

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2019	9/5/2018	

Proposed Change

GR309 Special Competitions [CHAPTER 3-B Competition Classification]

GR309 Special Competitions

A Special Competition is 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 written application to the Federation at least six months prior to an event, a competition may be approved for Special Competition classification 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.

For the purposes of this rule, the term "Special" relates to the type of competition license and is not associated with the merits or quality of the competition.

1. The Federation Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may approve or deny an application for Special Competition status in accordance with Federation rules, policy and procedure. If approved, a Special Competition will be added to the USEF Competition Calendar without regard for existing mileage rules and conflicts and will receive no mileage protection from new or existing competitions. A Special Competition may be held as a stand-alone event or in conjunction with an existing USEF licensed competition. A Special Competition may not fully meet the requirements to obtain a Federation Competition License.

2. Special Competitions are categorized in the following manner and shall be reviewed in accordance with Section 4.

a. Category I – FEI-named Competitions and FEI Championships which are part of a competitive bid process, including but not limited to Olympic Games or Trials; Pan Am Games or Trials; World Equestrian Games or Trials; World Cup Finals or Qualifiers; Nations Cup Finals or Qualifiers; and Nations Cup CIOs. These competitions may or may not include additional FEI-only classes.

b. Category II - Federation National Finals and Federation National Championships which do not fully meet the requirements to obtain a Federation Competition License.

c. Category III - USEF Recognized Affiliate Organization Championships or Finals which do not fully meet the requirements to obtain a Federation Competition License.

d. Category IV - A competition for which USEF breed or discipline rules do not exist that an applicant wishes to have approved by the Federation and which the Board of Directors, in their sole discretion, deems to be in the best interest of the sport.

3. Application Process.

a. An application for consideration of a Special Competition must be submitted to the Federation a minimum of 180 days in advance of the start date of the proposed competition. Generally, an application should not be submitted more than 365 days prior to the start date of the proposed competition. However, unusual circumstances may require an earlier submission. Such circumstances must be included on the application and will be considered in the review process.

b. An application for a Special Competition will not be considered complete and will not be processed until all applicable fees have been paid, except when the application is part of a competitive application or bid process (e.g. FEI World Cup Qualifiers, certain USEF National Championships, etc.). When an application is part of a competitive application or bid process, the fee will not be required until a determination is made regarding the awarding of the competition.

c. An application for a Special Competition must include the following:

(i) All classes, sections, demonstrations, and exhibitions to be held during the proposed competition dates, including all prize money, bonus money, or other awards;

(ii) The basis for competition's inability to meet Federation rules regarding competition licensing; and

(iii) The basis for competition's inability to meet Federation rules regarding specific breed/discipline rules.

d. The inability to meet Federation rules under section (ii) or (iii) above shall not result from a need to obtain an exception to existing Federation rules, or program requirements, or from circumstances within the applicant's control. However, the Federation recognizes that situations may arise whereby an applicant cannot meet Federation rules due to the actions of the FEI or USEF and such actions may qualify as permissible explanation.

e. Special Competitions are not intended as a means of circumventing USEF's licensing rules in GR Chapter 3. If an application for a Special Competition includes an FEI competition not identified in Section 2(a) above, a national competition, or a combination of both which creates a mileage conflict, that portion of the application will be required to utilize the Mileage Exemption process for approval. In the event of a need for a mileage exemption, the Federation may alter the timelines set forth in GR 315.

f. For licensing purposes, all jumper prize money from FEI and national competitions will be combined and counted in determining a competition's Jumper Level.

g. If a Special Competition is combined with an existing priority date holder competition, the priority date holder competition will retain priority status at its original rating and/or level.

4. Application Review Process.

Depending on the category of a Special Competition, the application may be reviewed by one or more entities of the USEF and its Recognized Affiliates before being submitted to the Board of Directors for their consideration and final decision. The Board of Directors reserves the right to appoint an Ad Hoc Committee to review applications and render a final decision.

1. Applications for a Category I competition shall be reviewed by the applicable USEF Councils.
2. Applications for a Category II or III competition shall be reviewed by the applicable USEF Committees and Councils.
3. Applications for a Category IV competition shall be reviewed by the applicable USEF Recognized Affiliates, Committees and Councils.

5. Modifications or Amendments to an Approved Special Competition.

Modifications or amendments to an approved Special Competition are not permitted unless approved by the Federation in writing. A modification to an approved Special Competition must be approved in writing by the Federation after review by the CEO or his designee, following consultation with the Director of Competition Services or his designee and the Director of Sport or his designee(s) for the applicable breed or discipline. Modifications to an approved Special Competition must be received by the Federation at least 30 days prior to the start of competition.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Competitions Task Force	Bill Moroney bmoroney@usef.org

Rule Change Intent

This rule change is being proposed in order to more clearly define the categories of Special Competitions, the application and review process of each category, the information needed for application purposes, and the modification process.

Linked Rules	Comments
	Web: Special Competitions

Committee Actions	
Competition Management	
Draft 1: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments
Council - Admin & Finance	
Draft 1: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments
Council - Intl Discipline	
Draft 1: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments
Council - Natl Breed & Discipline	
Draft 1: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments
Jumper	
Draft 1: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments
National Hunter Committee	
Draft 1: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments
USHJA	
Draft 1: No Action	Draft 1: No Comments

