

**Equine Mounted Games Canada**  
**Bit And Tack Addendum to IMGA Rulebook**

The members of EMGC voted in favour of adopting the following Bit and Tack Amendments to the IMGA Rulebook in EMGC events. The following biting options are permitted **in addition to those listed in IMGA GR4.3. (see page 2 – 3 below)**

The additional biting options are to be used in conjunction with IMGA GR4.7:

**The referee may inspect the tack of a pony at any time. His/her ruling as to the safety and/or severity will be final.**

All bits must be smooth and with a solid surface. A bushing or coupling is permitted as the center link in a double jointed snaffle. The mouthpiece of a snaffle may be shaped in a slight curve. Low or medium ported mouthpieces are permitted.

Bits must be made of metal, leather, rigid plastic, or rubber. Metal with inlay are permitted.

Any of the following mouthpieces are permitted:

- Single and double jointed
- Low and medium port
- Mullen, straight or unjointed
- French Link, Dr. Bristol, and rotating

Any of the following cheekpieces are permitted:

- D ring, eggbutt or loose ring
- Full cheek, half cheek, or Fulmer
- Baucher, hanging, or drop cheek
- Kimberwick, Pelham (with or without a rein converter)
- Bubble, two or three ring, Pessoa, Continental Gag, Dutch Gag, or Ring Elevator

Combination bits are permitted as long as each individual element of the bit is permitted.

Bitless Bridles are permitted.

Hackamores are not permitted.

The following are examples of bits that are **not** permitted:

- Twisted
- wire
- high ported
- corkscrew
- chain and double mouthpieces.

Running martingales may only be used with snaffle bits or with the snaffle bit ring of a permitted bit.

Bit guards with smooth surfaces are permitted. Bit burrs and bit guards with rough, abrasive, or bristled surfaces are prohibited.

If a curb chain is used it may be wrapped or cushioned to lessen the severity but may not be wrapped or twisted in a way to increase the severity. Substitutes may be used in place of the curb chain if they are less severe and are made of leather, rubber, or a synthetic material.

**In IMGA-sanctioned competitions bits and tack must adhere to IMGA GR.4.3.**

**Saddlery**

- GR4.1. All items of saddlery (saddles, bridles, and other equipment for a pony) must be used only for their original intended purpose, and not modified or adapted in any way to serve a different purpose (an exception to this rule is vaulting straps, traditionally made from stirrup leathers).
- GR4.2. Leather or synthetic saddles with a full tree must be used. These must be complete, at the start of each race, with stirrups and a girth with two buckles on each side.
- GR4.3. **Only bits illustrated below or permitted as snaffle bridle bits in current FEI Dressage Rules may be used.**

The minimum allowed mouthpiece diameter for a bit is 10mm measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece, and the length of the cheek bars must not exceed 9cm.

Bits may be covered with smooth rubber or latex.

Bit-less bridles are not permitted.

Snaffle bits of the following types are permitted :

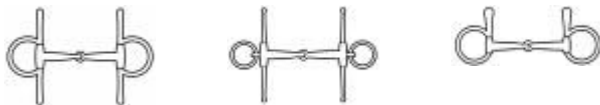
Loose ring snaffle      Egg-butt snaffle      Racing snaffle D Ring



Snaffle with jointed mouthpiece and rounded middle piece:



Egg-butt snaffle with cheeks      Loose ring snaffle with cheeks, Fulmer      Snaffle with upper cheeks only



Hanging cheek snaffle      Snaffle with rotating middle piece      Snaffle with rotating mouthpiece

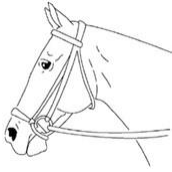


Rotary bit with rotating middle piece. Straight bar snaffle. (Also with Mullen mouth and eggbutt rings).

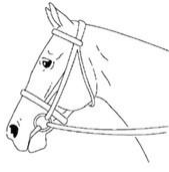


**GR4.4.** If a noseband is used it may only be one of the types illustrated below or permitted as a noseband in current FEI Dressage Rules.

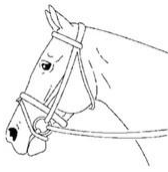
**1. Dropped noseband**



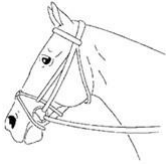
**2. Cavesson noseband**



**3. Flash noseband**



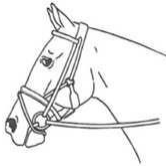
**4a. Crossed noseband / Grackle noseband**



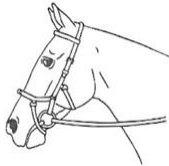
**4b. Mexican noseband / High Grackle noseband**



**5. Combined noseband – no throat lash**



**6. Micklem bridle**



**If a Micklem bridle is used the bit clips may not be used**

**GR4.5.** If a martingale is used it may only be a simple running or standard martingale. No bearing, side, draw, running or balancing reins or similar may be used. If a standing martingale is used it may only be attached to a cavesson noseband or the cavesson part of a flash noseband.

**GR4.6.** No form of blinkers are permitted.

**GR4.7.** The referee may inspect the tack of a pony at any time. His/her ruling as to the safety and/or severity will be final.

**Bit and Tack Committee Members 2016-2017:**

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