

Saddlery Inspections

- United States Equestrian Federation Dressage Rules 121.8 & 126.10



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- **Management must appoint ring stewards to spot check saddlery and inspect bits in each class of six or more riders, or in classes of fewer riders at the direction of the technical delegate.**



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- **Management must provide (preferably latex free) disposable gloves.**
- **Inspection is done immediately after the performance ride.**



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- **The checking of the bit and bridle must be done with the greatest caution.**
- **Both sides of the bit, and both sides of the horse must be checked.**



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- You can also ask the rider to dismount if it helps to settle the horse.
- If you loosen the drop or flash noseband, the horse opens his mouth, making it easier to see and feel the bit.



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- On a double bridle, be careful you don't get your finger caught between the bits.
- Slide your finger above and behind the bridoon, you should be able to feel both bits.



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- When inspecting the bit, pay attention to the corners of the horse's mouth.
- The diameter of the snaffle or bridoon mouthpiece must be a minimum of $\frac{3}{8}$ inch diameter at the rings or cheeks of the mouthpiece.



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- After checking one side of the bit, look at the spur and the area of skin next to the spur.
- Run your glove, or a white tissue, over the skin around the spur area. If there is any blood or raw, fresh pink bruising, call the technical delegate. The horse should be held.



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- **Spurs must be smooth metal. The shank must come out from the center of the spur and point down (not worn upside down).**
- **These are legal variations of the traditional swan-necked spur.**



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- At first glance, this spur looked upside down.
- When the strap was adjusted correctly, the spur shank then pointed straight back. Don't forget to check both spurs.



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- If rowels are used, they must be free to rotate. Check both boots. If the rider has dismounted, they still must be checked.
- Take a look at the whip, and measure if it looks too long. It should be 110 cm or 43.3 inches, including the lash.



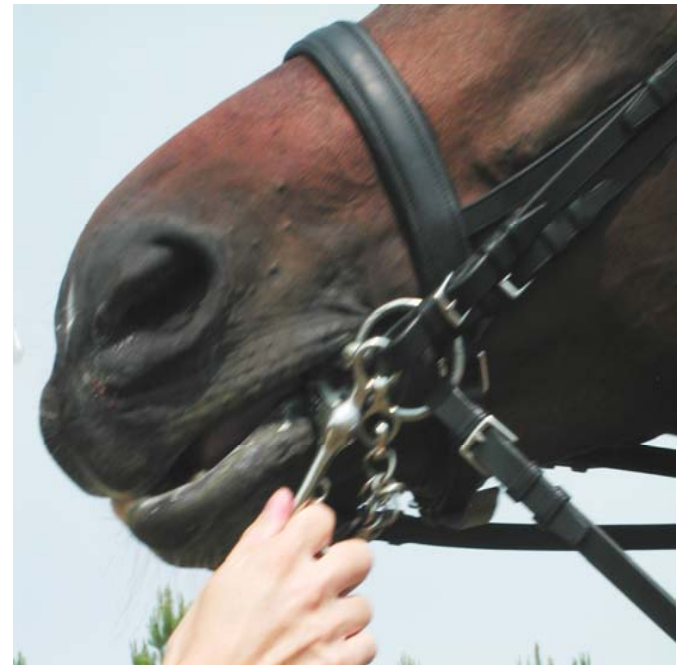
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- You should be able to run your finger under the noseband.
- If you can't it's too tight. You need to undo it and look for any sharp objects and/or bruising.



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- **If the horse is excited, and resisting the bit check, you should not let the horse go unchecked.**
- **Another steward or the technical delegate should follow the horse back to the stable and check the equipment and the horse.**



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- **The technical delegate may ask you to check every horse, especially if it is a Selection Class, or Young Rider Qualifier. All Championship entries must be checked.**
- **Make sure you have plenty of gloves, and that the technical delegate is on radio or easy to reach.**



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- **The saddle pad should be of conservative color, and the logo not exceed 200 square cm., about 4 x 8 inches.**
- **When flyhoods are allowed, they should be removed after the ride to check that there are no ear-plugs underneath the hood.**



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- It is the technical delegates' responsibility to advise management on the legality of equipment. Always call them to your arena if there is something you are not sure about.

