



**BOOT
BANDAGE
TACK CONTROL
PROTOCOL**

PART 1

HIND BOOT CHECK PROTOCOL

If an Athlete is uncertain whether the boots they intend to use during an Event are allowed, they or their representative should show the boots to the Chief Steward for their opinion before using them in training or in competition.

In line with the current Jumping Rules, the following procedure is compulsory in competitions for which Boot and Bandage Control is mandatory (see below) and is at the discretion of the Chief Steward for other competitions:

- Grand Prix
- Both rounds of the Nations Cup/Longines League of Nations™ (LLN)
- Puissance and Six Bar Competitions, and
- during the Competition with the highest prize money at each event

It is also recommended that Boot and Bandage Controls (which may also include Tack Controls) are carried out during all Longines Ranking and Derby competitions, as well as other competitions.

When Pre-Competition Boot, Bandage and Tack Control takes place, this Hind Boot Check protocol will automatically be included, and a separate check will not necessarily be required. Please refer to Part 2.3 for this protocol.

In competitions where a Hind Boot Check takes place, and at any time of the Athlete's choosing before entering the competition arena, all hind boots must be examined by the designated Hind Boot Check Steward who will ascertain that they comply with current Jumping Rules (Art 257.2.4). If hind boots are swapped, the designated Steward will examine both the removed boots and those that will be used. After this procedure, the hind boots may be placed on the Horse's legs, following which the Horse must walk forward. If the Horse steps backwards, the Steward may ask that the boots be removed and put on again. If bandages are used in place of boots, Athletes are not required to remove the bandages before competition.

If a Horse leaves the practice arena for any reason after its hind boots have been checked but before competing, the Hind Boot Check procedure should be repeated

If the Athlete or their representative wishes to adjust the hind boot(s) before competing, they must do this in the presence of the Hind Boot Check Steward. However, for the sake of convenience, they may also do this in the presence of another Steward.

As an alternative to carrying out this procedure at the time indicated above, an Athlete whose Horse is particularly difficult, or their representative, may ask for this procedure to take place either in a quieter location or in the stables.

If the Hind Boot Check takes place in the stables, the Steward who carries out the check or another Official must remain with the Horse and escort it to the practice arena where it may be observed by the designated Steward.

The Hind Boot Check Steward has the authority to intervene if they consider that a boot is excessively tight or incorrectly positioned, and may instruct that the boot(s) be removed and put on again correctly. [Stewards are to note that it is not necessarily unusual for a Horse's gait to be somewhat affected for a few strides after boots have been put on.] If an Athlete or their representative refuses follow the Steward's instruction, a Yellow Warning Card may be issued to the Athlete in question by the Chief Steward.

If it is considered impossible or unsafe to remove the hind boots prior to the combination entering the competition arena due to a difficult Horse, the boots of the Horse in question must be removed following the Athlete's round upon leaving the arena and examined by the Steward. This examination may be carried out during the Post-Competition Boot, Bandage and Tack Control if this takes place for the competition in question.

The ultimate responsibility for using correct saddlery, including hind boots, lies with the Athlete.

If a Horse's boots are changed during the preparation for a competition where Hind Boot Check does not take place, Stewards may examine the boots which have been removed at the time of removal, as well as the replacement boots preferably before the Horse in question enters the competition arena. If the Horse is wearing bandages, lightweight bandaging or socks underneath hind boots, this should be done after the Horse has competed unless the bandages, the lightweight bandaging or socks have been put on in the presence of a Steward before competition. If a Steward observes anything unusual with the boots, bandages or other item of tack, they must inform the Chief Steward immediately.

PART 2

PRE- OR POST-COMPETITION BOOT, BANDAGE AND TACK CONTROL PROTOCOL

2.1 GENERAL GUIDELINES

In addition to the procedures laid out in the FEI Veterinary Regulations, the following provides details of the protocols to be followed when Boot, Bandage and Tack Controls take place.

In principle, it is not necessary to remove boots or other items both Pre **and** post Horses compete.

Stewards are encouraged to take every precaution to ensure their safety when carrying out these controls, for example by wearing a helmet if they wish. For stallions, or particularly difficult Horses, a Steward may perform this procedure in the stables prior to the Horse leaving for the practice arena. In this case, a Steward or other FEI Official must accompany the Horse to the practice arena and advise the Steward(s) tasked with carrying out the control(s) that the Horse has arrived in the practice arena and has been checked.

The ultimate responsibility for using correct saddlery, including hind boots, lies with the Athlete.

NB: When carrying out Boot, Bandage and Tack Control, Stewards must also check for the presence of blood and/or marks indicating excessive use of the spurs and/or whip anywhere on the Horse's body. Refer to the [STEWARDS' PROTOCOL FOR HANDLING CASES OF BLOOD ON A HORSE'S FLANK\(S\) AND/OR MARKS INDICATING EXCESSIVE US OF THE SPUR\(S\) AND/OR WHIP](#) anywhere on a Horse's body.

2.2 GUIDELINES COMMON TO BOTH PRE- AND POST-COMPETITION BOOT, BANDAGE AND TACK CONTROLS

In principle, two Stewards should be present for these controls when they take place during competition.

During these controls, Stewards are required to check for:

- a) any abnormality or sensitivity of the Horse's body;
- b) any irregularity in the shape, size or weight of the boots, bandages and any other items on the Horse's legs;
- c) any irregularity in other tack material;
- d) the presence of foreign or prohibited materials or substances;
- e) the presence of blood on any part of the Horse's body;
- f) the tightness of the Horse's noseband.

Furthermore, these controls involve:

- a) examination of any part of the Horse's body, boots and other saddlery items;
- b) examination the Horse's legs without boots, bandages and other items attached to the Horse's legs. If random legs are chosen, it should always be one fore and one hind leg. For Championships, Games, World Cup and LLN Finals, all legs should be checked;
- c) examination of any part of the Horse's body;
- d) the weighing of boots using scales may be carried out;
- e) the possibility of other tack being subject to examination;
- f) the Steward(s) contacting the Chief Steward or their designee if these controls are taking place in more than one competition arena at the same time, who will, in turn, inform the Ground Jury should any irregularity in the items examined be found, and the Veterinary Delegate should the presence of blood or other injury be identified.

In the case of particularly difficult Horses, these Controls may take place in the stables in which case the Steward who carries out the control or another Official must remain with the Horse and escort it to the practice arena where it may be observed by the designated Steward(s).

2.3 PRE-COMPETITION BOOT, BANDAGE AND TACK CONTROL PROTOCOL

This takes place before the Horse competes in an area that is quiet, safe and close to the **entrance** of the **practice arena**. If there is more than one competition practice arena (warm-up), the Chief Steward must choose the location from among those available that enables the Horses to undergo this procedure with the least inconvenience to both the Athlete or their representative and the allocated Steward(s).

It is essential that there is good communication within the Stewarding team and with the ringmaster to ensure that no Horse competes without being checked.

In line with the current Jumping Rules, the following procedure is obligatory in the following competitions:

- Grand Prix;
 - Both rounds of the Nations Cup/Longines League of Nations™ (LLN);
 - Puissance and Six Bar Competitions, and
 - during the Competition with the highest prize money at each event.
- a) While the Chief Steward may decide to check only random Horses in any given competition, it is strongly recommended that all Horses undergo this procedure before competing in Longines Ranking and Derby competitions, as well as other competitions.
 - b) It takes place:
 - before the Horse enters the practice arena, or;
 - during the warm-up process, or;
 - at any time of the Person Responsible (PR)/their representative's choosing.

It should only be performed as the Horse leaves the practice arena on its way to the competition arena in exceptional circumstances.

- c) The Steward(s) will inform the Athlete/their representative that:
- if the Horse leaves the practice arena for any reason before competing it must be presented again to repeat the control;
 - if they wish to adjust, change or put on hind boots after this control but before competing, they must do this in the presence of the Hind Boot Check Steward, if appointed, or by returning to the Control Area. However, for the sake of convenience, they may also do this in the presence of another Steward;
 - if requested, the Horse must return to a designated area that is quiet, safe and close to the exit of the competition arena after competing to allow the Steward(s) to perform a visual check, a more detailed check if required, and/or for any bandages to be removed if required.
- d) The Steward(s) will:
- Examine all boots, removing them from the Horse's legs, if necessary, to ensure that they comply with current relevant Jumping Rules, Veterinary Regulations and the FEI Tack, Equipment and Dress Database (FEI TackApp) items before returning them to the PR or their representative to be placed on the Horse's legs (NB - bandages do not have to be removed at this time);
 - Check that all other items of saddlery presented comply with the current relevant Jumping Rules, Veterinary Regulations and the FEI Tack, Equipment and Dress Database (FEI TackApp) items, including, but not limited to bits and nosebands. that the noseband is not overtightened by using the Noseband Tightness Measurement Device when available if the Steward is uncertain that the noseband is adjusted with sufficient laxity.
 - Please refer to the FEI videos and protocol for the correct use of the Noseband Tightness Measurement Device.

2.4 POST-COMPETITION BOOT, BANDAGE AND TACK CONTROL PROTOCOL

This takes place after the Horse has competed in an area that is quiet, safe and close to the **exit** of the **competition arena**.

- a. While the Chief Steward may decide to check only random Horses, it is strongly recommended that all Horses undergo this procedure after competing especially in the competitions where this procedure is mandatory, and in Longines Ranking competitions.
- b. The Steward(s) will:
- remove all boots and other equipment on the Horse's legs and examine them for compliance with current relevant JR, VRs and FEI TackApp items
 - check that all other saddlery items used comply with current relevant JRs, VRs and FEI TackApp items, including, but not limited to bits, and that the noseband is not overtightened by using the Noseband Tightness Measurement Device when available if the Steward is uncertain that the noseband is adjusted with sufficient laxity
 - Please refer to the FEI videos and protocol for the correct use of the Noseband Tightness Measurement Device.

PART 3

STEWARDING AT MORNING TRAINING SESSIONS

Boot, Bandage and Tack Controls may be carried out at all Events during any morning training sessions. Such controls may be done on a random basis unless another approach is considered necessary, or unless there is reason to examine a specific Horse, with particular attention being paid to bandages, and use of boots that may exceed the prescribed weight limit or have other irregularities.

If a Horse's boots are changed during a training session, the Steward should examine the boots which have been removed at the time of removal, as well as the replacement boots. Should the Steward in question observe anything unusual with the boots, bandages or any item of tack, they must inform the Chief Steward immediately.