

A close-up photograph of Western riding equipment, including a silver engraved spur and a leather stirrup leather, set against a background of intricately tooled brown leather. A semi-transparent orange banner with a white arrow on the right side is overlaid across the middle of the image.

Western Equipment

Lexi

BLUE RIBBON
TACK
MINT, ARIZONA

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Western Equipment Booklet



WS105 Tack

1. Competitors must be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified. Entries shall be shown with stock saddle but silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. A sidesaddle shall be considered legal equipment. Breast collars are acceptable. Tapaderos are prohibited.
2. There shall be no discrimination against any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of $8\frac{1}{2}$ ". The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar $\frac{5}{16}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude above or 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 $1\frac{1}{4}$ " or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of $\frac{3}{8}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " (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 $3\frac{1}{2}$ " 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 shall 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 five years old and under. A standard snaffle bit is defined as a center jointed single rounded, unwrapped smooth mouthpiece of $\frac{5}{16}$ " to $\frac{3}{4}$ " 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. The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachment hooks. If a curb strap is used it must be attached below the reins. Closed reins (example mecate) on a snaffle bit are prohibited.
4. Hackamores are permitted in any class on a junior horse five years old and under. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible nonmetallic core attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a bosal, i.e., plastic, resin, glue, steel, metal or chains (Exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable if applied in a smooth, untwisted manner). There must be approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " between the nose and the bosal. The bosal will be no larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter at the cheek and will flex easily. Attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather.
5. Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance. Curb chains and leather chin straps may be used but must be flat and at least $\frac{1}{2}$ " in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can 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, 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 standard equipment as specified above.
6. Bandages and boots of any type are prohibited. In the event of injury, the Judge may permit a protective bandage. In Working Cow Horse classes, the use of shin, bell boots and/or protective bandages on the front legs and standard sliding or rundown boots on the rear fetlocks are permitted.

NOTE: There are exceptions to the general Western Tack rules in some of the breed rules and in the Reining rules.



Suggested Method of Checking Bridles and Hackamores

In Reining, Western Seat Medal classes and in some Western Pleasure classes it is required, or is quite common, for the judge to ask the steward to check bridles at the out-gate of the performance ring. This checking is done individually to each horse after it has completed its performance and is just outside the out-gate.

Procedure:

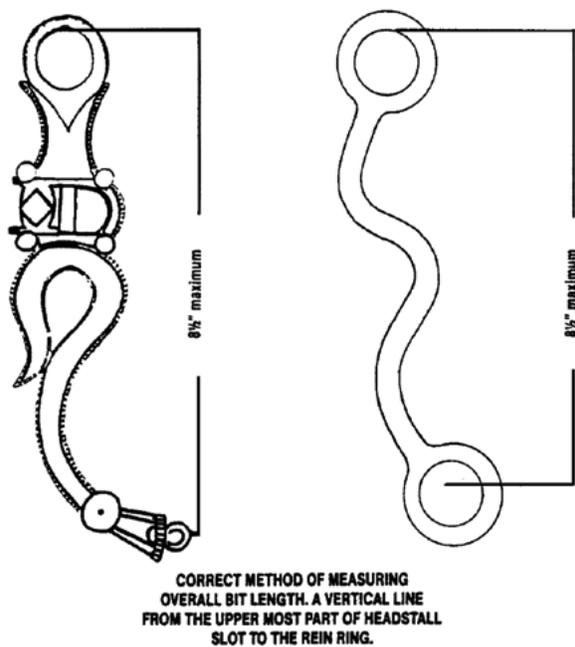
1. Ask the rider to dismount and drop his/her bridle/hackmore.
2. Examine and feel the chinstrap or chain to make sure it has no knots or twists before it is unhooked.
3. Use a magnet if a metal object is suspected to be within a curb strap.
4. Be observant so the handler does not have the opportunity to remove any illegal apparatus such as string or rubber gaskets from the horse's mouth.
5. Make sure the owner or trainer drops bridle; the steward is not to drop the bridle. Put one hand under the horse's mouth to catch anything that may fall out of its mouth.
6. After the bridle is removed, inspect the chinstrap or chain and bit to make sure each is legal (see following pages for illegal chin straps, chains, and bits).
7. Walk around the horse and look at both sides to check for spur marks.
8. Advise judge of any illegal tack or evidence of blood immediately so he/she can examine it.
9. Thank the rider and have him/her put the bridle back on if it passed inspection.
10. Do not touch the mouthpiece of a bit unless absolutely necessary and always wipe your hands on a towel or use a moist cloth after inspecting each bit. Disposable gloves are easily obtainable and their use is recommended when contacting the mouth of the horse or the mouthpiece of the bit.
11. Hackamores are to be checked for flexibility, as well as to confirm they are founded, as well as within the legal dimensions. If there is electrical tape, it should be checked to ensure that it is smooth, with no roughness or foreign substances.

A bit gauge is available from:

National Reining Horse Association
3000 NW 10th St.
Oklahoma City, OK 73107-5302
(405) 946-7400

Illustrations

The following photos and drawings serve to illustrate the tack rules described in WS105. They are meant to serve as examples only. The extensive variety of commercial and custom bits necessitates accurate interpretation of WS105. Please use these photos as guidelines.

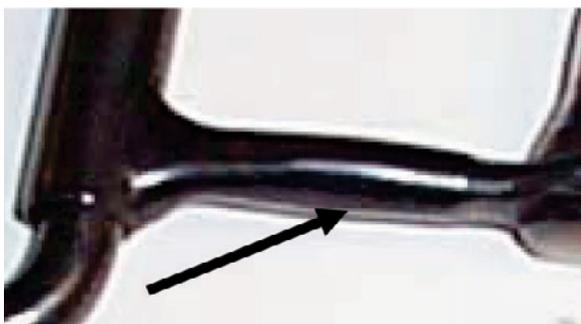


There shall be no discrimination against any standard Western bit. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2”.



The shank on this bit is 9” long – ILLEGAL.

Discussion: The length of the bit shank affects the severity of the bit; the longer the shank the more severe the action of the bit. Standardizing shank length at 8 1/2” or shorter makes for fair competition. When measuring the length, measure from the inside of the uppermost part of headstall slot to the point on the rein ring where the rein would pull from when pressure is applied to rein.



The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16” to 3/4” in diameter, as measured 1 inch in from the shank)

Discussion: A thin mouthpiece is more severe on the bars of the mouth. It would be unusual to see a bit with a mouthpiece of less than 5/16”.



Bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or latex wrapped.

««————— This mouthpiece is legal



Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar.

««————— This mouthpiece is legal



Nothing may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse.

Discussion: The very short, smooth, rounded rivets used to join the mouthpiece together and extend a tiny bit below the bar of the bit will not intimidate a horse.

««————— This mouthpiece is legal



Discussion: Bits with prongs or other protrusions can be very severe and can cause damage to the horse's tongue.

««————— This mouthpiece is illegal



Discussion: This bit is often referred to as a Mustache bit. After considerable discussion, it has been deemed illegal. The issue is that the bar of the bit is shaped so that it curves slightly down at the point where the port joins the bar. This creates a slight prong on each side of the port, which can be intimidating to the horse.

««————— This mouthpiece is illegal



Discussion: This bit is often referred to as the Mickey Mouse bit. The port on this bit meets all of the requirements to be legal. The two balls at the top of the port do not violate the “no prongs” rule. The “no prongs” rule addresses prongs above or below the mouthpiece (bar) designed to intimidate the horse.

«————— This mouthpiece is legal.



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.



»————— These four mouthpieces are legal.

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.

This mouthpiece is legal »»



This mouthpiece is legal »»



Discussion: Extremely high ports have a very intimidating effect on the horse when the reins are pulled and the port hits the roof of the mouth. Bits with ports this high were used by the Vaqueros in Mexico and California. Several years of training were required for a horse to effectively perform with bits of this type.

This mouthpiece is illegal »»





Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited.

« This mouthpiece is illegal



Discussion: This bit is used on horses who "gap" or open their mouth when reins are pulled. This is not a traditional Western bit. At various times the bit has been legal. It became illegal again in 1995.

« This mouthpiece is illegal



Discussion: This is a swivel mouthpiece bit. At various times this bit has been legal and other times illegal. The port on this bit stays still when the reins are pulled. This bit is effective on horses who "gap." This bit has allowed some older horses with mouth problems to continue showing.

« This mouthpiece is legal



Discussion: This type of bit is used as a training device. It puts pressure on the corners of the mouth, not the bars of the mouth. It would be very rare to see anyone try to show a horse with this type of bit.

« This mouthpiece is illegal



This bit is legal as long as the ball on the bar is a roller, the bars are of legal width, and the reins are only attached to the bottom rings. It is not a traditional western bit, but it does comply with existing rules.

Discussion: Any rein extenders must be attached to the bit in such a way that they swivel or swing freely. 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.

«————— This mouthpiece is legal



Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of cross bar shall not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank.

Discussion: This bit has no particular advantages in the show ring; it is merely non-traditional western equipment and does not present the proper picture in the show ring. It would most likely be a beginner who simply did not know better that would attempt to show with this bit.

«————— This mouthpiece is illegal



Discussion: This style of curb bit is legal for use in the Western division as long as the shank length and mouthpiece meet the rule requirements.

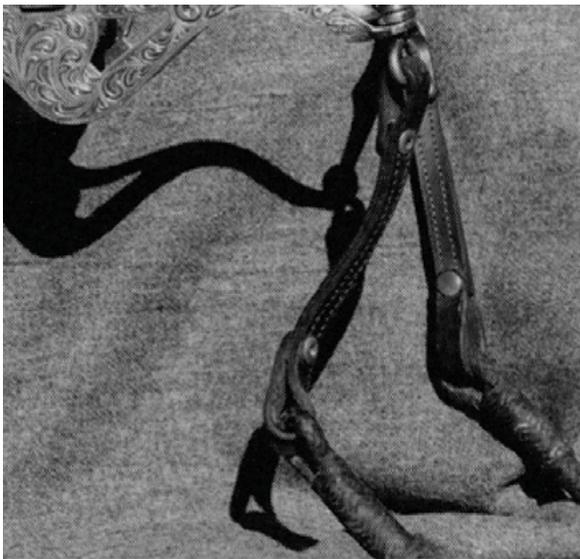
«————— This mouthpiece is legal



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.

Discussion: This rein is stiff for the four inches closest to the bit. It "locks" onto the bit in such a way that the length of the shank is increased by about 3".

«————— These reins are illegal



Discussion: The rein extenders attached between the reins and the bit are flexible and swing freely. They do not extend the length of the shank. Some exhibitors believe that this type of extender creates a more attractive "drape" to the reins while exhibiting Western Pleasure horses.

«————— These reins are legal

Standard snaffle bits are permitted in any class on a junior horse five years old and under. A standard snaffle 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.





Discussion: This snaffle is illegal because it has "full cheeks."

««————— This mouthpiece is illegal



Discussion: Snaffle is not "rounded"; is too narrow, and its rings are too small.

««————— This mouthpiece is illegal



Snaffle is not single, not smooth, not center-jointed and not 5/16" in diameter.

««————— This mouthpiece is illegal

Discussion: The purpose in defining the snaffle so specifically in the Western rule is to insure that a very mild bit such as one used to start a young horse would be used. Breed rules differ as to whether or not a junior horse is allowed to switch between a hackamore or snaffle and a curb bit. There are dozens of types of snaffles that would not be acceptable. Those shown are merely examples of some that do not fit the definition of acceptable. When evaluating a snaffle, always refer to the rule for the specific definition of a legal snaffle.



Hackamores are permitted in any class on a junior horse five years old and under. A hackamore includes a bosal rounded in shape and constructed of braided rawhide or leather and must have a flexible nonmetallic core attached to a suitable headstall. No other material of any kind is to be used in conjunction with a bosal, i.e., plastic, resin, glue, steel, metal or chains (Exception: smooth plastic electrical tape is acceptable if applied in a smooth, untwisted manner). There must be approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ " between the nose and the bosal. The bosal will be no larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter at the cheek and will flex easily. Attached reins may be of hair, rope, or leather.



« These two wraps are illegal



Discussion: Smooth plastic electrical tape slides over the jaws of the horse with very little friction or "bite", thereby making the hackamore comfortable for the horse. Latex or bandage material "grabs" the skin and hair making the hackamore too severe. Sheepskin, as it gets matted down and stiff from sweat, can also become too severe.

« This wrap is legal

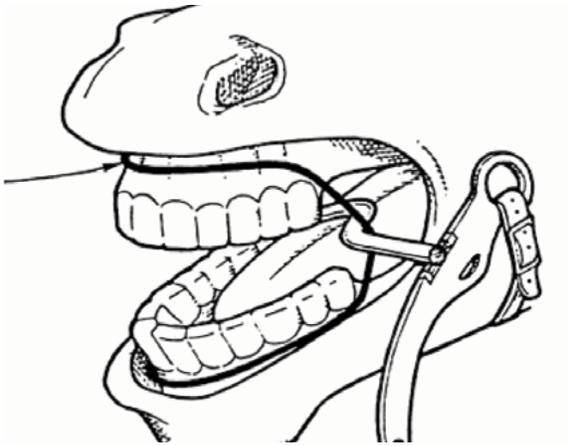


Determining flexibility of the bosal core can be seen in this illustration. Whether or not the core is nonmetallic can be more difficult to determine, as not all metals can be detected with a magnet. When checking bosals for flexibility, safety is the first criteria – ask the rider to dismount and drop the bosal if necessary.



Horses shall not be shown with artificial appliances that would tend to alter their performance.

◀◀ ————— These devices are illegal



This drawing illustrates how these devices would typically be placed in the horse's mouth.

Discussion: Either of these devices, if used in conjunction with a bit, can put pressure on the gums of the horse causing it to keep its mouth closed and also causing it to respond to a very slight pull on the reins. These devices will usually fall out when the bridle is removed. Care should be taken so that a rider or groom does not "palm" these devices before the steward notices them. Occasionally, the rubber or string will come loose in the ring and be seen hanging out of the horse's mouth. It is not unheard of to have elaborate dental work done so that a wire can be attached to the back teeth and then around the gum.

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.



Discussion: The narrower a chain, the more severe it is. A narrow chain has a higher probability of cutting the horse.



This curb chain is illegal —————>>>

No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the leather chin- strap, or curb chains.

Discussion: The bar is narrow and stiff and makes the chain too severe.



This curb chain is illegal —————>>>

Discussion: The "bumps" cause the chain to be too severe.



This curb chain is illegal —————>>>



Chinstrap has a metal bar sewn inside, making it stiff under the chin.

« This chinstrap is illegal



Discussion: These are more severe than plain leather. The tack strap can cause sores, cuts, and could be considered to be inhumane. If the tacks are sharp, this strap should not be used on competition grounds as it is cruel. Use of a magnet will reveal any metal within the chinstrap.

« This chinstrap is illegal



Rounded, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited.

Round straps are more severe than flat ones.

« This chinstrap is illegal



« This chinstrap is illegal



««————— This curb strap is illegal



Discussion: Attachment of curb strap on a snaffle below where reins would be attached is allowed

««————— This curb strap is legal



A light lip strap is permissible.

Discussion: The purpose of the lip strap is to keep the shanks of the bit from flipping up above the horse's nose. The light strap (often shoelace) is attached to the end of the bit shanks and to the chinstrap or chain. This should be attached to the chinstrap in such a way that it does not form a knot or significant lump under the horse's chin. The lip strap may go over the top of the chinstrap between the layers of the chinstrap, or be attached to a small metal ring on the bottom of the chinstrap as long as it does not cause a bump which could cause the strap to be too severe.



Hackamore bits, bosals, cavesson type nosebands, martingales and tie-downs are prohibited.

Discussion: This is a mechanical apparatus that operates by applying pressure on the nose and jaws. It does not allow the horse to be judged on how well he handles a bit, nor is it traditional western equipment.



Discussion: Cavessons; bailing wire, small "pencil" bosals, etc. are used to keep a horse's mouth closed when the reins are pulled when using a bit. It would be rare that a person would deliberately attempt to enter the competition ring with this type of equipment. It is, however, quite common for the rider to be using this equipment in the schooling area and forget to take it off. If a rider is observed going toward the in-gate using any of these, he should be reminded to remove them.



PART TWO – Rule Comparison Chart-Bits

DIVISION	COMMENTS
Andalusian/Lusitano	<p>Western Pleasure: Does NOT reference WS105. Maximum overall length of 8 1/2 inches for a Western shank bit. The mouthpiece shall consist of a metal bar which is from 3/8 inch to 3/4 inch in diameter; varying from the straight bar to a full spade. Hackamores or smooth mouth snaffle bits are permitted on Junior Horses. Jointed mouth pieces are permitted (nothing about number or placement of joints); cannot go back to being shown in snaffle or hackamore in Western division if shown in a standard Western bit.</p> <p>Western Equitation: references Equitation Division. Western Trail Horse: references Western Subchapter 3. Western Riding references WS130-137</p>
Arabian	<p>Must be penalized for incomplete appointments, but not necessarily disqualified.</p> <p>Western Pleasure and Working Western: Does NOT reference WS105. With some slight rearrangement of sentence order, the majority of WS105 is reprinted in AR196. A horse shown in either a hackamore or snaffle must never have been shown in any Western event in a bridle (except Arabian, Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian trail, reining, reined cow horse and working cow horses).</p>
Equitation	<p>Must be penalized for incomplete appointments, but not necessarily disqualified. References WS105 for hackamores and for snaffle bits; does not define standard Western bit. Horses shown in the Arabian, Half-Arabian, Morgan, National Show Horse and Saddlebred Divisions may not use hackamores or snaffle bits in the Equitation division and must show with one hand.</p>
Friesian	<p>Judge may penalize contestants who do not conform to rules regarding appointments, tack and attire.</p> <p>Western Pleasure: Does NOT reference WS105. Maximum overall length of 8 1/2 inches for a Western shank bit. The mouthpiece shall consist of a metal bar which is from 3/8 inch to 3/4 inch in diameter; varying from the straight bar to a full spade. Hackamores and snaffle bits are permitted on junior horses. Once a horse is shown in a Western bit it cannot go back to being shown in snaffle or hackamore. Mechanical Hackamores are prohibited. Martingales, tie downs and whips prohibited (exception sidesaddle).</p> <p>Western Seat Equitation: references Equitation Division.</p>
Morgan	<p>Must be penalized for incomplete appointments and attire but not necessarily disqualified.</p> <p>Western Pleasure: references WS Division. Hackamores and snaffle bits are permitted on junior horses. A junior horse may be switched back and forth from a bridle to a snaffle or hackamore. Equitation (non-medal): references EQ Division, and see above</p> <p>Equitation Medal: any legal western bit. No hackamores, bosals or snaffles.</p>
National Show Horse	<p>Western Pleasure: References Western Division.</p> <p>Equitation: References Equitation Division.</p>

DIVISION	COMMENTS
Parade	Does NOT reference WS105. Stock saddle, plain or silver, Mexican or other appropriate equipment. Curb chains are optional.
Paso Fino	Does NOT reference WS105. The headstall shall be of the Western type customarily used with a stock saddle. Western Pleasure horses under the age of five years may use a snaffle or bosal; horses five and over must use a curb bit. In Paso Pleasure when using Western style tack, Columbian and Western hackamore, mecatas, sidepulls, curb, and snaffle bits may be used. Cavessons and nosebands are prohibited. Shanks cannot exceed 6"; upper shank of bit cannot exceed 3" and all bits with shanks must have a curb strap or curb chain attached and used for leverage but cannot be cruelly tight. Except for Schooling classes, metal is not permitted in, under, over, or attached to cavesson nosepiece except for buckles.
Reining	Use of illegal equipment will result in no score. All bits must be free of mechanical device. References to hackamore mean the use of a flexible, braided, rawhide, leather, or rope bosal, the core of which may be either rawhide or flexible cable with a maximum diameter of 3/4" at the cheek. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, or on the noseband in connection with the bosal, regardless of how padded or covered. Horsehair bosals are prohibited. This rule does not refer to the so-called mechanical hackamore which is illegal. Snaffle bits: inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage. Mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and free of wire. May be inlaid, but smooth and/or latex wrapped. Minimum 5/16" diameter bar; no maximum stated. Curb strap acceptable; curb chains not acceptable. Curb bits: solid or broken mouthpiece with shanks and acts with leverage; shanks may be fixed or loose. Bars of mouthpiece must be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" maximum with rollers and covers acceptable. Nothing shall protrude more than 1/8" below the mouthpiece (bar). Does not reference WS105 but much of the wording is the same in defining standard Western bits.
Saddlebred	Must be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified. Does NOT reference WS105. With some slight rearrangement of sentence order, the majority of WS105 is reprinted. Horses may not switch back and forth from a bridle to snaffle to hackamore.
Welsh Pony and Cob	References Western Division.



≡ PART THREE – Rule Comparison Chart-Attire, Saddles, misc.

DIVISION	COMMENTS
Andalusian/Lusitano	<p>Western Pleasure – Stock saddle; side saddles also permitted; tapaderos are prohibited. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Split reins or closed reins with romal permitted. When a hackamore is used, attached reins may be of hair, rope or leather. Riders must wear Western hat, long sleeved shirt with any type of collar, trousers or pants and boots (a one piece long sleeved equitation suit is acceptable provided it includes any type of collar). Chaps, shotgun chaps, and spurs are required. A vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater may also be worn.</p> <p>Western Equitation: references Equitation Division. Western Trail – references Western Subchapter 3. Western Riding – references WS130-137.</p>
Arabian	<p>Competitors must be penalized for incomplete appointments, but not necessarily disqualified. Any standard stock saddle is permissible, silver will not count over a good working outfit. Tapaderos may not be used. Riders shall wear Western hat, long sleeved shirt with any type of collar, trousers or pants and boots (a one piece long sleeved equitation suit is acceptable provided it includes any type of collar). Chaps, shotgun chaps, and spurs are optional. A vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater may also be worn. Spurs are required.</p>
Equitation	<p>Must be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified. Saddle must fit rider. Nothing that would prevent stirrups from hanging freely shall be added to or deleted from a standard western saddle. Exhibitors can ride sidesaddle in adult equitation classes but not in classes restricted to juniors or the Reining Seat Medal. Riders must wear Western hat; long-sleeved shirt with any type of collar; a necktie, kerchief or bolo tie or brooch; trousers or pants; (a one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is acceptable provided it includes any type of collar). Chaps and boots are required. A vest, jacket, coat, and/or sweater may also be worn. Spurs are optional. Side saddle riders must wear an apron (either closed or button type).</p>
Friesian	<p>Must be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified. Western Pleasure Attire: Stock saddle; western type headstall without noseband. (Sidesaddles permitted with proper attire.) Riders shall wear Western hat; long-sleeved shirt with any type of collar, trousers or pants (a one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is acceptable provided it includes a collar). Chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks, and boots are required. A vest, jacket, coat, and/or sweater may also be worn.</p> <p>Western Trail: same as Western Pleasure</p> <p>Western Seat Equitation: Equitation Division</p>
Morgan	<p>Must be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified. Western Pleasure: Western tack must be used in all classes and appointments must conform to that described in Western Rules, WS102 and WS105. Riders must wear suitable western hat, long-sleeved shirt with any type collar; trousers or pants (a one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is acceptable, provided it includes a collar). Chaps, shotgun chaps, or chinks, and boots are required. Riders should wear a necktie, kerchief, bolo tie or pin; a vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater may also be worn. Protective headgear is acceptable; not required to be of Western style. Refer to GR801.</p>

DIVISION	COMMENTS
National Show Horse	Western Pleasure: For personal appointments and tack refer to Western Rule, references Western Division. Equitation: References Equitation Division.
Parade	Stock saddle, plain or silver, Mexican or other appropriate equipment. Rider's attire shall be western clothing and boots or colorful Parade clothing.
Paso Fino	Good working stock saddle; silver equipment will not predominate. Breastplates are permitted. The tack and attire are to be Western type. Horses under the age of five may use a snaffle or bosal. Horses five and over must use a curb bit. Australian stock saddles are prohibited but Western saddles made in Australia (with a horn) are allowed. Chaps optional in Paso Western Pleasure. Jacket or vest optional.
Reining	Use of illegal equipment will result in no score. Failure to use appropriate attire will result in a score of zero. Mandatory that riders use appropriate western tack and western attire while showing: includes long sleeve shirt, western hat or protective headgear, boots, western saddle and western bridle. (Freestyle Reining being exempt based on conditions.) All horses must be ridden astride.
Saddlebred	Must be penalized for incomplete appointments but not necessarily disqualified. Spurs are optional. Side-saddle legal equipment. Tapaderos are prohibited. Hobbles and riata are not required. Stock saddle; silver equipment not to count over good working outfit. Riders shall wear Western hat, long sleeved shirt and/or jacket with collar and necktie, kerchief or bolo tie, bow tie, peddle-tie, rosette-tie, or pin used as a tie; trousers or pants (1 piece equitation suit acceptable if it includes collar and cuffs). Chaps, shotgun chaps or chinks and boots required. Vest, coat or sweater may be worn.
Welsh Pony and Cob	Western tack and attire, reference Western Division.
Western Division (open to all breeds)	Riders Western hat; long-sleeved shirt any type of collar, trousers or pants and boots; (a one-piece long-sleeved equitation suit is acceptable providing it includes any type of collar). Chaps, shotgun chaps and spurs are optional unless riders are showing in trail or pleasure class. A vest, jacket, coat and/or sweater may also be worn.