



FEI™
DRESSAGE

FEI TACK & EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS

Effective from 1 January 2026

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All Tack & Equipment requirements have been removed from the Sport Rules and are now outlined in this FEI Tack & Equipment Requirements as per the below. Please also refer to the FEI Tack, Equipment and Dress Database or the FEI Tack App.

The following are compulsory:

1. **Dressage saddle** must be well-fitting and have long, near-vertical flaps, English-style or safety stirrups and a girth.
2. **Stirrups** must have closed branches, and no attachments. Safety stirrups may have an opening on the outside branch. The foot must not be fully or partially enclosed and must in no way be attached to the stirrups (for example with magnets).
3. **Saddle pads** should be white or off-white. Contrast colouring and piping is allowed. Striped or multi coloured pads are not permitted.
 - 3.1. No saddle covers are allowed.
 - 3.2. Pommel straps are allowed.
4. **Bridle with noseband.**
 - 4.1. Except for the buckles and padding the headstall and noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. Padding is allowed on bridles. Nylon or other non-metal material may be used to reinforce leather in the headstall but must not be in direct contact with the Horse. Elastic inserts are permitted in the crownpiece and cheek pieces only and must not be in direct contact with the Horse or the bit.
 - 4.2. A browband is required, and except for the parts that attach to the crownpiece or headstall, is not required to be made of leather or leather-like material.
 - 4.3. The crownpiece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll but must not be fitted to lie behind the skull.
 - 4.4. A throatlatch is required except when the combined noseband or Micklem bridle are used.
 - 4.5. 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 the bit. Reins must not be made of rope material.
 - 4.6. Any piece of tack that impairs the ears to move freely is forbidden.
 - 4.7. A **double bridle** must have a cavesson noseband and bridoon and curb with curb chain which may be covered/padded. A combined noseband may be used without the lower "flash" strap. Neither a cavesson noseband nor a curb chain may ever be as tightly fixed so as to harm the Horse.
 - 4.8. A plain snaffle bridle is required to be used with a regular cavesson noseband, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband, a crossed noseband, a combined noseband or a Micklem or similar design of bridle.
5. **Bits.** Snaffle, Bridoon and curb bits must have a smooth surface. Twisted and wire bits are prohibited. Bits must be made of metal, durable plastic synthetic material or flexible rubber. Bits may be covered with rubber/latex.



Bits must not place mechanical restraint upon the tongue. The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon/snaffle and/or curb must be such so as not to hurt the Horse. Minimum diameter of mouthpiece to be twelve millimetres (12 mm) for curb bit, and ten millimetres (10 mm) for bridoon bit. Snaffles must have a minimum diameter of twelve millimetres (12 mm) for Horses and ten millimetres (10mm) for Ponies. The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece.

- 5.1. **Snaffle bits** – snaffle bits are permitted when the use of a double bridle is not required.
 - 5.1.1. Snaffle bits may be used with loose ring, D-Ring, Eggbutt and hanging cheeks. Single or double-jointed snaffles may also be used with upper or lower cheeks, full cheeks or Fulmer cheeks. Loose rings may have a sleeve fitted around part of the ring.
 - 5.1.2. A snaffle may have up to two (2) joints. A barrel or ball joint is permitted as the centre link in a double-jointed snaffle; however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece but must have rounded edges and may not have the effect of a tongue plate.
 - 5.1.3. A double-jointed snaffle or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of thirty millimetres (30mm). The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped in a curve within the dimensions specified above.
- 5.2. **Bridoon bits** – a bridoon bit is defined as a snaffle bit that is used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle.
 - 5.2.1. Bridoos may be used with loose ring and eggbutt cheeks.
 - 5.2.2. Bridoos must have one (1) or two (2) joints. A barrel or ball joint is permitted as the centre link in a double jointed bridoon; however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre link may not have the effect of a tongue plate.
 - 5.2.3. Bridoos where the centre link(s) of the bit can lock and have the effect of a mullen mouth snaffle are not permitted.
- 5.3. **Curb Bits.**
 - 5.3.1. The length of the lever arm below the mouth piece of the curb bit is limited to ten centimetres (10 cm). The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek and must not exceed five centimetres (5 cm). If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouth piece should not measure more than ten centimetres (10 cm) when the mouth piece is at the uppermost position.
 - 5.3.2. Curbs may have straight or S-shaped cheeks. They may have rotating lever arms.
 - 5.3.3. The mouthpiece may be straight or shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is thirty millimetres (30mm) from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of thirty millimetres (30mm).



5.3.4. The curb chain can be made of metal or leather or a combination. Cover for curb chain can be made of leather, rubber or sheep skin. Curb chain hooks can be fixed or not fixed. Lip strap and rubber, leather or sheepskin cover for curb chain are optional.

6. **Spurs** are optional and must be made of metal. The shank must be either curved or straight pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the Athlete's boot. The arms of the spur must be smooth and blunt. If rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth (no sharp edges) and free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard knobs are allowed ("Impuls" spur) and the knobs may rotate. "Dummy" spurs with no shank are also allowed.

6.1. In Children and Pony Competitions, spurs are optional, but if used, only blunt metal spurs are allowed. The shank may not be longer than three point five centimetres (3,5 cm) measured from the boot to the tip. Spurs with rowels are not allowed.

7. **Whips.** At all international Events, it is forbidden to carry a whip of any kind while competing in the arena. However, the use of one (1) whip, with a total maximum length of one meter and twenty (1.20 m) (pony Competitions maximum one meter - 1 m-), in the practice area is allowed. The whip must be dropped before entering the space around the Competition arena or the Athlete will be penalised.

7.1. Upon arrival on the showground, only the Athlete when riding, walking in hand, leading or lunging a Horse (lunge whip allowed), is allowed to use a whip (maximum one meter and twenty (1.20) / ponies maximum one (1) meter in connection with the training of the Horse. 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. For safety reasons, whips at prize-giving ceremonies are allowed.

8. **Gadgets.** Martingales, breast plates, bit guards, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins, nasal strips etc.) and any form of blinkers that interfere with the Horse's vision are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden during training, warm-up and Competitions.

9. **Additional Items:**

9.1. False tails/tail extensions are permitted. False tails may not contain any metal parts, (except for hooks and eyelets), or extra added weight. Random checks will be conducted during the equipment check at the end of the test and contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination.

9.2. Ear hoods are permitted for all Events and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must not cover the Horse's eyes. The ear hoods should be discreet in colour and design. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband.

9.3. Earplugs on Horses are forbidden but are allowed at Horse Inspections and prize-giving ceremonies only for safety reasons. Random checks will be conducted during the equipment check at the end of the test and contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination.

8.4. Any artificial decoration of the Horse is not allowed. It is not allowed to paint any part of the Horse's body nor is it allowed to obscure an existing wound or injury. Contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination.

9.5. Fly masks: fly masks are forbidden in the Competition arena but may be allowed in warm-up and training arenas at the discretion of the Chief Steward and President of the Ground Jury.