



WESTERN EQUIPMENT CHECK

- All equipment/horses must be checked after each run in Reining, Reining Seat Eq, Reined Cow & Working Cow by a USEF C2 Steward or the call Judge.
- Discuss with the judge(s) the way they would like notification of abuse, blood or illegal equipment. Only the Judge can disqualify the entry.
- For equipment checks, find safe and even ground for the dropping of bits, being able to view the horse from the time they leave the out gate.
- ***New rule effective 12/1/2025: AR106.8. Manes and forelocks may be banded in Reining, Reining Seat Equitation, and Reining Seat Medal classes.***
- Give time for the rider to settle and catch their breath after the run. Ensure that nothing is being wiped off or removed prior to the check by anyone near the horse.
- All riders must dismount prior to checking the bit or hackamore. Watch that nothing falls out of the horse's mouth or is palmed by the person dropping the bit.
- The bridle is to be presented and dropped by rider or designated representative. Watch to ensure the chin strap is legal width, material and if a chain, that the latter is not twisted.
- To approve a bosal, check the flexibility; a metal detector or magnet can be used to check for metal. Smooth electrical tape is allowed on the nose and sides.
- Ensure that all equipment is legal in minimum and maximum dimensions.
- Keep safety in mind, especially with Youth and Amateur riders. Recommend that an adult drops equipment for Youth riders.
- Develop a system and flow so you are similar with how you look at every horse.
- Check the entire horse and all equipment.
- AR rules stipulate "Fresh Blood" above the legs is a No Score.
- If a cause for a No Score is detected, the exhibitor or representative may accept it or request it be taken to the judge{s} for a final decision at the judge's earliest availability.
- Take a picture of the horse's number and the resulting offense (abuse, blood, illegal equipment, etc.).
- Record the class name and number along with the name and entry number of the horse and rider.
- Failure of an exhibitor to comply with the above procedure will result in a No Score.
- With any No Score, the judges must be notified, the score sheet officially changed and all staff notified.
- Thank the exhibitor for their cooperation when the inspection is complete.
- Western Bit gauges can be purchased at NRHA.com

RESOURCES

- USEF Western Equipment Booklet - https://www.usef.org/forms-pubs/J_0cNzKpRVo/western-equipment-guideline