

# WASHINGTON STATE 4-H FAIR

## WESTERN PERFORMANCE TACK CHECK

- Saddle – Standard Western saddle with horn
  - If back cinch is used, must be attached to front cinch with connecting strap and adjusted close to horse
  - If cinch has cinch pin, must be in latigo holes or removed
  - No tapaderos (stirrup covers)
- Saddle Pad or Blanket or both
- Bridle – Any western bridle—includes bridles with throatlatches and split ear bridles
- Bit – snaffle or curb (maximum shank length 8 ½ inches)
  - Curb strap – plain leather or chain, at least ½” wide and lie flat against jaw
  - Split or romal reins
  - Cavesson or noseband not allowed

### Optional Equipment

- Breast collar
- Spurs if worn—must be western
- Hobbles
- Lariat or riata

### Examples of tack NOT allowed:

- Mechanical Hackamore
- Double wire snaffle
- Draw reins
- Slip or gag bits
- Rolled leather chin straps
- Side Pull
- Tie Down
- Martingale
- Splint boots, bell boots, bandages, etc.

## **SADDLESEAT PERFORMANCE TACK CHECK**

- Saddle – Saddleseat type (may not be dressage, hunt type, all purpose or western)
- Bridle – Full double (curb and bridoon), Pelham or breed appropriate bit

### Optional:

- Breast Collar
- Saddlepad

### NOT ALLOWED:

- Martingales
- Tie Downs

## **HUNTSEAT TACK CHECK**

- Saddle – Hunt Type (may not be saddleseat type or western); All Purpose, Dressage
- Bridle – with cavesson
- Bit for hunt seat – snaffle, Pelham, kimberwick, full double, or any other English type of bit appropriate to the seat

### Optional:

- Breast Plate or Collar
- Saddle pad
- Whip or crop – may be no longer than 36” (48” for dressage)

### NOT ALLOWED for Hunt Seat:

- Side Pull
- Bit Converter
- Double Twisted Wire Bits
- Gag Bits
- Martingales (are allowed in over fences)
- Any type of boots (are allowed in over fences)
- Dropped, flash and figure 8 nosebands

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## **EQUITATION OVER FENCES: Equipment Allowed**

- Noseband may be dropped, flash or figure 8
- Martingales and protective boots are optional

## **Safety inspection required prior to taking a fence:**

- Stirrup bars in open position
- Saddle stress points in good repair
- Girth snug
- Bridle properly fitted and in good repair

## **DRESSAGE TACK CHECK**

- Saddle – Dressage, Hunt Type or All Purpose
- Bridle – with cavesson
- Bit – plain smooth snaffle required for 2<sup>nd</sup> level and below  
Full double bridle allowed for 3<sup>rd</sup> level and above  
Mouthpiece must be metal or rigid plastic and maybe covered w/  
rubber

## **Optional:**

- Breast Plate or Collar
- Saddle pad
- Whip or crop – may be no longer than 48”

## **NOT ALLOWED for Dressage:**

- Kimberwick bit
- Flexible rubber bits
- Side Pull
- Bit Converter
- Martingales
- Bit guards
- Accessories (including bearing, side, running, or balancing reins)
- Any type of boot (including “easy boots”)
- Bandages
- Any form of blinker, ear muff or plug, nose cover, seat cover, or hood

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## DRIVING TACK CHECK

- Vehicle - 2 or 4 wheeled
  - Must have footrest or basket (minimum 10 inches front to back)
- Vehicle should be safe and useable condition and should fit the animal to which it is attached
- Shafts should be equipped with a single tree or trace hooks
  
- Harness should be leather or synthetic pleasure type and must include:
  - Breast collar or Neck Collar and traces
  - Back Pad and shaft loops
  - Crupper
  - Thimbles OR breeching
  - Wrap straps OR Overgirth
- Bridle must include blinders and cavesson or noseband
  - Bit can be either snaffle or driving curb bit [twisted wire or gag bits NOT PERMITTED]
  - Reins must either be buckled or stitched
- Driving or buggy whip REQUIRED. Longeing type whip NOT PERMITTED

## OPTIONAL

- Overcheck OR Sidecheck
- Running martingale (only with Snaffle)
- Kicking strap
- Support Boots
- Quarter boots, splint or brushing boots

## Safety check:

- Shafts should extend no further forward than the point of the shoulder
- Breast collar should be below the base of the neck but above the point of the shoulder
- Must have either Thimbles or Breeching tight enough to prevent the cart from running in to the back of the horse

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## WESTERN GAMES TACK CHECK

### Tack and Clothing

- Saddle – Western with horn
  - If back cinch is used, must be attached to front cinch with connecting strap
  - If cinch has cinch pin, must be in latigo holes or removed
  - No tapaderos (stirrup covers)
- Saddle Pad or Blanket or both
- Bridle – must include Throat Latch and Roping reins or single piece closed reins.. Tying split reins is not allowed and Mecate reins are not allowed
- Bit – Mechanical hackamores, snaffles, double wire snaffles, slip, or gag bits are allowed along with standard western bits with shanks no longer than 8 ½ “
- ASTM/SEI approved equestrian helmet, properly fitted and harness engaged
- Standard western clothing including a long sleeved western shirt
- Western boots that have adequate heel and able to slide freely out of stirrup

### OPTIONAL

- Noseband
- Breast collar
- Tie Down (must be used with breast collar)
- Martingale (running martingale must have rein stops on reins)
- Splint boots, bell boots, bandages, etc.
- Whips under 36”, bats, quirts, crops and over-and-unders
- Spurs, if worn, must be Western

### NOT allowed:

- Mecate Reins
- Any inhumane or dangerous equipment

## **SAFETY CHECK OF WESTERN GAMES TACK**

**ANY ITEM MARKED (BELOW) DURING SAFETY CHECK IS CONSIDERED UNSAFE, AND MUST BE SATISFACTORILY REPAIRED OR REPLACED BEFORE ENTERING THE CLASS**

**4H Western Games requires humane treatment of the horse entered in county and state completion. Horsemanship, sportsmanship, and safety will be stressed in all western gaming classes. The purpose do the Western Games tack check is to demonstrate an exhibitor's ability to handle and control their horse in a safe manner. Any inhumane or dangerous equipment will not be allowed.**

### **A. Western saddle with horn:**

- 1. Inspect D ring and long latigo for worn leather
- 2. Inspect D ring and off-side billet for worn leather
- 3. Inspect cinch and cinch ring for fraying and rusty ring
- 4. If the cinch pin is not being used, it should be removed . If cinch pin is being used, it should be in the latigo holes.
- 5. Examine "keeper" (STRAP AT PLACE WHERE FENDER AND STIRRUP MEET)
- 6. If a back cinch is used, it should be adjusted close to the horse and attached to the front cinch with a connecting strap.
- 7. Inspect rear cinch billets and buckles for wear
- 8. Inspect D ring and rear billets for wear
- 9. Examine rigging connection of saddle for loose or missing nails and loose leather
- 10. Using rubber bands or anything else to anchor the rider to the horse or saddle is not allowed
- 11. Tapaderos (stirrup covers) are not allowed

### **B. Bridles**

- 1. Must include a throat latch (required). Mechanical hackamores, snaffles, double wire snaffles, slip, or gag bits are allowed along with standard western bits with shanks no longer than 8 ½ "
- 2. Examine all stitching for wear
- 3. Check for worn, cracked leather
- 4. Inspect curb strap for excessive wear
- 5. Examine for cracked worn reins
- 6. Roping reins or single piece closed reins must be used. Tying split reins is not allowed and Mecate reins are not allowed.

### **C. Optional equipment and aids**

- 1. Using a breast collar is optional but check breast collar for thin, torn leather, rotted stitching, and for secure connection to saddle
- 2. Running martingales must have rein stops
- 3. If a tie down is being used, it must be properly adjusted for safety and used with breast collar
- 4. Check leg protection devices for proper fit and condition
- 5. Spurs, bats, whips, and “over and unders” may be used. Whips must be under 36”. Spurs if worn, must Western and used properly. These will open to inspection by the judges.
- 6. Noseband—must be adjusted properly on the nose

### **D. Required arena clothing**

- 1. Western boots that have an adequate heel and exhibitors must be able to slide their boots out and move freely in the stirrup.
- 2. Must wear an approved ASTM/SEI equestrian helmet. The helmet must be properly fitted with the harness engaged and properly fastened.
- 3. Standard western clothing is required, this includes a long-sleeved western shirt

**E. The contestant’s number must be uncut, unfolded, and clearly visible at all times on the rider’s back or both sides of the horse while mounted.**

**F. A mandatory warning is made before a dress or equipment call, and the judge’s decision is final**

**G. A gate steward will be on hand for a safety check for each game**

**H. No alteration of equipment is allowed after tack check, except to adjust cinch**

GATE STEWARDS ADDITIONAL NOTES: