

Special Olympics New Mexico
Equestrian
Rules Change Request
April 4, 2018

A meeting was held after the 2017 SONM State Equestrian Competition to discuss allowing the use of hackamores. Those present were Dana Pexa, Carolyn Siebert, Debbie Lamphere, Jane Taylor, Cathy Brunson, Darlene Upham, Venessa Wood, Jan Davidson, Wendy Toombs, and Roxie Burgess.

There was conflicting rules in the Special Olympics Equestrian sports Rules. 15.4.3.2 states: The reins must be held in one hand with the exception of horses ridden with a hackamore or snaffle bit which requires riding with two hands on the reins. 17.1.1.2 –Prohibited equipment – 17.1.1.2.2 Hackamores. Hackamores are allowed according to FEI & AQHA (National Governing Body rules) it is stated in the AQHA Riders with Disabilities rules SHW768.3 Bits or bosal. A snaffle bit, curb bit or bosal/hackamore may be used no matter the age of the horse.

There was discussion and unanimous agreement that we would allow the use of hackamores/bosals.



The picture is the type of the hackamore that Carolyn Siebert & Debbie Lamphere are using in their therapeutic riding business. It is called the Little S Hackamore and this is the hackamore we are recommending. Research shows that this hackamore is very popular with endurance and trail riders. It can come with a waxed rope noseband, leather noseband, or biothane . This hackamore is a fairly gentle one. It could be compared to a mild curb bit. It seems very easy for most horses to understand, whether direct reining or neck reining. It has a clear release of pressure that makes it more pleasant than some other bitless options. Because of the angled-to-the-back (instead of straight down) "S" shape to its shanks it does not have as much leverage as many other common hackamore styles and is therefore considered to be milder than other common styles. The Little S is an excellent choice for most horses going bitless.

It was also unanimously agreed that we would no longer require the Rider Profile. However, any special rider considerations **MUST** be noted in the registration packet so that the games organizers can make arrangements if needed and the judges sheets can be noted.