

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Rule Clarification	12/1/2024	9/9/2024	

Rule Change Intent

The original verbiage has been confusing to some members, specifically because of the word "when". Exhibitors have felt that this verbiage allowed for curb bits to be optional, which is not the case. This rule change clarifies the verbiage to be more concise and exact in order to avoid further confusion.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Arabian	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

SUBCHAPTER AR-10 WESTERN PLEASURE SECTION

AR 144 Appointments

(...)

2. Tack:

a. Bridle. Any western type headstall without noseband in conjunction with any standard western bit shall be allowed. A standard western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2". The mouthpiece will consist of a round or oval bar 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be metal, rubber, or synthetic material and may be inlaid but must be smooth. If wrapped, only latex or similar materials are permitted. The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" to 3/4" in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs, or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4" or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 1/2" (measured top to bottom with a maximum length of two 2"), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2" with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds, and spade bits are standard. Slip or gag bits, rigid donut mouthpieces and flat polo mouthpieces are prohibited. Roping bits with both reins connected to a single ring at center of crossbar shall not be used. Reins must be attached to each shank. ~~When a curb bit is used,~~ **Either a curb chain or flat leather chin strap is required to be used with a curb bit** and must be at least 1/2" in width and lie flat against the jaws of the horse. No wire, rawhide, metal or other substance can be used in conjunction with or as part of the flat leather chin strap, or curb chain. Round, rolled, braided or rawhide curb straps are prohibited, except when used on a ring snaffle when applied below the reins. A light lip strap is permissible. See illustration in Western Division. Any rein design or other device which increases the effective length and thereby the leverage of the shank of a standard Western bit is prohibited (see WS 105.2).