

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	7/23/2024	

Rule Change Intent

The intent is to make the use of nosebands optional to those who find their horses perform better without it. The noseband regardless of ergonomic design still will not fit certain horses face shapes correctly which directly impacts their ability to perform. Custom built nosebands are often not financially available to the majority of the equine public and then the lengthy process of having it approved by the governing bodies makes it completely unattainable. If we made the use of nosebands optional, it truly can only benefit the horse.

Proponent Details Contact Information

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Linked Rules Comments

Committee Actions

DR121 Saddlery and Equipment

3. Bridle.

Permitted bridles and bits must be used in a conventional manner.

The headstall (except browband) and noseband must be made of leather or leather-like material except the buckles, wear tabs on cheek pieces and reins, and a small disk of sheepskin used at the intersection of the two leather straps of a crossed noseband. Nylon or other non-metallic material may be used to reinforce leather in the headstall but must not come in direct contact with the horse. Elastic inserts are permitted only in the crownpiece and cheekpieces. Bit snaps, buckles, or hooks/studs to attach cheekpieces to the bit are permitted.

[...]

d. Noseband. A noseband is ~~optional~~ **required** and may be a regular cavesson or noseband with an adjustable back piece or chin strap, a dropped noseband, a flash noseband (combination of a cavesson and an attached dropped noseband), or a Mexican (figure-8, crossed) noseband (Figure 121.8) except as prohibited in some competitions (see DR121.3.j). A double bridle must be used with a cavesson with or without an adjustable back piece or chin strap.