

PROPOSED NEW RULES – FEEDBACK INVITED

TO BE SUBMITTED TO HRCVA OFFICE BY 1ST NOVEMBER

CLARIFICATION OF HRCVA OFFICIALS' RESPONSIBILITIES

GENERAL RULES

Amend rule 16.8 to read as follows:

To maintain accreditation, judges and officials are required to undertake their duties in a professional manner and in accordance with the HRCVA rules and guidelines, abide by the Officials Code of Conduct (Appendix 24), satisfy refresher requirements determined by the relevant Sub Committee and be a financial member of an affiliated HRCVA Club. Failure to comply with one or more of these requirements may result in loss of accreditation.

Add new Appendix 24 - HRCVA OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT

Purpose

The purpose of the HRCVA Officials Code of Conduct, is to ensure that all volunteer HRCVA Officials have a clear understanding of the behavior that is expected of members holding positions of responsibility in the Association.

Vision and Mission

HRCVA Officials are expected to perform their role to the best of their ability in order to:

Promote interest in equestrian sport

Promote good fellowship amongst those interested in equestrian sport

Encourage those interested in equestrian sport

Responsibilities

As representatives of the HRCVA Officials are expected to:

- Carry out the duties of the position in a professional manner and in accordance with HRCVA rules and guidelines
- Present a positive image of HRCVA and equestrian sports and not engage in conduct likely to bring discredit upon the Association
- Maintain acceptable standards of behavior and appearance
- Hold appropriate and valid qualifications and satisfy refresher/training requirements set by the relevant Sub Committee
- Be independent in judgement and actions, and take all reasonable steps to ensure the soundness of decisions
- Support Clubs and members requiring the services of officials whenever possible
- Provide services in a voluntary capacity with any reimbursement of expenses calculated in accordance with HRCVA rules
- Respect the rights, dignity and worth of every person regardless of their gender, cultural background or religion
- Be courteous and respectful and open to discussion and interaction
- Support, encourage and involve all riders regardless of their level of experience or ability
- Always consider the wellbeing and safety of riders and horses before performance and results
- Ensure the welfare of the horse takes precedence over personal interests
- Maintain membership of an affiliated HRCVA Club

Add the following to APPENDIX 6 – GUIDELINES FOR SUB COMMITTEES

23. Concerns or complaints regarding individual HRCVA Officials are to be referred to the HRCVA office in the first instance. Complaints of a serious nature will be directed to the Executive Committee for consideration under the Complaint Handling rules (Section 3). Lesser concerns, including but not limited to matters relating to the performance of their role as an official, may be directed to the relevant Sub Committee for consideration and appropriate action. To be actioned, concerns or complaints must be substantiated and received within 30 days of the relevant occurrence.

24. If a Sub Committee determines that the matter warrants further investigation, the official is to be advised of the nature of the concerns and be given the opportunity to respond. Upon consideration of the original correspondence and the official's response (if provided), the Sub Committee may recommend:

No further action to be taken

The official be provided with further training or mentoring to address areas of concern

The official be issued with a written warning notifying him/her that further occurrences may result in loss of accreditation

The immediate withdrawal or suspension of the official's accreditation.

25. All outcomes are to be recorded in the Sub Committee minutes and a report provided for the HRCVA Committee. Recommendations of the Sub Committee are to be endorsed by the HRCVA Executive Committee prior to the matter being finalized.

COMPETITION DRAWS

EVENT RULES

Delete Event Rule 3.5 and amend Event Rule 18 to read as follows:

18. COMPETITION DRAW

18.1 A copy of the competition draw is to be posted on-line. The Event Program shall provide the web address for the draw and include a reminder to competitors to check for updates prior to the event. No changes to riding times may be made within 48 hours of the event unless, the affected rider/s have agreed to the change.

18.2 The order of the final draw will be strictly adhered to except in the event of scratchings. Competitors may be requested to compete earlier or later than the allotted time at the request of the Organising Committee. If a competitor declines the request, Event Rule 18.3 is not applicable.

18.3 A competitor risks elimination (by any Event Official) if not prepared to ride at the allotted time.

18.4 At events which include Dressage, the Organizing Committee is required to provide each officiating Dressage Judge with a copy of the competition draw no less than 5 days (where possible) prior to the competition to ensure compliance with Dressage rules 4.8 and 4.9.

Rationale: provides scheduling clarity for competitors

HIGH LEVEL RIDERS IN HRCVA

LEVEL ASSESSMENT RULES

Changes to the current rules are underlined

Amend Level Assessment rule 11 to read:

11. PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

11.1 Any Rider who has been assessed or points up to level 1 or above in a specific discipline should not be assessed lower than Level 3 in that discipline.

11.2 Any Rider who has been assessed or points up to Level 2 in a specific discipline should not be assessed lower than Level 4 in that discipline.

11.3 Any Rider who has been assessed or points up to Level 3 in a specific discipline should not be assessed lower than Level 4 in that discipline.

11.4 Any Rider who has been assessed no higher than Level 4 in a specific discipline can be assessed Level 5 in that discipline.

11.5 Riders who have competed at an equivalent to level 1 or above in non HRCVA competition should not be assessed lower than level 3 in that discipline.

11.6 Combinations which are clearly established at a level higher than that offered by the HRCVA should not be assessed in that discipline.

11.7 A Level Assessor may assess outside Rule 11 provided sufficient justification is recorded on the Level Assessment Form. Such justification shall be reviewed by the Level Assessment Sub-committee.

11.8 Combinations ineligible for assessment under these rules may be assessed to ride Hors Concours. The combination's performance card must be noted accordingly and assessment details recorded on the Level Assessment form.

Rationale: combinations which have clearly exceeded the highest level offered by HRCVA should not be eligible for assessment. Current assessments of combinations which have moved to higher levels in EA may be queried under existing rule.

VARIOUS CHANGES TO SHOW JUMPING RULES

TAKE YOUR OWN LINE JUMP OFF

Delete 50.4 which reads In the event of equality of time for first place there will be a jump-off against the clock in accordance with the condition of the entry over a shortened course, over obstacle which may be increased and/or enlarged according to the appropriate levels.

Rationale: Not used in practice and unnecessarily complicated

TOP SCORE & TAKE YOUR OWN LINE – OXERS TO BE JUMPED ONE IN ONE DIRECTION

49. Top Score

49.1 Delete 'The obstacles must be built so that they can be jumped in both directions.'

Add 'Vertical fences must be built to be jumped in either direction. Oxers may only be used if they are built and marked on the course plan as only being able to be jumped in one direction so that there is only one back rail.'

49.4 Delete 'and in any direction'.

Add 'Vertical obstacles may be jumped in either direction but oxers may only be jumped in the direction marked on the course plan'.

Delete 'He', add 'The competitor'

50. TYOL

50.2 Delete 'jump all obstacles in either direction unless otherwise directed on the course plan'

Add 'jump all obstacles once, verticals in either direction and oxers in the direction marked on the course plan, then cross the starting line again in either direction.'

Rationale: Safety to ensure oxers only have 1 back rail but have several front rails

COMPETITION IN TWO PHASES - changes to scoring options

Amend rule 55 to read:

55.1 This Competition comprises two phases run without interruption, each at an identical or different speed, the finishing line for the first phase being identical with the starting line for the second.

55.2 The first phase is a course of 7 to 9 obstacles with or without combinations. The second phase takes place over 4 to 6 obstacles which may include one combination.

55.3 Competitors penalised in the first phase are halted by ringing the bell after they have jumped the last obstacle or when the time allowed of the first phase has been exceeded, after crossing the finishing line of the first phase. They must stop after crossing the first finishing line except when formula 55.5.6 is being used for judging (Super 2- Phase).

55.4 For all judging formulas except 55.5.6, only Competitors not penalised in the first phase continue the course which finishes after crossing the second finishing line.

55.5 The manner of judging this competition must be specified in the program in accordance with one of the following formulas:

First Phase	Second Phase	Placing
55.5.1 Table A Not against the clock	Table A Not against the clock	According to penalties in the second phase and, if necessary, to penalties in the first phase
55.5.2 Table A Not against the clock	Table A Against the clock	According to penalties and time in the second phase, and, if necessary, penalties in the first phase
55.5.3 Table A Against the clock	Table A Against the clock	According to penalties and time in the second phase, and, if necessary, penalties and time in the first phase
55.5.4 Table A Not against the clock	Table C	According to the total time (Table C) of the second phase and, if necessary, to the penalties in the first phase
55.5.5 Table A Against the clock	Table C	According to the total time (Table C) of the second phase and, if necessary, to the penalties and time in the first phase
55.5.6 Table A Not against the clock Min 5 max 7 obstacles in first phase(Super 2- Phase)	Table A Against the clock Remaining obstacles (Total min 11 max 13 obstacles over both phases)	According to aggregate penalties in both phases (faults at obstacles and exceeding time allowed in both phases) and, if necessary, according to time of the second phase

55.6 Competitors stopped after the first phase may only be placed after Competitors who have taken part in both phases.

55.7 In the event of equality for first place, the tied competitors will be placed equal first.

Rationale: to bring into line with scoring options available under EV rules to minimize equal placings

TOE DIPPING

COMBINED TRAINING AND HORSE TRIALS RULE

Add new rule which reads:

12.7 “Toe dipping”, “paddling” or any other practice that constitutes riding through the water obstacle before presenting to the competition obstacle is not permitted under penalty of elimination.

Rationale: Addresses safety on course, traffic jams, approaching from different angles, comp is not for training.

VARIOUS CHANGES TO NAVIGATION RIDE RULES

APPROXIMATE DISTANCE TO BE WITHIN 1KM EITHER SIDE OF ACTUAL DISTANCE

Amend rule 5.2 to read: The question sheets must include the approximate distance to be travelled and the required speed per kilometre. A notation that the actual distance shall be within 1km either side of the stated distance is to be included. The time allowed is not to be stated.

Rationale: Lessens the advantage of using a GPS while still maintaining a way to split equal places and allow for some skill in judging distance.

OC TO PROVIDE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE OF ANSWERS

Add new rule 6.6: Photographic evidence of all answers is to be provided once scoring is completed and answer sheets returned to competitors.

Rationale: to provide clear and concise answers for competitors to reduce rider frustration and reduce queries directed to organizing club

PERMITTED SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT IN NAVIGATION RIDES

Add the following new rules:

- 4.2.1 Any type of bridle may be used. Reins must be attached to the bit(s) or directly to the bridle. Gags and hackamores are permitted. Any bit may be used.
- 4.6 Blinkers are forbidden.
- 4.7 Only unrestricted running martingales are allowed.
- 4.8 A whip may be carried but must not exceed 1.2 mtrs in total length including tassel / flap.
- 4.9 An approved equestrian helmet with a fixed harness must be worn at all times whilst mounted. See event rule 9.3.
- 4.10 Protective boots may be worn and the type of boot is optional. Bandages are not permitted.
- 4.11 A quarter sheet may be worn.
- 4.12 Any other gadgets such as bearing, running, balancing or side reins are not permitted. Ear muffs, bonnets / hoods are not allowed. Ear plugs ARE allowed.
- 4.13 Failure to comply will entail elimination.

Rationale: clarification of saddlery and equipment

COMPETING WITH PENALTIES AT LEVEL BELOW IN CT & HT EVENTS

Rationale: To allow combinations the opportunity to compete at their previous level if they have pointed up.

GENERAL RULES

Add 11.6 to **General rule 11 PERFORMANCE CARDS**

11.6 In Horse Trials and Combined Training competitions, a rider may choose to ride at their previous level with a 10 point penalty. It is the rider's responsibility to inform the Organising Committee of this decision. This option is not available at Top Team Trophy events or Individual Championships. Riders choosing this option will not be awarded performance points.

EVENT RULES

EVENT RULE 23 OFFICIAL PERFORMANCE POINTS SYSTEM

Add Event Rule 23.3.1

23.3.1 In Horse Trials and Combined Training competitions, a rider may choose to ride one level lower than their currently assessed level with a 10 point penalty applied to their final score. It is the rider's responsibility to inform the Organising Committee of this decision at the time of entry. Riders competing under this rule will not be awarded performance points. This option is not available at Top Team Trophy events or Individual Championships.

Add Event Rule 24.7.1

24.7.1 Riders competing at the level below their currently assessed level are listed in the placings but are ineligible for performance points. The points for riders competing in an official capacity shall be adjusted accordingly.

Example:

Name	Horse	Placing	Points
B Smith	Bob	1 st	4
*F Wilkins	Rusty	2 nd	No points
F Jenner	Spike	=3 rd	1.5
*S Francis	Wally	=3 rd	No points
J White	Sandstorm	5 th	0
B Angelo	Barker	6 th	0

Add

4.2.4 A further modifying mark of 10 penalties shall be applied to the final score of riders who have elected to compete at the level lower than their currently assessed level.

YELLOW WARNING CARD SYSTEM FOR HORSE TRIALS

COMBINED TRAINING AND HORSE TRIALS RULES

Rationale: To promote safe riding and adherence to the rules, Yellow Card Warnings allow officials to give sanctions to riders at competitions as well as having ramifications after the event for serious offences.

Delete current CT/HT rule 38 and replace with the following:

38. YELLOW WARNING CARDS

38.1 A Yellow Warning Card may be issued by the Technical Delegate (TD) or Ground Jury at HRCVA Horse Trials for the offences of dangerous riding or horse abuse. A Recorded Verbal Warning may be issued where the offence is considered to be of a less serious nature.

38.2 While it is not possible for a TD or the Ground Jury to witness all that occurs at an event, they should satisfy themselves that the offence has occurred as reported. Before issuing a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Verbal Warning, the Ground Jury or TD must offer the rider an opportunity to be heard.

38.3 All Yellow Warning Cards or Recorded Verbal Warnings should be delivered by the TD or member of the Ground Jury personally to the Rider, together with an explanation as to why it is being issued and the possible consequences if any further offences are committed. For riders under the age of 18 years, a Parent/Guardian must be present when the Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Verbal Warning is delivered.

38.4 Where it is not possible to comply with 38.2 and 38.3 above, the matter may be referred to the HRCVA by the Organising Committee for further action under the Complaint Handling rules. Names of witnesses are to be provided.

38.4 Riders issued with a Yellow Warning Card or Recorded Verbal Warning may lodge an appeal with the HRCVA within 2 working days where it can be shown that there was a breach of process or upon presentation of new evidence.

38.5 The Organising Committee will advise the HRCVA Committee of the issue of ALL Yellow Warning Cards or Recorded Verbal Warnings and the reason for the issue within 2 working days of the event, including the name of the Official who issued the Warning and their capacity at the event.

38.6 A rider receiving two Yellow Warning Cards for the same offence within a 12 month period, will incur disqualification from competition (any HRCVA discipline) for three months from the date of the second offence.

38.7 Yellow Warning Card disqualifications are to be displayed on the HRCVA website by the HRCVA. It is the responsibility of any HRCVA club running a competition to check the website prior to conducting a competition to ensure disqualified members do not compete.

39. DANGEROUS RIDING

39.1 **Definition:** Any Rider who, at any time during the cross country phase of the competition deliberately or unintentionally by incompetence is exposing himself, his 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 penalised accordingly to the severity of the infringement. Such acts may include without limitation any of the following:

- a) Riding out of control (Horse clearly not responding to the Riders restraining or driving aids).
- b) Riding fences too fast.
- c) Series of dangerous jumps.
- d) Continuing after four clear refusals, 3 refusals at the same jump, or a fall of horse or rider
- e) Endangering the public in any way (e.g. jumping out of the roped track).
- f) Jumping obstacles not part of the course.
- g) Wilful obstruction of an overtaking Rider.
- h) Not following the instructions of the Officials (including Jump Judges).

39.2 **Addressing instances of dangerous riding on the cross country course:** Any individual member of the Ground Jury, the Course Controller and the Technical Delegate have the right and the duty to monitor possible cases of dangerous riding on the cross country course and, if appropriate and practical, to stop and eliminate a Rider for dangerous riding. The President of the Ground Jury can in addition, designate one or more observers to help to monitor possible cases of dangerous riding on the cross country course.

If not directly witnessed by the Technical Delegate, the incident must be reported as soon as possible to the Technical Delegate and/or the Ground Jury who will decide if and how to penalise the Rider.

39.3 **Warnings and Penalties for Dangerous Riding during the cross country phase:** Different cases of dangerous riding will be dealt with one of the following provisions:

- a) Recorded Verbal Warning
- b) Yellow Warning Card.
- c) 25 penalties.
- d) 25 penalties + Yellow Warning Card.
- e) Elimination.
- f) Elimination + Yellow Warning Card.

25 penalties will count as Cross Country obstacles penalties in the results.

It is the decision of the Technical Delegate or Ground Jury which of the above sanctions are applicable.

39.4 **Elimination Before Cross Country:** In accordance with Event Rule 2.4.1 a Presiding Judge, HRCVA Representative, Technical Delegate or any member of the Ground Jury may eliminate a combination from a class at any stage of the competition on the grounds that their continued participation is likely to endanger themselves or others at the event. As a preventive risk management measure, the Ground Jury has the right and the duty to eliminate a rider to prevent him from starting the Cross Country test, if there is a serious concern regarding his ability to control the horse in that test. Any such elimination must be associated with a Recorded Verbal Warning or Yellow Warning Card.

40. ABUSE OF HORSE

40.1 **Definition:** Abuse of horse means an action or omission which causes or is likely to cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a Horse included but not limited to:

- a) Rapping.
- b) Riding an exhausted horse.
- c) Excessive pressing of a tired horse.
- d) Riding an obviously lame horse.
- e) Excessive use of whip, bit and/or spurs.
- f) Horses bleeding on the flank(s) or back indicating excessive use of the whip and/or spurs.

40.2 **Use of the Whip:** Excessive and/or misuse of the whip may be considered abuse of horse and will be reviewed case by case by the Ground Jury or Technical Delegate according to the following principles:

- a) The whip is not to be used to vent a Rider's temper.

- b) The whip is not to be used after elimination.
- c) The whip is not to be used after a horse has jumped the last fence on a course.
- d) The whip is not to be used overhand, (i.e. a whip in the right hand being used on the left flank).
- e) The whip is not to be used on a horse's head.
- f) The whip is not to be used more than three times for any one incident.
- g) If a horse's skin is broken, the use of the whip is always excessive.

40.3 **Blood on Horses:** Blood on horses may be an indication of abuse of horse and must be reviewed case by case by the Official Veterinarian, Technical Delegate or Ground Jury. In minor cases of blood in the mouth, such as where a horse appears to have bitten its tongue or lip, or minor bleeding on limbs, after investigation the Official Veterinarian or Ground Jury may authorise the rider to continue.

40.4 **Addressing instances of Abuse of Horse:** If not directly witnessed by the Ground Jury or Technical Delegate, the incident must be reported as soon as possible to the Ground Jury or Technical Delegate. Where possible the report should be supported by a statement from one or more witnesses. The Ground Jury or Technical Delegate must decide if there is a case to be answered and may impose penalties as outlined in rule 40.5. The Organising Committee must also submit any reported incidents of horse abuse at the event to the HRCav for review under the Complaint Handling rules.

40.5 **Warnings and Penalties for Abuse of Horse**

Any act or series of actions that in the opinion of the Ground Jury or Technical Delegate can be defined as abuse of horse will be dealt with one or more of the following provisions on the day of the event:

- a) Recorded Verbal Warning.
- b) Yellow Warning Card.
- c) Elimination.
- d) Disqualification.

Additional penalties may be imposed after the event by the HRCav in accordance with the Complaint Handling rules.

COMPLAINT HANDLING RULES

Add Complaint Handling Rule 3.3

3.3 At Horse Trials events only, complaints relating to horse abuse or dangerous riding may be addressed by the Technical Delegate or Ground Jury in accordance with Combined Training and Horse Trials rules 38 to 40.

- a) The Technical Delegate or Organising Committee is required to notify the HRCav of the details of any Recorded Verbal Warnings or Yellow Warning Cards issued under these rules within 2 working days of the event.
- b) The HRCav Committee has the option to issue a Yellow Warning Card or written warning after the event upon review of reports submitted under CT&HT rule 38.4. The member named in the report shall be given the opportunity to respond to the allegations as part of the review process.
- c) Details of all sanctions applied under this rule will be publicised by the HRCav on the official Sanctions List.
- d) A rider receiving two Yellow Warning Cards for the same offence within a 12 month period will incur disqualification from competition (any HRCav discipline) for three months from the date of the second offence.
- e) A rider may appeal the issue of a Yellow Warning Card where
 - it can be shown that there was a breach of process,
 - upon presentation of new evidence or

The rider is required to lodge a Notice of Appeal with the HRCav office within 2 working days of the issue of the Yellow Warning Card, stating the grounds for the appeal. The notice of Appeal must be accompanied by a deposit of \$200 which is not refundable if the Appeal is lost. The outcome of the appeal shall be determined by the HRCav Committee.

- f) Offences of a serious nature may be subject to further review and penalty under the Complaint Handling Rules.

EVENT RULES

Add 38.5 to EVENT RULES

38.5 Horse abuse at Horse Trials should be addressed in accordance with Combined Training and Horse Trials rule 40.

Amned EVENT RULE 2.4 – insert underlined

2.4 **ELIMINATION ON SAFETY OR WELFARE GROUNDS**

2.4.1 The Presiding Judge, HRCav Representative, Technical Delegate or any member of the Ground Jury may eliminate

a combination from a class at any stage of the competition on the grounds that their continued participation is likely to endanger themselves or others at the event or compromise the welfare of the horse. The rider and Event Secretary shall be notified of the elimination as soon as is practicable. Further participation at the event shall be at the discretion of the Ground Jury. Determinations made under this rule are not open to appeal. At Horse Trials events, offences relating to abuse of the horse and dangerous riding on the cross country course are to be dealt with in accordance with Combined Training and Horse Trials rules 38 to 40.

VARIOUS CHANGES TO DRESSAGE RULES

Add or amend the following rules and renumber rules accordingly.
Underlined wording indicates new or amended rules/wording

LUNGING

Rationale: clarification of lunging requirements and addressing risk management concerns

7. LUNGING

7.1 Side reins may only be used on horses being lunged in warm up and training areas. Bearing, running or balancing reins are not permitted when lunging or riding, under penalty of elimination

7.2 Lunging cavessons are permitted

7.3 Only one lunge rein may be used (no long reining)

7.4 Snaffles with a cavesson or a normal dropped noseband, Mexican noseband or a Flash noseband, running martingales (with snaffle only), boots and bandages are permitted.

7.5 Double bridles are not permitted

7.6 One or two direct side reins or double sliding side reins [triangle, dreickzugel] (the latter solely when lunging only with one lunge line) are permitted.

7.7 The lunging of a rider mounted in the saddle is not permitted anywhere at the event.

SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT RULES

Rationale: clarification of rules and new rules to address gear anomalies and issues

24 SADDLERY AND EQUIPMENT

24.1 Only saddlery and equipment specified within these rules is permitted in Official Events. It is the competitor's responsibility to abide by the Rules. Failure to comply will incur elimination

24.2 Bridles

24.2.1 A snaffle bridle is compulsory for all tests up to and including level 2. A snaffle bridle is an English-type bridle with a single snaffle-type bit and one set of reins. Reins can be made of leather, cotton, synthetic or a mix of these materials. There must be no elastic inserts, loops or otherwise along the length of the rein. Padding is permitted under bridles as long as it is securely attached, but any padding used must be discreet and applied to the underside of the bridle only. One eared bridles are not permitted. See Rule 25 for description of snaffle bits.

24.2.2 Combinations assessed at Advanced and level 1 have the option of using a bridle with a snaffle bit or a double bridle. A double bridle is an English-type bridle with a bridoon (snaffle) bit and a curb bit with curb chain (metal or leather or a combination), both fitted with a set of reins. If metal bits are used, all parts of the bit coming into the horse's mouth must be of metal (not necessarily the same metal) See rule..... for description of double bridle bits.

24.2.3 A Micklem Competition bridle with snaffle bit (pictured) may be used in all levels. The optional bit attachment (bit clip) is not permitted.

24.3 Nosebands



24.3.1 Wearing of a noseband is optional. Permitted nosebands are illustrated on Plate 4. *(as per current rules)* The wearing of two nosebands simultaneously or the wearing of non-approved nosebands is not permitted.

24.3.2 The following nosebands may be used on a snaffle bridle:

- Cavesson noseband
- Dropped noseband
- Falsh (or Hannoverian) noseband
- Crossed (Grackle or Mexican) noseband

24.3.3 Only a Cavesson noseband shall be used with a double bridle.

24.3.4 Nosebands and curb chains must never be so tightly fixed as to harm the horse or interfere with the horse's breathing. Two fingers should be easily inserted under the noseband on the bridge of the nose – see photo. An Official may direct the rider to demonstrate that the noseband is correctly fitted. The Ground Jury shall rule on fit of nosebands in cases where the rider refuses to comply with this rule.



24.4 Saddles

24.4.1 Any type of saddle may be used, other than side saddles, which are not permitted.

24.4.2 Saddles may be used with or without a saddlecloth. Saddle cloths may be square or shaped.

24.4.3 Saddles must be secured by at least two points of attachment (eg: double buckle girth or girth and surcingle) or by a double wrapped latigo. A rear cinch on a western saddle does not constitute a second point of attachment under these rules.

24.4.4 Breastplates and fore-girths are permitted.

24.4.5 A crupper may be worn

24.4.6 Saddle covers (such as sheepskin or rain covers) shall not be used in a test.

24.5 Stirrups

24.5.1 Safety stirrups and enhancements, including toe stoppers, are permitted

24.5.2 Lock in stirrups, stirrup tie-downs and magnetised stirrups are not permitted

24.6 Running martingales correctly fitted with stopper/keepers on the reins and neck strap, may be used in Level 5 Tests only. Running martingales, boots and bandages may be used on horses in warm up arenas and in training areas, but not in Tests.

24.7 Monkey grips are permitted and neck straps are permitted at all levels.

24.8 Standing martingales, ear plugs, blinkers and ear bonnets are not permitted in warm up or training areas or in tests under penalty of elimination.

24.9 Nose nets are only permitted to be used in competitions and warm-up on written approval by HRCav. Permission will be given on a case by case basis.

24.10 Spurs

Spurs are not allowed for Level 5 assessed competitors, however are permitted for use by Level 4 and above assessed competitors.

- a) Spurs, if worn, must be identical on both sides – they must be a pair
- b) Non-compliance or incorrect spurs will entail elimination
- c) Spurs must be made of metal or hard plastic
- d) A curved or straight shank must point directly back from the centre of the spur when on the rider's boot; rowels also must point directly back from the centre of the spur
- e) The tip of the shank must not point up or point inwards
- f) The arms of the spur must be smooth
- g) If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate.
- h) Daisy rowels are permitted
- i) Rowels must be in a vertical plane
- j) Rowels in a horizontal plane are not permitted
- k) Soft touch spurs with a rolling ball on either plane are permitted
- l) Metal spurs with hard plastic knobs are permitted
- m) Dummy spurs with no shank are permitted
- n) Impuls spurs are permitted
- o) Spursuaders are not permitted
- p) Swan neck spurs are permitted provided the shank is straight

24.11 A whip not exceeding 1.2 metres in its entirety (including the compulsory tassel or flap) may be carried in tests up to and including Advanced level.

24.12 Over Boots/Hoof boots

- a) It is not mandatory for horses to be shod
- b) Removable over boots/hoof boots are permitted in the warm-up area but NOT permitted past Gear Check or into the competition surround or arena
- c) Glued on shoes or shells are permitted provided the bulbs of the heels and coronet band are clearly visible

24.13 **Protective Coverings**

- a) Boots& or bandages are permitted in the warm-up but are not permitted in the competition arena
- b) Any form of protective skin covering on the horse such as plaster/tape/belly band covering or towel, whether the skin is broken or not, is strictly forbidden at an event and will entail elimination.

25. **SNAFFLE BITS**

25.1 Only snaffle bits having combinations of the following features are approved for use in Dressage Tests. The use of non approved bit/s or incorrect thickness of bits will entail elimination. Snaffle bits and bridoons must meet the following criteria

- a) Snaffle bits shall be composed of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber or latex as per manufactured state
- b) Bits made solely of rubber (fully flexible) or rubber and chain, are not permitted
- c) The minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm
- d) The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece
- e) Forward curved bits are permitted but not with hanging cheeks and must have a joint (centrepiece must move), and can have fixed or loose rings
- f) The rein must be free to move on the bit ring and must not be fixed to any secondary ring or 'hook'
- g) Hanging cheeks (Baucher-type) are permitted but only when combined with a mouthpiece with one joint (single) and must have a straight line between rings
- h) Mouthpieces may be the same thickness or tapered towards the centre or central joints
- i) There shall not be more than two joints in the mouthpiece
- j) Double-jointed mouth pieces may have one 'roller', or rotating middle piece, in the centre section. Multiple 'rollers' are not permitted
- k) All parts coming into the horse's mouth shall be rounded, smooth and not ridged, sharp or corrugated.

Keeping with the definition above, some of the types of bits permitted are described and illustrated in Plates 1 & 2. (as per EA)

Also permitted but not illustrated are:

- Half moon – port mouthed – curved mouthpiece (i.e.: a consistent curve from the rings)
- Rubber or synthetic bits – covering metal (but not chain) - both jointed and unjointed
- Sweet iron bit
- Hanging cheek snaffle - including Baucher bit
- Snaffle bit with a port but with a straight line between the rings is permitted

25.2 Bits with gag action are not permitted.

25.3 Bit guards and cheekers are not permitted.

25.4 Wrapping of bits is not permitted.

26. **DOUBLE BRIDLE**

26.1 A double bridle is an English-type bridle with a bridoon (snaffle) bit and a curb bit and curb chain (metal or leather or a combination), both fitted with a set of reins. The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek.

26.1.1 A double bridle is optional for Level 1 and Advanced Level assessed combinations only.

26.1.2 If metal bits are used, all parts of the bit coming into the horse's mouth must be of metal (not necessarily the same metal).

26.2 **Bridoon**

- a) Must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber/latex (manufactured state)
- b) Bits made only of rubber or rubber and chain are not permitted
- c) The minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm
- d) Double-jointed mouthpieces may have one 'roller', or rotating middle piece, in the centre section. Multiple 'rollers' are not permitted
- e) Wrapping of bit with any kind of material is not permitted
- f) Flexible rubber bits are not permitted
- g) The diameter of the mouthpiece must be such so as not to hurt the horse.
- h) The minimum is stated above.

26.3 **Curb** The curb bit must be of a type as detailed in the illustrations at the end of this section:

- a) The curb must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber (manufactured state)

- b) Bits made only of rubber or rubber and chain not permitted
- c) The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek
- d) Curb 'chain' can be made of metal, leather or a combination. Cover for curb 'chain' can be made of leather, rubber or sheep skin. Curb chain hooks may be fixed
- e) The curb chain must be correctly fitted (must lie flat against the horse's chin)
- f) The minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 12mm
- g) The lever arm of the curb bit is limited to 10cm (length below the mouth piece)
- h) If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouth piece should not measure more than 10cm when the mouth piece is at the uppermost position.

26.4 **Optional items** (not compulsory)

- lip strap (Illustration 12)
- leather cover for curb chain (Illustration 13)
- rubber cover for curb chain (Illustration 14)
- Pelham bits are not permitted in any dressage test.

JUDGE ACCREDITATION PROCESS

DRESSAGE RULES

Amend current 26.1.f) to read '...The Presiding Judge must be accredited to judge Level 3 and above and have been accredited at this level for a minimum of 12 months...'