



# EQUIPMENT CHECK



Based on USEF Rules Effective 1 Dec 2009





# EQUIPMENT CHECK



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# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF Rules, Functions



### USEF Rules

- ❖ **USEF DR121.9. Ring stewards appointed by competition management must check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs on both sides of the horse for at least one-third of the horses in each class.**
  - *Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done at the direction of the technical delegate. Inspection of saddlery and bits must be done immediately as the horse leaves the arena. (See DR126.11)*
  - *The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths.*
  - *Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove for each horse.*
  - *The responsibility for the correct attire and equipment, however, still rests with the competitor.*
  - *When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition.*
- ❖ **USEF DR126.1.i. Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas. EC 9/21/09 Effective 12/1/09**
  - *Management must appoint ring stewards to check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs, on both sides of the horse, in each class at the direction of the technical delegate and in accordance with DR121.9.*
  - *When a competition operates two or more rings or warmup areas, the competition must have a sufficient number of stewards to adequately monitor all schooling and warmup areas, as well as competition rings.*
  - *chooling and warmup areas must be monitored by stewards starting at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled ride.*
  - *Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove for each horse. Gloves must be provided by competition management.*
  - *When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition.*
  - *In USEF/USDF Championship classes, a steward must be appointed to check the saddlery and bits of each horse immediately after it has completed its test and has left the arena, and any discrepancy to the saddlery rules will entail immediate elimination. (See DR121.9)*

### Equipment Check Functions

- ❖ Ensure the rider has the appropriate dress – coat, breeches, boots, tie, headgear, spurs, whip.
- ❖ Ensure the horse has the approved equipment (saddle, saddle pad, stirrups, bridle, bit(s), etc.) and no unapproved equipment.
- ❖ Know what rule infringement could lead to elimination.
- ❖ The checks are usually performed by the ring steward or a specifically-assigned volunteer.

# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF - Dress Code



### ❖ USEF DR120.1:

- **Dress code for Training through Fourth Levels:**
  - Short riding coat of conservative color, with tie, choker or stock tie. A cutaway coat (modified tailcoat) with short tails is permitted.
  - White or light-colored breeches or jodhpurs.
  - Boots or jodhpur boots.
  - Riders through First Level may wear half-chaps, gaiters or leggings in solid black or brown, without fringe, matching the color of their boots, and made of smooth leather or leather-like material.
  - Hunt cap or riding hat with a hard shell, derby or top hat.
  - Gloves of conservative color are recommended.
- **Dress code for the FEI Junior Tests, FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5 and 6-year-old horses and the USEF test for 4-year old horses:**
  - Short riding coat of conservative color, with stock or tie.
  - A dark tailcoat is permitted for the FEI Junior Tests.
  - Breeches.
  - Hunt cap or riding hat with a hard shell, derby or top hat.
- **Dress code for FEI Pony Riders:**
  - Dark coat or club uniform coat
  - Breeches or jodhpurs.
  - White shirt with tie or hunting stock
  - Gloves
  - Boots
  - Hunting cap; top hat or bowler not allowed.
- **Spurs are optional for all of the FEI Pony and Junior Tests, FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses, and the USEF test for 4-year old horses. (See DR120.8)**



### ❖ USEF DR120.2:

- **All tests above Fourth Level:**
  - Dark tailcoat with top hat, or dark jacket with a bowler hat or hunt cap
  - White or light colored breeches
  - Stock or tie
  - Gloves
  - Black riding boots
  - Spurs are mandatory for FEI tests (except as noted under DR120.1) (Also see DR120.8).



### ❖ USEF DR120.3:

- **Members of the Armed Services and police units:**
  - May ride in the uniform of their service at any level.
  - Must wear the appropriate military/police cap or hat for their branch of service, or protective headgear.





# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF - Headgear, Whip Rules



### Headgear

#### ❖ USEF DR120.4

- Riders at all levels of competition must wear one of the following:
  - A hunt cap or riding hat with a hard shell,
  - Derby or top hat,
  - Military/police cap or hat, or
  - Protective headgear.
- Any exhibitor may wear protective headgear at any level of competition without penalty from the judge.
- Exhibitors choosing to wear protective headgear must wear:
  - A short, dark jacket, dark tail coat (only permitted for tests above Fourth Level), or Armed Services or police uniform (if eligible),
  - Dark hat covers (where applicable), and
  - Must otherwise conform to DR120 (see GR801).



Hunt Cap



Derby



Top Hat



Military/Police Hat



Protective

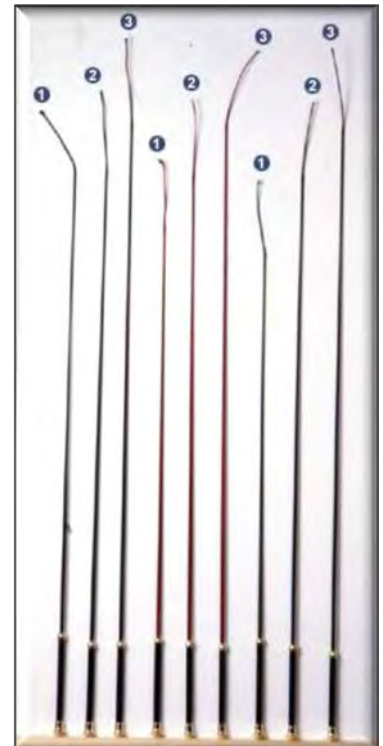
### Whips

#### ❖ USEF DR120.5 and 121.9:

- One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried in all classes except:
  - USEF/USDF Championships
  - USEF National Dressage Championships
  - USEF High Performance Championships
  - USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, and
  - Observation classes.
- Exception: Competitors riding sidesaddle may carry a whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, in USEF/USDF Championships.
- One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried in all qualifying classes (including NAYRC and NAJC) unless such use is otherwise prohibited by FEI or Federation rules or selection procedures for the classes.
- An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted rider.

#### ❖ USEF DR121.9:

- The following whips are permitted for schooling only:
  - One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm), including lash, may be carried by the rider when mounted.
  - One lungeing whip is permitted only when lungeing.
  - There is no restriction on the length of whip permitted for working a horse in hand.



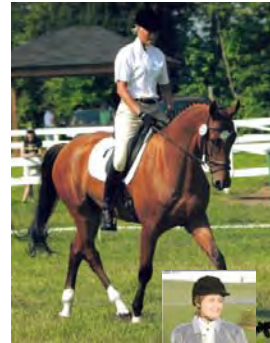
# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF – Weather, Spurs

### Hot or Inclement Weather

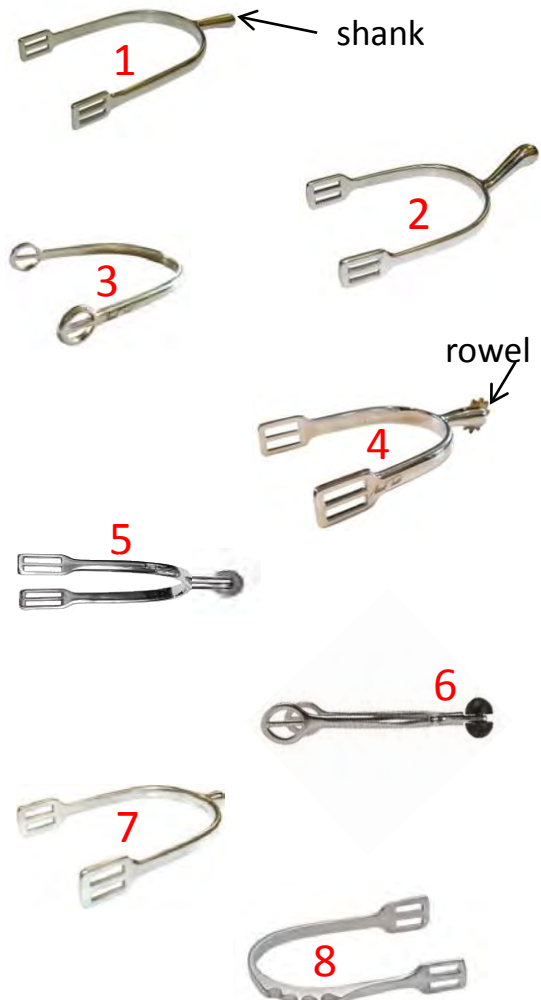


- ❖ **DR 120.6: Extreme heat or humidity**
  - In all classes, including FEI classes at National Competitions, management can allow competitors to show without jackets.
  - However, competitors must wear a regulation hat and solid white or very pale colored long or short sleeved shirt, without neckwear.
  - T-shirts are not permitted.
  - Members of the Armed Services or police units may wear summer uniforms.
- ❖ **DR120.7: Inclement weather**
  - Competitors will be allowed to wear a hat cover and a transparent or conservative color rain coat in inclement weather.



### Spurs

- ❖ **DR120.8**
  - **Material:**
    - Spurs must be made of metal.
    - The inside arm of the spur must be smooth and one or both arms may have rubber covers.
  - **Shank:**
    - The shank must be either curved or straight, pointing directly back from the center of the spur when on the rider's boot.
    - If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards (❶). However, swan necked spurs (❷) are allowed.
    - "Dummy" spurs with no shank are also allowed (❸).
  - **Rowels:**
    - If rowels (❹) are used, they must be free to rotate.
    - Only smooth rowels (❺) are permitted in USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, and observation classes.
    - Metal spurs with round hard plastic knobs on the shank are allowed ("Impuls" spur, ❻).
  - **FEI Pony Rider tests:**
    - Only blunt metal spurs (❼), no longer than 1.5 cm, are permitted.
    - This restriction also applies to warm-up and training areas, as well as during competition.
  - **Riders having an appropriate Dispensation Certificate:**
    - Offset spurs (❽) without rowels are permitted.





# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF – Saddles, Stirrups



### Saddles

#### ❖ DR121.1 – Saddlery and Equipment:

- An English type saddle with stirrups is compulsory for Federation and USDF tests.
- An English type saddle may be constructed with or without a tree but cannot have a horn, swell, gallerie, or open gullet.
- Australian, Baroque, Endurance, McClellan, Spanish, Stock, or Western saddles are not permitted nor are modified versions of these saddles (exception: competitors with a current approved Federation Dispensation Certificate).
- A Dressage saddle which must be close to the horse and have long, near-vertical flaps and stirrups is compulsory for FEI tests.



### Stirrups

#### ❖ DR121.1 - Stirrups:

- English-style stirrups, without attachments, or safety stirrups are compulsory.





# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF - Saddle Pads, Saddle Pad Logos



### Saddle Pads

#### ❖ USEF DR121.1 - Saddle Pads:

- Saddle pads are optional, but should be white or of conservative color.

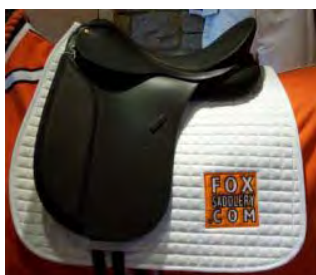


Note: A non-conservative saddle pad is not a cause for elimination.

### Saddle Pad Logos

#### ❖ USEF DR121.1 - Logos:

- While present in the competition area and during prize-giving ceremonies, the name and/or logo of the individual's sponsor(s) may appear on a surface area not exceeding 200 cm<sup>2</sup> on each side of the saddle cloth.
- Breed logos (for horses registered with that breed), national flags (for citizens of that country), riding club/business/farm names or logos (used with permission of riding club/farm/business owner) and USEF or USDF names or logos (used with permission of USEF or USDF, respectively) are also permitted and must have the same specifications as sponsor logos.
- No other advertisement or publicity is permitted on saddle cloths or horses.





# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF – Bridles, Nosebands, & Bits



### ❖ USEF DR121

- 2. For Training, First and Second Level tests and FEI Pony tests, a plain snaffle bridle is required with a regular cavesson, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (a combination of a cavesson noseband and a dropped noseband attachment) or a crossed noseband. Except for the FEI Pony tests, a crescent noseband is also permitted at these levels. Except for the crescent noseband, buckles and a small disk of sheepskin, which may be used in the intersection of the two leather straps of a crossed noseband, the noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. A padded noseband is allowed.
- 3. For Federation Third and Fourth Level tests same as (2) above, or a simple double bridle (bridoon [snaffle] and bit [curb] and curb chain, lip strap and rubber or leather cover for curb chain optional, cavesson noseband only).
- 4. FEI tests ridden at national competitions (excluding USEF High Performance classes, USEF Young Adult qualifying classes, as well as FEI Junior and FEI Young Rider qualifying classes), a plain snaffle bridle or simple double bridle may be used, as above in DR121.2-.3. Only snaffles, curbs and bridoons pictured under Figure 1-B are permitted in FEI tests. For the FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses and the USEF Dressage Test for 4-year old horses, a plain snaffle bridle is required, as above (DR121.2). However, when a snaffle is used in FEI tests, a crescent noseband is not permitted and a snaffle is required as described in Figure I and as pictured in Figure 1B. In addition to the crescent noseband, the crossed (figure-8, Mexican) noseband is not permitted for the FEI Dressage Tests for 4, 5, and 6-year-old horses and the USEF test for 4-year old horses. *BOD 1/18/09 Effective 12/1/09*
- 5. Riders competing only in FEI Para-Equestrian tests may use either a plain snaffle bridle or simple double bridle. Riders competing in both FEI Para-Equestrian tests and USDF or USEF tests at the same competition must use a plain snaffle bridle at Grades 1a-Grade III levels. A double bridle may be used in warm-up and while competing only at the Grade IV level.



# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF DR121.6 - Bits - Fig 1A



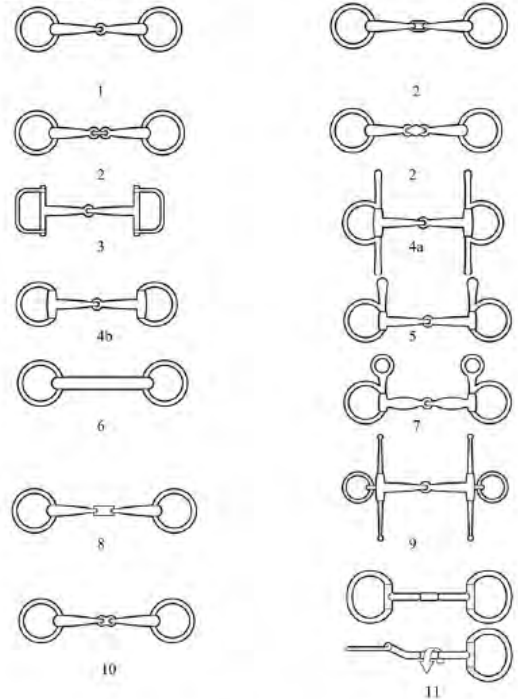
### ❖ USEF DR121.

- 6. Only those bits listed with Figure 1 [A, B, and C] are allowed.

### Figure 1. Bits Permitted in Dressage.

- All bits (in Fig 1A and 1B) must be smooth and with a solid surface. Twisted, wire and roller bits are prohibited.
- A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link in a double jointed snaffle; however, the surface of the center piece must be solid with no moveable parts.
- The mouthpiece of a snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve, but ported snaffles are prohibited.
- A bridoon is defined as a snaffle bit used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle.
- Bits (including curb and/or bridoon bits of a double bridle) must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber (in manufactured state); flexible rubber bits are not permitted, except as noted below, under A.
- The diameter of the snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece must be minimum 10 mm diameter at rings or cheeks of the mouthpiece (exception: for ponies, the diameter may be less than 10 mm).
- The diameter of the curb mouthpiece must be minimum 12 mm at the cheeks of the mouthpiece.
- Snaffles used in Young Horse classes must have a minimum diameter of 14 mm.
- Any bit combining any mouthpiece pictured in Figure 1A with any cheekpiece pictured in Figure 1A is permitted.
- Type of bit should not vary from those pictured below except where specified, and bits should be attached only as pictured in diagram.
- NOTE: FEI Level riders may warm up only in a double bridle (with both bit and/or bridoon made of metal or rigid plastic) or metal or rigid plastic snaffles pictured under B. In both cases, bits may be covered with rubber (in manufactured state) and flexible rubber bits are not permitted.
- A cavesson, dropped, crossed or flash noseband is allowed when a snaffle bridle is used in warmup or competition, except as prohibited for some tests.

A. PERMITTED SNAFFLES\* (Must be used in Training-Second Level Tests. Optional in Third and Fourth Level Tests.)



1. Ordinary snaffle with single-jointed mouthpiece.
2. Ordinary snaffle with double-jointed mouthpiece.
3. Racing snaffle (D-ring).
4. Snaffle. A) with cheeks, with or without keepers. B) without cheeks (Egg-butt).
5. Snaffle with upper or lower cheeks.
6. Unjointed snaffle (Mullen-mouth).
7. Snaffle with cheeks. (Hanging or drop cheek; Baucher). This may be a D-ring or other ordinary snaffle as pictured in Nos. 1-6.
8. Dr. Bristol.
9. Fulmer.
10. French snaffle.
11. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece.

\*Any of the above may be made with a rubber, plastic or leather covering, but the bit may not be modified by adding latex or other material. Bits with mouthpieces made of synthetic material are permitted, provided that the contours of the bit conform to the contours of one of the bits pictured above. Flexible rubber or synthetic mouthpieces are permitted.

Figure 1A



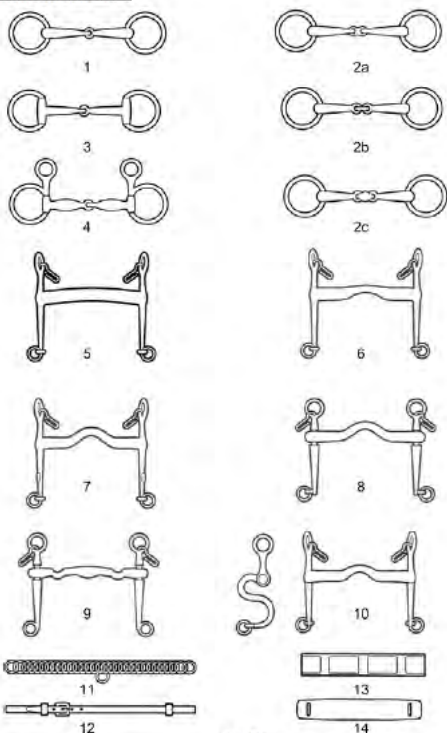
# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF DR121.6 – Bits – Fig 1B, 1C



B. PERMITTED BRIDOOON, CURB AND SNAFFLE BITS (Must be used in FEI Level Tests. Optional in Third and Fourth Level Tests) (Reprinted from the FEI Rules for Dressage Events, 2003 edition)

### 1. Various double bridle bits



Bridoons:

1. Loose ring bridoon bit.
2. a.b.c. Bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded. (Note: A Dr. Bristol bit is not permitted.) Eggbutt sides are also allowed.
3. Egg-butt bridoon bit.
4. Bridoon bit with hanging cheeks.

Curbs:

5. Half-moon curb bit.
6. & 7. Curb bit with straight cheeks and port.
8. Curb bit with port & sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth)  
A curb bit with rotating lever arm is also allowed.
9. Variation of bits Nos. 6, 7 & 8.
10. Curb bit with S-curved cheeks.
11. Curb chain (metal or leather or a combination).
12. Lip strap.
13. Leather cover for curb chain.
14. Rubber cover for curb chain.

### 2. Various snaffle bridle bits:

1. Loose ring snaffle.
2. a.b.c. Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece should be rounded.
3. Egg-butt snaffle.
4. Racing snaffle (D-ring).
5. Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks.
6. Loose ring snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer).
7. Snaffle with upper cheeks only.
8. Hanging cheek snaffle.
9. Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with mullen mouth and with eggbutt rings.
10. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece.

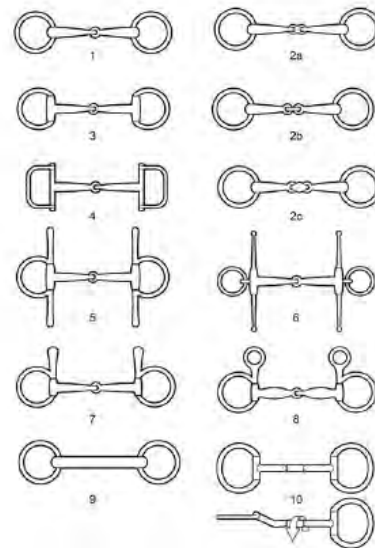
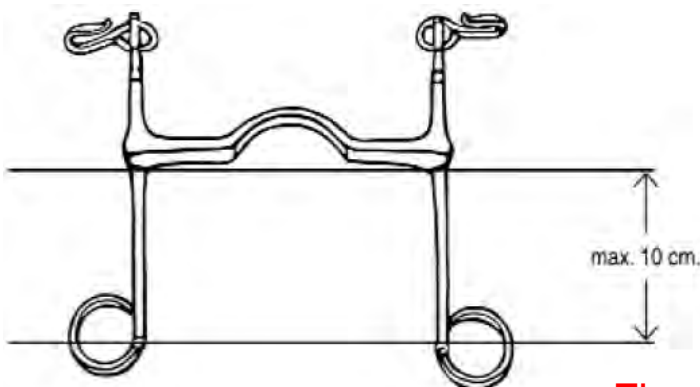


Figure 1B



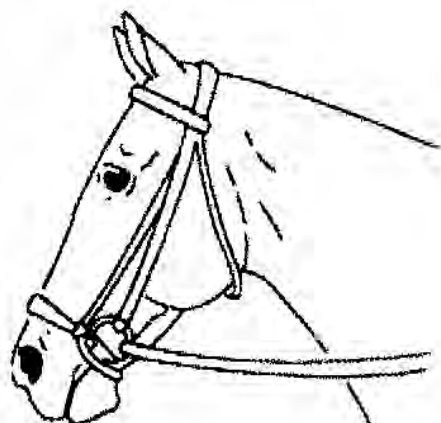
C. CORRECT BIT MEASUREMENT. The lever arm of the curb bit must not exceed 10 cm. (length below the mouthpiece). If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouthpiece must not measure more than 10 cm. when the mouthpiece is at the uppermost position.

Figure 1C

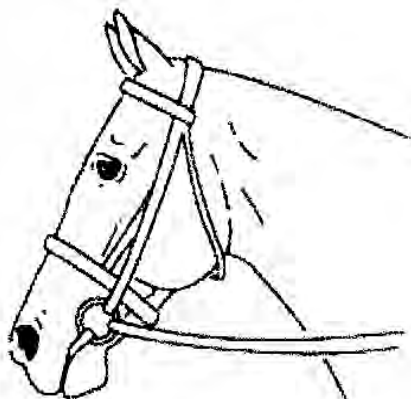


# EQUIPMENT CHECK

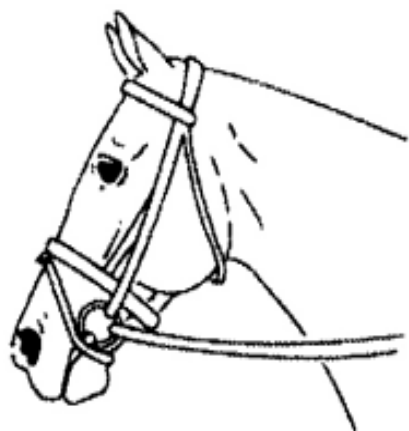
## USEF – Bridles & Nosebands



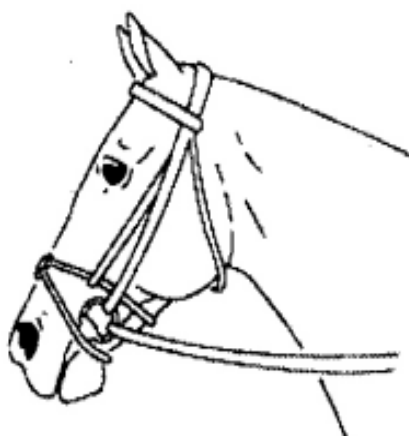
1. Dropped Noseband



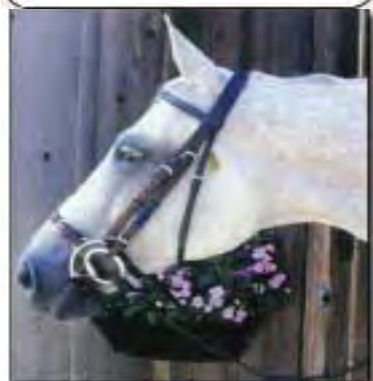
2. Cavesson Noseband



3. Flash Noseband

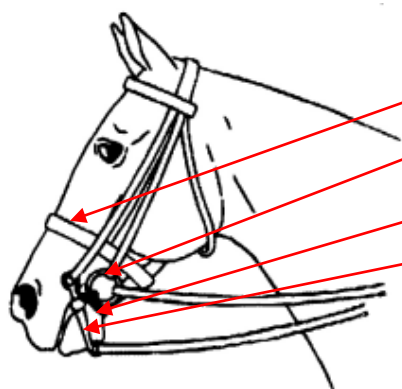


4. Crossed Figure-8 (Mexican) Noseband



5. Crescent Noseband

**Figure 2 – Plain Snaffle Bridles**



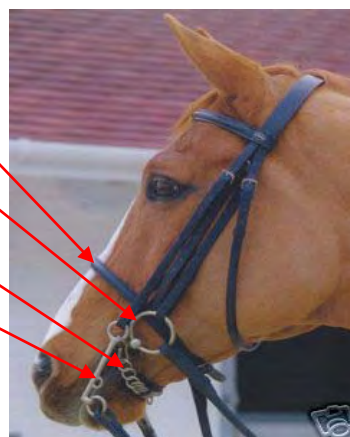
Cavesson Noseband

Bridoon (Snaffle) Bit

Curb Chain

Curb Bit

Optional: lip strap, rubber or leather curb chain cover



**Figure 3 – Double Bridle**



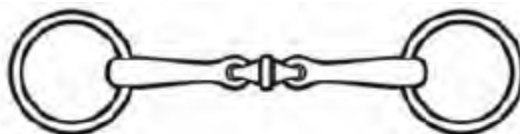
# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF DR121.14 - High Performance



❖ USEF DR121.14. The following rules apply exclusively to USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, and observation classes.

➤ *c. The following bits are permitted for use either as a snaffle or bridoon: (Snaffle or bridoon with rotating middle piece)*



Snaffle or bridoon rotary bit with rotating middle piece.

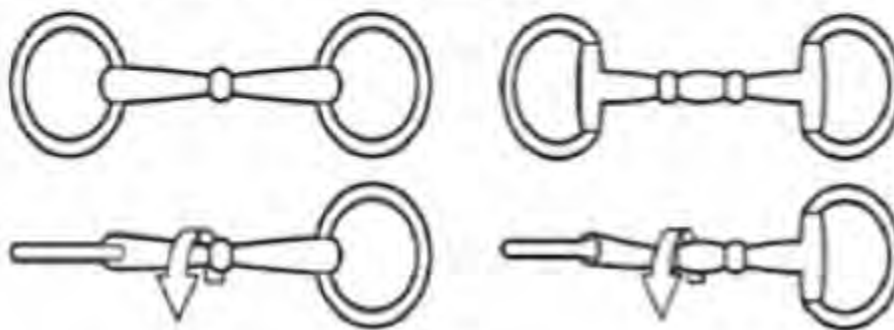
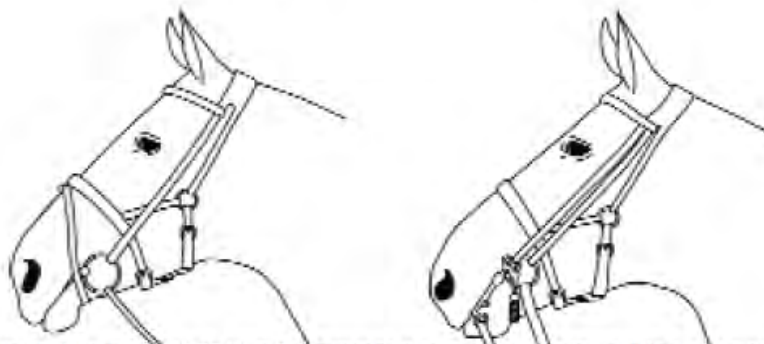


Figure 4

*d. Curb chain hooks must not be fixed.*



Double bridle with cavesson noseband, bridoon bit and curb with curb chain



Permitted for use in USEF High Performance classes and in warm-up with either a snaffle or double bridle.

Figure 5



# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## Summary - Bridles, Nosebands, & Bits



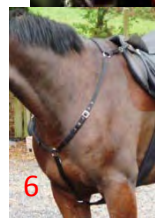
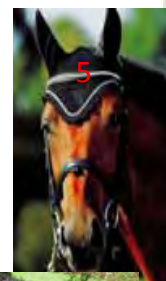
Rule / Level	Bridle	Noseband	Bits	Other
<b>USEF DR121.2</b> USEF Training Level USEF First Level USEF Second Level	Fig 2. Plain Snaffle	Leather or leather-like, padding ok. Fig 3.1. Dropped Fig 3.2. Cavesson Fig 3.3. Flash Fig 3.4. Crossed Fig 3.5. Crescent	Fig 1A Snaffle Bits	
<b>USEF DR121.3</b> USEF Third Level USEF Fourth Level	As in <b>DR121.2</b> , or ----- Fig 3. Simple Double	As in DR121.2 , or ----- Fig 3.2. Cavesson	Fig 1A Snaffles, or ----- Fig 1B.1. Bridoon (Snaffle) and Curb	----- Curb chain, lip strap, and rubber or leather curb chain cover optional.
<b>USEF DR121.4</b> FEI Prix St.-Georges FEI Intermediaire FEI Grand Prix	Fig 3. Simple Double	Fig 3.2. Cavesson	Fig 1B.1. Bridoon (Snaffle) and Curb	Curb chain, lip strap, and rubber or leather curb chain cover optional.
<b>USEF DR121.4</b> FEI 4-yo Test FEI 5-yo Test FEI 6-yo Test USEF 4-yo Test	Fig 2. Plain Snaffle	Leather or leather-like, padding ok. Fig 3.1. Dropped Fig 3.2. Cavesson Fig 3.3. Flash	Fig 1B.2. Snaffles	
<b>USEF DR121.2</b> FEI Pony Tests	Fig 2. Plain Snaffle	Leather or leather-like, padding ok. Fig 3.1. Dropped Fig 3.2. Cavesson Fig 3.3. Flash Fig 3.4. Crossed	Fig 1A. Snaffles	
<b>USEF DR121.5</b> FEI Para-Equestrian Tests Only	As in <b>DR121.3</b>	As in <b>DR121.3</b>	As in <b>DR121.3</b>	As in <b>DR121.3</b>
<b>USEF DR121.5</b> FEI Para-Equestrian Grades 1a-III & USDF/USEF Tests	Fig 2. Plain Snaffle			
<b>USEF DR121.5</b> FEI Para-Equestrian Grade IV & USDF/USEF Tests	As in <b>DR121.3</b>	As in <b>DR121.3</b>	As in <b>DR121.3</b>	As in <b>DR121.3</b>
<b>USEF DR121.14</b> USEF High Performance Qualifying & Selection Trials, Observation Classes	Fig 6. Double		Fig 1B. Bridoon, Curb, & Snaffle Bits Fig 4. Snaffle Bits.	Curb chain hooks must not be fixed.

# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## USEF – Other Equipment



- ❖ **USEF DR120.9 - Riders in USDF Pas de Deux and Quadrille classes:**
  - Are exempt from the dress code requirements of DR120.1-4, except that headgear and boots as required in DR120.1-4 must be worn.
  - Riders must follow the dress requirements outlined in the USDF Rules and Guidelines for Quadrille Competitions and for Pas de Deux.
- ❖ **USEF DR120.10 - Individuals holding Federation Dispensation Certificates:**
  - May be allowed exceptions, i.e.; gloves not required if unable to wear them, half-chaps and black or brown riding shoes with heels.
  - If dispensation for modified shoes or boots is given, safety stirrups are required.
  - Riders may also be given dispensation for modified gloves, hand weights and arm belts.
  - All exceptions to required dress must be listed on the rider's Dispensation Certificate.
- ❖ **USEF DR120.11 - One Warmup:**
  - When the only warm-up available is open to all horses and riders, riders with safety concerns are encouraged to wear an orange vest. BOD 1/18/09 Effective 12/1/09
- ❖ **USEF DR120.12 - Cooling Vests:**
  - Cooling vests may only be worn underneath a riding jacket with the following exception:
    - If coats are waived, a white or very light solid-colored cooling vest may be worn over a riding shirt as specified in DR120.6.
- ❖ **USEF DR121.7:**
  - Martingales (1), bit guards (2), any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running, balancing reins, nasal strips, tongue tied down, etc.), any kind of boots (3) (including "easy-boots") or bandages (4) (including tail bandages) and any form of blinkers, earmuffs or plugs, nose covers, seat covers, hoods are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden.
  - However, leg bandages are allowed in Pas de Deux and Quadrille classes.
  - Fly hoods (ear covers) (5) will only be permitted in order to protect horses from insects. The fly hoods should be discreet and should not cover the horse's eyes, and will only be permitted in extreme cases at the discretion of the presiding judge(s). Permission must be granted prior to the class and applies to all competitors in the class.
  - A breastplate (6) and/or crupper (7) may be used, except that a breastplate is not permitted in USEF High Performance Championships, USEF High Performance Qualifying and Selection Trials, and Observation classes.
  - A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Rein additions or attachments are not permitted.
  - Each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to bits.
  - Any decoration of the horse (8) with extravagant items, such as ribbons or flowers, etc. in the mane, tail, etc., is strictly forbidden.
  - Braiding of the horse's mane and tail (9), however, is permitted.
  - False tails (10) are permitted and if used may not contain any metal parts.



# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## Equipment in Warm-Up, Exercise Areas



### ❖ USEF DR121.8:

- *The above restrictions (1DR121.1-6) [also] apply to warm-up and other training areas; however, running martingales (only with snaffle rein of plain snaffle bridle), boots, bandages (without magnets) and ear muffs are permitted. (Exception: running martingales and ear muffs are not permitted for horses entered in USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, and observation classes).*
  - *A running martingale consists of a divided strap attached to the girth or breastplate (at the front of the horse's chest); the extension of each strap must be connected from the point of division only to the rein on the same side and must be free to slide. The rings through which the reins slide may not be connected to a neck strap.*
- *Fly hoods (ear covers) that do not cover the horse's eyes are permitted in warm-up and other training areas.*
- *Single direct side reins or double sliding side reins (triangle reins) are*
  - *permitted only when lungeing (mounted or unmounted).*
  - *Only one lunge line is permitted only while lungeing.*
  - *Driving or long lining is prohibited. A*
  - *single direct side rein is defined as an auxiliary rein affixed to the bit and to the girth, saddle or surcingle on the side of the horse (not between the legs). A*
  - *lunge line must attach only to the snaffle bit of the bridle, halter or cavesson and go directly to the hand of the longeur.*
- *Horses competing at Third Level and above may be warmed up in either snaffle or a double bridle. (Exception: For breed-restricted Arabian competition see Chapter AR, Subchapter AR-12).*

### ❖ USEF DR121.13:

- *Horses may only be exercised and ridden in management-designated areas on the competition grounds.*





# EQUIPMENT CHECK



## *Federation Dispensation Certificates, High Performance, When DR121 Applies*

### ❖ USEF DR121.12:

- Individuals holding Federation Dispensation Certificates may use special saddlery and equipment as specifically listed on their Certificate.
- The following equipment is permitted if listed on the certificate:
  - Any well fitted saddle that is suited to the needs of the rider.
  - Devonshire, western, or oxbow stirrups, tethers from stirrups to girth; seat covers; velcro and rubber bands (provided the equipment allows the rider to fall from the horse). Break-away safety stirrups are required if the rider's feet are secured into the stirrups and shoes with distinguishable heels must be worn.
  - Except for sidesaddle, either two stirrups or no stirrups must be used, unless rider has one leg and no prosthesis on the other leg.
  - Adapted or bridged reins. If the rein is not to be used in a conventional manner, it must be in as straight a line as possible from the normal hand position (as described in DR117) to the horse's mouth.
  - One or two whips, not to exceed 4' in length.

### ❖ DR121.14: The following rules apply exclusively to USEF High Performance qualifying and selection trials, and observation classes:

- Upon arrival on the showground, only the rider when riding, walking, leading or lungeing a horse (lunge whip allowed) is allowed to carry a whip (maximum 120 cm) anywhere on the showground. The groom may also walk, lead and lunge a horse as above. Other parties are allowed to carry a whip, provided it is not in connection with the training of the horse. Under no circumstance is it allowed to school the horses in the stables.
- The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the competition arena or the rider will be penalized for an error (see DR122.5h).

### ❖ DR121.15: The provisions of DR121 apply to both competing and non-competing dressage horses from the time horses are admitted to the grounds that are designated for the Dressage Competition.



# EQUIPMENT CHECK

## Performing the Check



### ❖ DR121.9:

- Ring stewards appointed by competition management must check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs on both sides of the horse for at least one-third of the horses in each class.
- Inspection of Saddlery & Bits:
  - Must be done at the direction of the technical delegate.
  - Must be done immediately as the horse leaves the arena (see DR126.11)
  - Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove for each horse.
- Bridle:
  - The checking of the bridle must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive about their mouths.
- [Whip: Although not stated in the paragraph, the ring steward must also check the length of the whip to ensure it does not exceed 120 cm (47.2").]
- [Spurs: Although not explicitly stated, the ring steward must also check the spurs to ensure they comply with DR120.9.]
- [Numbers: Although not explicitly stated, ring stewards should ensure all horses have their bridle number displayed at all times it is being exercised or ridden.]
- Also See DR126.1.i. – next slide.
- The responsibility for the correct attire and equipment, however, still rests with the competitor.
- When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition.



### ❖ DR126.1.

- i. Ring Stewards and supervision of schooling areas. EC 9/21/09 Effective 12/1/09
  - 1) Management must appoint ring stewards to check saddlery and inspect bits and spurs, on both sides of the horse, in each class at the direction of the technical delegate and in accordance with DR121.9.
  - 2) When a competition operates two or more rings or warmup areas, the competition must have a sufficient number of stewards to adequately monitor all schooling and warmup areas, as well as competition rings.
  - 3) Schooling and warmup areas must be monitored by stewards starting at least 30 minutes before the first scheduled ride.
  - 4) Bit inspectors must use a new disposable protective glove for each horse. Gloves must be provided by competition management.
  - 5) When communicable disease is a concern, any deviations to established saddlery inspection protocol must be approved by the USEF Dressage Department prior to the competition.
  - 6) In USEF/USDF Championship classes, a steward must be appointed to check the saddlery and bits of each horse immediately after it has completed its test and has left the arena, and any discrepancy to the saddlery rules will entail immediate elimination. (See DR121.9)

