

SHW300.3 Tails may be lengthened by hair to hair attachment only with no attachments of any kind to the tailbone.

SHW300.4 The use of weighted tails is acceptable.

SHW300.5 The use of earplugs or cotton in the horse's ears is acceptable.

SHW300.6 Reruns will not be allowed in instances of equipment failure.

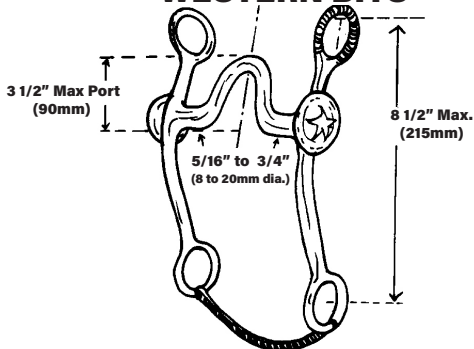
SHW300.7 Failure by exhibitor to wear correct number(s) in a visible manner shall result in disqualification. It is recommended the visible numbers be on both sides of the horse when showing in the under saddle classes, excluding the over fence classes.

SHW300.8 All inhumane/prohibited equipment as listed in VIO204.13 is illegal for use at any time on the grounds at an AQHA-approved event.

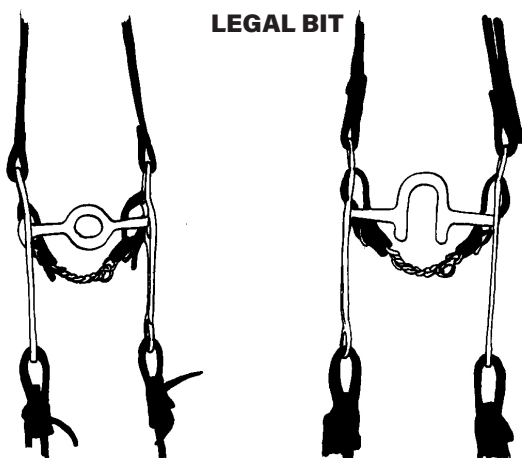
ACCEPTABLE CHAIN CURB STRAPS



WESTERN BITS



LEGAL BIT



DONUT BIT

PRONG BIT

ILLEGAL BIT

SHW300.9 Any equipment and/or bit considered legal in an AQHA-approved class may be used on any horse for training purposes on show grounds, whether or not the horse will be show in the class for which the equipment and/or it is legal; for example, equipment and/or bits legal for barrel racing classes may be used on horses of other disciplines for training on the show grounds.

SHW305. WESTERN EQUIPMENT.

SHW305.1 Hackamores shall be round in shape and constructed of uniform, smooth, braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core. There must be at least 5½ inches on the underside of the noseband before any braided buttons. A hackamore must use a complete mecate rein, which must include a tie-rein. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. Horse hair bosals are prohibited. This rule does not refer to a mechanical hackamore.

SHW305.2 Snaffle bits in western performance classes mean the conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with a ring no larger than 4" in diameter (100 mm). The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" (8 mm) in diameter, measured one inch (25 mm) in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable. Optional leather strap attached below the reins on a snaffle bit is acceptable.

SHW305.3 Bit in western performance classes means the use of a curb bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit.

SHW305.4 The description of a legal, standard western bit includes:

SHW305.4.1 8 1/2" (215 mm) maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the diagram on the previous page. Shanks may be fixed or loose;

SHW305.4.2 concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek. However, wire on the sway bars (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs, including upward prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable;

SHW305.4.3 a linked mouthpiece with minimum 3/8" (10 mm) diameter that is smooth with movable links that are solidly attached to the shanks;

SHW305.4.4 the port must be no higher than 3 1/2" (90 mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard;

SHW305.4.5 donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable;

SHW305.4.6 a curb bit must be used with a curb strap or curb chain properly attached so as to make contact with horse's chin;

SHW305.4.7 slip or gag bit is permitted in speed events.

SHW305.5 Except for hackamore/snaffle bit classes or junior horses shown with hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins, however, the index finger only is permitted between split reins. More than one finger may be between the reins of two-rein equipment. In trail, ranch trail, ranch riding, VRH ranch trail, and VRH/RHC ranch riding, it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification in all western performance classes, except VRH/RHC classes, and ranch riding and ranch trail where it is an automatic OP (off-pattern penalty.)

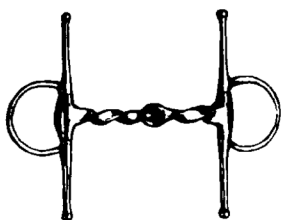
SHW305.5.1 Any horse of any age shown in any rookie/Level 1 youth, VRH/RHC rookie youth, rookie/Level 1 amateur, VRH/RHC rookie amateur or Level 1 class may be shown one or two handed with a snaffle bit/hackamore.

SHW305.6 Romal means an extension of braided or round material attached to closed reins. This extension shall be carried in the free hand with a 16-inch (40 cm) spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. When using romal reins, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrists kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed lightly around the reins. When using a romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed. The free hand may not be used to adjust the rider's length of rein in any reining class. During reining, the use of the free hand while holding the romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand is considered to be the use of two hands and a score of 0 will be applied, with the exception of any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern. In all other classes, including the reined portion of working cow horse, boxing, and all VRH and RHC classes, the free hand may be used to adjust the rider's length of rein. In all western classes, excess rein(s) may be straightened or disentangled anytime during the class, provided the rider's free hand used to straighten or disentangle remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from bridle to rein hand is to be considered use of two hands and a penalty score of zero or disqualification will be applied.

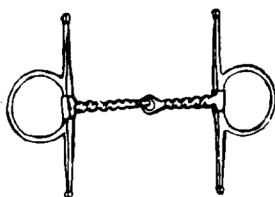
SHW305.6.1 The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or to signal or cue the horse in any way. Any infraction of this rule shall be penalized severely by the judge.

SHW305.7 Junior horses competing in western pleasure, western horsemanship, western riding, trail, reining, working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, working western rail, all VRH and all RHC classes that are shown with a hackamore or snaffle bit may be ridden with one or two hands on the reins. The tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck when riding with two hands on split reins except in reining, working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, working western rail, all VRH classes, and all RHC classes. Closed reins (example mecate) may not be used with a snaffle bit, except in working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, working western rail, all VRH classes and, all RHC classes, where a mecate is permitted. When using a snaffle bit in working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, working western rail, all VRH classes and all RHC classes, a leather or other woven material chin strap of any width is to be used and should be attached to the bit below the reins. No iron, chain, or other material is allowed. The chin strap can

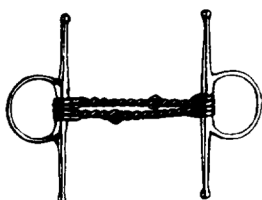
ACCEPTABLE ENGLISH BITS FOR ALL AGES



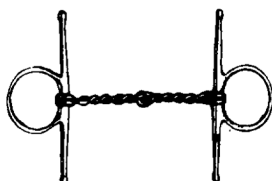
SLOW TWIST



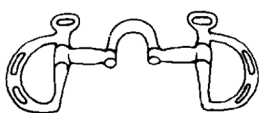
CORKSCREW



**DOUBLE TWISTED
WIRE**



**SINGLE TWISTED
WIRE**

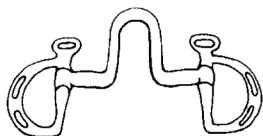


CORRECTION BIT

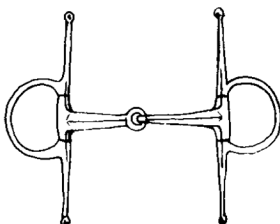


**SNAFFLE BIT WITH
CONNECTING FLAT BAR**

UNACCEPTABLE ENGLISH BITS



EXCESSIVE PORT



TRIANGULAR MOUTH

include metal buckles and/or keepers.

SHW305.8 In all western classes, horses will be shown in a western saddle and appropriate bridle, snaffle bit or hackamore for the duration of the class. A western saddle is a common type of saddle distinguished by a large noticeable fork on which there is some form of horn, a high cantle and large skirts. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Horses 5-years-old and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Horses 6-years-old and older may only be shown in a curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Split reins or romal reins must be used on a curb bit except in speed events, team penning, ranch sorting, roping and cowboy mounted shooting where they are optional. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb chains cannot be tied to the bit with string or cord. A broken strap or chain is not necessarily cause for disqualification.

SHW305.8.1 For further clarification on the use of two rein equipment, see SHW509.1.6-509.1.7.

SHW305.9 SPEED EVENT, TEAM PENNING, RANCH SORTING, ROPING AND COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING EQUIPMENT:

SHW305.9.1 In roping, speed events, team penning, ranch sorting and cowboy mounted shooting western - type equipment must be used. Mechanical hackamore nosepieces must be covered in leather and cannot have visible or bare metal in contact with the horse's head. The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage.

SHW305.9.2 Tie-downs, used for roping, speed events, team penning, ranch sorting, and cowboy mounted shooting must be leather, flat nylon or rope a minimum of 3/8 inch in diameter.

SHW305.9.3 Bonnets (tie-down that goes over the poll and/or across the forehead) made of rope, flat nylon webbing or leather only (minimum 3/8 inch diameter) are permitted.

SHW305.9.4 Martingales and draw reins are permitted for speed events, team penning, ranch sorting and cowboy mounted shooting. However, martingales used with curb bits must have rein stops. Draw reins may not be attached between or around the front legs.

SHW306. WESTERN: OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

SHW306.1 Rope or riata; if used, the rope or riata must be coiled and attached to the saddle.

SHW306.2 Hobbles attached to saddle.

SHW306.3 Tapaderos, except in working cow horse where they are not allowed.

SHW306.4 Protective boots, leg wraps and bandages are allowed in reining, working cow horse, boxing, team penning, ranch sorting, barrel racing, pole bending, stake racing, tie-down roping, breakaway roping, dally team roping-heading, dally team roping-heeling, cutting, western horsemanship, VRH/RHC ranch reining, VRH/RHC ranch cow work, VRH/RHC ranch cutting, RHC working ranch horse, RHC barrel racing, RHC team roping – heading and heeling, RHC breakaway roping and RHC steer stopping. The use of slip on (easy-care) horse boots or related footwear are not considered as protective boots and are permissible to be worn in all classes.

SHW306.5 Spurs; not to be used forward of the cinch.

SHW307. WESTERN PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT

SHW307.1 Protective boots, leg wraps, and bandages are prohibited in

western pleasure, trail, halter, western riding, showmanship at halter, **longe line, in-hand trail**, ranch riding, VRH/RHC ranch riding, ranch trail, VRH ranch trail, and working western rail.

SHW307.2 Wire curb straps, regardless of how padded or covered, or curb strap with tacks/rivets.

SHW307.3 Any curb strap narrower than one-half inch.

SHW307.4 Chain, wire, or metal tie-down or bonnets are prohibited, regardless of how padded or wrapped.

SHW307.5 Belly Bands; saw tooth bits; hock hobbles; tack collars; tack curb straps or tack hackamores; whips used for showmanship; war bridles or like devices; riding in a curb bit without a curb strap; wire or solid metal curb straps no matter how padded; wire cavesson; wire or cable tie-downs; bumper bits; metal bosals (no matter how padded); chambons; headstalls made of metal (no matter how wrapped or padded), twisted rawhide, or rope may not be used on a horse's head (3/8 inch rope may be used with a slip/gag bit or a bonnet); running martingales used with curb bits used without rein stops; draw reins attached between or around the front legs will not be allowed at AQHA-approved events.

SHW307.6 Jerk lines for roping.

SHW307.7 Tack collars for roping.

SHW307.8 Tie-downs may not have a built in cavesson or noseband. Cavesson or noseband of any kind may not be used during competition.

SHW307.9 Fenders or stirrups may not be connected by string or any other material.

SHW310. ENGLISH EQUIPMENT. In all English classes, an English snaffle (no shank), kimberwick, pelham or full bridle (with two reins), all with cavesson nosebands and plain leather brow bands must be used.

SHW310.1 In reference to mouthpieces, nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar). Solid and broken mouthpieces must be between 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek and may have a port no higher than 1 1/2" (40 mm). They may be inlaid, synthetic wrapped, including rubber or plastic or incased, but must be smooth. Leather bits to be solid, smooth, rolled leather 5/8" to 3/4" (15mm – 20mm) measured one inch from cheek with no port. On broken mouthpieces only, connecting rings of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter or connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lie flat in the horse's mouth, are acceptable. Snaffle bit rings may be no larger than 4" (100 mm) in diameter. Any bit having a fixed rein requires use of a curb chain, or curb strap. Smooth round, oval or egg-shaped, slow twist, corkscrew, single twisted wire, double twisted wire mouthpieces and straight bar or solid mouthpieces are allowed.

SHW310.2 In jumping only, mechanical, **or jumping** hackamores may be used.

SHW310.3 Saddles must be black and/or brown leather of traditional hunting or forward seat type, knee insert on the skirt is optional. Saddle pads should fit size and shape, except when necessary to accommodate numbers on both sides, for which a square pad or suitable attachment may be used. Saddle pads and attachments shall be white or natural color with no ornamentation.

SHW311. ENGLISH OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT

SHW311.1 Spurs of the unrowelled type that are blunt, round or that include a smooth rolling rubber or stainless-steel ball and no longer than one inch

SHW311.2 Crops or bats