

Pony Club Tasmania Inc



PONY CLUB
TASMANIA

Gear Rules

With Comfort and Safety Requirements

Effective **December** 2015

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

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PCT would like to thank PCAV and acknowledge their support in allowing the reproduction of their Gear Rules.

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Introduction

Pony Club Tasmania Incorporated (PCT) produced these rules and guidelines with approval from Pony Club Association of Victoria.

This rule book supersedes all previous versions. It governs all activities, competitions and rallies conducted by PCT, its clubs and zones.

Definitions

In this rule book, the following definitions apply:

- PCT means Pony Club Tasmania Inc.
- Zone: means the zone a pony club is allocated to in accordance with the *Handbook of By-laws*.
- FEI means Fédération Equestre Internationale (www.horsesport.org).
- Activity: unless otherwise specified, means any rally, instructional or non-competitive riding activity undertaken while hosted by PCT, or a club or zone affiliated with PCT.
- Competition: means any competition hosted, organised, conducted, supervised or under the control of PCT, or a club or zone affiliated with PCT.
- Unless stated to the contrary, a reference in this handbook to a rule, in this publication or elsewhere, refers to the rule and all its sub-clauses.
- Unless otherwise specified, reference to a rule number means the rules within this publication.
- The singular includes the plural and vice versa; and words importing one gender include the other.

Some reference material noted in this book is available from PCT Treasurer.

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Section 6

Gear Rules

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 Scope

PCT publications refer to “gear” as an abbreviation for saddlery and equipment. This rule book describes gear requirements.

Any zone / club hosting an activity or competition under PCT rules must abide by these rules.

6.1.2 Gear

The gear specified is a necessary requirement of riding, designed to provide comfort and safety for the rider and horse (combination), and equal and fair terms for competition.

The required outcomes are:

- a. Safety of the rider
- b. Comfort and safety of the horse
- c. Compliance with competition rules.

6.1.3 Why Competition Rules?

In these rules, there is a distinction between rally/non-competitive activities and competitions. For instance, saddles must always fit and be in good condition, whether at a rally or competition. A snaffle bit is not mandatory at a rally, nor is it a safety issue but it is required for dressage and senior riders for games competitions. Spurs and whips are other examples where their use at a rally is not specific but, in competition, there are strict rules.

Hackamores are not allowed at rallies, but are in Show Jumping and Eventing competitions so if a rider wants to use one at a rally they need to apply for a dispensation from the Zone CCs.

The reasons for this are:

- a. To provide uniformity of gear, so every rider is assessed under the same conditions
- b. To cater for the different assessment (judging) needs of a competition, relative to its intended outcomes.

The following comparisons show this:

- a. **Dressage:** requires snaffle bits and no martingales (except in grade 5), so the progressive training of the horse can be judged.
- b. **Flat and musical teams:** require snaffle bits as, the training of the horse, rider and the team are being assessed
- c. **Games:**
Senior riders – a snaffle bit only is permitted.
Junior riders under 16 (whichever section they participate in) – any bit is permitted provided it does not injure the horse, though a snaffle is recommended and encouraged. It is recognised that junior riders may not have the strength to control an exuberant pony.
- d. **Jumping and cross-country:** any bit is permitted, provided it does not injure the horse. This allows the rider to maintain control of the horse in the open and between fences.

6.2 Gear Check – When, Where and Who

6.2.1 When

Before participating in a rally, activity or competition: All riders (including non-PCT members) must be checked to ensure the gear complies.

At competitions:

- a. At an official competition: gear check must occur before each event, phase or test.

6.2.2 Where

Gear check must occur at a controlled, supervised location, which may be:

- a. At a formal gear check location on the grounds
- b. At the beginning of the first instruction session

6.2.3 Who

The gear must be checked by one of the following:

- a. The District Commissioner (DC)
- b. An authorised instructor
- c. A person authorised by the club
- d. At a competition, a person authorised by the organising committee.
- e. Any person who carries out a gear check is a Gear Check Steward and must perform in accordance with rule 6.5.

6.3 Gear Check Overview

6.3.1 Prime Objective

To ensure comfort, safety and competition requirements are achieved.

6.3.2 Rally/Non-Competitive Activity

While always being required to meet the standards, it is also the time to:

- a. Discuss with both the rider and parent/guardian gear rules that are not being met.
- b. Recommend and establish plans to correct non-urgent gear concerns, and overcome immediate problems.

Competition rules must not be imposed at a rally unless it is an internal or inter-club competition.

The club is required to meet its obligations to provide education and advice on the issues of:

- a. Gear check processes and requirements
- b. Relevance of comfort and safety
- c. Welfare of the horse
- d. Competition requirements.

6.3.3 Competition

The rider is required to know and comply with all requirements before competing.

Gear check at competition should be a quick check to ensure the required competition gear is in use and meets comfort and safety requirements. It is not the time to educate and advise.

Grade 5 competitions are unofficial and in the interest of safety riders may deviate from the horse requirements of the competition gear rules providing rule 6.3.4 is followed.

6.3.4 Comfort and Safety Criteria

Gear must be:

- a. Safe
- b. In good order with no worn parts
- c. Comfortable for the horse
- d. Fitted correctly and used according to the manufacturer's instructions
- e. Appropriate for the activity
- f. Not specifically prohibited by these rules

There must be no restrictions or attachments of any kind or a bit or item of saddlery likely to wound the horse.

6.3.5 The Absolute Minimum

If these items do not absolutely comply or are not changed to comply, the rider must not ride:

- a. Helmet in accordance with rule 6.10.5
- b. Riding boots in accordance with rule 6.10.7
- c. Wear and tear in accordance with rule 6.11.2 any worn parts and stitching that is unsafe
- d. Bit in accordance with rule 6.11.4
- e. Saddle fit (when used) in accordance with rule 6.11.9 may be improved with riser pad
- f. Stirrups (when used) in accordance with rules 6.11.14 to 6.11.16
- g. Specified competition gear refer to the appropriate pages in these rules

6.3.6 Commercially Manufactured Gear

An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 6.3.4 and 6.3.5 is acceptable.

6.3.7 Changing Gear after Gear Check

Once a combination has completed gear check, gear must not be changed until the rider has finished riding in the specific activity, competition or phase.

If gear is changed after a specific activity, competition or phase, the gear must be rechecked.

6.3.8 Failed Gear Check

Riders must successfully complete a gear check at every activity or competition.

The gear check steward or the appropriate official must not permit anyone to ride who has failed a gear check, in accordance with rule 6.3.10.

6.3.9 Due Process

Any exclusion of a rider from riding must only occur after the relevant processes outlined in rule 6.5 have been fully discharged.

6.3.10 Exclusion or Elimination

Non-compliance with these rules may result in exclusion from participation in the activity or elimination from the competition or phase of a competition.

6.3.11 Dispute

Any disputes must be referred to the club DC at a rally or the most senior official, TD, chief judge or jury of appeal on the day of a competition. Their decision is final.

6.3.12 Insurance Limitation

A rider who does not comply with all of these rules may prejudice their entitlement to insurance under the PCT insurance policy or be left uninsured.

6.4 Rider's Responsibilities

6.4.1 At All Activities and Competitions

Be courteous and polite to gear check stewards at all times.

Learn the requirements by reading these rules and ensure gear complies.

If unsure about any gear, seek help from the club's DC.

Present for gear check as required, in accordance with rule 6.2.1, and allow plenty of time in case changes are required.

Adjust or replace any unsatisfactory gear as requested by the gear check steward.

Ask your parent/guardian for assistance if required. Gear check stewards must not alter a rider's gear, in accordance with rule 6.5.1.e.

Riders must not alter any gear after passing through gear check in accordance with rule 6.3.7.

6.4.2 Additional for Competitions

The competitor must know what is required and present to gear check in correct competition gear. Competitions are not the place for education, in accordance with rule 6.3.3.

The gear check steward's role is to:

- a. Check the gear as presented by the competitor to ensure it meets comfort and safety requirements
- b. Make every effort to notice any gear that does not comply with the competition requirements and advise the rider accordingly. However, the responsibility to ride in the correct competition gear remains with the competitor, in accordance with rule 6.4.2.a. If any judge or official discovers a competitor riding with incorrect competition gear, elimination may occur, in accordance with rule 6.3.10.

The competitor must not expect the competition to be reorganised to accommodate them, if their scheduled riding time has passed due to late arrival at gear check or a gear check query, even though the organising committee may make an effort to do so.

The competitor must not ride if they cannot comply. However, the gear check steward must inform the competitor on how to comply.

6.4.3 Non-compliance Means No Ride

Comply with the gear rules, as failure to do so may result in exclusion or elimination from the competition, in accordance with rule 6.3.10.

6.4.4 Insurance Reminder

A rider who does not comply with these rules may prejudice their entitlement to insurance under the PCT insurance policy or be left uninsured, in accordance with rule 6.3.12.

6.5 Gear Check Steward's Responsibilities

In accordance with rule 6.2.3, a person (also known as a gear checker) must perform gear check duties as follows:

6.5.1 When Checking Gear

Be courteous and polite to riders at all times.

Be fully conversant with all of these rules and ensure the current gear rules are used.

While comfort and safety requirements must be met, the required demeanour of the gear check steward must be one that seeks to help riders meet the requirements rather than exclude riders that could otherwise be advised on how to meet the requirements.

As far as possible, complete the gear check in a safe, quick manner without touching the rider. Explaining at all times what you are about to check.

Never alter any gear. When gear needs changing or altering, the gear check steward must request the rider, team manager or, if needed, the rider's responsible adult, to make the necessary adjustments and report back when this is complete.

Feet must remain in stirrups. At all times during gear check, the rider's feet must remain in the stirrups and the rider must have control of the reins in case the horse takes fright.

It is possible to check the stitching on the leathers by asking the rider to move the leg forward as if they were tightening their girth. This exposes both the stitching of the leather and the stirrup bar. Another method would be to ask the rider to roll their knee and thigh away from the saddle, as though they were going to alter their stirrup leather; this also exposes the stitching. To check the stirrup end of the leather for wear, ask the rider to take the weight of their foot slightly off the stirrup, so that the stirrup can move. Do this at the same time that you assess stirrup size.

If it is necessary for an inspection of gear that would require the rider to remove a foot from the stirrup, you must request the rider to dismount. However, this would be in an unusual situation.

6.5.2 Additional for Rally

Make all reasonable effort to assist the rider to pass gear check, educate and advise the rider in accordance with rule 6.3.2.

Keep records to ensure gear is maintained or replaced as advised.

6.5.3 Additional for Competitions

While it is the rider's responsibility to present in the correct gear, the gear check steward must make every reasonable effort to notice any gear that does not comply with the competition requirements and inform the rider how they can comply.

If a competitor is in jeopardy of missing their riding time because of gear problems, the steward must do all they reasonably can to accommodate the competitor with another time without unduly inconveniencing other competitors and the general running of the day.

6.5.4 When All Else Fails – No Ride

If, after fully discharging the above process, a rider cannot comply with these rules, they must not ride.

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.

6.6 Competition Quick Reference /Check Guide

6.6.1 Use

The *Competition Quick Reference/Check Guide*, is at the end of this publication.. Note that competition rules are frequently different to gear check requirements at rallies.

Do not use the Competition Quick Reference /Check Guide as a substitute for a full understanding of these rules. Only use it as a reminder, once these rules have been fully read and understood.

Always ensure the most recent version of these rules is used. Never rely on memory; rules change.

PCT rules are available from the PCT web site.

6.7 Uniform

6.7.1 Club Uniform Items

The club's official uniform must consist of only the following garments.

Official:

- a. Club shirt with approved club tie
- b. Woollen V-neck jumper
- c. Jodhpurs/Moleskins
- d. Saddle cloth

Active:

- a. Club registered Polo, Rugby Top or Windcheater
- b. Club registered cap cover
- c. Club registered Spray Jacket

Members of a team must all wear the same uniform combination at a competition

6.7.2 Colours

Club colours are registered with PCT. Clubs must apply to PCT if they wish to change or add new items to club uniforms.

Clubs are to supply a single digital photo with unmounted riders wearing all items of their latest uniform, with all cuffs, collars and markings clearly shown. The photo to include the club saddle cloth, cap covers and badges if used.

6.7.3 Rallies

Club committees decide what uniform or attire must be worn at rallies.

For safety, members must always wear approved footwear and, when mounted, an approved equestrian helmet, in accordance with rule 6.10.5.

Singlets or sleeveless garments must not be worn at any time with the exception of a sleeveless safety vest, which when worn, must be worn over a sleeved garment.

Attire that has not been approved by the club committee must not be worn.

Clubs may allow a period of grace before requiring a member to purchase and wear the full pony club uniform at a rally.

When vaulting under supervision, members are permitted to wear soft-soled shoes and no hat.

6.7.4 Competitions

Pony club sections: To compete at competitions, all pony clubs must have an official uniform. Uniforms must be approved by PCT.

Open sections: Participants must comply with any standards that may be specified by an organising committee.

A member may remove a jumper, jacket or vest in hot weather with judges/organisers approval.

At competitions, official club uniform items must only be worn in the following combinations:

- a. Woollen V neck jumper with club shirt and club tie
- b. **Games:** official uniform or approved club active top.
- c. **Cross Country:** Official uniform or approved club active top

6.7.5 Badges

- a. Embroidered logos are permitted, however sponsorship logos are not permitted on official club uniforms.
- b. The club metal badge or embroidered club cloth badge may be worn at the bottom of the point on the V neck club jumper
- c. Efficiency Test Badges – positioned on the Right arm starting with D at the top
- d. Championship Participation Badges – positioned on the Left arm with the grade bars below the respective Competition Badge
- e. State Representation Badge – on Left Front

6.7.6 Approved PCT Badge

As an option, the PCT badge (Figure 2) may be worn on at the bottom of the point on the V neck of club jumpers. The club name may be added underneath.



Figure 2. PCT Badge

6.7.7 Approved PCT State Uniform

Only the approved state uniform may be worn when representing PCT.

6.7.8 Official Uniform

- a. Woollen Bottle Green V Neck Jumper
- b. Yellow Tie
- c. White Shirt
- d. Beige/white Jodhpurs
- e. White Saddle cloth for Dressage, Showjumping and Eventing Dressage/Showjumping
- f. Bottle Green Saddle cloth for cross country



6.7.9 Official competition uniform

Cross Country

- a. Bottle Green polo top - either long or short sleeve permitted
- b. Beige jodhpurs
- c. Bottle Green Saddle Cloth

Games

- a. Bottle Green polo top – short sleeve

6.7.10 Dress and Trot Up Uniform

- a. Mint/Avocado green $\frac{3}{4}$ sleeve dress shirt, black trousers and black shoes
- b. Optional Items
- c. Approved Spray Jacket in State Colours
- d. Approved Rugby Top in State Colours
- e. Green Cap
- f. Approved polo fleece or similar vest

6.7.11 Prohibited Uniform Items at Competitions

Singlets or sleeveless garments: Must not be worn at any time with the exception of a safety vest, which when worn, must be worn over a sleeved garment.

6.8 Checking Saddle Fit and Condition

6.8.1 For the Horse

When assessing the fit of the saddle the priority is always the horse.

A well-fitting saddle will not pinch the horse's shoulders or place uneven weight or pressure on the spine or back. This will allow the horse to work comfortably and happily to the best of his ability. An incorrectly fitting saddle may cause the horse to show discomfort in a number of ways—from actively raising his head and swishing his tail, to not working properly forward or even refusing to jump.

6.8.2 How the Fit of the Saddle can be Affected

Saddle fitting has become a complicated science with courses and qualifications available. Even professionally fitted saddles are subject to external influences that can cause the saddle fit to change.

Influences:

a. Condition of the horse

A correctly worked horse will have a well-muscled back or top line to support the saddle. How the top line changes:

- i. When the horse is turned out and not worked, muscle tone deteriorates
- ii. As a horse ages, the top line also changes and becomes less defined
- iii. Horses that lose weight due to illness or change of season will also have poor top lines
- iv. Ponies that become very fat will have a changed top line.

b. Condition of the saddle

- i. Panels might need reconditioning, as they may become hard and flat or lumpy, upsetting the fit and, therefore, comfort of the horse
- ii. The saddle might not sit level, tipping back or forward due to an incorrectly sized gullet. This affects the rider's position and balance, which also upsets the horse.

6.8.3 Checking Saddle Fit for Comfort

The gear checker is not expected to be a saddle fitter but rather someone who will recognise a badly fitting saddle that may cause discomfort to the horse.

Most problems can be solved using a commercially manufactured riser pad to get through the activity. This is only an interim solution. The rider must then seek professional help to restuff or change the saddle.

Towels, a second saddlecloth or other makeshift arrangements must never be used in an attempt to correct an ill-fitting saddle. They create ridges and/or pressure causing more discomfort to the horse's back.

Place fingers flat under the saddle blanket at the wither and check:

- a. Does the saddle have clearance from the wither along the spine?
- b. Are the wither and shoulder free and not pinched?

6.8.4 The Rider and the Saddle

Is the saddle the right size? A hand's width (about 10cm) between the rider and the cantle indicates the right size.

Is the flap long enough for the rider's leg? The rider's knee should not be above the kneepads.

Is the seat/waist of the saddle correct? If the seat/waist is too narrow or too wide, the rider may experience discomfort.

6.8.5 Saddle Maintenance

Is the saddle well maintained?

- a. Leather—regularly cleaned and oiled, soft and supple leather, safe and comfortable for the horse
- b. Synthetic—clean, synthetic covering not cracked or breaking away
- c. Mounts—well-fitting and maintained mounts are just as important as the saddle
- d. Saddle Cloth—should be cleaned to remove dirt and sweat that can irritate or cause discomfort to the horse. Two saddlecloths are not permitted as that increases pressure on the horse.
- e. Girth and Points—clean, correct length, not worn. A clean girth helps avoid girth galls, usually caused by dirty girths that are too tight or loose
- f. Stirrup Leathers—clean, stitching maintained, holes free from tears.

6.9 Other Checks

6.9.1 The Bit

When a competition requires a compliant snaffle bit, the gear check steward can gently pull the bit to one side in the horse's mouth. This will expose the mouthpiece and central joint(s) for checking.

If the gear check steward is unable to determine if the bit is correct, they may require the rider to return to gear check at the completion of the test or applicable competition, to remove the bridle and check the bit. Do this in a safe place using a headstall and lead rope. If the bit is not compliant, the competitor must be eliminated.

6.9.2 Helmet Fit

Gear check stewards may ask the rider to demonstrate correct helmet fit by placing one hand on top of the helmet and moving helmet from side to side, back and forwards.

A helmet only protects what it covers. Always wear a helmet low at the front to protect the forehead; it should fit snugly but comfortably. With a correctly adjusted harness, you cannot remove the helmet, or roll it backward or forward, to expose the forehead, obscure vision or hit the nose. If the fit is comfortable and the skin on your forehead moves with the helmet, the fit is correct; if not the helmet is too loose.

Refer to rule 10.5 for other requirements.

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.

6.10 Rider Requirements

Reminder:

- Non-compliance may mean that you (the rider) are uninsured, in accordance with rule 3.12.

6.10.1 Uniform and Attire

Rally and activity: It is the decision of the committee of management at each pony club as to what its members must wear at rallies/activities. However, boots and helmets must always be worn while mounted as specified in these rules.

Competition:

Pony club sections: Refer to rule 6.7

6.10.2 Jodhpurs and Moleskins

As above

6.10.3 Hair

Rally and activity: Recommended but not essential, that hair is tied up or back, so that it does not catch on anything.

Competition: Tied up so it does not obscure any part of a competitor number. This is especially important for cross-country where a fence judge may not be able to identify the competitor. This could lead to wrongly assigning faults.

6.10.4 Jewellery and Piercing

Rally and Activity:

Jewellery: watches and medical bracelets are permitted. All other visible jewellery must be removed or taped.

Piercing: all visible piercing must be removed or taped.

Competition:

Same as for Rally/Activity

6.10.5 Helmets

Rally and Activity:

It is the rider's and or parent/guardian's responsibility to ensure the rider wears a helmet at all times while mounted and it is:

- Fastened and fitted in accordance with rule 6.9.2,
- One of the complying standards: AS/NZS 3838, **EN1384 pre 2016**, ASTM F 1163, PAS 015 or **VG 1**
- Being used or is replaced from time to time, in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Always check the helmet fit.

Competition:

Rider onus and rule 6.3.12 apply

Spot checks may occur. However, an organising committee, at its discretion, may require all competitors to present helmets at the event office for inspection of a compliance standards number. If this is required, the entry form/schedule must state so.

All Rally/Activity conditions apply

Compulsory checks of compliance standard numbers are not mandatory as rider onus and rule 6.3.12 apply. However, pony club officials reserve the right to inspect a rider's helmet at any time

6.10.6 Medical Armbands

Rally and Activity: It is the decision of each pony club's committee of management whether its members are required to wear armbands or not.

The card insert can be any colour as long as the information is correct

Competition: Must be worn by all competitors (including non-PCT members) on Cross Country. Armbands must be inspected before the competitor rides to ensure their name and an emergency contact and phone number are visible and legible. The card insert can be any colour Rider/parent/guardian onus applies to ensure details are completed correctly

Must be visible at all times on left upper arm, on the outside of garments.

6.10.7 Boots

Rally and Activity: The objective is for the boot to be able to slide backwards out of the stirrup easily, but not forward through the stirrup. Boots must be:

- Short jodhpur or long boots
- Fully soled in smooth leather or rubber synthetic material
- A shallow ripple sole is acceptable
- Must be full grain leather on the exposed side may have suede on the inside
- Long boots that are laced at the ankle (field boots) are permitted

Short boots that lace at the ankle with eyelets and billet hooks must have these covered with either a gaiter or a chappette, in accordance with rule 10.8

Competition: Colour must be brown or black.

All other Rally/Activity conditions apply.

6.10.8 Gaiters and Chappettes

Rally and Activity:
Gaiters / chappettes are permitted.

Competition:

May only be worn with complying short boots.

Colour must match boots (black or brown). May have hunting tops, which must be brown or black.

6.10.9 Spurs

Rally and Activity:

All riders may use spurs, as they are being supervised in a training environment.

Spurs design rules:

- Spurs capable of wounding a horse are forbidden
- Must be made of metal
- There must be a shank either curved or straight pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the rider's boot
- The shank must not exceed 20 mm in length
- The tip of the shank must not point upwards or inwards
- The arms of the spurs must be smooth
- Must sit on the curve of the back of the heel with the buckle of the strap to the outside.
- Impulse Spurs with plastic knobs are allowed
- Roller Ball spurs are permitted
- Spurs with Rowels are not permitted

Competition:

May only be used where the competition rules permit (refer specific competition requirements).

Same design rules as Rally/Activity.



Impulse Spurs



Roller Ball Spurs

6.10.10 Whips

Rally and Activity:

A rider may use a whip, if required.

Permissible whips are:

- Not exceeding 750 mm including a flat flap on the end, which must not be weighted; or
- Not exceeding 1200 mm including the lash
- While riding, it is preferable that hands not be placed through whip handle straps,

Cutting handle straps or whip flaps is not a requirement.

Competition:

May be only used where the competition rules permit (refer to specific competition requirements).

All other rally/activity conditions apply.

6.10.11 Rain Coats and Gloves

Rally and Activity:

Permitted

Competition:

Permitted. However, competitor number and armband must remain clearly visible.

6.10.12 Lungeing

Rally and Activity:

- Permitted
- Must take place in a designated “lungeing area”.
- Side Reins are permitted
- Ancillary equipment is not permitted – see 6.12.1
- If no such area exists lungeing must not take place

Competition:

Correct competition gear may be worn.

- Lungeing cavessons may be used
- Side reins permitted.
- ancillary equipment is not permitted – see 6.12.1
- Horse boots are permitted

Must only take place in a designated “lungeing only” area if the competition schedule permits it

6.10.13 Competitor Numbers

Rally and Activity:

Not applicable

Competition:

Not all competitions require competitor numbers.

When required, competitor numbers must be fully visible at all times while mounted, under penalty of elimination.

Competitor numbers must be displayed by one of the following methods:

- **Body number:** on both the competitor’s chest and back for cross-country
- **Bridle:** on both the left and right side of the bridle
- **Saddle cloth:** on both the left and right side of the saddlecloth.

The Organising Committee shall specify in the schedule what type of numbers, are to be worn.

The organising committee shall specify what numbers they will provide and what numbers, if any, must be supplied by the competitor.

6.10.14 Back Protectors

Rally and Activity:

Permitted and encouraged

Competition:

Compulsory for grades 1-3 now for Cross Country and for grades 4 & 5 in interclub competitions from 15/3/16

Remember

- An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 6.3.4 and 6.3.5 is acceptable.

6.11 Horse Requirements

Reminder:

- Non-compliance may mean that you (the rider) are uninsured, in accordance with rule 6.3.12.

6.11.1 Horse Condition

Rally and Activity:

Should be in good condition and well groomed.

Hooves must be in good order, whether the horse is shod or not.

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.2 Stitching, Holes, Wear and Tear

Rally and Activity:

Stitching: must be in good condition.

Holes: must not be torn or unduly worn.

Wear and Tear: all gear must be checked for wear and tear.

Special areas of concern:

- **Saddle Girth Points:** Check for wear and tear around the holes and stitching around the attachment to the tree.
- **Reins:** Check stitching and look for cracking, especially if billet hooks are used, and wear around the bit.
- **Stirrup Leathers:** Must not be cracked or thin from use, especially where the stirrup hangs. Stitching must be sound.

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.3 Bridles

Rally and Activity:

The throat lash should be tight enough so it does not slip over the horse's cheek and not so tight that it restricts the horse's breathing

The cheek straps must not be too tight, only one or two creases on either side of the mouth above the bit should show, nor so loose that they bulge sideways when rein pressure is applied.

The brow band must be large enough not to pull on the back of the ears and not so big that it protrudes from the horse's forehead

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.4 Bits

Rally and Activity:

The horse must have a bit in its mouth with reins attached when ridden.

The bit must not be too wide or too narrow; otherwise the central hinge will rub on the horse's gums. About 10 mm of the bit must protrude on either side of the horse's mouth and there must be one or two wrinkles on either side of the mouth above the bit.

Any bit may be used at a rally/activity. However, the rider must be educated that:

- There are competitions where only a snaffle bit is permitted
- Until competent with a snaffle, they will not be able to compete in those competitions.

Curb chain shall lie flat. Guards recommended but not compulsory

Competition:

Must be used in accordance with competition rules (refer specific competition requirements).

Refer to rule 6.17.4 for the various snaffle bits permitted in competition.

Games Riders:

- Seniors – Snaffle bit only,
- Juniors – Any bit is permitted

All Rally/Activity conditions apply.

6.11.5 Cheek Guards

Rally and Activity:

Permitted. (Cheek guards are leather, rubber or synthetic circular attachments that stop the bit pulling through the mouth).

Competition:

Permitted except in dressage tests, flat teams and musical ride

6.11.6 Nosebands

Rally and Activity:

Nosebands must be in accordance with rule 18.1.

Competition:

Are permitted. However, when a snaffle bit is specified for the competition, only the nosebands in rule 18.2 are permitted.

At all other times, refer to rule 6.18.1

6.11.7 Fly Hoods (e.g. ear bonnets, ear covers, etc) & Ear Muffs

Rally and Activity:

Permitted.

Competition:

Fly Hoods only are allowed for outdoor dressage competitions, including eventing dressage, but nothing is allowed underneath them. See EA Dressage rule 2.14 & Eventing rule 539.2.3.

Ear muffs are only permitted in cross-country and showjumping.

6.11.8 Reins

Rally and Activity:

Reins must be attached to the bit. Whether knotted or not, must at least reach the pommel of the saddle when the horse is standing square and relaxed.

Knotted reins must not have a loop at the end; hence the buckle must be undone.

Grass reins: Reins or ties that restrict the horse from reaching down to eat grass are permitted.

Competition:

Grass reins are not permitted.

All other reins same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.9 Saddle

Rally and Activity:

The saddle must fit correctly and sit straight on the horse, in accordance with rule 6.8.

The saddle must fit and function in the manner for which it was designed.

If the saddle has a tree, it must leave the spine free of any pressure when the rider is mounted

Treeless saddles are permitted

Refer to saddle fit rule 8; also refer to the girth and stirrup leather, bars and irons rules 6.11.13 to 6.11.15

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.10 Saddlecloth and Covers

Rally and Activity:

One only saddlecloth must be used with or without one commercial riser pad.

A saddlecloth is anything put under the saddle other than a commercial riser pad.

A commercial riser pad may be:

- Riser pad
- Gel pad
- ½ Numnah

Sheepskin pad

Club colours are optional.

The saddlecloth must be fitted so there is no ridge or edge under the seat of the saddle that could cause soreness in the horse's back.

Folded/rolled saddlecloths, towels and other makeshift padding are only permitted as an emergency fix.

Saddle covers are permitted.

Competition:

Saddle covers are not permitted.

All Rally/Activity conditions apply.

A quarter sheet may be worn during warm-up or warm-down, provided it is fitted under the saddle and is not attached in any way to the rider.

6.11.11 Cruppers and Fore Girths

Rally and Activity:

All Permitted.

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.12 Monkey Grips/Neckstraps

Rally and Activity:

All Permitted.

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.13 Girth

Rally and Activity:

The saddle may have one or more points. However, if the saddle has only one point, or a single-point girth is used, a surcingle or the applicable rigging must be used.

The girth must be firmly tight and must be secured to the corresponding girth points on either side of the saddle.

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.14 Stirrup Leathers

Rally and Activity:

Stirrup leathers must be outside the saddle flap and not tied down.

The free end of the leather may be put in the stirrup keeper on the saddle.

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.15 Stirrup Irons

Rally and Activity:

The objective is that the boot is able to easily slide backwards out of the stirrup. A stirrup too large is as dangerous as one too small; as the foot could slip right through.

Stirrup irons must be completely enclosed on all sides.

If peacock irons are used, they must be fitted with a rubber safety band.

All stirrup irons and oxbows must fit the rider's boot. When the ball of the foot is in the stirrup and the foot is over to one side, with approx 1 – 2cm or one finger of spare space.

Toe-stoppers are permitted, the size of the stirrup iron spacing is not compromised.

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.16 Stirrup Bars

Rally and Activity:

If the stirrup bar is hinged, it may be up or down.

A pony pad, paddle or treeless saddle that has an enclosed “D” rather than a stirrup bar must be fitted with clogs, stirrups with toe-stoppers or quick out/quick release stirrups as per manufacturer’s guidelines.

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.17 Martingales**Rally and Activity:**

Standing martingales are permitted. They may not be attached to any type of dropped noseband. If used must be able to reach the horse’s gullet when pushed up into it and attached to the noseband with the horse’s head in a normal position

Running martingales, if used, must be fitted so the rings can reach the horse’s gullet when the horse is standing in a normal position.

A diagonally fitted rubber stopper or a fixed ring at the horse’s chest is compulsory with all running and standing martingales

Irish martingales are permitted

Stops on the reins are compulsory.

Competition:

May be only used where the competition rules permit (refer to specific competition requirements).

6.11.18 Breastplates**Rally and Activity:**

Must avoid interfering with the horse’s breathing or with the movement of the horse’s shoulder.

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity.

6.11.19 Bandages, Taping and Exercise Boots**Rally and Activity:**

Bandages must be secure

Taping of bandages is not permitted

Taping of boots is permitted but discouraged

Exercise boots are permitted providing they are fitted to the manufacturer’s specifications.

Straps and fastenings must be on the outside of the horse’s leg and face to the back. If the fastening includes a “D” fastener, then the straps must be threaded through them.

Competition:

Exercise boots may be only used where the competition rules permit (refer to specific competition requirements).

All other Rally/Activity conditions apply.

6.11.20 Bell Boots

Rally and Activity:

Permitted.

Competition:

May be only used where the competition rules permit (refer to specific competition requirements).

6.11.21 Hoof Over Boots – such as Old Mac boots**Rally and Activity:**

Permitted.

Competition:

Not Permitted

6.12 Gear Never Permitted**6.12.1 Prohibited Items****Rally and Activity:**

Taping of Bandages
 Bits or items of saddlery likely to wound a horse
 Blinkers
 Running or Draw reins
 Market Harboroughs
 Bosals
 Tongue Ties
 Singlets or sleeveless garments (Rule 6.7.1.c)
 Visible jewellery (except for watch and medical bracelet), unless taped.
 Ancillary lungeing equipment such as, Chambon and Pessoa

Competition:

Same as Rally/Activity
 Hackamores are allowed in XC and SJ

Remember

- An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 6.3.4 and 6.3.5 is acceptable.

6.13 Pure Dressage

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 6.13.1 Bits | Snaffle bits only must be used in accordance with rule 6.17.4. |
| 6.13.2 Nosebands | Only Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle and Hanoverian nosebands may be used (see rule 17.5). |
| 6.13.3 Ear Muffs and Fly Hoods | Permitted for outdoor competitions. Ear Muffs are not permitted. See EA Dressage rule 2.14 |
| 6.13.4 Cheek Guards | Not permitted. |
| 6.13.5 Horse Leg Wear | No leg wear of any description is permitted in dressage tests. |
| 6.13.6 Martingale | Running/Irish Martingales: permitted for Grade 5 only, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 6.11.17. |
| 6.13.7 Spurs | Competitors may wear spurs that are in accordance with rule 6.10.9 |
| 6.13.8 Whip | During tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Competitors are permitted to use a whip not exceeding 1200 mm including the lash. |
| 6.13.9 Warm-up | Correct competition gear may be worn.
Lungeing cavesson may be used.
Side reins are permitted
Ancillary lungeing equipment is not permitted. Rule 6.12.1
Horse boots are permitted.
Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 6.1.17, are permitted.
A whip not exceeding 1200 mm, including the lash, may be used. |
| 6.13.10 Hoof Over Boots | Not permitted. |

6.14 Horse Trials Dressage

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 6.14.1 Bits | Snaffle bits only must be used in accordance with rule 6.17.4. |
| 6.14.2 Nosebands | Only Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle and Hanoverian nosebands may be used (see rule 6.18.3). |
| 6.14.3 Ear Muffs and Fly Hoods | Ear muffs are not permitted but fly hoods are – see EA Eventing rule 539.2.3. |
| 6.14.4 Cheek Guards | Not permitted. |
| 6.14.5 Horse Leg Wear | No leg wear of any description is permitted in dressage tests. |
| 6.14.6 Martingale | Running/Irish Martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 6.11.17, are permitted for Grade 5 only. |
| 6.14.7 Spurs | Competitors may wear spurs that are in accordance with rule 10.9. |
| 6.14.8 Whip | During tests: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade 1, 2 and 3 are not permitted to use a whip.• Grade 4 and 5 are permitted to use a whip |
| 6.14.9 Warm-up | Correct competition gear may be worn.
Lungeing cavesson may be used.
Side reins are permitted
Ancillary lungeing equipment are not permitted. Rule 6.12.1
Horse boots are permitted.
Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 6.11.17 are permitted.
A whip not exceeding 1200 mm, including the lash may be used. |
| 6.14.10 Hoof Over Boots | Not permitted. |

6.15 Showjumping and Cross-Country

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

6.15.1 Cross Country Uniform	The competitor may wear their clubs official uniform or approved club XC top
6.15.2 Bridle	Pure showjumping only: Sheep skin may be used on each cheek piece providing the sheep skin does not exceed 30 mm in diameter measured from the horse's face.
6.15.3 Bits	No restrictions in showjumping and cross-country, provided they are correctly fitted and do not cause injury to the mouth.
6.15.4 Nosebands	No restrictions in showjumping and cross-country, provided they are correctly fitted and do not cause injury to the horse.
6.15.5 Fly hoods and ear muffs	Permitted.
6.15.6 Horse Leg Wear	Bell boots and exercise boots are permitted.
6.15.7 Spurs	Spurs must be in accordance with rule 6.10.9.
6.15.8 Whip	Not exceeding 750 mm, as described in rule 6.10.10.
6.15.9 Warm-up	Correct competition gear may be worn. Lungeing cavesson may be used. Side reins are permitted Ancillary lungeing equipment is not permitted. Rule 6.12.1 Horse boots are permitted. Running martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 6.11.17, are permitted.
6.15.10 Hoof Over Boots	Not permitted.

6.16 Games

Unless specifically mentioned here, the fit and condition of gear must be as described previously.

6.16.1 Bits

Snaffle bits only permitted for senior riders.

Any bit is permitted for Junior riders (under 16 yrs of age at 1st January.)

6.16.2 Nosebands

Only Cavesson, Dropped, Grackle and Hanoverian nosebands may be used, in accordance with rule 6.18.2

6.16.3 Fly Hoods

Not permitted.

6.16.4 Horse Leg Wear

Bell boots and exercise boots are permitted.

6.16.5 Martingale

A running/Irish / Standing Martingale is permitted, which must be fitted, in accordance with rule 6.11.17.

6.16.6 Spurs

Not permitted.

6.16.7 Whip

Not permitted.

6.16.8 Warm-up

Correct competition gear may be worn.

Lungeing cavesson may be used.

Side reins permitted

Ancillary lungeing equipment is not permitted. Rule 6.12.1

Horse boots are permitted.

Running / standing martingales, which must be fitted in accordance with rule 6.11.17, are permitted.

A whip not exceeding 750 mm, including the lash, may be used.

6.16.9 Hoof Over Boots

Not permitted.

6.17 Permitted Snaffle Bits

6.17.1 Bridle and Bit

A horse must always have a bit in its mouth, with reins attached, when ridden at rallies and activities. However, for dressage, games, handy-mount, pony club show rings, flat teams and musical ride competitions, one of the snaffle bits described here and pictured in rule 6.17.4 is required.

Snaffle bits having combinations of any of the rings or cheeks with any of the mouthpieces shown in 6.17.4 are allowed.

- a. An ordinary snaffle is a plain snaffle with a straight bar or joint in the centre
- b. If a snaffle has two joints, all parts must be rounded and smooth.

A Hackamore is permitted for Cross Country and Showjumping

6.17.2 Mouthpieces

Permitted design criteria:

- a. Not so thick, that it will harm the horse.
- b. The same thickness or tapered towards the central joints.
- c. All parts coming into the horse's mouth shall be smooth and rounded and not ridged or corrugated.
- d. Straight (e.g. mullen mouthed).
- e. Curved (e.g. half moon).
- f. Wavy plastic or rubber but not steel
- g. Double jointed, the central link of which shall be rounded and smooth, (e.g. French Snaffle) or double jointed with a roller in the centre.

NB: A Dr Bristol bit is not permitted as the central plate is designed in such a way that it applies pressure to the tongue, which is considered an artificial aid.

- h. Metal and synthetic material.

6.17.3 Checking Bits at Gear Check

Refer to rule 6.9.1.

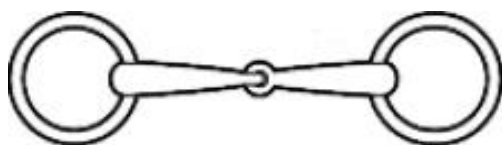
Refer to rule 6.17.4 for pictures. When a snaffle bit is specified for a competition, snaffle bits with these criteria are the only bits permitted.

Remember

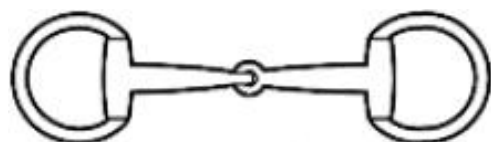
- An item of commercially manufactured equestrian gear that meets all the principles of comfort and safety specified in rules 6.3.4 and 6.3.5 is acceptable.

6.17.4 Permitted Snaffle bits

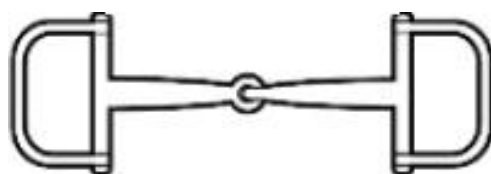
When specified for a competition, snaffle bits with a combination of these features are the only bits permitted



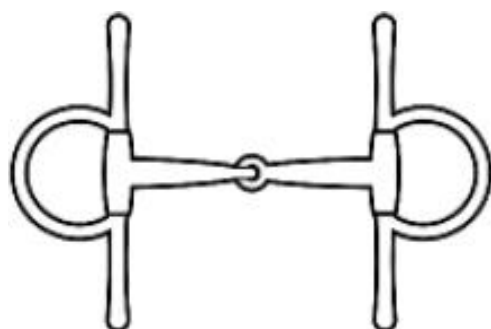
Loose Ring



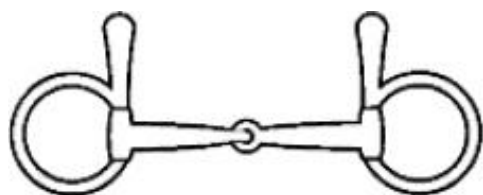
Egg-butt



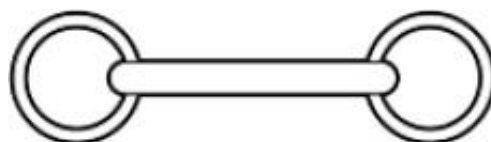
Racing "D" Ring



Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks



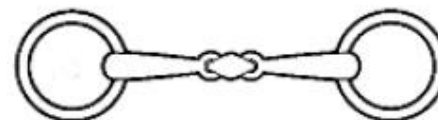
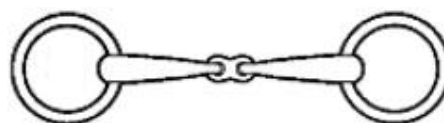
with upper cheeks



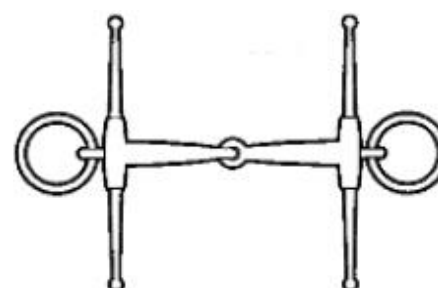
Straight bar



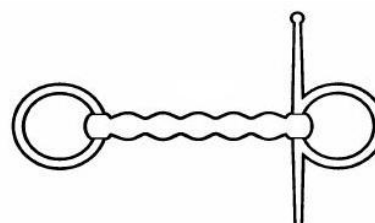
Rotating centre piece



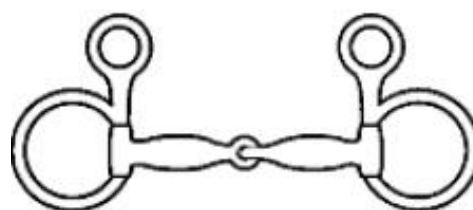
Double jointed mouthpieces. French Link, Ordinary, Lozenge



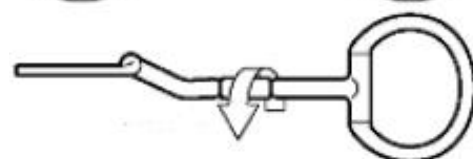
with cheeks FM/tom thumb



Wavy Snaffle



Hanging cheek



Rotating mouth piece

6.18 Nosebands

6.18.1 Basic Fit Requirements

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

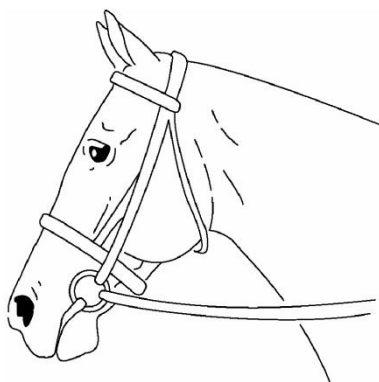
A noseband must be fitted high enough not to interfere with the horse's breathing, but not so high that it rubs on the horse's cheek bone.

6.18.2 Nosebands to Use when a Snaffle Bridle/Bit is Specified

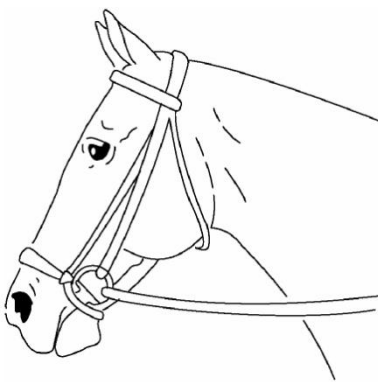
For dressage, games, handy-mount, pony club show rings, flat teams and musical ride competitions, only these nosebands may be used with one of the snaffle bits described in rule 17.4.

- a. Cavesson
- b. Dropped
- c. Grackle – also known Crossover or Mexican
- d. Hanoverian – also known as Flash
- e. Combination noseband/bridle.

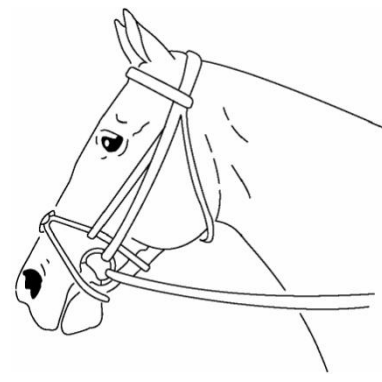
6.18.3 Noseband Illustrations



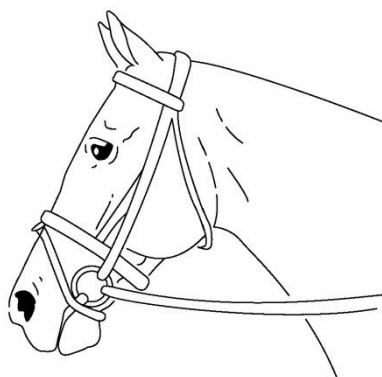
Cavesson



Dropped



Grackle
(Crossover or Mexican)



Hanoverian (Flash)



Combination noseband/bridle

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.

6.19 Competition Quick Reference Guide for Competitions

Gear Checks are compulsory for all PCT disciplines and rallies

As far as possible, complete the gear check in a safe, quick manner without touching the rider. Explaining at all times what you are about to check. **Never alter any gear.** When gear needs changing or altering, the gear check steward must request the rider, team manager or, if needed, the rider's responsible adult, to make the necessary adjustments and report back when this is complete.

Item	Competition	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	Grade 5 Not official
Saddles	All	Shall clear withers and spine. Girth shall have a minimum of two buckles, or one buckle with a surcingle				
Saddlecloths	All	Yes (riser or gel pad permitted in addition to saddle cloth)				
Monkey grips	All	Yes				
Saddle covers	Dressage	No				
	Showjumping	Yes				
	Cross-country	Yes				
Stirrups & irons	All	Shall hang outside saddle with approx. 1 – 2cm clearance or one finger of spare space between boot and iron.				
Bits	Dressage	Snaffle				No restriction
	Senior Games' riders	No cheek guards except in games.				
	Showjumping and Junior Games' riders	No restrictions on type. Cheek guards are permitted. Any bit permitted but Snaffle encouraged				
Cross-country	Hackamores are permitted					
Curb Chains	All	Shall lie flat. Guards not compulsory				
Nosebands	Games	Not compulsory				
	Dressage	A cavesson, dropped, Grackle or Hanoverian noseband				Not compulsory
	Flat teams	As above				
	Showjumping Cross-country	Optional.				
Fly Hoods Ear Muffs	Cross-country Showjumping	Yes, No Ear muffs for dressage.				
Martingales	Showjumping (eventing)	Yes (running - only with stops)				
	Cross-country Flat teams					
	Dressage	No				Yes
	Showjumping (pure) Games	Yes (running or standing permitted)				
Horse tendon boots, bell boots, knocking rings	Dressage	No				
	Showjumping Cross-country	Yes				
Whips	Showjumping Cross-country	Yes 75cm including flap				
	Dressage (eventing)	No (maybe used in warm up area only)			Yes	Yes
	Games	No				
Spurs	Dressage Showjumping Cross-country	Yes, Shank downwards, max 2cm, blunt, 'Impuls' spurs allowed				
	Games	No				
Back protectors	Showjumping Cross-country	Strongly recommended for Showjumping Compulsory for Cross Country for Grade 3 and above				
Jewellery	All	Medical bracelets, watches and club badges permitted Any other visible jewellery shall be removed or taped				
Medical Armbands	Cross-country	Compulsory – visible on left upper arm				
Gaiters/chappettes	All	Yes (must be same colour as boots)				

6.20 Competition Quick Check Table

Never alter any gear. When gear needs changing or altering, the gear check steward must request the rider, team manager or, if needed, the rider's responsible adult, to make the necessary adjustments and report back when this is complete.

Item	Quick Reference Details	Rule 6.
Medical Arm bands	Compulsory during cross-country – visible on upper left arm only. Details to be for correct rider.	10.6
Back protectors	Compulsory for Cross Country for grade 3 and above	10.14
Bandages	Not advised but if used they must be padded. Not allowed for dressage	11.19
Bits	No restrictions for SJ, XC and junior games riders. Snaffle only for dressage, senior games riders and show teams.	11.4
Boots (barefoot)	Not permitted for all PC competitions and disciplines.	11.21
Boots (horse)	Not permitted in dressage.	11.9
Boots (rider)	Short jodhpur or long boots in black or brown, with smooth soles	10.7
Bridles	Should fit horse correctly. Shall not insist on alteration.	11.3
Cheek guards	Not permitted for dressage	13.4
Curb chains	Shall lie flat. Guards recommended but not compulsory	11.4
Ear Muffs	Not permitted for any dressage, permitted for XC and SJ.	11.7
Fly hoods	Permitted in outdoor dressage, XC and SJ only	15.5
Gaiters/ Chappettes	Shall be the same colour as boots. Suede ones may be worn in all PC activities.	10.8
Gloves	Optional	10.11
Hair	Shall be in a hair net, plaited or securely tied above the shoulder to allow competitor number to be seen in all disciplines.	10.3
Helmets	Shall comply with nominated standards and fit	10.5
Hooves	Shall be in good order (no risen clenches or loose shoes)	11.1
Jewellery	Watches and Medical bracelets permitted. All other visible jewellery shall be removed or taped.	10.4
Jodhpurs/ Moleskins	Beige, fawn, white or specified Pony Club uniform colour	10.1
Martingales	Running – Permitted for SJ, XC and Games. Standing – Permitted for SJ (pure) and Games	11.17
Nosebands	Cavesson, dropped, Hanoverian or Grackle.	11.6
Raincoats	Number and arm band shall be worn on the outside.	10.11
Saddles	Shall clear withers and spine. Girth shall have a minimum of two buckles, or one buckle with a surcingle	11.9
Saddle cloths	Club colours	11.10
Saddle covers	Or any other saddle attachments not permitted for dressage	11.10
Side reins and ancillary equipment	Permitted whilst lunging. Not permitted when riding Bearing, running or balancing reins or special training aids, earmuffs, blinkers and hoods are not permitted in warm up or training areas when lunging or riding, under penalty of elimination.	10.12
Spurs	Shank max 3.5 cm long, directed downwards and to rear. Metal or plastic spurs with round hard plastic or metal knobs ("Impuls" spur) permitted	10.9
Stirrup leathers	Shall hang outside the saddle flap. Stirrup bar safety clip - rider preference	11.14
Stirrup irons	Shall fit the rider's boot with 1 - 2cm of clearance between boot and iron. Peacock irons (rubber band on either side)	11.15
Uniform	PCT ratified summer and winter uniforms including rugby tops, jumpers and active tops appropriate to competition.	10.1
Whips	Dressage (pure) Max length 120cm Dressage (eventing) Grade 4 & 5 only SJ and XC Max length 75cm	10.10

