

Recommended Tack Guidelines For 4-H Equine Projects

(Please note that these are "guidelines". It is up to the competitor to check the rules for the show they are entering.)

(Revised Mar. 2011)

ENGLISH

English Flat Classes, Hunter Hack, Hunter Over Fences, Jumper & Handy Horse (English Trail or Obstacle)

Attire

ASTM/SEI Helmets with chin straps securely fastened are a requirement for all English classes. Should be dark coloured or covered with a dark coloured cover.

Dark coloured (or tweed) jacket. Breeches (or jodhpurs) should be neutral colors (beige, buff, light grey, or rust). Shirts should be white or light coloured, with either a collar and tie or with a choker collar (if a pin is worn, it should be smooth edged). Boots should be black or brown with a smooth sole and a heel, minimum ½". Half chaps are allowed if brown or black and matching the boot color. Dark gloves are recommended. Numbers must be worn in a manner which is easily visible. Hair must be neat and tidy, contained in a hair net, braid or bun (off the collar).

Spurs are optional, but if worn must be smooth and unrowelled and of the English type with a maximum ¾" shank length.

Equipment

Tack should be clean, neat and in good repair. All tack should be properly fitted.

Saddle should be of the English type.

Saddle pads may be fleece or cotton; a numnah shaped contoured pad is recommended. They should be solid (not patterned) and conservatively coloured (white, tan, brown, hunter green, navy, black, burgundy).

Girths will be acceptable in leather, string or nylon. They should be black, brown or white, ideally matched to the saddle.

Stirrup irons should be stainless steel. Safety irons are allowed. They should be of appropriate size. Rubber pads are acceptable.

Breastplates and/or cruppers are allowed.

Bridles must be leather, English in style, with a leather brow band (not solid white, coloured or sequined). Must have a leather cavesson noseband. Thin white edging is permissible.

Bits should be English in style: snaffle, Pelham, double or kimberwick. They may have a smooth, egg shaped, round or oval mouthpiece, with a minimum 5/16" diameter, measured 1" in from the cheek piece.

Kimberwicks and Pelhams are both leverage bits, and are required to be used with an appropriate curb chain.

Equipment Not Allowed

Western bits

Martingales

Boots or bandages

Ear nets (bonnets)

Side reins or draw reins.

Figure 8, Flash or Drop noseband.

Twisted Snaffles or gag snaffles.

Bitless Bridles.

Driving Bits.

Bit guards.

Whips or crops.

English snaffle bridles do not use chin straps.

Exceptions to the Above Events:

Hunter Hack:

- Breast plates and cruppers are **NOT** allowed.

Hunter Over Fences:

- Martingales **ARE** allowed.
- Dark colored crops or whips not exceeding 75 cm (30 in.) **ARE** allowed.

Jumper:

- Martingales **ARE** allowed.
- Boots and/or bandages **ARE** allowed.
- Ear nets (bonnets) **ARE** allowed.
- Figure 8, Flash or Drop noseband **ARE** allowed
- Bit guards **ARE** allowed
- Dark colored whips or crops **ARE** allowed

Dressage

Attire

ASTM/SEI Helmets with chin straps securely fastened are a requirement for all English classes. Should be dark coloured or covered with a dark coloured cover.

Dark coloured (or tweed) jacket, breeches (or jodhpurs) should be neutral colors (beige, buff, light grey, or rust). Shirts should be white or light coloured, with either a collar and tie or with a choker collar (if a pin is worn, it should be smooth edged). Boots should be black or brown with a smooth sole and a heel, minimum ½". Half chaps are allowed, if brown or black and matching the boot color. Numbers must be worn in a manner which is easily visible. Hair must be neat and tidy, contained in a hair net, braid or bun (off the collar).

Gloves are required and should be dark colored.

Spurs are optional, but if worn must be smooth and unrowelled and of the English type with a maximum ¾" shank length.

Equipment

Tack should be clean, neat and in good repair. All tack should be properly fitted.

Saddle should be of the English type.

Saddle pads must be square and either black or white in colour.

Girths will be acceptable in leather, string or nylon. They should be black, brown or white, ideally matched to the saddle.

Stirrup irons should be stainless steel. Safety irons are allowed. They should be of appropriate size. Rubber pads are acceptable.

Breastplates and/or cruppers are allowed.

Bridles must be leather, English in style, with a leather brow band (not solid white, coloured or sequined). Must have a leather cavesson noseband. Thin white edging is permissible.

A snaffle bit (or double bridle) is required. They may have a smooth, egg shaped, round or oval mouthpiece, with a minimum 5/16" diameter, measured 1" in from the cheek piece.

May use a dropped cavesson, flash or figure 8 noseband.

Boots and/or bandages are allowed in lower levels.

A dark colored whip may be carried, but must not exceed 110cm (43") in length (including the lash).

Manes should be braided, but tails must not be.

Equipment Not Allowed

Western bits

Martingales

Ear nets (bonnets)

Side reins or draw reins.

Twisted Snaffles or gag snaffles.

Bitless Bridles.

Driving Bits.

Bit guards.

English snaffle bridles do not use chin straps.

Showmanship

Attire

ASTM/SEI Helmets with chin straps securely fastened are a requirement for all English classes. Should be dark coloured or covered with a dark coloured cover.

Dark coloured (or tweed) jacket, breeches (or jodhpurs) should be neutral colors (beige, buff, light grey, or rust). Shirts should be white or light coloured, with either a collar and tie or with a choker collar (if a pin is worn, it should be smooth edged). Boots should be black or brown with a smooth sole and a heel, minimum ½". Half chaps are allowed, if brown or black and matching the boot color. Dark gloves are recommended. Numbers must be worn in a manner which is easily visible. Hair must be neat and tidy, contained in a hair net, braid or bun (off the collar).

Spurs are not allowed.

Equipment

A Bridle must be used if showing in English attire
Bridle should be leather and should be clean, well fitting and in good repair.

Equipment Not Allowed

Leg wraps or boots.

WESTERN

Western Show Classes, Trail, Reining, Working Cow Horse & Cutting

Attire

Riders must wear clean and neat appropriate Western attire, which would include a cowboy hat or approved ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet, shirt, blouse, jacket or vest with long sleeves and collar (band, tuxedo, stand-up, etc.), and cowboy boots. Pull on boots are preferred. Long tailed shirts must tuck in. Pants should be of the Western type (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc.). Pants with belt loops must be worn with a belt. Blue jeans are acceptable, providing they are clean, in new condition, and not frayed or rolled up. Chaps, spurs and gloves are optional.

Spurs must be humane and of the western type.

Equipment

All equipment must be clean, tidy and in good repair.

Saddle must be of the western type without tapaderos.

Must have stirrup hobbles above the stirrup.

If riding with an optional back cinch, the back cinch must be hobbled to the front cinch.

Correctly fitting breast collar is optional

Any western brow band bridle must have a throatlatch.

Western bridles must have a curb or chin strap. Curb or chin straps may be either leather or chain, but must be at least ½” wide and must lay flat; this applies to each portion of the curb strap, combined width. A chain curb or chin strap is not allowed with a snaffle bit.

Any suitable humane western bit as described below is acceptable:

-must have a maximum overall length of 8 1/2” (measured from the inside of the top ring to the pull point of the bottom ring)

-mouthpieces must be a minimum of 5/16” in diameter measured 1” in from the cheek piece

-mouthpiece may be one, two or three pieces and should be smooth, egg shaped, round or oval

-the port of a curb bit must not exceed 3 1/2”

A rein must be attached to each shank of a shanked bit; they may not be crossed over beneath the horse’s neck.

On a snaffle bit, the reins attach to the ring on the bit above the chin strap. On a curb or shanked bit, the curb or chin strap attaches to the bit at the same place as the cheek pieces of the bridle. [Insert Photo Here]

If riding with one hand, Split or Rommel reins are allowed.

When riding with two hands, it is recommended to ride with the reins in a ‘bridge’ or in the 3-rein position.

Horses over the age of five (as of January 1st of the current year) must be shown in a shanked bit. Horses under 5 may be shown in either a snaffle bit or bosal using two hands on the reins. A horse under five years of age, using a curb or shanked bit, must be ridden with one hand.

Equipment Not Allowed

Martingales

Nosebands

Tie Downs

Side pulls, cross reins, or draw reins

Barrel/roper reins

Twisted wire, wire wrapped or chain mouthpieces

Gag bits, donuts and prong bits.

Boots or leg wraps

Mechanical Hackamores

Exceptions to the Above Events:

Reining, Working Cow Horse & Cutting:

- Splint or skid boots (protective boots) **ARE** allowed.

Showmanship

Attire

Riders must wear clean and neat appropriate Western attire, which would include a cowboy hat or approved ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet, shirt, blouse, jacket or vest with long sleeves and collar (band, tuxedo, stand-up, etc.), and cowboy boots. Pull on boots are preferred. Long tailed shirts must tuck in. Pants should be of the Western type (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc.). Pants with belt loops must be worn with a belt. Blue jeans are acceptable, providing they are clean, in new condition, and not frayed or rolled up.

Chaps and spurs are not allowed.

Gloves are recommended.

Equipment

Halter and lead must be clean, well fitting and in good repair.

Halter must be nylon web or leather; rope or cotton blend halters are not appropriate.

Shank should be leather or rope with a snap hooked onto the ring under the jaw, or leather with a chain, which is passed through the ring on the left side of the halter, under the chin to the right side ring and up to the top ring of the halter.

Equipment Not Allowed

Leg wraps or boots.

Gymkhana Events

Attire

Riders must wear clean and neat appropriate Western attire, which would include a cowboy hat or approved ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet, shirt, blouse, jacket or vest with long sleeves and collar (band, tuxedo, stand-up, etc.), and cowboy boots. Pull on boots are preferred. Long tailed shirts must tuck in. Pants should be of the Western type (slacks, trousers, jeans, etc.). Pants with belt loops must be worn with a belt. Blue jeans are acceptable, providing they are clean, in new condition, and not frayed or rolled up. Chaps, spurs and gloves are optional.

Spurs must be humane and of the western type.

Equipment

All equipment must be clean, tidy and in good repair.

Saddle must be of the western type without tapaderos.

Must have stirrup hobbles above the stirrup.

If riding with an optional back cinch, the back cinch must be hobbled to the front cinch.

Correctly fitting breast collar is optional

Any western brow band bridle must have a throatlatch.

Western bridles must have a curb or chin strap. Curb or chin straps may be either leather or chain, but must be at least ½” wide and must lay flat; this applies to each portion of the curb strap, combined width. A chain curb or chin strap is not allowed with a snaffle bit.

Any suitable humane western bit as described below is acceptable:

- must have a maximum overall length of 8 1/2” (measured from the inside of the top ring to the pull point of the bottom ring)

- mouthpieces must be a minimum of 5/16” in diameter measured 1” in from the cheek piece

- mouthpiece may be one, two or three pieces and should be smooth, egg shaped, round or oval

- the port of a curb bit must not exceed 3 1/2”

A rein must be attached to each shank of a shanked bit; they may not be crossed over beneath the horse’s neck.

On a snaffle bit, the reins attach to the ring on the bit above the chin strap. On a curb or shanked bit, the curb or chin strap attaches to the bit at the same place as the cheek pieces of the bridle. [Insert Photo Here]

If riding with one hand, Split or Rommel reins are allowed.

When riding with two hands, it is recommended to ride with the reins in a ‘bridge’ or in the 3-rein position.

Acceptable snaffle bits may be used on horses over 5 years of age when riding western if the rider is able to demonstrate control of the horse with that snaffle bit.

**Tie downs, running martingales, barrel/roper reins and splint boots are acceptable.
Whips, bats and quirts not exceeding 30” in length may be used in moderation behind the cinch.**

Equipment Not Allowed:

Side pulls, cross reins, or draw reins

Twisted wire, wire wrapped or chain mouthpieces

Gag bits, donuts, prong bits or mechanical hackamores

No bare wire allowed on any equipment.