

class, the Reserve Champion Stallion will be given 1 1/2 points more so it will have one-half point more than any other horse in its sex division except the Grand Champion Stallion.

SHW260.8.3 If the Reserve Champion Stallion received two points in its class and no other stallion (except the Grand Champion Stallion) received more than 1 1/2 points, no additional points will be awarded to the Reserve Champion Stallion.

SHW261. POINTS CHART

No. of entries in class	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
3-4	1/2									
5-9	1	1/2								
10-14	2	1	1/2							
15-19	3	2	1	1/2						
20-24	4	3	2	1	1/2					
25-29	5	4	3	2	1	1/2				
30-34	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2			
35-39	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2		
40-44	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2	
45 & more	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	1/2

SHW300. EQUIPMENT.

SHW300.1 When exhibitor equipment failure causes a delay or a run to be discontinued, the judge will disqualify the entry, except in working hunter and jumping.

SHW300.2 In any approved class, the judge shall have the authority to require the removal or alteration of any piece of equipment or accoutrement which is unsafe, or in his opinion, would tend to give a horse an unfair advantage or which he believes to be inhumane.

SHW300.3 Tails may be lengthened by hair to hair attachment only with no attachments of any kind to the tailbone.

SHW300.4 The use of weighted tails is acceptable.

SHW300.5 The use of earplugs or cotton in the horse's ears is acceptable.

SHW300.6 Reruns will not be allowed in instances of equipment failure.

SHW300.7 Failure by exhibitor to wear correct number(s) in a visible manner shall result in disqualification. It is recommended the visible numbers be on both sides of the horse when showing in the under saddle classes, excluding the over fence classes.

SHW300.8 All inhumane/prohibited equipment as listed in VIO204.13 is illegal for use at any time on the grounds at an AQHA-approved event.

SHW300.9 Any equipment and/or bit considered legal in an AQHA-approved class may be used on any horse for training purposes on show grounds, whether or not the horse will be show in the class for which the equipment and/or it is legal; for example, equipment and/or bits legal for barrel racing classes may be used on horses of other disciplines for training on the show grounds.

SHW305. WESTERN EQUIPMENT.

SHW305.1 Hackamore means the use of a flexible, braided rawhide, leather or rope bosal, the core of which must be flexible. A hackamore must use a complete mecate rein, which must include a tie-rein. Absolutely no rigid material will be permitted under the jaws, regardless of how padded or covered. Horse hair bosals are prohibited. This rule does not refer to a mechanical hackamore.

SHW305.2 Snaffle bits in western performance classes mean the conventional O-ring, egg-butt or D-ring with a ring no larger than 4" in diameter (100 mm). The inside circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments which would provide leverage.

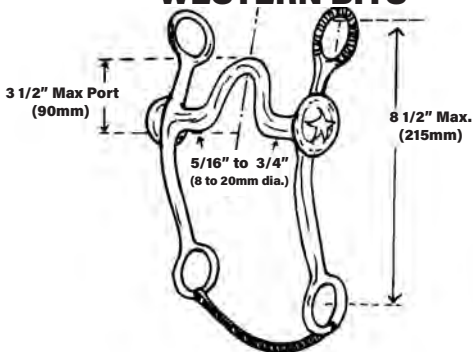
The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but smooth or latex-wrapped. The bars must be a minimum of 5/16" (8 mm) in diameter, measured one inch (25 mm) in from the cheek with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10 mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom, with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable. Optional leather strap attached below the reins on a snaffle bit is acceptable.

SHW305.3 Bit in western performance classes means the use of a curb

ACCEPTABLE CHAIN CURB STRAPS



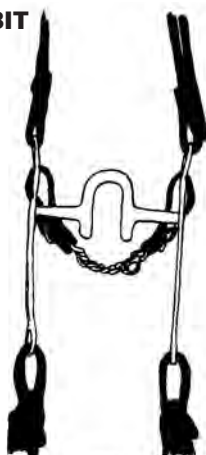
WESTERN BITS



LEGAL BIT



DONUT BIT



PRONG BIT

ILLEGAL BIT

bit that has a solid or broken mouthpiece, has shanks and acts with leverage. All curb bits must be free of mechanical device and should be considered a standard western bit.

SHW305.4 The description of a legal, standard western bit includes:

SHW305.4.1 8 1/2" (215 mm) maximum length shank to be measured as indicated in the diagram on the previous page. Shanks may be fixed or loose;

SHW305.4.2 concerning mouthpieces, bars must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal of 5/16" to 3/4" (8 mm to 20 mm) in diameter, measured 1" (25 mm) from the cheek. However, wire on the sway bars (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable. They may be inlaid, but must be smooth or latex wrapped. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs, including upward prongs on solid mouthpieces. The mouthpiece may be two or three pieces. A three-piece, connecting ring of 1 1/4" (32 mm) or less in diameter, or a connecting flat bar of 3/8" to 3/4" (10mm to 20 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the horse's mouth, is acceptable;

SHW305.4.3 a linked mouthpiece with minimum 3/8" (10 mm) diameter that is smooth with movable links that are solidly attached to the shanks;

SHW305.4.4 the port must be no higher than 3 1/2" (90 mm) maximum, with rollers and covers acceptable. Broken mouthpieces, halfbreeds and spades are standard;

SHW305.4.5 donut and flat polo mouthpieces are not acceptable;

SHW305.4.6 a curb bit must be used with a curb strap or curb chain properly attached so as to make contact with horse's chin;

SHW305.4.7 slip or gag bit is permitted in speed events.

SHW305.5 Except for hackamore/snaffle bit classes or junior horses shown with hackamore/snaffle bit, only one hand may be used on the reins, and the hand must not be changed. The hand is to be around the reins: index finger only between split reins is permitted. In trail, ranch trail, ranch riding, VRH ranch trail, and VRH/RHC ranch riding, it is permissible to change hands to work an obstacle. Violation of this rule is an automatic disqualification.

SHW305.5.1 Any horse of any age shown in any rookie/Level 1 youth, rookie/Level 1 amateur or Level 1 class may be shown one or two handed with a snaffle bit/hackamore.

SHW305.6 Romal means an extension of braided or round material attached to closed reins. This extension shall be carried in the free hand with a 16-inch (40 cm) spacing between the reining hand and the free hand holding the romal. When using romal reins, the rider's hand shall be around the reins with the wrists kept straight and relaxed, the thumb on top and the fingers closed lightly around the reins. When using a romal, no fingers between the reins are allowed. The free hand may not be used to adjust the rider's length of rein in any reining class. During reining, the use of the free hand while holding the romal to alter the tension or length of the reins from the bridle to the reining hand is considered to be the use of two hands and a score of 0 will be applied, with the exception of any place a horse is allowed to be completely stopped during a pattern. In all other classes, including the reined portion of working cow horse, boxing, and all VRH and RHC classes, the free hand may be used to adjust the rider's length of rein. In all western classes, excess rein(s) may be straightened or disentangled anytime during the class, provided the rider's free hand

used to straighten or disentangle remains behind the rein hand. Any attempt to alter tension or length of the reins from bridle to rein hand is to be considered use of two hands and a penalty score of zero or disqualification will be applied.

SHW305.6.1 The romal shall not be used forward of the cinch or to signal or cue the horse in any way. Any infraction of this rule shall be penalized severely by the judge.

SHW305.7 Junior horses competing in western pleasure, western horsemanship, western riding, trail, reining, working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, trail, all versatility ranch horse and all ranching heritage challenge classes that are shown with a hackamore or snaffle bit may be ridden with one or two hands on the reins. The tails of the reins must be crossed on the opposite side of the neck when riding with two hands on split reins except in reining, working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, all VRH classes, and all RHC classes. Closed reins (example mecate) may not be used with a snaffle bit, except in working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, all VRH classes and, all RHC classes, where a mecate is permitted. When using a snaffle bit in working cow horse, boxing, ranch riding, ranch trail, all VRH classes and all RHC classes, a leather or other woven material chin strap of any width is to be used and should be attached to the bit below the reins. No iron, chain, or other material is allowed. The chin strap can include metal buckles and/or keepers.

SHW305.8 In all western classes, horses will be shown in a western saddle and appropriate bridle, snaffle bit or hackamore for the duration of the class. A western saddle is a common type of saddle distinguished by a large noticeable fork on which there is some form of horn, a high cantle and large skirts. Silver equipment will not count over a good working outfit. Horses 5-years-old and younger may be shown in a snaffle bit, hackamore, curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Horses 6-years-old and older may only be shown in a curb bit, half-breed or spade bit. Split reins or romal reins must be used on a curb bit except in speed events, team penning, ranch sorting, roping and cowboy mounted shooting where they are optional. When a curb bit is used, a curb strap or curb chain is required, but must meet the approval of the judge, be at least one-half inch in width and lie flat against the jaw of the horse. Curb chains cannot be tied to the bit with string or cord. A broken strap or chain is not necessarily cause for disqualification.

SHW305.8.1 For further clarification on the use of two rein equipment, see SHW509.1.6-509.1.7.

SHW305.9 SPEED EVENT, TEAM PENNING, RANCH SORTING, ROPING AND COWBOY MOUNTED SHOOTING EQUIPMENT:

SHW305.9.1 In roping, speed events, team penning, ranch sorting and cowboy mounted shooting western - type equipment must be used. Mechanical hackamore nosepieces must be covered in leather and cannot have visible or bare metal in contact with the horse's head. The judge or steward may prohibit the use of any bit or equipment they consider inhumane or would tend to give a horse/rider an unfair advantage.

SHW305.9.2 Tie-downs, used for roping, speed events, team penning, ranch sorting, and cowboy mounted shooting must be leather, flat nylon or rope a minimum of 3/8 inch in diameter.

SHW305.9.3 Bonnets (tie-down that goes over the poll and/or across the forehead) made of rope, flat nylon webbing or leather only (minimum 3/8 inch diameter) are permitted.

SHW305.9.4 Martingales and draw reins are permitted for speed