

# Special Olympics New Mexico Equestrian Rules Changes and Clarifications

Division Level –D

Supported – Rider needs support (could be physical) of one or two side walkers and a horse handler or rider could have a tandem rider. Riders will ride at the walk only. Riders may need help when competing and may need verbal direction on what needs to be done. Horse Handler will give verbal direction when needed and if the rider cannot discern what needs to be done, the horse handler will cue the horse and the judges direction.

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Acceptable Adaptive Equipment: Adapted equipment must be approved by the event director prior to the competition and must be declared on the even registration.

Audio Communications (Visually Impaired Riders)

Bareback Pads

Boot Adaptations

Dowel Reins

Hand Holds (Flexible or Ridged)

Laces to tie stirrups or leathers to girth or cinch

Ladder Reins

Loop Reins

Rein Handles

Rein Handle Tethers

Rubber Bands

Saddle blocks, Wedges, Cushions

Seat Savers

Surcingles

Tapaderos

Whips (one or two)

\*There will be a safety inspection of tack and equipment before riders mount.

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Use of Tie Downs

Tie-Downs will be allowed in speed events only. Tie downs must be leather, flay nylon or rope a minimum of 3/8 inch in diameter.

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## Number of riders per horse

Only 3 riders are allowed to compete on one horse. If three riders share one horse only one of them can be A level.

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## Use of Hackamores

An athlete can show any bit or hackamore, with any type reins, with one or two hands, for all classes and all levels of riders.

This change/clarification has come from Cindy Chilton Moore, the woman who wrote the AQHA Equestrians with Disabilities rules.

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.



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We would no longer require the Rider Profile. However, any special rider considerations MUST be noted in the registration packet so the games organizers can make arrangements if needed and the judges sheets can be noted.