

## 4. Western Tack and Equipment

### 4.1 Western Attire

- Clothing must fit properly and be neat and clean.

<b>Shirt</b>	Long sleeved with collar and cuff or slinky shirt. Must remain tucked in with sleeves down. At the neck, a tie, kerchief, bolo or pin should be worn.
<b>Jacket or vest</b>	Optional. Western style.
<b>Pants</b>	Western pants or bootcut jeans with a belt. Jeans should not be frayed, tattered or rolled up.
<b>Boots</b>	Western style with a heel.
<b>Hat or helmet</b>	Western hat or helmet meeting ASTM or SEI standards must be worn.
<b>Gloves</b>	Optional. Dark gloves are recommended.
<b>Spurs</b>	Optional. Must be Western type and humane.
<b>Chaps</b>	Optional.
<b>Number</b>	Must be clearly visible.
<b>Hair</b>	Should be contained or neatly done.

### 4.2 Western Tack

- Must be neat, clean and in good working order.

<b>Saddle</b>	Suitable Western saddle with standard rigging.
<b>Saddle Pad</b>	Western style
<b>Bridle and reins</b>	<p>Western style bridle. Split or Romal reins must be used in all performance classes. When riding with the reins in one hand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Split reins - must fall on the same side of the horse as the hand holding the reins. The reins are to be brought through the top of the rein hand and out the bottom. One finger is permitted to be held between the reins.</li> <li>▪ Romal reins - must be brought up through the bottom of the hand and out the top. The tail of the romal is held in the free hand no closer than 40 cm (16") from the rein hand. A finger is not permitted between the romal reins, and the romal is not to be coiled in any manner in the free hand. The romal cannot be used forward of the cinch or act as a whip. When using a romal, hobbles should be carried on the saddle.</li> </ul> <p>Generally it is more correct for a rider to hold the reins in their left hand, but either hand is acceptable. Riders must not change their rein hand during a class – the exception is Trail when riders can change hand to work on an obstacle. The free hand (whether using a romal or split rein) must never touch the horse or saddle or grab the reins to use two hands.</p> <p>At some 4-H shows Level 1 – 3 riders ride with two hands.</p>
<b>Bit</b>	<p>All bits must be of a humane type.</p> <p>A curb or leverage bit is defined as a bit with either a broken or solid mouthpiece, which has shanks and acts with leverage. A curb bit requires the use of a curb or chin strap. Suitable curb bits include: Maximum overall length permitted is 8 ½ inches (measured from the inside of the top ring to the pull point of the bottom ring); Mouthpieces must be a minimum of 5/16 inch in diameter, measured 1 inch in from the cheek piece; Mouthpiece maybe one, two or three pieces and should be smooth, egg shaped, round or oval; The port must not exceed 3 ½ inches. Bits must not be: twisted wire; wire wrapped or chain mouthpieces; gag bits; donuts or prong bits.</p>

	<p>In any performance class where a horse is over five years of age, a curb or leverage bit is mandatory. Horses in curb or leverage bits must be ridden with one hand on the reins. (Some regions have relaxed this rule for members in Levels 1 – 3)</p> <p>A curb strap must be used on a snaffle bit but only a leather or a nylon strap is allowed. A curb strap cannot be narrower than 1.25 cm or ½” and must lie flat against the jaw. It must be loose enough to insert two fingers between the strap and the jaw. Reins are attached above the curb strap.</p> <p>A Snaffle bit is defined as a non-leverage bit. The three most commonly acceptable types are O-ring, Egg Butt, and D-ring. The ring is to be no larger than 4". Half cheek snaffles are also acceptable.</p> <p>A junior horse, 5 years of age and younger, can be ridden in snaffle or shank bit, or bosal (may not have metal in the noseband). Side pulls are not acceptable. Snaffle bits and bosals must be ridden with two hands on the reins.</p>
<b>Breastcollar and back cinch</b>	Optional.

- Mechanical hackamores, nosebands and tiedowns, running martingales, draw reins or any other training aids are prohibited. Mechanical hackamores, running martingales and tiedowns may be used in speed events only.
- Whips, crops and bats are prohibited in all performance classes, but are allowed in speed events.
- Protective boots, splint boots, bell boots, skid boots, leg wraps are prohibited in all performance classes. Protective boots are allowed in speed events and reining. No leg wraps allowed in speed events or reining.