

# FEI change hind boot rules to ensure “fair and equal” conditions



New rules for **FEI showjumping regarding horse boots** came into force on 1 July.

**Hind boots must now be removed and replaced by the groom before entering the competition arena,**  
so that stewards can ensure the boots are properly fitted.

“Stewards will now be checking hind boots before the riders go into the arena as well as after,” an FEI  
spokesman advised.

“This will be done to ensure that all compete under fair and equal conditions.”

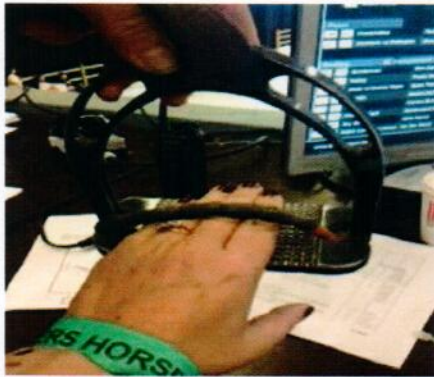
## ANNEX XV - TACK AND SADDLERY GUIDELINES

Last update 6/6/2014

### 1. Stirrups

In the interests of safety, the stirrup iron and the stirrup leather (this also applies to safety stirrups) must hang freely from the bar of the saddle and the outside of the flap. The athlete must not directly or indirectly tie any part of his body to the saddlery.

Stirrups such as the one pictured below are therefore not allowed (i.e. the foot would be tied to the stirrup).



"K'Vall" stirrups pictured below are not approved by the FEI and must not be used in FEI competition.



### 2. Spurs

Reference Annex XII of the manual, there are no restrictions on spurs, except for Pony Riders and Children (JRs Ann. XI, Art. 19.3 and JRs Ann. XII, Art. 17- see also below). For clarification purposes, Smart'Clix spurs are permitted in FEI competition.

For Pony Riders and Children Spurs are optional but if used they must be made of smooth metal. If there is a shank it must not be more than 4cm long, measured from the boot to the tip of the spur, and must only point towards the rear; the end of the shank must be blunt. If the shank is curved, the spurs must be worn only with the shank directed downwards. Rowels are not permitted. Hammer spurs are allowed provided they meet the above requirements. Metal or plastic 'Impulse Spurs' with round hard plastic or metal knobs and 'Dummy Spurs' with no shank are allowed.



### 3. Blinkers

Blinkers are not allowed as per Art. 257.1.1. For clarification purposes the item of tack pictured below does not fall under the category of 'blinkers' and is therefore allowed.



### 4. Bits

Both of the Pessoa snaffles pictured below are allowed in Pony Events; however, the maximum cheek length remains 16cm (ref. Annex XI, Art. 21.2 of the FEI Jumping Rules).



### 5. Nosebands

The following nosebands are not allowed in Pony Events:



## 6. Boots

The FEI Jumping Committee has decided, on horse welfare grounds, that hind boots with **solid, unyielding pressure points, e.g. hard plastic blocks under the lining** as per the photos below, are not permitted to be used anywhere on the show grounds.

The use of such boots leads to disqualification of the athlete.



Hind boots with pressure points made of gel, neoprene, **soft** cork or other substance that is firm but not solid and unyielding as per the photos below, are allowed:



If a Steward notices at any time that a boot is improperly positioned on the horse's leg (e.g. a fetlock boot that is positioned entirely on the cannon bone between the fetlock joint and the hock) or if a Steward is of the opinion that a boot is excessively tight, the Steward is to instruct the athlete/groom to remove the boot and reposition it so that it fits properly and comfortably on the horse's leg. [**Note to Stewards:** It is normal for a horse's gait to be somewhat affected immediately after boots have been removed and re-placed.]

If the athlete/groom refuses to reposition the boot, a yellow warning card will be issued.

*Correct positioning  
(rounded part placed  
around the inside of fetlock)*



*Incorrect positioning (the boot is placed between  
the fetlock joint and the hock)*

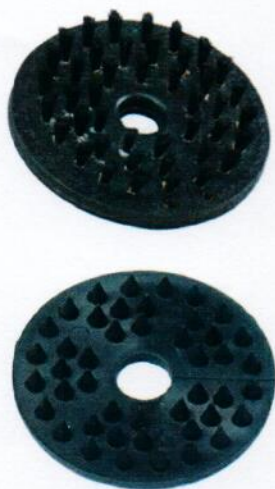




If a boot strap causes bleeding on the horse's leg the Chief Steward is to issue a yellow warning card to the athlete.

## 7. Bit Burrs

Common sense should be used with regard to allowing various types of rubber discs around the bit rings and that those that do not hurt the horse's face should be permitted: e.g. discs with small brushes should be allowed but those with rubber spikes should not be allowed unless the spikes have been rubbed down to a flat surface.



## 8. Kinesiology Tape

The tape below may not be used in any arenas, during competition or at any time during which a horse is being ridden or exercised. Use within the stables is allowed.

