Rule	Tracking	Draft	Proposal Type	Effective Date	Proponent	Status
EQ 106.5	174-25	1	Standard	12/1/2026	National Hunter Committee	Approved (6/16/2026)

EQ106.5 Tracking #174-25 Draft #1 Approved

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2026	2/13/2026	Approved 6/16/2026

Rule Change Intent

This would define the parameters for when bit converters are permitted in the hunter and hunter seat equitation competition rings. This rule change is an effort to provide clearer guidance for tack and equipment rules in the hunter and equitation competition rings.

Proponent Details

National Hunter Committee

Contact Information

Jennifer Day

jday@usef.org

Linked Rules

Comments

Arabian

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/16/2026

Council - Natl Breed & Discipline

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 05/27/2026

USHJA

Draft 1: Recommends Approval 03/30/2026

Member Comments

EQ106 Appointments

5. Tack. Judges may penalize but not eliminate a horse or pony that competes in unconventional tack. Judges must eliminate a horse or pony that competes in illegal tack.
    a. Hunter Seat Equitation:
        1. Legal bits include snaffles, pelhams, kimberwickes, or full bridles. Illegal bits include, but are not limited to, two rings, three rings, gags (other than the hunter gag), et cetera. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible. **Bit converters are illegal (exception: classes with fence heights of 2'6" and below).**
        2. Illegal nosebands include but are not limited to, drop, flash and figure eight nosebands.
        3. Martingales are permitted in classes over obstacles and in the jumping phase of classes requiring both jumping and flat work. Martingales are not permitted on the flat in any class or phase unless class specifications allow their use.
    b. Jumping Seat Equitation (USEF Talent Search, WIHS Jumper Phase, USHJA Jumping Seat Medal, and any class specifically designated as a Jumping Seat Equitation class):
        1. Legal bits include snaffles, pelhams, gags, kimberwickes, and two or three ring bits. Full bridles may be used. Any other bits (including but not limited to hackamores, etc.) are prohibited. Exception: Hackamores may be used in jumping phases of the USEF Talent Search Classes and Finals. Changing of bit/bridle between phases is permissible.
        2. Legal nosebands include leather cavesson, flash, drop and figure eight.
        3. Martingales are not permitted on the flat in any class or phase unless class specifications allow their use. Running Martingales used in the conventional manner are legal in the over fences phase only. Standing martingales, German martingales, draw reins, or restricted martingales are prohibited in all phases.
        4. Bit converters may be used.
        5. Blinkers are prohibited.

HU105 Tack

1. Snaffles, pelhams and full bridles, all with cavesson nose bands, are required.
    a. Judges may penalize, but may not eliminate, a horse or pony that competes in a snaffle, pelham, or full bridle that is unconventional. Unconventional snaffles, pelhams, or full bridles include, but are not limited to, hunter gags, kimberwickes, etc.
    b. Judges must eliminate a horse or pony that competes in illegal bits or nosebands. Illegal bits include, but are not limited to, three rings, gags (other than the hunter gag), et cetera… Illegal nosebands include, but are not limited to, drop, flash and figure eight nosebands. **Bit converters are illegal (exception: classes with fence heights of 2'6" and below).**
2. Curbs: When using a curb with any leverage bit, it must be constructed of loose links,
    a. joints, and/or lie smooth against the jaw of the horse and be free of twists, sharp

objects or anything inhumane. A curb may be wrapped or inserted into a cover for the comfort of the horse. A curb may not be used in conjunction with wire, metal, rawhide, metal “keepers”, or any other substance except for attachment of curb to the bit.

3. Horses must return to the ring for conformation or soundness wearing a snaffle, pelham or full bridle with a cavesson noseband.
4. Martingales of any type are prohibited in under saddle, hack and tie-breaking classes. Standing and running martingales used in the conventional manner are allowed for all over fences classes. All other martingales are considered illegal. A judge must eliminate a horse or pony that competes in a martingale other than a standing or running martingale used in the conventional manner.
    a. Cable or metal tie downs are prohibited for use on horses and ponies.