

2024 Approved and Prohibited Tack

(Western & English Disciplines)

Western Tack:

- ❖ A hackamore in Western classes, it means the use only of a flexible, braided rawhide or leather bosal, the core of which must be rawhide. The bosal may be no greater than 1 inch at the nose. Absolutely no riding material is permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. This does not refer to a so-called mechanical hackamore, which is only allowed in gymkhana and roping classes.
- ❖ A snaffle bit is referring to a conventional O-ring, egg-butt, or D-ring direct pressure bit with a ring no larger than 4 inches. The mouthpiece should be round, smooth, untwisted metal. It may inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped.
- ❖ A curb bit refers to a bit that has a solid or a jointed mouthpiece, has shanks, and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical decisions and should be considered a standard Western bit.
- ❖ A bitless bridle means the use of a cross-under headstall. Sidepulls or halters are not allowed.
- ❖ In Gymkhana and roping classes only, other types of bits may be used, including gag bits, snaffle bits, and bits with a twist to the bar as long as the mouthpiece is a minimum of 5/16 of an inch in diameter 1 inch from the cheek piece. Bits may have a maximum length of 8½ inches. The port must be no higher than 3½ inches maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spades are standard. Curb bits must use curb straps or chains that are at least ½ inch wide and lay flat against the jaw when activated.

Saddles:

- ❖ Western classes, must be shown in Western saddles. Australian saddles must have a horn.

Prohibited Equipment:

- ❖ Draw reins, except for donkeys.
- ❖ Martingales nosebands, and tiedowns. (except in Roping and Gymkhana classes)
- ❖ Double-twisted mouthpieces are not allowed.
- ❖ Protective leg boots/wraps in Western Pleasure, Western Riding, Trail, Ranch, and Showmanship classes.
- ❖ No bare metal is allowed over the nose or the poll of the horse.
- ❖ NO type of chain or wire mouthpiece is allowed, no matter how well wrapped.
- ❖ Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar is not allowed.
- ❖ Saddles with excessive silver are not allowed in Ranch classes.
- ❖ Wire curb straps.



English Tack:

- ❖ English (Hunt Type) classes require all bridles to have cavessons and plain, flat, rolled, or laced leather brow bands.
- ❖ English snaffle (no shanks), Kimberwick, and Pelham bits are acceptable.
- ❖ With regard to mouthpieces, they must be a minimum of 5/16 of an inch in diameter when measured 1 inch in from the shank, cheek, or ring. They may be smooth, round, slot twist, straight bar, or solid. The mouthpiece may have two or three pieces. If it has three pieces, a connecting ring of 1¼ inches or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 to 3/4 of an inch, which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable.
- ❖ Curb (leverage bits) have a maximum shank length of 8½ inches with the shank length measured. Shanks may be loose or fixed.
- ❖ Any bit having a fixed rein requires the use of a curb chain and is considered a curb (leverage) bit. Curb bits must use a curb chain. They must be ½ inch wide and lay flat against the jaw when activated.
- ❖ Bitless bridles (cross-under) are permitted. Sidepulls or halters are not.

Saddles:

- ❖ English (Hunt type) classes allow forward seat, side saddle, or hacking type saddles made of leather or synthetic materials. Straight-flap dressage and cutback./saddle seat saddles are not allowed.

Prohibited Equipment:

- ❖ Spurs with rowels.
- ❖ Leg wraps
- ❖ Draw reins.
- ❖ Figure eight or cross-chain cavessons.
- ❖ Flash or dropped cavessons (except in Dressage classes)
- ❖ Tiedowns or martingales for Saddle Seat, Hunter Under Saddle, and Hunter Hack classes.
- ❖ Artificial appliances, such as wired ears, tail braces, and mouth controls, i.e., tongue ties.
- ❖ Slip or gag bits.
- ❖ Double-twisted mouthpieces are not allowed. Single-twisted mouthpieces are allowed as long as the mouthpiece is a minimum of 5/16 of an inch in diameter.