

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	12/12/2023	

Rule Change Intent

Previously, SealTex was the go-to brand of bit wrap for most exhibitors, but SealTex is no longer an available product, so the Western Dressage Committee is updating the verbiage to define what is acceptable for bit wrap and examples of those materials that are unacceptable.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
Western Dressage	Ashton Street astreet@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments
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Committee Actions

SUBCHAPTER WD-5 APPOINTMENTS

WD121 Tack

(...)

2. Snaffle Bit

(...)

- d. A standard snaffle is a conventional O-Ring, Egg Butt, Full Cheek (keepers optional) or D-Ring, all with rings having an outside diameter no smaller than 2 inches (50.8 mm), nor larger than 4 inches (101.6 mm). The inside of the circumference of the ring must be free of rein, curb or headstall attachments that would provide leverage.
 1. Bars: Bars of the mouthpiece must be round, oval or egg shaped, smooth and unwrapped, except with ~~latex~~ **smooth, non-abrasive, self-fusing bit wrap**; and no less than 5/16 inch (7.9 mm) to 3/4 inch (19.05 mm) in diameter measured one inch (25 mm) from the cheek and may be inlaid, if smooth.
 - a. **Electrical tape, duct tape, medical tape, etc. is not self-fusing, therefore, not allowed.**

(...)

3. Curb Bit: There is no discrimination against any standard Western bit

- a. A standard Western bit is defined as having a shank with a maximum length overall of 8 1/2" (215.9 mm). The mouthpiece will consist of a metal bar 5/16" (7.9 mm) to 3/4" 19.05 mm) in diameter as measured one inch in from the shank. The bars may be inlaid but must be smooth or ~~latex~~ wrapped **with smooth, non-abrasive, self-fusing bit wrap. Electrical tape, duct tape, medical tape, etc. is not self-fusing, therefore, not allowed.** (The bars may be encased in smooth 5/16" (7.9 mm) to 3/4" (19.05 mm) in diameter tubular barrels that rotate around the bars). Nothing may protrude above or below the mouthpiece (bar) such as extensions, prongs or rivets designed to intimidate the horse. Rollers attached to the center of the bit are acceptable, and may extend below the bar. Jointed mouthpieces are acceptable and may consist of two or three pieces and may have one or two joints. A three-piece mouthpiece may include a connecting ring of 1 1/4 inch (31.75 mm) or less in diameter or a connecting flat bar of 3/8 to 3/4 inch (9.5mm – 19.05 mm) measured top to bottom with a maximum length of 2" (50 mm), which lies flat in the mouth, or a roller or port as described herein. The port must be no higher than 3 1/2 inches (88.9 mm) maximum with roller(s) and covers acceptable. Jointed mouthpieces, half-breeds and spade bits are standard. Wire on the braces (above the bars and attaching to the spade) of a traditional spade bit is acceptable.