



Gear Rules

Competition Quick Reference Guide

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

Effective 1st January 2017

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

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

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Acknowledgement

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References

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

Gear Never Permitted

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

21 Compliant Snaffle Bits

21.1 Bridle and Bit

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

21.2 Mouthpieces

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

Permitted bits are described and illustrated in 21.4.

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

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

Also permitted but not illustrated:

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

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

21.3 Checking Bits at Gear Check

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

21.4 Permitted Snaffle bits

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



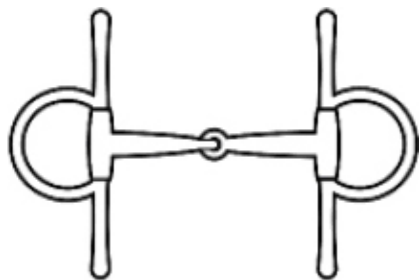
Loose Ring



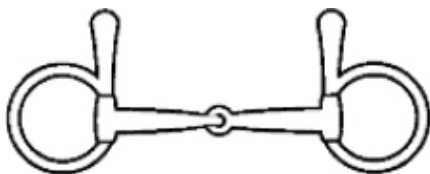
Egg-butt



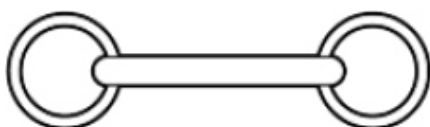
Racing D-Ring



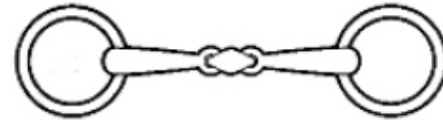
Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer)



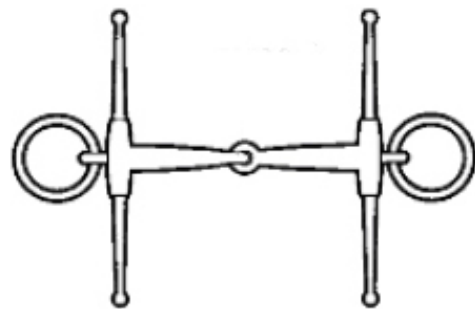
with upper cheeks



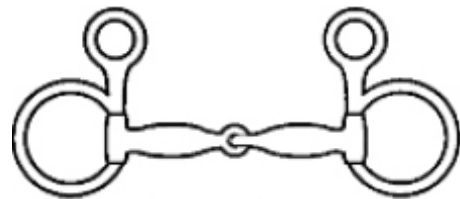
Straight bar



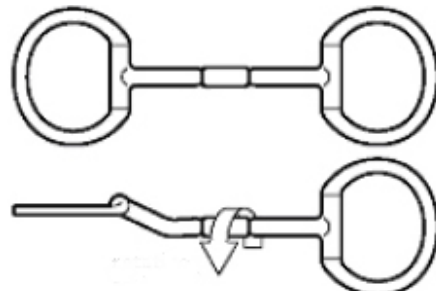
Jointed mouthpieces – middle piece must be rounded



Loose ring with cheeks FM/tom thumb



Hanging cheek - Baucher



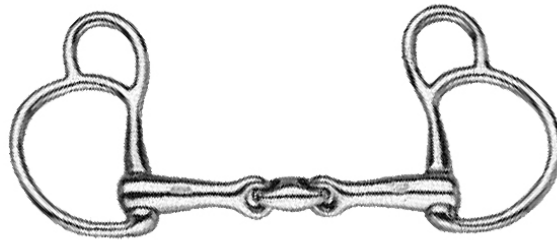
Rotating mouth piece



Rotating centre piece

21.5 Miscellaneous (Bits)

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



22 Nosebands

22.1 Basic Fit Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

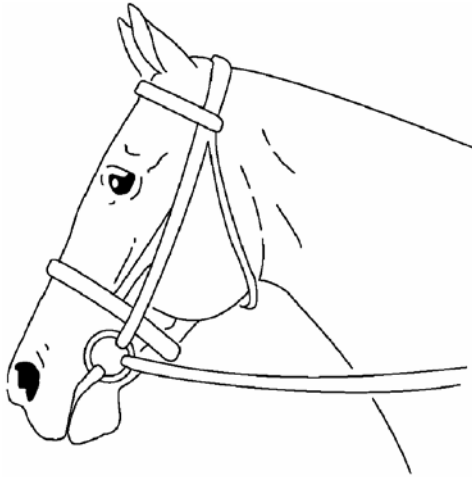
22.3 Noseband Illustrations



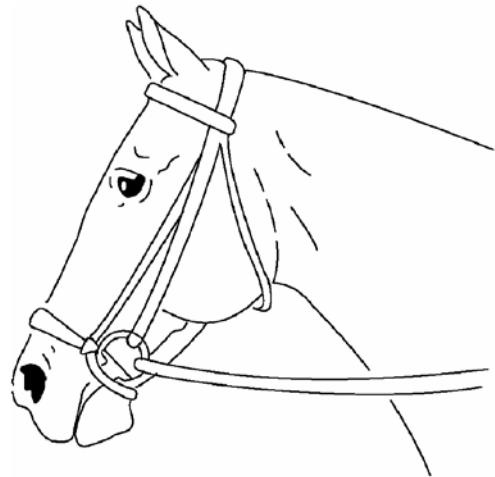
5. Combined noseband – no throat lash



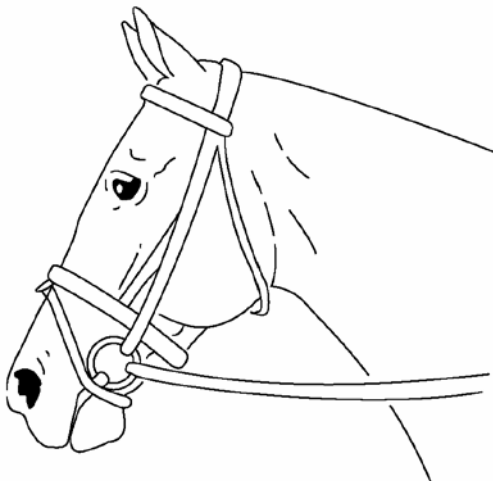
6. Micklem bridle



Cavesson



Dropped



Hanoverian (Flash)



Crossed (Grackle or Mexican)



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



Muzzle Net
Veterinary Surgeon letter Only

23 Competition Quick Reference Guide

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

Key:

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

Polocrosse – refer to Rule 20 for all requirements

24 Competition Quick Check Table

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

Polocrosse – Refer to Gear Rule 20 for all requirements