

NOSEBANDS AND BITS WITH CHAINS

If bits with a Curb Chain or Curb Strap are used, the only permitted noseband is a Cavesson.

In Pony Club we must always remember that our main priorities are:

- Safety of the Rider and
- Comfort of the Horse/Pony and
- that we are dealing with children, sometimes very young children, and
- parents who often have little or no knowledge of horses.

From PCASA Rule Book

Dropped, cross-over, grackle, hanoverian or cavesson nosebands may be used. Nosebands must be correctly fitted and not too low on the nose. A cavesson noseband must be used by itself.

When using a Hanoverian (Flash), Grakle, Mexican Grakle, or Dropped Noseband in combination with a bit with a Chain or Strap (Kimblewick, Pelham, Curb etc), or a Pessoa Bit with a Curb Strap, the action of both is reduced when the rider uses the reins.

More importantly there is a very real danger of pinching around the chin groove and lips as the rider takes up the contact with the reins.

This rule was put in place for Pony Club riders many years ago for this reason.

NB:

From the New Zealand Manual No. 1 (Page 191)

- "A dropped noseband must be used only with a snaffle bit – NEVER with a Pelham or Kimblewick."

From the New Zealand Manual No. 2: "(Page 269)

- "Cavesson noseband is the only noseband that should be used with any curb bit."

From the New Zealand Manual No. 2: (Page 271)

- "Any noseband that fits under the bit must be used ONLY with a snaffle.
- "There is not room in the chin-groove for both curb chain (or curb strap) and noseband, therefore one or the other - usually the curb chain - will be pushed up onto the sensitive branches of the lower jaw, causing great discomfort."

From the BHS Manual of Horsemanship 11th Edition, (Page 310)

- Nosebands other than a Cavesson should be used only in conjunction with a snaffle bridle.