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Urging the USEF Safety Committee To Act Fast: Protect Our Children and Ban Peacock Stirrups

By Armand Leone, Jr.
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There have been many discussions following the publication of my [article on why I believe that hook-and-loop stirrups should be banned at all United States Equestrian Federation \(USEF\) competitions](#). The stirrups, sometimes called peacock or hook-and-loop stirrups, represent a clear and present danger to those who use them, and USEF has a duty of care to ban them in light of the various injuries they have caused.



Armand Leone argues that peacock stirrups present a clear danger to riders while falling or dismounting. **Photo by [Jump Media](#)**

Because there are alternative stirrup designs on the market that prevent a rider's foot from getting caught in the stirrup and allow the potential for the rider to be dragged, there is no reason to continue sanctioning the use of peacock stirrups. Proper footwear, the correct size stirrups and a stirrup bar used in the downward, unlocked position are fundamentals for safe riding and offer protection from getting a foot stuck in the stirrup. Other designs of stirrups provide the same or higher levels of protection without the risks posed by hook-and-loop stirrups.

I believe the USEF Safety Committee is in the process of discussing this matter and a possible rule change. So how should a new rule be worded? I have sent the committee a suggested rule change that is quite simple:

- *No piece of equipment shall be attached to a saddle which has an upward or outward pointing projection, hook or similar rigid object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person while dismounting.*

[Read the full article on Chronicle of the Horse](#)

Essential Considerations When Using a Broker To Sell Your Horse

By Armand Leone and Jessica E. Choper

Horse brokers can serve a very useful purpose and help ease and facilitate the daunting process of selling your horse. When you enlist the help of a broker, you enter into an agency relationship, meaning that you're allowing the broker to act as an agent on your behalf in the sales transaction.



Ensure you do your homework when selecting a broker to sell your horse. **Photo by [Jump Media](#)**

It's important to keep in mind that in any situation where someone is acting on your behalf, there is risk. Some up-front research can help minimize the risk and can help you navigate matters in the event the sales process does not go as planned.

Some factors to consider:

- The Homework
- Commission and Payment Structure
- Dual Agency
- Written Agreements

[Read the full article on Sidelines](#)

For advice and counsel related to the equestrian industry, contact Leone Equestrian Law at info@equestriancounsel.com.

Led by Armand Leone, Jr., MD, JD, MBA, Leone Equestrian Law LLC provides legal services and consultation for equestrian professionals ranging from riders and trainers to owners and show managers in the FEI disciplines on a wide variety of issues.

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