

Section 2 - Gear Checking Guidelines

Contents

GUIDELINES FOR RIDER DRESS	77
Air Vests	77
Belts.....	78
Bib Number (Rider)	78
Body protectors.....	79
Boots	80
Chaps / Gaiters	81
Chapettes	81
Fly Nets for Riders	81
Formal Pony Club Uniform	81
Glasses.....	82
Gloves.....	82
Hair of Rider	82
Helmets	83
Helmet Cameras.....	85
Helmet Covers	85
Helmet Peaks.....	85
Helmet Sunshade (Detachable) - should be neutral colours	85
Jewellery – Earrings, Rings, Necklaces, Watches	85
Jewellery – Medic-Alert Bracelets.....	85
Jodhpurs / Breeches.....	85
Jumpers	85
Logos	86
Make up	86
Nail- long nails	86
Pony Club WA Badge.....	86
Polo / Rugby Tops.....	86
Rider Weight	86
Shirts.....	87
Spurs.....	87
Sunglasses	90
Tetrathlon – Swimming Attire.....	90

Tetrathlon - Singlets	90
Tetrathlon - Running Footwear	90
GUIDELINES FOR HORSE / PONY TURNOUT	91
Age of Horse / Pony	91
Hooves.....	91
Mane	91
Tail.....	95
Horse Abuse	96
GUIDELINES FOR SADDLERY.....	98
Maintenance of Saddlery	98
Australian Cheeker	98
Bit Guards.....	99
Bits – How to Fit to a Horse / Pony	99
Bits – How to Measure	100
Bits – The 3 Bit Families.....	101
Bits - Materials	101
Bits – Various Different Types	102
Bits for a Double Bridle	102
Bits – Explanation and Guidelines for use of most common bits	103
Breastplates.....	116
Bridle – parts of the bridle	118
Bridle – fitting of the snaffle bridle	119
Chin Straps (bridle).....	122
Cruppers	122
Curb Straps / Curb Chains (bridle).....	123
Ear Bonnets	123
Flyveils for Horses	124
Girths.....	124
Headcollars.....	128
Hobbles	129
Horse Bandages.....	131
Horse Boots (legs)	131
Lead Ropes	134
Leadline - where a rider is lead at pony club rallies.....	134
Lead Rein - where a rider is lead in show-horse competitions	137

Lungeing Equipment and Guidelines	139
Monkey Grip.....	146
Neck Straps.....	147
Pacifier.....	151
Rein - Buckles	152
Saddle Types.....	153
Saddle Parts.....	154
Saddle Measuring.....	155
Saddle Fit	156
Saddle Cloths.....	162
Saddle Numnahs	163
Stirrup Bars.....	163
Stirrup Irons - types.....	163
Stirrup Irons - fit	166
Stirrup Leathers.....	167
Stirrup Treads.....	167
Surcingles	167
Twitch	168
Vaulting Guidelines	168
Whips	170
Windsucking Strap / Collar.....	171

PLEASE NOTE:

This section contains GUIDELINES for the safety and comfort in regards to Rider Dress, Horse / Pony Turnout and Saddlery.

These guidelines are a reference point for all members. They offer pictorial guides, information on correct and safe fit etc.

They are **NOT RULES**, and reference should be made for the rules enforceable regarding Rider Dress, Horse / Pony Turnout and Saddlery in **Section 1**.

Guidelines are listed in alphabetical order.

GUIDELINES FOR RIDER DRESS

Air Vests

BETA advises that “air vests are not body protectors and should not be regarded as such”.

Pony Club WA suggests therefore for members that an air vest never replaces or substitutes the protection of a body protector. They are different devices in their action and degree of protection. A body protector offers permanent, static protection both on and off a horse. An air vest, meanwhile, provides only temporary, dynamic protection once the garment is inflated.

Europe and Britain have bureaus that administrate levels of certification, Australia has no such system.

When choosing an air vest, it is wise to fully read the manufactures instructions for use and select a vest suited to the type of riding intended. Air vest should be correctly fitted, regularly serviced and stored in a cool environment.

What do they protect:

- It is thought that wearing an air vest has the potential to protect the torso, however in protecting the torso may actually leave the head and neck areas more exposed.
- An FEI 2016 study suggested that wearing an air jacket on top of a body protector protected slightly better however, this would not prevent a life threatening injury.
- A Horse & Hound study in 2015 concluded that in the case of rotational falls that air vests can reduce rider injury.
- Some brands of air vests inflate outwards (see picture below) and some brand inflate inwards.

Fit Guidelines

- Most inflatable air vests are made to be fitted over a conventional body protector. They also have a lanyard connecting to the saddle. A rider departing from the saddle triggers the inflation device in the vest.
- At all times, it is highly recommended for riders to try vests on for comfort.
- Try the vest on, and sitting in a saddle to test comfort in a riding position and scenario. Movement should not be obstructed and should be free.
- The back of the helmet should not hit the top of the vest.
- Some vests are heat-sensitive and will mould to the riders form after being ridden in for a while.



Courtesy Horse and Hound



Courtesy Point Two UK

Air Vest – P2-RS Vest

Courtesy Point Two UK

Replacement CO2 Cannister

Courtesy Point Two UK

Bungee / Lanyard**Sources:**

- Horse Safety Australia – Safety Tips on Air Vests <http://www.horsesafetyaustralia.com.au/safety-tips/>
- FEI - 2016 FEI EVENTING RISK MANAGEMENT SEMINAR – BRUSSELS (BEL) (DRAFT) REPORT <http://www.horsesafetyaustralia.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/2016ERMSeMinar-Report-Draft.pdf>
- Horse and Hound – “Air Jackets – A help or hindrance” <http://www.horseandhound.co.uk/exclusive/air-jackets-effectiveness-516934>

Belts

If wearing a belt, one that will be comfortable for mounting/dismounting, bending forward in the saddle is recommended.



X

Wide belt buckles may be uncomfortable for the rider when bending forward, mounting and dismounting



✓

Slim belt buckles are less likely to be uncomfortable for the rider when bending forward, mounting and dismounting

Bib Number (Rider)

Bib numbers for riders come in various makes and sizes but **should be A4** for all Pony Club Events. They are most commonly used during Eventing and Tetrathlon. Given that these are ‘active’ activities where riders will ride at speed, comfort and fit of the bib is important

Do's with Bib Numbers

- Ensure the shoulder straps will not fall down the arms or past the shoulder point of the rider. You may choose a bib with crossed straps at the back to prevent this, or support with insulation tape to brace against.
- Ensure that the bib is not larger than the torso of the rider.
- Ensure the bib sits centrally on the torso of the rider.
- Ensure the waist strap is done up for a firm but not loose fit.
- Tape up or remove excess strapping on the waist.
- Clean / wipe the inside of the clear screen free of any markings.
- Should be A4 Size

Don'ts with Bib Numbers

- Leave competition numbers inside the bib post-event. The ink from the paper may stain or stick to the inside of the bib, making it harder to read bib numbers for subsequent competitions.
- Wear the bib too low down the torso, this makes the rider number harder to see.

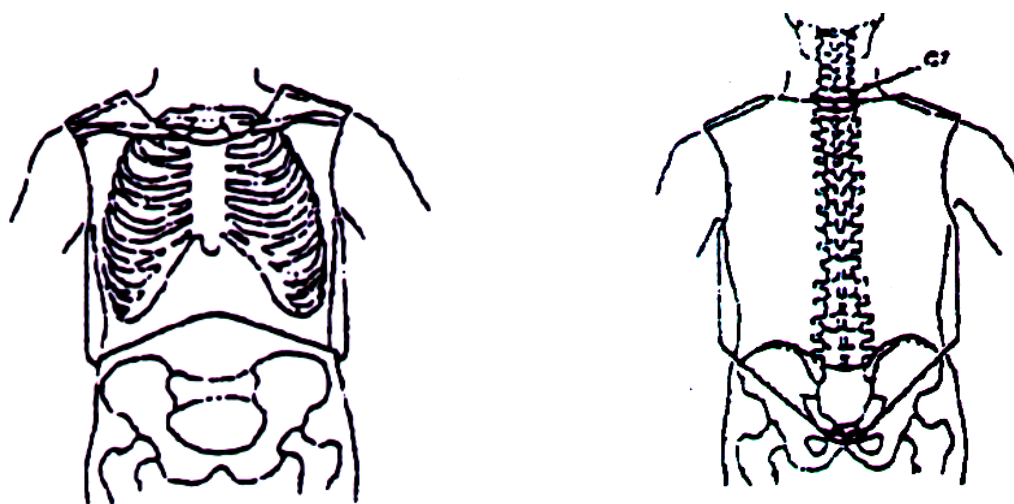
Body protectors

The new standard for body protectors is Beta level 3 and this level of body protector should be worn when doing x country style disciplines

The body protector should be correctly fitted. An expensive body protector will be ineffective if it does not fit and protect vital parts of the rider's body.

Fitting Requirements:

- When correctly fitted, the Body Protector should cover the whole circumference of the torso.
- The bottom edge should be not less than 25mm below the rib cage anteriorly and should reach the pelvis laterally.
- Posteriorly, the edge should be not less than 15cm below the level of the top of the pelvis on an average adult.
- The arm inlet should be approximately circular and of minimum dimensions.
- The top of the protector should just reach the level of the seventh cervical vertebra (the prominent bone at the base of the neck).
- The front of the protector should reach the top of the sternum.
- The Body Protector and shoulder Protector (where present) should between them cover the lateral 75% of the collarbone.
- The vest is designed to fit snugly over light clothing.
- Spine length is determined by measuring from the base of the neck to the tailbone where the seat separates.
- Where size ranges overlap, try on the closest sizes to determine the most comfortable fit.
- Although allowances have been made for adjustment at side and (where applicable) at shoulders, the adjustments made should not be to the extent that protection provided will detrimentally affect safety concerns or provide an incorrect fit.
- Outside dimensions of the vest allow for approximately 2.5cm of overfit. The style and purpose for which the vest will be used will also affect outside dimensions, i.e. custom sizing or special purpose vests.



Diagrams showing the coverage that should be provided by a Body Protector
Front Back

Boots

- Deeply ridged treads which may cause the stirrup iron to become stuck are **not** permitted.
- Elastic sides should be firm. If stretched, it is strongly recommended that Jodhpur clips be used to keep Jodhpurs / Breeches firmly over the top of the front of the boots so that the stirrup iron cannot get caught/stuck. Preferably replace with new elastic.
- It is highly recommended that when purchasing new riding boots, that the fit with your stirrup irons be also re-checked.
- Short laced boots should be worn either:
 - With Gaiter/chaps ensuring that they are covering the lace tie-up
- Long laced boots (also called Field Boots) should to be laced in such a way that the laces will not be caught on any saddle, stirrup or girth fitting. Full length laces not permitted

UNSAFE FOOTWEAR

Unsafe footwear

D
A
N
G
E
R



DANGER! Sneakers or shoes without heels can slip right through a stirrup.



DANGER! Stirrup can get caught in the gap between the heel and the deep tread of this kind of boot.

D
A
N
G
E
R

Chaps / Gaiters

Called Chaps / Gaiters / Half Chaps.

Chapettes and Gaiters, also known as half chaps, are permitted except in vaulting (Group H)

Gaiters are leather or synthetic leather.

Chapettes are suede. They should be either black or brown to match the colour of the jodhpur boots worn with them. Chapettes should have a zip fastening and not Velcro.

Riders are permitted to wear correctly fitted short lace up type riding boots under correctly fitted gaiters.

Leather gaiter and boot permitted except for Vaulting



Chapettes

X not permitted as have tabs and not zip fasteners



Fly Nets for Riders

Fly nets can protect the riders face, neck and ears from insects and bugs.

These nets are attached to the helmet.

Netting is see-through.

These nets often come in a one-size fits all and can be trimmed to size.



Formal Pony Club Uniform

Comprises of:

1. Safety Helmet,
2. Club/Zone Hat Cover.
3. Shirt,
4. Tie,
5. Pony Club WA Badge and Disk where permitted (optional for competition),
6. Jumper - Sleeved or Sleeveless, in Club/Zone colours,
7. Beige/Bone/Fawn/White Jodhpurs / Breeches,
8. Fawn/Bone/Beige/White Riding Trousers where permitted,
9. Short or Long Riding Boots,
10. Club/Zone Saddle Cloth/Numnah

TEAM MEMBERS / PAIRS, SHOULD WEAR EITHER MATCHING LONG SLEEVED JUMPERS OR SHORT SLEEVED JUMPERS.

Glasses

Prescription Spectacles required to correct visual impairment are permitted.

Any glasses with raised nose rests are permitted, but not recommended as the nose rests can become unstable for the rider when riding at speed.



Gloves

See Section 1 for Rules on Gloves

Hair of Rider

Permitted hair/that looks really good



✓

Long hair **restrained and in hairnet.**
Above shoulder level.

(Picture: with thanks to Swan Valley HPC)



✓

Hair neatly **restrained, plaited** and in **hairnet.**
Above shoulder length.

(Picture: with thanks to Serpentine HPC)



X

Long hair, is restrained but **unplaited**. Hair is also falling **below shoulder level**. Hair may cover rider number.

Solution: Restrain in hairnet and/or plait and secure above shoulder level

(Picture: Google Images)



X

Long hair, is not restrained at all.

Solution: Restrain hair. If hair is long, plait or secure in hairnet above shoulder level.

(Picture: Google Images)








Helmets

See Section 1 – Rules of this manual for the requirements for helmets in Pony Club WA. The following is general guidelines only.

Globally, there are national standards bodies that set out testing requirements for helmets. Australia has one, also the US, UK and Europe as an example.

A helmet that meets a standard, has been tested and proven to comply with the required testing for that standard. Not all standards are the same globally. Some are more stringent than others.

Below are the most common international helmet standards

1	ASNZS3838 	5	ASTM F1163 with SEI mark 
2	ARB HS with SAI Global mark 	6	SNELL E2001 
3	PAS 015 (UK Helmet Standard) with BSI Kitemark 	7	EN1384 with CE mark Note this is the outgoing European helmet standard, replaced by the VG1 in 2014. CEN to review and relaunch. See section 1 – Rules for where this helmet is or is not permitted in PC. 
4	VG1 with BSI Kitemark 		

- When to wear:
 - The helmet should be properly fitted and fastened under the lower jaw when riding and handling horses.
 - The Helmet should not be removed for saluting or for presentation of awards
 - The wearing of Safety Helmets around horses/ponies in yards/tie up areas is strongly recommended
- How to care:
 - Impacts: Any Helmet that receives a moderate to serious impact, should be replaced
 - Age: Follow manufacturer's instructions. i.e. ASA/NZS 3838 advises that helmets have a usable life of 5 years, and those that are used very frequently may require earlier replacement. Increased use and exposure to sweat and heat will contribute to the ageing and wearing of the helmet.
 - Procedure to check age: look inside helmet, inside helmet lining and to the side of the helmet. Year of manufacture should be shown, as also the helmet standard that the helmet meets.
- Store helmets away from heat and direct sunlight and be aware that the helmet may be damaged and rendered ineffective by cleaning agents.
- How to fit:

It is important to choose and wear the correct size helmet as the wearing of a poorly fitting or incorrectly adjusted helmet may lead to the helmet coming off the rider's head. Do NOT wear the helmet if a proper fit is not achieved.

The helmet should sit approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch or 1-2cm above the eyebrows. See pictures below.

Put on the helmet and stand in front of the mirror. Rock the helmet both backwards and forwards without moving your head – your helmet is a reasonable fit if the skin on your forehead (and your eyebrows) moves with the helmet.

Tighten the throat strap and rear straps by pulling the spare end(s) of the strap through the buckle until a firm yet comfortable fit is achieved. Do not over tighten straps.

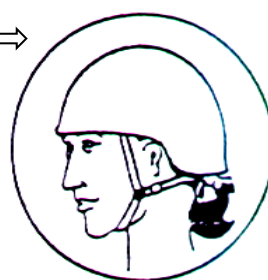
Helmets fitted with rear straps should be adjusted so that they sit just on or below the earlobe. Ensure all parts of the retention harness are properly adjusted – tension should be firm and evenly distributed among both front and rear straps.

After fitting as above, grasp the helmet and try to rotate it front and rear. A correctly fitted helmet should be comfortable and should not move forward to obscure vision or rearward to expose the forehead.

INCORRECT
WEARING POSITION



CORRECT
WEARING POSITION



All Clip Fasteners (particularly the smaller ones on the Shiny Cuddly Pony type helmets) are clicked up securely as it has been known for some to come undone whilst the rider is performing an activity.

Helmet Cameras

No guidelines as these are not permitted in Pony Club Aust at any time, in any way.

Helmet Covers

Every Club and Zone has designated colours and patterns for helmet covers. These can be found in the Pony Club WA Members Handbook.

Helmet Peaks

Pony Club Aust has no restriction on the use of fixed or detachable helmet peaks.

Helmet Sunshade (Detachable) - should be neutral colours

Pictured right.



Jewellery – Earrings, Rings, Necklaces, Watches

See Section 1: Rules - for the Pony Club Aust rules for Earrings, Rings, Necklaces and Watches.

Both PCUK and FEI discourage the wearing of jewellery for both riding and working with horses on the ground.

Jewellery – Medic-Alert Bracelets

MEDIC ALERT SPORTSBAND

- Ideal for people with metal allergies. It is also great for people who work with machinery. It has a Stainless-Steel emblem on a black woven band.

Equivalent “alert” bands and bracelets are available in the market. Their goal is to alert attending medical officers or officials to specific conditions and treatment requirements an individual has.



Jodhpurs / Breeches

See Section 1 for Rules on Jodhpurs / Breeches

Jumpers

See Section 1 for Rules on Jumpers. They are part of the Formal PC Uniform. Every Club and Zone has designated colours and patterns for ties. These can be found in the Pony Club WA Members Handbook.

Logos

See Section 1 for Rules on Logos. When in Formal Pony Club Uniform, a Pony Club rider and their horse are to promote their club and zone only. No other enterprise, be it a sponsor, prize donor etc. Outside of the Formal Pony Club Uniform, there are no restrictions on the wearing of logos, particularly for Open Riders.

Make up

Pony club is a youth movement. Make-up is not encouraged.

Nail- long nails

See Section 1 for Rules on Nails- Long nails **not permitted** in any mounted games

In 2015, the Pony Club WA GCAP confirmed with St Johns First Aid & Ambulance Services, that nail polish, neither acrylic nor shellac nails pose any hindrance to the emergency treatment or testing of a patient.

Long nails around horses is not only unhygienic, it can be hazardous – risks of tangling, tearing, bending backwards and bruising when both handling or riding horses.

Pony Club WA Badge

The Pony Club WA State Pony Club badge, when worn, should be with an efficiency certificate disk and be positioned on the "V" of the jumper. The colour of the disk denotes the Efficiency Certificate attained (if attained).

- Badge and disk **SHOULD** be worn for Efficiency Certificates
- Badge and disk **SHOULD** be worn for presentation assessed competition:
 - Dressage Kanandah
 - Dressage Gingamurrah
 - Show jumping Equitation Presentation (not ridden round) classes
 - PC Mount – Presentation element only (not ridden element)

Polo / Rugby Tops

Polo / Rugby Tops are not part of the Pony Club Formal Uniform.

Many Pony Clubs have special Polo/Rugby Tops, Windcheaters and coloured/dark Jodhpurs / Breeches for their Rally uniform.

For activities where it is permitted to be worn, see Section 1: Rules.

Rider Weight

As per Section 1: Rules – A rider weighing more than 53kg, dressed to ride, is not permitted to ride a pony 12.2hh or under at any time in Pony Club WA.

Dressed to ride means the rider has a helmet and full riding attire. It does not include the saddle and saddle cloth. Don't forget that some makes of saddles can be particularly heavy such as leather Western Saddles.

Scientific Research from Ohio State University (2008 - "Evaluation of Indicators of Weight-Carrying Ability of Lighter Riding Horses") does offer some guidance of when a rider may be too heavy for their horse / pony.

The ability for a horse to carry weight is influenced by the five factors according to this paper:

- **Horse size and weight**

A larger horse can in general carry a larger load. Load includes the rider and the saddlery.

- **Rider weight**

Horses have been found to have no problem carrying a load of up to 20% of their own weight. As an example, horses weighing 500kg have been found to have no problem carrying a load (rider and saddlery) of up to 100kg.

- **Fitness of horse**

A fitter horse, will more easily cope with a load to carry than an unfit horse. A large and unfit horse will not necessarily cope with a large load to carry.

- **Loin width**

Horses with a wide loin were found to cope well with loads of up to 30% of their body weight. Loin width is measured from the last rib to the croup of the horse, measured when viewing the horse's body from above. Width is not to be confused with length – measured when view the horse from the side.

- **Cannon bone circumference**

Horses with a wider cannon bone circumference also coped well with loads and displayed the least muscle soreness of the horses studied. Whilst this was a positive observation, having heavier bone structure is arguably at the detriment to the athleticism of the horse. We would all agree that the athleticism of an Arab horse will be greater than a Clydesdale.

In conclusion, research has proven that horses will cope well with loads of up to 20% of their body weight. A horse will cope with loads better if they are fitter, not fatter. And horses with a wider loin and wider cannon bone will cope with loads of up to 30% of their body weight.

Pony Club WA recommends riders should be between 20% to 30% of their horses' weight. This is a range that studies have shown are optimal for the horse to carry without adverse effects such as muscle soreness.

Shirts

Pony Club WA requires riders to wear long sleeved shirts, in Pony Club colour/s, fastened at the wrist. This is in alignment with Pony Club Aust Sun Smart Policy, for members to protect their skin from exposure to the sun. It is recommended that both coaches, officials and participants set an example and adhere to wearing long sleeve shirts as much as possible. Promoting your pony club be it as a coach, official or parents is also recommended. We are a collective movement!

Spurs

A spur is a metal tool designed to be worn in pairs on the heels of riding boots for the purpose of directing a horse to move forward or laterally while riding. It is usually used to refine the riding aids (commands) and to back up the natural aids (the leg, seat, hands and voice). The spur may be used in several equestrian activities/disciplines.

The parts of a spur include:

- The yoke, branch, or heel band, which wraps around the heel of the boot.
- The shank or neck, which extends from the back of the heel band and is the area that usually touches the horse
- The rowel, seen on some spurs, is a small revolving wheel or a disk with radiating points (Tines/spikes) at the end of the shank. There are restrictions on their use in Pony Club WA.

Guidelines for Fitting Spurs:



Correctly fitted for right foot



Too loose & too low

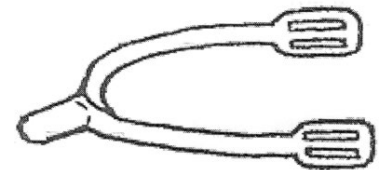


Upside Down & too high

(Strap correctly fitted for left foot)

Common Spur Types

1. Dummy Spurs



2. Soft Touch Roller-Ball Spurs

These have a smooth action and slip along the coat.



3. Short Neck Roller Spurs

These have a smooth action and slip along the coat.



4. Roller-Ball Spurs

These have a smooth action and slip along the coat. Two plastic hemispheres rotate horizontally around a central pin affixed at the end of a metal shank.

- Exerts less concentrated pressure
- Effective with sensitive horses



5. Waterford Spurs

The end of the neck has a large, round metal ball, making the spur softer and less likely to cause spur rubs



6. Rowel Disc Spurs

Rowel disc is smooth, not sharp, on a vertical plane, straight and not too thin so as to cut or wound the horse.



7. Daisy Rowel Spurs

Daisy rowel has no sharp points, on a vertical plane, straight and not too thin so as to cut or wound the horse.



8. Spursuader Spurs

Shank has a 4 degree curve inwards, spur end is a thick round disc.

- Less severe than a traditional spur
- Assists with lateral work
- Don't poke or jab the sides of the horse
- Effective with OTTBs and sensitive horses



9. Swan Neck Spurs

The neck of the spur goes upward at an angle, before levelling off, looking similar to the neck of a swan.



10. Jumping Spurs



11. Rowel Spurs with Points of form or size

May cause injury to horse



12. Horizontal Rowel Spurs



13. Hammerhead Spurs



Sunglasses

Non-fashion, Recommended Sports-style / wrap-around, Aus Std 1067 / Cancer Council approved.

Tetrathlon – Swimming Attire

Required for Swimming Phase - Tetrathlon ONLY. Grease/oil or similar on the body is not permitted. Wetsuits are not permitted. Devices or swimsuits that may give an unfair advantage not permitted. Swimming Steward adjudicates on this matter.

Tetrathlon - Singlets

Permitted for Running Phase - Tetrathlon ONLY. Bib number to be worn and should be A4 Size. Waist of competitor not to be exposed

Tetrathlon - Running Footwear

Required for Running Phase - Tetrathlon ONLY

GUIDELINES FOR HORSE / PONY TURNOUT

Age of Horse / Pony

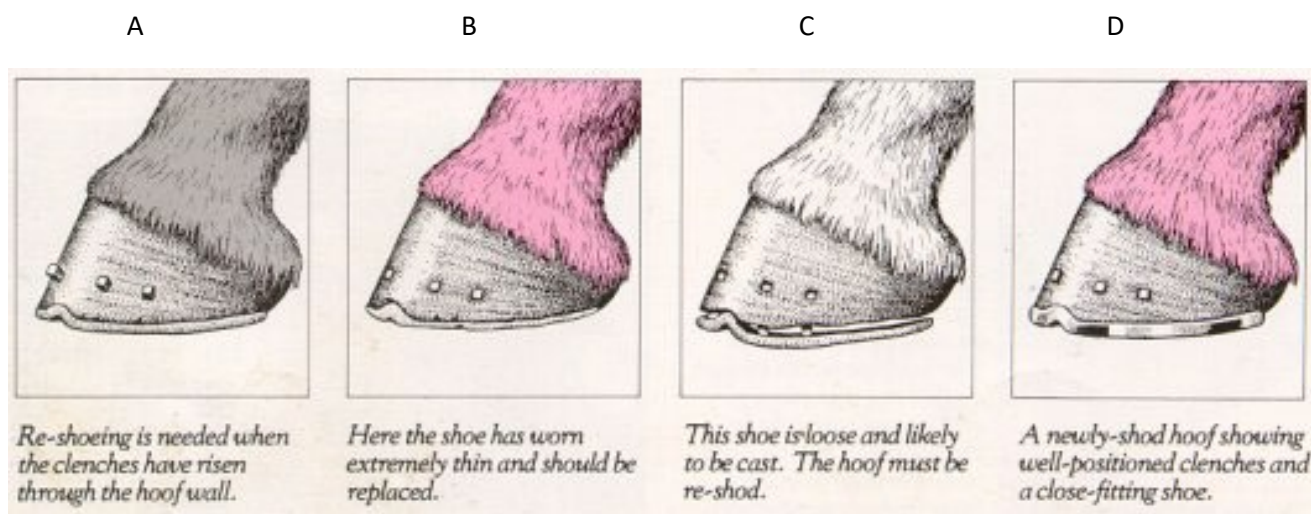
Verifying Horse Age:

Age of horse, in the first instance is to be verified by viewing the horse/pony date of birth on a foaling certificate or registration papers. In the absence of this documented proof of horse date of birth (and age), the horse's brand may be inspected and date of birth shall be assumed at 1 August of the branded foaling year.

Hooves

Horse Hoof Condition:

Not in need of farrier's attention (D) (not too long at toe or hoof growing over shoe, shoe not too worn (B), no loose shoes (C) or risen clenches (A)).



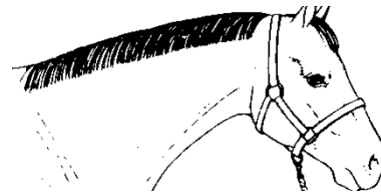
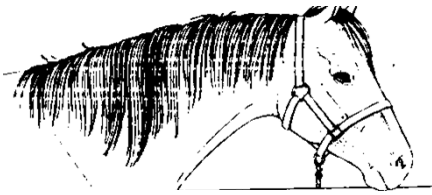
Pony Club WA understands that farriermanship will evolve and offer improved shoeing products and shoeing techniques for horse people. As such, Pony Club WA is in support of sound farriermanship so that the hooves of horses and ponies show recent and appropriate care. We do not rule on the materials required for shoes on a horse or pony. But rather that it is done using best practice farriermanship suited most importantly to the welfare of the horse. A horseshoe (plate to the base of the hoof and attached to/through the hoof wall) is not to be confused with hoofboots which are a hoof casing – to which as per Section 1, are not permitted in Pony Club WA at all.

Mane

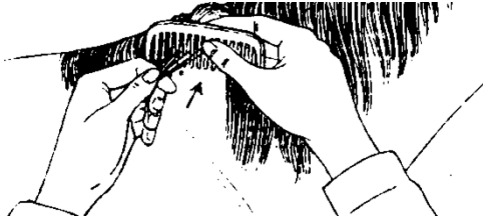
For horses or ponies with long flowing manes, if pulling or shortening the mane is not an option, then it should be secured:

- by either sectioning it off with rubber bands (Banding)
- by a running plait along the top of the neck (French Braid)
- or by normal plaiting to keep it out of the way of becoming tangled round the rider's hand, whip or gear

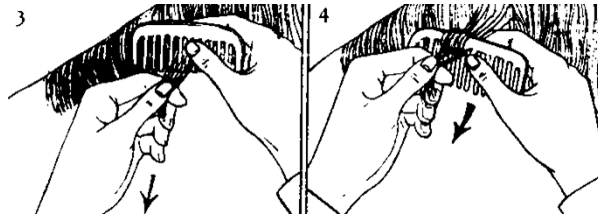
MANE - PULLING



After – neat and tidy

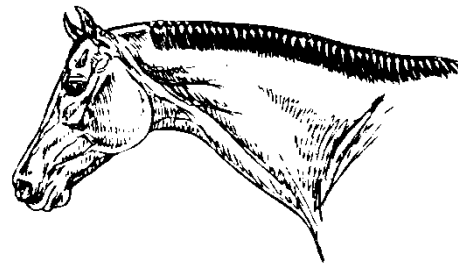
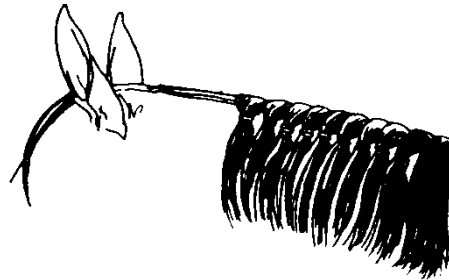
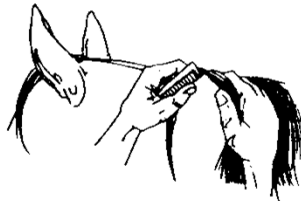


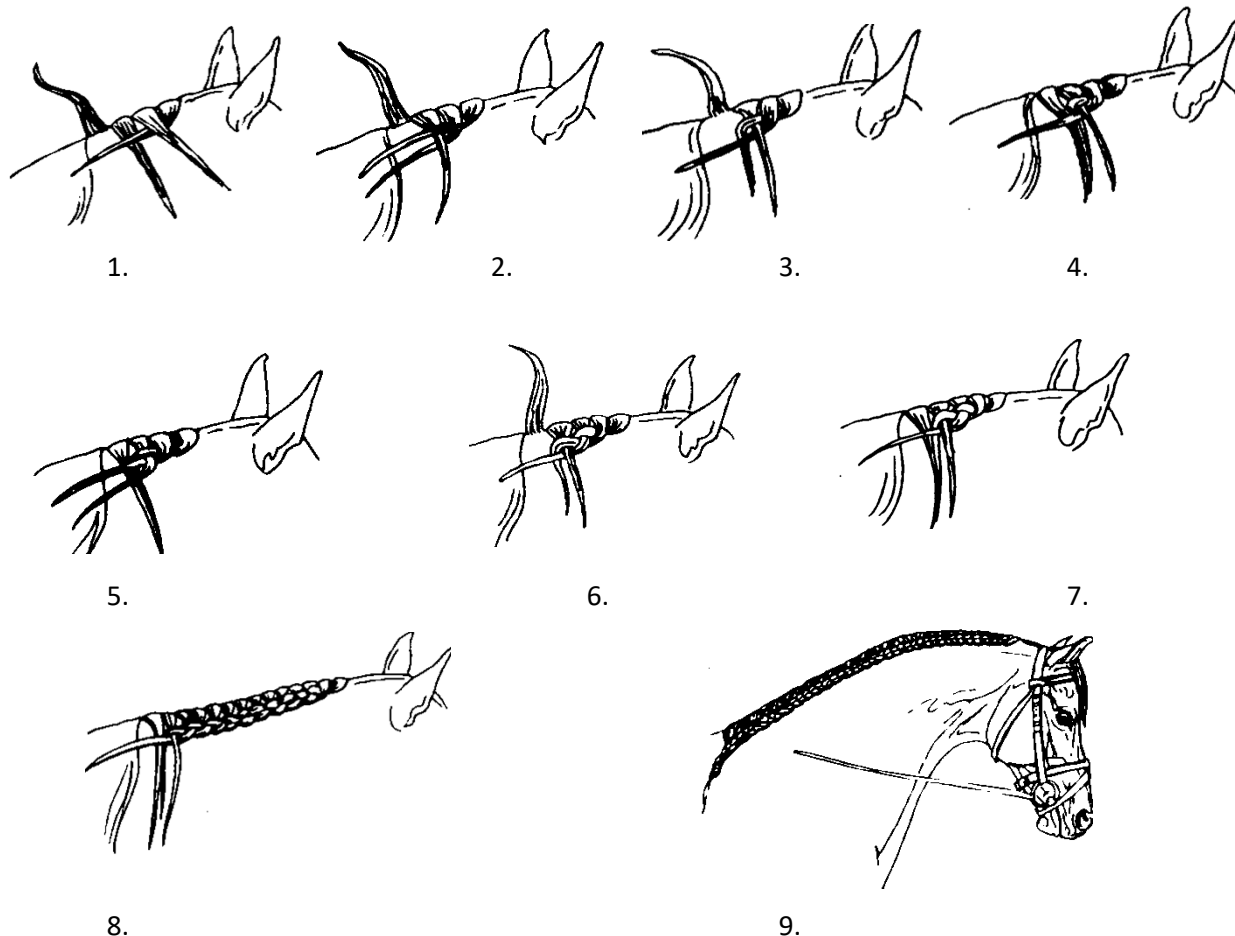
Pushing the shorter hairs back towards the crest



Pulling the long hairs with a coarse or tough mane, the hair will have to be wound around the comb

MANE – BANDING



MANE – PERMITTED PLAITING**a. FRENCH BRAID****b. RUNNING PLAIT**

Take a section near the ears as if you were going to make an ordinary plait. Plait down and take in a small piece of mane as you pass the left-hand section over the centre one.

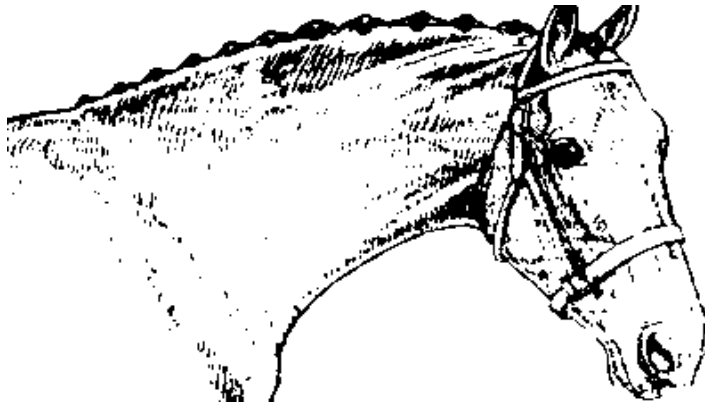
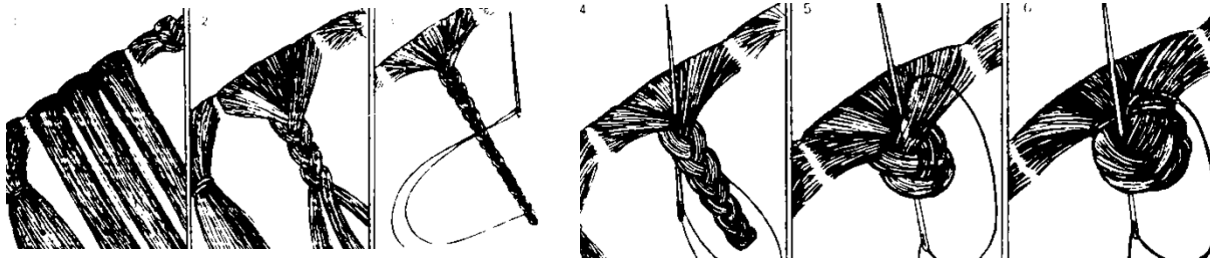
Continue the plait but instead of pulling it tight, let the mane fall naturally. The plait will curve round as you progress.

Carry on for the full length of the mane, taking in the same amount of hair each time. Eventually you will have one long plait forming the bottom edge of the mane.

When you reach the withers and there is no more hair to take in, plait the strands that are left and fasten the end as you would an ordinary plait.



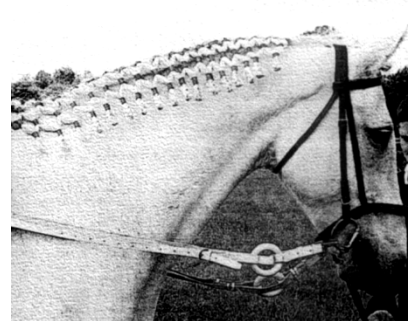
c. SHOW PLAIT



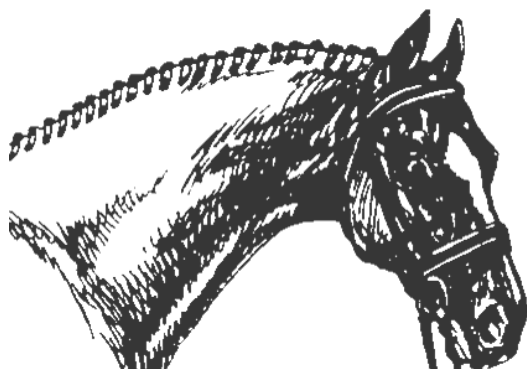
d. MANE – SOME OTHER STYLES OF PERMITTED PLAITING



Similar to a French Braid but plaited more along the top of the crest.



Lattice or Herringbone Style



Sport Horse / Warmblood style Plait.

White tape wound around folded-under plait.

Tail

ADJUSTING TAIL LENGTH



Adjusting the length of the tail by holding it at the angle the horse carries its tail while being worked.

The recommended length of a tail – to hang between 5 cm (2") below hocks and 5cm (2") above fetlocks when working.

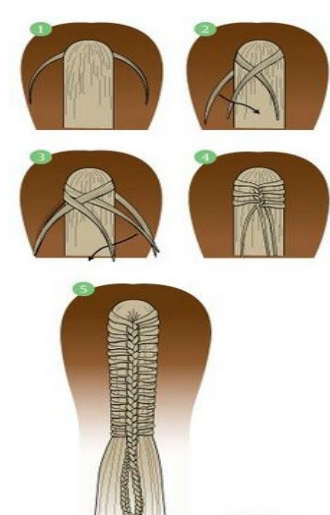
A TRIMMED TAIL



Trimmed tail (left) has been trimmed along the sides of the tail.

This can be done with scissors or clippers, trimming hair along the side of the dock so that it is a few millimetres long.

A PLAITED TAIL



Basics to plaiting a tail



Example of plaited tails

A PULLED TAIL

Pulled tails (above) have had the hair at the side of the tail pulled. Hair regrowth is often softer.

Horse Abuse

ANY ABUSE OF THE HORSE OR PONY WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND WILL ENTAIL ELIMINATION/ DISQUALIFICATION

ABUSE

Abuse can be defined as intentionally acting in a way that may cause pain or unnecessary discomfort to a horse or pony.

An act of abuse can be any of the following:

- to whip or beat a horse/pony excessively
- to use spurs, or to jab the horse/pony in the mouth with the bit, excessively or persistently
- to compete/ride using an obviously exhausted, lame or injured horse/pony
- to abnormally sensitize any part of a horse/pony
- to leave a horse/pony without adequate food, drink and exercise
- to subject a horse/pony to any kind of electric shock device
- to 'rap' a horse/pony anywhere in or outside the grounds or the event

1. WHIP - ABUSE

The use of a whip should be

- For a good reason
- At an appropriate time
- In the right place
- With appropriate severity
- The whip should only be used either as an aid to encourage the horse forward or as a reprimand

As an aid to go forward

- The appropriate time is when the horse/pony is reluctant to go forward under normal aids of seat and legs
- The whip may be used down the horse's shoulder or behind the rider's leg
- It should never be used 'over-arm', e.g. whip in the right hand being used to the left flank
- The use of a whip on a horse's head or neck is always excessive use
- The whip should never be used to vent a rider's temper – any use for such a reason is automatically excessive and therefore entails elimination/disqualification

As a reprimand

- The only appropriate time is immediately after a horse has been disobedient e.g. napping, refusing (but not after elimination, when it will always be excessive)
- The whip should not be used after a horse has jumped the last fence on a course
- As a reprimand only, a horse may be hit hard
- It should never be hit more than three times for any one incident and
- If the horse is marked by the whip, e.g. the skin is broken or there is a weal – the use of the whip is excessive

2. SPUR - ABUSE

- Spurs should not be used to reprimand a horse – such use is always excessive
- Any use of Spurs that results in a horse being marked by a Spur –is always excessive

3. BIT - ABUSE

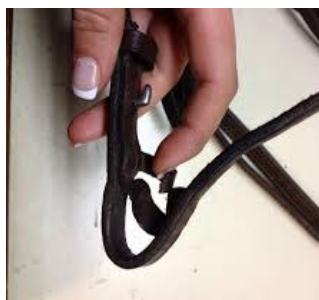
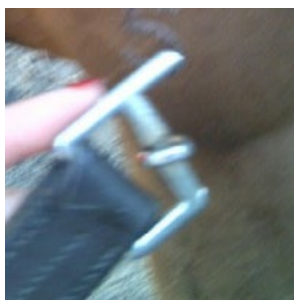
- The bit should never be used to reprimand a horse, i.e. jabbing the horse/pony in the mouth with the bit, excessively or persistently
- Any such use is excessive.

GUIDELINES FOR SADDLERY

If you would like more information about an item of saddlery not already mentioned in this section, please email gearchecking@ponyclubwa.asn.au.

Maintenance of Saddlery

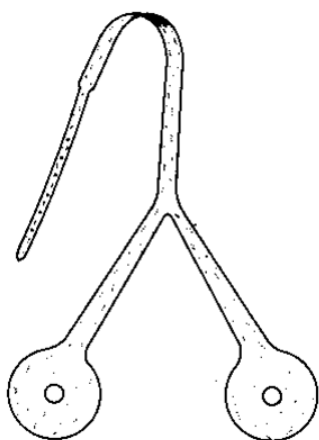
- ALL GEAR SHOULD BE CLEAN, SOFT & SUPPLE
- NO ROTTING STITCHING, NO CRACKS OR SIGNS OF WEAR (particularly at turnings (e.g. where the bit sits in the cheek strap, stirrup iron sit on the stirrup leather))
- NO STRIPPED / SPLIT HOLES
- NO BROKEN KEEPERS OR RUNNERS
- Remember – leather stretches with use, so a regular check on fit is required



Australian Cheeker

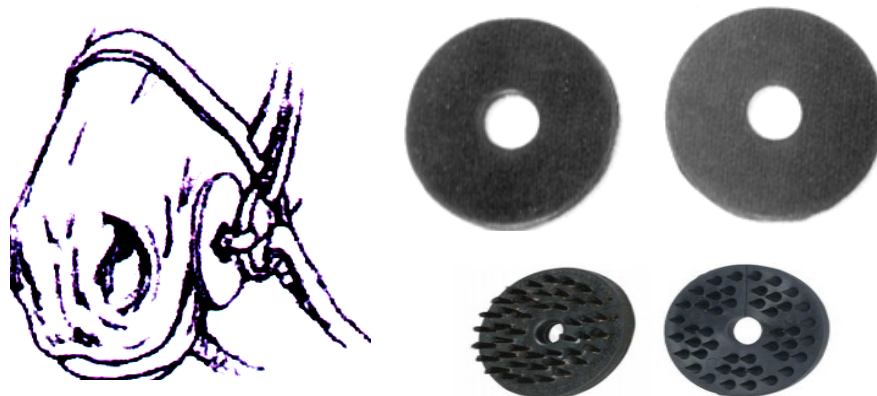
The Australian Cheeker is made of rubber. It consists of rubber circles which fit round the bit in the same way as Bit Guards, but the circles have strap extensions which pass diagonally up the horse's face and meet on the bridge of the nose, continuing in a single strip of rubber which passes under the browband between the ears to the poll, where it fastens to the headpiece of the bridle.

It can help steady a hard-pulling horse, the effect seeming to be largely psychological. It also keeps the bit up in the mouth - useful for horses in the habit of getting their tongue over the bit.



Bit Guards

Bit burrs or otherwise known as bit guards with rubber spikes (right)



Bits – How to Fit to a Horse / Pony

Much has changed recently with regard to Bit Fitting. With recent studies indicating that the inside of a horse's mouth can vary greatly. Ponies and horses differ drastically in their internal oral anatomy. The jaw can be narrow or wide, the bones themselves can be fairly flat or sharp and pointy, tongues can be wide, narrow, large, flat.... Some horse's cheeks are excessively fleshy, this leads them to be more prone to pinching. How much space is left for a bit is reduced further by the placement of the teeth and modern breeding, with its emphasis on narrow noses, has meant that a narrower bit diameter than traditionally recommended can actually reduce pressure to the bars. In addition, the traditional gap either side of the cheeks can mean that any port/roller/link in the mouthpiece can be pulled during riding, smashing into the teeth/bars/jawbone of the horse and causing discomfort.

For many years, when a horse showed resistance in his work, (head shaking/reefing/becoming strong/leaning into the bit/overbending/bolting/opening the mouth/tongue over the bit) the solution was to find a stronger bit, either through added leverage, or a more severe mouth piece. We now know that these behaviours can be caused by the horse attempting to evade pain and excess pressure, therefore if we can alleviate the excess pressure, the horse will no longer need to respond with these fight or flight behaviours. A correctly fitted bit can result in a calmer/ softer response from the horse.

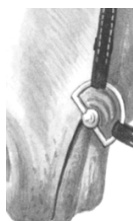
As each horse has a very different internal structure in their mouths, there are no one size fits all solutions and individual bit fitting is a growing field that we hope will one day become as common and accepted as saddle fit. In the future an oral exam may also be introduced as part of a standard vet check prior to purchase. In the meantime, some basic rules of thumb apply.

1. The bridle should be adjusted so that the bit causes 0 to 1.5 wrinkles in the corner of the lips. Not baggy, not tight.
2. The cheek piece of the bit should fit snug to the lips, with 0- 1cm gap total. This stops any risk of the mouthpiece impacting on the bars/jaw of the horse and in addition keeps the mouthpiece still.
3. The addition of rubber bit guards to any bit can significantly reduce the risk of pinching from moving cheekpieces.
4. The diameter of the mouthpiece should not be excessively fat not thin. Both can result in discomfort.
5. A single jointed snaffle mouthpiece applies a high level of pressure as the action squishes the fleshy cheeks into the teeth and jaw. Straight, curved, double jointed, ported, lock up options are all preferable and the choice dependent on the sensitivity/reactivity of each individual horse.
6. The choice of cheekpiece has a separate influence on the action of the bit. A loose ring option is the gentlest as its movement gives the horse a delay between the aid being applied and the pressure being exerted. Fixed ring options (eg eggbut) give a more immediate aid and require a greater level of expertise in the rider's hands.

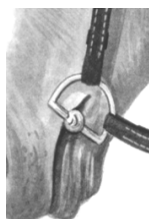
7. Any cheek piece with a shank, curb or gag introduces additional pressure to the bridle. Some relieve poll pressure (the boucher type), some apply additional leverage pressure on the mouthpiece to tongue or bars.
8. The action of a chain intensifies the aid whereas the addition of a keeper to an FM stabilizes the bit. A backstrap with any leverage cheekpiece is highly recommended as it serves to regulate the leverage applied.

As a rule, any resistance, disobedience, problematic behaviour in the horses response to aids applied through the reins can be a symptom of poor bit fit, dental work issues, the riders lack of sensitivity in their hands, a lack of training in the green horse. In the best interests of equine welfare, and in order to strengthen the trust they place in us, issues should not be resolved through the application of tight nosebands or the addition of extra pressures, instead we should investigate the reason for the behaviour and seek to relieve discomfort so that we may enjoy a calmer, happier partnership.

- A thicker mouthpiece is kinder, but it should not be too thick for size of mouth/tongue.
- The bit, when it is held out straight, should be 1cm wider than mouth on both sides.
- Bit makes 1½ to 2 small wrinkles in corners of lips.



TOO HIGH



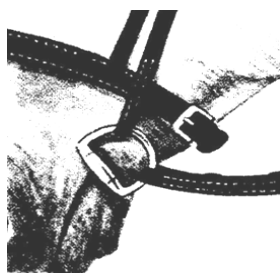
TOO LOW



TOO BIG



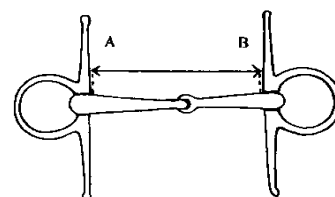
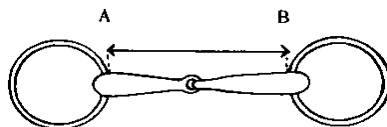
TOO SMALL



CORRECT HEIGHT AND WIDTH

Bits – How to Measure

Measuring Snaffle Mouth Pieces



Bits – The 3 Bit Families

For any make/type of bit – the effectiveness of a bit is incumbent on the skill of the rider, education of the horse and mouth conformation of the horse. If riders are building basic skills and/or have overactive or unsteady hands, be mindful of bits that send too quick a signal.

What bit should be used on a horse? Use what works for his level of training and his particular gait/body problems.

Different bits are designed to do different things.

The three main types allowed in Pony Club WA are the:

- Snaffle
- Curb/Pelham
- Gag

Snaffle Family of Bits

Non-leverage action. A snaffle is a bit without shanks that works on the lips, tongue and bars of the horse's mouth with only as much pressure as the rider directly puts on it through their contact (pull) on the reins. It may have a single jointed, double jointed or a straight bar mouthpiece.

An ordinary snaffle is a plain snaffle with a straight bar or joint in the centre. If there are two joints, the centre link shall be rounded and smooth, lacking any sharp edges.

Pelham/Curb Family of Bits

Leverage action. A curb is a bit with shanks and a chain or strap under the jaw that acts as a fulcrum for the lever action of the bit in the horse's mouth. It puts pressure on the bars, tongue and jaw, the amount depending on the design of the bit (longer shank -- more pressure on jaw, higher port -- more pressure on roof of mouth) and the amount of contact kept with the reins. It raises a horse's head and neck and can make him tuck his nose. Used poorly on a horse that has not learned how to give to a bit, it will cause "stargazing" or a high head and stretched out nose. A curb bit can be very painful to a horse; a light pull on the reins with a long shanked curb is much more severe than a heavy pull on the reins with a snaffle.

Most people assume that because the snaffle is usually a jointed bit and the curb usually is not, the mouthpiece is what determines whether a particular bit is a snaffle or a curb. However, in reality the difference between snaffles and curbs has nothing to do with the mouthpiece. The difference between the two types of bit is that the Snaffle is a non-leverage bit and the Curb is a leverage bit.

Gag Family of Bits

A gag bit is not a snaffle even though it has no shanks and may have a jointed mouthpiece. It works on the lips by pulling up in the horse's mouth. A gag with shanks works as a curb as well as a gag, pulling up on the lips and putting pressure on the jaw and bars. Gags all work to raise a horse's head and often hollow his neck and back.

Other types are the Hackamore/Bitless Bridle (not allowed in Pony Club WA) and the Double Bridle (allowed for Medium level Dressage and higher).

Bits - Materials

Can be most commonly found, made of:

1. Metal
2. Combination of metals
3. Metal with a plastic / rubber / leather cover
4. Pure plastic, with an inner metal cable (often steel) – **will be rigid**
5. Pure plastic, with no inner cable – is very flexible
6. Pure rubber, with an inner metal cable (often steel) – **will be rigid**
7. Pure plastic, with no inner cable – is very flexible

Any bit made of pure plastic or pure rubber and with no inner cable is not permitted at all in PONY CLUB Australia. This is because plastic and rubber can deteriorate and break. Without an inner cable to safety, a bit that breaks mid-ride will not only be painful for the horse but could be catastrophic if riding at speed and the rider losing control.

Hazards with rubber and plastic:

- Rubber may with age, become hard and split / crack
- Both rubber and plastic can deteriorate and disintegrate in some instances as a reaction to horse saliva
- Plastic can reveal sharp burs from horse's teeth marks

Members are urged to monitor the condition of any rubber or plastic bit for signs of sharp burs, crack or deterioration.

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where each bit is or is not permitted.

Bits – Various Different Types

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where each bit is or is not permitted.

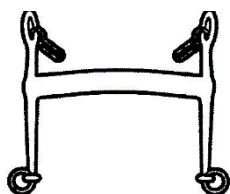
All bit types should be discussed at pony club rallies, with particular emphasis on bits permitted and most suited to pony club riders, both junior and senior.

There are many different bits on the market. Below is a compilation of the most common.

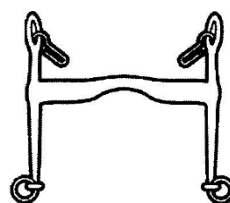
If you would like bits to be added to this section, please email gearchecking@ponyclubwa.asn.au.

Bits for a Double Bridle

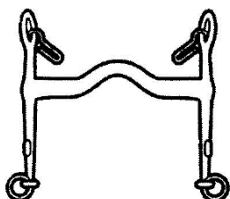
Curb Bits for a Double Bridle



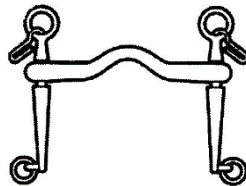
5. Half-moon curb bit



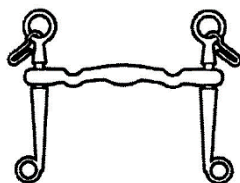
6.+7. Curb bit with straight cheeks and port



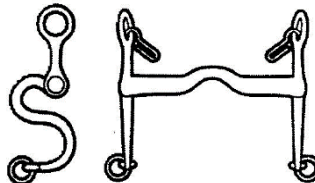
6.+7. Curb bit with straight cheeks and port



8. Curb bit with port and sliding mouthpiece (Weymouth) A curb bit with rotating lever arm is also allowed



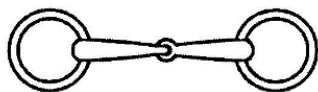
9. Variation of bits No 6, 7 & 8



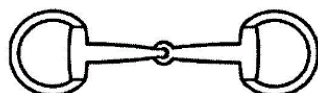
10. Curb bit with S-curved cheeks

Bridoon Bits for a Double Bridle

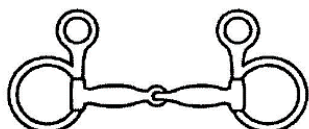
Bridoons



1. Loose-ring bridoon bit



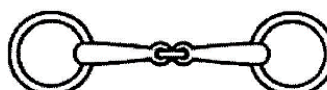
3. Egg-butt bridoon bit



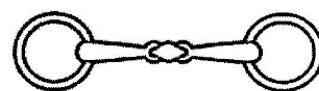
4. Bridoon bit with hanging cheeks



2a



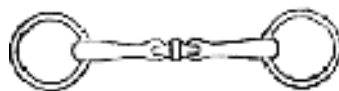
2b



2c

2. a,b,c. Bridoon bit with jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece should be rounded






2d. Bridoon Bit with rotating middle piece

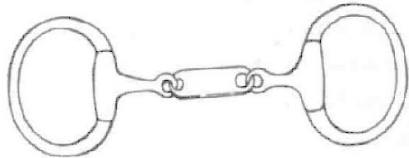


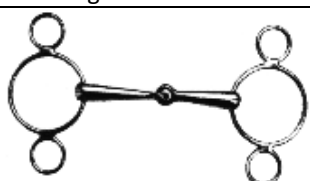
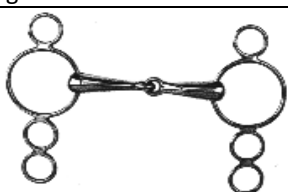


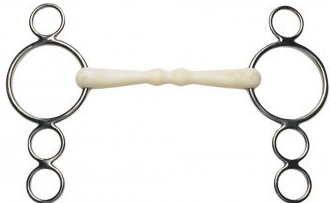
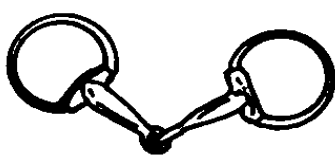



2d





Bits – Explanation and Guidelines for use of most common bits

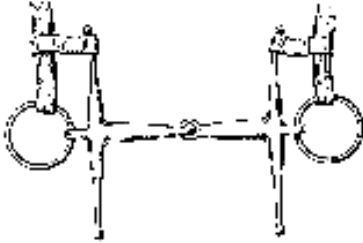




Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
Baucher – forward arching mouthpiece, myler rotating middle piece		X			X			X		X		
Baucher - straight and lozenge middle piece		X			X			X				
Baucher – straight and single join		X			X			X	X			
Baucher – straight and unjointed		X			X			X		X		X


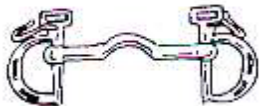




Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
Baucher Neue Schule Tranz Angled Lozenge Employs mild poll pressure. Simultaneously the mouthpiece lifts up within the mouth taking pressure off the tongue and bars.	 <p>In essence the head lowering aids are clear and this action combined with the Neue Schule Tranz Angled Lozenge have made the mouthpiece so comfortable that once achieved, a more consistent contact can be encouraged.</p>	X			X			X		X		
Cartwheel Bit Cheekpiece connects in top ring. Reins connect in bottom ring.	 <p>Mouthpiece slides up metal shank when rein pressure is applied, giving gradual leverage action. Recommended for a rider graduating from a snaffle to a bit with a bit more control. That does not want the curling effect that a 4-ring Dutch Gag gives.</p>		X			X		X	X	X		
Cherry Roller Bit Mouthpiece has a single joint.	 <p>Mouthpiece shanks have 'rollers' that allow the horse to play with the bit. Not to be confused with a Waterford bit which has multiple joints – Waterford is not permitted.</p>	X			X			X	X			
Crescendo Bit Mouthpiece is shaped to discourage the horse from setting its jaw against the bit and pulling.	 <p>Bit exerts forward pressure and downward pressure, on bars of mouth and tongue. Useful for horses that pull.</p>	X				X		X	X			X
Curb / Weymouth Bit This is not a Pelham. Curb bits are an accompaniment to a bridoon style bit for a double bridle.				X			X	X			X	X







Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
	Curb bits (See p. 45). Also known as Weymouth bits. Curbs are distinguished from Pelhams in that Curbs have no cheek ring.											
Dr Bristol Bit Cheekpieces can be fixed, loose ring.	 Ideal for horses that may not like the 'v' action of a single jointed bit. Square tongue plate.	X			X			X				X
D-Ring Copper Roller Snaffle	 Bars of the 'D' provide same steering pressure as for D-Ring Snaffle. Copper encourages salivation. Rollers encourage playing or suckling of the bit.	X			X			X	X			
D-Ring Snaffle	 Can be single or double jointed. Mouthpiece can come in thin or thicker versions. Bars of the 'D' place pressure on the sides of the mouth for steering.	X			X			X	X			
Dutch Gag – 3-Ring	 These bits work to raise the bit up in the horse's mouth in a similar yet much less severe manor to a conventional gag. Applies poll pressure when rein is attached on the lower ring setting.		X		X			X	X	X		
Dutch Gag – 4-Ring			X			X		X	X	X		






Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
	Applies poll pressure when rein is attached on the lower ring setting											
Dutch Gag, 4-ring, Happy mouth with inner metal support			X			X		X		X		X
Eggbutt Snaffle	 Can be single or double jointed. Mouthpiece can come in thin or thicker versions. Cheekpieces are fixed, and may be either flat or rounded metal. Ideal for young riders with unsteady hands, as the bit sits more still than a loose ring version.	X			X			X	X			
Eggbutt High-Port Snaffle		X					X	X				
Eggbutt Snaffle Bomber Bit	 Bomber bits can be detected by the blue metal coating on the mouthpiece. Often sold with cheek guards. the mouthpiece of this bit is forward arched, to fit with the shape of the horse's mouth when fitted. This mouthpiece can be made with different Cheekpiece styles such as 4-ring gag, D-ring, loose ring, full cheek etc. All of which may change the action of the bit.	X			X			X	X			
Eggbutt Snaffle, lozenge Bomber Bit	 Bomber bits can be detected by the blue metal coating on the mouthpiece. Eggbutt snaffles have a fixed Cheekpiece, that keeps the bit a little bit more stable in the	X			X			X				


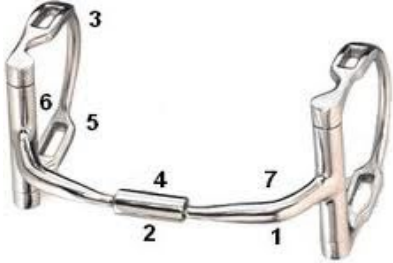


Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
	horse's mouth – ideal for riders that are new or with unsteady hands. This mouthpiece can be made with different Cheekpiece styles such as 4-ring gag, D-ring, loose ring, full cheek etc. All of which may change the action of the bit.											
Eggbutt Snaffle Neue Schule Tranz Angled Lozenge	 As per manufacturer: If your horse is tentative into the contact (inconsistent), the Neue Schule Eggbutt snaffles have a fixed Cheekpiece, that keeps the bit a little bit more stable in the horse's mouth – ideal for riders that are new or with unsteady hands.	X			X			X				
Eggbutt Snaffle with Tongue Plate		X					X	X	X			X
Elevator Neue Schule Tranz Angled Lozenge	 Designed for extra control, outline and much more help with straightness and turning. Often the answer for the very enthusiastic horse with a sensitive mouth that may even be prone to rubs, chafing etc.		X				X	X		X		
FM / Fulmer Snaffle Loose Ring FM stands for Franz Mairanger.	 Bars assist in giving clearer turning aids to the horse/pony. Also prevents bit being pulled through horse/pony mouth.	X			X			X	X			


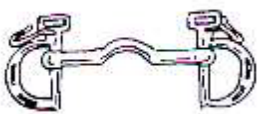
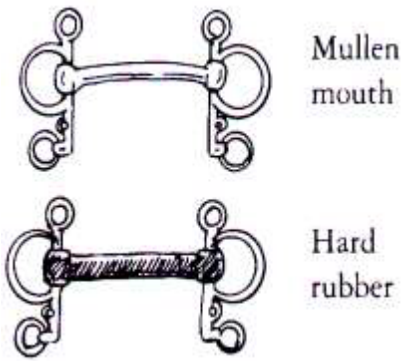

Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
FM / Fulmer Snaffle Loose Ring with keepers Keepers are leather straps which attach the upper cheek of the Full Cheek or Fulmer bits.	 FM Keepers are recommended to keep the centre of the bit lifted in the horse's mouth and prevent the cheek pieces from pressing into the horse's cheeks.	X			X			X	X			
French Link Snaffle Cheekpieces can be fixed, loose ring.	 Ideal for horses that may not like the 'v' action of a single jointed mouthpiece.	X			X			X				
Full Cheek Neue Schule Tranz Angled Lozenge As per Manufacturer: Reinforces the turning aid and helps with straightness and direction.	 Good for faster work as the mouthpiece will not slide across the mouth when turning, also good for young horses as it will not pull through in a panic situation. The upper cheeks may be fixed to the cheek pieces with Fulmer Loops to exert gentle poll pressure (head lowering). Not recommend fixing with young horses as we would lose the play factor which is desirable for mouthing purposes.	X			X			X				
Full Cheek or Fixed Cheek Snaffle Bars assist in giving clearer turning aids to the horse/pony. Also prevents bit being pulled through horse/pony mouth.		X			X			X	X			
Half-Cheek Snaffle		X			X			X	X			







Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
Kimblewick – Port Mouth This bit is a variation of the Pelham. It is a curb bit.				X	X			X			X	
Kimblewick – Port mouth & Slotted Cheekpiece 				X	X			X		X	X	
Loose Ring Bradoon Neue Schule Team Up 		X			X			X				
Loose Ring Neue Schule Tranz Angled Lozenge As per Manufacturer: A gentle training tool with a bit of extra help.		X			X			X				
Loose Ring Snaffle Can be single or double jointed. Mouthpiece can come in thin or thicker versions.		X			X			X	X			
Loose Ring Snaffle – Arched Lozenge 		X				X		X				






Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
Loose Ring Snaffle (Bridoon) The mouthpiece is thin.	 Can be used on its own, as a snaffle bit. Found with loose ring and fixed ring cheekpieces.	X			X			X	X			
Loose Ring Snaffle Neue Schule Team Up		X			X			X				
Loose Ring Snaffle Neue Schule Verbindend As per Manufacturer: Emphasises and clarifies the signals through the rein.	 Eradicates tongue evasions by creating a channel for the tongue to lie in allowing the horse to soften and relax through the jaw	X			X			X				
Loose Ring Snaffle Oval Link Bit		X			X			X				
Loose Ring, Low Port mouth Snaffle Bomber Bit Bomber bits can be detected by the blue metal coating on the mouthpiece. Often sold with cheek guards.	 This mouthpiece can be made with different Cheekpiece styles such as 4-ring gag, D-ring, loose ring, full cheek etc. All of which may change the action of the bit.	X			X			X				
Mikmar Combination Bit Combination Bits are bits that incorporate a noseband and curb chain/strap in addition to any type of mouthpiece.	 (Another description is a hybrid of a ring bit, shank bit and Hackamore).			X			X	X		X		X





Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
	Also note the mouthpieces are frequently not smooth and the combination bits incorporate a hackamore type leverage											
Mikmar D-Ring Bit							X	X				X
Mikmar Full Cheek Bit							X	X				X
Mikmar Loose Ring Bit							X	X				X
Mullen Mouth Snaffle Applies pressure on the bars of the mouth, useful for horses that do not like pressure from a jointed mouthpiece.	 May be used in a fixed cheek or loose ring option. Mouthpiece may be made of metal, synthetic or rubber (with metal inner core). Flexible rubber is not permitted.	X			X			X				X
Myler Combination Bit Combination Bits are bits that incorporate a noseband and curb chain/strap in addition to any type of mouthpiece.			X				X	X		X		

Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
Myler Snaffle – Level 1 “Myler” is both the brand, and the term that identifies the mouthpiece.	 <p>The mouthpiece has a central rolling metal cylinder. Myler bits can come with various cheek pieces</p>	X			X			X				
Myler Snaffle – Level 1 – Slotted Cheekpiece With the slotted version, reins may be positioned in certain locations to add a small degree of leverage action (5,6).	 <p>The cheek piece attaches to the top slot (3) and the rein to the bottom slot (5). This increases the leverage action</p>	X				X		X		X		
Pee Wee Bit A Pee Wee bit, fitted with a chin strap is permitted as per fitting guidelines in section 4.1.6.c Chin Straps (p.49), Mouth Bar: Thinner mouth bar eliminates contact with the roof of the mouth. Mouth bar floats on the rings so stays quiet at all times, eliminating pressure on the tongue. Unique shape and position of the mouth bar encourages flexing at the pole so the horse is in the best position to work.	 <p>Correctly fitted</p>  <p>Incorrectly fitted</p>	X				X		X				X

Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
	 <p>Side Bar: Prevent laying on the bit and encourage neck flexion.</p> <p>Rings: Do not contact the sensitive sides of the face, removing head tossing caused by pinching of the lips against the teeth.</p>											
Pelham - Jointed				X			X	X	X		X	
Pelham – Mullen Mouth The Pelham is a combination of the curb and bridoon on one mouthpiece. Pelhams can be used as an introduction to double reins. Pictures right show bit only, Pelhams should be ridden in conjunction with a curb chain.	 <p>Mullen mouth</p> <p>Hard rubber</p>			X	X			X			X	X
Pelham - Port Mouth				X	X			X			X	X

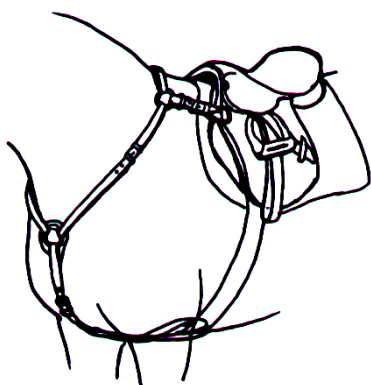
Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
Pelham – Rugby Rugby Pelhams are probably less functional but give the appearance of a Bit and Bridoon.				X	X			X			X	X
Pelham – Two Loop Popular driving bit, if used when ridden, the straight mouthpiece applies firm tongue and bar pressure. In addition to the curb chain.				X		X		X			X	X
Plastic – Happy Mouth Loose Ring Snaffle		X			X			X				X
Plastic – Mullen Mouth Loose Ring Snaffle Made with a flexible steel core Common brands are Nathe, Trust and Sprenger Duo		X			X			X				X
Rubber - Fully Flexible Mullen Mouth Loose Ring Snaffle Has no inner wire or cable support, pure rubber mouthpiece.		X			X			X				X
Running Gag This bit has a head lifting effect and can be very powerful. Especially effective for horses with a tendency to gallop long and low, evading the riders rein aids when riding at speed. This is not a bit that assists with 'brakes' or horses that simply pull. It should be used by a rider with an independent seat and good hands, and with an educated horse. Can be			X				X	X	X	X		

Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
	used with two reins, and the gag rein employed by the rider only as needed.											
Show Bit Not a snaffle bit. Not used for riding. Used for in-hand, halter and breeding classes.		N / A			N / A			N / A				
Tom Thumb Snaffle Most commonly seen on ponies. Make sure "ridged" part faces away from pony's head.	 Bars assist in giving clearer turning aids to the horse/pony. Also prevents bit being pulled through horse/pony mouth.	X			X			X				
Universal - Neue Schule Tranz Angled Lozenge For faster work such as jumping etc as you can turn much more easily and it generally eliminates the head toss when asking for a downward transition, or lengthening.	 If you need to upgrade from a snaffle, it is highly recommended as you are staying with a mild mouthpiece but subtly employing other pressure points.		X		X			X		X		
Waterford Bit A training bit for horses that pull or lean.	 Multiple joins create multiple movement (and potential pinching points) points in the horse's mouth. This is NOT a bit for the novice horse or rider and should be used with knowledge.	X					X	X				X
Wilkie Neue Schule Tranz Angled Lozenge			X		X			X		X		

Name	Picture	STYLE			RIDER SUITED TO			APPLIES PRESSURE TO				
		Snaffle	Gag	Curb	ALL	INTERMEDIATE	ADVANCED ONLY	Bars of Mouth	Roof of Mouth	Poll / Leverage	Chin / jaw	Tongue
Wilkie Snaffle Can also be called a Bevel Snaffle. A very mild lever action causes the cheeks to tilt forwards and the mouthpiece to lift up.	 Very effective for ponies and horses that poke their noses or are strung out. Promotes outline, turning and gives extra gentle control- a step up from a snaffle.		X			X		X	X	X		
Winged Snaffle												
WTP / liwinners EP (Extended Plate) Snaffle The extended plate is a tongue plate		X					X	X	X			X
WTP / liwinners NP (Normal Plate) Snaffle This bit has a middle lozenge that covers and restricts the joint action of the mouthpiece.	 This mouthpiece can be made with different Cheekpiece styles such as 4-ring gag, D-ring, loose ring, full cheek etc. All of which may change the action of the bit.	X			X			X				

Breastplates

A. STOCKMAN / HUNTING BREASTPLATE



Great care is needed in fitting. If fitted too high, the horse's breathing will be affected, if too low, it interferes with the action of the shoulders.

Neck strap should allow the width of a hand at the withers.

It should follow the line of the horse's shoulder blades, with the centre ring sitting at the base of the neck in the middle of the breast.

It is usually attached to the D's on the saddle.

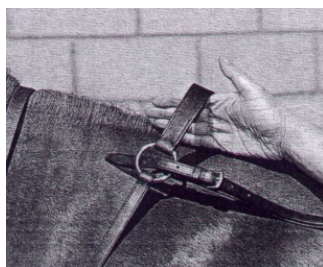
The ring at the breast should be backed with leather to prevent rubbing.

Martingale attachment may be attached to the breast ring.

Please note that some Stockman's Breastplates are being sold with clips, rather than buckles, for attachment to the saddle. These clips should be fastened with the opening part of the clips towards the horse



When the Breastplate is in place, check that the fit allows room for a palm's width at the chest.

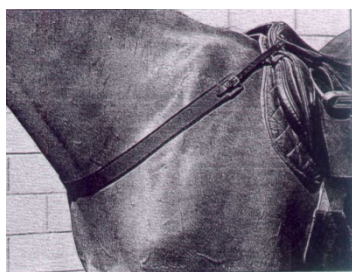


You should be able to fit 4 fingers under the strap that passes over the neck



The Breastplate keeper should be pushed tightly up to the girth so that there is no loop in which the horse could catch his foot.

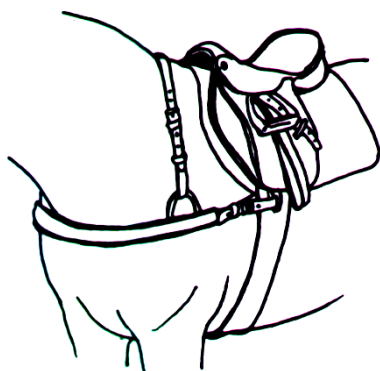
B. CONTINENTAL BREASTPLATE / BREASTGIRTH



This is elasticated and is attached to the D rings of the saddle, rather than to the girth straps.

Can be hard to fit so as not to put pressure on the horse's windpipe.

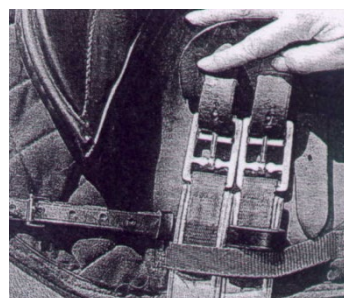
C. RACING BREASTPLATE OR BREASTGIRTH



Great care is needed in fitting. If fitted too high, the horse's breathing will be affected, if too low, it interferes with the action of the shoulders.

May be made of leather, webbing material, PVC or elastic.

Sheepskin cover can be fitted over the Breastplate to prevent the strap rubbing the horse.

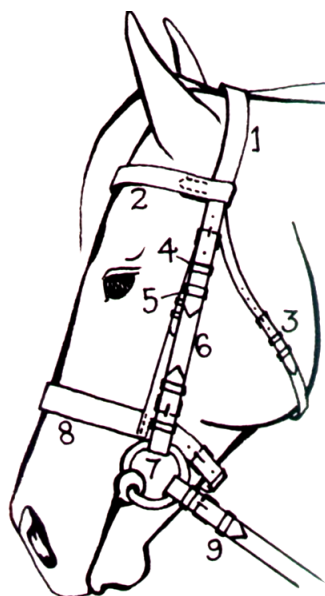
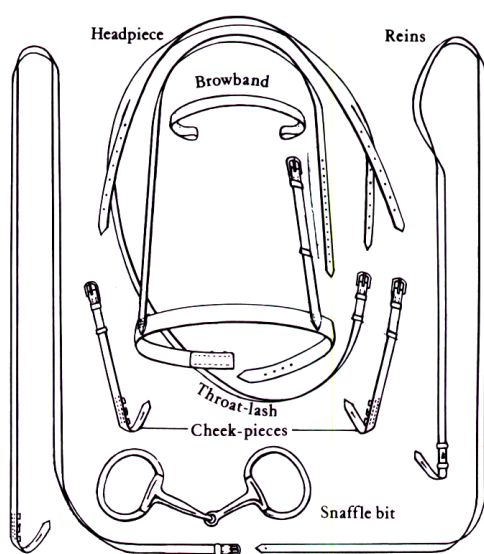


Attach the strap from the Breastplate to the girth strap just under the buckle if it is a long girth and above the Numnah strap (if any) to prevent it slipping down.

Pass it under the first girth strap and round the second girth strap.

D. ELASTIC “Y” FITTING OLYMPIC BREASTPLATE

This is elasticated and is attached to the D rings of the saddle

Bridle – parts of the bridle**SNAFFLE BRIDLE – PARTS**

1. Headpiece
2. Browband
3. Throat lash
4. Keeper
5. Runner
6. Cheek Piece
7. Loose Ring Snaffle Bit
8. Cavesson Noseband
9. Rein
(Buckles correctly facing out on cheek strap and rein)

Bridle – fitting of the snaffle bridle

Proper fit of bridle parts

Cheekpieces have one or two spare holes above buckle when bit is correctly adjusted.

Crownpiece and browband fit without rubbing or pinching ears.

Cavesson noseband lies $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (one finger) below cheekbone.

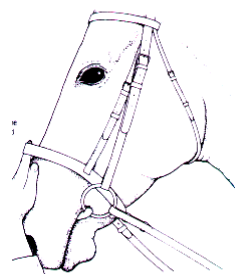
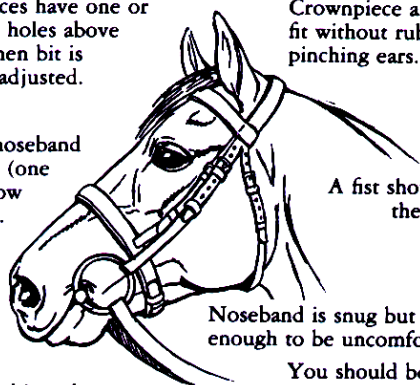
A fist should fit between the throatlash and pony's cheek.

Noseband is snug but not tight enough to be uncomfortable.

You should be able to slip a finger under any part of the bridle.

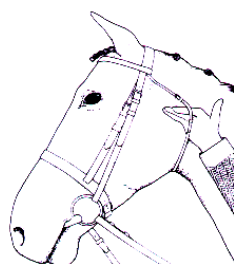
Snaffle bit makes two small wrinkles in lips.

All strap ends are in keepers.



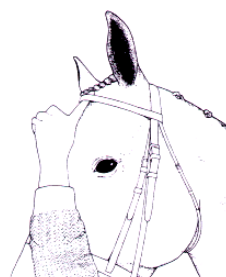
CAVESSON NOSEBAND

Two fingers between noseband and head. If it is fitted a little lower and tighter, it can help discourage the horse from opening his mouth and evading the bit.



THROATLASH

Fit width of fingers between the throat and throat lash so that it will not cause pressure on the windpipe when the horse flexes to the bit.

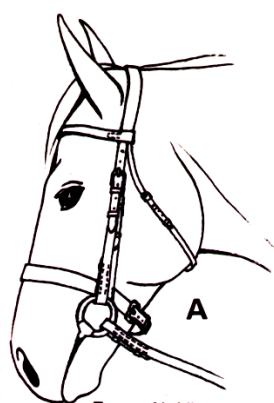


BROWBAND

This browband is a good length and is fitted low enough to avoid rubbing the ears. Noseband is too high and will rub the projecting cheek bones.

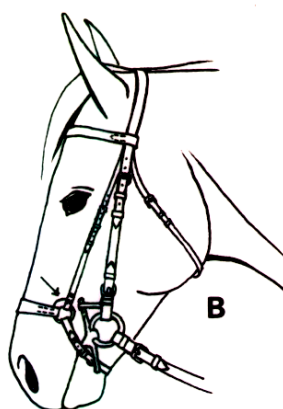
Bridle – types of snaffle bridles

SPLIT HEAD BRIDLE



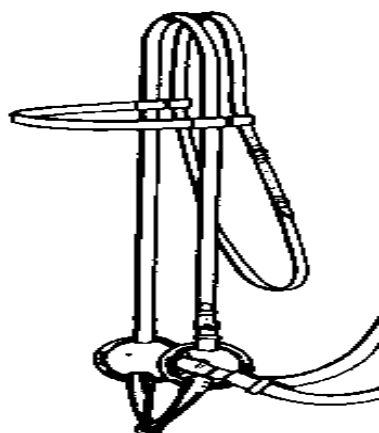
Where the head-piece and throat-lash are made from one piece of leather. Eggbutt snaffle and reins are attached by stud billets, correctly turned inwards. Cavesson noseband. This would be the preferred type of Bridle for all Pony Club Activities

LOOSE HEAD BRIDLE

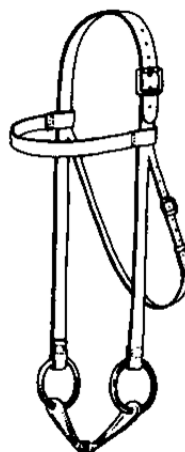


The throat lash is separate, and is liable to get lost. It should be threaded through from right to left, underneath the headpiece. Note – keepers from the cheekpiece of the bridle to the cheek of the Fulmer (FM) bit and the buckle attachments are correctly turned outwards. Note small leather attachment from cheekpiece in front of Drop Noseband to prevent it slipping down on to nostrils.

EXTENDED HEAD BRIDLE



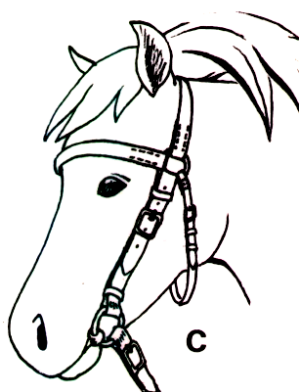
“DEALER’S” BRIDLE



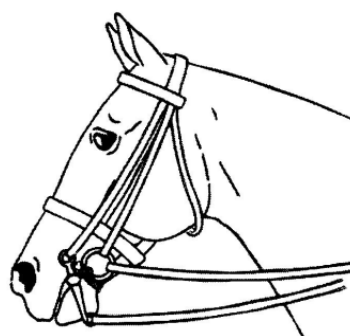
BARCOO / STOCK / FARM / QUEENSLAND BRIDLE

Usually too big for ponies.
No adjustment for height of browband.

NOSEBAND - Headpiece of the noseband has to sit over headpiece of bridle and then thread through rings at top of cheek straps.



DOUBLE BRIDLE



A double bridle is an English-type bridle with a bridoon (snaffle) bit and a curb bit and curb chain (metal or leather or a combination), both fitted with a set of reins. The upper cheek should not be longer than the lower cheek.

MICKLEM COMPETITION BRIDLE



This bridle needs to be very carefully fitted. The nosepiece of the Micklem should be positioned over the firm tissue of the horse's nose. Not the soft tissue and not positioned as for a drop noseband (too low).

Note that these bridles do not have a traditional throat lash. However instead a strap that fits snugly over the cheek or jowl, independent to the noseband. This is permitted in Pony Club WA.

MICKLEM MULTI-BRIDLE



This bridle needs to be very carefully fitted. The nosepiece of the Micklem should be positioned over the firm tissue of the horse's nose. Not the soft tissue and not positioned as for a drop noseband (too low).

The Multibridle has a ring on the nose piece, which

allows it to be adjusted to a lunge cavesson or (with extra fittings) a bitless bridle.

Note that these bridles do not have a traditional throat lash. However instead a strap that fits snugly over the cheek or jowl, independent to the noseband. This is permitted in Pony Club Australia.



(Courtesy Fairfax Saddles)



(Courtesy Fairfax Saddles)

FAIRFAX STYLE BRIDLES

“Fairfax” is a brand, and like Micklem, there may be other brands of bridles that have the same features.



(Courtesy PS of Sweden)



(Courtesy PS of Sweden)

PS OF SWEDEN STYLE BRIDLES

“PS of Sweden” is a brand, and like Micklem, there may be other brands of bridles that have the same features.

Note the blue label, indicating its make. Note also that there is no throat lash.

This bridle can also be sold with elastic inserts as pictured below and this is not permitted in Pony Club WA.



(Courtesy PS of Sweden)

Chin Straps (bridle)

Functions completely differently to a lip strap, curb strap or curb chain. Function is to stabilise the cheek and mouthpiece of a bit, to allow correct function. It may also be used to stop the bit being pulled through the horse's mouth. It encourages the mouthpiece to lift and offer tongue relief.

The chin strap should never place any pressure on the chin.

Minimum fit of two fingers between the CHIN and the strap. Strap to fit in the upper part of the chin, not the lower chin groove.

Made of leather or webbing material – not metal links.

Chin Strap, with a Universal Gag.
Strap is fitted in the top ring.



Chin Strap, with a Universal Gag FITTED.



Note that the strap is positioned well above the lower chin groove

Cruppers

Cruppers may be used for all activities and should be correctly fitted

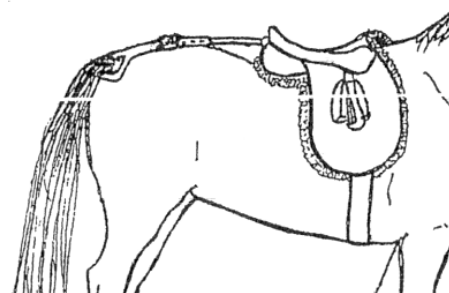


CRUPPER
A crupper is often worn by ponies and smaller

Useful if saddle tends to slip forward particularly for very round ponies without much wither. Goes under the tail, and is attached to a special 'D' at the back of the saddle. Check that this 'D' doesn't press on the pony's spine

Try it on and introduce it to the pony without the rider

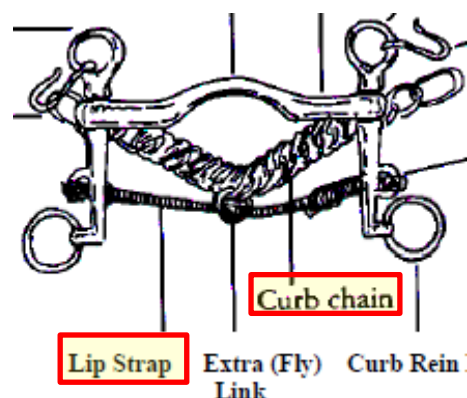
- It should be put on after the saddle is girthed up
- Make sure all hairs are pulled through crupper and are lying flat
- Take care that the crupper lies well to the top of the dock
- Allow a clenched fist between back strap and pony's back
- Check for rubs around the tail base
- Leather should be kept clean and soft/supple
- Can be uncomfortable for the pony if the top of the tail has been clipped/shaved
- The tail loop on the cheaper versions may be a piece of soft, folded leather
- On the more expensive varieties it is a hollow leather pad filled with crushed linseed which when warmed by the horse's body heat, releases oil through the loop, thus reducing the chance of it causing a sore by rubbing the dock.



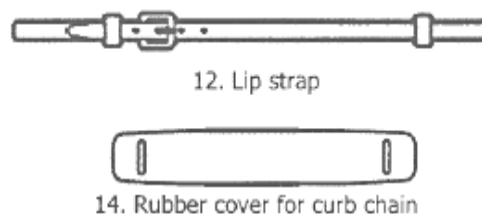
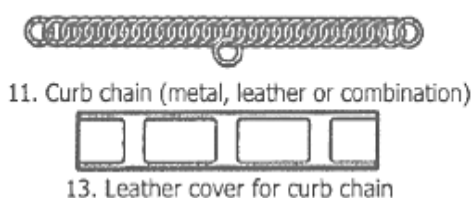
Curb Straps / Curb Chains (bridle)

Curb Straps / Curb Chains

- Minimum fit of two fingers between strap and CHIN of horse/pony
- Recommended to be fitted with a leather or rubber cover to guard the links from pinching hairs on the chin (see 13 & 14 below).
- When a lip strap is fitted, it is mandatory that an associated noseband is a cavesson noseband only, to avoid pinching in the chin groove.

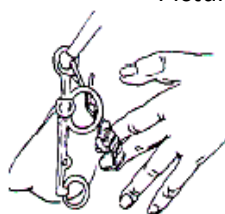


Pictures of Lip Straps (12), and Curb Chains (11), Curb Covers (13 & 14) and Curb Strap

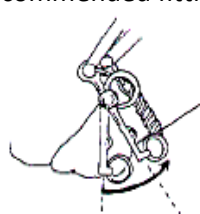


Curb Strap that can be used instead of a Curb Chain.

Pictures of recommended fitting for Curb Straps / Curb Chains



Bit rests at corner of lip without wrinkles



Bit rotates 45 degrees to tighten curb chain



Making the curb chain lie flat.
Twist curb chain clockwise (towards mount's chest until all the links are flat)

Ear Bonnets

Used to protect horses from insects.

Can also be called Fly Bonnets or Ear Muffs

The greatest of care should be given when taking the bonnet off – highly recommend for safety reasons that the bonnet is only ever taken off when the rider is dismounted, and the rider carefully removes either the bridle first or carefully shuffles the bonnet over the ears and poll.

Bonnets have been known to grip to the bridle and completely dislodge the bridle off the horses head. A predicament we encourage to be avoided when a rider is mounted or in the gear check or arenas of any sort.

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted.



Flyveils for Horses

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted



Girths

Girths come in many shapes and varieties of materials including leather, synthetic, anti-gall, webbing, string, nylon etc.

Girths should have two or three buckles and be fastened on the front and middle, or front and back, girth straps.

If a single buckle girth is being used, then a surcingle **SHOULD** be used.

Some saddles have two girth straps attached by a single piece of leather / webbing to the saddle. This should be very carefully checked for wear and tear.

Care of Girths

Girths should be kept clean of sweat, dirt and hair. Check also that the girth area on the horse/pony is clean of dried sweat and mud which is liable to cause galls.

Fitting of Girths

The girth buckles should be on approximately the same height of holes on both sides of the saddle. There should always be a few holes spare i.e. the girth should not be on the top holes of the girth straps or on the first or second holes.

Remember that the horse should be allowed to breathe, and that the girth shouldn't be so tight that a person's fingers can't get between the horse and the girth comfortably when the rider is mounted.

Run fingers down between the girth and the horse's skin to check the skin is lying smoothly. **DO NOT** stretch the leg forward, this can cause folds of skin in front of the girth when the leg is released which can then be rubbed raw.

Always check the girth when 'preparing to mount' and at intervals during the riding session.

If using a girth sleeve (cover), make sure that any seam is on the outside.

If using a girth with elastic on one side, it is recommended that the elastic be on the off (right hand) side and that when the rider is in the saddle, the girth should only be tightened on the side opposite to the elastic. If the girth is tightened on the elastic side from on top – two things could happen

- It is likely the girth will be over-tightened and
- The elastic will be stretched and the saddle will be pulled over to that side.

Dressage girths and short girths need care when fitting. Sometimes, the very long girth straps designed for the rider's comfort can cause discomfort to the horse by allowing the buckle or the corner of the girth to come into contact with the horse's elbow.

EXERCISES FOR THE "GIRTHY" HORSE (with thanks to Dr Warwick Vale)

There are many exercises that can be used on a horse to help manage issues related to muscle pain, spasm and stiffness associated with incorrect saddle fit and "girthiness".

These exercises are designed to stretch and mobilize those areas often left constricted by poor fitting saddles.

A. TUMMY LIFT EXERCISE

This exercise is designed to stretch the wither and abdominal muscles. These mirror sit up exercises in people.

Apply direct firm pressure/tickle/prod/poke to the midline abdomen just behind where the girth would lie to ask the horse to lift his abdomen and withers up as high as he can. Repeat 5 times for 2 sets. Do this exercise daily and especially before and after riding.

This exercise is highly beneficial for horses that need to lift their spines and those that have sore backs caused by poor muscle tone or saddle soreness

Initially you may need the help of a hoof pick or similar for this exercise. It is not something that the horse finds pleasant so do expect to use quite an amount of pressure\sharpness, especially at the beginning. Remember, although this may seem like a particularly 'mean' exercise you are working toward the long term health of your horse.

The reflex is along the stomach of the horse, the exercise is to get the horse to lift its entire abdomen and spine. He may grunt and groan as he has to shift his ribcage and diaphragm.

To start with use a hoof pick or some other blunt but 'pointy' object. Give him a little rub in the middle of the tummy just behind the armpit - then use the hoof pick in a slow jabbing motion to get him to suck his gut up and pick up his spine. You may need to draw the pick forward along his belly (quite hard). Beware of starting too far back at first - or you may get a hind leg in the ear. Stay by the horse's shoulder and work at the area under the withers until you get the hang of it. You are trying to activate the reflex that the horse uses to suck its belly away from clawing predators.

B. SHOULDER LIFT EXERCISE

This exercise releases the sore wither muscles.

In a standing position at the shoulder of the horse, facing the withers, raise the front leg of the horse and flex the leg at the knee. Keep the limb of the horse close to the body line of the horse. Continue to lift the leg and flex the elbow of the leg and now lift the whole limb upward until the shoulder and shoulder blade starts to raise and lift up toward the withers. Lift and hold as high as possible then relax. Repeat 5 times for 2 sets. Do this exercise daily and especially before and after riding.

C. FRONT LEG EXTENSION EXERCISE

This stretches the pectoral or girth muscles under the chest and between the front legs.

Lift the leg of the horse at the knee and extend the leg forward toward the nose. Lift the leg from the knee so that it is well forward as possible and above the level of the shoulder. Essentially the exercise aims to lift and pull the elbow of the horse forward. Repeat 5 times for 2 sets. Do this exercise daily and especially before and after riding.

Dressage girths and short girths need care when fitting. Sometimes, the very long girth straps designed for the rider's comfort can cause discomfort to the horse by allowing the buckle or the corner of the girth to come into contact with the horse's elbow.

Girth Types:



Leather Atherstone Girth



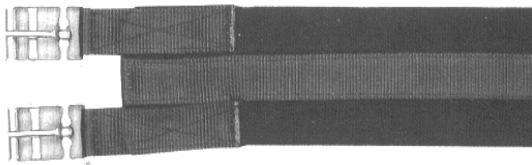
Atherstone Girth with elastic inserts



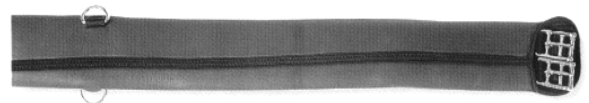
Balding Girth



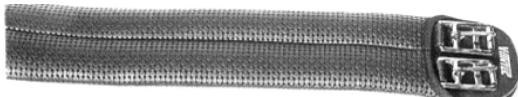
Three Fold Leather Girth



Cottage Craft Girth



Neoprene Girth



Wintec 'Anti-Gall' Girth

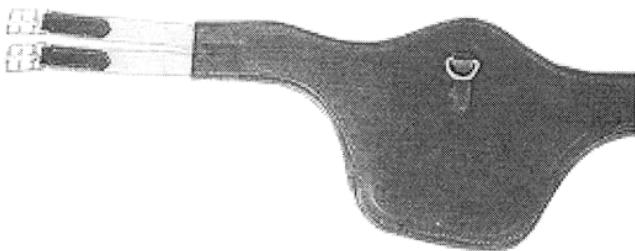


Dressage Girth

THE HUMANE GIRTH

Can only be used at Pony Club with a surcingle

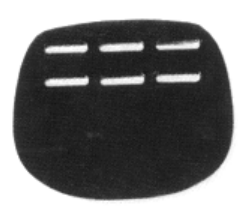
Even though it has two buckles, there is only one attachment to the girth – if one buckle breaks, then the whole girth is gone – the strap would simply slide under the bar of the girth attachment



The Leather Stud-Guard Girth is designed to prevent horses fitted with studs from injuring themselves when they tuck up their forelegs over a fence.

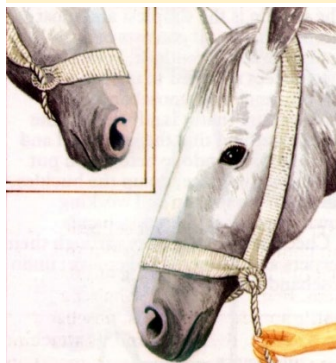


Leather Stud Guard



Buckle Guard

Halters



Traditional Halters

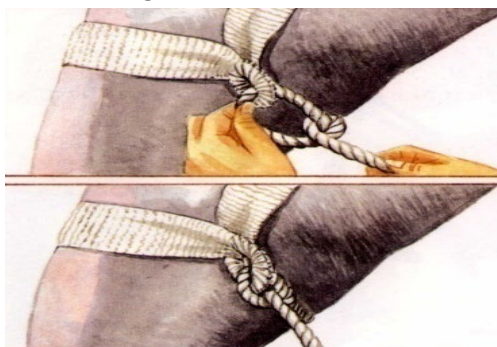
Made of rope and/or webbing, is combined with its lead rope.

These halters are used mainly for cattle and for showing Draft (Shire, Clydesdale etc.) Horses and Welsh ponies but are not practical for everyday use

Always use the special knot to stop the rope tightening.

Right hand side needs to be fixed or adjusted.

HALTER KNOT



A non-slip knot should always be tied, as shown, to prevent injury to the jaw should the horse get caught up or pull back.

An alternative - HALTER KNOT



A non-slip knot should always be tied, as shown, to prevent injury to the jaw should the horse get caught up or pull back.

Rope Training Halters

Can also be known as Nungar Knot Headstalls.

IT IS VERY STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THESE ARE NOT USED AT ANY PONY CLUB ACTIVITY

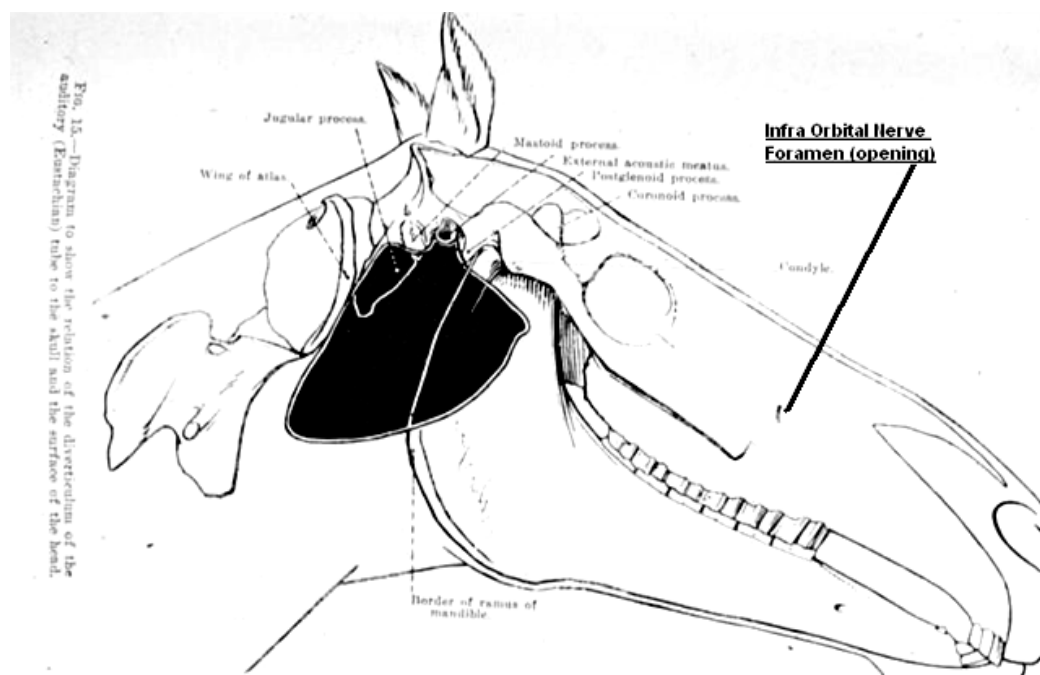
The Rope Training Halters are designed to increase control where necessary - NOT for general use i.e. NOT for tying up and they are definitely NOT safe for the horse to wear when turned out in the paddock.

These halters are for exactly that - training - and are for use by experienced people for specific problems, not for general use or for tying up and particularly not to be worn when turned out in the paddock. All ages and abilities are using them in Pony Club and the least experienced particularly get into difficulty with simple Pony Club tasks – e.g. putting on the bridle.

Parents and riders with little knowledge or experience tie them at the head incorrectly so that they cannot be undone quickly or easily when necessary – e.g. pony pulling back. They are often fitted incorrectly – too large – and present problems with lead rein riders – trying to fit them under the bridle.



The knots on the "Rope Training Halters" are designed to put pressure on the Infra Orbital Nerve when necessary to increase control

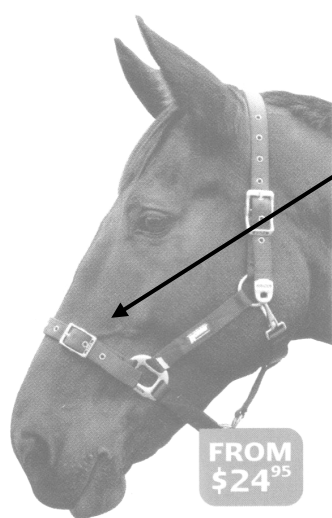


Headcollars

GENERAL USAGES – tying the horse up for grooming, washing, tacking up; leading a horse from the stable to the paddock and vice versa; wearing in the paddock; to help keep a neck rug in place by fastening the front loop of the neck rug to the headpiece of the Head Collar; etc.

Head Collars can be made of leather, synthetic material (plastic), webbing, nylon webbing.

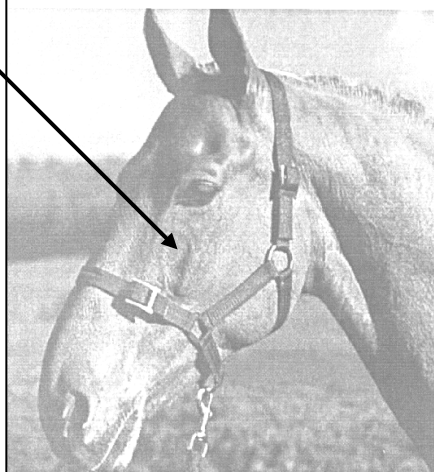
POINTS TO LOOK OUT FOR WHEN BUYING A HEAD COLLAR:



Recommended that the front of the noseband has a buckle or slider adjustment as shown, so after you have undone the noseband buckle or slider, you can slip the head collar back on the neck thereby keeping the horse secured (tied up) while the bridle is being put on.

The Head Collar can then be buckled on over the bridle to leave the horse tied up while the rider fetches their helmet, whip etc.

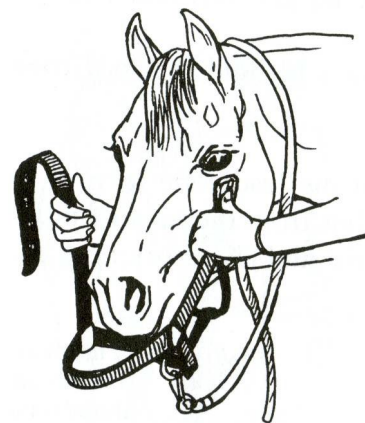
Clip correctly (safely) done up facing in towards the horse's head



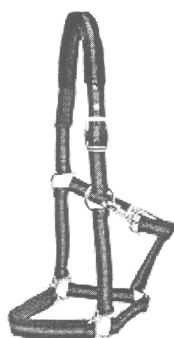
How to put on a Head Collar

This particular Head collar would NOT be recommended as it does not have an adjustment at the front of the nose.

REMEMBER THAT WHEN YOU UNTIE YOUR HORSE TO LEAD HIM OUT TO RIDE, HANG THE HEAD COLLAR UP ON THE RAIL OR POST – DO NOT LEAVE IT DANGLING AS YOU COULD TRIP OVER IT OR YOUR HORSE COULD GET CAUGHT UP.



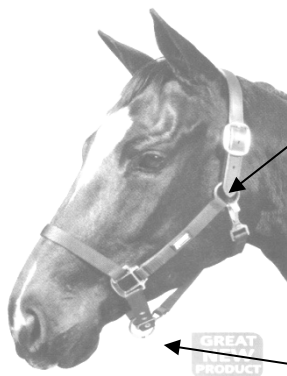
HEADCOLLARS THAT ARE NOT RECOMMENDED



Appears to be no adjustment on front of noseband therefore not recommended

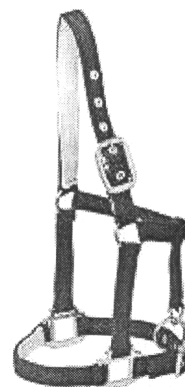
However - Sheepskin protection pieces on front of noseband and over poll are good to stop rub marks

No adjustment on front of nose



Clip should be facing in towards horse, not out like this one.

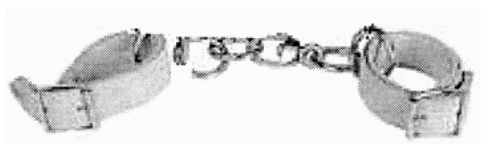
Adjustment behind nose - **not** recommended.



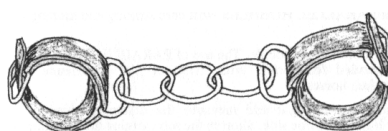
Hobbles

One of the oldest types of restraint are the use of HOBBLER, the most common type being the LOWER LEG HOBBLER. Such a hobble generally comprises two strong leather straps that fit around each front cannon bone, sometimes each pastern and they are joined together by a chain with appropriate swivels to prevent the chain getting twisted.

The length of the chain is generally about 375mm to 400mm, long enough allow the horse to walk with small steps, but short enough to prevent the horse trotting in comfort and certainly to normally prevent the horse from cantering or galloping. Some horses do learn to canter with hobbles on their front legs by moving both front feet almost together.



Swivel in centre of chain



No swivel



As a restraint, HOBBLERs are generally only used on the front feet.

LOWER LEG HOBBLERs are a common form of restraint used to allow horses to graze in unfenced areas. They are also used to stop a horse pawing when tied up.

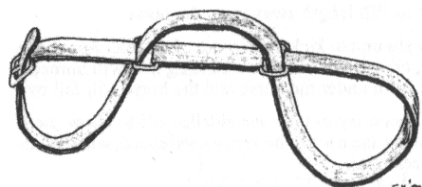
They restrict front leg movement so that the horse is able to walk with short steps but once it starts to trot, it will find the short gait, allowed by the length of the hobble chains, very uncomfortable and will in most circumstances do one of two things, it will either go back to a walk or else will fall over.

If you intend to use Front Leg Hobbles on any horse, make sure that the first few occasions that they are used is in daylight and the horse is kept under continual observation until you are sure the horse understands the significance of having the hobbles attached.

Front leg HOBBLERs are an ideal restraint to prevent horses from kicking forward, or striking out, with their front feet and /or from rearing. Any horse that kicks forward, or strikes out with its front feet always does so with one foot at a time. Similarly, any horse that rears up, always strikes with one foot before the other, never with two feet at the same time. If any horse is hobbled on the front legs and then allowed to attempt to strike out, or to rear, it will very quickly have difficulty staying on its feet.

After falling over a number of times, dependent on how quickly the horse learns, it will very quickly realize that to strike with the front feet, and / or to rear and strike out while in the air, it is only hurting itself.

A modified hobble can be made by using a heavy strong leather strap tied around the legs just above the knees. Commonly called a KNEE HOBBLER, this piece of equipment is sometimes preferred where a horse, with the ability to strike with the front feet, has to be handled around its head. The leather strap KNEE HOBBLER restricts the movement of the upper legs and makes it much more difficult for any horse to strike as both legs are forced to move at virtually the one time.



Horse Bandages

GENERAL PURPOSE BANDAGES

Bandages should have padding, Bandages should be sewn with a blanket stitch from the first to last wrap on the outside as per the diagram in rule section.

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

POLAR FLEECE BANDAGES

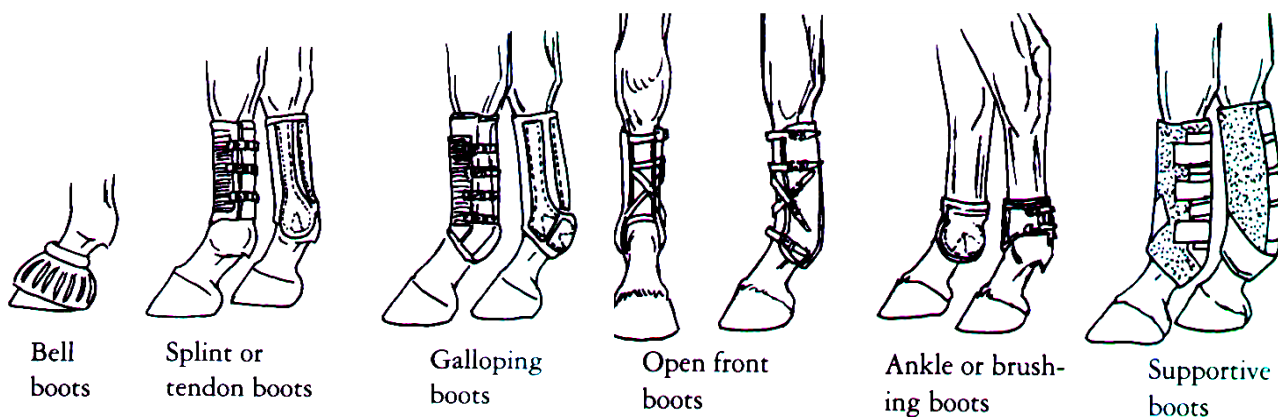
Padding is recommended for polar fleece bandages, and are not permitted for Cross Country or Showjumping. Bandages should be sewn with a blanket stitch from the first to last wrap on the outside as per the diagram in rule section

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted



THE REASON WHY AT PONY CLUB ACTIVITIES BANDAGES HAVE TO BE SEWN

Horse Boots (legs)



TYPES OF BOOTS

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

Care of your Horse's Legs with Boots (Courtesy of Dr. John Khonke)

In the exercising horse, tendons heat up to 46°C because of the elastic stretching action which generates heat energy within the tendon bundles and central tendon core. After exercise under hot conditions, tendon temperatures can increase to 47°C as air cooling of the limbs is reduced, which in the long term is considered to damage the structure within the tendon core fibrils, increasing the risk of tendon strain and failure at full loading during exercise.

It is essential to remove any tendon protection wraps (e.g. polo bandages, tendon boots) immediately following fast or strenuous exercise to allow the tendons to radiate and remove the accumulated heat. Cool down the joints and tendons after exercise by icing the rear of the front limbs for 5-10 minutes after exercise to help lower internal core temperatures within tendons. Cold water hosing for 5-10 minutes will also remove accumulated heat after exercise.

Indicators

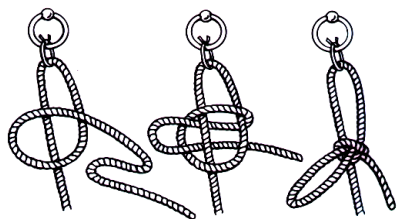
The wearing of a coloured ribbon in the tail is permitted. The different colours indicate:

- | | | |
|-------|---|--------------------------|
| RED | - | horse is likely to kick |
| GREEN | - | horse is young or green. |

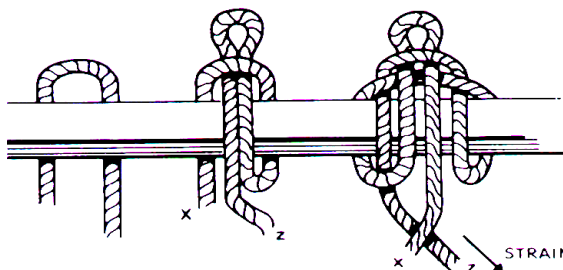
Knots and tying up

KNOTS FOR TYING UP

- Always tie up to a piece of twine or string that is attached to a strong post.
- Check the height of the string
 - too low and the horse or pony could get his leg over the lead rope
 - too high, and he could get his head and neck caught under the lead rope and he will panic
- The rope should be just long enough for him to reach to the bottom of a water bucket when he is tied up during a break
- The rope should be shorter when he is being groomed or saddled and bridled



QUICK RELEASE KNOT



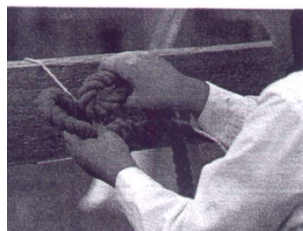
HIGHWAYMAN'S HITCH

This knot is so named because it enabled the Highwaymen of old to tether his horse to a post with one end of the rope and when he vaulted into the saddle for a quick getaway, he pulled the other end and away came the whole rope.

Place the loop behind the rail (but preferably binder twine), take end Z, make a loop in it and pass through the first loop, then take end X and pass it through the loop formed by end Z, strain can be taken on Z. Pull on X to release.



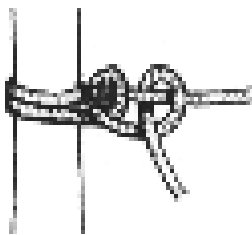
1. Feed a loop through the twine
2. Twist the Loop several times



3. Make another loop with the loose end of the rope and feed this through the first loop



4. Some ponies are clever and it will be necessary to put the free end of the rope through the loop so they cannot undo themselves



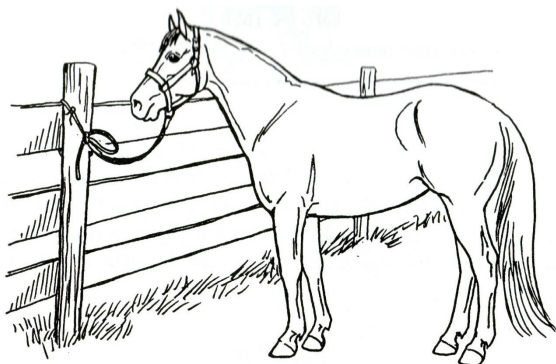
ROUND TURN & TWO HALF HITCHES

This is one knot that is not usually tied to binder twine, take care it doesn't slide down the post. One advantage of this knot is that it does not tighten when the horse pulls back.

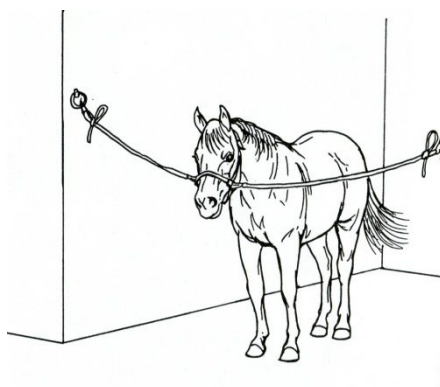
TYING UP DO'S & DON'TS

- Always tie up to a piece of twine or string that is attached to a strong post.
- Check the height of the string
- Too low and the horse or pony could get his leg over the lead rope
- Too high, and he could get his head and neck caught under the lead rope which will cause him to panic
- The rope should be just long enough for him to reach to the bottom of a water bucket when he is tied up during a break
- The rope should be shorter when he is being groomed or saddled and bridled (see picture below)

DO's



Tied to solid object, using a safety string
Tied with halter and tie rope, with quick-release knot
Tied at height of withers, with about 18 inches from knot to halter
Tied in a safe place



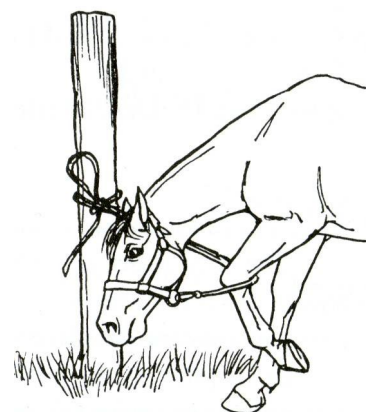
Pony safely cross-tied to safety strings



Never tie up with the reins.
Pony can break reins and hurt his mouth.



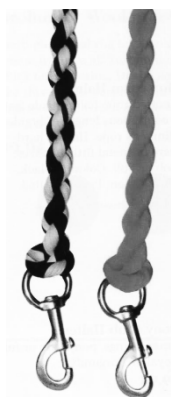
Never tie up with a chain end lead rope.
It can hurt the pony and the knot may jam tight.



Never tie too long and too low.
Pony can get his foot over the rope and get hurt.

Lead Ropes

NEVER USE NYLON ROPE FOR A LEAD ROPE



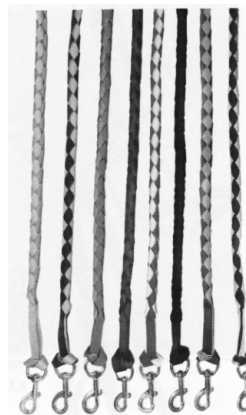
Heavy Duty Lead Ropes

Very thick for small hands to hold, but strong with nice large clips



Cotton Lead Ropes

Good size for small hands, better if can purchase with large clips

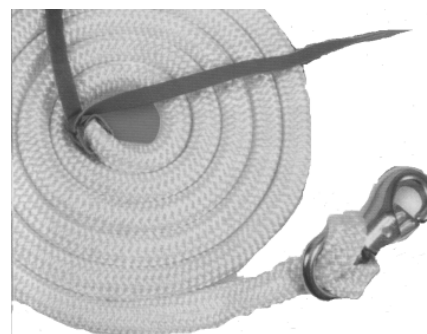


Plaited Lead Ropes

Very thick for small hands to hold, difficult to tie up with, more likely to give rope burns but come in pretty colours!

TRAINING LEADS OVER 2 METRES LONG

IT IS VERY STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT THESE ARE NOT USED AT ANY PONY CLUB ACTIVITY as they create many dangerous situations, particularly for the younger members.



Leadline - where a rider is lead at pony club rallies



(Photo courtesy of Walliston RPC)

Note the big smile on the rider!

Also that the leader is correctly attired and safely to the left of the pony.

Safe and correct lead rope holding and hand position.

Riders being led in Show Horse activities are called **LEAD REIN RIDERS**.

This is not to be confused with **LEADLINE RIDERS**, who are riders being led at pony club rallies.

- Parents are responsible for their Leadline Rider
- Parents are responsible for providing a competent Leader 18 years and over.
- Leaders should be on the Club's current Strength Return.
- Minimum age for Rider – as per Club Ruling.

Leadline Riders Dress

As for Rallies.

Leader Dress

- In keeping with Risk Management and Sun Smart Policies, Leaders attire to be tasteful and functional to compliment the overall picture and not to take away from the pony and rider.
- Clothing
Close fitting, sensible and suitable for weather conditions
- Footwear
Correctly fitting, covered in with no flimsy straps
- Jewellery
No jewellery etc. that could get caught on pony's gear/mane etc.
- Hats
Stable and suitable for weather conditions
- Gloves
If used, should be soft enough to feel buckles and reins
- Whip/Cane
Handler/Leader to carry the whip or cane, never the rider



(Courtesy Google Images)

Incorrect – Safety first!!

Leader has non-compliant footwear, not to mention highly unsafe around horses! Rider is not dressed as per Rally requirements – no helmet, unsafe footwear and overall highly unsafe. Pony is led with a halter only, should have a bridle and bit for leadline in PC rallies.

Leader When Leading the Pony and Rider

- Should always use the Head Collar and Lead Rope- or butterfly clips connected to both sides of the bit.
- Should always lead from the shoulder where contact with Pony and Rider are optimum
- Should allow the rider to attempt the exercise before assisting
- Should be careful when changing direction or pace not to unbalance the rider
- Leaders are there to ASSIST the rider with steering, stopping and making the pony go - NOT to pull or push the pony around.

Leadline
Saddlery

As for Rallies but with following amendments:

- Bridle - Noseband is optional, and not recommended in the interest to comfort for the pony.
- Head Collar (worn under the bridle) with lead rein attached to the Head Collar.
- Snaffle bits only – no Kimblewick or Pelham bits allowed.



(Courtesy Pingelly HPC)

Correct – Noseband removed, headcollar (red) fitted under bridle. Lead rope is connected to halter, pressure when being led is applied via the lead to the halter.

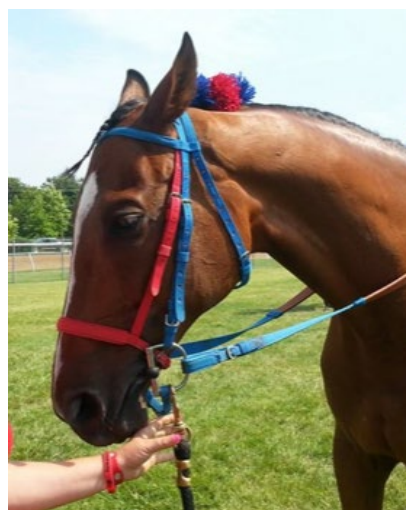


Connected (via black strap) to the bit, leader will apply pressure to the horse's mouth on one side and cause discomfort for the pony



(Courtesy Wellington HPC)

Correct – Head collar (black) fitted under bridle. Lead rope is connected to halter, pressure when being led is applied via the lead to the halter. Note that the headcollar noseband is sitting low, hence our recommendation to remove the noseband of the bridle to create more space for an optimal headcollar fit.



Incorrect – lead rope is connected to the bit, leader will apply pressure to the horse's mouth on one side and cause discomfort for the pony

Lead Rein - where a rider is lead in show-horse competitions



Riders being led in Show Horse activities are called LEAD REIN RIDERS.

This is not to be confused with LEAD LINE RIDERS, who are riders being led at pony club rallies.

- Parents are responsible for their Lead Rein Rider
- Parents are responsible for providing a competent Leader 18 years and over.
- Leaders should be a financial member of Pony Club WA
- Minimum age for Rider – as per Pony Club WA members handbook.

LEAD REIN RIDER'S DRESS

As for Show Horse – see Section 1 Rules

- In keeping with Risk Management and Sun Smart Policies, Leaders attire to be tasteful and functional to compliment the overall picture and not to take away from the pony and rider.
- Clothing
Close fitting, sensible and suitable for weather conditions
- Footwear
Correctly fitting, covered in with no flimsy straps
- Jewellery
No jewellery etc. that could get caught on pony's gear/mane etc.
- Hats
Stable and suitable for weather conditions
- Gloves
If used, should be soft enough to feel buckles and reins
- Whip/Cane
Handler/Leader to carry the whip or cane, never the rider
- Should always use the lead rein
- Should always lead from the shoulder where contact with Pony and Rider are optimum
- Should be careful when changing direction or pace not to unbalance the rider
- Leaders are there to ASSIST the rider with steering, stopping and making the pony go - NOT to pull or push the pony around.

LEADER DRESS

LEADER WHEN LEADING THE PONY AND RIDER

LEAD REIN SADDLERY

As for Rallies but with a Head Collar (worn under the bridle) with lead rein attached to the Head Collar.

Snaffle bit only – no Kimblewick or Pelham bits allowed.



Lead connects to both bit Cheekpieces.



Lead, most suited to bitless halter (breed) classes. See picture below for alternative use of this lead.



Lead is clipped to the right bit Cheekpiece, fed through the left Cheekpiece.



Lungeing Equipment and Guidelines

Refer Section 1 for Rules on rider attire, horse turnout and saddlery in Lungeing

LUNGEING THE HORSE

LUNGEING is part of the Pony Club Australia Syllabus for riders working towards Efficiency Certificates from C* / K through to A.

Lungeing can also be used for warming up, exercising or to settle down a horse at Rallies, Competitions and other Pony Club Activities and it is therefore being performed other than in the controlled Rally situation

Safety is an area of particular concern as the Handler is concentrating on the horse and, in the learning stages, dealing with the whip and lunge rein. A lunged horse needs space and people in the area may not realise the dangers and drive, walk or ride too close. A horse can easily be spooked and misbehave or even get away from the Handler and create an even more dangerous situation.

Before a horse can be correctly lunged, it should lead well in hand. It should walk, stop and keep its position next to the Handler without pulling or pushing. The first lesson in lungeing should be leading with a bridle and whip teaching correct techniques.

In the controlled Pony Club Rally situation, the Handler is constantly supervised and taught by a qualified Coach or experienced person on how to lunge safely and what hazards to avoid, ideally in an enclosed area of suitable size with a safe surface to work on (min size 20m x 20m).

We have all seen someone at an Activity lungeing a horse in an unsafe manner by:

- Talking to someone
- Passing the Lunge Rein behind their back
- Holding the Lunge Rein over their head
- Letting the horse run around and not work correctly
- Holding the Lunge Rein by the loop
- Letting the Lunge Rein drag on the ground
- Not wearing covered in footwear
- Not wearing gloves
- Horse not wearing correct, well-fitting safe equipment
- Many other unsafe practices

LUNGEING CONDUCT BY A PARENT OR HELPER

Parents/helpers should be encouraged to observe, learn and ask questions to better understand the process so they will then be able to supervise and help the Handler at home or elsewhere.

Parents/helpers etc. who lunge their child's mount at Pony Club Activities, for whatever reason, should know and demonstrate safe and correct procedure at all times. Incorrect lungeing can do more harm than good and can cause damage (sprains and/or strains) to the horse's legs and muscles, especially to young or unfit horses. Incorrect lungeing can stir the horse up instead of calming it down, or simply tire it. Horses should never be lunged at Rallies without the Club Coach Coordinator's knowledge or approval.

Parents/helpers are likely to be observed, even if they work 'out the back' at different activities (e.g. prior to a dressage test or a jumping round).

They should set a good example

1. By paying full attention
2. By being correctly attired
3. Ensuring that the horse is wearing correct, well fitting, safe equipment including a properly fitted Cavesson
4. That the horse is working correctly
5. Walk and trot only, no jumping

Guidelines for the correct and safe attire for Parents/Helpers/Adults who may intend to lunge at a Pony Club Activity are included in this Gear Checking Manual

LUNGEING THE RIDER

- A Rider should never be lunged without the Chief Coach Co-ordinator's express permission
- They should be lunged on a quiet and reliable horse by a qualified Coach or experienced person.
- An inexperienced rider should only walk and trot for short periods with frequent rest breaks and be encouraged to hold the pommel and/or neck strap.
- Only advanced riders on experienced lunge horses should be allowed to canter.
- All lungeing of riders to be done in a safe enclosed area.
- Only 1 horse to be worked at a time.

DRESS OF THE LUNGER

Dress as per Rider Attire (Refer Section 1 for Rules), with the following safety considerations:

- Spurs are not permitted as they pose a tripping hazard whilst on the ground lungeing.
- Wearing of gloves is compulsory when lungeing. The gloves should be in good condition and not too tight so that if the lunge rein becomes twisted round the Handler's fingers, the glove will slide off.
- Pant wear - Jodhpurs / Breeches or neatly fitting Slacks, Dress Shorts.
- Neatly fitting long sleeved tops
- No flapping clothes
- Enclosed Shoes, Work boots permitted if person is unmounted.
- Sunscreen protection is strongly recommended.
- Mobile Phones If required for emergency use, are to be kept on silent mode
- Chewing Gum Not permitted
- Eating Lollies Not permitted
- Smoking Not permitted.

DRESS OF THE RIDER

As per Rider Attire (Refer Section 1 for Rules)

SADDLERY FOR LUNGEING

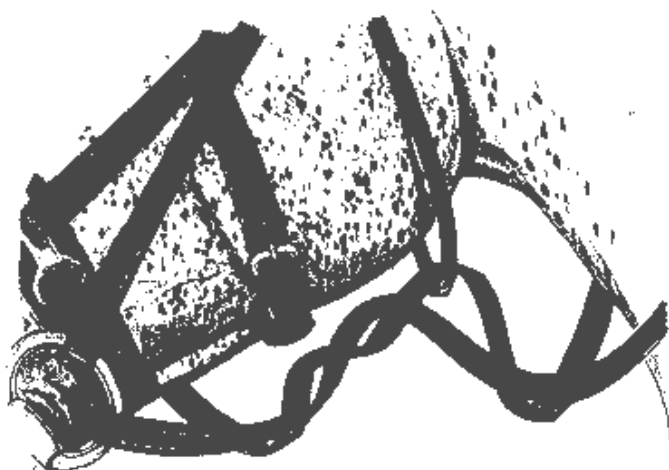
Because the horse should understand that lungeing is a serious business, not just a reason for a frolic, tack should be worn as for riding.

Saddlery as per Section 1 for Rules, with the following safety and practical considerations:

BRIDLE

Correctly fitting Snaffle Bridle of leather or synthetic fibre (with suitable bit thickness), Noseband to be removed and with the reins correctly secured:

- Reins may be either looped twice round the horse's neck
- OR
- laid on the neck in the normal way, then twisted over each other, under the horse's neck and the throat lash passed through one rein before being buckled in the normal way. A 'monkey strap' (ideally it should be leather but twine will do as a temporary measure) should be attached to both of the Saddle 'Ds'. The end of the reins is put through the 'monkey strap' to prevent the reins forming a large loop or slipping forward over the horse's head which could become a big safety issue.

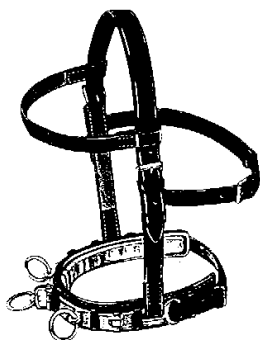


Reins twisted under neck with the throat lash passed through one rein

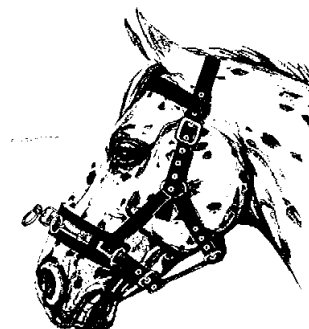
Micklem bridle not permitted to be worn as bridle (does not allow a Lungeing Cavesson) or Lunge Cavesson for the activity of lungeing.

LUNGEING CAVESSON

- Maybe of either leather or synthetic fibre
- Noseband of Cavesson should be well padded with three rings on a hinged metal plate – the center ring should be a swivel ring
- To be comfortably fitted either over the headpiece of the bridle and under the cheek pieces of the bridle OR under the bridle
- The Cavesson should fit snugly, otherwise it will twist across the horse's nose and rub across the outer eye
- The Jowl Strap on the Cavesson should be firm, as it lies lower down the horse's jaw than the throat lash (see diagram (a) on next page)
- The noseband of the Cavesson should lie below the projecting cheek bone
- It is recommended that the Browband is removed from the Lungeing Cavesson



Leather Cavesson



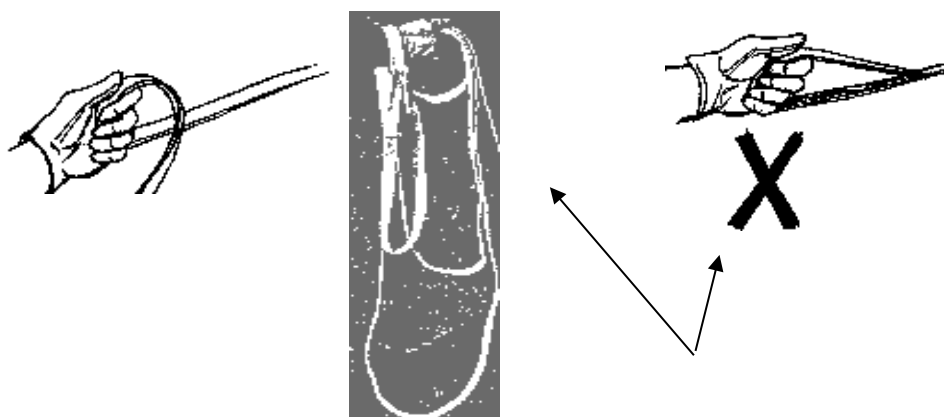
Webbing Cavesson



b. Correctly fitted without the bridle

**LUNGE REIN
(LUNGE LINE)**

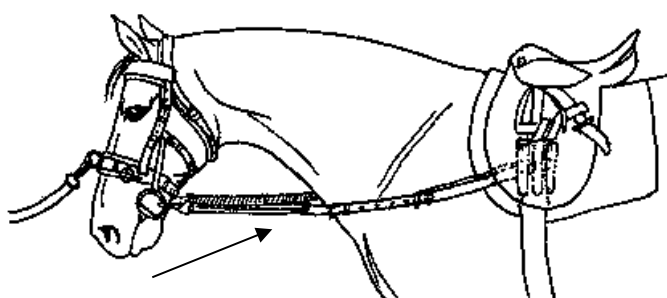
- Made of cotton webbing. 9 to 10 metres long, 3cms/4cms wide
- No knots or fraying parts
- Loop at one end
- Strong Snap Hook, or Buckle, on a swivel at the other end – attach to the Centre Ring on the Lungeing Cavesson
- NOT recommended –nylon lunge reins

**LUNGE WHIPS**

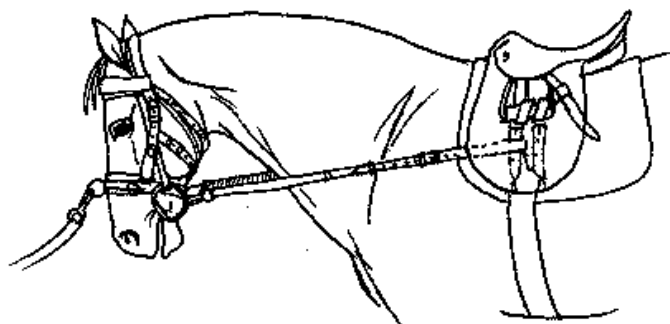
- Should be in good condition, particularly at join of handle and thong
- Length of whip and thong suitable for Handler and Horse combination
- Weight and balance suitable for Handler
- Should have a tassel at the end of the thong
- When used, not to be raised above the horse's hocks

SIDE REINS

- **For use by B Certificate (and above) Candidates.** Side Reins are advanced training equipment, to be used only by experienced persons who know how to use them correctly. Only to be used under the supervision of an experienced Pony Club Coach.



Correctly adjusted – slight slack when pony's head is slightly in front of vertical



Incorrectly adjusted – too short (tight) pony's head behind vertical

- Side Reins always to be 'put up' (i.e. bit attachment end of side reins is fastened to the saddle/roller) and only to be attached to the bit after the horse is correctly warmed up
- Never leave Side Reins attached to the mouth when leading the horse
- When fitted correctly, the Side Reins need to be 4" above the point of the horse's shoulders attached through the girth or roller level with the bit.

SOLID SIDE REINS



Made of leather or webbing without stretch or 'give'. Care should be taken to avoid letting the horse lean on them or get behind the bit.

SIDE REINS WITH RUBBER RINGS



Rubber rings provide some 'give' especially if the horse tosses his head. However, they do add weight to the reins.

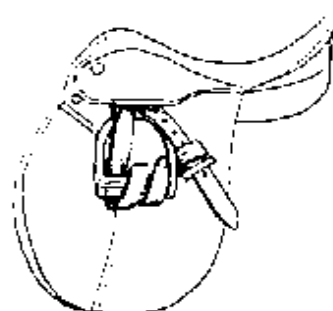
ELASTIC END SIDE REINS



Allow more stretch than rubber rings, making for a lighter and more elastic contact with the bit. May be useful for extremely sensitive horses, but some trainers believe they encourage the horse to pull.

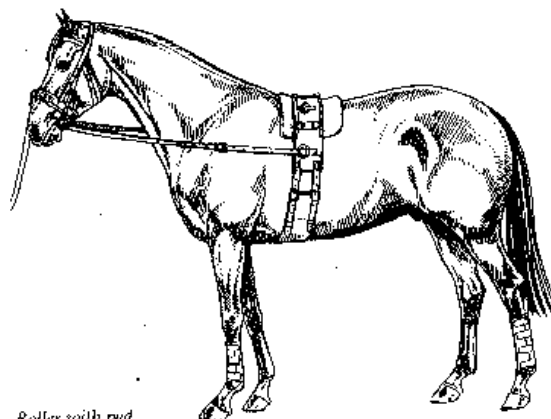
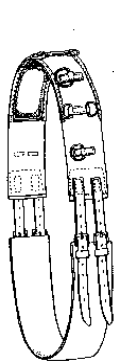
STIRRUP LEATHERS / STIRRUP IRONS

- Should be "put up" for lungeing



**LUNGEING
ROLLER**

- May be of Leather or Synthetic Fibre
- Correctly fitting, not putting any pressure on spine/withers
- Suitable roller pad required
- Should have at least 2 'Ds' on either side of the Roller

*Roller with pad***BANDAGES /
BOOTS /
BELL BOOTS**

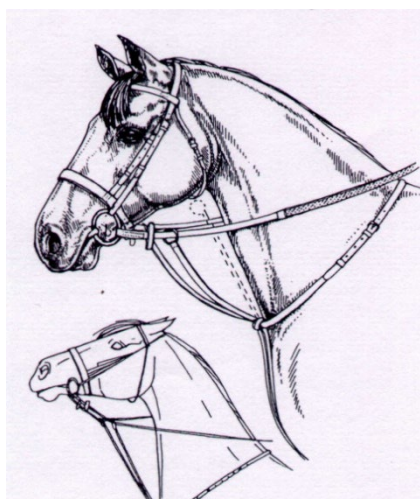
- Boots or bandages **compulsory** on all four legs

**CHAMBONS,
DRAW REINS
& "OTHER
GADGETS"**

- For use by A Certificate Candidates as they are advanced training equipment, and they to be used only by experienced persons who know how to use them correctly. Only to be used under the supervision of an experienced Pony Club Coach.
- These may all have their place in correcting a spoilt horse or building up certain areas of muscle but for the inexperienced trainer, they can often cause more harm than good. If they are incorrectly fitted, tension, strain or resistance can be caused or, if too loose will be ineffective

Martingales**RUNNING / BIB MARTINGALE**

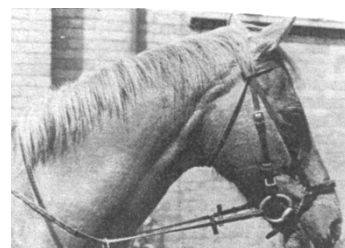
Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted



Top - correctly
fitted. Bottom
– in action.



Too tight – note kink in
reins



Rein stoppers should
be on other side of
martingale rings



BIB Martingale

To be fitted like a Running Martingale



Running Martingale

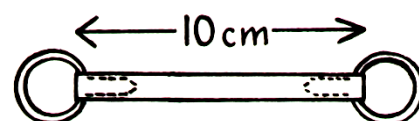


BIB

(zoomed in)

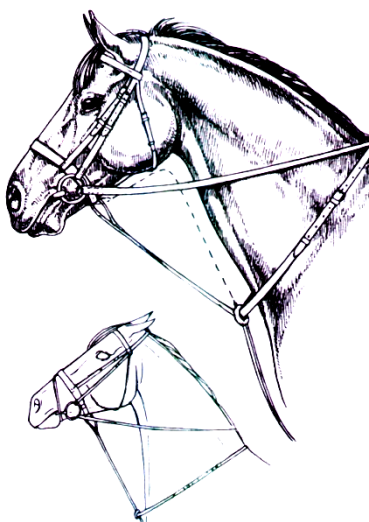
IRISH MARTINGALE

Two rings joined together by a strip of leather or synthetic material approx. 10cm long. Reins pass through the rings under the horse's neck. Used to prevent the reins being thrown over the horse's head.



STANDING MARTINGALE

Standing Martingale (stopper compulsory at neck strap) permitted for Games. Should always be connected to a cavesson noseband. Connecting to a drop / Micklem noseband fitting will inflict pressure on sensitive parts of the horse's nose and may impact their breathing.



Acts on the nose via the Cavesson Noseband.

Left - correctly fitted, and

Below - in action attached to Cavesson part of a Hanoverian Noseband.



Too tight!

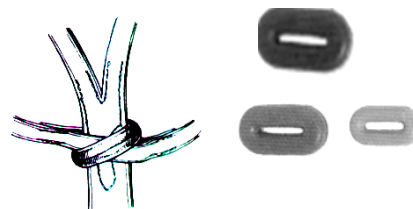
No stopper on neck strap.

Cavesson Noseband too high.

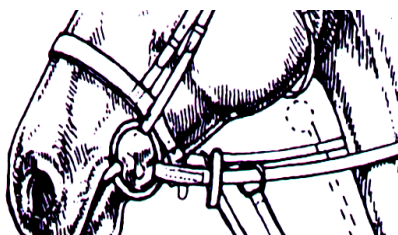
Permitted to wear Drop Noseband as well as Cavesson noseband as long as Martingale is attached to the Cavesson.

NECK STOPPER

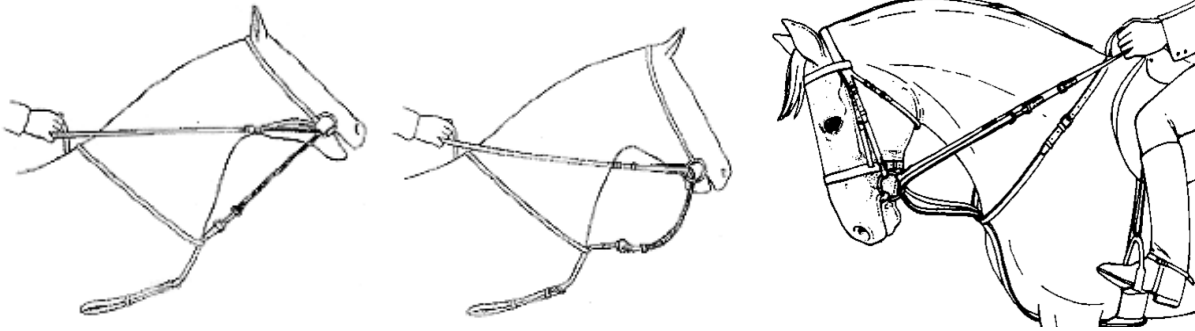
Stopper at junction of neck and martingale straps should be used. Stopper at junction of neck and martingale straps correctly fitted. This prevents the slack from hanging down between the horse's legs. Tape may be used in an emergency



REIN STOPPERS



Rein Stoppers should be worn with Running and Irish Martingales to stop the Martingale Rings getting caught on the Buckle/Stud Billets of the rein or on any part of the bit.

MARKET HARBOROUGH / GERMAN MARTINGALE

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

CHAMBON

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

EQUI SMART TOOL

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

Monkey Grip

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

The Monkey Grip is a “strap” attached between the front ‘Ds’ of the saddle over the Pommel. A Closed Fist should be able to fit between the Pommel and the top of the Monkey Grip.

The Monkey Grip can be purchased as such (see below), or can be either a leather strap, a piece of binder twine, or thin rope.

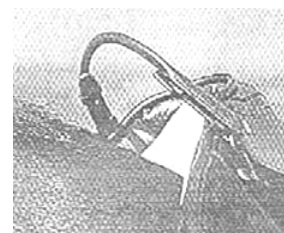


Support handle that buckles/clips to the front D's of any saddle to provide rider stability in the saddle when required.



Monkey Grip

An invaluable and effective safety device for novice riders or green horses. Rolled leather with buckle ends. Easy to attach.



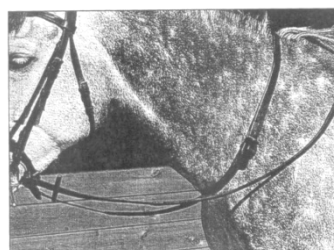
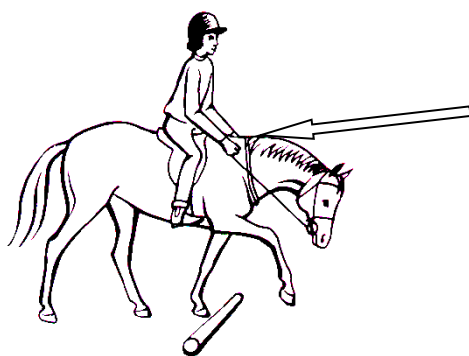
This monkey grip is not to be confused with the fittings that attach air-vests to saddles (look like monkey grips). Air-vest fittings, connecting to the 'd's of the saddle are permitted.

Neck Straps

- A Neck Strap is a simple leather or synthetic fibre strap that passes around the horse or pony's neck.
- The Neck Strap of a martingale is the neatest, but a stirrup-leather (or even a safely tied lead rope) will do as well.
- It provides the rider, in an emergency, with something to hang on to other than the reins and thus lessen the risk of the horse or pony being pulled/jerked in the mouth.
- It is a great help to riders in rough, hilly country and also when riding a horse with a hogged mane
- It is essential when riding bareback!
- It can help a nervous rider feel more secure.

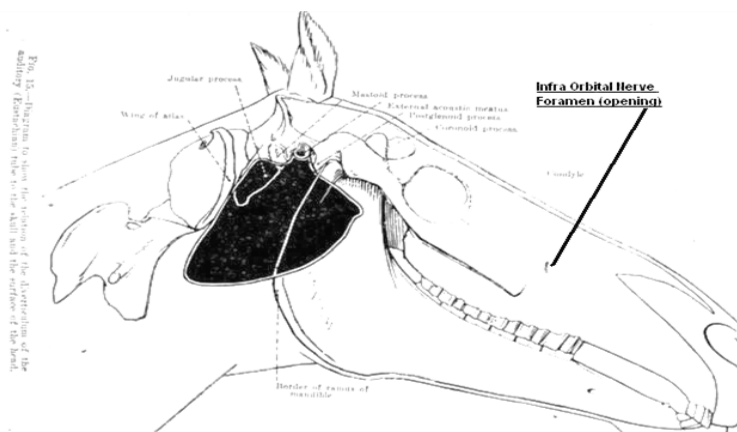
It is also essential when teaching a rider or horse to jump and should be fitted one third of the way up the horse or pony's neck.

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted



Nosebands – General Fitting Guide

Take care when fitting a noseband that it is not fastened too tight over the Infra Orbital Nerve causing discomfort.



Nosebands

Some of the most common nosebands are illustrated here. For rules on where they are / are not permitted, see Section 1: Rules.

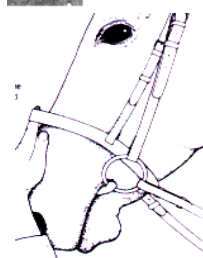
Cavesson Noseband

May be used with any kind of bit or with a Standing Martingale.

Fitting

One to two fingers below the projecting cheekbone depending on the size/length of the horse's head.

Max two fingers (min 1 finger) between noseband and horse's nose (improved image for 2016).



Drop Noseband

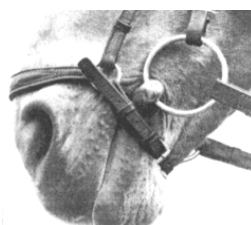
Used for horses which open or cross their jaws. The back (chin) strap goes under the bit. The front should not press on the nostrils. Use only with a snaffle.

Standing Martingales NOT permitted with this noseband.

May be used in all Pony Club activities although will lose points if worn in Pony Club Mount.

Fitting

There should be room for one finger under the noseband



Incorrect, too low

Correct – picture above

Hanoverian / Flash Noseband

Combines a Cavesson and a drop.

A Standing Martingale can be attached to the Cavesson only.

May be used in all Pony Club Activities although will lose points if worn in Pony Club Mount.

Fitting

One to two fingers below the projecting cheekbone.

It should be fitted more snugly than a Cavesson Noseband so that it will not pull down and restrict the nostrils when the bottom (flash) strap is tightened.



GRAKLE (CROSSED) NOSEBAND

Useful for preventing the horse crossing his jaw. It should be comfortably tight with the cross central.

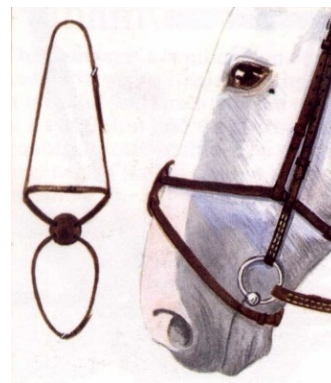
Standing Martingales NOT permitted with this noseband.

May be used in all Pony Club Activities

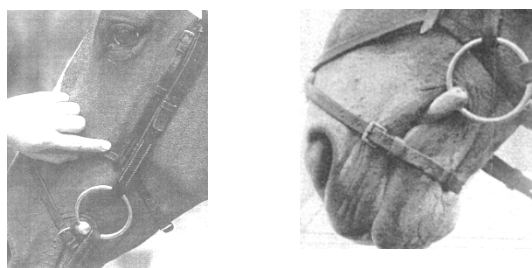
Fitting

The top strap should lie just below the projecting cheek bone (1 finger).

There should be room for one finger under the noseband. The main (central) point of pressure (where the straps cross over the nose) can be moved up or down decreasing or increasing its strength of action. Make sure it does not lie below the nasal bones. The buckle on the bottom strap should be closer to the cross-over.



Correct – picture left. Incorrect, too low – picture right

**CRANK NOSEBAND**

Fitting as for Hanoverian Noseband.

Care should be taken to ensure it is not done up too tightly.

May be used in all Pony Club Activities although will lose points if worn in Pony Club Mount.

**MEXICAN OR HIGH RING GRAKLE**

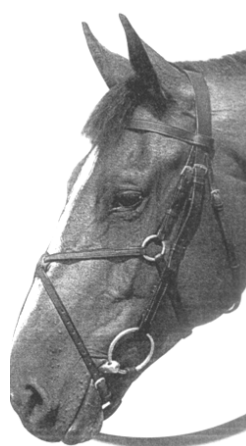
It sits higher up the face than a normal Grakle, above the cheek bones, and is thought to be more effective at preventing the horse crossing his jaws.

Standing Martingales NOT permitted with this noseband.

May be used in all Pony Club Activities

**Fitting**

The two rings either side of the top straps should be fitted no more than one inch below the eye as, if fitted any lower, the noseband will be less effective. The top straps pass over the cheek bones and the point at which the straps cross is fitted higher up the nasal bone. The base strap sits in the chin groove as normal. Do not over tighten when using this noseband for the first time as it could cause the horse to panic until they become accustomed to it. The buckle on the bottom strap should be closer to the cross-over.



PUCKLE OR KINETON NOSEBAND

Has a metal loop on each side which goes between the bit ring and the horse's mouth and an adjustable strap across the nose. Divides the pressure between mouth and nose, according to the length of the front strap. Very severe.

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

**CONTROLLER OR COMBINATION NOSEBAND**

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

**DOUBLE NOSEBANDS**

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

Note the positioning of the lower strap over the soft tissue of the horse's face. May potentially restrict breathing.

**FAIRFAX STYLE DROP NOSEBAND**

With this noseband, a second strap for bridle stability is fitted, not fitted for jaw or mouth control.

Bridle with Drop noseband (note second chin strap).

This noseband is not permitted with any other bridle type, as it has been tested and manufacturer for use with the Fairfax make alone.

(Courtesy Fairfax Saddles)



PS OF SWEDEN / REVOLUTION ERGONOMIC NOSEBAND

Strap across the bridge of the nose is flexible for snug fit. An ergonomic version of a Hanoverian noseband, front strap discourages opening of the mouth, fitting under the chin stabilises the bridle and disperses pressure from the noseband.

Fitting is crucial, to ensure all straps are not putting pressure on sensitive parts of the cheekbone, and positioning of the nose strap on the hard tissue of the horse's face, not the soft nose tissue and restricting breathing.

(Courtesy PS of Sweden)

**HANOVERIAN NOSEBAND WITH HIGH CHIN FITTING**

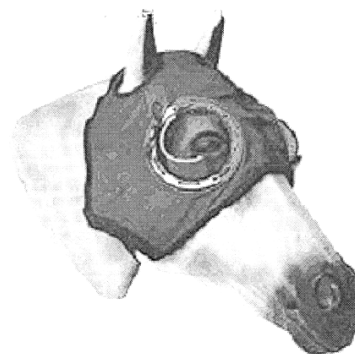
An ergonomic version of a Hanoverian noseband, front strap discourages opening of the mouth, fitting under the chin stabilises the bridle and disperses pressure from the noseband.

Fitting is crucial, to ensure all straps are not putting pressure on sensitive parts of the cheekbone, and positioning of the nose strap on the hard tissue of the horse's face, not the soft nose tissue and restricting breathing.

(Courtesy PS of Sweden)

**Pacifier**

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

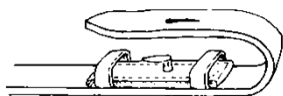


Rein - Buckles

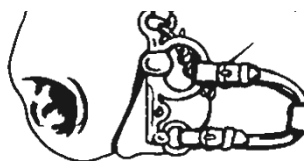
STUD BILLETS

Stud Billets are small metal hooks which fasten into a small hole in the rein or cheek strap to attach it to the Bridle. The billet and billet hole should be checked regularly for wear and tear.

Stud Billets do up facing inwards towards the head



A Stud (Hooked) Billet with a sturdy leather platform



These Stud Billets are done up incorrectly facing out from the head



This Stud Billet is done up correctly facing in towards the horse's head

BUCKLES

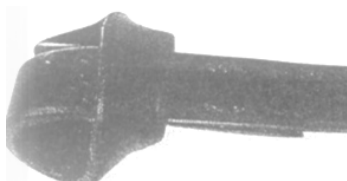
Buckles are a secure way of attaching the cheek straps and reins to the bit, but they can look bulky.

Buckles do up facing out away from the head



The buckles on the Cheekpiece and on the rein are done up correctly facing out from the horse's head

LOOP ATTACHMENTS



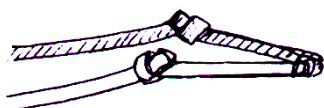
CLIP ATTACHMENTS

Open part of clip should face in towards the horse's head.

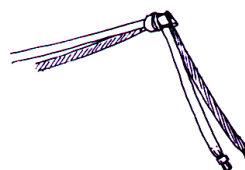


REIN SHORTENING

Reins should be of a safe length for the activity (i.e. not long enough for rider's foot to be caught in spare loop of reins when reins are shortened). If long reins need to be knotted together for safety, the centre buckle should be left undone.



Shortening Reins with knot in each rein.

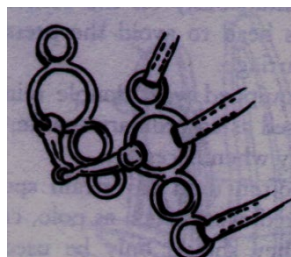


Shortening reins with knot in doubled end of rein
Unbuckle rein to prevent loop that could catch rider's foot

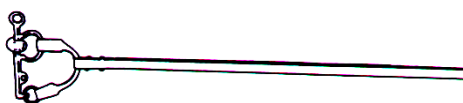
REIN ROUNDINGS

Bits such as Dutch Gags / Pessoa Snaffles and Pelhams may be ridden with one of the following rein attachments

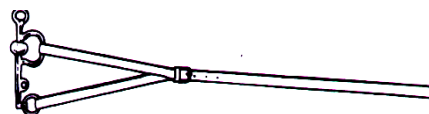
- a. With equalisers to one rein
- b. With two reins (pictured right)
- c. With roundings to one rein
- d. With divided reins.



Reins should be attached directly to the bit/s or to Equalizers (roundings) or Divided reins attached to the bit. Two reins may be used with single mouthpiece bits in all activities except for Dressage and Eventing Dressage.



Equaliser (rounding)



The more effective divided rein which is adjustable.

Saddle Types

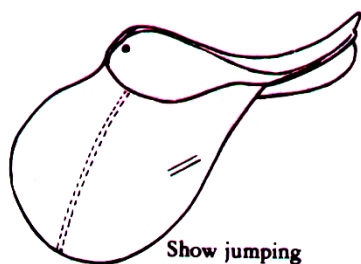
A correctly fitting fully mounted English type saddle is preferred. An all-purpose saddle is best for Pony Club riding, particularly for the younger rider. This type of saddle makes it easier to achieve a good balanced seat for riding and jumping.

Saddle Fit is still a problem at Gear Checks. Clubs need to address this problem at Club level with parents in attendance.

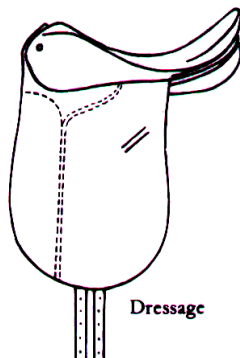
While a saddle may have fitted well earlier in the season or when assessed by an accredited Saddle Fitter, the situation can change over a period of time – sometimes only a very short time – and the horse can become uncomfortable which can affect performance and become unsafe for the rider.

Saddle fit is an ongoing necessity as horses/ponies change shape, riders grow and/or become heavier and the flocking in the panels can shift and/or settle.

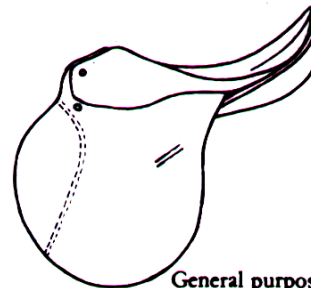
Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted:



Show jumping



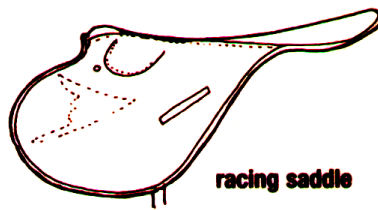
Dressage



General purpose



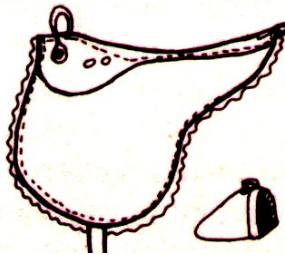
Poley/Stock Saddle



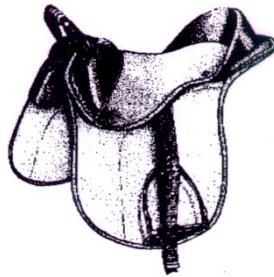
racing saddle



Western Saddle



Pony Pad and Clog



Child's Saddle

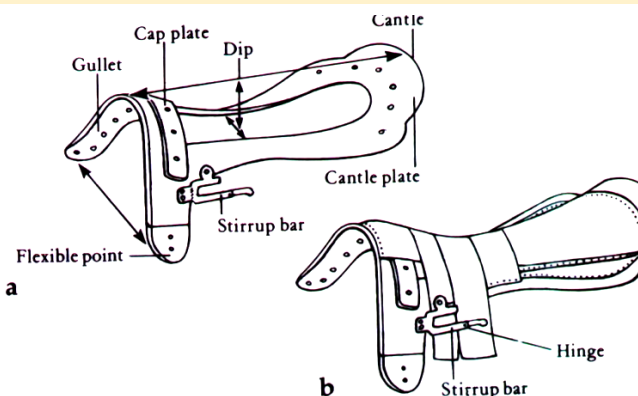


Wintec Kids



Treeless saddle- refer to section 1 rules – appendix 9

Saddle Parts



Structure of the Saddle

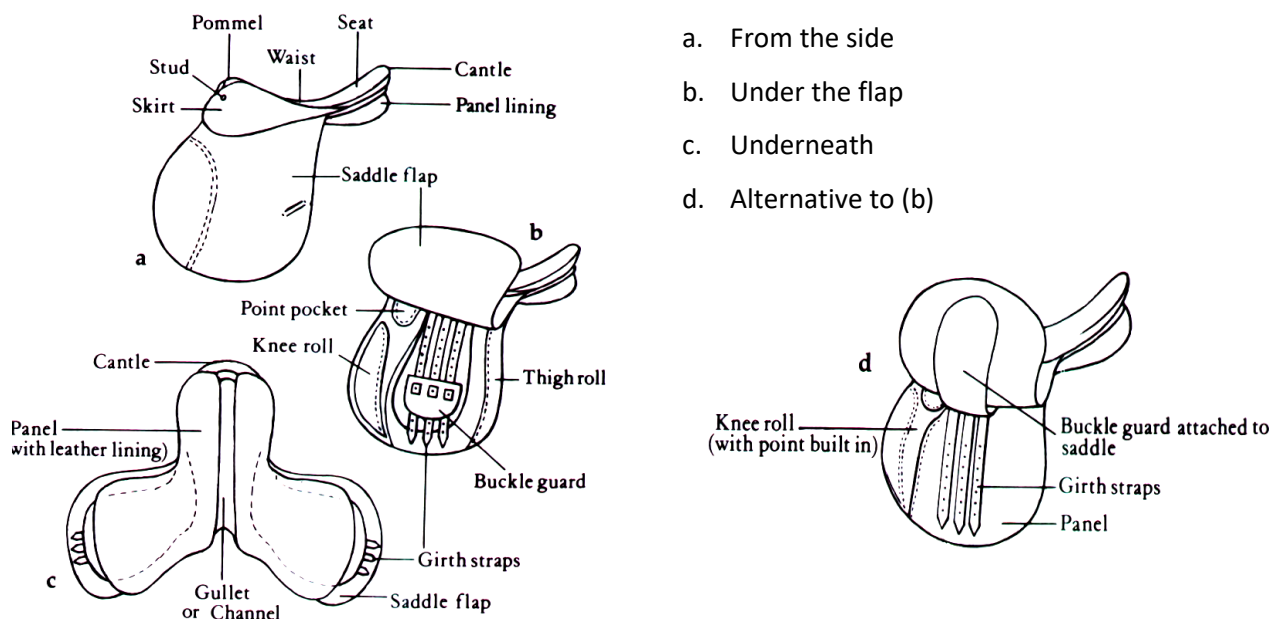
- The tree
- Tree with webbing stretched along and across

The Tree is the foundation of any saddle. The size and width of the Tree determines the size and width of the saddle.

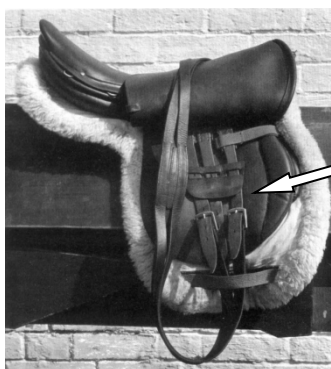
The Tree should fit the horse, if it does not, the saddle will never be satisfactory no matter how many modifications are made.

Parts of the Saddle

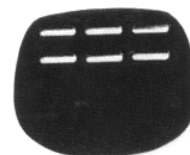
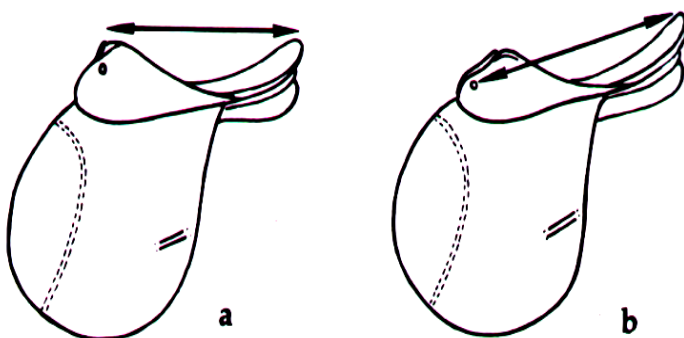
- From the side
- Under the flap
- Underneath
- Alternative to (b)

**Buckle Guards of a saddle:**

- The use of Buckle Guards is optional but is strongly recommended for girths that buckle under the saddle flaps.
- Their purpose is to protect the saddle flap from the buckles of the girth that can rub holes in the saddle flap.
- It is less expensive to buy Buckle Guards than it is to replace a saddle flap!



The Buckle Guard on this saddle needs to be pulled down over the girth buckles to be effective

**Saddle Measuring**

- From pommel to cantle, or
- For saddles with cut-back heads, from stud to centre of cantle.

Saddle Fit

Purpose of a saddle:

- To distribute the rider's weight as comfortably as possible over the horse's back
- To help the rider to adopt a correct position

Purpose of correct saddle fitting:

For a horse to move correctly i.e. to be able to lower his head and engage his hindquarters, he should lift through his back. Moving softly in this frame enables correct development of the top line, the top line being all of the muscles from his ears through to his hocks.

If there is undue pressure from an incorrectly fitting saddle, or an unbalanced rider, this makes it difficult for the horse to move correctly. This is shown by the horse hollowing his back, lifting his head and disengaging his hindquarters.

Regularity of saddle fitting:

- Checked regularly as things change – shape of the horse, his age, the time of year, his level of fitness, the weight, height and shape of the rider can all make a difference and affect the comfort of the horse.
- Re-flocking/stuffing every 12 – 18 months and after 9 – 10 months when new. Recheck fit after re-flocking/restuffing.

Examples of saddle fitting that will cause discomfort or danger:

- Saddle pressing on spine. The saddle should always be clear of the spine for its entire length (viewed from behind) and not pinching the withers.
- Pressure spots through uneven weight distribution, that may also restrict movement of the horse.
- Leather / synthetic parts with signs of splits, torn holes and rotting stitching.
- Webbing or leather girth points showing wear and tear

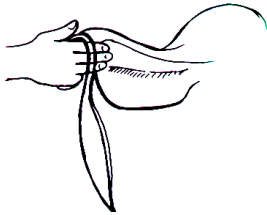
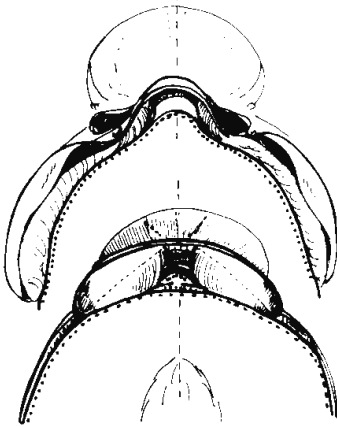



Five (5) stages to correct saddle fitting:



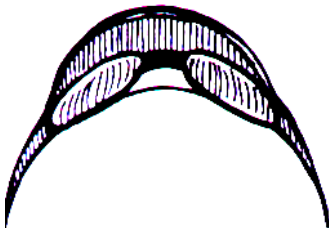
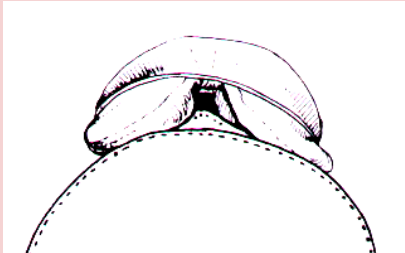
1. **Check the saddle:** Before fitting a saddle, first check its structure – is the tree sound? Check it lengthways and sideways. Is the tree twisted? Check the panels for evenness and/or projections. Check the gullet – there should be 3 to 4 fingers width to avoid pinching the spine. Check under all the flaps – are the attachments firmly secured? Look for signs of wear and tear. Saddle seat should not move or wrinkle when pressed end to end. There should be no movement in the gullet when you try to squeeze and pull side to side



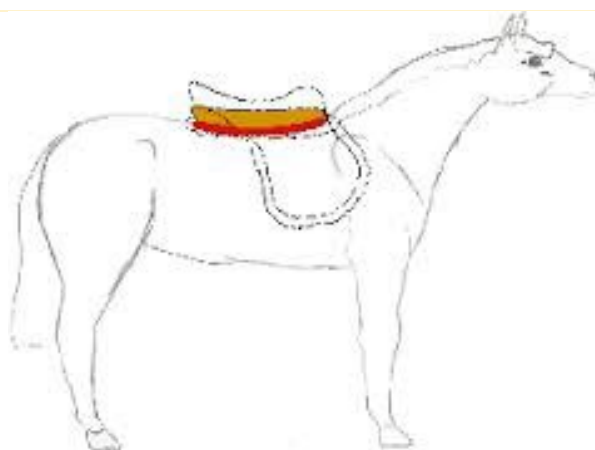
2. **Place on the horse's back:** Saddle should be placed directly onto the horse's back without a saddlecloth or padding. The saddle should fit behind the scapula, placing the girth one hand's width behind the elbow (if the girth is too far forward it restricts the horse's breathing).
3. **Inspect the saddle from different angles, without the rider:** Look at the balance of the saddle from the side and behind. Look at its straightness, panel contact with the horse's back, gullet clearance.
4. **Do the girth up:** Girth up using the correct girth straps (front and either middle or rear strap), fastening the rear strap first. Check the fit again, the shoulders, spine, gullet – does the back of the saddle lift up? Is the saddle still balanced and straight when viewed from the side and the rear? Can you see daylight from the rear, looking down the gullet towards the withers?
5. **Inspect the saddle from different angles, with the rider:** Have the rider mount up and check the fit again – balance, panels, gullet shoulders, spine, look from the side and behind.

Six (6) Checks to perform when saddle fitting:

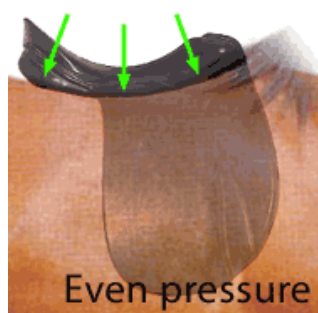
	 <p>Correct</p>	<p>3 to 4 fingers between the pommel and the withers, rider unmounted.</p>
<p>1 Gullet Clearance</p>	 <p>Correct</p>	<p>Gullet should be entirely clear of the spine</p>
	  <p>Not Correct</p>	<p>Ensure that the saddle is not pinching the withers</p> <p>Gullets that are too narrow, cause pinching on the horse's shoulders and back. Note gullet very high above wither.</p>
<p>2 Seat Position</p>	 <p>Fig 2.</p> <p>Correct</p>	<p>Look side-on, deepest part of the saddle seat should be in the middle?</p> <p>Deepest part should not be too far forward (causes pressure on the shoulder and withers).</p>

	 <p>Fig 1.</p> <p>Not Correct</p>	<p>Saddle should not be too far backward</p> <p>Pushes the rider into the incorrect position/armchair position, causes back pain for the horse as the rider seat impacts the back of the saddle.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Shoulder Clearance</p>	 <p>Correct</p>	<p>The saddle should fit behind the scapula (blue) placing the girth one hand's width behind the elbow (if the girth is too far forward it restricts the horse's breathing).</p>
<p>4</p> <p>Check for Crookedness</p>	 <p>Correct</p>	<p>The weight should be evenly distributed on the muscles either side of the spine – a saddle should be straight on the back with a central seat.</p> <p>Look at the balance of the saddle from the side and behind. Does the saddle sit straight on the horse's back?</p>
	 <p>Not Correct</p>	<p>Saddle in picture shows a crooked saddle. Needs restuffing.</p>

**5
Gaps or
Bridges**



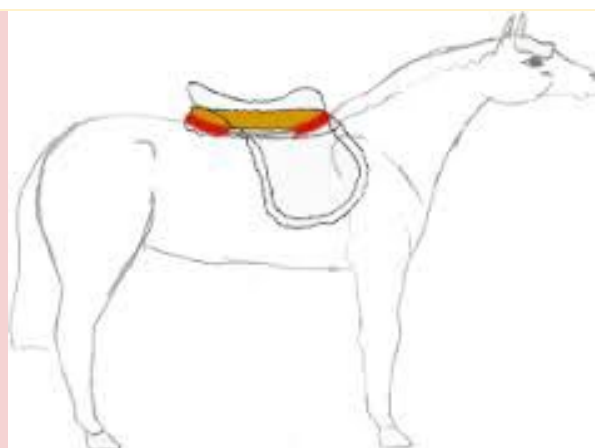
Correct



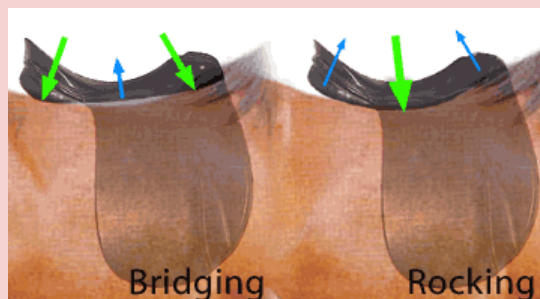
Correct

Do the panels have full contact with the horse's back?

Picture below on how to feel for bridges


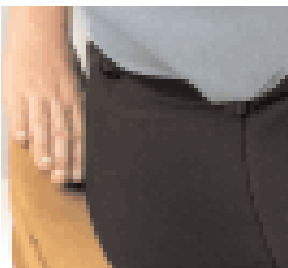



Not Correct

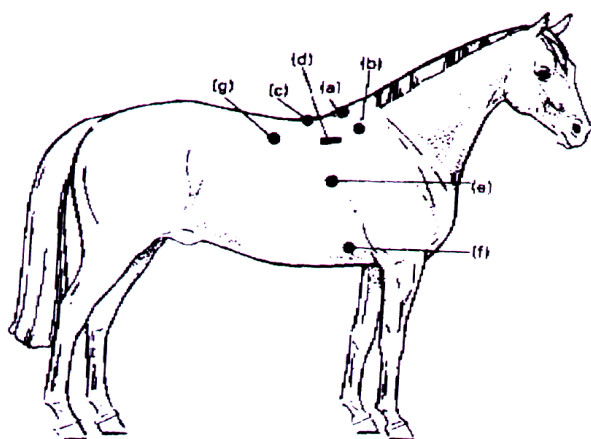


Not Correct

Are there any bridging (areas of no contact between the panels and the horse's back)?

<p>6</p> <p>Saddle fit to the Rider</p> <p>Saddle fit for the Horse</p>	 <p>Correct</p>  <p>Correct</p>	<p>There should be about one hand's width between the rider's seat and the back of the cantle.</p>
	 <p>Not Correct</p>	<p>A rider too large for their saddle.</p>

Locations of common injuries due to poorly fitting saddles:



- a. Front arch too wide
- b. Front arch too narrow
- c. Seat sinking or tree weakened and so in contact with spinal area
- d. Saddle bearing against rear of scapula
- e. Sweat Flap or Girth attachment chafing
- f. Girth galling
- g. Imbalance due to unevenly flocked panel or twisted tree

Problems due to poorly fitting saddles:**Behavioural Problems**

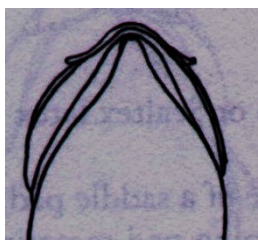
- Bucking
- Rearing
- Pigrooting
- Shying
- Avoidance / resistance
- Difficult to groom
- Girthy, bites, cow kicks when saddled
- Won't stand still when being saddled
- Tail swishing
- Cold backed
- Dropping in the back when being mounted

Performance Problems

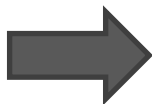
- Refusing at jumps
- Jumping flat
- Jumping on forehand
- Shying
- Twisting over jumps
- Difficulty with turning and pirouettes
- Pressure on back causes horse to hollow and resist
- Unusual liveliness or excitability
- Tendency to rush
- Tail swishing
- Poor flexion either left or right
- Inability to round the back and come onto the bit
- Loss of relaxation in horse's stride

Visual Problems

- Galls, Wounds and Heat Bumps - Develop from heavy pressure – can be over just a short period of time
- Worn and Broken Hairs - From abrasion, worse with combination of pressure and abrasion.
- White Hairs - From damage to hair follicles.
- Dry Spots - Due to excess pressure negatively affecting the nerve supply to the sweat glands.
- Muscle Atrophy (Wastage) - Due to long term spinal nerve restriction and from reduced use of back muscle.

Temporary fixes for poorly fitting saddles:**Problem**

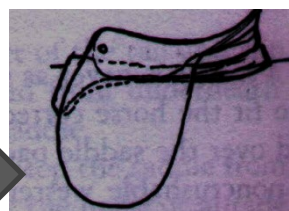
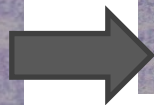
Saddle too wide

**Solution**

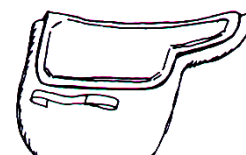
Padding put on sides of spine, leaving channel over spine



Saddle low in cantle due to flat rear panels



Back pad levels saddle



Back protector pad (Always use over a regular Saddle Cloth/Numnah)

Saddle Cloths

A Saddle Cloth is a rectangular shaped pad usually made of cotton, felt, wool, sheepskin, synthetic fleece or fabric. A Saddle Cloth's or Numnahs purpose is to absorb sweat, not to pad up an ill-fitting saddle. Required for PC Members, as part of Formal PC Uniform.

Saddle Cloths/Numnahs should be clean, larger than the saddle, and pulled up into the gullet of the saddle with no wrinkles. They should be positioned so that the weight of the saddle does not come onto a fold or on to the binding.

It is better not to wear more than one Saddle Cloth or Numnah as this increases the tendency to slip and moves the rider further from contact with the horse.

Saddle Cloth/Numnah loops to be used or removed.



✓

Loops fitted at both top and lower girth points



✗

Loops should not be tucked under the saddle (creates pressure points)

If not used, loops should be unpicked and removed from the saddle cloth or numnah

Saddle Numnahs

NUMNAHS: A Numnah is a shaped pad usually made of sheepskin, synthetic fleece, cotton, or wool.

It should be approx. 2.5cm (1") larger than the saddle all round.



The top loop is fitted over one of the girth straps to hold it in position. The girth fastens through the lower loop for greater security.



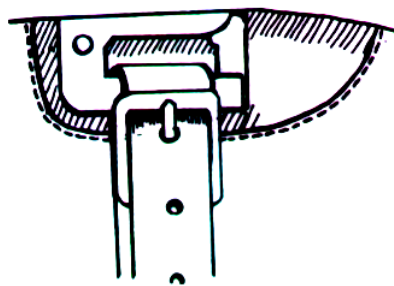
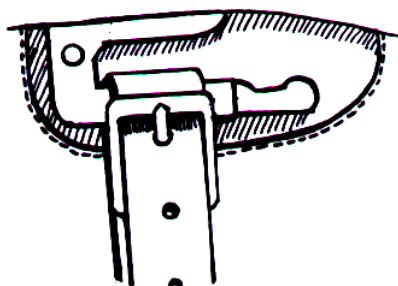
The Numnah should be pulled well up into the front arch of the saddle to avoid pressure on the withers.

Buckle Guard needed to protect saddle flap from the *girth buckles*

½ NUMNAHS: ½ Numnahs are NOT recommended for use at any Pony Club activity as the lower edge seam of the ½ numnah may cause pressure points where the saddle would press it down on to the horse's back and sides of the spine

Stirrup Bars

Stirrup Bar – should be open unless used with clogs, safety stirrups or stirrups that have a toe cage.



Stirrup Irons - types

Some of the most common stirrup irons are illustrated here. For rules on where they are / are not permitted, see Section 1: Rules

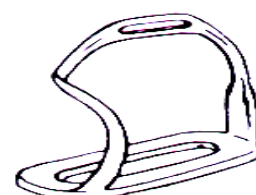
Barnes Buckle Irons

Quick Release Buckle for attaching the stirrup iron to the stirrup leather.



Bent / Safety Irons

Bend of the iron to be on the outside facing forwards when the foot is in the stirrup



Bostock Irons

Note: Kids model requires a rider of 19kg or more for the release mechanism to work



Carbon Polymer Irons



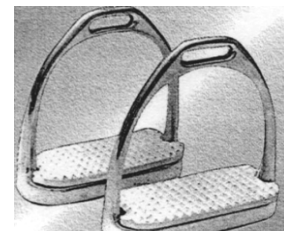
Clogs - Rider 7 years or under meets fit criteria as for Stirrup Irons



Comfort Irons



Fillis Irons

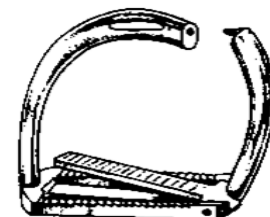


Free-Jump Irons

Note: Soft-Up Lite model (smaller) has a weight restriction, rider should not weigh more than 60kg



Hinged Spring Irons / Kwik-Outs



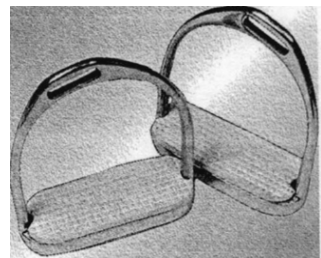
Jakob Irons

Coil spring sections in both shanks ease the impact on the horse's back as well as on the hip, knee and ankle joints of the rider

Shanks also bend to provide a flat surface in the 'heels down' position.



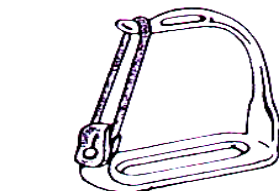
K'Vall Irons



Offset Irons

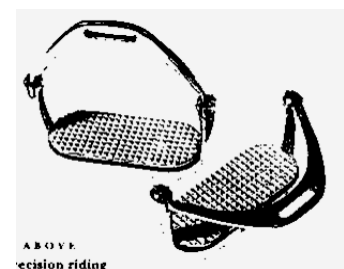


Oxbow Irons



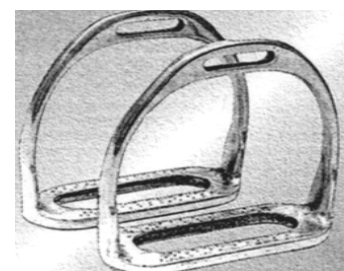
Peacock Irons

Rubber band and leather loop to be in good repair
Rubber band and leather loop to be worn on the outside i.e. not next to horse/pony when rider's foot is in the stirrup



Quick Release Irons

Hinges should be regularly cleaned and oiled.



Regular Straight

Safestyle Irons**Toe stoppers - meets fit criteria as for Stirrup Irons**

Should be correctly attached to the stirrup iron and the top and base fastenings should be secure and not showing signs of wear and tear

**Stirrup Irons - fit****WIDTH**

Minimum - Stirrup Irons should have a minimum of 1.5cm between the widest part of the rider's boot and the stirrup

Maximum - Stirrup Irons should have a maximum of 2cm between the widest part of the rider's boot and the stirrup



TOO BIG



TOO SMALL



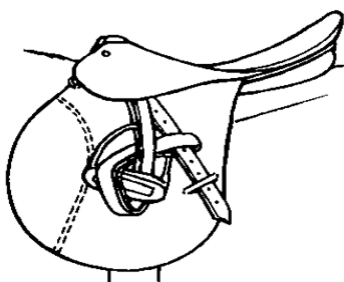
CORRECT HEIGHT

Also to be checked is the height of the arch of the stirrup iron for riders wearing long boots / gaiters so that the whole foot could not slip through the top of the iron could catch on the top of the front of the short boot – i.e. the front of the short boot should be higher than the arch of the stirrup iron.

Elastic sides of boots should fit firmly so front of boot does not bulge out making it possible for the top of the iron to catch on the top of the boot. Shorter, wider irons are available.

SAFETY AND STIRRUP IRONS

STIRRUP IRONS SHOULD NEVER BE LEFT DANGLING – they could frighten the horse by banging against its sides, get caught, or the horse could get its teeth or bit caught when biting at flies in the girth area. They should always be 'run up' when rider is dismounted.



Stirrup Irons 'run up' and secured

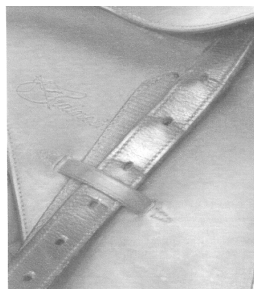
Stirrup Leathers



In Fig. 2, the spare end looks rather long which could cause annoyance to the horse. Do NOT fold it back and place it under the existing stirrup leather in the keeper – this causes a loop that is potentially dangerous and is therefore NOT permitted.

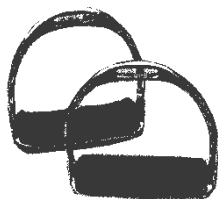
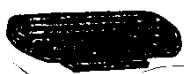
If it doesn't worry the horse, leave it or get shorter leathers or cut the end off!

This is not recommended



Stirrup Treads

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

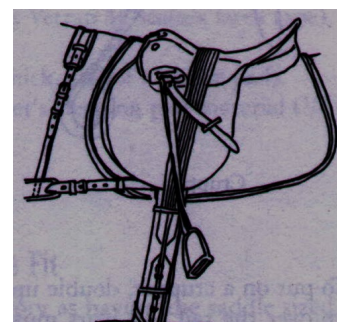


The front stirrup iron has a correctly fitting tread

The back stirrup iron has a rubber tread that is too big, turning up at the ends – this is dangerous

Surcingles

- Surcingles are compulsory on a saddle with a single buckle girth
- Surcingles are permitted in all activities and should be correctly fitted.
- Surcingles should be buckled on the left hand (near) side of the horse/pony
- Surcingles should not be tighter than the girth
- Surcingles should not impede any part of the stirrup leather



Twitch

Used for restraining the horse or pony e.g. when it is being clipped or drenched etc.

Only to be used by experienced people

NEVER stand directly in front of the horse or pony when it is having the twitch put on or while it is wearing the twitch



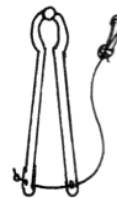
Rope twitch

Recommended



Chain twitch

Very severe



Clamp twitch



Applying a twitch:
Place loop over thumb
and three fingers



Grasp upper lip, slip
twitch over lip and
twist toward horse



Tighten enough for safe
and effective restraint



Hold twitch with both hands; stand
to one side; always hold horse with
halter shank as well as twitch

Vaulting Guidelines

Refer Section 1 for Rules on rider attire, horse turnout and saddlery in Vaulting

Vaulting is a combination of gymnastics and equestrian skills. Pony Club members will benefit in the following ways:

- Increased general fitness
- Greater agility
- Better balance and confidence
- Better co-ordination
- Provision of a fun alternative to normal rally activities

Vaulting can be done with a barrel or with a horse.

1. VAULTING WITH A BARREL

Barrel work is fun and is where all vaulting movements start. Once the moves are achieved on the Barrel, then they can be transferred to the horse.

VAULTER DRESS WHEN VAULTING WITH A BARREL

Refer Section 1 for Rules on rider attire, with the following considerations:

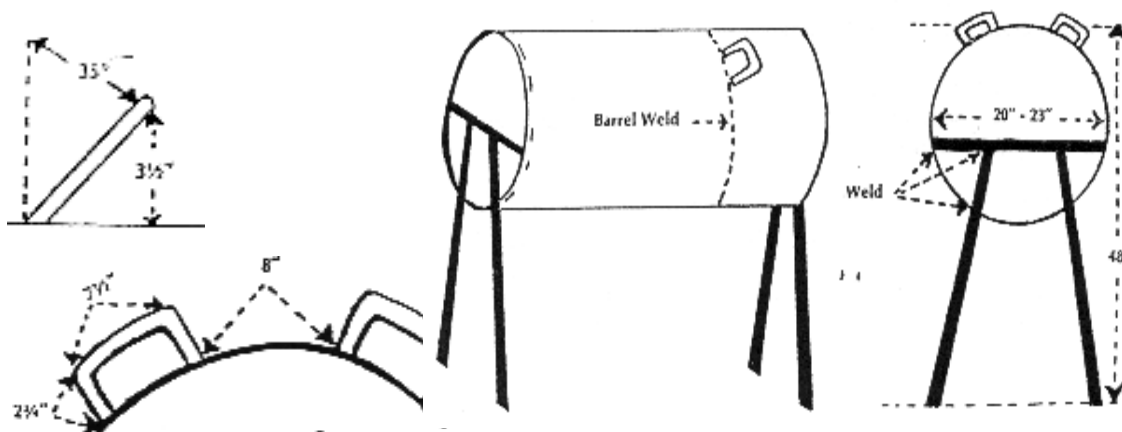
- Helmet is not compulsory, but recommended. As this is NOT a mounted activity. If worn, the helmet should meet the helmet criteria set out in Section 1 (Rules). Peaks on helmets are to be removed.
- No loose flapping clothing. Clothing should be form fitting, allowing freedom of movement. Polo shirt with long sleeves in club colours tucked into Jodhpurs / Breeches.
- Leotards (long sleeved) in club colours.
- Trousers recommended to be secured at the ankle or foot so as not to slide up the vaulter's leg. They do not have to be of a stretchy material.



VAULTING BARREL

A metal training barrel can be made from one and one half 44 gallon drums welded together. The barrel can be used with vaulting surcingles or with wooden or metal handles.

See section 1 Rules for construction and dimensions of a Vaulting Barrel



2. VAULTING WITH A HORSE

VAULTER DRESS WHEN VAULTING WITH A HORSE

Refer Section 1 for Rules on Vaulter Attire

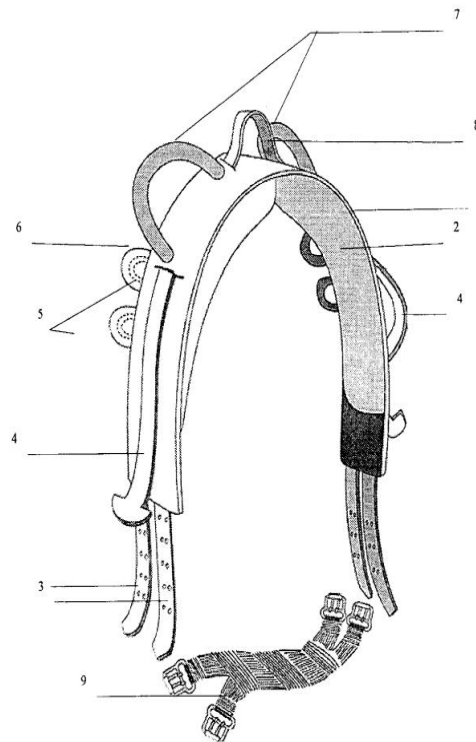
- The vaulter is required to wear a compliant equestrian helmet. As per Jan 1 2018, PONY CLUB WA acknowledges that Vaulting is a sport that is growing in popularity.
- While the sport and its PONY CLUB WA participants are in its infancy, the safety and protection of members is paramount. Especially where vaulters, horses and lungers may be at the beginning stage in Vaulting.
- A member progressing to intermediate levels and above, of vaulting in may submit an application for a helmet exemption, such an application will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis when emailed to gearchecking@ponyclubwa.asn.au
- No loose flapping clothing. Clothing should be form fitting, allowing freedom of movement. Polo shirt with long sleeves in club colours tucked into Jodhpurs / Breeches.

DRESS OF THE LUNGER

Dress as per Rider Attire (Refer Section 1 for Rules) or Officials Attire (Refer Section 3 for Gear Checking Processes)

VAULTING SADDLERY

Refer Section 1 for Rules on Saddlery, Vaulting Back Pad pictured below:



1. Outside surface 2. Leather padding 3. Girth straps 4. Foot straps 5. Rings for side reins
6. Leather covering of rings 7. Grips (shape of the grips are not defined) 8. Auxiliary holding straps 9. Girth

IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS FOR HORSES USED FOR VAULTING

The temperament of the vaulting horse is of paramount importance and the horse should be a good match with the person doing the lungeing.

The horse should:

- Be of suitable size and may be of any breed
- Have a calm & trusting nature
- Be unmoved by touch all over its body
- Be free of vices such as kicking, bucking or rearing
- Be of good confirmation with strong/broad back and hocks. A high croup with the tail set low indicates a strong back.
- Be a calm and rhythmic mover
- Mane plaited or hogged

THE HORSE SHOULD LEARN

- To be totally obedient and trustworthy
- To work in a good fairly short outline, with calm acceptance of the side reins and use of the whip
- To work on both reins
- To maintain a steady rein contact both with the side reins and the lunge rein and never turn in on the circle.
- To make smooth transitions between paces and direct transitions walk / canter
- To maintain a calm and steady rhythm in all paces on 13 / 15m circle

Whips

MEASURING A WHIP



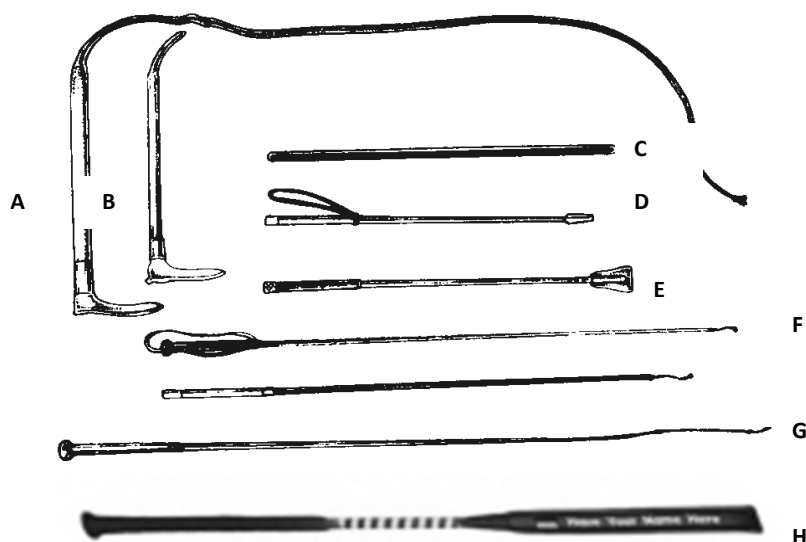
FROM END OF FLAP/TASSLE TO END OF HANDLE

WHIPS WITH HANDS OR STARS AS FLAPS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED AS THE ENDS ARE NOT FLEXIBLE.

LOOP HANDLES: Should be removed.

Can be dangerous in the event of a fall, and can inhibit the proper use of the whip.

WHIPS – DIAGRAM WITH EXAMPLES



- A. Hunting Whip – with lash
- B. Hunting Whip – without lash
- C. Hacking Cane (Permitted only for Show Horse Activities)
- D. All Purpose Whip – should have loop handle removed
- E. Jumping Whip
- F. Dressage Whip - should have loop handle removed
- G. Dressage Whip – small
- H. Dressage Whip – longer – maximum length 1.20m
- I. Jumping Crop

Refer Section 1 for Rules on where these are permitted

Windsucking Strap / Collar

A Windsucking Strap or Collar fitted around the horse's neck which, while allowing the horse to eat, will be quite effective in stopping the horse from arching his neck and sucking wind.

NOT to be used when riding

