

MGA(GB) GUIDANCE ON TACK AND PONIES

BITS

The MGA(GB) rules on permissible bits are taken from FEI rules and are identical to those used by British Dressage.

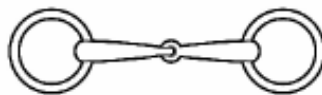
The only bits allowed are those shown in the IMGGA rulebook which was provided to all MGA(GB) members last year and to all new members since. The diagrams are produced below in the format used in other disciplines to allow you to see what is permitted.

Allowable bits have rings as shown in pictures 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8. No other rings are allowed, nor can there be any hooks or loops to fix the position of the reins or head piece other than in a hanging cheek (Baucher) snaffle.

The mouthpieces permitted are either single jointed, double jointed with a smooth rounded middle piece, straight bar, mullen mouth (without a port) or with a rotating middle piece. Rotary snaffles with rotating middle pieces are also permitted.

The mouthpiece of the bit can be made of metal, rubber or plastic, but must be smooth without twists or sharp edges. The diameter of the mouthpiece must not be less than 0.4in (10mm) measured adjacent to the rings.

- 1 Loose ring single jointed snaffle
- 2 a, b and c Snaffle with a jointed mouthpiece where the middle piece must be rounded
- 3 Egg-butt snaffle
- 4 Racing snaffle D-ring
- 5 Egg-but snaffle with cheeks (the cheek bars must not exceed 3.5in (8.9cm))
- 6 Loose ring snaffle with cheeks (Fulmer snaffle) (the cheek bars must not exceed 3.5in (8.9cm))
- 7 Snaffle with upper cheeks only
- 8 Hanging cheek snaffle (Baucher snaffle) (the cheek bars must not exceed 3.5in (8.9cm))
- 9 Straight bar snaffle. Permitted also with a mullen mouth (curved mouthpiece but without a port) and with egg-butt rings
- 10 Snaffle with a rotating middle piece
- 11 Rotary bit with a rotating middle piece



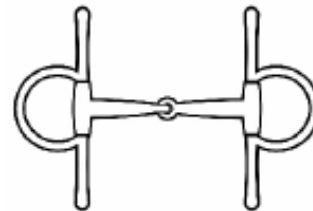
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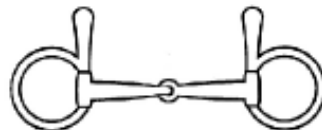
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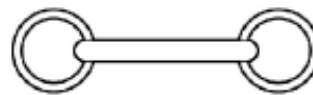
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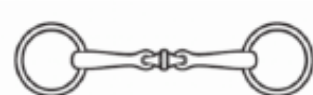
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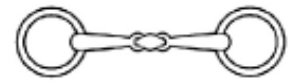
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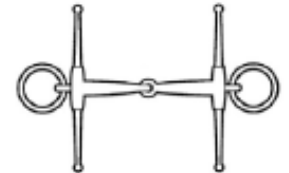
2a



2b



2c



6



8



10

The only Myler bits permitted are the level one comfort snaffle with wide barrel, the French link snaffle or the level two mullen barrel mouthpieces. They can be used with any of the permissible cheeks illustrated but must not have hooks.

OTHER TACK

Tack must be used for the purpose it was designed, so only standing martingales may be attached to the noseband, and these must be attached to a cavesson noseband only. This means

- a running martingale cannot be used as a standing martingale
- A standing martingale cannot be attached to a drop noseband, to the lower part of a flash noseband or to any part of a grackle noseband.

All tack should be fitted correctly and should fit the pony.

- Particular care should be taken that the saddle is clear of the pony's withers or spine when the rider is sitting on the pony. Riders are advised that a numnah that is pressing on the pony's withers or spine can also cause damage.
- Saddles should not have broken trees or any damage that could be deemed as harmful to a pony's welfare.
- Buckles on vaulting straps should be covered in tape to avoid the risk of injury to rider or pony

Since the only force on the pony's mouth must be equal to the force exerted by the rider, no attachment may be used that allows a force on the mouth that is exerted by the pony not the rider.

- This means that only standing, running or irish martingales may be used. Only one martingale may be used at any time
- Side reins, Grass reins and daisy reins allow the pony to exert a force on the bit by lowering its head, so are not allowed
- Nosebands that attach to the bit in any way are also not allowed. The only permissible nosebands are cavesson, flash, grackle or drop nosebands.

The referee can inspect the tack of a pony at any time and rule whether the tack is safe and/or over severe. Examples of this include over tight nosebands and/or martingales.

Blinkers are not permitted. We are aware that some riders make use of 'fluffy cheek pieces' on their bridle to act as blinkers. Other disciplines rule that if such cheek pieces are fitted they must not extend further than 3cm from the horse's face and this guideline will be followed in MGA(GB).

HATS

All riding hats must meet current safety standards and must be correctly fitted.

Hats must meet at least one of the following standards:

- PAS 015 or EN1384 or BSEN1384 and MUST have BSI kitemark
- ASTM F1163 (2004) with SEI mark
- SNELL E2001 with SNELL label and number
- AS/NZS 3838 with SAI Global mark
- or any new standard that meets or exceeds those stated

Hats that have been inspected BY MGA(GB) and approved as meeting these standards will be tagged so that they can be identified easily as meeting safety standards.

Riders are advised that the fact that their hat has been 'tagged' does not provide any guarantee of safety. All riders are strongly recommended to check their hats are correctly fitted and to replace them if they are damaged or have been worn in a fall. Riders are also advised to check the wording of any insurance policy they may depend on in case of accident for any specific requirements regarding the wearing of hats.

Any rider who is involved in a fall that results in a concussion will have the tag removed from their hat and it will be marked to ensure that it cannot be retagged

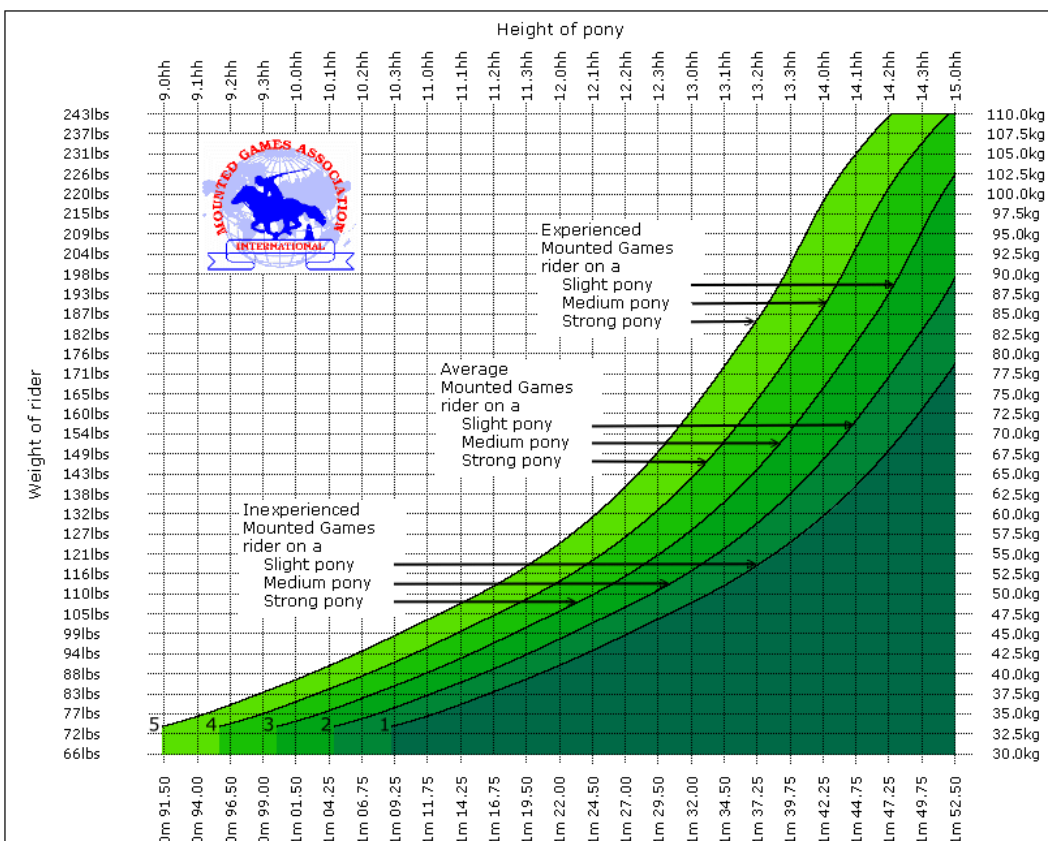
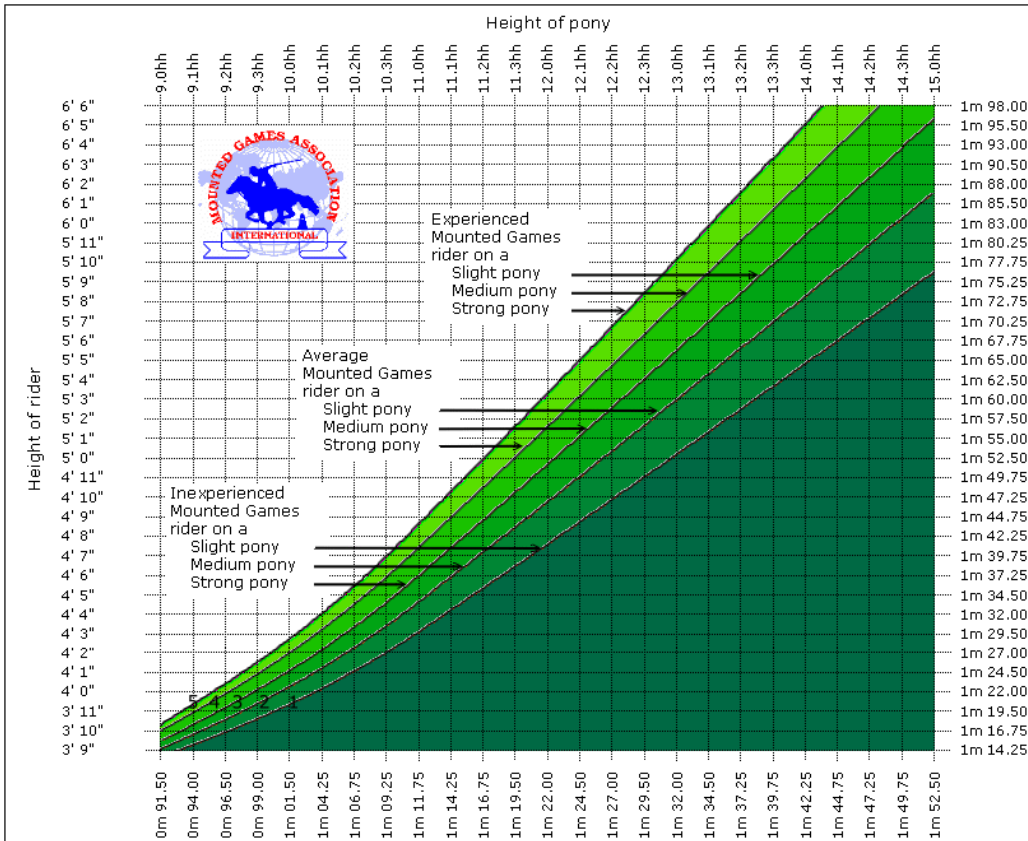
FOOTWEAR

Riders should wear boots designed for riding and use stirrups appropriately sized to the boot worn. Damaged boots can be hazardous and should not be worn. Boots should be properly fastened and must be used with correctly sized stirrups

Everyone is advised to wear safe and sensible footwear when near ponies.

PONIES

Ponies should be of an appropriate size for their rider. Charts showing rider's height and weight limits are shown below.



Ponies must be fit to compete, in particular:

- They should not be over or under weight. Ponies with a body condition score of 1 or below or of 5 (based on Carroll and Huntington method- see overleaf) should not participate in competitions
- They should be fit and healthy. There should be no sign of lameness
- They should be well shod or should have their feet regularly trimmed.
- They should have no open wounds
- They should receive regular dental examinations to check that they have no rough edges on their teeth.
- They should be well groomed to prevent rubbing injuries from their tack.
- Riders are advised to have ponies regularly vaccinated against equine influenza and tetanus.
- Ponies that have been in contact with any infectious condition should not be brought to any competition or event

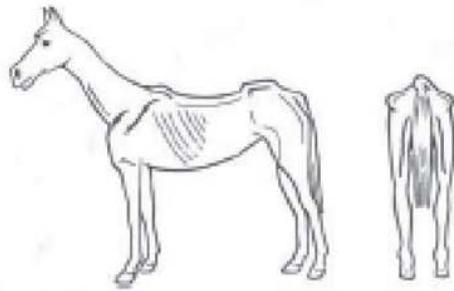
INSURANCE

MGA(GB) carries public liability insurance. This does not cover damage or injury caused or sustained by you or your pony during a competition, in the ring or at any other time. Riders and/or their parents could be held personally responsible for damage or injury caused to another person, pony or property.

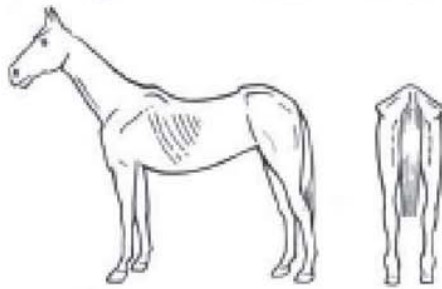
All riders are strongly urged to carry their own insurance and to carry insurance for their pony. Personal public liability insurance can be cheaply obtained with Gold membership of British Horse Society

BODY CONDITION SCORING FOR HORSES AND PONIES

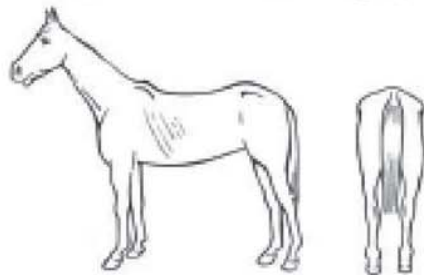
0 Very Poor



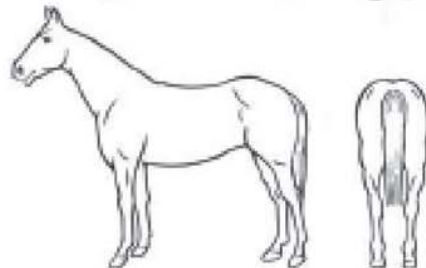
1 Poor



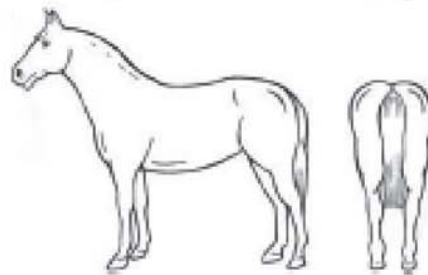
2 Moderate



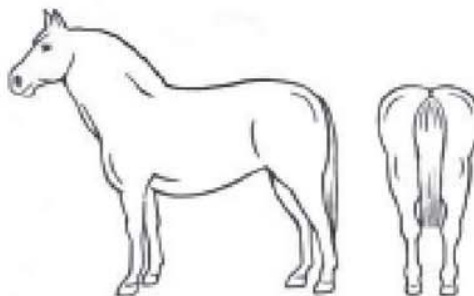
3 Good



4 Fat



5 Very Fat



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C/S	Pelvis	Back and Ribs	Neck
0. Very Poor	Angular, skin tight. Very sunken rump. Deep cavity under tail.	Skin tight over ribs. Very prominent and sharp backbone.	Marked ewe neck. Narrow and slack at base.
1. Poor	Prominent pelvis and croup. Sunken rump but skin supple. Deep cavity under tail.	Ribs easily visible. Prominent back-bone with sunken skin on either side.	Ewe neck, narrow and slack base.
2. Moderate	Rump flat either side of back bone. Croup well defined, some fat. Slight cavity under tail.	Ribs just visible. Backbone covered but spines can be felt.	Narrow but firm.
3. Good	Covered by fat and rounded. No gutter. Pelvis easily felt.	Ribs just covered and easily felt. No gutter along the back. Backbone well covered but spines can be felt.	No crest (except for stallions) firm neck.
4. Fat	Gutter to roof of tail. Pelvis covered by fat. Need firm pressure to feel.	Ribs well covered – need pressure to feel.	Slight crest. Wide and firm.
5. Very Fat	Deep gutter to root of tail. Skin distended. Pelvis buried, cannot be felt.	Ribs buried, cannot be felt. Deep gutter along back. Back broad and flat	Marked crest very wide and firm. Fold of fat.

(Based on the Carroll and Huntington Method.)

To obtain a body score, score the pelvis first, then adjust by half a point if it differs by one point or more to the back or neck.

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Taken from the Code of Practice for the Welfare of Horses, Ponies, Donkeys and Their Hybrids published by DEFRA (https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69389/pb13334-cop-horse-091204.pdf)