



PONY CLUB

VICTORIA

Inc AS00013413S | ABN: 64 320 020 091

Gear Rules

With Comfort and Safety Requirements

This book is the sole source of PCV
saddlery and equipment requirements.

Effective 1st January 2019

**Supersedes all previous editions
only rules in this edition are applicable**

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Introduction

Pony Club Victoria Incorporated (PCV) produced these rules and guidelines.

This rule book supersedes all previous versions. It governs all activities, competitions and rallies conducted by the PCV, its clubs and zones.

Definitions

In this rule book, the following definitions apply:

- PCV means Pony Club Victoria Inc.
- Zone: means the zone a pony club is allocated to in accordance with the *Handbook of By-laws*.
- FEI means Fédération Equestre Internationale (www.horsesport.org).
- Activity: unless otherwise specified, means any rally, instructional or non-competitive riding activity undertaken while hosted by PCV, or a club or zone affiliated with the PCV.
- Competition: means any competition hosted, organised, conducted, supervised or under the control of PCV, or a club or zone affiliated with the PCV.
- Unless stated to the contrary, a reference in this handbook to a rule, in this publication or elsewhere, refers to the rule and all its sub-clauses.
- Unless otherwise specified, reference to a rule number means the rules within this publication.
- The singular includes the plural and vice versa; and words importing one gender include the other.
- Some reference material noted in this book is available from the PCV web site; such material is also available from the PCV state office in a printed format. PCV may charge a fee for printed information.

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1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

- 1.1.a PCV publications refer to “gear” as an abbreviation for saddlery and equipment. This rule book describes gear requirements.
- 1.1.b Any zone, club or organisation hosting an activity or competition under PCV rules must abide by these rules.

1.2 Gear

- 1.2.a The gear specified is a necessary requirement of riding, designed to provide comfort and safety for the rider and horse (combination), and equal and fair terms for competition.
- 1.2.b The required outcomes are:
 - i. Safety of the rider.
 - ii. Comfort and safety of the horse.
 - iii. Compliance with competition rules.

1.3 Why Competition Rules?

- 1.3.a In these rules, there is a distinction between rally/non-competitive activities and competitions. For instance, saddles must always fit and be in good condition, whether at a rally or competition. A snaffle bit is not mandatory at a rally, nor is it a safety issue but it is required for dressage competitions. Spurs and whips are other examples where their use at a rally is not specific but, in competition, there are strict rules.
- 1.3.b The reasons for this are:
 - i. To provide uniformity of gear, so every rider is assessed under the same conditions.
 - ii. To cater for the different assessment (judging) needs of a competition, relative to its intended outcomes.
- 1.3.c The following comparisons show this:
 - i. **Dressage:** requires snaffle bits and no martingales (except in grade 5), so the progressive training of the horse can be judged.
 - ii. **Flat and musical teams:** require snaffle bits as, the training of the horse, rider and the team are being assessed.
 - iii. **Games:** require a snaffle bit. While there is often a speed element, assessment is of skill and training.
 - iv. **Jumping and cross-country:** any bit is permitted, provided it does not injure the horse. This allows the rider to maintain control of the horse in the open and between fences.
 - v. **Polocrosse** rules relate directly to the safety of horse and rider, considering the contact nature of the game.

2 Gear Check – When, Where and Who

2.1 When

- 2.1.a **Before participating in a rally, activity or competition:** All riders (including non-PCV members) must be checked to ensure the gear complies.
- 2.1.b At competitions:
- i. At a graded competition: gear check must occur before the first event, phase or test for each discipline.
 - ii. At a non-graded competition: gear check must occur before the competition commences or during the first event of a pony club show ring.
 - iii. The only exception to this rule is “Open” show rings where a gear check is not required. However, riders must still comply or be penalised, in accordance with rule 3.10.

2.2 Where

- 2.2.a Gear check must occur at a controlled, supervised location, which may be:
- i. At a formal gear check location on the grounds.
 - ii. At the beginning of the first instruction session.
 - iii. During the first event of a pony club organised show ring.
- 2.2.b Riders must be mounted for Gear Check.

2.3 Who

- 2.3.a The gear must be checked by one of the following:
- i. The District Commissioner (DC).
 - ii. An authorised instructor.
 - iii. A person authorised by the club.
 - iv. At a competition, a person authorised by the organising committee.
- 2.3.b Any person who carries out a gear check is a Gear Check Steward and must perform in accordance with rule 5.

3 Gear Check Overview

3.1 Prime Objective

3.1.a To ensure comfort, safety and competition requirements are achieved.

3.2 Rally/Non-Competitive Activity

3.2.a While always being required to meet the standards, it is also the time to:

- i. Discuss with both the rider and parent/guardian gear rules that are not being met.
- ii. Recommend and establish plans to correct non-urgent gear concerns, and overcome immediate problems.
- iii. Competition rules must not be imposed at a rally unless it is an internal or inter-club competition.

3.2.b The club is required to meet its obligations to provide education and advice on the issues of:

- i. Gear check processes and requirements.
- ii. Relevance of comfort and safety.
- iii. Welfare of the horse.
- iv. Competition requirements.

3.3 Competition

3.3.a The rider is required to know and comply with all requirements before competing.

3.3.b Gear Check at a competition should be a quick check to ensure the required competition gear is in use and meets comfort and safety requirements. It is not the time to educate and advise.

3.3.c For Zone and State Competitions the requirement is for one gear check for each discipline per day with the exception of Horse Trials where one gear check per phase is required.

3.4 Comfort and Safety Criteria

3.4.a Gear must be:

- i. Safe.
- ii. In good order with no worn parts.
- iii. Comfortable for the horse.
- iv. Fitted correctly and used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- v. Appropriate for the activity.
- vi. Not specifically prohibited by these rules.

3.4.b There must be no restrictions or attachments of any kind or a bit or item of saddlery likely to wound the horse.

3.5 The Absolute Minimum

3.5.a If these items do not absolutely comply or are not changed to comply, the rider **must not** ride:

- i. Helmet - in accordance with rule 10.5.
- ii. Riding boots - in accordance with rule 10.7.
- iii. Wear and tear - in accordance with rule 11.2 (Any worn parts and stitching that is unsafe).
- iv. Bit - in accordance with rule 11.4.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

- v. Saddle fit (when used) - in accordance with rule 11.9 (May be improved with riser pad.)
- vi. Stirrups (when used) - in accordance with rules 11.17.
- vii. Specified competition gear - refer to the appropriate pages in these rules.

3.6 Commercially Manufactured Gear

- 3.6.a An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

3.7 Changing Gear after Gear Check

- 3.7.a Once a combination has completed gear check, gear must not be changed until the rider has finished riding in the specific activity, competition or phase.
- 3.7.b If gear is changed after a specific activity, competition or phase, the gear must be rechecked. The only exception to this is a change between show rings, unless the organising committee specifies that another gear check is required.

3.8 Failed Gear Check

- 3.8.a Riders must successfully complete a gear check at every activity or competition.
- 3.8.b The gear check steward or the appropriate official must not permit anyone to ride who has failed a gear check, in accordance with rule 3.10.

3.9 Due Process

- 3.9.a Any exclusion of a rider from riding must only occur after the relevant processes outlined in rule 5 have been fully discharged.

3.10 Exclusion or Elimination

- 3.10.a Non-compliance with these rules may result in exclusion from participation in the activity or elimination from the competition or phase of a competition.

3.11 Disputes

- 3.11.a Any disputes must be referred to the club DC at a rally or the most senior official, chief judge or jury of appeal on the day of a competition. That decision is final.

3.12 Insurance Limitation

- 3.12.a A rider who does not comply with all of these rules may prejudice their entitlement to insurance under the PCV insurance policy or be left uninsured.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

4 Rider's Responsibilities

4.1 At all Activities and Competitions

- 4.1.a Be courteous and polite to gear check stewards at all times.
- 4.1.b Learn the requirements by reading these rules and ensure gear complies.
- 4.1.c If unsure about any gear, seek help from the club's DC.
- 4.1.d Present for gear check as required, in accordance with rule 2.1, and allow plenty of time in case changes are required.
- 4.1.e Adjust or replace any unsatisfactory gear as requested by the gear check steward. Ask your parent/guardian for assistance if required. Gear check stewards must not alter a rider's gear, in accordance with rule 5.1.e.
- 4.1.f Riders must not alter any gear after passing through gear check in accordance with rule 3.7.

4.2 Additional for Competitions

- 4.2.a The competitor must know what is required and present to gear check in correct competition gear. Competitions are not the place for education, in accordance with rule 3.3.
- 4.2.b The gear check steward's role is to:
 - i. Check the gear as presented by the competitor to ensure it meets comfort and safety requirements
 - ii. Make every effort to notice any gear that does not comply with the competition requirements and advise the rider accordingly. However, the responsibility to ride in the correct competition gear remains with the competitor, in accordance with rule 4.2.a. If any judge or official discovers a competitor riding with incorrect competition gear, elimination may occur, in accordance with rule 3.10.
- 4.2.c The competitor must not expect the competition to be reorganised to accommodate them, if their scheduled riding time has passed due to late arrival at gear check or a gear check query, even though the organising committee may make an effort to do so.
- 4.2.d The competitor must not ride if they cannot comply. However, the gear check steward must inform the competitor on how to comply.

4.3 Non-compliance Means No Ride

- 4.3.a Comply with the gear rules, as failure to do so may result in exclusion or elimination from the competition, in accordance with rule 3.10.

4.4 Insurance Reminder

- 4.4.a A rider who does not comply with these rules may prejudice their entitlement to insurance under the PCV insurance policy or be left uninsured, in accordance with rule 3.12.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

5 Gear Check Steward's Responsibilities

In accordance with rule 2.3, a person (also known as a gear checker) must perform gear check duties as follows:

5.1 When Checking Gear

- 5.1.a Be courteous and polite to riders at all times.
- 5.1.b Be fully conversant with all of these rules and ensure the current gear rules are used.
- 5.1.c While comfort and safety requirements must be met, the required demeanour of the gear check steward must be one that seeks to help riders meet the requirements rather than exclude riders that could otherwise be advised on how to meet the requirements.
- 5.1.d As far as possible, complete the gear check in a safe, quick manner without touching the rider. Explaining at all times what you are about to check.
- 5.1.e **Never alter any gear.** When gear needs changing or altering, the gear check steward must request the rider, team manager or, if needed, the rider's responsible adult, to make the necessary adjustments and report back when this is complete.
- 5.1.f **Riders must be mounted and the feet must remain in stirrups.** At all times during gear check, the rider's feet must remain in the stirrups and the rider must have control of the reins in case the horse takes fright.
 - i. It is possible to check the stitching on the leathers by asking the rider to move the leg forward as if they were tightening their girth. This exposes both the stitching of the leather and the stirrup bar. Another method would be to ask the rider to roll their knee and thigh away from the saddle, as though they were going to alter their stirrup leather; this also exposes the stitching. To check the stirrup end of the leather for wear, ask the rider to take the weight of their foot slightly off the stirrup, so that the stirrup can move. Do this at the same time that you assess stirrup size.
 - ii. If it is necessary for an inspection of gear that would require the rider to remove a foot from the stirrup, you must request the rider to dismount. However, this would be in an unusual situation.

5.2 Additional for Rally

- 5.2.a Make all reasonable effort to assist the rider to pass gear check, educate and advise the rider in accordance with rule 3.2.
- 5.2.b Keep records to ensure gear is maintained or replaced as advised.

5.3 Additional for Competitions

- 5.3.a While it is the rider's responsibility to present in the correct gear, the gear check steward must make every reasonable effort to notice any gear that does not comply with the competition requirements and inform the rider how they can comply.
- 5.3.b If a competitor is in jeopardy of missing their riding time because of gear problems, the steward must do all they reasonably can to accommodate the competitor with another time without unduly inconveniencing other competitors and the general running of the day.

5.4 When All Else Fails – No Ride

- 5.4.a If, after fully discharging the above process, a rider cannot comply with these rules, they **must not** ride.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

6 Laminated Guide

6.1 Use

- 6.1.a The *Competition Quick Reference/Check Guide*, which is at the end of this publication, is available in a laminated version for use at competitions only. Note that competition rules are frequently different to gear check requirements at rallies.
- 6.1.b Do not use the laminated version as a substitute for a full understanding of these rules. Only use it as a reminder, once these rules have been fully read and understood.
- 6.1.c Always ensure the most recent version of these rules is used. Never rely on memory; rules change.
- 6.1.d PCV rules are available from the PCV web site or from the PCV state office.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

7 Uniform

7.1 Rallies

- 7.1.a Club committees decide what uniform or attire must be worn at rallies.
- 7.1.b For safety, members and **Come & Try Participants** must always wear approved footwear and, when mounted, an approved equestrian helmet, in accordance with rule 10.5.
- 7.1.c A short or long sleeved garment must be worn at all times when riding.
- 7.1.d Attire that has not been approved by the club committee must not be worn.
- 7.1.e Clubs may allow a period of grace before requiring a member to purchase and wear the approved registered club uniform at a rally.

7.2 Competitions

- 7.2.a Pony club sections: To compete at competitions, all pony clubs must have an approved registered club uniform. Uniforms must be approved by the applicable zone and registered through the PCV state office, in accordance with the *Handbook of By-laws*.
- 7.2.b Open sections: riders must follow PCV uniform rules at competitions as per Gear Rules. The minimum requirement is PCV Approved Helmet, jodhpurs/breeches of banana, cream, fawn, white or beige colour, boots and a sleeved garment.

7.3 Official Club Uniform Items

- 7.3.a The club's approved registered uniform must consist of the following garments which may be worn in any combination.
- 7.3.b Traditional:
 - i. White shirt with PCV tie or approved club tie.
 - ii. Woollen V-neck jumper.
- 7.3.c PCV Logo Garments:
 - i. PCV short-sleeved or long-sleeved polo shirt
 - ii. PCV skivvy
 - iii. PCV jacket
 - iv. PCV vest
 - v. PCV wet weather jacket.
- 7.3.d A Ratcatcher style shirt may be worn in white or club colours with or without the PCV logo.
- 7.3.e PCV logo garments must only be designed in accordance with rule 7.5.
- 7.3.f Singlets and sleeveless garments can only be worn under or over a sleeved garment.



Short Sleeved Polo Shirt (logo not to scale). Figure 1

7.4 Uniform Combinations

- 7.4.a Approved registered club uniform items may be worn in any combination:
 - i. A member may remove a jumper, jacket or vest at any time.
 - ii. Cross country: When competing in cross country, a sleeved garment must be worn, which is either a club registered uniform item as described in rule 7.3 or a non-registered garment in the club colours or white.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

7.5 PCV Logo

- 7.5.a PCV logo garments defined in rule 7.3.c may be purchased either through the PCV nominated supplier or from another supplier of a club's choosing.
- 7.5.b Each of the PCV logo garments detailed in rule 7.3.c must have the authorised PCV logo fixed to the front upper left-hand side of the garment, in accordance with Figure 1. The logo must fit within a 75 mm square.
- 7.5.c The PCV logo must only be in one of the club's registered colours or contrasting colour.
- 7.5.d No person may create their own PCV logo. To ensure consistency, the official PCV logo template must be used. The template is available from the PCV state office for forwarding to embroiderers.

7.6 Club and Zone Logos

- 7.6.a Embroidered logos are permitted, however sponsorship logos are not permitted.
- 7.6.b **Woollen V neck jumper:** either the PCV logo or club/zone logo may be worn on the front upper left-hand side and must fit within a 75 mm square.
- 7.6.c PCV logo garments:
 - i. In addition to the mandatory PCV logo, may have a club/zone logo, which must fit within a 75 mm square and be placed on the front upper right-hand side.
 - ii. A rider's name may be added underneath the club/zone logo in letters of no more than 12mm in size.
 - iii. May have the club name placed on the back in lettering not more than 50 mm in height.

7.7 Approved PCV Badge, Logo and Emblem

- 7.7.a The PCV logo may be on official PCV clothing items, in accordance with rule 7.4.



Figure 2. PCV Logo

- 7.7.b Previous PCV Logo



Figure 3 Previous PCV Logo

- 7.7.c The PCV state representatives' emblem (Figure 4) is only for use on uniforms endorsed by the state council for national competitions.



Figure 4. PCV state representatives' emblem for national competitions

- 7.7.d As an option, the PCV badge may be worn on club jumpers



Figure 5: PCV Badge

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

7.8 Optional Enhancements to Uniforms

7.8.a Clubs may enhance their official uniform(s) with trimming, panels, sashes, badges or logos providing the enhancements are approved by the zone and registered at PCV, in accordance with rule 7.2 and these conditions:

- i. Panels in the club's registered trim colours may be applied to the PCV logo garments providing the registered dominant colour remains predominant.
- ii. A sash may be applied to the woollen V neck jumper and must be 75 mm wide, worn diagonally over the right shoulder and extend to the base of the garment on the left side. The sash must be securely attached.

7.9 Optional Items

7.9.a Members may wear the following items at any time without registration:

- i. Official PCV wet weather jacket.
- ii. Riding gloves.
- iii. PCV brass badge.
- iv. Efficiency test coloured plastic discs may be worn behind the PCV brass badge or a material efficiency badge strip measuring not more than 50 mm by 10 mm may be worn under the left-hand side logo.
- v. Cross country: Refer to rule 7.4.a.

7.10 Sponsorship Logos

7.10.a Official uniform items may not be enhanced with sponsorship logos, i.e. Not permitted on garments with Club, Zone or PCV logo. Sponsorship logos are permitted on unofficial items with measurements not exceeding:

- i. 200sq cm on each side of Saddlecloth.
- ii. 80sq cm once only on Jackets or top garments at the height of a breast pocket on the front, or 200sq cm on the back.
- iii. 16sq cm on both sides of the shirt collar.
- iv. 150sq cm on the upper seat of jodhpurs or breeches.

7.11 Prohibited Uniform Items at Competitions

7.11.a Non-PCV Registered Attire:

- i. Participants must only wear attire approved by the zone and registered, in accordance with rule 7.2

7.12 Penalty

7.12.a The members of a club, which fails to comply with these requirements or have all of its uniform items registered, will be denied entry into competitions and activities until the uniform complies and is registered.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

8 Checking Saddle Fit and Condition

8.1 For the Horse

- 8.1.a When assessing the fit of the saddle the priority is always the horse.
- 8.1.b A well-fitting saddle will not pinch the horse's shoulders or place uneven weight or pressure on the spine or back. This will allow the horse to work comfortably and happily to the best of his ability. An incorrectly fitting saddle may cause the horse to show discomfort in a number of ways—from actively raising his head and swishing his tail, to not working properly forward or even refusing to jump.

8.2 How the Fit of the Saddle can be affected

- 8.2.a Saddle fitting has become a complicated science with courses and qualifications available. Even professionally fitted saddles are subject to external influences that can cause the saddle fit to change.
- 8.2.b Influences:
 - i. Condition of the horse.
 - A correctly worked horse will have a well-muscled back or top line to support the saddle
 - How the top line changes:
 - When the horse is turned out and not worked, muscle tone deteriorates
 - As a horse ages, the top line also changes and becomes less defined
 - Horses that lose weight due to illness or change of season will also have poor top lines
 - Ponies that become very fat will have a changed top line.
 - ii. Condition of the saddle
 - Panels might need reconditioning, as they may become hard and flat or lumpy, upsetting the fit and, therefore, comfort of the horse
 - The saddle might not sit level, tipping back or forward due to an incorrectly sized gullet. This affects the rider's position and balance, which also upsets the horse.

8.3 Checking Saddle Fit for Comfort

- 8.3.a The gear checker is not expected to be a saddle fitter but rather someone who will recognise a badly fitting saddle that may cause discomfort to the horse.
- 8.3.b Most problems can be solved using a commercially manufactured riser pad to get through the activity. This is only an interim solution. The rider must then seek professional help to restuff or change the saddle.
- 8.3.c Towels, a second saddlecloth or other makeshift arrangements must never be used in an attempt to correct an ill-fitting saddle. They create ridges and/or pressure causing more discomfort to the horse's back.
- 8.3.d Place fingers flat under the saddle blanket at the wither and check:
 - i. Does the saddle have clearance from the wither along the spine?
 - ii. Are the wither and shoulder free and not pinched?

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

8.4 The Rider and the Saddle

- 8.4.a Is the saddle the right size? - A hand's width (about 10cm) between the rider and the cantle indicates the right size.
- 8.4.b Is the flap long enough for the rider's leg? - The rider's knee should not be above the kneepads.
- 8.4.c Is the seat/waist of the saddle correct? - If the seat/waist is too narrow or too wide, the rider may experience discomfort.

8.5 Saddle Maintenance

- 8.5.a Is the saddle well maintained?
- i. Leather—regularly cleaned and oiled, soft and supple leather, safe and comfortable for the horse.
 - ii. Synthetic—clean, synthetic covering not cracked or breaking away
 - iii. Mounts—well-fitting and maintained mounts are just as important as the saddle.
 - iv. Saddle Cloth—should be cleaned to remove dirt and sweat that can irritate or cause discomfort to the horse. Two saddle cloths are not permitted as that increases pressure on the horse.
 - v. Girth and Points—clean, correct length, not worn. A clean girth helps avoid girth galls, usually caused by dirty girths that are too tight or loose.
 - vi. Stirrup Leathers—clean, stitching maintained, holes free from tears.

9 Other Checks

9.1 The Bit

- 9.1.a When a competition requires a compliant snaffle bit, the gear check steward can gently pull the bit to one side in the horse's mouth. This will expose the mouthpiece and central joint(s) for checking.
- 9.1.b If the gear check steward is unable to determine if the bit is correct, they may require the rider to return to gear check at the completion of the test or applicable competition, to remove the bridle and check the bit. Do this in a safe place using a headstall and lead rope. If the bit is not compliant, the competitor must be eliminated.

9.2 Helmet Fit

- 9.2.a Gear check stewards may ask the rider to demonstrate correct helmet fit by placing one hand on top of the helmet and moving helmet from side to side, back and forwards.
- 9.2.b A helmet only protects what it covers. Always wear a helmet low at the front to protect the forehead; it should fit snugly but comfortably. With a correctly adjusted harness, you cannot remove the helmet, or roll it backward or forward, to expose the forehead, obscure vision or hit the nose. If the fit is comfortable and the skin on your forehead moves with the helmet, the fit is correct; if not the helmet is too loose.
- 9.2.c Refer to rule 10.5 for other requirements.

9.3 Misuse of Gear

- 9.3.a Any Gear that is misused in any way, too tight, ill-fitting or incorrectly used will not be tolerated. This includes but is not confined to bits, saddlery, boots, spurs, whips and any equipment that may pass a Gear Check in normal circumstances

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

10 Rider Requirements

Reminder:

Non-compliance may mean that you (the rider) are uninsured, in accordance with rule 3.12.

	Rally and Activity	Competition
10.1	Uniform and Attire	
	It is the decision of the committee of management at each pony club as to what its members must wear at rallies/activities. However, boots and helmets must always be worn while mounted as specified in these rules.	Pony club sections: Refer to rule 7 Open sections: As specified on the competition entry schedule, refer to rule 7.2b
10.2	Jodhpurs, Breeches and Moleskins	
	As above	Banana, beige, white, fawn or oatmeal, or similar to.
10.3	Hair	
	Recommended but not essential, that hair is tied up or back, so that it does not catch on anything	Tied up so it does not obscure any part of a competitor number. This is especially important for cross-country where a fence judge may not be able to identify the competitor. This could lead to wrongly assigning faults.
10.4	Jewellery and Piercing	
	Jewellery: watches and medical bracelets are permitted Piercing: all visible piercing must be removed or taped	Watches allowed where competition rules permit - Not permitted for Cross country phase in HT & Supercross, - Grades 4,5,6.
10.5	Helmets	
	It is the rider's and or parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure the rider wears a helmet at all times while mounted and it is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fastened and fitted in accordance with rule 9.2 ▪ At least one of the complying standards: AS/NZS 3838, EN1384/VG01.040, ASTM F1163, PAS015. Manufacture date up to and including 2015, VG1, (helmets may carry both EN1384 & VG1 marks) Refer PCA 'Helmet Standards' notice January 2017 for full details. ▪ ARB HS 2012 (racing helmets) ▪ Being used or is replaced from time to time, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. NB: Manufacturers recommend a 5 year life from date of manufacture. 	Rider onus and rule 3.12 apply Spot checks may occur. However, an organising committee, at its discretion, may require all competitors to present helmets at the event office for inspection of a compliance standards number. If this is required, the entry form/schedule must state so. All Rally/Activity conditions apply

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

Rally and Activity	Competition
<p>Always check the helmet fit.</p> <p>Compulsory checks of compliance standard numbers are not mandatory as rider onus and rule 3.12 apply.</p> <p>However: pony club officials reserve the right to inspect a rider's helmet at any time.</p>	

10.6 Medical Armbands

<p>It is the decision of each pony club's committee of management whether its members are required to wear armbands or not.</p> <p><u>The card insert can be any colour as long as the information is correct</u></p>	<p>Wearing of armbands is optional. All organising committees to have on hand a list of emergency contact names and numbers as supplied with the entry. The card insert can be any colour</p>
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10.7 Boots




<p>The objective is for the boot to be able to slide backwards out of the stirrup easily, but not forward through the stirrup.</p> <p>Boots must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Short jodhpur or long boots or roper/dogger style boots - NB Roper boots must only be worn under moleskin trousers ▪ Fully soled in smooth leather or rubber synthetic material ▪ A shallow ripple sole is acceptable ▪ Long boots that are laced at the ankle (field boots) are permitted ▪ Short boots that lace at the ankle with eyelets and billet hooks must have these covered with a) - either a gaiter or a chappette, in accordance with rule 10.8 or b) - tape over the billet hooks. 	<p>Colour must be brown or black.</p> <p>All other Rally/Activity conditions apply.</p>
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Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

10.8 Gaiters and Chappettes

<p>Gaiters: are permitted</p> <p>Chaps, chinks and/or chappettes are permitted if the club's committee of management approves.</p>	<p>Gaiters</p> <p>May be made of leather or synthetic material, but must be smooth on the outside, may have suede on the inside.</p> <p>May only be worn with complying short boots.</p> <p>Colour must match boots (black or brown). May have hunting tops, which must be brown or black.</p> <p>Not permitted: chaps, chinks and chappettes.</p>
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10.9 Spurs

<p>All riders may use spurs, as they are being supervised in a training environment.</p> <p>Spurs design rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spurs capable of wounding a horse are forbidden. ▪ Must be made of metal. ▪ There must be a shank either curved or straight pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the rider's boot. ▪ The shank must not exceed 20 mm in length <u>excluding ball/plastic knob</u> ▪ The tip of the shank must not point upwards or inwards. ▪ The arms of the spurs must be smooth and may be covered with rubber. ▪ Must sit on the curve of the back of the heel with the buckle of the strap to the outside. ▪ Impulse Spurs with plastic knobs are allowed. ▪ Soft touch Roller Ball spurs which must have a rounded smooth roller are permitted. ▪ Horizontal rolling ball spurs must have a soft roller not a rowel. ▪ Spurs with Rowels (including Disk and Daisy) are <u>not permitted</u>. 	<p>May only be used where the competition rules permit (refer specific competition requirements).</p> <p>Same design rules as Rally/Activity.</p> <p>Impulse Spurs</p>  <p>Roller Ball Spurs</p>  <p>Disk Rowels – Not permitted</p> 
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Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

Rally and Activity	Competition
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10.10 Whips

<p>A rider may use a whip, if required. Permissible whips are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not exceeding 750 mm including a compulsory flat flap on the end, which must not be weighted; or ▪ Not exceeding 1200 mm including a compulsory lash. ▪ For polocrosse only (Rule 20) No longer than 1100mm including the flap which is not less than 50mm long and 25mm wide. <p>While riding hands must not be placed through whip handle straps. Cutting handle straps or whip flaps is not a requirement.</p>	<p>May be only used where the competition rules permit (refer to specific competition requirements). All other Rally/Activity conditions apply.</p>
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10.11 Rain Coats and Gloves

<p>Permitted</p>	<p>Permitted. However, competitor number and armband must remain clearly visible</p>
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10.12 Lungeing

<p>Permitted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lungeing at a rally, activity or competition must take place in a confined area designated exclusively for lungeing. If no such area exists lungeing is not permitted. ▪ At a rally or activity an adult may lunge a member’s horse or pony in a designated lungeing area. ▪ All people lungeing are recommended to wear solid footwear, gloves, helmet and preferably using PCV approved equipment including lungeing cavessons, whips, etc. 	<p>Correct competition gear may be worn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lungeing cavessons may be used ▪ Side reins and ancillary equipment is not permitted – see 12.1 ▪ Horse boots are permitted <p>Must only take place in a confined designated “lungeing only” area if the competition schedule permits it.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The competition schedule must state if and where lungeing is permitted at a venue. ▪ At a competition venue with a designated lungeing area, only the competitor may ride or lunge his horse or pony. ▪ At a competition venue with a designated lungeing area, only the competitor may ride or lunge his horse or pony. Riders under the age of 14 may have another competent person over the age of 14 to lunge their horse. Handler recommended to wear enclosed solid foot wear, helmet and gloves. ▪ The penalty for disobeying this rule is elimination.
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Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

10.13 Competitor Numbers

Rally and Activity	Competition
Not applicable	<p>Not all competitions require competitor numbers.</p> <p>When required, competitor numbers must be fully visible at all times while mounted, under penalty of elimination.</p> <p>Competitor numbers must be displayed by one of the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Body number: on both the competitor’s chest and back for cross-country ▪ Bridle: on both the left and right side of the bridle ▪ Saddle cloth: on both the left and right side of the saddlecloth. <p>The Organising Committee must specify in the schedule of entry conditions what type of numbers, if any, will be required to be worn.</p> <p>The Organising Committee must state what numbers they will provide and what numbers, if any, must be supplied by the competitor.</p>

10.14 Body Protectors

<p>Permitted</p> <p>It is IMPORTANT that a Body protector MUST be correctly fitted to be safe and effective. An incorrectly fitted/sized Body Protector may cause injury to the rider</p>	Permitted
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10.15 Watches/Timing Devices

Allowed for rally.	Not permitted cross country for Grade 4, 5 & 6
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Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

11 Horse Requirements

Reminder:


Non-compliance may mean that you (the rider) are uninsured, in accordance with rule 3.12.

	Rally and Activity	Competition
11.1	Horse Condition	
	Should be in good condition and well groomed. Hooves must be in good order, whether the horse is shod or not.	Same as Rally/Activity.
11.2	Stitching, Holes, Wear and Tear	
	<p>Stitching: must be in good condition.</p> <p>Holes: must not be torn or unduly worn.</p> <p>Wear and Tear: all gear must be checked for wear and tear.</p> <p>Special areas of concern:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Saddle Girth Points: Check for wear and tear around the holes and stitching around the attachment to the tree. ▪ Reins: Check stitching and look for cracking, especially if billet hooks are used, and wear around the bit. ▪ Stirrup Leathers: Must not be cracked or thin from use, especially where the stirrup hangs. Stitching must be sound. 	Same as Rally/Activity.
11.3	Bridles	
	<p>Must always have a throat lash, except for Micklem Bridle. The throat lash should be tight enough so it does not slip over the horse's cheek and not so tight that it restricts the horse's breathing</p> <p>The cheek straps must not be too tight, only one or two creases on either side of the mouth above the bit should show.</p> <p>The brow band must be large enough not to pull on the back of the ears and not so big that it protrudes from the horse's forehead.</p> <p>Metal snap hook fasteners or metal clips of any type, that attach to the bit are not permitted.</p>	Same as Rally/Activity.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

	Rally and Activity	Competition
11.4	Tongue Layer/Tongue Grid	
	<p>Both items are designed to dissuade a horse from putting tongue over the bit</p> <p><u>Layer</u> – loops around the bit and lies on the tongue pointing towards the back of the throat rubber</p> <p>Grid – used on a bridoon headpiece and fits above the bit</p>	Permitted except in dressage tests, flat teams and musical ride
11.5	Bits	
	<p>The horse/pony must always be ridden with a bridle and bit and reins when at a rally/activity/competition.</p> <p>The bit must not be too wide or too narrow; otherwise the central hinge will rub on the horse's gums. About 10 mm of the bit must protrude on either side of the horse's mouth and there must be one or two wrinkles on either side of the mouth above the bit.</p> <p>Any bit may be used at a rally/activity. However, the rider must be educated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are competitions where only a snaffle bit is permitted ▪ Until competent with a snaffle, they will not be able to compete in those competitions. ▪ Curb chains should lay flat against the curb groove in the horse's chin and must not be uncomfortable or injure the horse 	<p>Refer to rule 21 for the various snaffle bits permitted in competition.</p> <p>Must be used in accordance with competition rules (refer specific competition requirements).</p> <p>All Rally/Activity conditions apply.</p>
11.6	Cheek Guards	
	Permitted. (Cheek guards are leather, rubber or synthetic circular attachments that stop the bit pulling through the mouth.)	Permitted except in dressage tests, flat teams and musical ride
11.7	Nosebands	
	Nosebands must be in accordance with rule 22.1.	<p>Are permitted. However, when a snaffle bit is specified for the competition, only the nosebands in rule 22.2 are permitted.</p> <p>At all other times, refer to rule 22.1</p>
11.8	Muzzle Nets	
	Permitted	Permitted all disciplines with a Veterinary Surgeon's exemption.
11.9	Fly Hoods and Ear Covers	
	<p>Permitted</p> <p>Fly Hoods – made of thin material designed to protect against insects</p>	<p>Protective Fly Hoods (ear covers) permitted.</p> <p>Must not have sound reducing material for Dressage and Show Rings.</p>

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

	Rally and Activity	Competition
		<p>The Fly Hoods should be discreet and must not cover the horse's eyes.</p> <p>However they may be checked by Stewards at the end of the test to ensure that nothing prohibited has been added to or is covered by the Fly Hood.</p>
11.10 Reins		
	<p>Reins must be attached to the bit.</p> <p>Whether knotted or not, must at least reach the pommel of the saddle when the horse is standing square and relaxed.</p> <p>Knotted reins must not have a loop at the end; hence the buckle must be undone.</p> <p>Metal snap hook fasteners or clips of any type, that attach to the bit are not permitted, except for Grass Reins.</p> <p>Grass reins: Reins or ties that restrict the horse from reaching down to eat grass are permitted. Snap hooks or clips may be used for grass reins.</p> <p>Balance support reins permitted.</p>	<p>Grass/Daisy reins permitted for competition in dressage phases for Grade 5 & 6 HT & CT only and 10yrs and under sections in the Pony Club Show Rings. Grass reins not permitted for jumping. See diagram. Must only attach to saddle D rings and bridle at poll.</p>  <p>Balance support reins permitted Dressage Grades 5 & 6, not permitted Grades 1- 4.</p> <p>Permitted jumping ONLY Grade 6, Not permitted Pure SJ.</p> <p>Not permitted Games.</p> <p>Permitted Flat & Musical ride.</p> <p>All other reins same as Rally/Activity.</p>
11.11 Saddle		
	<p>The saddle must fit correctly and sit straight on the horse, in accordance with rule 8.</p> <p>The saddle must fit and function in the manner for which it was designed.</p> <p>If the saddle has a tree, it must leave the spine free of any pressure when the rider is mounted</p> <p>Treeless saddles are permitted</p> <p>Refer to saddle fit rule 8; also refer to the girth and stirrup leather, bars and irons rules 11.15 to 11.17</p>	<p>'All Rally/Activity conditions apply'</p> <p>Saddles are compulsory for all competitions unless stated otherwise in the Schedule; e.g. Active Riding Competitions; optional for Fancy Dress.</p> <p>Saddles should be suitable for the discipline in which they are being used.</p>
11.12 Saddlecloth and Covers		
	<p>One only saddlecloth must be used with or without one commercial riser pad.</p> <p>A saddlecloth is anything put under the saddle other than a commercial riser pad.</p> <p>A commercial riser pad may be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Riser pad ▪ Gel pad 	<p>Saddle covers are not permitted.</p> <p>All Rally/Activity conditions apply.</p>

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

	Rally and Activity	Competition
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ½ Numnah ▪ Sheepskin pad <p>Club colours are optional.</p> <p>The saddlecloth must be fitted so there is no ridge or edge under the seat of the saddle that could cause soreness in the horse's back.</p> <p>Folded/rolled saddlecloths, towels and other makeshift padding are not permitted.</p> <p>Saddle covers are permitted.</p> <p>A quarter sheet may be worn during warm-up or warm-down, provided it is fitted under the saddle and is not attached in any way to the rider.</p>	
11.13 Cruppers and Fore Girths		
	All Permitted.	Same as Rally/Activity.
11.14 Monkey Grips/ Neckstraps		
	All Permitted.	Same as Rally/Activity.
11.15 Girth		
	<p>11.15 Girth - Rally and Activity. The saddle may have one or more points. Two buckles are required or one buckle and a surcingle. Exception: Western or Stock Saddle with attachments as designed and manufactured for that particular saddle.</p> <p>The girth must be firmly tight and must be secured to the corresponding girth points on either side of the saddle.</p> <p>Single Girth strap Half Breed saddle permitted – 2 girth straps to one strap, does not require a surcingle.</p>	Same as Rally/Activity.
11.16 Stirrup Leathers		
	<p>Stirrup leathers must be outside the saddle flap and not tied down.</p> <p>The free end of the leather may be in the keeper on the saddle.</p>	Same as Rally/Activity.
11.17 Stirrup Irons		
	<p>The objective is that the boot is able to easily slide backwards out of the stirrup. A stirrup too large is as dangerous as one too small; since the foot could slip right through.</p> <p>If peacock irons are used, they must be fitted with a rubber safety band.</p> <p>All stirrup irons and oxbows must fit the rider's boot. This means when the ball of the foot is in the stirrup and the foot is over to one side, with approximately 15 mm of spare</p>	Same as Rally/Activity.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

	Rally and Activity	Competition
	<p>space between the edge of the boot and the stirrup iron.</p> <p>Toe-stoppers are permitted, providing the size of the stirrup iron spacing is not compromised.</p>	
11.18 Stirrup Bars		
	<p>If the stirrup bar is hinged, it may be up or down.</p> <p>A pony pad, paddle or treeless saddle that has an enclosed "D" rather than a stirrup bar must be fitted with clogs, stirrups with toe-stoppers or quick out/quick release stirrups as per manufacturer's guidelines.</p> <p>Saddles with swinging fenders must be fitted with oxbows.</p>	Same as Rally/Activity.
11.19 Martingales		
	<p>Standing martingales are not permitted.</p> <p>Running martingales, if used, must be fitted so the rings can reach the horse's gullet when the horse is standing in a normal position.</p> <p>A diagonally fitted rubber stopper or a fixed ring at the horse's chest is compulsory with all running martingales</p> <p>Irish martingales are permitted</p> <p>Stops on the reins are compulsory.</p>	May be only used where the competition rules permit (refer to specific competition requirements).
11.20 Breastplates		
	<p>Must avoid interfering with the horse's breathing or with the movement of the horse's shoulder.</p>	Same as Rally/Activity.
11.21 Bandages, Taping and Exercise Boots		
	<p>Bandages and taping are not permitted.</p> <p>Exercise boots are permitted providing they are fitted to the manufacturer's specifications.</p> <p>Straps and fastenings must be on the outside of the horse's leg and face to the back. If the fastening includes a "D" fastener, then the straps must be threaded through them.</p> <p>Any boot that causes discomfort to the horse is Not Permitted.</p>	<p>Exercise boots may be only used where the competition rules permit (refer to specific competition requirements).</p> <p>All other Rally/Activity conditions apply.</p>
11.22 Bell Boots		
	<p>Permitted.</p>	May be only used where the competition rules permit (refer to specific competition requirements).

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

	Rally and Activity	Competition
11.23	Hoof Over Boots – such as Old Mac boots	
	Permitted.	May be only used where the competition rules permit exercise boots to be used.
11.24	Compression Hoods	
	11.24 Compression Hoods (eg Hidez Hoods) - Rally & Activity - Permitted	Compression Hoods (eg Hidez Hoods) - Competition - Not Permitted Dressage or Show rings, permitted for all other disciplines

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

12 Gear Never Permitted

		Rally and Activity	Competition
12.1	Prohibited Items	<p>Bandages. Taping of horse boots Bits or items of saddlery likely to wound a horse. Bits made only of rubber or rubber & chain. Metal snap hook fasteners or metal clips of any type that attach to the bit. Blinkers. Running or Draw reins. Towels/second saddlecloth under saddle Market Harboroughs De Gogue or ancillary training aids Side reins, except for lungeing activities at rallies. Standing martingales. Hackamores and bosals. Tongue Ties. Visible jewellery (except for watch and medical bracelet), unless taped. Helmet Cameras and any other visual/video recording device of whatsoever nature.</p> <p>Any Gear that is misused in any way, too tight, ill-fitting or incorrectly used will not be tolerated. This includes but is not confined to bits, saddlery, boots, spurs, whips and any equipment that may pass a Gear Check in normal circumstances.</p>	<p>Same as Rally/Activity plus: Chaps Chappettes Chinks Ancillary lungeing equipment such as side reins, chambon and pessa</p>
12.2	Penalty for Non Compliance	<p>Non compliance MAY result in exclusion or elimination. See 3.10, 4.3</p>	<p>Non compliance MAY result in exclusion or elimination. See 3.10, 4.3</p>

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

13 Pure Dressage

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

13.1 Bits	Snaffle bits only must be used in accordance with rule 21.
13.2 Nosebands	Only Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle and Hanoverian nosebands may be used (see rule 22.2).
13.3 Reins	Balance support reins permitted Dressage Grades 5 & 6, not permitted Grades 1- 4.
13.4 Fly Hoods/Ear Covers	Permitted. Must not have sound reducing material for Dressage.
13.5 Muzzle Net	Permitted with Veterinary surgeon's exemption.
13.6 Tongue layer/Grid	Not permitted.
13.7 Cheek Guards	Not permitted
13.8 Horse Leg Wear	No leg wear of any description is permitted in dressage tests.
13.9 Martingale	Running/Irish Martingales: permitted for Grade 5 & 6 only, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 11.19.
13.10 Spurs	Permitted
13.11 Whip	Whip not exceeding 1200mm including lash permitted Grades 1, 2 & 3. Whip not exceeding 750mm incl flap permitted Grades 4, 5 & 6
13.12 Warm-up	Correct competition gear may be worn. Lungeing cavessons may be used. Side reins and ancillary lungeing equipment are not permitted. Rule 12.1 Only the competitor may ride or lunge the horse. Riders under the age of 14 may have another competent person over the age of 14 to lunge their horse. Handler recommended to wear enclosed solid foot wear, helmet and gloves. Horse boots are permitted. Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 11.19, are permitted. A whip not exceeding 1200 mm, including the lash, may be used.
13.13 Compression Hoods	Compression hoods (eg Hidez) Not permitted

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

14 Horse Trials, Combined Training & Short Course Dressage

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

14.1 Bits	Snaffle bits only must be used in accordance with rule 21.
14.2 Nosebands	Only Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle and Hanoverian nosebands may be used (see rule 22.2).
14.3 Reins	Balance support reins permitted Dressage Grades 5 & 6, not permitted Grades 1- 4. Grass/Daisy reins permitted for Grade 5 & 6.
14.4 Fly Hood/Ear Covers	Permitted. Must not have sound reducing material for Dressage.
14.5 Muzzle net	Permitted with Veterinary Surgeon's Exemption
14.6 Tongue Layer/Grid	Not permitted
14.7 Cheek Guards	Not permitted.
14.8 Horse Leg Wear	No leg wear of any description is permitted in dressage tests.
14.9 Martingale	Running/Irish Martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 11.19, are permitted for Grade 5 & 6 only.
14.10 Spurs	Permitted.
14.11 Watches/Timing Devices	Not permitted for Cross country phase in HT & Supercross, - Grades 4 ,5 & 6.
14.12 Whip	Whip not exceeding 1200mm including lash permitted Grades 1, 2 & 3. Whip not exceeding 750mm incl flap permitted Grades 4, 5 & 6
14.13 Warm-up	Correct competition gear may be worn. Lungeing cavessons may be used. Side reins and ancillary lungeing equipment are not permitted. Rule 12.1 Only the competitor may ride or lunge the horse. Riders under the age of 14 may have another competent person over the age of 14 to lunge their horse. Handler recommended to wear enclosed solid foot wear, helmet and gloves. Horse boots are permitted. Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 11.19 are permitted. A whip not exceeding 1200 mm, including the lash may be used.
14.14 Compression Hoods	Compression hoods (eg Hidez) Not permitted

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

15 Showjumping and Cross-Country

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

15.1	Cross Country Uniform	The competitor may wear a sleeved garment which is either a club registered uniform item as described in rule 7.3 or a non-registered garment in club colours or white.
15.2	Bridle	Pure showjumping only: Sheep skin may be used on each cheek piece providing the sheep skin does not exceed 30 mm in diameter measured from the horse's face.
15.3	Bits	No restrictions in showjumping and cross-country, provided they are correctly fitted and do not cause injury to the mouth.
15.4	Nosebands	No restrictions in showjumping and cross-country, provided they are correctly fitted and do not cause injury to the horse. Worcester Noseband permitted
15.5	Reins	Balance support reins - permitted jumping ONLY Grade 6, Not permitted Pure SJ. Grass Reins not permitted for jumping.
15.6	Fly Hoods/Ear Covers	Permitted.
15.7	Muzzle net	Permitted with Veterinary Surgeon's exemption.
15.8	Horse Leg Wear	Bell boots and exercise boots are permitted. Any boot that causes discomfort to the horse is Not Permitted.
15.9	Spurs	Permitted.
15.10	Whip	Not exceeding 750 mm.
15.11	Warm-up	Correct competition gear may be worn. Lungeing cavassons may be used. Side reins and ancillary lungeing equipment are not permitted. Rule 12.1 Only the competitor may ride or lunge the horse. Riders under the age of 14 may have another competent person over the age of 14 to lunge their horse. Handler recommended to wear enclosed solid foot wear, helmet and gloves. Horse boots are permitted. Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 11.19, are permitted. A whip not exceeding 1200 mm, including the lash, may be used.
15.12	Watches/Timing Devices	Not permitted for Cross country phase in HT & Supercross, - grades 4, 5 & 6.
15.13	Compression Hoods	Compression hoods (eg Hidez) Permitted.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

16 Games

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

16.1 Bits	Snaffle bits only must be used, in accordance with rule 21. Cheek Guards permitted.
16.2 Nosebands	Only Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle and Hanoverian nosebands may be used, in accordance with rule 22.2.
16.3 Reins	Balance support reins NOT permitted. Grass reins permitted.
16.4 Fly Hoods/Ear Covers	Permitted.
16.5 Muzzle net	Permitted with Veterinary Surgeon's exemption.
16.6 Horse Leg Wear	Bell boots and exercise boots are permitted.
16.7 Martingale	A running/Irish Martingale is permitted, which must be fitted, in accordance with rule 11.19.
16.8 Spurs	Not permitted.
16.9 Whip	Not permitted.
16.10 Plaiting	Not permitted.
16.11 Warm-up	<p>Correct competition gear may be worn.</p> <p>Lungeing cavessons may be used.</p> <p>Side reins and ancillary lungeing equipment are not permitted.</p> <p>Rule 12.1</p> <p>Only the competitor may ride or lunge the horse. Riders under the age of 14 may have another competent person over the age of 14 to lunge their horse. Handler recommended to wear enclosed solid foot wear, helmet and gloves.</p> <p>Horse boots are permitted.</p> <p>Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 11.19, are permitted.</p> <p>A whip not exceeding 1200 mm, including the lash, may be used.</p>
16.12 Compression Hoods	Compression hoods (eg Hidez) Permitted.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

17 Flat Teams and Musical Rides

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

17.1 Bits	Snaffle bits only must be used, in accordance with rule 21.
17.2 Nosebands	Only Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle and Hanoverian nosebands may be used, in accordance with rule 22.2.
17.3 Reins	Balance support reins permitted Flat & Musical ride. Grass reins permitted.
17.4 Fly Hoods/Ear Covers	Permitted.
17.5 Muzzle net	Permitted with Veterinary Surgeon's Exemption.
17.6 Tongue Layer/Grid	Not permitted
17.7 Cheek Guards	Not permitted.
17.8 Horse Leg Wear	Leg wear of any description is not permitted.
17.9 Martingale	Running/Irish Martingales fitted in accordance with rule 11.19 are permitted
17.10 Spurs	Permitted.
17.11 Whip	Permitted, not exceeding 750 mm.
17.12 Plaiting	Optional.
17.13 Warm-up	Correct competition gear may be worn. Lungeing cavessons may be used. Side reins and ancillary lungeing equipment are not permitted. Rule 12.1 Only the competitor may ride or lunge the horse. Riders under the age of 14 may have another competent person over the age of 14 to lunge their horse. Handler recommended to wear enclosed solid foot wear, helmet and gloves. Horse boots are permitted Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 11.19, are permitted. A whip not exceeding 1200 mm, including the lash, may be used.
17.14 Attire	Flat Teams must wear approved club uniform; Musical riders MUST wear sleeved garments, Helmets, boots, armband and long pants/jodhpurs.
17.15 Compression Hoods	Compression hoods (eg Hidez) Permitted.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

18 Fancy Dress

18.1 Helmets	Always required.
18.2 Boots	Always required.
18.3 Armband	Always required.
18.4 Horse Leg Wear	Leg wear of any description is not permitted.
18.5 Spurs	Permitted.
18.6 Attire	Fancy Dress riders MUST wear sleeved garments, Helmets, boots, armband and long pants/jodhpurs.
18.7 Compression Hoods	Compression hoods (eg Hidez) Permitted.

19 Show Rings

For pony club members only—not required for “open” sections.

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

19.1 Bits	Snaffle bits only must be used, in accordance with rule 21.
19.2 Nosebands	Only Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle and Hanoverian nosebands may be used, in accordance with rule 22.2.
19.3 Fly Hood/Ear Covers	Permitted. No sound reducing material.
19.4 Muzzle net	Permitted with Veterinary Surgeon’s exemption.
19.5 Tongue Layer/Grid	Not permitted
19.6 Cheek guards	Not permitted.
19.7 Horse leg wear	Not permitted.
19.8 Martingales	Not permitted.
19.9 Spurs	Permitted.
19.10 Plaiting	Optional, at the discretion of the organising committee.
19.11 Whips	Permitted not exceeding 1200mm including lash for led classes. Permitted not exceeding 750mm for ridden classes.
19.12 Warm-up	Correct competition gear may be worn. Lungeing cavessons may be used. Side reins and ancillary lungeing equipment are not permitted. Rule 12.1 Only the competitor may ride or lunge the horse. Riders under the age of 14 may have another competent person over the age of 14 to lunge their horse. Handler recommended to wear enclosed solid foot wear, helmet and gloves. Horse boots are permitted Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 11.19, are permitted. A whip not exceeding 1200 mm, including the lash, may be used.
19.13 Compression Hoods	Compression hoods (eg Hidez) Not permitted.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

20 Polocrosse Competitions and Training activity

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

20.1 Bits	<p><u>Permitted</u></p> <p>Snaffle bits</p> <p>Belgian gag with only one loop underneath the main ring, with the rein attached to the lowest ring.</p> <p><u>Not permitted</u></p> <p>Gags (except Belgian gag) and cheek snaffles with protruding cheek pieces</p> <p>Fulmer snaffles</p> <p>Bitless bridles</p> <p>Curb hooks must be taped.</p>
20.2 Saddles	<p>Saddles must be equipped with a breast plate for competition</p>
20.3 Nosebands	<p>Nosebands suited to snaffle bridles are permitted. Refer rule 22.2</p>
20.4 Ear Covers	<p>Not permitted.</p>
20.5 Martingales	<p>Running martingales are permitted</p>
20.6 Bell Boots	<p>Bell boots in front and behind are compulsory</p>
20.7 Leg Boots	<p>Suitable boots for the horse which protect the fetlock must be worn</p>
20.8 Face Guards	<p>Face guards, if worn must be fitted to an approved helmet. Rigid faceguards are not permitted.</p>
20.9 Spurs	<p>Spurs may only be used with the permission of the competitor's DC and must be in accordance with rule 10.9.</p>
20.10 Whips	<p>Whips must be no longer than 1100 mm including a flap not less than 50 mm long and 25 mm wide at the end.</p>
20.11 Knee Pads	<p>If worn, knee pads must be brown, black, cream or white and made of soft fabric or leather, and must be pliable.</p>
20.12 Team Numbers	<p>Team shirts may have team numbers printed on them to indicate the position of the player. The number must be clearly visible on the back of the shirt and on the sleeve, if desired. The only other writing is the name and logos on the front in accordance with rule 7.</p>
20.13 Warm-up	<p>Correct competition gear may be worn.</p> <p>Lungeing cavassons may be used.</p> <p>Side reins and ancillary lungeing equipment are not permitted. Rule 12.1</p> <p>Only the competitor may ride or lunge the horse. Riders under the age of 14 may have another competent person over the age of 14 to lunge their horse. Handler recommended to wear enclosed solid foot wear, helmet and gloves.</p> <p>Horse boots are permitted.</p> <p>Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 11.19 are permitted.</p> <p>A whip not exceeding 1200 mm, including the lash, may be used.</p>

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

21 Compliant Snaffle Bits

21.1 Bridle and Bit

- 21.1.a The horse/pony must always be ridden with a bridle and bit and reins when at a rally/activity/competition. However, for dressage, games, handy-mount, flat teams and musical ride, pony club show ring competitions, one of the compliant snaffle bits described here and pictured in rule 21.4 is required.
- 21.1.b Snaffle bits having combinations of any of the rings or cheeks with any of the mouthpieces shown in 21.4 are permitted when a compliant snaffle bit is required for competition.
- i. An ordinary snaffle is a plain snaffle with a straight bar or joint in the centre
 - ii. If a snaffle has two joints, all parts must be rounded and smooth.

21.2 Mouthpieces

- 21.2.a Only snaffle bits with the following features are approved. Snaffle bits shall be composed of:
- i. Metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber or latex.
 - ii. Metal and rubber (bits made only of rubber or rubber and chain are NOT permitted)
 - iii. Metal and synthetic material
 - The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece.
 - The minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm
 - Snaffles used for ponies must have a minimum diameter of 10mm
 - There shall not be more than two joints in the mouthpiece
 - Double-jointed mouth pieces may have one “roller”, or rotating middle piece, in the centre section. Multiple rollers are not permitted
 - All parts of the bit coming into the horse’s mouth shall be rounded, smooth and not ridged, sharp or corrugated.

Permitted bits are described and illustrated in 21.4.

Bits permitted for dressage under EA rules are compliant snaffle bits for PCV.

Also permitted but not illustrated:

- half- moon, port-mouthed, curved – there must be a straight line from the rings
- rubber or synthetic bit – both jointed or unjointed
- sweet iron

NB: A Dr Bristol bit is not a compliant snaffle as the central plate is designed in such a way that it applies pressure to the tongue, which is considered an artificial aid. However, it can be used for activities/competitions which do not require a compliant snaffle.

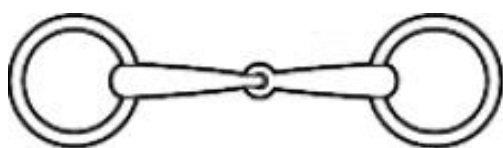
21.3 Checking Bits at Gear Check

- 21.3.a Refer to rule 9.1.
- 21.3.b Refer to rule 21.4 for pictures. When a snaffle bit is specified for a competition, snaffle bits with these criteria are the only bits permitted.

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

21.4 Permitted Snaffle bits

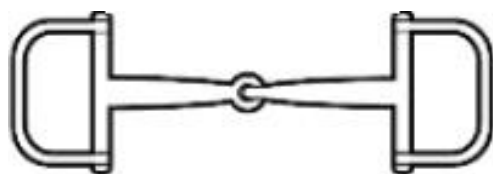
When specified for a competition, snaffle bits with a combination of these features are the only bits permitted



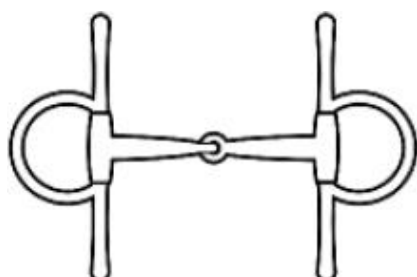
Loose Ring



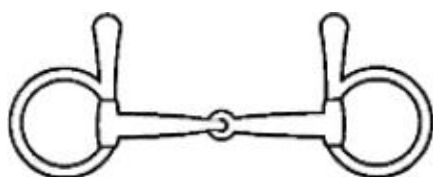
Egg-butt



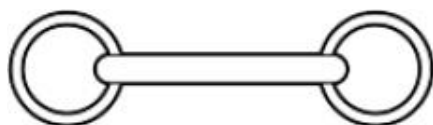
Racing D-Ring



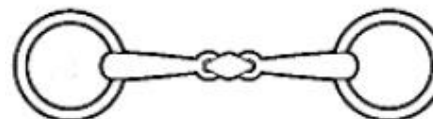
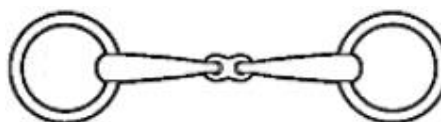
Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer)



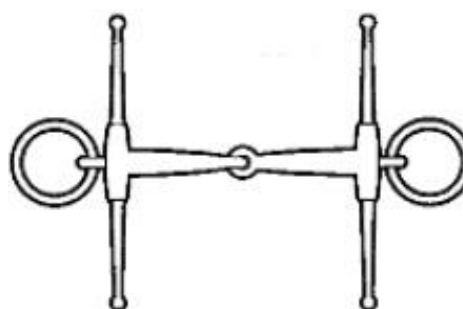
with upper cheeks



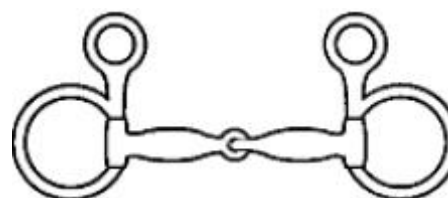
Straight bar



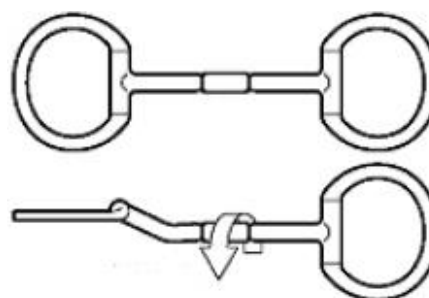
Jointed mouthpieces – middle piece must be rounded



Loose ring with cheeks FM/tom thumb



Hanging cheek - Baucher



Rotating mouth piece

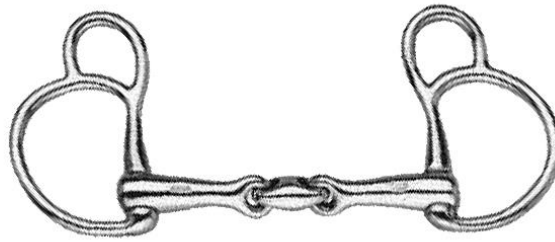


Rotating centre piece

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

21.5 Miscellaneous (Bits)

The Sprenger KK – Ultra B Ring Snaffle is not approved for DRESSAGE



22 Nosebands

22.1 Basic Fit Requirements

22.1.a A noseband must never be so tightly fixed as to hurt the horse.

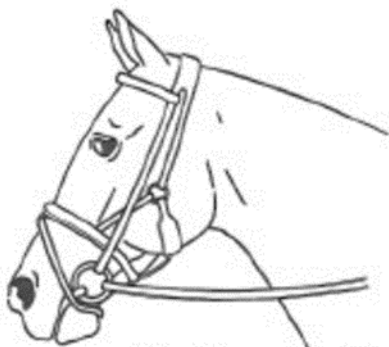
22.1.b A noseband must be fitted high enough not to interfere with the horse's breathing, but not so high that it rubs on the edge of the horse's cheek bone.

22.2 Nosebands to Use when a Snaffle Bridle/Bit is Specified

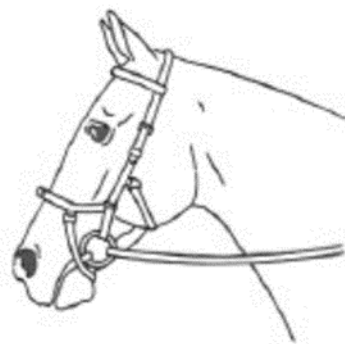
22.2.a For dressage, games, handy-mount, pony club show rings, flat teams and musical ride competitions, only these nosebands may be used with one of the snaffle bits described in rule 21.

- i. Cavesson
- ii. Dropped
- iii. Grackle – also known Crossover or Mexican
- iv. Hanoverian – also known as Flash
- v. Combination noseband/bridle – no throat lash
- vi. Miklem bridle.

22.3 Noseband Illustrations

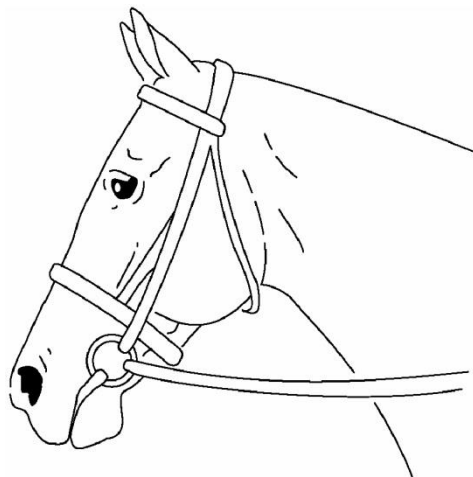


5. Combined noseband – no throat lash

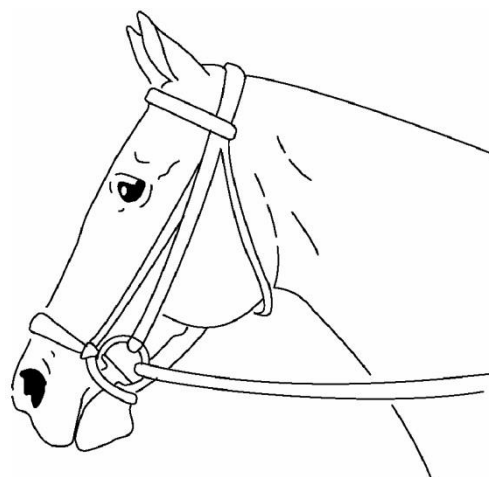


6. Micklem bridle

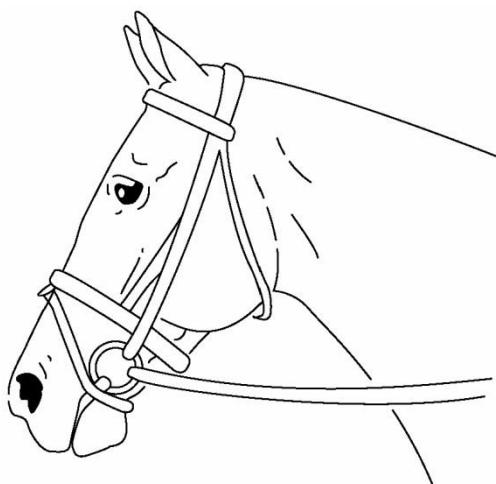
Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.



Cavesson



Dropped



Hanoverian (Flash)



Crossed (Grackle or Mexican)



Worcester Noseband (not allowed for **Dressage**)



Muzzle Net

Veterinary Surgeon letter Only

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

23 Competition Quick Reference

Item	Quick Reference Details	Rule
Armbands	Optional	10.6
Body protectors	Optional	10.14
Badges	Optional	7.9
Bandages	Not permitted	11.21
Bits	Always required when riding. Only snaffle for dressage, pony club show rings, games and flat teams. No restrictions for SJ and CC	11.4
Boots (horse)	Not permitted in dressage test or show rings but permitted in warm up	11.21-11.23
Boots (rider)	Short Jodhpur or long boots in black or brown	10.7
Bridles	Must fit horse correctly. Must have throat lash. (except Micklem)	11.3
Chappettes/Chaps/Chinks	Not permitted	10.8
Cheek guards	Not permitted for dressage, flat/musical ride teams or show rings	11.6
Compression Hoods	Not permitted for dressage & HT dressage	11.24
Draw reins	Not permitted	12.1
Ear Covers/Fly Hoods	Permitted . No sound reducing material for Dressage and Show Rings	11.9
Ear rings	Removed or securely taped	10.4
Gaiters	Optional for any aged competitor	10.8
Gloves	Optional	10.11
Grass/Daisy Reins	Not jumping. Permitted G 5 & 6 HT/CT & Under 10 Show Ring	11.10
Hair	Must be tied up to allow competitor number to be seen	10.3
Helmets	Must comply with nominated standards and fit	10.5
Helmet Cameras	Any visual/video recording device of whatsoever nature. Not Permitted	12.1
Hooves	Must be in good order; may be unshod.	11.1
Jewellery	Watches and medical bracelets permitted. No other visible jewellery unless taped.	10.4
Jodhpurs, Breeches etc.	Similar in colour to: Banana, beige, white, fawn, oatmeal	10.2
Market Harboroughs	Not permitted	12.1
Martingales	Permitted SJ, XC, games, flat teams, musical ride and grade 5 dressage. Rubber stopper always required Standing martingales are not permitted.	11.19
Moleskins	Similar in colour to: Banana, beige, white, fawn, oatmeal	10.2
Monkey grips/Neckstraps	Permitted	11.14
Muzzle Nets	Permitted	11.8
Nosebands	Optional: Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle, Hanoverian, Combination, Micklem for Dressage; Worcester not permitted Dressage.	11.7, 22.2a
Plaiting	Not permitted for games. Optional for flat teams, musical ride and gymkhanas if OC permits	17.11, 19.10
Pessoa system	Not permitted	12.1
Raincoats	Optional, as long as competitor number and armband visible	10.11
Running martingales	Permitted SJ, XC, games, flat teams, musical ride and grade 5 dressage. Polocrosse Rubber stopper always required	11.19
Saddle covers	Not permitted	11.12
Saddle pads	Commercial pad permitted	11.12
Saddlecloths	One only, must be used	11.12
Saddles	Compulsory unless specified otherwise. Must fit correctly	11.11
Side reins	Not permitted	12.1
Spurs	Permitted for all disciplines except Games.	10.9
Standing martingales	Not permitted	11.19
Stirrup leathers	Must hang outside the saddle flap, free end may be in the keeper.	11.16
Stirrup irons	Must fit the rider's boot. When ball of the foot is in the stirrup and the foot is over to one side there is about 15mm of space	11.17
Uniform	Includes PCV logo garments like Polo shirts	7, 10.1
Watches/Timing Devices	Cross Country - Grade 1-3 – PERMITTED; Grade 4-6 – NOT PERMITTED	10.15
Whips	Also refer to relevant disciplines No hands in any manner through whip handle straps. No cutting of strap/flap	10.10

Key: SJ=Show jumping XC = Cross Country OC=Organising Committee.

Polocrosse – refer to Rule 20 for all requirements

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

24 Competition Quick Check Table

Item	Competition	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5 & 6
Saddles	All	With a tree must clear withers and spine. Treeless permitted				
Saddlecloths	All	One only saddlecloth may be used, with or without one commercial riser pad. A full numnah is a saddlecloth. Folded saddlecloths, towels and other makeshift padding are not permitted.				
Monkey Grips/neck strap	All	Yes				
Bits	Dressage Flat teams, Musical Ride Gymkhanas/Show Rings	Snaffle No cheek guards Tongue Layer/Grids				
	Showjumping Cross Country	Not restricted. Cheek guards, Tongue Layer/Grids are permitted.				
	Games	Snaffle & Cheek Guards permitted for Games				
Nosebands	All	Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle, Hanoverian, Combined & Micklem. Worcester not permitted for Dressage . Refer to illustrations in rule 22				
Fly Hoods/ Ear Covers	All	Permitted – Rule 11.9				
Muzzle nets	All	Permitted with Veterinary Surgeon letter - Rule 11.8				
Martingales	Dressage	No				Yes
	Showjumping Cross Country Games Flat Teams, Musical Ride	Yes				
	Show Rings	No				
Whips	Show Ring - Led Classes	1200 mm, including lash				
	Dressage	1200mm including lash			750mm inc flap	
	Showjumping Cross Country Flat Teams, Musical Ride Show Ring - Ridden classes	750 mm including flap				
	Games	No				
Spurs	Pure Dressage Horse Trials Dressage	Yes				
	Showjumping Cross Country Show Rings	Yes				
	Games	No				
	Flat Teams, Musical Ride	Yes				
Watches/Timing Devices	Cross Country	Grade 1-3 – PERMITTED; Grade 4-6 – NOT PERMITTED				

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.