

Safety Check Checklist

Rider:

- SEI/ASTM helmet, properly fitted and fastened
- Hair away from face, not used to make helmet fit
- No jewelry except medic alerts, watches, stud earrings, wedding rings (No studs in airways and tongue)
- Pony Club Pin
- Safe, neat, workmanlike attire (Shirt tucked in, belt if belt loops)
- Safe footwear for riding with a heel

Pony:

- Well groomed in accordance with rider's rating level
- Check condition of feet, picked out, shoes (if any) secure
- Galls, cuts, or other wounds attended to

Bridle:

- Check overall fit and all stitching for signs of wear and condition of leather
- Cavesson – 1-2 fingers below cheekbone, snug but not uncomfortably tight
- All strap ends are in keepers, buckles and hooks secured
- Cheek pieces- they should be of equal length. The buckle should be 1-1 ½” above eye and there should be 1-2 spare holes above buckle.
- Crown piece/ Brow band – fits without rubbing or pinching ears
- Throatlatch- Loose enough for the neck to flex, tight enough so it can't be pulled over cheekbones. About a fist width. 1-2 spare holes above buckle.
- Dropped nosebands – rests on edge of nose bone, just above the soft part of the nose, snugly, yet be able to slip a finger underneath
- Flash noseband- the chinstrap buckles below the bit, in the chin groove. It should not pull the cavesson down
- Figure 8 noseband – The upper strap goes under the jaw behind the cheekbones, inside the bridle. The lower strap buckles below the bit, in the chin groove. The small pad rests high on the nose bone, where the straps cross. Both straps should be snug, but not tight.
- Reins – Check at bit and buckle for signs of wear, Check stitching and length

Safety Check Checklist

Bit:

- Check for correct adjustment and size, 1/4"- 1/2" wider than horses mouth
- Snaffle- 2 small wrinkles at corners of lips. Cheek pieces do not bow away from face when reins are tightened
- Pelhams and Kimberwickes - One small wrinkle at corners of lips
- Curb Chain – Twisted so links are flat and adjusted so that when the bit rotates 45 degrees the curb chain comes into contact with the chin groove to tighten chain
- Lip Strap – runs through the center (fly) link and buckles to tiny rings on bit shank

Saddle:

- Check overall fit, tree, condition and cleanliness of leather and stitching
- Safety bar is down/open
- Stirrup leathers – Check soundness of buckles, leather, and stitching. They should be an appropriate length, and a least two spare holes above and one below the buckle when the girth is tightened.
- Stirrup irons – Appropriate size, 1" wider than rider's boot. Pads in good condition, not worn, and should fit snugly in the stirrup. Fillis stirrups must have pads.
- Buckle/billet guards – Required except for saddles with long billets. They should cover the buckles.
- Girth – Check for cleanliness and wear. It should have at least two buckles on each end. It should be adjusted the same on each side with a least two holes above the buckle and one below. Saddle pad strap goes through one of the billet straps.
- Billets - The first billet must be used, but using either the second or third billet is acceptable depending on the fit
- Saddle pad - Straight, fitted to the saddle, pulled up into the gullet, off the withers.

Other Equipment:

- If used-check breastplate, martingale, bell boots, etc. for condition, cleanliness and proper fit. Fitting may vary on make and size of horse. Be sure it is safe and comfortable. Be certain it is appropriate for the sport.

Synthetic Tack:

- Bridles and reins must have a breakaway section
- Leather stirrup leathers recommended, but not required