PARA DRESSAGE

FEI TACK AND EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS (INCLUDING ADAPTIVE EQUIPMENT)

Effective 01 January 2026

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Fédération Equestre Internationale
HM King Hussein 1 Building
Chemin de la Joliette 8
1006 Lausanne
Switzerland

t +41 21 310 47 47
e info@fei.org
www.fei.org

All Tack & Equipment requirements have been removed from the Sport Rules and are now outlined in this FEI Tack & Equipment Requirements as per the below. Please also refer to the FEI Tack, Equipment and Dress Database or the FEI Tack App.

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1. Saddle

1.1 A well-fitting, well maintained saddle and a girth, suitable to the Horse and Athlete shall be used. Any modification or adaptation to a saddle must ensure the Athlete's safety and must not affect the welfare of the Horse, especially regarding size, shape and weight.

At the halt there must be a clear three centimetres (3cm) between any means of support and the Athlete's trunk. Any adaptations to a saddle must allow the Athlete to fall free of the Horse. No saddle must be deeper in the seat than twelve centimetres (12cm) with the seat pressed down. This is measured from the seat to the middle of a line from top of pommel to top of cantle. Any modification or adaptation to the saddle must be noted on the Classification Master List as a Compensating Aid (adaptive equipment).

1.2 Stirrups must have closed branches, and no attachments. Safety stirrups may have an opening on the outside branch. The stirrup leathers must have a release mechanism where they are attached to the saddle. Unless stated on the FEI Masterlist, stirrup leathers must be on the outside of the saddle flap and hang freely from the safety bar of the saddle. The Athlete must not directly or indirectly tie any part of their body to the saddlery.

1.3 If Athletes are using a strap from stirrup iron or leather to girth, they must use safety stirrups as a strap from the stirrup iron or leather to the girth prevent the stirrup leather releasing from the saddle.

1.4 Saddle pads should be white or off white. Contrast colouring and piping is allowed. Striped or multi-coloured saddle pads are not permitted. Plain or national saddlecloths may be used. See Article 135 of the FEI GRs, regarding Advertising and Publicity on Athletes and Horses.

2. Snaffle or Double Bridle with noseband

2.1 Except for the buckles and padding the headstall and noseband must be made entirely of leather or leather-like material. Padding is allowed on bridles. Nylon or other non-metal material may be used to reinforce leather in the headstall but must not be in direct contact with the Horse. Elastic inserts are permitted in the crownpiece and cheek pieces only and must not be in direct contact with the Horse or the bit.

2.2 A browband is required, and except for the parts that attach to the crownpiece or headstall, is not required to be made of leather or leather-like material.

2.3 The crownpiece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll but must not be fitted to lie behind the skull.

2.4 A throatlatch is required except when the combined noseband or Micklem noseband are used.

2.5 A rein is a continuous, uninterrupted strap or line from the bridle bit to the hand. Each bit must be attached to a separate rein and reins may only be attached to the bit so that the reins can freely glide. Reins must not be made of rope material. Any rein from any bit in the Horse's mouth must be in direct contact with the Athlete. When riding in a double bridle the two (2) reins on one (1) side must either both go to the Athlete's hand(s) or be connected into one (1) rein before reaching the Athlete (joined reins).

2.6 A double bridle must have a cavesson noseband, bridoon and curb with curb chain. A combined noseband may be used without the lower “flash” strap. The curb chain can be made of metal, leather or a combination. Lip strap and rubber, leather or sheepskin cover for curb chain are optional. Neither a cavesson nose band nor a curb chain may ever be as tightly fixed so as to harm the Horse.

2.7 A plain snaffle bridle is required to be used with a regular cavesson noseband, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband, a crossed noseband, a combined noseband or as a Micklem (or similar design) bridle.

2.8 At any level of Competition a noseband may never be so tightly fixed that it causes harm to the Horse, Article 1044.8 of the FEI Veterinary Regulations applies in relation to the permitted tightness of the noseband.

2.9 Any piece of tack that impairs the ears to move freely is forbidden.

3. Bits

Snaffle, Bridoon and curb bits must have a smooth surface. Twisted and wire bits are prohibited. Bits must be made of metal, durable plastic, flexible rubber or synthetic material. Bits may be covered with rubber/latex. Bits must not place mechanical restraint upon the tongue. The diameter of the mouthpiece of the bridoon/snaffle and/or curb must be such so as not to hurt the Horse. Minimum diameter of mouthpiece to be twelve millimetres (12 mm) for curb bit and ten millimetres (10 mm) for bridoon bit. Snaffles must have a minimum diameter of twelve millimetres (12mm) for Horses and ten millimetres (10mm) for Ponies. The diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece.

3.1 Snaffle Bits

3.1.1 Snaffle bits may be used with loose ring, D-Ring, Eggbutt and hanging cheeks. Single or double jointed snaffles may also be used with upper or lower cheeks, full cheeks or Fulmer cheeks. Loose rings may have a sleeve fitted around part of the ring.

3.1.2 A snaffle may have up to two joints. A barrel or ball joint is permitted as the centre link in a double jointed snaffle; however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre link may be tilted in a different orientation from the mouthpiece but must have rounded edges and may not have the effect of a tongue plate.

3.1.3 A double jointed snaffle or snaffle with rotating mouthpiece may be shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30mm. The mouthpiece of a jointed or unjointed snaffle may be shaped in a curve within the dimensions specified above.

3.2 Bridoon Bits – a bridoon is defined as a snaffle bit that is used together with a curb bit to form a double bridle.

3.2.1 Bridoons may be used with loose ring and eggbutt cheeks.

3.2.2 Bridoons must have one or two joints. A barrel or ball joint is permitted as the centre link in a double jointed bridoon; however, the surface of the centre piece must be solid with no moveable parts other than a roller. The centre link may not have the effect of a tongue plate.

3.2.3 Bridoons where the centre link(s) of the bit can lock and have the effect of a mullen mouth snaffle are not permitted.

3.3 Curb Bits

3.3.1 The length of the lever arm below the mouthpiece of the curb bit is limited to ten centimetres (10 cm). The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek. If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouthpiece should not measure more than ten centimetres (10 cm) when the mouthpiece is at the uppermost position.

3.3.2 Curbs may have straight or S-shaped cheeks. They may have rotating lever arms.

3.3.3 The mouthpiece may be straight or shaped to allow tongue relief. The maximum height of the deviation is 30mm from the lower part of tongue side to the highest part of the deviation. The widest part of the deviation must be where the mouthpiece contacts the tongue and must have a minimum width of 30mm.

3.3.4 If the curb has a sliding mouthpiece, the lever arm of the curb bit below the mouth piece should not measure more than ten centimetres (10 cm) when the mouth piece is at the uppermost position. Curb "chain" can be made of metal or leather or a combination. Cover for curb “chain” can be made of leather, rubber or sheep skin. Curb chain hooks can be fixed or not fixed.

4. Spurs are optional as a standard Compensating Aid (Adaptive Equipment). Spurs must be made of metal. The shank must be either curved or straight, pointing directly back from the centre of the spur when on the Athlete’s boot. Spurs must not be offset, unless allowed as a non-standard Compensating Aid (Adaptive Equipment) and noted on the FEI Classification Master List. The arm of the spur must be smooth and blunt. If rowels are used, they must be blunt, smooth (no sharp edges) and free to rotate. Metal spurs with round hard knobs are allowed (‘Impuls’ spurs). The knobs may rotate. “Dummy” spurs with no shank are also allowed.

5. Additional Items

5.1 False tails/tail extensions are permitted. False tails may not contain any metal parts, (except for hooks and eyelets), or extra added weight. Random checks will be conducted and contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination.

5.2 Ear hoods are permitted for all Events, and may also provide noise reduction. However, ear hoods must not cover the Horse’s eyes and ear plugs are not permitted. The ear hoods should be discreet in colour and design. Ear hoods may not be attached to the noseband. Ear plugs on Horses are forbidden but are allowed at prize giving ceremonies and Horse Inspections only for safety reasons. Random checks will be conducted and contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination.

5.3 Any artificial decoration of the Horse is not allowed. It is not allowed to paint any part of the Horse’s body nor is it allowed to obscure an existing wound or injury. Contravening this rule will entail a Yellow Warning Card and Elimination.

5.4 Gadgets. Martingales, bit guards, and kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins, nasal strips etc.) and any form of blinkers that interfere with the Horse’s vision are, under penalty of elimination, strictly forbidden during training, warm-up and Competitions.

5.5 Fly masks: fly masks are forbidden in the Competition arena but may be allowed in warm-up and training arenas at the discretion of the Chief Steward and President of the Ground Jury.

6. Boots and bandages: At all international Events, boots and/or bandages on the Horse’s legs are forbidden while competing in the arena. The boots and/or bandages must be removed before entering the space around the Competition arena or the Athlete will be penalized.

7. Identification Numbers

7.1 Identification numbers are to be worn by the Horse at all times when it is out of the stable. Each Horse keeps the same identification number provided by the Athlete throughout the Event. It is compulsory that this number be worn by the Horse while actively competing and at any time while working in the exercise and schooling areas or being hand walked (from the time of their arrival until the end of the Event) so that they can be identified by all Officials including the Stewards. Failure to display this number incurs first a warning and, in the case of a repeated offence, a fine imposed on the Athlete by the Ground Jury. The identification numbers shall be discreet on white background, the colour of the numbers may vary. The identification number must be displayed at least on one side of the Horse.

7.2 In Grade I Athlete numbers should begin with a one (1).

7.3 In Grade II Athlete numbers should begin with a two (2).

7.4 In Grade III Athlete numbers should begin with a three (3).

7.5 In Grade IV Athlete numbers should begin with a four (4).

7.6 In Grade V Athlete numbers should begin with a five (5).

ANNEX I

FEI Para Dressage Compensating Aids Guidelines

<table>
<tr><th colspan="2">Standard Compensating Aids</th></tr>
<tr><td colspan="2">Standard Compensating Aids are aids or equipment, other than approved saddlery or equipment as outlined in the FEI Dressage Rules, which may be used by the athletes across all functional profiles. Standard compensating Aids are allowed to be used by all Athletes and do not need to be noted on the FEI Masterlist. (See FEI Para Dressage Rules article 8431 – 8432 and Annex IV for full details)</td></tr>
<tr><th>Compensating Aid</th><th>Photo / Information</th></tr>
<tr><td>Salute with head only

FEI Para Dressage Rules
Article 8416.3</td><td>Description of Aid:
The Athlete can salute with their head only.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Sitting or Rising Trot

FEI Para Dressage Rules
Annex IV</td><td>Description of Aid:
All trot work may be executed sitting or rising.</td></tr>
<tr><td>Gloves

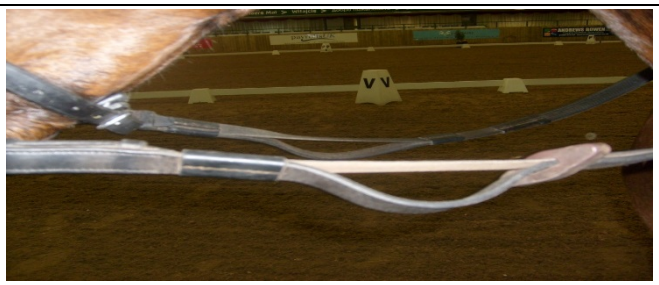
FEI Para Dressage Rules
Article 8427.7</td><td>Description of Aid:
Gloves are optional</td></tr>
<tr><td>Stirrups

FEI Para Dressage Rules
Article 8431</td><td>Description of Aid:
Stirrups used for competition must either be of English standard design or a Safety stirrup design. Design modifications for the English Standard design must retain the design feature of a flat tread for the foot, with two branches, and an eye at the top for the leather to run through. Design modifications for the safety stirrup must retain the design features that allows the foot to release easily in the event of a fall. Magnets used on the tread in either design must be of a width and strength to break loose easily in the event of a fall. Velcro is not allowed to secure the foot to the tread of the stirrup.</td></tr>
<tr><td rowspan="2">Spurs (not offset)

FEI Para Dressage Rules
Article 8427.10</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Description of Aid:
Spurs are optional. Offset spurs are a non-standard compensating aid.</td></tr>
</table>

Saddle (any type) FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8431.1.1	**Description of Aid:** A well-fitting, well maintained saddle, suitable to the Horse and Athlete shall be used. Any modification or adaptation to a saddle are considered non-standard compensating aids and must be noted on the FEI Masterlist.
Soft Hand Hold FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8432.3.1	
	Purpose of Aid: To assist the Athlete to balance.
	Description of Aid: The hand hold must not be more than 30cm in length and no more than 10cm above the top of the pommel when held. It may be attached to the front of the saddle, in front of or above the pommel.
Breast plate and/or neck strap FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8432.3.2	 
	Purpose of Aid: To assist with balance all Athletes may use a neck strap as a hand hold. For this purpose a breast plate is also allowed.
	Description of Aid: A standard neck strap or breast plate

Deep Saddle FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8431.1.1	
	Description of Aid: No saddle must be deeper in the seat than 12cm with the seat pressed down.
Elastic Bands on stirrups / Magnetic stirrups FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8432.7.3	 
	Purpose of Aid: For safety, an aid to help the Athlete to keep their foot in place on the stirrup.
	Description of Aid: Elastics/magnets must be of a width and strength to break loose, Athlete must be able to fall free from the stirrup.
	Not allowed: Velcro should not be used to fix the foot in the stirrup, instead the athlete should use rubber bands or magnets.
Enclosed stirrups FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8432.7.4	 
	Purpose of Aid:

	To prevent the possibility of the foot sliding through the stirrup.
	Description of Aid: Stirrups may be closed at the front. Clips can also be used on the front of the stirrup.
	Not allowed: Only the front of the stirrup should be enclosed, not the back.
1 whip FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8432.4.1	**Description of Aid:** Maximum 120cm length, can be straight or curved, with no modifications. The measurement is a direct line from top of handle to the end of the tip, and not along the curve.
Joined rein FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8432.5.2	
	Purpose of Aid: For Athletes who are unable to grasp and manipulate two reins, to allow athletes the facility to ride with a double bridle.
	Description of Aid: Joined reins must have a minimum of 30cm between the bit to the join in the rein. It must be formed into a single rein in the Athletes hand.
	Not allowed: The joined rein should not have the action of a rounding.
Elastic Rein Inserts FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8432.5.1	
	Purpose of Aid: To diffuse tension in the rein and avoid intermittent pressure on the horses mouth.
	Description of Aid: An elastic insert in the rein, it should not touch the bit.
	Not allowed: The insert must be included in the rein as manufactured and must not be an attachment.

Knotted Reins/Rein stops FEI Para Dressage Rules Article 8432.5.6	 
	Purpose of Aid: To help with gripping the rein.
	Description of Aid: Each rein may have one tie/twist of the rein, no larger in height or width. Rein stops in the same number and size range are also allowed.
	Not allowed: More than one per rein or larger than one tie/twist of the rein would be considered a non-standard compensating aid.