



GEAR SPECIFIC TO IQ DRESSAGE EVENTS

A gear check is required for each test- failure to have a gear check may incur elimination

Compulsory Dress by Level

- For all IQ dressage - approved safety helmet (with the retaining harness secured and fastened at all times when on the horse). No top hats allowed

Current accepted safety helmet standards are:

- AS/NZS 3838 (Current Australian Standard)
- EN 1384 (Current European Standard)
- ASTN F1163 (Current US Standard)

Preliminary to Elementary Levels

- white, off-white, light canary or beige jodhpurs or breeches
- riding boots, either long or short, black or brown
- gloves (white preferred), tie, stock or ratcatcher (colour optional)

Optional as defined below

- spurs, whip, gaiters, monkey grip

Medium Level

- white, off-white, light canary or beige jodhpurs or breeches
- riding boots, either long or short, black or brown
- gloves (white preferred), tie, stock or ratcatcher (colour optional)

Optional as defined below

- whip, gaiters, monkey grip, spurs

Advanced Level

- white or off-white breeches
- black or dark blue tail coat, or short coat/school uniform
- hacking tail coat is not permitted
- long black riding boots (hunting top permitted), short boots permitted for riders under 18
- gloves (white preferred), tie or stock (colour optional)

Optional as defined below

- whip, monkey grip, spurs

Prix St Georges to Grand Prix Levels

- breeches - white or off-white
- tail coat – black, dark blue or other colour within the international HSV colour scale. Contrast colouring and piping is allowed, or short coat/school uniform (not for National Championships)
- hacking tail coat - is not permitted
- long boots – black or same colour as coat
- stock or tie – white or off white or same colour as coat e.g. if coat is navy then stock may be a shade of blue
- gloves - white or off white or same colour as coat

Optional as defined below

- spurs, whip, monkey grip.

Footwear

Whilst mounted, all riders must wear riding boots as specified below with smooth or almost smooth soles and heels. Heavily indented treads are not permitted for safety and risk management reasons. The exposed side of long boots must be smooth.

	Prelim - Med	Adv	FEI
Short boots (black or brown only)	✓	✓	X
Short boots with matching coloured gaiters	✓	X *	X *
Long brown boots	✓	X	X
Long boots with hunting tops	✓	✓	X
Long black boots (Top Boots)	✓	✓	✓
Long riding boots same colour as the coat	X	X	✓

*An exception will be made for riders in Advanced and PSG tests at IQ qualifying events only where these riders *may* ride in short boots and matching gaiters (*not* including State and National Interschool championships, tag-on days or other EA, EQ, DQ or Young Rider competitions). However top boots as per EA dressage rules are recommended.

Gaiters/Chapettes

- the exposed side of the gaiter must be full grain leather, suede on the exposed side is not permitted
- the gaiters must match the colour of the boots which must be black or brown
- gaiters may have hunting tops which must be brown or black

Spurs

- spurs may be worn by competitors at all levels
- spurs must be made of metal
- a curved or straight shank must point directly back from the centre of the spur when on the rider's boot
- the **tip** of the shank must not point up or point inwards
- the arms of the spur must be smooth
- if rowels are used, they must be blunt/smooth and free to rotate. Daisy rowels are permitted
- there is no maximum length of spurs
- metal spurs with hard plastic knobs are allowed
- dummy spurs with no shank are allowed

For further information regarding spurs, please see the legal/illegal equipment page on the [Equestrian Australia website](#): EA Rules and Regulations – Dressage – Equipment

Whips

- a whip, not exceeding 1.2 metres in its entirety (including the tassel), may only be carried in the exercise and warm-up areas and in tests up to and including Advanced level at all events
- a whip may be carried and used by a competitor in FEI level tests at all events **except** State and Australian Championships
- only the rider when riding, walking, or leading a horse is allowed to carry one whip, maximum 1.2m, anywhere on the ground
- when lungeing a horse a lungeing whip is allowed
- other parties are allowed to carry one whip, provided it is not used in connection with the training of the horse

Saddle

- a fully-mounted Dressage type (including all-purpose) saddle (black or brown only) of traditional or treeless construction is compulsory; a crupper may be worn by ponies

Bridles, Nosebands and Bits

.1 Snaffle Bridle

A snaffle bridle is an English-type bridle with a single snaffle-type bit and one set of reins. A snaffle bridle is compulsory in all tests up to and including Elementary level. A snaffle bridle is optional at Medium level.

- bridles must be black or brown
- padding is allowed on bridles
- **Nosebands** (see [IQ Gear Check Fact Sheet](#) or [National Dressage Rules](#) for illustrations)

It is compulsory to have one (only) of the following nosebands on a snaffle bridle:

- dropped noseband
- cavesson noseband
- flash (or Hanoverian) noseband
- crossed (Grackle or Mexican) noseband

Nosebands may never be so tightly fixed as to harm the horse. Officials should not loosen the noseband, but request the rider to do so. If the rider refuses and the Official thinks the noseband is still too tight, the Ground Jury should be approached to make a ruling. Padding under the noseband is permitted as long as it is securely attached.

• Bits

Only snaffle bits having the following features are approved for use in Dressage. Snaffle bits shall be composed of:

- metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber or latex
- metal and rubber (bits made only of rubber or rubber and chain not permitted) * metal and synthetic material
- the diameter of the mouthpiece is measured adjacent to the rings or the cheeks of the mouthpiece
- the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm
- mouthpieces may be the same thickness or tapered towards the centre or central joints
- there shall not be more than two joints in the mouthpiece
- double-jointed mouthpieces may have one "roller", or rotating middle piece, in the centre section. Multiple "rollers" are not permitted
- all parts coming into the horse's mouth shall be rounded, smooth and not ridged, sharp or corrugated
- Also permitted: half-moon — port-mouth — curved — there must be a straight line from the rings; rubber or synthetic bit — both jointed and unjointed; sweet iron bit

Some of the types of bits permitted are described and illustrated in the [IQ Gear Check Fact Sheet](#) and the [National Dressage Rules](#).

.2 Double Bridle

A double bridle is an English-type bridle with a bridoon (snaffle) bit and a curb bit and curb chain (metal or leather or a combination), both fitted with a set of reins. A pelham bit is not permissible in any dressage test. The upper cheek must not be longer than the lower cheek.

• Bridoon

- must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber/latex (manufactured state)
- bits made only of rubber or rubber and chain not permitted.
- if metal bits are used all parts of the bit coming into the horse's mouth must be of metal (not necessarily the same metal)
- the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 10mm
- double-jointed mouthpieces may have one "roller", or rotating middle piece, in the centre section. Multiple "rollers" are not permitted
- wrapping of bit with any kind of material is not permitted
- flexible rubber bits are not permitted
- the diameter of the mouthpiece must be such so as not to hurt the horse

• **Curb**

- must be of a type as detailed in the illustrations in the [IQ Gear Check Fact Sheet](#) and the [National Dressage Rules](#). The limits of the dimensions of the curb bits allowable are as follows:
 - the curb must be made of metal or rigid plastic and may be covered with rubber (manufactured state) -bits made only of rubber or rubber and chain not permitted
 - the minimum diameter of the mouthpiece is 12mm
 - the lever arm of the curb bit is limited to 10cm (length below the mouth piece)
- **Noseband** Only a cavesson noseband shall be used with a double bridle.
- **Optional Items:** lip strap; leather cover for curb chain; rubber cover for curb chain

Allowed at an Event/Venue

- breast plates up to and including Medium level only where a snaffle bridle is used
- foregirths in all levels
- neck straps in all levels may only be used for safety purposes
- false tails/tail extensions are permitted in all EA competitions. If the false tail is found to contain metal, the penalty is elimination.
- all competitors are permitted the use of a **monkey grip** in all areas at all levels

Not Allowed at an Event/Venue

- blinkers, ear plugs, nasal strips, muzzle nets, bit guards (leather/rubber circular gadgets that stop the bit pulling through), bearing, running or balancing reins used either for riding or in the yard/stable and will incur elimination from the event (e.g.: chambon, de gogue); any other equipment which the Ground Jury, TD or Chief Steward may determine is against the intent and general principles of Dressage. (e.g. tongue ties, stirrup tie downs)

Allowed in Warm-Up and Exercise Area but NOT Competition Area

The following gear **is not** allowed past the gear steward into the competition area.

- running martingales (with a snaffle bridle)
- boots and bandages
- over-boots (e.g. Easy Boot/Mac Boot/Hoof Boot)
- saddle covers (e.g. sheepskin or rain covers etc)
- headphones or similar devices

A double bridle can be used in the Warm-Up and Exercise Area, by any level competitor.

Lungeing

Wherever possible a designated area should be set aside for lungeing.

- only one lunge rein may be used
- two single direct side reins may be used
- snaffles with a cavesson or a normal dropped noseband, Mexican noseband or a Flash noseband, running martingales (with snaffle only), boots and bandages are allowed
- single direct side reins or double sliding side reins (triangle, dreick zugel) (the latter solely when lungeing only with one lunge line) are permitted
- the lungeing of a rider mounted in the saddle is not permitted anywhere at the event
- ear muffs are permitted

Using illegal gear when lungeing will entail elimination.

Fly Hoods

Fly hoods will be permitted in **extreme cases only** and at the discretion of the OC/TD.