

Chapter II – GENERAL REGULATIONS

DR136 – SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

1. An English type saddle with stirrups is compulsory for USEF and USDF tests. An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree, but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet. Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles. A Dressage saddle with stirrups is compulsory for FEI tests. Saddle pads are optional, but should be white or of conservative color. While present in the competition area and during prize-giving ceremonies, the name and/or logo of the individual's sponsor(s) may appear on a surface area not exceeding 200 cm on each side of the saddle cloth. Breed logos (used with permission of farm/business owner) are also permitted and must have the same specification as sponsor logos. No other advertisement or publicity is permitted on saddlecloths or horses.
2. For Training, First, and Second Level tests, a plain snaffle bridle is required with either a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of a cavesson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment), or a crossed noseband. A crescent noseband is also permitted at these levels. In addition, a Kimberwicke, Pelham, or other types of snaffles are permitted to be used by Ds only. Ds may use bit converters. A dropped noseband, a flash noseband, a crescent noseband or a crossed noseband may be used only with a snaffle bit. Except for the crescent noseband, buckles and a small disk of sheepskin, which may be used in the intersection of the two leather straps of a crossed noseband, the noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. A padded noseband is allowed. See Figure 4 for illustrations of nosebands.
3. For USEF Third and Fourth Level tests, same as (2) above, or a simple double bridle (bridoon (snaffle) and bit (curb) and curb chain, lip strap and rubber or leather cover for curb chain optional, cavesson noseband only).
4. FEI Tests a simple double bridle as above. Only those bits listed in Figures 1 and 2 are allowed. A cavesson noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes severe irritation to the skin. Cavesson nosebands may be used with a chin pad.
5. Martingales, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing reins, side reins, running reins, balancing reins, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (including "Easy Boots"), or bandages (including tail bandages), and any form of blinkers, ear muffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers and hoods are under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden. However, leg bandages are only allowed in Pas de Deux, Quadrille and costume classes. Fly hoods (ear covers) will only be permitted in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discrete and should not cover the horse's eyes and will only be permitted in extreme cases at the discretion of the presiding judge(s). Permission must be granted prior to the class and applies to all competitors in the class. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used. A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Rein additions or attachments are not permitted. A side rein is defined as an auxiliary rein affixed to the bit and to the girth, saddle, or surcingle on the side of the horse (not between the legs). With the exception of costume classes, any decoration of the horse with unnatural items, such as ribbons or flowers, etc., in the tail, etc., is strictly forbidden. Braiding of the horse's mane and tail, however, is permitted. False tails are permitted and, if used, may not contain any metal parts.
6. The above restrictions (1-5) also apply to warm-up areas and other training areas, however, running martingales (with snaffle only), boots, bandages (without magnets) and earmuffs are permitted. Single direct side reins are permitted only when longeing (mounted or unmounted) only with one lunge line. Horses competing at Third Level and above may be warmed up in a snaffle if the rider so chooses. A running martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth or breastplate (at the front of the horse's chest); the extension of each strap must be connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side and must be free to slide. The rings through which the reins slide may not be connected to a neck strap.
7. **EXCEPTION FOR DS.** All Ds may use grass reins when riding their tests or in warm-up. Ds also may use a correctly fitted and properly adjusted, standing martingale. Standing martingales are to be attached only to a cavesson noseband. See DR136.2 for bit exceptions for Ds.
8. One whip no longer than 43.3 inches (110 cm), including lash, may be carried in the schooling area. One longeing whip is permitted only when longeing. One whip no longer than 43.3 inches (110 cm) including lash may be carried in all classes. Competitors riding sidesaddle may carry a whip no longer than 43.3 (110 cm) including lash.
9. Numbers must be worn at all times when a horse is being exercised or ridden.
10. Horses may only be exercised and ridden in management-designated areas on the competition grounds.
11. Braiding is optional. See Horse Management Handbook.