



R Mentor Training: USEF Policies



Introduction

Welcome:

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- Two online components
 - USEF Policies
 - Licensed Officials (LO) Conduct and Best Practices
- Virtual webinar; practicum virtual judging; hunter breeding; apprenticing; final exam

USEF Policies

- Social License to Operate (SLO)
- Unethical Treatment of a Horse
- Annual Compliance Regulations

Social License to Operate



LICENSED OFFICIALS:
HORSE WELFARE
AND YOUR ROLE

Social License to Operate

HORSE WELFARE AND YOUR ROLE



KEY OBJECTIVES

- ▶ Identifying horse welfare concerns
- ▶ Defining Social License to Operate
- ▶ Reporting to the Federation

Social License to Operate

HORSE WELFARE AND YOUR ROLE



UTMOST IMPORTANCE: HORSE WELFARE

- ▶ The Federation has a duty “to preserve and protect the welfare of the horse by inspecting, monitoring and testing to deter use of forbidden substances and other cruel, unsafe and/or unsportsmanlike practices and by adopting and enforcing rules to prohibit such practices.”

Social License to Operate

HORSE WELFARE AND YOUR ROLE



WHAT IS SOCIAL LICENSE TO OPERATE

- ▶ The ability for the public and their perception to accept an endeavor, in our case horse sport.
- ▶ Does society trust you to have the best interest of the horse in mind during horse sport.
- ▶ Refer to the USEF learning center video “[Social License with David O’Connor](#)” for more information.

Social License to Operate

HORSE WELFARE AND YOUR ROLE



SOCIAL LICENSE TO OPERATE

- ▶ By achieving public acceptance and the ability to self-regulate, we can be permitted the freedom to operate as a sport
- ▶ Rising public concerns
 - ▶ Society does not distinguish between different equestrian sports
 - ▶ Public may prioritize emotion over evidence

New rules on horse nosebands needed to prevent distress, say researchers

Study found horses' heart rates increased and they struggled to chew when nosebands were over-tightened, leading to calls for stricter regulations on use

British Survey Finds 20 Percent Of People Do Not Support The Use Of Horses In Sport

by World Horse Welfare | 06/19/2023 | 12:26pm

PETA calls on IOC president to remove equestrian events from Games



Aug 18 (Reuters) - PETA (Photo for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) called on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) on Friday to eliminate equestrian events from future Olympics citing cruelty to horses during the recent Tokyo Summer Games.

Opinion

Equestrian sports have an animal cruelty problem - dressage should be banned from the Olympics

In my experience, the most distressed horses are always those who come from the horse racing industry



Social License to Operate

HORSE WELFARE AND YOUR ROLE



IDENTIFYING CONCERNS

- ▶ Competition participants may contact you regarding a concern at a competition related to a horse
- ▶ This could be in the form of:
 - ▶ Overworking or overuse
 - ▶ Physical indicators (spur marks, blood, welts, etc.)
 - ▶ Training practices

Social License to Operate

HORSE WELFARE AND YOUR ROLE



PHYSICAL CONCERNS

- ▶ Physical indicators can have varying levels of severity
- ▶ Do not solely evaluate a horse on your own
 - ▶ Utilize the Competition Veterinarian for consults
- ▶ While officiating be aware of:
 - ▶ Spur marks and rubs
 - ▶ Blood
 - ▶ Welts
 - ▶ Exhaustion (lathering, sweating, etc.)

Social License to Operate

HORSE WELFARE AND YOUR ROLE



DOCUMENTING AND REPORTING TO USEF

- ▶ As a Licensed Official, you are the eyes and ears of the Federation while at the competition. If you see an example of unethical treatment or are concerned about a horse welfare issue, talk to the Steward/TD and/or the Competition Veterinarian. Ask them to include it on their Steward/TD report.
- ▶ Stewards and TDs: Use the Evidence Gathering Guidelines to document and report concerns that are brought to your attention.
- ▶ Complete the [USEF Eyewitness Equine Abuse Report Form](#).
- ▶ Do not wait to act. The Federation and its members rely on you as a licensed official to safeguard the welfare of the horse.

Social License to Operate

HORSE WELFARE AND YOUR ROLE



SUMMARY

- ▶ Horse welfare concerns must be addressed and documented.
- ▶ Utilize the Competition Veterinarian to conduct an examination per GR838.
- ▶ Remember you can never over report; include any and all concerns in the Steward/TD Report. If you are not the Steward/TD, ensure you share information with the Steward/TD at the competition or report directly to the Federation.
- ▶ Your role as an official affects our future ability to operate as a sport. Be mindful of the social license to operate and the perception of horse sports to the public.

Social License to Operate

- Additional Resources
 - [Social License with David O'Connor](#)
 - [Reporting Unethical Treatment of a Horse](#)

Unethical Treatment of a Horse

GR838 Unethical Treatment of a Horse

4. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse at or in direct connection with a Federation Licensed or Endorsed Competition, **must** immediately report it to a Federation Licensed Official at the competition.

5. Any Participant who personally witnesses the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse outside of a Federation Licensed Competition, **should** report it to the Federation and the relevant local authorities as soon as practicable.

Unethical Treatment of a Horse

HU100/EQ104 Horse Welfare

1. d. Riding or lunging an obviously lame horse.
- h. Excessive use of a whip on any horse in a stall, aisle, schooling area, competition ring or elsewhere on the competition grounds. The use of a whip must be for a good reason, done at the appropriate time, in the proper place and with appropriate restraint. Excessive whipping will not be tolerated.
- j. Repeated jerking on the reins and sawing on the bit unless applied to an unruly horse that is jeopardizing its own safety or the safety of its rider.

License, Process, and Compliance

- Annual SafeSport Training
- Annual License Renewal
- Background Check every 2 years
- Annual maintenance component
- Regular license maintenance requirements