



Source: APHA

32. Western Horsemanship, Western Trail

Reference Rules USEF Chapter "EQ" and "WS"

32.1. Required Equipment

32.1.1. Western saddle with horn

32.1.1.1. There shall be no discrimination against any standard western bit. *See USEF WS rules for more information on legal western bits.*

32.1.1.2. Split reins, when used with a curb bit, must be held with one finger between the reins with the bight of the rein falling on the same side as the rein hand. They may also be held like romal reins with all fingers wrapped around the reins and with the bight held in the opposite hand. There can be no fingers between the reins when held romal style.

32.1.2. Snaffle bits and rawhide bosals may only be used on junior equine

32.2. Prohibited Equipment

32.2.1. Jerk lines

32.2.2. Tack collars

32.2.3. Chaps & ½ Chaps

- 32.2.4. Whips, Crops or bats
- 32.2.5. Slip or gag bits
- 32.2.6. Wire chin straps regardless of padding or covering
- 32.2.7. Any chin strap narrower than ½ inch
- 32.2.8. Martingales and draw reins
- 32.2.9. Sidesaddle or any type of English saddle
- 32.2.10. Nose bands and tie-downs
- 32.2.11. Chinks
- 32.2.12. Protective boots, leg wraps, and bandages
- 32.2.13. Roping reins
- 32.2.14. Snaffles or bosals on equine 6 years of age and older
 - 32.2.14.1. Documentation of equine's age may be requested
 - 32.2.14.2. Junior equines are defined as equines 5 yrs old and under
- 32.2.15. Side Pulls
- 32.3. Optional Equipment
 - 32.3.1. Gloves
 - 32.3.2. Rope or Riata:
 - 32.3.2.1. The rope or riata must be coiled and securely attached to the saddle
 - 32.3.3. Western spurs
- 32.4. Disqualification (*Also see General Rules 8.0 Judging*)
 - 32.4.1. If an athlete enters the arena with missing required equipment, illegal equipment or illegal use of permitted equipment, including uniform violations not considered unsafe, the athlete will be allowed to continue on the course and receive scores and comments, but will be disqualified from the event.
 - 32.4.1.1. An athlete using two hands on a curb bit, or one hand on a snaffle bit, is considered to be using permitted equipment illegally
 - 32.4.1.1.1 If the athlete enters the arena and begins the pattern correctly holding the reins, he will not be disqualified but will receive a "0" on every element ridden illegally.
 - 32.4.1.2. Exception: proper negotiation of an obstacle, or handling a rope may require a rider to use one hand on a snaffle or bosal temporarily.