

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2018	1/12/2018	

Proposed Change

GR309 Special Competitions [CHAPTER Sub-Chapter 3-B, Competition Classification]

GR309 Special Competitions

A Special Competition is **a competition that the Federation deems to be in the best interest of the sport and is therefore issued a competition license** an event, which may not fully meet the requirements for obtaining Federation licensing; however, it has been deemed in the best interest of the breed and/or discipline and/or sport, and the Federation that the event be sanctioned by the Federation. After **submitting a** written application to the Federation at least six months prior to **the start of competition, and in accordance with the applicable Board-approved Special Competition Guidelines**, an event, a competition may be approved for Special Competition classification **and licensure by the Federation** upon approval of the Board of Directors. The Federation must provide the applicable Recognized Affiliate, Council, and discipline or breed committee with all information pertaining to the request, including mileage and any other conflicts, for the purpose of making a recommendation as to approving or disapproving the request. A non-refundable processing fee must be submitted with the application. Special Competition classification may include, but is not limited to, the following: Olympic Games or Trials; Pan Am Games or Trials; World Equestrian Games or Trials; World Cup Finals or Qualifiers; FEI CSI-5* events held as a standalone event and not in conjunction with any other competition; Nations Cup Finals; Nations Cup CSIO's; Federation National Finals; Federation National Championships; Recognized Affiliate championships; and any other events deemed by the Board of Directors as fitting in this classification. Competitions classified as Special Competitions are exempt from the mileage rules for the classes and divisions approved by the Board of Directors.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
USEF Officers	Matt Fine mfine@usef.org

Rule Change Intent

As currently written, the Special Competition rule leads to confusion as to what constitutes a Special Competition and what competitions may apply for the classification. The intent is to clarify those competitions that qualify for classification as a special competition based on the type of competition (e.g. Olympic Games) and those competitions that must apply for the classification.

Linked Rules	Comments
	Web: Definition of Special Competition

Committee Actions

Competition Management	
<p>Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/04/2017 Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 04/05/2018</p>	<p>Draft 1: Not comfortable with the wording of "determined by the Federation" and that the affiliate review wording is removed Draft 2: Would consider approval if the "Special Competition Application Guidelines" under - section 2-3 were modified to include the following: Once all fees are paid and all materials required by the Application for a Special Competition form are received, the Competitions Department will notify the applicant-competition via email that the application has been received, is complete, and will begin processing. Once initial processing is complete, the Federation will provide notice of a newly submitted Special Competition application to affected competition(s), except when prohibited by confidentiality or nondisclosure agreements. (This would require a clash review process to be set up to notify effected competition(s)). This committee also suggests that the terminology under section 3-2 in the guidelines be checked for accuracy, i.e. is number 5 in section 3-2 correct or should it be called "FEI Nations Cup Finals?"</p>

Council - Admin & Finance	
<p>Draft 1: Tabled 01/08/2018 Draft 2: Referred 02/27/2018</p>	<p>Draft 1: The Committee wants to see the procedures before approving this rule. Draft 2: No new drafts of this proposed rule change have been received. The Council therefore recommends that the Board refer this to the Mid-Year Board Meeting.</p>

Council - Intl Discipline	
<p>Draft 1: Tabled 01/10/2018 Draft 2: Referred 02/20/2018</p>	<p>Draft 1: The Council would like to review the Procedures document that coincides with this rule before making an action on the rule itself. Draft 2: Recommend the BOD to refer to the Mid-Year Meeting in June.</p>

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/10/2018
Draft 2: No Action

Draft 1: The Council agreed with comments from USHJA. The rule change needs more work to define specifics for how a special comp would be defined, evaluated and assessed.
Draft 2: No Comments

Eventing

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 11/07/2017
Draft 2: No Action

Draft 1: The Eventing Sport Committee would be amendable to approving the proposed change to GR309 if amended to require approval of Special Competitions other than Olympic Games or Trials; Pan Am Games or Trials; World Equestrian Games or Trials; World Cup Finals or Qualifiers; Nations Cup Finals; Nations Cup CSIO's; Federation National Finals; Federation National Championships and Recognized Affiliate championships, by the specific Breed/Discipline Committee.
Draft 2: No Comments

Jumper

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/28/2017
Draft 2: No Action

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments

National Hunter Committee

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 12/18/2017
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 04/09/2018

Draft 1: The committee is waiting for a second draft of this rule change in favor of the current draft.
Draft 2: The committee would like to see the National Championships (USEF and Affiliate) added back into the supplement document as a Special Competition type, creating a minimum of two types-FEI type and National Championship type. The committee would also like to express its frustration in the constant promise of a new draft of this rule change being worked on. We feel it is difficult to review the draft presented when changes have already been made to the rule change and not provided for review.

USHJA

Draft 1: Recommends Disapproval 01/08/2018
Draft 2: Recommends Disapproval 04/02/2018

Draft 1: USHJA feels this current draft is too vague and the RCP does not provide adequate specifics for how Special Competitions are defined, evaluated or assessed. Additionally, USHJA would like to see the evaluation process for Special Competitions provide for the ability for existing competitions within reasonable proximity to a) be notified that a Special Competition application has been submitted, and b) have the ability to provide comment about the potential impact. Currently, the Special Competition application and evaluation process provides absolutely no transparency. Finally, USHJA would like assurance that the existence of standalone Hunter Derby competitions will not be jeopardized by not establishing (either through modification of this RCP, or creation of an alternate licensing process) the mechanism for such exceptional hunter events to exist.
Draft 2: USHJA feels this current draft and its companion guidelines document are not yet fully formulated and do not adequately accommodate and address the needs of the current competition environment, while still protecting the integrity of the Federation's licensing process and its application of the mileage rules. Specifically, USHJA is not in favor of granting Special Competition licenses on a multi-year basis, especially when such events are not subject to application of the mileage rule. USHJA also feels that removing (from both the rule and the guidelines document) "Federation National Finals, Federation National Championships and Recognized Affiliate national championships" from the list of event types than can be considered Special Competitions needs to be addressed. Additionally, USHJA feels that while unique annually repeated events that can't meet regular licensing criteria (e.g., standalone International Hunter Derby competitions) likely do not fall under the true or intended definition of a Special Competition, they should nonetheless be specifically addressed within or alongside this rule change proposal. USHJA strongly recommends disapproving/withdrawing this RCP at this time and fully engaging all the affiliates in discussion of this topic prior to submitting a new RCP in the next rule change cycle.