



MANITOBA HORSE TRIALS PRESENTS:
An Introduction to Three Day Eventing
How to Get Started

Date: January 14, 2017

Time: 6:30pm

Location: Greenhawk, Winnipeg Location

Equipment for you and your horse

Once you have fallen in love with eventing and you get to your first show, you want to ensure you have the best experience possible. Knowing the rules of eventing will help you achieve your goals. The complete *Equestrian Canada Eventing Rules* can be found on the Equestrian Canada website (equestrian.ca), under Programs & Services, EC Rules, [Section D: Eventing](#).

Here are some of the important rules with equipment/tack when it comes to competing at events to make sure you are properly outfitted and your horse has the correct equipment. The last thing you want is to be eliminated from the competition for not knowing the rules.

This is just an outline of what you should know (taken from the EC Rules for Eventing). It is the competitor's responsibility to be fully aware of the rules.

For Combined Tests and Horse Trials: (Entry through Preliminary)

1. Exercising and Warming up

a. General Rules

- a competition number must be worn by the horse or rider when schooling
- only the competitor is allowed to school the horse
- it is forbidden to ride close to or to jump cross-country obstacles and forbidden to inspect obstacles on the course before it is open
- it is forbidden to ride in and around the dressage or jumping areas

b. Saddlery in Exercise areas.

- An English type saddle
- any form of permitted bridle (see FEI Eventing Rules)
- Unrestricted running martingales with rein stops or Irish Martingales, bit guards, boots, bandages, fly shields, nose covers and saddle covers are permitted.
- Single direct side reins are permitted only while lunging (only with one lunge line) as are running reins and chambons.

- Other martingales, any other kind of gadget (such as bearing, side or balancing reins, etc.) and any form of blinkers, are forbidden, under penalty of elimination at the discretion of the Ground Jury.
- Boots which encompass the entire hoof, including the sole and the frog, are not permitted in cross country, jumping or dressage tests or warm up areas.

2. General Rules for What to Wear

a. Protective Headgear

- Compulsory for anyone riding a horse at the event
- Must be approved by an accredited certification organization (HEADGEAR STANDARDS), properly fitted and securely fastened by a permanently affixed safety harness.

b. Body Protector/Inflatable Vest

- A body protector is *mandatory* for cross-country, inflatable vest is permitted when worn over a body protector vest
- May be worn during other phases
- Stable, team or club colors are permitted

c. Whips

- Dressage: One whip no longer than 120cm including lash may be used in warm-up and test (not allowed in the dressage test if Championship division)
- Cross-Country/Jumping: no longer than 75 cm (30"), cannot be weighted at the end or telescoping

d. Spurs

- no longer than 4 cm from boot to the end, point to the rear, smooth material (metal or plastic), blunt end

3. What to Wear for your Dressage Test

- ★ Protective headgear - black or dark colour. Hat covers solid black or dark colour.
- ★ Coat – conservative colour or tweed, tailcoats are not permitted;
- ★ Shirt – white or light colour with stock and pin or choker or tie.
- ★ Gloves dark colour, tan, beige, or white are required;
- ★ Breeches – light colour or white (brown britches permitted when worn with tweed jacket);

- ★ Boots – black, dark brown, black with brown top, field.
 - Boots must be long boots in one piece or a full grain smooth leather leg piece and matching leather boot (a small amount of matching elastic/ribbing along the zipper is permitted).
 - Jodhpur boots only permitted with appropriate britches.
- ★ Spurs are optional.
- ★ A body protector/inflatable vest permitted.

4. What Your Horse Should Wear for your Dressage Test

- ★ An English type saddle and a permitted bridle
- ★ A snaffle bridle meeting the specifications is permitted.
- ★ **Definition of Permitted Bridles for Dressage** (see FEI Eventing Rules and EC Eventing Rules ANNEX 2.1B for permitted nosebands for dressage)
 - A snaffle bridle which the bit is made of metal, leather, rubber or synthetic material is permitted.
 - The Bridle must be made of leather, with the exception of the reins, which may be synthetic or leather with rubber covers, and must be black or brown.
 - Reins with hand loops, or elastic inserts are prohibited.
 - If a snaffle has two joints, all parts must be rounded and smooth. The mouthpieces must be smooth (**eg twisted and roller bits are prohibited**) with ring, egg-butt or bar type cheeks. The diameter of the snaffle bit ring must not exceed 8 cm in diameter.
 - The bridle must include a permitted noseband. A breastplate without martingale attachment may be used. Padded cavesson nosebands are permitted.
- ★ Martingales, any kind of gadgets (such as bearing, side, running or balancing reins, etc.), any kind of boots or bandages, bit guards ,any form of blinkers or ear plugs, fly shields, nose covers and seat covers are strictly forbidden under penalty of elimination.
- ★ Use of a tongue strap and/or tying down the tongue is not allowed.
- ★ The stirrup irons and stirrup leathers are required and must hang free from the bar of the saddle and outside the flap
- ★ If in the opinion of the Ground Jury, insects are present to such a degree as to interfere with the performance, ear covers and or non restrictive nose fly guards may be used in the competition arena. It is the rider's responsibility to ascertain whether the Ground Jury will allow the use of these in the dressage test.

5. What to Wear for Cross Country

- ★ Light weight clothing is appropriate for this test, a shirt (any colour) with suitable short or long sleeves must be worn (**not sleeveless or cap sleeve**).
- ★ Protective headgear in must be worn; this headgear may be any colour. ***Skull Cap recommended***
- ★ Breeches or jodhpurs may be any colour.
- ★ Gloves (if worn) may be any colour.
- ★ Boots – black, dark brown, black with brown top, field.
 - Boots must be long boots in one piece or a full grain smooth leather leg piece and matching leather boot.
 - Jodhpur boots only permitted with appropriate britches.
- ★ Spurs optional
- ★ A body protector /inflatable vest ***mandatory***.

6. What Your Horse Should Wear for Cross-Country and Jumping Tests

- ★ An English type Saddle and a permitted bridle are compulsory.
- ★ Only unrestricted running martingales with rein stops or Irish martingales are allowed.
- ★ Reins must be free of any loops or hand attachments and must be attached to the bit(s) or directly to the bridle. Exception: u-shaped bit converters may be used so that a bit designed for use with two reins may be controlled with a single rein.
- ★ Gags or hackamores are allowed. There must be no other restrictions or attachments of any kind.
- ★ Any form of blinkers, side or running or balancing reins, tongue straps and/or tying down the tongue, any other restrictions, any bit or other form of saddlery likely to wound or harm a horse is forbidden.
- ★ Sheepskin may be used on cheek piece of the bridle providing the sheepskin does not exceed three cm in diameter measured from the horse's face.
- ★ In the interest of safety, the stirrup iron and stirrup leathers must hang free from the bar of the saddle and outside the flap.

closed front and back boots and bell boots are highly recommended (no wraps on legs)

7. What to Wear in your Jumping Test

- ★ Hunting dress or uniform. Coat – conservative colour or tweed.
- ★ Shirt –stock with pin or choker or tie.
- ★ Gloves (if worn) dark colour, tan beige or white.
- ★ Jodhpurs, breeches – light colour or white.
- ★ Boots – black, dark brown, black with brown top, field.
 - Boots must be long boots in one piece or a full grain smooth leather leg piece and leather boot.
 - Jodhpur boots only permitted with appropriate britches.
- ★ Spurs optional
- ★ Protective Headgear must be worn. Hat covers should be solid black or dark colour.
- ★ A body protector /inflatable vest **permitted**.

8. What Your Horse should Wear In Your Jumping Test

- ★ Same as cross-country
- ★ open front jumper boots may be used