

# Equipment – The Horse

## **Saddles**

English or continental style saddles are mandatory, and are to be brown, black, grey or navy. Side saddles and treeless saddles are permitted but riders choosing to ride side saddle must notify the organiser before the start of the class.

Western style, traditional iberian or Arabian (with raised pommel and/or cantle) are not permitted. Brightly coloured saddles are not permitted however small panels of colour on areas such as the cantle are permitted.

Stirrup leathers and irons are compulsory, are to be attached to the saddle and used in the conventional way.

The rider's boots must not be fixed to the stirrup iron by mechanical means unless dispensation has been given (para riders); the penalty for breaching this rule is elimination.

Saddle covers are not permitted except during riding-in. A gel pad/memory foam/sheepskin seat saver is permitted, provided that it is unobtrusive and matches the colour of the saddle.

## **Saddle Cloths/Numnahs**

Saddle cloths or numnahs may be white/cream or a conservative colour in muted tones. Contrasting piping is permitted.

## **Bridles**

A bridle with a bit is compulsory and must be used in the conventionally accepted manner. The loop of the reins must be above the horse's neck with the reins attached to the bit. Looped/modified reins are not permitted unless dispensation has been granted (para riders).

Permitted bridles at each level are as follows;

Bridles/nosebands as defined in the Fei rules are permitted. See diagrams below.

1. Dropped noseband



2. Cavesson noseband



3. Flash noseband



4. Crossed noseband (pictured) / Mexican noseband



5. Combined noseband - no throat lash



6. Micklem bridle



Other bridles on the market matching the Fei definition are also permitted.

Nosebands shown in 1, 3, 4 and 6 are not permitted for use with a double bridle.

Bridles must be predominantly black, brown, grey or navy and may not be decorated with tassels or any additions to the normal configuration. Discreet padding of the bridle at the poll and/or noseband is permitted. Padding of the cheek pieces is not allowed and will result in elimination.

it is obligatory to use a noseband. Padding of the nose band is permitted, however covering the front of the noseband (e.g. with sheepskin), is not permitted and will result in elimination.

### **Bitguards**

Bitguards are not allowed.

## **Other additions to tack/equipment and gadgets**

Martingales and bearing, side or running reins of any kind are forbidden. Reins with elasticated inserts are not permitted

Bandages, boots or any sort are not permitted

Tongue straps are not permitted.

Breastplates and breast girths and cruppers are permitted

Neck straps or balancing straps (a loop on the front of the saddle) are permitted at all levels.

Hoof boots or any form of shoe replacement are not permitted during competition.

Plastic or glued on shoes are permitted however hooves may not be wrapped or taped in anyway.

Rugs of any type may not be worn during a test.

Horse body/belly bandages are not permitted during warm up or in competition.

Kinesiology tape may be used on the horse in the warm up but not in the competition arena.

## **Decoration**

Any unusual decoration of the horse with unnatural items such as ribbons, flowers or anything applied to the horse such as glitter is forbidden.

Discreet red bows in the tail for horses that kick or items such as diamante plaiting bands are permitted.

## **Ear Covers and Fly Hoods**

Ear covers and Fly hoods are permitted for all competitions, and may also provide noise reduction. Ear cover/fly hoods must not cover the horse's eyes. The cover/hood should be discreet in colour and design.

## **Ear plugs are not permitted during competition**

Nose nets and Equilibrium Net Relief Riding Masks (or similar) are permitted but must be discreetly coloured i.e. the same/similar colour to the horse. Masks or nose nets should cover the face/nose only, leaving the mouth and bit visible.

## **Stallions**

Stallions are to be identified by the rider wearing a yellow cross band or stallion disc on the bridle whilst working in and in competition.

## **Tack while warming up**

Whilst warming up, horses may wear only the saddlery allowed for their level of competition, except:

- Boots, bandages are permitted.

Warming up in anything other than permitted saddlery (unless specified above) will entail the elimination of both horse and owner/rider from all classes on the day.

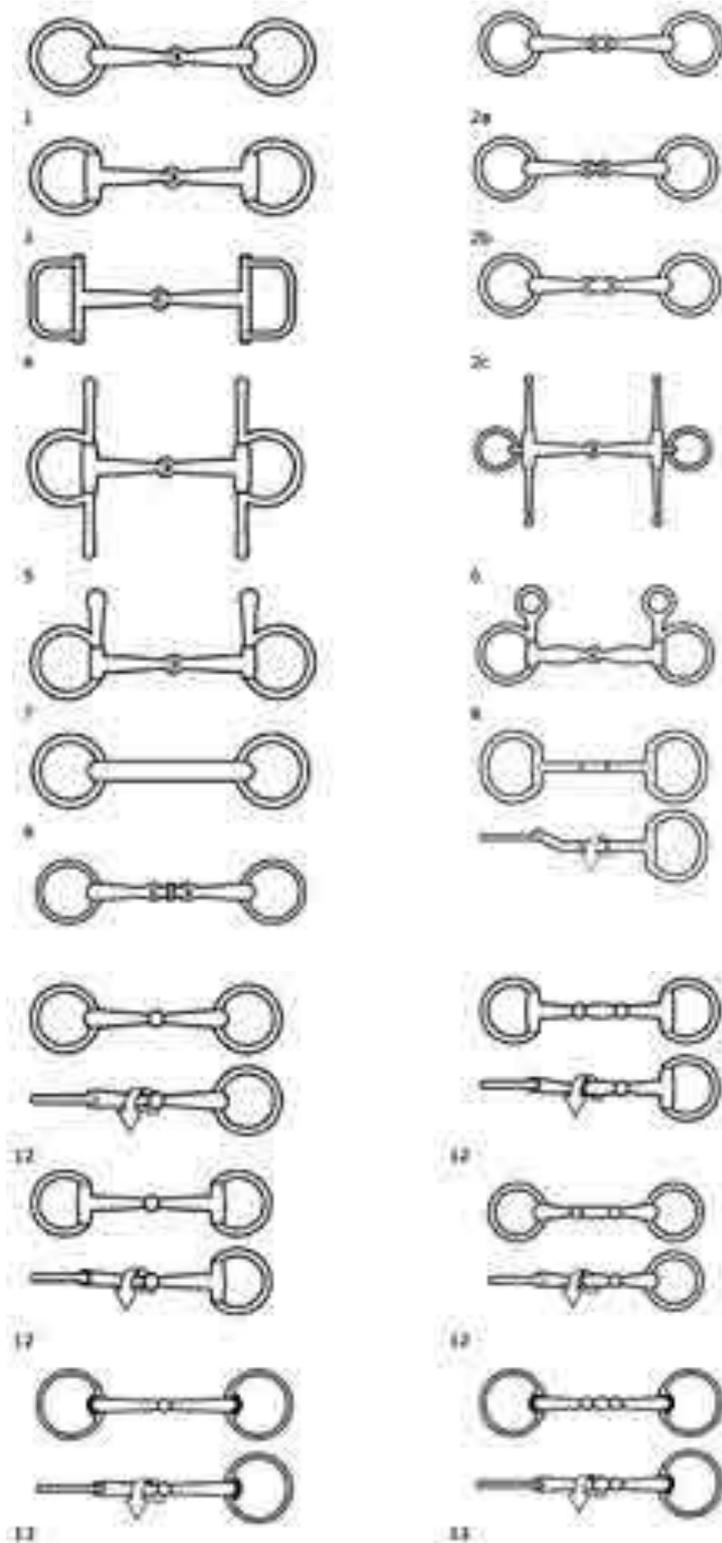
Anyone seeing this rule being breached should immediately report it to the organiser who is to eliminate the horse/rider.

## **Bits – Snaffles**

British Dressage mirrors the Fei in relation to permitted bits. Only the bits illustrated below are permitted except any combination of mouthpieces may be used with any of the cheeks or rings illustrated.

### *Permitted Snaffle Bits*

1. Loose ring snaffle
2. a,b,c,Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece where middle piece should be rounded. i.e. French link. egg-butt sides also allowed.
3. egg-butt snaffle.
4. Racing snaffle D-ring.
5. egg-butt snaffle with cheeks.
6. Loose ring snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer). Fulmer keepers are permitted.
7. Snaffle with upper cheeks only.
8. Hanging cheek snaffle.
9. Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with mullen mouth and with egg butt rings. these must be straight and have no ports or raised bumps.
10. Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece.
11. Snaffle with rotating middle piece.
12. Rotary bit with rotating middle piece.
13. Rotary bit with rotating middle piece and looped rings



Additional bits recently approved for use in competitions run under BD rules are;

Bombers Equestrian Flexible Mullen and Loose Ring Ultra Comfy bit.

Happy Mouth bits HB-6000-SP, HB-6801-SP and HB-2700.

Myler Weymouth (Curb) Bits

Myler 02 as Bridoon

Myler 32 as Bridoon

Myler 04 as Snaffle and Bridoon

Myler 06 as Snaffle and Bridoon

Myler 36 as Snaffle and nBridoon

Myler 33WL as Snaffle

Myler 33 as Snaffle

Bits of rubber, nylon or other synthetic materials are permitted.

Bits must be used in their manufactured condition without any addition to any part.

A mix of metals in the mouthpiece is permitted.

Straight bars must be straight and may not have 'lumps or bobbles' on the mouth piece. Straight bars may also have a mullen mouth.

Rigid bits coated in plastic are permissible in a double bridle however flexible rubber bits are not permissible.

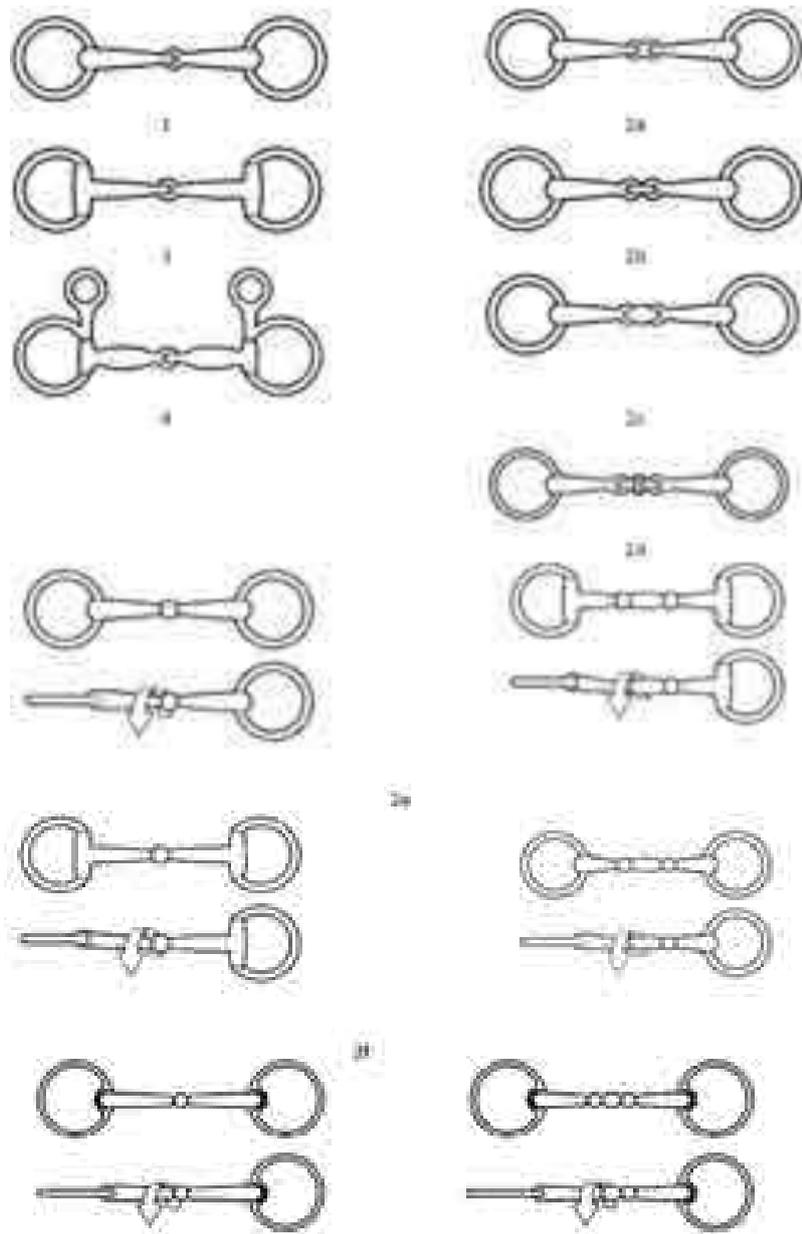
Minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm.

### **Bits - Double bridle**

Bits should follow the configuration of those illustrated below:

#### *Permitted Bridoons:*

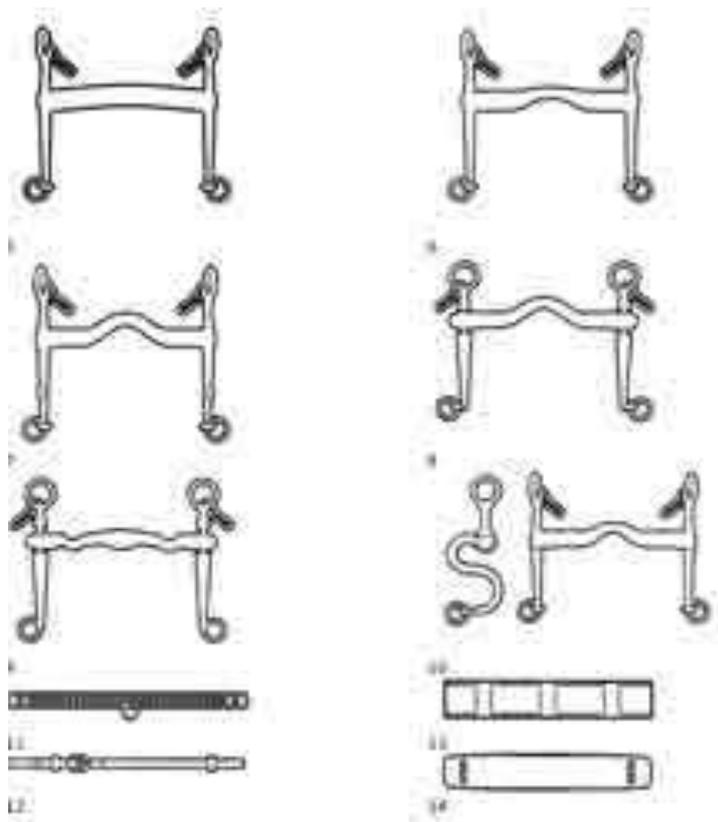
1. Loose ring bridoon bit.
2. a,b,c Bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded. Eggbutt sides also allowed.
2. d - Bridoon bit with rotating middle piece.
2. e - Bridoon Rotary bit with rotating middle piece.
2. f – Bridoon Rotary bit with rotating middle piece and looped rings
3. egg-butt bridoon bit.
4. Bridoon bit with hanging cheeks



*Curbs:*

5. Half-moon curb bits.
- 6.+7. curb bit with straight cheeks and port.
8. curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth). A curb bit with rotating lever arm is also allowed.
9. Variation of bits no 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, leather or sheep skin cover for curb chain.



Bits must be used in their manufactured condition without any addition to/on any part.

The lever arm of the curb is limited to 10 cm in length (length below the mouthpiece). The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek.

The ring of the bridoon bit must not exceed 8cm in diameter.

If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouthpiece should not measure more than 10cm when the mouthpiece is at the uppermost position.

The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon and/or curb must be such as not to hurt the horse.

Rigid bits coated in plastic are permissible in a double bridle however flexible rubber bits are not permissible.

the curb chain (including its cover) may be made of leather, metal, neoprene or rubber or a combination thereof and must be fitted in the conventional way.

**If in doubt about the legality of your bit, guidance should be sought from the Sports operations Manager of BD in writing with a photo.**