

# AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL WORKING EQUITATION Gear Check Guidelines

## Introduction

These guidelines have been produced to assist clubs and those officials appointed by the organising committee to determine the legality and/or safety of tack and attire prior to entry into the competition arena.

It is recommended clubs train a group of people from their club to specifically be gear checkers for club events such as championship and HOTY events. It is imperative each club has competent and confident people gear checking to uphold ANWE Ltd rules and regulations but also to navigate difficult competitors if necessary.

## Procedure

Gear checkers should be situated at a designated and pre-determined area accessible to all riders prior to entry into the competition arena.

### **Gear Stewards should be supplied with the following:**

- Gear check folder
- ANWEL Rule Book
- Table (and chairs)
- Shade or suitable cover from heat and weather
- Pen(s)
- Scissors
- Measuring Pincers for bits if required
- Cable Ties (chosen colours of the day)
- Draw
- Programme
- Contact person on the OC for any clarification of rules or gear
- Mounting block

Riders will approach the Gear stewards table must be mounted prior to each Working Equitation phase.

1. Welcome the rider to the day.
2. Ask the riders permission to look over the horse, checking with the rider if there are any safety concerns to be aware of whilst looking over the horse and gear.
3. **Never** touch the horse or gear without being invited to by the rider.
4. All tack should be well fitting so as not to cause pain to the horse.
5. Once the check has occurred and all is deemed appropriate attach a cable tie or marker to the rider's stirrup, saddle D or helmet strap. This is to ensure it is visible to the judge on entry into the arena.
6. Should any issues arise, politely ask the rider to wait whilst you contact the organising committee, President or Ground Jury for further consultation.
7. Gear Steward mark the rider off on the Gear check forms supplied by club noting any discrepancies if required.

## Basics

- Gear checking must occur *prior* to the commencement of each of the four phases.
- All horses (competitive and participant) must present for gear check prior to each phase.
- The gear steward is to ascertain whether all gear is appropriate for the level being ridden and is in keeping with the most current ANWEL published Rules.
- Confirm the rider name number of the horse being checked – confusion if more than 1 mount at the event
- On completion of gear check, the rider is to have a cable tie or similar marker placed on the rider's gear so that a judge can clearly determine the rider has complied with ANWEL's rulings and has been cleared to ride.
- A different coloured cable tie or marker is to be used for each phase. The judge is to be made aware of colours/markers being used.
- A decision will be made prior to the day which colours will be used for each phase to eliminate confusion for both the gear steward and riders.
- Gear checker to make sure previous markers have been removed in order to negate confusion.
- Judges are entitled to further check gear on course entry; this may include checking a rider's bit.
- Gear Stewards are to refer any issues with riders or gear to the Ground Jury of the day; Chief Judge (President of the Ground Jury), President of the Club and a nominated rider.
- **Gear Stewards are to check gear only**, they **MUST** ask riders to adjust their own gear if needed and then represent.
- **Gear Stewards are firstly to refer to the ANWEL Rule book; then WAVE Rules and finally the EA National Dressage Rules if further clarification is required.**

## **Gear Stewards must be aware of the following ANWE Ltd rulings and must check for the following:**

### **Tack and Attire**

**3.7 It is the responsibility of the competitor to present in the correct attire and gear.** The appropriateness (legality and safety) of both tack and attire will be checked prior to the competitor's entry into the competition arena, by an official appointed by the Organising Committee. **A rider competing in the incorrect tack will face elimination.**

#### **7 Approved rider attire is: National Working Equitation, State or Club attire.**

A rider must not mix and match attire with the exception of the cattle Phase. Same tack/ attire must be worn in all compulsory phases, except jackets, spurs, whip and horse boots.

### **Head Gear**

**6.2 All riders under 18 are required to wear an Australian certified helmet,** which must be securely fastened when mounted. Protective headgear must conform with one of the current approved safety standards outlined below. It is the responsibility of the rider to ensure they are using a current standard safety helmet.

- a)** current Australian standard AS/NZS 3838 (2006 onwards) provided they are SAI Global marked
- b)** new Australian standard ARB HS 2012 provided they are SAI Global marked
- c)** current American standards ASTM F1163 (2004a or 04a onwards) provided they are SEI marked, or SNELL E2001
- d)** current British standard PAS 015 (1998 or 2011) provided they are BSI Kitemarked
- e)** interim European Standard VG1 (01.040: 2014-12) with or without BSI Kitemark.

Wearing a non-certified helmet is cause for immediate disqualification.

## Tack

**Any style of bridle or saddle is permitted as long as it is representative of one particular style** (i.e. Stockhorse, Dressage, Spanish, Western etc).

An approved National or club saddlecloth is to be utilised.

**7.2.1** Spurs are approved for all levels but **MUST** be **BLUNT** competition spurs or rowels.

**7.2.2** Dressage whips are allowed as per EA Rules. Maximum length for whips is 1.2m and 1 m for ponies. The whip must be held in the hand and not secured to the tack or rider in any way.

**The following pages have been taken out of the ANWEL Rulebook**

## Bits

**7.2.3** Bits as per Equestrian Australia for dressage competitions

(<http://www.equestrian.org.au/dressage>)

**7.2.4** Additional Bits

**a) Portuguese curb** (shank less than 10cm), consistent with this picture and must meet the measurements on the diagram of a curb bit.



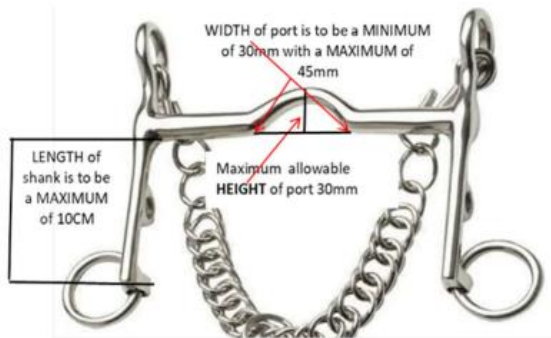
**b) Kimblewick straight** (with or without port) jointed or halfmoon.



**c) English Pelham straight** (with or without port) jointed or halfmoon (shank less than 10cm).



**d)** The above bits must comply with the measurements below where applicable.



e) The fitting of the curb and chain for the Portuguese, Kimblewick, English Pelham and the Bit & Bradoon is as follows:

The curb strap or chain should be done up so that when the reins activate the chain or strap, the shanks of the bit do not rotate beyond 45 degrees and the width of two fingers (3cm) exists between the horse's chin groove and the strap or chain to estimate the tightness of the chain when not activated.

f) Rubber guards are allowed.

### 7.2.5 Additional Bridles

a) Bitless bridle (must meet rule 7.2.8 and must not self-tighten)



b) **Micklem bridle** with a bit and without clips. The noseband must fit with two fingers vertically under the chin. This allows the bridle to be correctly and functionally fitted.



c) **Bosal** – minimum diameter 5/8 of an inch, flexible non-metal core, well fitted so as not to cause any rubbing or irritation to the horse and meet the rule 7.2.8 (refer Appendix III - Bosal Fitting Guideline).



**7.2.6 Horse leg protector boots** are allowed at all levels except Dressage phase. No bandages are permitted.

**7.2.7 Hoof boots** are permitted in all phases.

**7.2.8 Nosebands** if used **MUST** be fitted to comfortably (no indentation of the cheek) allow at least one finger between the horse's cheek and the noseband.



**7.2.9 Nose nets** are permitted to be used in competitions and warm-up on written approval by ANWEL. Permission will be given on a case-by-case basis.

a) Applications with a supporting letter from a veterinarian specific to that horse are to be sent to the ANWEL Secretary.

b) If approved, the rider of the horse with the nose net must send a copy of the ANWEL approval letter with entries.

c) The nose net must be made of transparent material as per the example.

d) The nose net must not cover the mouth or bit.



**7.2.10 Ear Bonnets** are permitted to be worn under the following conditions:

a) The ear bonnet must not cover the horse's eyes.

b) The ear bonnet must be clearly made from a material which does not provide any sound reduction.

c) No materials may be used to plug the horse's ears

d) Failure to present to the gear steward for ear bonnet inspection before and after each phase will incur elimination (refer rule 12.18).

e) The Gear Steward will verify that no additional insulation from the manufactured state has been inserted and that ear plugs have not been inserted.

**7.2.11 Monkey grips** are permitted on saddles in all phases.



**7.2.12 Fly masks** are not permitted in the competition phases unless a clear directive from a veterinarian is provided for the use of the equipment. A fly mask may be allowed in the warmup arena.

**7.2.13 Tack not permitted** - riding in any of the tack listed below on the competition grounds on the day of competition will result in immediate elimination.

Running/standing martingales, running reins, chambon, de Gogue, tongue ties, blinkers, ear plugs (may be used for presentations) or ANY equipment that the Ground Jury for the relevant competition determines is against the intent and general principles of working equitation.

**It is highly recommended all clubs print out the Bits as per Equestrian Australia for dressage competitions and attach below. As such, gear checkers will have a comprehensive folder to refer to whilst gear checking.**

**<http://www.equestrian.org.au/dressage>**