are confused at times as to which set of rules prevail. Be careful of which you are working under.

Confusion by competitors



- ❑ If you have a competitor who competes in both USEF competitions and CDI's, when a blood incident occurs, they may confuse the two blood rules and say that the vet needs to look at the horse even if the event is a USEF competition.
- ❑ If the class is in a CDI, the procedure falls under those rules.
- ❑ We have included the FEI blood rules in order for you to see the difference between them.

FEI Rules concerning blood-

these rules pertain only to horses competing in CDI's



Bleeding: 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 FEI Steward 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 (Art. 430.10), he informs the Judge at C, who will eliminate the Horse and the/Athlete. If there is blood elsewhere on the Horse, an FEI Veterinarian is to be called to decide if the Horse is fit to continue in following competition(s) in the Event. If the Horse is eliminated pursuant to the above, or if the Horse is injured during the test and starts bleeding after finishing the test, it should be examined by an FEI Veterinarian prior to the next Competition to determine if it is fit to continue in the Event the following day(s). The decision of the FEI Veterinarian is not subject to appeal.

International Competitions



- **During the test** - 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.

International Competitions



- If the FEI Steward 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 (Art. 430.10), he informs the Judge at C, who will eliminate the Horse and the/Athlete.

The FEI Steward will inform the Judge at C that blood was found and the judge will eliminate the horse.

You need to take your evidence with you when talking to the judge.

International Competitions



- If there is blood elsewhere on the Horse, an FEI Veterinarian is to be called to decide if the Horse is fit to continue in following competition(s) in the Event. If the Horse is eliminated pursuant to the above, or if the Horse is injured during the test and starts bleeding after finishing the test, it should be examined by an FEI Veterinarian prior to the next Competition to determine if it is fit to continue in the Event the following day(s). The decision of the FEI Veterinarian is not subject to appeal.
- If there is blood elsewhere, the FEI Vet needs to be called to the competition ring. You will turn this issue over to them at this point.

It can happen to the best of them...

