



USEF Licensed Judge,

The safety and welfare of horses and riders at US Equestrian-licensed competitions continues to be of paramount importance to stakeholders at all levels of equestrian sport. It is well known that minimizing the occurrence of horse and rider falls decreases the risk of injury to participants and our equine partners in competition. To inform change, evaluate risk, and implement risk mitigation strategies in our sport, accurate data pertaining to falls is needed.

In an effort to collect uniform and actionable fall data across all levels of competition, beginning December 1, 2023, US Equestrian will require falls of horse and falls of rider to be reported in the class results at each competition. Horse falls will be reported as "HF" in the competition results and rider falls will be reported as "RF". This requirement will be for all licensed breeds and disciplines, excluding eventing. For eventing competitions horse falls will continue to be reported as "MR" in the competition results, and rider falls will continue to be reported as "RF".

As a judge, you may be required to provide additional information on your judge's card in order to assist the competition with reporting results accurately. **Please note on the judge's card when a horse or rider fall occurs by denoting "HF" for a horse fall and "RF" for a rider fall.** Definitions of these types of falls can be found in GR122.

- **Eventing Judges** – Please note that eventing competitions have specific penalties associated with different types of faults, in addition to horse and rider falls. The competition will report horse and rider falls in addition to faults such as mandatory retirement (MR), eliminations, etc. As needed, please continue your current practice of communicating appropriately with the competition to report rider falls, horse falls, mandatory retirements, and eliminations.

Thank you for continuing to be the leaders in our sport and ensuring our horse and human athletes can compete in a safe environment. Reporting information related to safety and welfare at Federation licensed competitions allows us to continue to improve our risk management strategies.

Thank you,

Alina Brazzil  
Director, Licensed Officials