



# 2026 EVENTING RULES VARIATIONS FOR SHOW JUMPING JUDGES

Below are some, but not all, variations to the USEF Jumper rules that you may encounter while judging Eventing show jumping at national Horse Trials. Please refer to *USEF Rulebook* for further details (ELOC 12/1/2025).

## COURSE

**Water Jump** | Not permitted; however, a liverpool no wider than 1.8m with rails over the water is permitted at all levels other than BN and Novice (EV150.5).

If a liverpool is used at the Training level, it must be built as a vertical over the center of the liverpool tray and a straightforward alternative obstacle must be offered. (EV Appendix 1.3c).

**Jump Cups for Rails** | Minimum 20mm, Maximum 30mm (EV150.6).

**Start and Finish Lines** | Between 6m and 15m from the first and last obstacle (EV147.3).

**Novice and Beginner Novice** | Only the A element of a combination may be a spread fence (EV Appendix 1).

## TACK/ATTIRE

**Spurs** | Maximum 4cm measured from boot to end of spur. Rowels must be smooth, no tines (EV Subchapter 9.4).

**Martingales** | Only unrestricted running martingales with rein stops or Irish martingales are allowed (EV Subchapter 10.3b). Double rein stops are not permitted (FEI EV Tack App).

## SCHOOLING

**Obstacles** | Fences must not be raised more than 10cm above the maximum height permitted for the relevant level (EV111.5).

For Modified level and above, the warm up area must include at least four obstacles which are capable of being set as spreads. (EV 135.2d).

**Placement Rails** | Not permitted. Ground lines may be placed directly under, or up to 1m in front of the fence. (EV111.5).

**Earphones** | During warmup or training sessions, athletes and grooms may only wear one earphone while mounted (EV139.1).



## USEA 2026

## EXECUTION OF TEST

**Second Disobedience**  
Training and below | 8 penalties  
(EV128)

**Exceeding the Time Allowed**  
0.4 penalties per second over (EV128)

**20 or More Penalties**  
Training and above | Compulsory  
Retirement (EV127.8)

**Fall Before Starting**  
Disobediences, Falls, etc., occurring between the signal to start and the Athlete crossing the start line in the correct direction, must not be penalized (EV124.1b)

**Responsibilities of Licensed Official**  
The Licensed Official responsible for judging show jumping is responsible for the clock, the audible signal, and its use (EV124, EV126.5b)

**Unauthorized Assistance**  
Any intervention by a third party (including verbal) with the object of helping the Athlete or Horse, regardless if it is solicited, between crossing the start line to begin the course and crossing the finish line after jumping the last obstacle, is not permitted, and may be penalized by Elimination (exception: handing an Athlete headgear or spectacles). (EV 125)

**Courtesy Fence Following Elimination**  
Not permitted (EV128.5)