

Steward's Corner
Lesley Sullivan – FEI Level 2 Steward

Now that our competition season is getting back into full swing for 2017 it is timely to remind everyone of the following re nosebands.

The following has been issued by the Dressage Steward general on 1/3/17. This has been added to the Equipment Annex version 15 which is available on the EA website. Always refer to the Equipment Annex on the EA web site before you undertake stewarding duties.:

*Welfare of the horse is paramount. Nosebands that are too tightly fitted regardless of type are never acceptable. Nosebands must never be used in such a way that they interfere with a horse's breathing. Riders failing to loosen a noseband on request from a steward or judge will be **eliminated**.*

- *Noseband checking is done by a steward. It must be possible to place at least **one** finger between the horse's cheek and the noseband. See illustration below*
- *Nosebands can be checked prior to or after the completion of a test*
- *Not all nosebands are required to be checked, if a visual assessment confirms that the noseband is **not** too tight*
- *During a test if the Judge believes a noseband is too tight, they must at the end of the test instruct the rider to return to the gear check. The Steward must report back to the judge after checking the noseband*
- *When checking bridle/noseband the steward must wear two clean disposable gloves*
- *The checking of the bridle/noseband must be done with the greatest caution, as some horses are very touchy and sensitive. Stewards have to keep in mind that the safety and welfare of the horse and the Athlete are our highest priority and concern!*
- *The execution of adjustment of equipment must be done by the rider or the groom and **not** the steward*



The following are examples of nosebands that are fitted too tightly and/or incorrectly:

We all have a part to play in ensuring that horses are not physically or mentally harmed in our desire to ride or compete them. Without exception, this applies to all riders, owners, coaches, judges, stewards, officials, etal.

