

RULE CHANGE TYPE

Standard

EFFECTIVE

4/1/2016

BOARD ACTION

PROPOSED CHANGE

WD119 General [CHAPTER SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS]**WD119 General**

1. ~~A breastplate and/or crupper may be used.~~
2. ~~A western cavesson (pencil-bosal, braided or plain) with space for two fingers placed between the cavesson and the jowl of the horse is allowed. No metal, studs of any kind or other substances can be used in conjunction with or part of a western leather cavesson.~~
3. ~~1.~~ At Federation licensed competitions, the C2 Steward or the person who is under the direction of the Steward and appointed by the competition management will be responsible for the overseeing the checking **of the horse, tack, and attire**. ~~of tack, bits, etc.~~ A horse must be eliminated from the test just completed if **the horse or any tack and/or attire** ~~the bit is~~ **are** in violation of the rules and/or the tongue has been tied. ~~All horses in each class/test must be inspected upon completion of their ride. C2 Stewards or Equipment Inspectors are only required to inspect bits and other appointments on a minimum of one-third of the horses in a class. (See WD123)~~

PROPONENT

Western Dressage

Draft Received: 11/24/2015

CONTACT

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INTENT

The reorganization of Tack and Attire subchapter was to make it easier for exhibitors and officials to find permitted appointments which are now categorized by type rather than random and remove duplication.

LINKED RULES/COMMENTS

Web: tack and attire

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline**Draft 1:** No Action**Draft 2:** Recommends Approval 12/22/2015**Draft 1:** No Comments**Draft 2:** No Comments

Standard

4/1/2016

PROPOSED CHANGE

WD120 Tack [CHAPTER SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS]

WD120 *Permitted Tack***1. Bridles:**

- a. Any Western type headstall must be used.
- b. A Western cavesson (braided or plain), or pencil bosal with space for two fingers placed between the cavesson and the jowl of the horse is allowed. No metal, studs of any kind, or other harsh substances can be used in conjunction with or part of a Western cavesson.
- c. A Hackamore (Bosal) is permitted on a horse of any age at any level. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core, attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with the bosal, i.e. steel, metal or chains. Bosals may be wrapped with smooth electrical tape to prevent rubbing.
- d. A bitless bridle is permitted on a horse of any age at any level. It must be of Western style made of leather or leather like materials.
- e. The Western Two Rein bridle is permitted. This is a bridle and bit, snaffle or curb ridden over a full or pencil bosal with a romal; hence a bit rein and a mecate rein is held in each hand, or the mecate rein can be tied to the saddle horn.

2. Snaffle Bit:

- a. A snaffle bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level.
- b. A snaffle offers no leverage or curb action.
- c. A Western Dee bit.
- d. A standard snaffle is a conventional O-Ring, Egg Butt or D-Ring, all with rings having an outside diameter no smaller than 2 inches (50.8 mm), nor larger than 4 inches (101.6 mm). The inside of the circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments that would provide leverage.

1. Bars of the mouthpiece must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped, except with latex; and no less than 5/16 inch (7.9 mm) to 3/4 inch (19.05 mm) in diameter measured one inch (25 mm) from the cheek and may be inlaid, if smooth.

2. Three-Piece Mouthpiece: If a mouthpiece is three pieces, a connecting ring must be no larger than 1 1/4 inches (31.75 mm) in diameter, or a connecting piece must be no longer than 2 inches (50.8 mm) and 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) to 3/4 inch (19.05 mm), measured top-to-bottom.

e. A Mullen Mouth (solid mouthpiece), barrel mouthpiece, or Naptha Bits (plastic or rubber) may be used.

f. If a bit hobble is used on a ring snaffle it must be attached below the reins.

g. No flat, sharp, slow twist, twisted or pointed edges on mouthpieces are allowed.

3. Curb Bit: There is no discrimination against any standard Western bit.

a. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2" (215.9 mm). The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" (7.9 mm) to 3/4" (19.05 mm) in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. (The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" (7.9 mm) to 3/4" (19.05 mm) in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars). Nothing may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4 inch (31.75 mm) or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 to 3/4 inch (9.5mm – 19.05 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2 inches (88.9 mm) maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard. Wire on the braces (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable.

b. Reins must be attached to each shank.

c. Curb chains, if used, and flat leather chin straps must be at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain. Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited.

d. A slobber guard on a curb bit is permitted.

f. Rein chains with a spade bit are allowed.

4. Reins:

a. When the rider uses a snaffle bit, the following reins may be used: loop/connected reins, split reins, buckled reins, mecate reins, or Romal reins without a popper; two hands must be used with any of these combinations. Horsehair, rope reins and mecate reins are allowed for bosals and snaffles. The mecate can be tied to the saddle horn or held by the rider.

b. When the rider uses a curb, the following reins may be used: Romal reins or Split reins. When using a curb with Romal reins, only one hand is allowed; when using split reins, one or two hands are allowed.

c. Hand position on reins:

1. In the case of Romal reins, the Romal is held in one hand with no fingers between the individual reins. The end of the Romal may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep the Romal from swinging and to adjust the position of the rein. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.

2. In the case of when split reins are held in one or two hands, the rider may not switch back and forth during a test. When the split reins are held in one hand, there are two ways that the rider may use them. The rider may put one finger between the split reins; the ends of the reins fall on the side of the reining hand. The rider may hold both reins in one hand without a finger between the reins; the hand must be around the reins. The ends of the Split reins may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep them from swinging and to adjust the position of the reins. No finger is allowed between the reins. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.

d. At the end of the Free Walk or Free Jog, riders using split reins held in one hand may use the free or offhand to pull the reins back to the desired length. Riders using Romal reins may use the hand using the Romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand.

e. A breastplate and/or crupper may be used.

f. Whips: One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash, is permitted in all Classes/Tests.

5. Saddle:

A standard stock saddle is customary. A working saddle, Aussie, and Western side saddle are also acceptable. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit.

- a. A horn is optional but western style fenders are required.
- b. Tapaderos are permitted except in Western Dressage Equitation.
- c. Padding or pads on the seat of the saddle are permitted.
- d. Rolls are allowed only on Aussie Western style saddles.
- e. Protective "polo" style leg wraps are permitted.

WD120-Tack

1. Bridles: Any western type headstall must be used.
 - a. A western cavesson (pencil-bosal, braided or plain is allowed).
 - b. Hackamores (Bosal) are permitted on a horse of any age at any level.
 1. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core, attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with the bosal, i.e. steel, metal or chains.
 2. Bosals may be wrapped with smooth electrical tape to prevent rubbing.
 - c. Native and national bridles are permitted.
 - d. Bitless bridles of Western style made of leather or leather-like materials.
 - e. The Western Two Rein bridle is permitted. This is a bridle and bit, snaffle or curb ridden over a full or pencil bosal with a romal; hence a bit rein and a mecate rein is held in each hand.
 - f. Romal reins are appropriate only with a curb bit and can only be ridden with one hand.
 - g. A rider can ride with two hands with only split reins, connected reins, or mecate type reins (without the popper such as in Romal reins). Romal reins may only be used with a curb bit; the rider must use one hand with romal reins.
 2. Snaffle Bit: Any snaffle bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level. The use of snaffle bits or a bosal is strongly recommended for junior horses 5 and under. Competitions may choose to hold junior horse (5 and under) classes that are restricted to snaffles or bosals.
 - a. A snaffle offers no leverage or curb action. A Western Dee bit and/or bits that are slotted for the headstall and reins are addressed in WD119 Tack. The rider must use two hands with a snaffle bit.
 1. A standard snaffle is a conventional O-Ring, Egg Butt or D-Ring, all with rings having an outside diameter no smaller than 2 inches (50.8 mm), nor larger than 4 inches (101.6 mm). The inside of the circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments that would provide leverage.
 2. Bars: Bars of the mouthpiece must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped, except with latex; and no less than 5/16 inch (7.9 mm) to 3/4 inch (19.05 mm) in diameter measured one inch (25 mm) from the cheek with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. May be inlaid if smooth. The mouthpiece may be two or three piece.
 3. Three-Piece Mouthpiece: If a mouthpiece is three pieces, a connecting ring must be no larger than 1 1/4 inches (31.75 mm) in diameter, or a connecting flat bar must be no longer than 2 inches (50.8 mm) and 3/8 inch (9.5 mm) to 3/4 inch (19.05 mm), measured top-to-bottom, and must lie flat in the horse's mouth.
 4. A Mullen Mouth (solid mouthpiece), barrel mouthpiece, full cheeks or Naptha Bits (plastic or rubber) may be used.
 5. If a bit hobble is used on a ring snaffle it must be attached below the reins.
 6. No flat, sharp, slow twist, twisted or pointed edges on mouthpieces are allowed.
 7. Horsehair or rope reins and mecate are allowed for bosals and snaffles. The mecate can be tied to the saddle horn or held by the rider.
 - b. Hackamores (Bosal) are permitted on a horse of any age at any level. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible non-metallic core, attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with the bosal, i.e. steel, metal or chains.
 - c. Curb Bit: There is no discrimination against any standard Western bit. A standard Western curb bit may be used on a horse of any age being ridden at any level; rider may use one or two hands with a curb bit. A Standard Western Bit is defined as a bit with leverage. It may or may not have shanks; the maximum length of the shanks is 8 1/2 inches (21.59 cm). Shanks may be fixed or loose. A bit which has slots for attaching the headstall and/or rein is a leverage bit and is permitted.
 1. Bars of the mouthpiece must be round, smooth and unwrapped (except with latex) metal of 5/16 inch (7.9 mm) to 3/4 inch (19.05 mm) in diameter measured one inch (25 mm) from the cheek. It may be inlaid, but smooth, or latex wrapped. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4 inch (31.7 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 inch to 3/4 inch (9.5 mm — 19.05 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2 inches (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable.
 2. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2 inches (8.89 cm). Rollers attached to the center of the bit and covers are acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, half-breeds and spades are acceptable.
 3. Wire on the braces (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable.
 4. Reins must be attached to each shank. Split reins, romal reins, rein chains (spade bit) or loop reins are allowed.
 5. Curb chains, if used, and flat leather chin straps must be at least 1/2 inch (12.7 mm) in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap or curb chain. Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited.
 6. A slobber guard on a curb bit is permitted.
 7. Snaffles, bosals and bitless bridles are strongly recommended on all junior horses; competitions may choose to hold junior horse classes that are restricted to snaffles, bosals and bitless bridles. For Open Western Dressage competitions, a junior horse is defined as a horse 5 years old and under. For breed restricted competitions, consult the appropriate breed chapter division rules.
 - d. Illegal Bits: All curb bits must be free of mechanical devices. Nothing such as extensions, rivets or prongs, may protrude below the mouthpiece (bars).

The following are prohibited:

 1. Slip or gag bits, and donut or flat polo mouthpieces and kimberwicks.
 2. Roping bits with reins attached to a single ring at the center of a cross bar.
 3. Any rein design or other devices which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard western bit.
 4. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class/test.
 3. Saddle: A standard stock saddle, national, working saddle, Aussie, native or western side saddle is to be used but silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A horn is not required but western style fenders are required. Tapaderos are permitted, except in Western Dressage Equitation. Padding or pads on the seat of the saddle are permitted.
 4. Whips: One whip no longer than 47.2 inches (120 cm) including lash, is permitted in all Classes/Tests.
 5. Reins:
 - a. When the rider uses a snaffle bit, the following reins may be used: a loop rein, split reins or buckled reins. A rider must use two hands when riding with a snaffle.
 - b. When the rider uses a curb bit, the following reins may be used:
 1. Split reins which may be held in either one or two hands; the rider may not switch back and forth during a test. When the split reins are held in one hand, there are two ways that the rider may use them. The rider may put one finger between the split reins; the ends of the reins fall on the side of the reining hand. The rider may hold both reins in one hand without a finger between the reins; the hand must be around the reins. The ends of the Split reins may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep them from swinging and to adjust the

position of the reins. No finger is allowed between the reins. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.
2. Romal reins may be used; they may be used only with a curb bit. The Romal is held in one hand with no fingers between the individual reins. The end of the Romal may be held in the hand not used for reining to keep the Romal from swinging and to adjust the position of the rein. The reins must be held so that there is at least 16" of rein between the hands.
c. At the end of the Free Walk or Free Jog, riders using Split reins held in one hand may use the free or offhand to pull the reins back to the desired length. Riders using Romal reins may use the hand using the Romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand. This is the only time a rider may actively use two hands on the reins.

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PROPONENT

Western Dressage

Draft Received: 11/24/2015

CONTACT

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INTENT

The rule has been reorganized by equipment category rather than random to make it easier for competitors and officials to find appropriate equipment. This has continued to be a problem with a lot of confusion.

LINKED RULES/COMMENTS

WD 120 (452-15), WD 120 (454-15), WD 120 (226-15)

Web: permitted tack

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: No Action

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 12/22/2015

Draft 1: No Comments

Draft 2: No Comments

Western Dressage

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 11/19/2015

Draft 2: No Comments

RULE CHANGE TYPE

Standard

EFFECTIVE

4/1/2016

BOARD ACTION

PROPOSED CHANGE

WD123 Judges and Stewards [CHAPTER SUBCHAPTER WD-6 OFFICIALS]

3. C2 Stewards. A USEF licensed competition which offers Western Dressage tests/ classes may use either a USEF licensed Category 2 Steward or an inspector designated by show management and under the direction of the C2 Steward. **Tack and bits on both sides of the horse of a minimum of one-third (1/3) of the horses in each class/test must be inspected.**

a. ~~Inspection of tack and bits must be done by or at the direction of the Competition C2 Steward or designated inspector. Tack and bits on both sides of each horse must be inspected and checked for each class/test and must be done immediately as the horse leaves the arena.~~ **Once the exhibitor leaves the arena, the exhibitor must remain mounted until they reach the C2 Steward or equipment inspector. At that time, the exhibitor will dismount for the equipment inspection.** Competitors will be asked to drop the bridle of the horse, removing the bit to below the mouth of the horse. A metal detector and/ or magnet may be used to detect the presence of the metal in nosebands. Random pulling of leg wraps and protective boots will also occur at this time. **See also WD119.**

PROPONENT

Western Dressage

Draft Received: 11/16/2015

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INTENT

To perform spot checking of equipment rather than every ride; consistent with English Dressage. Additionally, inspecting every ride takes too long and ties up personnel. Because some facilities have long passageways between the arena and inspection, the rider must stay mounted so as not to interfere with the bridle prior to inspection.

LINKED RULES/COMMENTS

Web: inspection of tack

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: No Action

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 12/22/2015

Draft 1: No Comments

Draft 2: No Comments

Western Dressage

Draft 2: Recommends Approval 11/19/2015

Draft 2: No Comments

RULE CHANGE TYPE

EFFECTIVE

BOARD ACTION

Standard

4/1/2016

PROPOSED CHANGE

WD106 Saddle Gait [CHAPTER SUBCHAPTER WD-2 GAITS]

The Saddle gait has a noticeable increase in cadence from the working walk. Excessive speed or slowness will be penalized.

1. ~~The gaited horse has a different rhythm of footfalls, resulting in different gaits.~~ ***In lieu of a jog, gaited horses perform gaits of various rhythms and footfalls.*** The gaited horse will perform a saddle gait in place of the jog.

2. The saddle gait is a 4-beat ~~may be either a lateral or diagonal gait,~~ timely and consistently performed. The tempo, rhythm and foot falls of the gait the rider chooses to ~~perform~~ ***show*** must not change throughout the test. ~~This true 4-beat gait~~ ***The gait*** the horse performs, should be able to be ridden in a working, lengthened, free and collected manner as the Western Dressage test specifies.

3. The quality of the saddle gait is judged by general impression, i.e. the regularity and rhythm of the steps, the cadence and impulsion. This quality originates from the horse having a supple back and well engaged hind quarters, and the ability to maintain the same ~~four-beat~~ rhythm and natural balance in all variations of the saddle gait.

a. Collected Saddle Gait. The horse, remaining "on the bit", moves forward with the neck raised and arched and showing clear self-carriage. The head approaches the vertical position and a light contact is maintained with the mouth. The hocks are well-engaged and must maintain an energetic gliding impulsion, enabling the shoulders to move more freely. Although the horse's steps are shorter than in the other saddle gaits, elasticity and cadence are not lessened.

b. Working Saddle Gait. ***With A*** energetic, regular consistent ~~4-beat~~ rhythm; the horse must go forward with ~~even~~ ***consistent*** and elastic steps. The back must be relaxed and the shoulders free, while there is an obvious push from the hindquarters. The hind legs actively glide under the horse. The horse must show proper balance and maintain light contact with the bit. The horse's nose must be on or slightly in front of the vertical.

c. Lengthening of Stride. This is a variation of the Working saddle gait; the horse covers more ground while maintaining the same tempo, consistent ~~4-beat~~ rhythm as in the Working saddle gait. Speeding up is a fault.

d. Free Saddle Gait. The Free saddle gait will show moderate lengthening of stride and frame compared to the Working saddle gait. Without hurrying, the horse goes forward with clearly lengthened steps, with impulsion from the hindquarters and uphill balance. The rider allows the horse to carry the head a little more in front of the vertical than at the Collected and the Working saddle gait. The horse's neck is "out", down and forward, with the nose slightly in front of the vertical, with a loose rein and the poll at approximately the same height as the wither (the neck is level). The steps should be consistent, the whole movement balanced and unconstrained, while maintaining a consistent ~~4-beat~~ rhythm.

PROPONENT

Western Dressage

Draft Received: 7/27/2015

CONTACT

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INTENT

This allows for varying footfalls which are diversified based on various gaited breeds.

LINKED RULES/COMMENTS

WD 106 (449-15)

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 12/22/2015

Draft 1: No Comments

Licensed Officials

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 08/24/2015

Draft 1: No Comments

Western Dressage

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 11/19/2015

Draft 1: No Comments

RULE CHANGE TYPE

EFFECTIVE

BOARD ACTION

Standard

12/1/2016

PROPOSED CHANGE

WD102 Participation in Western Dressage Competitions [CHAPTER SUBCHAPTER WD-1 WESTERN DRESSAGE HORSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES]

2. There is no limit on the number of rides on the same day. *Horses may enter no more than two consecutive levels, Freestyle levels included, at any one competition. Suitability, Hack and Equitation are excluded from the maximum limit of rides per day and horses in these classes may compete at any level for which they are otherwise eligible during the same competition. No horse may be ridden more than once in any Western Dressage class (including separate divisions or sections of the same class number).* ~~Horses may be ridden by multiple riders.~~ *Horses cannot be ridden by more than two riders.* Shows may further limit number of rides per horse and level if stated in their prize list. If there is a conflict with breed division rules regarding WD102.2, the breed division rules will apply.

PROPONENT

CONTACT

WDAA

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Draft Received: 11/24/2015

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INTENT

Limiting the number of rides per day will impact the well-being and integrity of the horse.

LINKED RULES/COMMENTS

Web: participation

COMMITTEE ACTIONS

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: Recommends Approval 12/22/2015

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments

Western Dressage

Draft 1: No Action
Draft 2: No Action
Draft 3: Recommends Approval 11/17/2015

Draft 1: No Comments
Draft 2: No Comments
Draft 3: No Comments