

# USEF NEW Bit Checking Procedures for 2024

## TO ALL COMPETITORS:

There is a new DR 126 rule concerning equipment checks. The rule is as follows:

*1.a. Exhibitors must present bridles and bits, if and when requested, to the technical delegate for inspection utilizing the methods, timeframe(s) and location(s) identified by competition management with the agreement of the technical delegate. These methods must be communicated to the competitors prior to the start of the competition. The technical delegate must inspect at least 50% of the bits and bridles of horses entered in the competition. Technical Delegates must also conduct random ringside bit checks immediately after rides are completed, some of which can be included in the 50%, using a new disposable protective glove on each hand for each horse.*

In order to facilitate compliance with the new rule during the competition, the Technical Delegate will be checking equipment utilizing the following methods.

1. The TD will be circulating through the stabling areas routinely during the competition. When you see them, please provide your bridles/bits for inspection.
2. If your bridle is hanging on the stall front with your number, they may be able to inspect it without you having to be present. They will not touch any equipment without someone being present. They will not enter your tack rooms without permission.
3. TDs will conduct random ring side equipment checks immediately after rides are completed. Ride in or haul in competitors may be some of those that are checked at the random ring side equipment checks.
4. TDs may select random competitors after their rides and notify them that they will follow them to their stalls/trailers to complete a bits/bridle inspection. After the bridle is removed, the TD will inspect the bridle/bits.
5. The following approaches are also a possibility but may not be feasible as things happen and set times will often go awry. If the TD arrives on the show grounds the day before the competition starts, they possibly will be able to walk the stables. During the competition, announcements may be made that the TD is available for equipment inspection at a set time and location. Alternative times could be arranged by contacting the TD directly.

Thank you for your help in our being able to comply with the new rule. As this is new for everyone, please bear with us as we work out the kinks in this new protocol. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to management or the TD.

12/2023