



Gear Rules

Competition Quick Reference Guide

The information in this Quick Reference is an extract from the *PCAV Gear Rules 2017* and applies to competitions only. For rallies and non-competitive activities, and for complete details of gear rules and comfort and safety requirements, please consult the *PCAV Gear Rules*

Effective 1st January 2017

Remember: An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 3.4 and 3.5 is acceptable.

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(Supersedes all previous editions—only rules in this edition are applicable)

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Acknowledgement

The illustrations of bits and nosebands are the copyright of and are by courtesy of the FEI.

References

All references in this *Quick Reference* are from the rules in *PCAV Gear Rules, January 2016*

Gear Never Permitted

| | Rally and Activity | Competition |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| 12.1 Prohibited Items | <p>Bandages.</p> <p>Taping of horse boots</p> <p>Bits or items of saddlery likely to wound a horse.</p> <p>Bits made only of rubber or rubber & chain.</p> <p>Metal snap hook fasteners or metal clips of any type that attach to the bit.</p> <p>Blinkers.</p> <p>Running or Draw reins.</p> <p>Towels/second saddlecloth under saddle</p> <p>Market Harboroughs</p> <p>De Gogue or ancillary training aids</p> <p>Side reins, except for lungeing activities at rallies.</p> <p>Standing martingales.</p> <p>Hackamores and bosals.</p> <p>Tongue Ties.</p> <p>Visible jewellery (except for watch and medical bracelet), unless taped.</p> <p>Helmet Cameras and any other visual/video recording device of whatsoever nature.</p> <p>Any Gear that is misused in any way, too tight, ill-fitting or incorrectly used will not be tolerated. This includes but is not confined to bits, saddlery, boots, spurs, whips and any equipment that may pass a Gear Check in normal circumstances.</p> | <p>Same as Rally/Activity plus:</p> <p>Chaps</p> <p>Chappettes</p> <p>Chinks</p> <p>Ancillary lungeing equipment such as side reins, chambon and pessoas</p> |

21 Compliant Snaffle Bits

21.1 Bridle and Bit

- 21.1.a The horse/pony must always be ridden with a bridle and bit and reins when at a rally/activity/competition. However, for dressage, games, handy-mount, flat teams and musical ride, pony club show ring competitions, one of the compliant snaffle bits described here and pictured in rule 21.4 is required.
- 21.2.b Snaffle bits having combinations of any of the rings or cheeks with any of the mouthpieces shown in 21.4 are permitted when a compliant snaffle bit is required for competition.
- i. An ordinary snaffle is a plain snaffle with a straight bar or joint in the centre
 - ii. If a snaffle has two joints, all parts must be rounded and smooth.

21.2 Mouthpieces

- 21.2.a Only snaffle bits with the following features are approved. Snaffle bits shall be composed of:
- i Metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber or latex
 - ii Metal and rubber (bits made only of rubber or rubber and chain are NOT permitted)
 - iii Metal and synthetic material
 - The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece.
 - the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm
 - snaffles used for ponies must have a minimum diameter of 10mm
 - there shall not be more than two joints in the mouthpiece
 - double-jointed mouth pieces may have one “roller”, or rotating middle piece, in the centre section. Multiple rollers are not permitted
 - all parts of the bit coming into the horse’s mouth shall be rounded, smooth and not ridged, sharp or corrugated.

Permitted bits are described and illustrated in 21.4.

Bits permitted for dressage under EA rules are compliant snaffle bits for PCAV.

- half- moon, port-mouthed, curved – there must be a straight line from the rings
- rubber or synthetic bit – both jointed or unjointed
- sweet iron

Also permitted but not illustrated:

- half- moon, port-mouthed, curved – there must be a straight line from the rings
- rubber or synthetic bit – both jointed or unjointed
- sweet iron

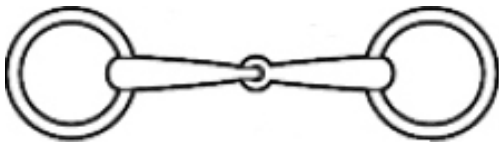
NB: A Dr Bristol bit is not a compliant snaffle as the central plate is designed in such a way that it applies pressure to the tongue, which is considered an artificial aid. However, it can be used for activities/competitions which do not require a compliant snaffle.

21.3 Checking Bits at Gear Check

- 21.3.a Refer to rule 9.1.
- 21.3.b Refer to rule 21.4 for pictures. When a snaffle bit is specified for a competition, snaffle bits with these criteria are the only bits permitted.

21.4 Permitted Snaffle bits

When specified for a competition, snaffle bits with a combination of these features are the only bits permitted



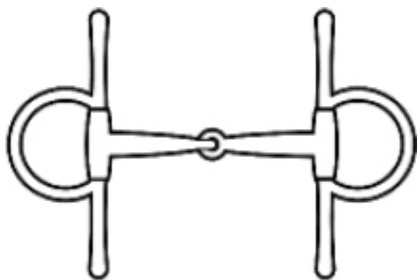
Loose Ring



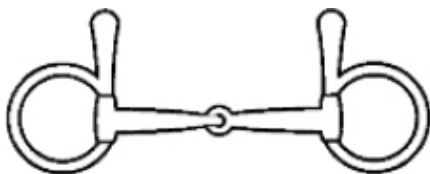
Egg-butt



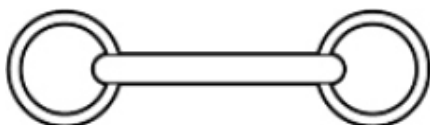
Racing D-Ring



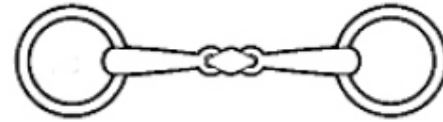
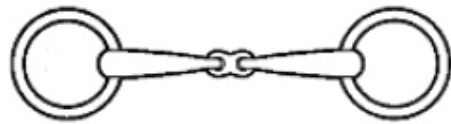
Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer)



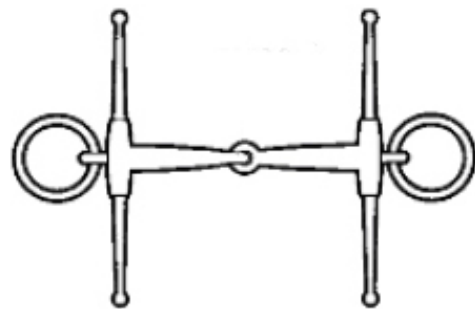
with upper cheeks



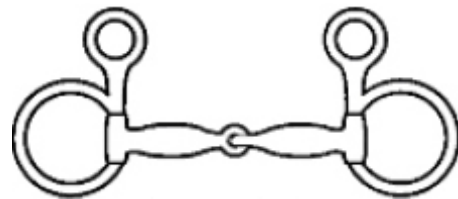
Straight bar



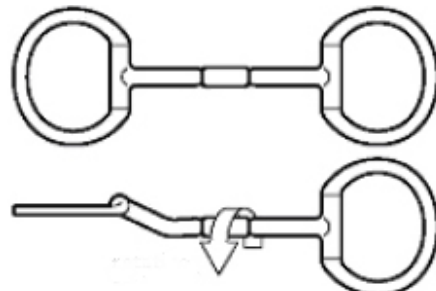
Jointed mouthpieces – middle piece must be rounded



Loose ring with cheeks FM/tom thumb



Hanging cheek - Baucher



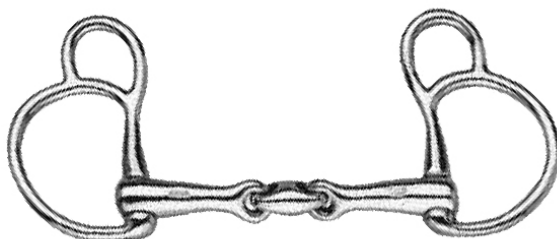
Rotating mouth piece



Rotating centre piece

21.5 Miscellaneous (Bits)

The Sprenger KK – Ultra B Ring Snaffle is not approved for DRESSAGE



22 Nosebands

22.1 Basic Fit Requirements

22.1.a A noseband must never be so tightly fixed as to hurt the horse.

22.1.b A noseband must be fitted high enough not to interfere with the horse's breathing, but not so high that it rubs on the edge of the horse's cheek bone.

22.2 Nosebands to Use when a Snaffle Bridle/Bit is specified

22.2.a For dressage, games, handy-mount, pony club show rings, flat teams and musical ride competitions, only these nosebands may be used with one of the snaffle bits described in rule 21.

- i Cavesson
- ii Dropped
- iii Grackle – also known Crossover or Mexican
- iv Hanoverian – also known as Flash
- v Combination noseband/bridle.
- vi Micklem Bridle

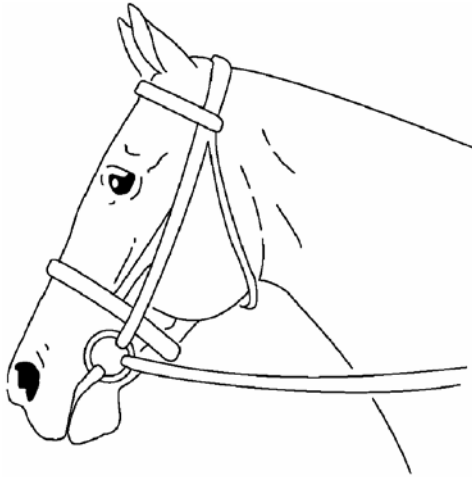
22.3 Noseband Illustrations



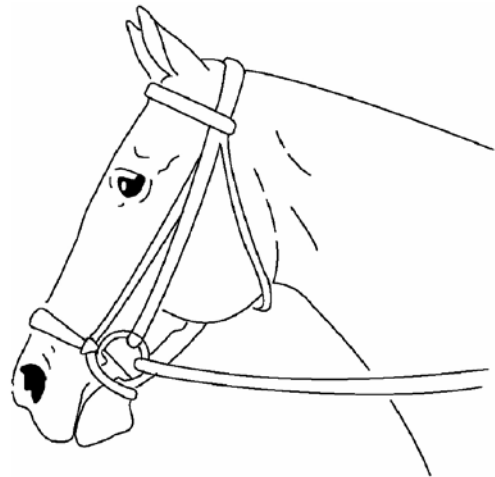
5. Combined noseband – no throat lash



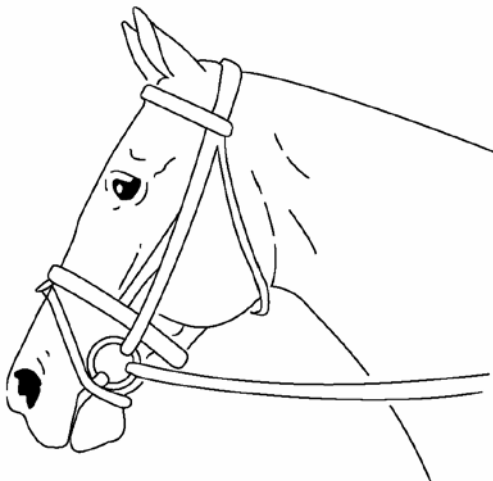
6. Micklem bridle



Cavesson



Dropped



Hanoverian (Flash)



Crossed (Grackle or Mexican)



Worcester Noseband (not allowed for **Dressage**)



Muzzle Net
Veterinary Surgeon letter Only

23 Competition Quick Reference Guide

| Item | Quick Reference Details | Rule |
|-------------------------|--|--------------|
| Armbands | Compulsory at competitions for all competitors incl non-PCAV members | 10.6 |
| Body protectors | Optional | 10.14 |
| Badges | Optional | 7.9 |
| Bandages | Not permitted | 11.21 |
| Bits | Always required when riding. Only snaffle for dressage, pony club show rings, games and flat teams. No restrictions for SJ and CC | 11.4 |
| Boots (horse) | Not permitted in dressage test or show rings but permitted in warm up | 11.21-11.23 |
| Boots (rider) | Short Jodhpur or long boots in black or brown | 10.7 |
| Bridles | Must fit horse correctly | 11.3 |
| Chappettes/Chaps/Chinks | Not permitted | 10.8 |
| Cheek guards | Not permitted for dressage, flat/musical ride teams or show rings | 11.6 |
| Draw reins | Not permitted | 12.1 |
| Ear Covers/Fly Hoods | Permitted . No sound reducing material for Dressage and Show Rings | 11.9 |
| Ear rings | Removed or securely taped | 10.4 |
| Gaiters | Optional for any aged competitor | 10.8 |
| Gloves | Optional | 10.11 |
| Hair | Must be tied up to allow competitor number to be seen | 10.3 |
| Helmets | Must comply with nominated standards and fit | 10.5 |
| Helmet Cameras | Any visual/video recording device of whatsoever nature. Not Permitted | 12.1 |
| Hooves | Must be in good order; may be unshod. | 11.1 |
| Jewellery | Watches and medical bracelets permitted. No other visible jewellery unless taped. | 10.4 |
| Jodhpurs/Breeches | Similar in colour to: Banana, beige, white, fawn, oatmeal | 10.2 |
| Market Harboroughs | Not permitted | 12.1 |
| Martingales | Permitted SJ, XC, games, flat teams, musical ride and grade 5 dressage. Rubber stopper always required Standing martingales are not permitted. | 11.19 |
| Moleskins/Jodphurs | Similar in colour to: Banana, beige, white, fawn, oatmeal | 10.2 |
| Monkey grips/Neckstraps | Permitted | 11.14 |
| Muzzle Nets | Permitted | 11.8 |
| Nosebands | Optional: Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle, Hanoverian, Combination, Micklem for Dressage; Worcester not permitted Dressage. | 11.7, 22.2a |
| Plaiting | Not permitted for games. Optional for flat teams, musical ride and gymkhanas if OC permits | 17.11, 19.10 |
| Pessoa system | Not permitted | 12.1 |
| Raincoats | Optional, as long as competitor number and armband visible | 10.11 |
| Running martingales | Permitted SJ, XC, games, flat teams, musical ride and grade 5 dressage. Polocrosse Rubber stopper always required | 11.19 |
| Running reins | Not permitted | 12.1 |
| Saddle covers | Not permitted | 11.12 |
| Saddle pads | Commercial pad permitted | 11.12 |
| Saddlecloths | One only, must be used | 11.12 |
| Saddles | Compulsory unless specified otherwise. Must fit correctly | 11.11 |
| Side reins | Not permitted | 12.1 |
| Spurs | Permitted for all disciplines except Games. | 10.9 |
| Standing martingales | Not permitted | 11.19 |
| Stirrup leathers | Must hang outside the saddle flap, free end may be in the keeper | 11.16 |
| Stirrup irons | Must fit the rider's boot. When ball of the foot is in the stirrup and the foot is over to one side there is about 15mm of space | 11.17 |
| Uniform | Includes PCAV logo garments like Polo shirts | 7, 10.1 |
| Watches/Timing Devices | Cross Country - Grade 1-3 – PERMITTED; Grade 4-6 – NOT PERMITTED | 10.15 |
| Whips | Also refer to relevant disciplines No hands in any manner through whip handle straps. No cutting of strap/flap | 10.10 |

Key:

SJ = Showjumping XC = Cross-country OC = Organising Committee

Polocrosse – refer to Rule 20 for all requirements

24 Competition Quick Check Table

| Item | Competition | Grade 1 | Grade 2 | Grade 3 | Grade 4 | Grade 5 & 6 |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|---------|----------------|-------------|
| Saddles | All | With a tree must clear withers and spine. Treeless permitted | | | | |
| Saddlecloths | All | One only saddlecloth may be used, with or without one commercial riser pad. A full numnah is a saddlecloth. Folded saddlecloths, towels and other makeshift padding are not permitted. | | | | |
| Monkey Grips/neck strap | All | Yes | | | | |
| Bits | Dressage Flat teams, Musical Ride Gymkhanas/Show Rings | Snaffle No cheek guards Tongue Layer/Grids | | | | |
| | Showjumping Cross Country | Not restricted. Cheek guards, Tongue Layer/Grids are permitted. | | | | |
| | Games | Snaffle & Cheek Guards permitted for Games | | | | |
| Nosebands | All | Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle, Hanoverian, Combined & Micklem. Worcester not permitted for Dressage . Refer to illustrations in rule 22 | | | | |
| Fly Hoods/ Ear Covers | All | Permitted – Rule 11.9 | | | | |
| Muzzle nets | All | Permitted with Veterinary Surgeon letter - Rule 11.8 | | | | |
| Martingales | Dressage | No | | | | Yes |
| | Showjumping Cross Country Games Flat Teams, Musical Ride | Yes | | | | |
| | Show Rings | No | | | | |
| | Pure Dressage Show Ring - Led Classes | 1200 mm, including lash | | | | |
| Whips | HT, CT, SCC Dressage | Not Permitted (may be used only in warm-up) | | | 750mm inc flap | |
| | Showjumping Cross Country Flat Teams, Musical Ride Show Ring - Ridden classes | 750 mm including flap | | | | |
| | Games | No | | | | |
| | Pure Dressage Horse Trials Dressage | Yes | | | | |
| Spurs | Showjumping Cross Country Show Rings | Yes | | | | |
| | Games | No | | | | |
| | Flat Teams, Musical Ride | Yes | | | | |
| | Watches/Timing Devices | Cross Country | Grade 1-3 – PERMITTED; Grade 4-6 – NOT PERMITTED | | | |

Polocrosse – Refer to Gear Rule 20 for all requirements