

Equestrian Australia Dressage Equipment Annex

In conjunction with Section 5 of the Current Equestrian Australia Dressage Rules, the Equestrian Australia Dressage Committee seeks to provide the following information for clarification of permitted and non-permitted equipment for **all dressage competition**. This document is not intended to imply approval if the target item of equipment is not listed. The Dressage Rules provide clear guidelines as to the equipment permitted. Wherever possible, the EADC is guided by rulings from the EADC and FEI Equipment Committees.



For additional equipment queries, please do not hesitate to fill in the query application form ([found here](#)) or for information please do not hesitate to contact the Equestrian Australia National office dressage@equestrian.org.au




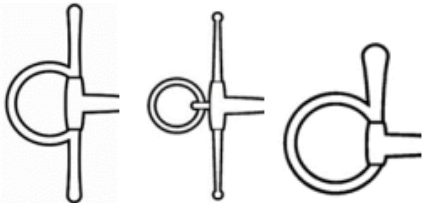




This is a working document; it will be updated as required.







Version 23 – Updated: 7 November 2025, Effective 1 January 2026

















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Section 1	BIT RINGS/CHEEKS (refer EA dressage rules 5.11)		STATUS
Hanging Cheek/Baucher			✓
Hanging cheek with cheek piece attached to the mouthpiece and a loose ring			✗ Elimination
Hanging Cheek with rotating (swivel) arms/mouthpiece			✗ Elimination
Swivel mouthpiece			✗ Elimination
Small Cheeks (There are no maximum or minimum sizes for the length of cheeks for snaffles.)			✓
Eggbutt Cheeks			✓
Variant of Eggbutt cheeks	 INSERT VARIAT OF EGGBUTT CHEEKS		✓
Loose ring			✓



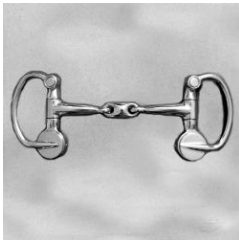



Loose Ring with sleeve fitted around part of the ring		✓
Full cheek with extra rings		✗ Elimination
Shaped sleeved Cheeks		✗ Elimination
Full cheek / Fulmer / Upper Cheek		✓
D-ring		✓
Various gag cheeks		✗ Elimination
Myler (or similar) Cheeks for use With hooks		✗ Elimination
Bevel Bit/Cheeks		✗ Elimination

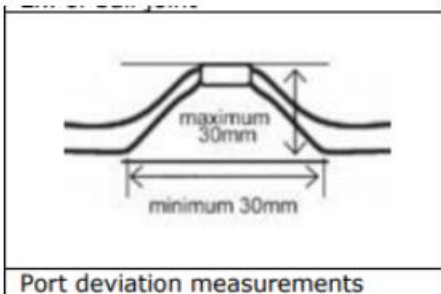
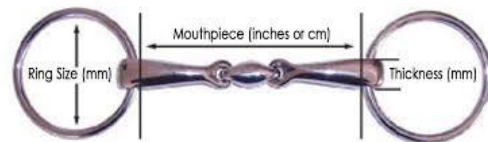






Section 2	BITS /MOUTHPIECES	STATUS
Ported Unjointed bit		✓
Mullen Mouth		✓
Flexible Mullen Mouth		✓
Double Jointed Snaffle		✓
Single jointed Snaffle (including lock up)		✓ Lock up snaffle must not to be used with a double bridle
Bits with a control plate as centre link		✗ Elimination

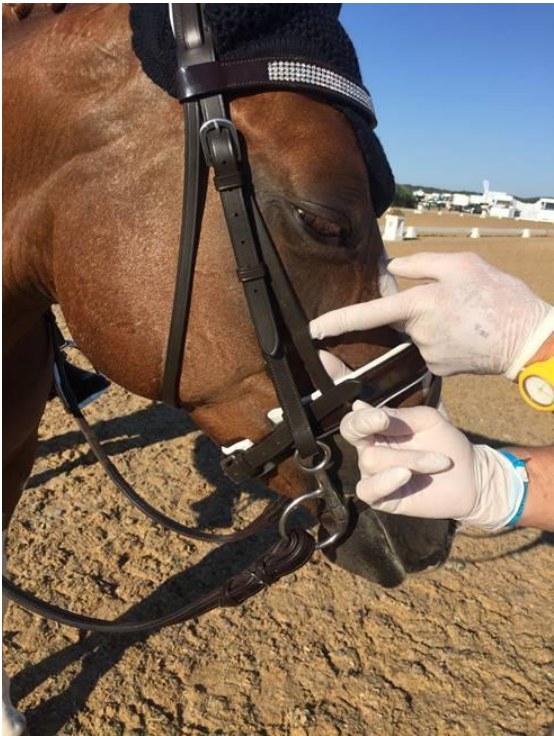

Cable double Jointed.		 Updated Jan 2023
Cable Single Jointed		 Updated Jan 2023
Ported barrel		
Rotating ported mouthpiece	A double jointed snaffle or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief. 	 Updated Apr 2023
B-ring snaffle		 Elimination
Dr Bristol		 Elimination
Mouthpiece with rotating middle piece		
Elliptical central joint		











Turtle Top Snaffle		
Example of non-rigid bit		 Elimination
Myler permitted Snaffles		
Jointed bit with ball		
Pinchless Snaffle (central joint must have rounded edges)		 Elimination
Wavy bits are allowed as they have a smooth surface		 Updated Jan 2023
Beris Mullen Straight bar (Bits must have a smooth surface.)		 Elimination

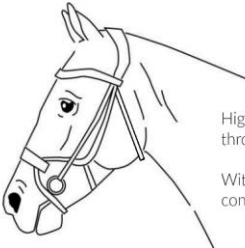
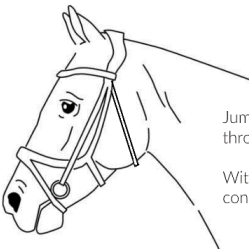




Mouthpiece with holes (Bits must have a smooth surface.)		 Elimination
Flexible Mullen Straight bar with lip guards		 Elimination
Plastic covered Weymouth		
Curb with downward height deviation (The deviation may be forward but not downwards)		 Elimination
Weymouth (largest and smallest ports illustrated). (Refer to measuring bits section below)		
Jointed, rotating mouthpiece on a curb (The rules do not allow for a jointed curb or a curb with rotation in the mouthpiece.)		 Elimination Updated Jan 2023
Curb bits with a ported/tilted mouthpiece. (The deviation may be forward but not downwards)		



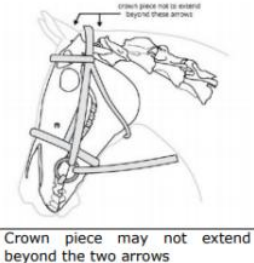









<p>Curb chain clasp (Curb chain hooks can be fixed or not fixed.)</p>		
<p>Various mouthpieces not permitted</p>		 <p>Elimination</p>
<p>Bits with interference on the rings</p>		 <p>Elimination</p>
<p>Coloured Bits</p>		 <p>Minus 0.5%</p>
<p>Bit guards</p>		 <p>Elimination</p>
<p>Bit clips on ergonomic bridles</p>		 <p>Elimination</p>










<p>Measuring Bits for maximum deviation (top image)</p>	 <p>Port deviation measurements</p>	<p>Maximum height = 30mm Minimum width = 30mm</p>
<p>Measuring diameter of bits (bottom image)</p>		
<p>Additions to bit (Bits may only be covered with rubber or latex.)</p>		 <p>Elimination</p>
<p>Bit Tape to cover the mouthpiece (latex or rubber)</p>		
<p>Bit Tape to create a bit guard</p>		 <p>Elimination</p>

Section 3	BRIDLES & NOSEBANDS	STATUS
ALL BRIDLES MUST HAVE A THROAT LASH		
<p>Equestrian Australian Dressage Committee Statement</p> <p>The Equestrian Australian Dressage Committee (EADC) wishes to reiterate that welfare of the horse is paramount in all that it does, whether developing rules for the sport or in training of its dressage stewards and judges – an active on-going program.</p> <p>Nosebands that are too tightly fitted regardless of type are never acceptable. Nosebands must never be used in such a way that they interfere with a horse's breathing. Riders failing to loosen a noseband on request from a steward or judge will be eliminated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noseband checking is done by a steward. It must be possible to place at least one finger between the horse's cheek and the noseband. <i>See illustration below.</i> • Nosebands can be checked prior to or after the completion of a test • Not all nosebands are required to be checked, if a visual assessment confirms that the noseband is not too tight. • During a test if the Judge believes a noseband is too tight, they must at the end of the test instruct the rider to return to the gear check. The Steward must report back to the judge after checking the noseband. • When checking bridle/noseband the steward must wear two clean disposable gloves • The checking of the bridle/noseband must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive. Stewards must keep in mind that the safety and welfare of the horse and the Athlete are our highest priority and concern! • The execution of adjustment of equipment must be done by the rider or the groom and not the steward. • If the noseband is deemed too tight by a steward in warm up and is not loosened when requested a Yellow Warning Card will be issued. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-end; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Measuring a cavason noseban</i></p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p><i>Measuring a flash or drop noseband 1</i></p> </div> </div>		





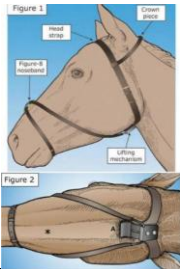





Bridles with anatomical/padded headpiece		
Ready to Ride bridle	<p>Not included in the list of permitted nosebands due to the thin noseband straps which would have a different effect than a standard flat Noseband</p> 	 Elimination Updated Apr 2023
PS of Sweden noseband (with throat lash)		
PS of Sweden Nirak (with Throat lash)		
PS Of Sweden Noseband, (with Throat Lash)	<p>PS of Sweden Noseband, only used WITH throat latch</p> 	


PS of Sweden High Jump Bridle	 <p>High Jump bridle with throat latch.</p> <p>Without elastic connections to the bit</p>	✓
PS of Sweden Jump Off Bridle	 <p>Jump Off bridle with throat latch.</p> <p>Without elastic connections to the bit</p>	✓
PS of Sweden (Elastic Concept)	<p>Elastic Concept for rein and cheek piece by PS of Sweden</p> <p>Here we have attached a durable and strong elastic band that is attached to the leather. The elastic touches NEVER the bit. The elastic helps the bit to be a little bit flexible and more dynamic in the mouth.</p> <p>Elastic is placed up here on the cheek piece and is hidden under the keeper.</p> <p>Leather</p> <p>Leather</p> <p>Leather</p> <p>The bit will only and always be in contact with leather, never anything else.</p> <p>Leather</p> <p>Leather</p> <p>PS of Sweden, 7th of March 2017</p>	✓
Bridles with D Rings at the Poll	 	✓
Tota Comfort system noseband	 	✓








<p>Noseband with metal sliding system attached to cheek piece Except for buckles and padding the headstall and noseband must be entirely of leather or leather-like material.</p>		<p> Elimination Updated Jan 2023</p>
<p>Stubben Snaffle Bridle 2500 Freedom</p>	 	<p></p>
<p>Passier Fortuna Double Bridle (Elastic Insert in Neckband, under Browband)</p>	 	<p></p>
<p>Bridle with double throat lash</p>		<p> Elimination</p>
<p>Micklem Style Bridle</p>	<p>The upper strap can be considered as a throat lash if it is correctly fitted</p> 	<p></p>









Micklem Style Bridle	<p>The upper strap is too low to be considered a throat lash</p> 	 <p>Elimination</p> <p>Updated Apr 2023</p>
Micklem Bridle with clips	<p>no clips allowed on the Micklem bridles in ANY material as it is considered a gadget</p> 	 <p>Elimination</p> <p>Updated Apr 2023</p>
Monarch Bridle	<p>Allowed with throat lash as it is a variation of the Micklem bridle.</p> 	 <p>Updated Apr 2023</p>
Quantum modified Bridle (snaffle or double)	<p>Similar to a standard double or snaffle bridle</p>  	 <p>Updated Apr 2023</p>

St Zaum Bridle May be used with a double bridle if the lower strap of the nose band is removed.		
Dyon X-Fit Anatomic		
Dyon Double		 Elimination
Added Padding on Bridle		 Elimination

Blinkers of any type, including wool padding on cheek piece		 Elimination
Double Cavesson Noseband		 Elimination
Cornell Collar		 Elimination
Three way noseband		 Elimination
Elastic Reins		 Elimination



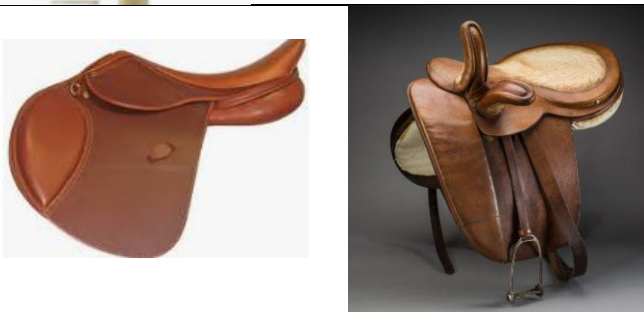







<p>Reins with hand stoppers or knotted (considered a gadget)</p>		 <p>Elimination</p>
<p>Rubber, laced & notched reins</p>		
<p>Clip on Reins</p>	<p>Clip on reins are not allowed</p> 	 <p>Elimination</p>

Section 4	COMPETITION WEAR	STATUS
Jackets: Any solid colour is permitted. Wide contrast stripes and multi-coloured jackets and coats are not permitted. (Examples shown)	 	 Minus 0.5% Updated Jan 2023
Top hats are not permitted at any level		 Elimination
Mirrored Helmets (dark reflective helmets are permitted)		 Minus 0.5%
Sleeveless Riding Jackets	  	
Boots and gaiters may be black, brown or same colour as jacket	Any solid color to match Jacket is permitted	 Updated Jan 2023













Full length laced boots		
Embossing /decoration at the top of the Top Boot only is permitted but must be in the same colour scheme as the boot. The same applies to the cantle of the saddle.	 	
Boots can be of smooth or smooth embossed surface. A neat and discrete zip on the outside area of the boot/chap is permitted.	  	
Coloured piping is permitted if it matches the piping on the Riding Jacket & or saddle	  	
Large buckles at the ankle of the boot are considered a safety issue and are not allowed	 	 Elimination











Riding boots **must**
have heels


















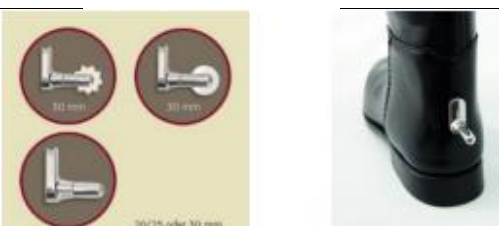





Section 5	SADDLES AND STIRRUPS	STATUS
*Stock Saddles *Western Saddles *Iberian Saddles *Endurance Saddles not illustrated		 Elimination
Jumping Saddles Side Saddles PARTICIPATION ONLY		
Stirrups & leathers must be fitted to the outside saddle flap		
Magnetic Stirrups		 Elimination
Multi coloured stirrups not permitted Stirrups must be black, silver, gold or same colour as the rider's boots		 Minus 0.5% for multi coloured stirrups

Velcro straps to Stirrups		 Elimination
Step-up Stirrups		 Elimination
Safety Stirrups are allowed open branch on the Inside or outside of the stirrup is permitted	 	
Other examples of Safety Stirrups permitted	   	

Section 6	ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT & ACCESSORIES			
Ear bonnet/hoods but, must not be attached to the noseband (no additional insulation & no ear plugs allowed)				
Tight fitting Head cover or Titanium hoods are not permitted when horses are ridden. They are permitted in the stables/yards & when tied to horse floats.				 Elimination
Fly Masks				 Elimination
Nose net				 (only permitted with an EADC exemption)
Body bandage or similar. (Spur pad/protection)				 Elimination
Electronic devices / headsets; <u>1</u> ear piece only				 Permitted in warm-up only

Electronic communication devices, including mobile phones, are not permitted while riders are in the competition arena		 Elimination
Kinesiology Tape (not permitted in competition)		 Elimination
Exercise sheets		 Although permitted in warm-up
Running Martingales are allowed in warm up only on a snaffle bridle but rein stoppers must be used		 Although permitted in warm-up
Arabian Martingale (not allowed on grounds)		 Elimination

Section 7	HORSE BOOTS / SHOES		STATUS
Boots or Bandages that cover the hoof			 Elimination
Polyurethane shoes			
Hoof boots			 Warm-up only
Nailed or Glued shoes must be clear if covers more of the hoof wall than that of a nailed shoe. Bulbs of the heel & full circumference of coronary band must be visible	 		

Section 8	SPURS	STATUS
Spurs with a Disc Rowel in the Vertical or Horizontal Plane (must be smooth and blunt)		
Rowel Spurs with serrated tines, blunt or otherwise, are not permitted		 Elimination
Swan Neck Spurs (Fitted as illustrated)		
Smart Clix Spurs with no serrated tines		
Soft Touch Spurs		
Coloured Spurs (unless they match the riders boots)		 Minus 0.5%

Hard plastic Spurs		
Spurs without a shank		
Spurs with side rowels		 Elimination
Bent Shank on Spurs		 Elimination
Spursuader Spurs/ Spurs with flat disc		 Elimination
Spurs with extension at the back (e.g. FairRider)	 	 Elimination
Hammer Spurs		 Elimination