

NCRCHA Bit Requirements

CLASS BIT CRITERIA RULES:

Herd Work- Must show in a snaffle bit or hackamore, Two rein, or bridle with reins with romal based on age of horse & NRCHA rules.

Limited Two Handed Cutting- Must show in snaffle bit or hackamore regardless of the age of the horse.

Stock Horse (Dry Work Only)- to be shown in the age appropriate bit according to NRCHA Rulebook.

Classes: Open Bridle & JR Working CowHorse, NonPro Bridle & NonPro Jr Working Cowhorse, \$1500 Limited Working Cowhorse, Limited Working Cow Horse, Youth Limited Working Cow Horse, Two Rein Working Cow Horse, Stockhorse, Youth Stockhorse. Rules are judged based on **NRCHA rulebook.**

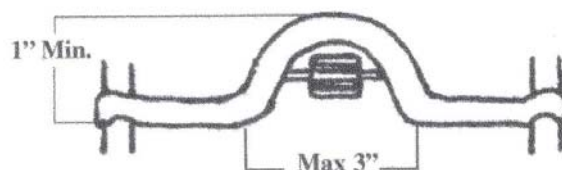
NRCHA Rulebook

5 APPOINTMENTS & EQUIPMENT

5.1 Horses shall be shown astride with a western saddle. There must be an operable cricket (roller) incorporated into the mouthpiece of the bit. A barrel, made of copper or metal, wrapped around the bar of the mouthpiece.

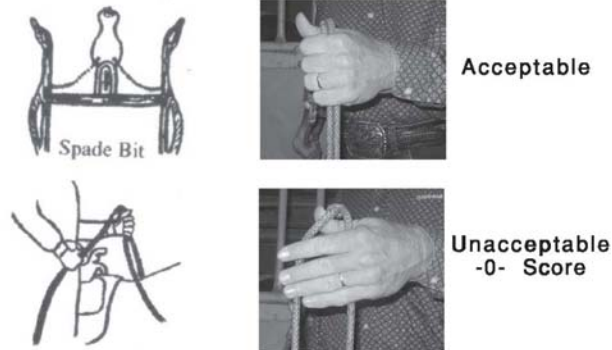
5.1 Riders must wear a western hat or helmet approved for riding by an equine organization. Boots, & a long sleeve shirt are required. Chaps or chinks are optional. Carrying of a rope or riata is optional.

5.2 A spade bit or a bit having the following characteristics must be used in any of the bridle classes. Said characteristics shall be: one with an unbroken bar mouthpiece with one inch or higher port measured from the bottom of the bar to the top of the port. There must be an operable cricket (roller) incorporated into the mouthpiece of the bit. A barrel, made of copper or metal, wrapped around the bar of the mouthpiece of the bit is to be considered a part of the mouthpiece. The barrel must be round, smooth, and made up of one continuous, unbroken piece. The minimum diameter, on any part of the bar of the mouthpiece, is 5/16 inch. Bars must be round, oval or egg shaped smooth and unwrapped metal. Latex wrap or any foreign material is not acceptable. Nothing may protrude below the mouthpiece (bar), such as extensions or prongs. The cheeks must be connected at the bottom. The overall length of the bit shall not be longer than 8 1/2 inches. Optional tongue release shall not exceed 3 inches in



smoothly inlaid in the mouthpiece are optional. The use of bosal, martingale or tie-down is prohibited (bosal permitted in Two-Rein class only). No wire, chain or other metal or rawhide device may be used in conjunction with the bit or a part of the leather chin strap. Leather chin strap must be flat, flexible and at least 1/2 inch wide. No metal rivets are allowed to come in

contact with the chin, or chin groove of the horse. Metal keepers are not acceptable on the chin strap. Reins with romal required. The reins can be held in either hand, with hand around reins in a fist position with thumbs up. The non-rein hand must be on the romal. (The keeper, or hobble, that attaches the romal to the reins is considered to be a part of the romal.) The non-rein hand is not allowed, at anytime, to touch the reins or a score of -0- will be applied. The rider is allowed to shorten the reins while the horse is in motion as long as their hands are held in a legal manner. No fingers are permitted between the reins in Bridle classes, except in the Two-Rein class.



5.4 In the Two-Rein class bosals may be of any size, constructed of braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core. No iron or foreign substance may be used. The rider must use one hand on the reins. Fingers between the reins will be permitted.

5.5 Hackamores shall be round in shape and constructed of uniform braided rawhide or leather and have a non-metal flexible core. No gimmick of any kind may be used in conjunction with the bosal. No rigid material of any kind may be used, regardless of how padded or covered, in conjunction with the bosal. Horse hair bosals are prohibited.

5.6 Snaffle Bit shall be either "D" or "O" Ring type, no larger than 4 inches in diameter on the inside of the ring. They must have a broken, 2 piece, mouth piece, being a minimum of 5/16 inch in diameter, measured 1 inch in from the inside of the ring on the snaffle bit, with a gradual decrease to center of the snaffle. The mouthpiece should be round, oval or egg-shaped, smooth and unwrapped metal. It may be inlaid, but must be smooth. Latex wrap is not acceptable. These bits must be such that when the reins are pulled no undue leverage is applied, i.e. the inside of the circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb, or head stall attachments. A leather or other woven material chin strap of any width is to be used. No iron, chain or other material may be used. Chin Strap is allowed to include metal buckles and/or keepers on snaffle bits only. Reins are to be attached above the chin strap. Two hands must be used on the reins, except in the herd work or to provide safety to rider or adjust equipment.

5.7 Rider or representative will drop the bridle to the designated bridle checker. The bridle checker must have a magnet available to check the hackamores and chin straps for metal objects (inside) or cores. Designated bridle checker will not touch horse's mouth.

6 BROKEN EQUIPMENT

6.1 If at any time during a performance a piece of equipment breaks, the rider may continue provided the broken equipment does not pose a hazard to the rider and/or is not cruel to the horse. In the event that the fence work immediately follows the rein work, broken equipment may be repaired within a 1 minute time period. Rider may dismount if necessary to make the repair. Horse and rider may not leave the arena and may not receive physical assistance or equipment from outside the arena. If the rider is unable to continue because of the broken equipment, the rider will be excused with a score of zero.