

TACK CONTROL DURING FEI EVENTS - PROTOCOL

Officials must use at least one disposable glove when checking boots or bandages, and horses' legs, flanks, mouth and nose for the presence of blood. The glove(s) must be changed for each horse.

To be able to check the presence of ear plugs, the ear hoods have to be removed after the test, when the bits and spurs are checked. The steward has to witness this.

(VRs 1035, see also VRs 1025.VI)

1. In addition to these Veterinary Regulations, the prohibitions and requirements regarding specific types of tack are also regulated according to the various Sport Rules.
2. Examination (control) of horse's tack material may be carried out by Stewards and/or Official Veterinarians at any time during the Period of the Event.
3. The President of the Ground Jury must be notified of any scheduled or unannounced examination/control that is to take place; the (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate should be informed and be available for consultation.
4. For controls carried out during the finals of major Events (Championships, Games, World Cups, etc.), a member of the Veterinary Commission should attend the control procedure.
5. If a problem is suspected, the horse and all examined items must be kept under strict surveillance until further examination by the (Foreign) Veterinary Delegate (FVD/ VD).
6. The FVD/ VD must verify the identification of the horse against the outline diagram in the passport and record the name and FEI Passport number of the horse and the Person Responsible.
7. For tack concerns the FVD/ VD may be required to provide advice on welfare or health implications.
8. The FVD/ VD must include the name and FEI Passport number of the horse, the Person Responsible and details of every examination in the FEI Veterinary Report completed at the end of the Event.
9. If the examination results in the finding of suspicious material, irritation, skin damage or blood, the President of the Ground Jury must be informed immediately.
10. Noseband control protocol:

It is the Chief Steward's responsibility to ensure that the tightness of horses' nosebands is checked at each FEI Dressage event.

Therefore the Chief Steward will brief all his assistant stewards on the correct conduct of the noseband check and will highlight the importance of horsemanship when performing the task.

The noseband check is part of the tack control when the horse is leaving the competition arena after having finished the test. One and the same steward must conduct the noseband check for all horses entered in the same competition. The tightness check must be done with the steward's index finger between the horse's cheek and the noseband. The steward must wear gloves during this check.

Ideally the finger size of stewards appointed for the noseband check at different competitions throughout the event shall be of similar size.

In case of an apparent overtightened noseband during the horse's warm-up, the appointed tack control steward is entitled to conduct the check also during the warm-up and, in case of the noseband being overtightened, ask the athlete to loosen the noseband. The noseband of the horse will be checked again by the same steward after the horse has finished the test. If the noseband is still too tight after the second check, the Chief Steward will give a Yellow Warning Card to the athlete.