



Date: October 10, 2024

To: Dressage Competition Management, Licensed Officials, and Competitors

From: Lauren Moore, Director Sport Management Administration

Re: DR121.3. a – Crownpieces

The following rule change regarding bridle crownpieces went into effect September 1, 2024:

“The crownpiece of the bridle must lie immediately behind the poll and may extend forward onto the poll, but it may not be fitted to lie on the vertebrae behind the skull (Figure 121.6). The crownpiece may be padded and it may have elastic inserts. Any padding **must be smooth and continuous across the poll while on the horse, and rectangular or in the same shape as the crownpiece. Padding may extend no more than 1.5 centimeters beyond** the dimensions for the crownpiece as indicated in Figure 121.6. The only material contacting the horse’s head must be the leather, leather-like material, or elastic, of the crownpiece or the additional padding material. Any piece of tack or equipment that impairs the ears to move freely is not permitted.”

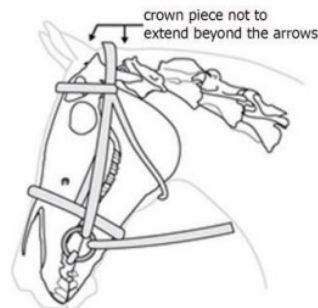


Figure 121.6: Position of crownpiece behind the poll. Arrows show the acceptable limits for the width of the crownpiece.

Any crownpiece that does not meet the specifications of DR121 is not permitted. Competitors with questions about their bridles are strongly encouraged to have them checked by the Technical Delegate prior to riding at the competition.

Explanation Behind this Change

The poll and the area behind the horse’s ears carry the weight of the bridle. In order to distribute the force over a large area and to avoid areas of pressure concentration along the edges of padded areas, any padding must be smooth and continuous across the poll while on the horse, and rectangular or in the same shape as the crownpiece. Crownpieces with interrupted padding or padding of uneven thickness on the underside are not permitted. Any crownpiece that doesn't meet these specifications is not permitted.





Examples of crownpieces not permitted under this rule:



The Passier Fantastic Bridle Crownpiece (pictured above) is not permitted.



The PS of Sweden Nirak Bridle (pictured above) is not permitted due to the increased thickness of the crownpiece on each side of the poll.

Any other crownpiece of similar construction is not permitted.

Additional questions? Please contact the US Equestrian Dressage Department at dressage@usef.org.