

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	2/12/2024	

Rule Change Intent

To allow Maiden, Novice, and Limit horses to compete in a snaffle bit. While many horses may be seasoned in the show ring in one discipline, they are completely new to the western division and are learning how to wear a western bridle.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
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Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

## MO132 Appointments and Attire

1. Western tack must be used in all classes. Competitors must be penalized for incomplete appointments and attire but not necessarily disqualified. Entries must be shown with stock saddle. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A Western side saddle is considered permitted equipment. Tapaderos are prohibited.

2. There is no discrimination against any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2" (See WS105). The mouthpiece consists of a metal bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing must protrude below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8," to 3/4" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half breeds and spade bits are standard. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar must not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank. Any rein design or other device which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard western bit is prohibited. Anything that alters the intended use of equipment as provided for in the description of appointments for a given class is considered to be an artificial appliance.

3. Standard snaffle bits are permitted in any class on a junior horse four years old and under **or horses of any age in a maiden, novice, or limit class**. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of 5/16" to 3/4" diameter metal as measured from ring to 1" in from the ring with a gradual decrease to the center of the snaffle. The rings may be from 2" to 4" outside diameter of either the loose type, eggbutt, dee or center mounted without cheeks. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins.

4. Hackamores are permitted in any class on a junior horse four years old and under **or horses of any age in a maiden, novice, or limit class**. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of flexible braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible nonmetallic core attached to a suitable headstall with maximum diameter of 3/4" at the cheek. Attached reins must be of hair, rope, leather or leather-like materials. Other material of any kind must not be used in conjunction with a bosal, i.e., steel, metal or chains (Exception: Smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable).

5. Artificial appliances that tend to alter performance are prohibited. Use of tongue ties or materials of any kind placed in the horse's mouth other than a standard Western bit or snaffle bit as defined in MO132.2 and MO132.3 is prohibited. Curb chains and leather chin straps may be used but must be flat and at least 1/2" in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. Wire, rawhide, metal or other substance must not be used in conjunction with or as part of the leather chin strap, or curb chains. Rounded, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited. A light lip strap is permissible. Hackamore bits, pencil bosals, cavesson type nosebands, martingales and tie downs are prohibited. A judge does not have the authority to add or to remove any of the allowed equipment as specified above.

6. Snaffle or Hackamore Horse. A snaffle or hackamore horse is a junior horse **in any class or a horse of any age in a maiden novice, or limit class that is** shown in either a ring snaffle or hackamore. A junior horse **in any class or a horse of any age in a maiden, novice, or limit class** may be switched back and forth from a bridle (one hand) to snaffle or hackamore (two hands both of which must be visible to the judge) **at the same competition**.

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