

Problem Solving for Officials

**United States Eventing
Association**

**Licensed Officials
Committee**

2024



Officials Roles and Responsibilities

- We are responsible for the best interest of the Horse
- We are responsible for the best interest of the Athlete
- We are responsible for the actions of one another
- We must work to ensure high levels of risk management
- We must work to ensure high levels of integrity
- We must champion and congratulate equine welfare, good riding and Horsemanship in what ever form we see it
 - Together we must be able to celebrate the thrill and challenge of our Sport



Creating a Partnership at the Event



Officials must work together as a Team to assure that a fair, risk adverse, competition is run.



Discussions throughout the competition should keep open lines of communication with competitors, organizers and fellow officials



Working relationship means listening, addressing, investigating and addressing concerns raised by competitors, organizers and fellow officials



Each official has a responsibility to listen to concerns that are shared and brought forward from riders

EV 115: Inquiries, Protests and Appeals

1. INQUIRIES. The Athlete, a parent or guardian of an Athlete under 18 years old, the owner of the Horse, or the owner's agent, may inquire about any perceived irregularity or scoring during the Event. Inquiries may be addressed to the Organizer, Ground Jury, or Technical Delegate.
2. PROTESTS: Protests must be in writing, signed, delivered to the event secretary, and accompanied by a fee made payable to the Organizer, which will be refunded if the protest (or subsequent appeal) is upheld.

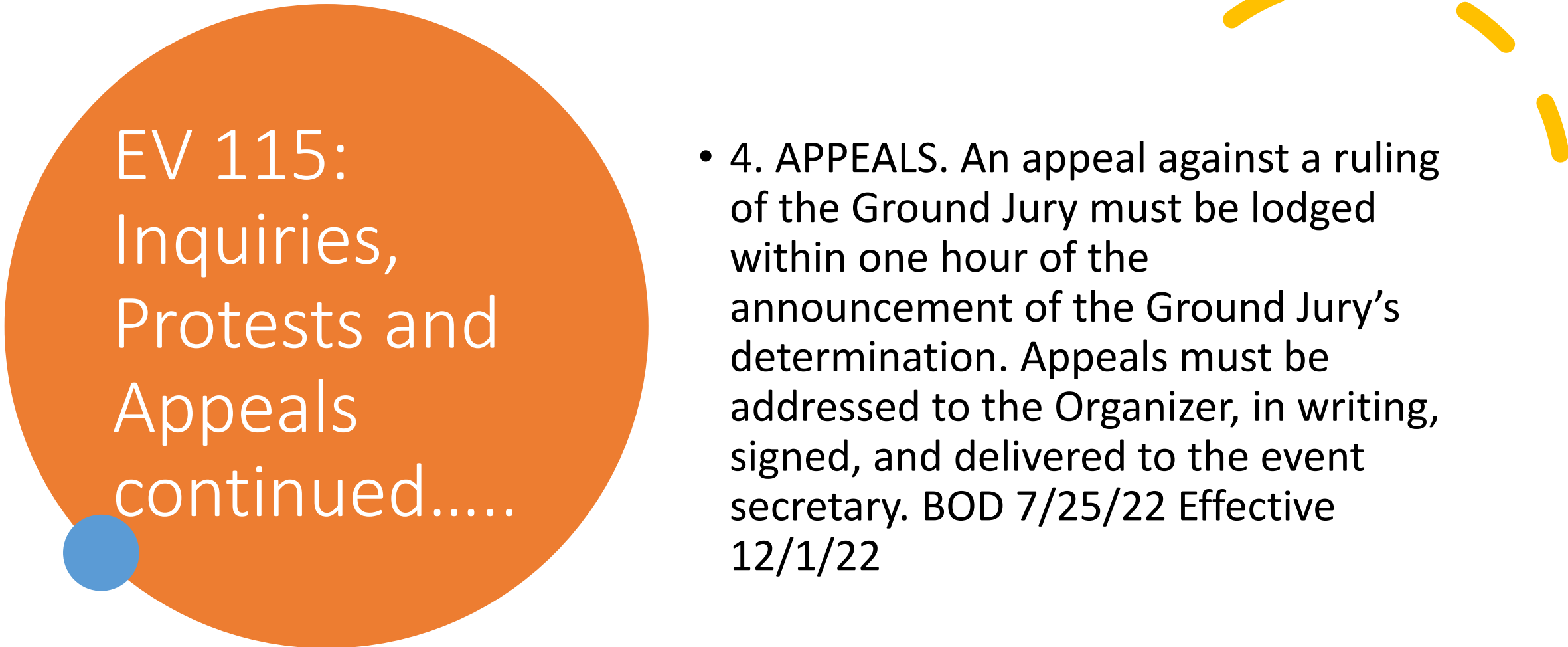
3. TIME LIMITS FOR PROTESTS. Protests must be lodged within the following time limits:

Protest

1. Eligibility of a Horse or Athlete
2. Condition of the Dressage arena
3. Cross-Country – Obstacle(s), course length, course condition, etc. Not later than 6 p.m. the day before
4. Show Jumping – Obstacle(s), course length, condition of arena, etc.
5. Incidents during the Event or scoring (except errors as noted below)

Time Limit

1. Not later than one hour before the start of the relevant event
2. Not later than one hour before the start of the relevant phase
3. Not later than 6 pm the day before
4. Not later than 15 minutes before the start of the relevant phase
5. Not later than 30 minutes after the results of the relevant results are posted, Mathematical or transcription errors not later than 3 pm the day following the last day of the event.



EV 115: Inquiries, Protests and Appeals continued.....

- 4. APPEALS. An appeal against a ruling of the Ground Jury must be lodged within one hour of the announcement of the Ground Jury's determination. Appeals must be addressed to the Organizer, in writing, signed, and delivered to the event secretary. BOD 7/25/22 Effective 12/1/22

GR1037 Yellow Warning Card - Stewards and Technical Delegates

1. A Yellow Warning Card may be issued by a Steward, Technical Delegate, or Competition Official working in any of these capacities at the competition to any competitor, spectator or participant for improper conduct, or for noncompliance with the rules, provided the issuer considers the conduct not severe enough to cause the issuer to submit the matter to the Federation for a Disciplinary Action Complaint.



Reasons for Yellow Cards

- 1. A Yellow Warning Card must be issued to the alleged offender at the competition otherwise it is invalid**
 2. A Yellow Warning Card can be issued for minor offenses only and should not be used for abuse or major infractions of the rules.
 3. A copy must be sent to the Federation with the Steward or Technical Delegate report
 4. The Federation will contact the alleged offender so that they may respond to the card
 5. The Federation may determine that a Charge or Administrative Penalty is warranted upon further review of the Warning Card
 6. An individual who receives 3 Warning Cards within a 16 month period will be subject to a fine or Charge
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New Rule Coming in 2025

- Recorded Warning
- We don't have the final approved verbiage as it is expected to come out in the spring.
- It will give officials the option to provide a recorded warning which is less than a Yellow Card
- The USEA LOC requested this rule from the USEF

Yellow Cards Issued in 2023

EV128.4	Rider continued and completed cross country after a compulsory retirement
GR1301.6	Loose dog at competition in the stable area
EV111.1	Trainer rode student's horse in the warm up after 3 pm the day before the event. Trainer knew of the rule but thought the time cut off was 6pm
EV 121.10	Rider was eliminated at fence 13. Fence judge told rider to leave, directions were ignored and rider jumped subsequent jump
GR1301.6	Loose dog on cross country course
GR1301.6	Competitor was driving around the cross country with her dog running loose
GR1301.6	On multiple occasions dog were seen off leash and wondering the show grounds. The dogs approached other dogs on leash and wandered to other stalls and campers.
GR1301.6	Dog was seen loose, off leash chasing farm owners cat behind office. Dog then went after the farm owner behind the knee and hand. Owner told to leave dog in trailer. Dog was seen outside again after incident.
GR1301.6	On multiple occasions dog were seen off leash and wondering the show grounds. The dogs approached other dogs on leash and wandered to other stalls and campers.
EV113.2	Horse was galloping out of control on cross country; jumped out of the roped off lane, then rider turned around and jumped back in and continued
EV113	Rider was eliminated for 3 refusals. Left the ingate/out gate at a gallop, jumped a warm-up fence and then galloped circles with the horse. Rider was then rude to the TD when approached about the dangerous riding. Rider loudly proclaimed it was people like the TD who were ruining the sport.

EV 113 Dangerous Riding: new language

1. Dangerous Riding is considered any Athlete who rides in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety or well-being of the Athlete, Horse, other Athletes, their Horses, spectators, or others during the competition. Dangerous Riding may include but is not limited to the following:

- a. Riding out of control (Horse clearly not responding to the Athletes restraining or driving aids).
- b. Riding Obstacles too fast or too slow.
- c. Repeatedly standing off fences too far (pushing the Horse to the base of the Obstacle, firing the Horse to the fence).
- d. Repeatedly being ahead or behind the Horse's movement when jumping.
- e. Series of dangerous jumps.
- f. Severe lack of responsiveness from the Horse or the Athlete.
- g. Continuing after three clear refusals, a fall, or any form of Elimination. h. Endangering the public in any way (e.g., jumping out of the roped track).

Dangerous Ridings Given in 2023

Total of 8 Dangerous Riding given in 2023

- 2 at Intermediate

- 1 at CCI 2star

- 2 at Preliminary

- 1 at Novice

- 2 at Beginner Novice

4 of these DR's were eliminations 1 involved a rider fall,the remainder were given 25 penalty points

Watch List

- The USEF Eventing Watch List ("Watch List") is comprised of USEF and/or USEA members competing in the U.S. who have been identified as displaying potentially dangerous or unsafe riding (see definitions below) during warm-up or any phase at a USEF Eventing Licensed Competition, received an FEI Eventing Recorded Warning or Yellow Card for Dangerous Riding at any FEI event, been penalized at a national competition for Dangerous Riding, or received a Yellow Warning card for Dangerous Riding at a national competition. The goal of the Watch List is to improve rider safety and provide Licensed Officials (Technical Delegates and Ground Jury) the opportunity to observe athletes at future events.



Watch List

- 19 athletes on the Watch List and reasons:
 - Automatically put on the watch list if you receive a Recorded Warning at a FEI competition
 - Exs: jumping the rope, dangerous riding, pressing a tired horse, jumping a fence not on their course, jumping a series of fences badly.
 - The USEF places riders on the watch list if they receive a Yellow Card for dangerous riding and other reasons such as:
 - rider receives a dangerous riding without a yellow card, going too fast or too slow, getting in front of the horse's motion or behind the jumping motion. Jumping a fence that is not on their course that could endanger themselves (too difficult, or put others in danger)



The following are designated Watch List reporters:

- USEF Eventing Technical Delegate, Judge, or Course Designer;
 - U.S. FEI Eventing Steward, Technical Delegate, Judge, or Course Designer
 - U.S. Eventing National Safety Officer;
 - Athletes who have represented the United States in Eventing at a World Championship, Olympic Games, or Pan American Games; and
 - Instructors who currently hold a Level IV or V USEA ECP certification.
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Competition Licensed Officials Responsibilities

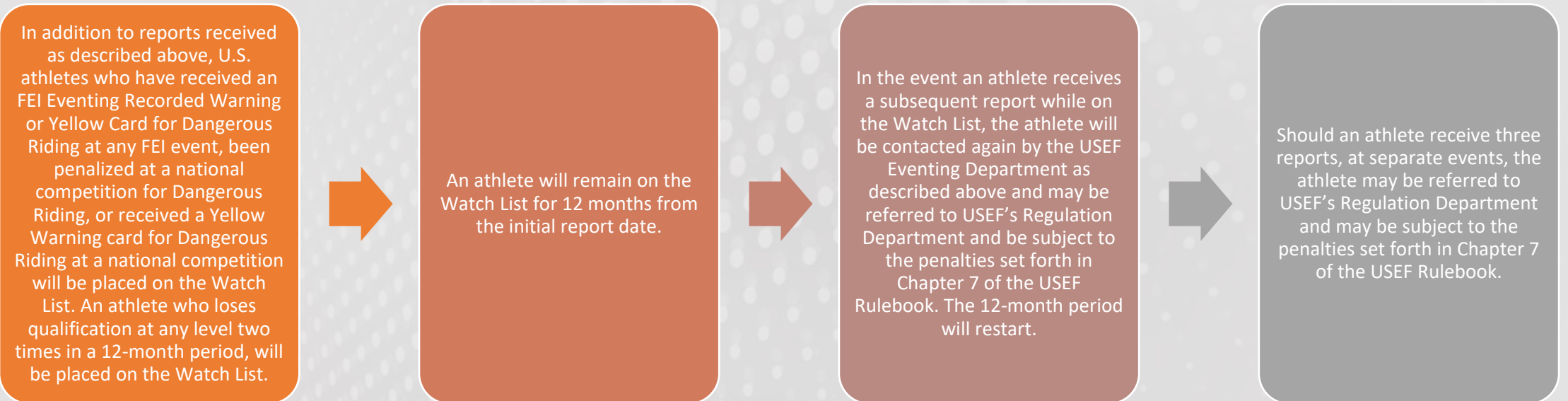
- Upon being notified by a Reporter of an instance of dangerous or unsafe riding, when possible, the Competition Licensed Official should watch the athlete's subsequent rounds of competition. The Competition Licensed Official must enforce relevant safety rules, including the issuance of a Yellow Card. It is not the duty of the Licensed Official to make training recommendations to the athlete. Doing so is outside the scope of the Licensed Official's duties.
- If notified of an instance of dangerous or unsafe riding by a Reporter, the Technical Delegate must include in their Technical Delegate Report: Reporter's name, any additional eyewitnesses and their statements, any observations made in observing the athlete, and attempts made to contact the athlete.

Filing a Watch List Report

- When a Reporter witnesses an incident that warrants an athlete being placed on the Watch List, the Reporter must submit the [Watch List Report Form](#) to USEFEVENTING@USEF.ORG. Reporters are encouraged to make their reports to USEF as soon as possible.
- **Athlete Notification:**
- When added to the Watch List, athletes will receive written details regarding the specifics of the Watch List Program and the circumstances warranting the addition of the athlete to the Watch List



Specifications for the Watch List



Other Information

Removal from the Watch List:

An athlete will be removed from the Watch List following a 12-month period without further reports, incidents, or loss of qualification(s).

Distributing and Monitoring of the Watch List:

The Watch List can be viewed by current USEF Licensed Officials through the [Licensed Officials Dashboard](#) on usef.org. Athletes who have been placed on the Watch List can view their status on their Athlete Dashboard.

The USEF Technical Delegate must check the Watch List prior to each competition for which they officiate.

If you have any questions regarding the Eventing Watch List, please contact Director of Eventing Sport Administration, Alison Lloyd at alloyd@usef.org or 859-225-2054.

Definitions: USEF and FEI

EV113.1

- Dangerous Riding is defined as instances when an athlete rides in such a way as to constitute a hazard to the safety or well-being of themselves, their horse, and/or other persons or horses.

FEI Eventing Article 525.1 - Dangerous Riding Definition

- Any Athletes who, at any time during the Competition deliberately or unintentionally by incompetence are exposing themselves, their Horse or any third party to a higher risk than what is strictly inherent to the nature of the Competition will be considered to have acted dangerously and will be penalized accordingly to the severity of the infringement.



Such acts include without limitation:

1. Riding out of control (Horse clearly not responding to the Athletes restraining or driving aids).
2. Riding fences too fast or too slow.
3. Repeatedly standing off fences too far (pushing the Horse to the foot of the fence, firing the Horse to the fence).
4. Repeatedly being ahead or behind the Horse movement when jumping.
5. Series of dangerous jumps.
6. Severe lack of responsiveness from the Horse or the Athlete.
7. Continuing after three clear refusals, a fall, or any form of elimination.
8. Endangering the public in any way (e.g. jumping out of the roped track).
9. Jumping obstacles not part of the course.
10. Willful obstruction of an overtaking Athlete and/or not following the instructions of the Officials causing danger to another Athlete.
11. Pressing a tired Horse.



Case Examples

Questions

