Changes effective 12/1/2026 are noted in red

USEF Eventing Annex 1 – Tack & Equipment

v. 12.1.2026

For permitted saddlery, USEF Eventing refers to the FEI Eventing Rules (FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements) and FEI TackApp, if it is not covered in Subchapter EV-10. Please see below for exceptions from the FEI Rules for USEF licensed/Endorsed Eventing competitions for the national levels.

Please see the FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements for diagrams of permitted bits and nosebands.

Dressage Phase

USEF Eventing Rule for National Levels	FEI Rule
SUBCHAPTER EV-10 2.j Nose nets are permitted under the following conditions: 1. The entry must be accompanied by a letter signed by the horse's veterinarian on letterhead, stating that the horse has been diagnosed with head shaking syndrome and that the horse's condition is improved with the use of a nose net. 2. The nose net must be made of a transparent material and cover only the top half of the muzzle, not the bit or the horse's mouth.	FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements 2.2.7 g) Nose nets are allowed
SUBCHAPTER EV-10 2.k A neck strap or pommel strap may be used. The strap must be made primarily of leather.	FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements Dressage: Loose neck strap is not allowed during the Dressage test as it is considered as gadget
SUBCHAPTER EV-10 2.c Dr. Bristol is permitted for national eventing competitions.	FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements 2.6.1 Dr. Bristol is NOT allowed for the Eventing Dressage test.
SUBCHAPTER EV-10 2.l Saddle pads may be any single color. Contrast trim and piping are permitted. Striped or multi-colored pads are prohibited.	Dressage, Art. 434 1.2 Saddle pads should be white or off-white. Contrast coloring and piping is allowed. Striped or multi colored pads are not permitted.
SUBCHAPTER EV-10 2.i Earplugs are permitted.	FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements 2.9.1. Earplugs are not permitted.

Cross Country and Jumping Phases

USEF Eventing Rule for National Levels	FEI Rule
SUBCHAPTER EV-10 3.a The following are compulsory: an English type of saddle and bridle or hackamore.	FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements 3.1.1. The type of saddlery is optional.
SUBCHAPTER EV-10 3.b Gags or hackamores are permitted. *For Cross Country, hackamores are permitted to be used without a bit.*	FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements 3.2.9 For Cross Country, hackamores must be used with a bit. The maximum length of the shank is 24 cm, measured in a straight line from the middle of the higher ring to the middle of the lower ring.
Myler Combination bit is permitted (Effective September 1, 2024)	Veterinary Regulations, Art. 1044.5 Myler Combination bit is not permitted

All Phases

USEF Eventing Rule for National Levels	FEI Rule
Stirrups (all phases) GR801.6: No piece of equipment shall be attached to a saddle that has a rigid upward pointing projection, hook, or similar object capable of catching a rider's clothing or person when dismounting, including stirrups. More information about permitted stirrups under the saddle attachment rule can be found here on the Federation website.	Rules, Art. 4.1.1 and 3.1.1.
SUBCHAPTER EV-9.3 Dressage Phase: One whip no longer than 120 cm (47.2") may be carried during the Dressage phase except in USEF/USEA Championships and USEA Championship divisions. Show Jumping and Cross Country: If a whip is carried in the Cross-Country and/or Show Jumping phase, or while jumping any obstacle before these phases, it must not be weighted at the end or exceed 75 cm (30") in length. An adjustable-length whip may not be carried by a mounted Athlete.	FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements 1.3.1. Dressage Test - A whip is not allowed entering the space around the arena and during the Test. Show Jumping and Cross Country: whip no longer than 75 centimeters is allowed during these tests. All whips used in the Cross Country and Jumping Tests must be padded* at the end and made of smooth material. A whip may not have a weighted end, protrusions, or raised surface. The pad/contact area must be smooth with no protrusion or raised surface and be made of shock-absorbing material throughout its circumference. *For additional information about padding, see the FEI Tack and Equipment Requirements