

Equipment – The Horse

Bridles

Should be used as follows:

- **Preliminary & Novice Standards**
Ordinary snaffle
- **Elementary – Advanced standards**
Ordinary snaffle or Double bridle

Only Permitted bits may be used. (See [Permitted Bits](#) download for details).

Bridles may not be decorated with tassels or any additions to the normal configuration. Discreet padding of the bridle at the poll or noseband is permitted. **The Miklem multibridle is permitted.**

Nosebands

It is obligatory to use a noseband. Either a drop, flash or cavesson noseband must be used with a snaffle bridle. A cavesson noseband only must be used with a double bridle. Drop nosebands and flash straps must lie in the chin groove. Grackle nosebands are permitted only for Eventing. Nosebands must not cause discomfort.

Bitguards

Bitguards are not allowed

Other Tack

Martingales and bearing, side or running reins of any kind are forbidden. **Reins with elasticated inserts are not permitted**, neither are bandages, boots and any sort of blinkers. Tongue straps are not permitted.

Breastplates and breast girths are permitted. Cruppers are permitted but are not allowed for tests run under FEI Rules

Neckstraps may be used in Preliminary classes but are not permitted in classes of Novice standard upwards. Balancing straps (a loop on the front of the saddle) are permitted.

Any unusual decoration of the horse with unnatural things, such as ribbons, flowers, glitter etc. in the mane/tail or applied to the coat is forbidden. Discrete red bows are permitted for horses that kick.

Fly Fringes, gauzes and ear covers

Fly Fringes, gauzes and ear covers which cover any part of the horse's head may be worn when riding-in but not during a test. Under certain circumstances "headshakers" may receive written dispensation by applying to the dressage office to wear a nose gauze. A copy of the dispensation certificate must be sent to the organizer for each test entered.

Anti fly impregnated browbands & fly repellent discs

Anti fly impregnated browbands & fly repellent discs are permitted while riding-in and during a test.

Warming up

While exercising any horse, whether competing or not, at a dressage competition it is permissible to use only the saddlery allowed for affiliated competitions, i.e. a suitable saddle and either a double bridle or snaffle with a cavesson, dropped or flash noseband for the duration of the competition. Horses competing in Novice and Preliminary classes may only warm up in snaffles.

- Introductory/Preliminary – Novice Snaffle
- Elementary – Advanced Snaffle/Double bridle

Boots, bandages, neck straps and whips are permitted when warming up.

The rider must wear headgear, (see [Equipment – The Rider](#) download). Riders who are visually impaired may wear white armbands whilst warming up so that other competitors know to give them enough space.

Lungeing (if permitted) – the lunge rein must be attached to the bit or cavesson and two reins are permissible. Side reins may be used, but not running or balancing reins etc. The rider may be mounted while the horse is being lunged and may hold the reins. Permission to

lunge must be obtained from the organizer who may designate a specific area.

Warming up in anything other than the permitted saddlery 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 the occurrence to the organizer or secretary, who will be empowered to enforce the elimination.

N.B. If, at any time during the competition run under British Dressage Rules, a horse is seen to be behaving in a dangerous manner which could threaten the safety of other competitors or spectators, a steward, organizer or regional development officer is authorized to request the removal of this horse from the area. Stallions may be identified by the rider wearing a yellow cross band whilst working in.