

Equipment – The Rider

Hats

It is compulsory for anyone mounted on a horse at a competition run under British Dressage Rules to wear a hat. Crash cap covers should be black, brown or navy blue. B.S.I. Standard hats or such other protective headgear as may reasonably be expected to offer a similar or higher level of protection are recommended by British Dressage but are not compulsory.

If a hat comes off during a test it must be replaced immediately; either the competitor may dismount or the hat may be handed to them. The test will be restarted at the beginning of the movement during which it came off. There will be no penalty for an error of course but if the hat is not replaced the competitor will be eliminated.

Breeches/Jodhpurs

Must be white, cream or beige except when worn with official uniform when they may be of the uniform colour

Gloves

Must be worn

Boots

Must be black or brown and may be top boots or Jodhpur boots. Gaiters may be worn providing they are identical leather to the boots and have no decoration of any sort

Spurs

Must be worn as a pair (except when riding side saddle) from advanced level upwards and must be made of metal. The band round the heel must be smooth and there must be a shank on the back of the heel pointing towards the rear. There is no restriction on the type of shank and rowels are permitted provided that they are fitted vertically and are free to rotate. Rowels which have points must have rounded ends. Excessive use of spurs is forbidden. Spurs may not be worn upside down. Spurs that have a smooth rotating rubber or plastic ball on the shank are permitted.

Whips

It is permitted to carry a whip in all classes except Championship finals. A whip may always be carried by ladies riding side saddle, but at no time may more than one whip be carried during a test or warm up.

A whip must not be used in a way or be of a length that disturbs other riders and may not be picked up if dropped during a test.

When saluting, Competitors must take the reins and whip, if carried, in one hand. The free hand should be lowered to the rider's side and the rider should nod the head.

Excessive use of the whip at any time while at a competition is forbidden, and it should never be used or carried in a manner which affects other horses.

Saddles

Saddles must be worn and be of English or Continental style and must be brown, black, grey or navy. Stirrup leathers and irons are compulsory and must 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. Western style or brightly coloured saddles are not permitted. It is permissible to ride side saddle. Saddle covers are not permitted except during riding-in. A gel pad seat saver is permitted, provided that it is unobtrusive and matches the colour of the saddle. Other types of seat saver including sheepskin/fur fabric are not permitted unless written dispensation has been obtained from the British Dressage Office. Treeless saddles are permitted.