

MINI TRIALS-Grounds For Elimination (Partial Listing)

It is the rider's responsibility to know the rules. If a rider unknowingly breaks a rule, they will still be eliminated.

In All Phases:

1. Missing your assigned ride time.
2. Unauthorized assistance (no one may talk to competitor while in ring)*.
3. Riding without a helmet.
4. Dangerous Riding - horse out of control (may be eliminated or penalized 25 pts.).
5. Excessively reprimanding (beating) horse or yanking on mouth.
6. Horse is lame.

Dressage (specific to the phase):

1. Entering before judge signals (whistle or bell).
2. Taking longer than 45 seconds to enter the ring after the judge signals.
3. Horse stepping outside of ring during test (all 4 feet).
4. Using an illegal bit (except VG & Intro divisions)
5. Riding with illegal equipment (spurs longer than 3/4", whip longer than 43.5").

Cross Country (specific to the phase):

1. Jumping a fence backwards (red flag must be on your right).
2. Missing a fence on course.
3. Refusing 3 times at a fence. After elimination, leave course at a walk.
4. Refusing 4 times total on course. After elimination, leave course at a walk.
5. Missing the finish flags (must go through the flags). 6. Fall of rider.
7. Fall of horse.

Stadium (specific to the phase):

1. Starting course before judge signals (whistle or bell).
2. Missing the start/finish flags (must go through the flags).
3. Refusing 3 times total on course. ***(Circling on your stadium course counts as a refusal - one refusal per circle).***
4. Jumping fences in wrong order or jumping a fence backwards.
5. Fall of rider.
6. Taking longer than 45 seconds to cross the start line after the judge signals with a whistle or bell.
7. Fall of horse.

Exceptions: Only in the Intro division will Unauthorized Assistance (UA) be allowed. The competitor will be assessed a one time penalty of 50 points, even if UA occurs multiple times. They will not be eliminated. Examples of acceptable instruction/direction (i.e. "go through the finish flags"). In extreme cases, the trainer may attach a lead line to the competitor's horse to

help them complete the course. Assistance may NOT be given in the dressage ring. UA occurring in the dressage ring is grounds for elimination.

Note: Dressage readers are allowed in Intro & VG and are not considered UA as long as the reader does not coach the competitor.

Exception to the USEF Rules for Eventing for the INTRO and VERY GREEN Divisions ONLY:

1. Any bit is acceptable in the INTRO and VERY GREEN Divisions.
2. Grass reins, standing/running martingales are permitted in all phases in the INTRO and VERY GREEN Divisions.
3. Readers are permitted for INTRO and VERY GREEN. Readers may NOT coach or assist the competitor during their dressage test.
4. No Oxers in show jumping.

Exceptions to Unauthorized Assistance for INTRO ONLY:

1. The exception to the unauthorized assistance rules is ONLY to assist the very young or inexperienced INTRO rider who is having trouble in the jumping phases in order for the rider to have a safe experience and to be able to complete the competition.
 2. Assistance will be allowed in cross country and stadium, not dressage.
 3. The competitor must start the phase unassisted and the coach may step in ONLY after it is apparent that the rider needs assistance.
 4. The competitor will be assessed a one-time penalty of 50 points/phase, even if assistance occurs multiple times.
 5. Any penalties incurred before the assistance will be added to the assistance penalty.
- Acceptable assistance includes entering the XC and/or stadium course to coach or give instruction/direction (i.e "Go through the finish flags"). In extreme cases, the trainer may attach a lead line to the competitor's horse and lead them around the course.**