



IPC CROSS COUNTRY TACK SHEET 2026

To be read by D.C.'s, Trainers, Parents and Competitor

It is the responsibility of competitors to ensure the correct tack is used in conjunction with 2026 Rules. All tack should be properly maintained, correctly fitted & clean when presented for Tack Inspection.

If a Tack Steward finds any gadget/bit or piece of saddlery that in his/her opinion is cruel, the Chief Steward, who has absolute discretion to forbid its use and to ban the respective animal from competition, will be called. Saddlery, which is not allowed for competition may not, upon penalty of elimination, be worn on the day of competition. Actions deemed cruel will eliminate the combination of horse & rider.

Competitor only, may school & ride their horse at competitions.

Bridles: Plain leather preferred. Synthetic bridles must be brown/black. Micklem Bridle allowed. Bit must be attached with leather strap.

Browbands: Plain leather only.

Reins: Plastic or nylon must have a leather insert at buckle end.
Lungeing in side reins is permitted but no other gadgets are allowed.
Running/draw/check forbidden.
No clips attaching reins to bit.

Bit guards If used must be smooth.

Hackamores / Bitless bridles: Not allowed.

Blinkers &/or Sheepskin cheek pieces: Not allowed.

Double bridle Not allowed.

Breastplates Allowed.

Martingales Only running martingales are allowed. Rubber/leather stops to be fitted on reins and neck strap.

Saddles Black or brown of plain English type with full tree and 2 (or

more) buckled girth strap.
Synthetic saddles allowed. No coloured saddles, no felt saddles.

Pinch Boots Not Allowed.

Stirrups Solid stirrups including safety stirrups are allowed. Stirrups must fit correctly.

1 cm space on either side of the foot.

Allowed: Solid stirrups and safety stirrups fitted with peacock leathers and correct rubber bands.

Not allowed: Magnetic stirrups.
For Tetrathlon and Minimus competition Drop Down stirrups are allowed.

Numnahs / Saddle Cloths / Pads

Ideally white, brown or black, which can have the same color piping as the pad. They may contain the Branch logo. Branch name is allowed. Branded pads can only be used if displaying the current competition sponsor. Square pads allowed however those following the line of the saddle look smarter in Show Jumping and Cross Country.

Whips (a maximum of 75cm). Must have flap on end. Or padded paton(max length 70cm)

Studs Care should be taken when using studs. Maximum size of 25mm

Spurs - Blunt only, made of metal without rowels or sharp edges. If curved, the curve must be downward and the shank



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straight back. Metal spurs with rubber rowels and easy spurs allowed. Plastic spurs not allowed

Open/Intermediate: less than or equal to 3cm

Junior: 2cm

Under 12's competition – spurs not allowed.

Impulse/soft touch allowed. Off set & plastic spurs are not allowed.

CROSS COUNTRY BITS:

Must not be cruel or dangerous, at discretion of Tack Inspector/Chief Steward.

No leather or wooden mouthpieces are allowed. Additional covering on any part not allowed.

Optional except that

- a) Elevators are not allowed
- b) Two ring Snaffle allowed. Three ring gag if used fitted with two reins in first ring and any other or a single rein to a rounding attached to first and third ring. For Junior and U12 a single rein in any ring or by a rounding attached to first and third ring. Cheltenham gag allowed with a single rein. Tom Thumb allowed.

Boots/bandages – must be well secured for all competitions.

Body Protectors - Correctly fitted (2cm below rib cage) must be worn for cross-country training & competition. BETA Level 3 (Turquoise) 2018 Standard or any later revision, compulsory for Cross Country.

Key 2026 Safety Context:

- Body protectors used for cross-country must meet the required, up-to-date safety standards (e.g., Level 3 Blue label standards, as applicable, updated in 2024 to BETA 2018).

- The 2026 rules also indicate a continued focus on rider safety with updated, clearer regulations on tack and equipment.

Air jackets –

- **Cross-Country Phase (Mandatory Pairing):** If you choose to wear an air vest for the cross-country phase, it **must** be worn over a permitted [BETA Level 3 body protector](#). An air vest alone is never sufficient for the cross-country or any phase involving solid fences.
- **Recommendation Status: While highly recommended for all jumping phases to enhance rider safety, air vests are currently not a compulsory requirement for competition under FEI 2026 rules.**

Air jackets must only be used in addition to a normal body protector. They should be worn outside the Showjumping jacket if not specifically designed to expand.

Number bibs should fit loosely or with elasticated fastenings over the air jacket. **Based on the FEI Eventing Rules effective from 1 January 2026, which govern international and many national competitions, the rules for air vests (air jackets) are as follows:**

- **Recommendation Only: The use of air vests is recommended for the cross-country phase.**
- **No Compulsory Requirement: They are not a compulsory requirement; they are an optional safety addition.**



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- **Underlying Protector Necessary: If an airbag-style body protector is worn, it must be worn over a permitted, standard body protector for the cross-country phase.**
- **Showjumping/Dressage: Inflatable/air jackets may be worn for the show jumping along with a Beta 3level body protector and dressage phases without a body protector, notes general safety guidance.**

Body-rings/studs/Jewellery/Buttonholes - are forbidden.

Jodhpurs/Breeches – only cream/white/beige.

Hair Nets - Long hair must be tied-up in hair net.

Stocks Self-tied stocks only are compulsory for cross-country competitions. Stocks must be secure. No Stock Pin.

Gaiters if worn If worn must be black or brown leather polished (not suede), with matching boots. Suede allowed for U. 12's.

Sweatshirts Branch colour or black or navy over body protectors or Rugby Shirt permissible for cross country. Long sleeves required. No riding in hoodies.

Number Bibs compulsory for cross country.

Devices: Electronic devices are not allowed in competition.

No recording device is permitted e.g. hat cameras as they may have a negative effect on the performance of the hat in the event of a fall.

Chin Straps - Must be always fastened and should be within “a little finger” width of the underneath of the chin – (not loose) when mounted (on penalty of elimination).

Helmet tighteners Where fitted – should be tight at the back of the helmet – these include dial-fits, strings and strap tighteners – this reduces the chance of helmets falling loose in front of the eyes or bridge of the nose.

Medical Armbands - Compulsory for all cross-country competitions. Current photo identification required on medical armbands



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IPC TACK SHEET SUMMARY CROSS COUNTRY 2026 FOR RIDER

	HAT	SKULL CAP PAS 015 2011 onwards or VG1 01.040 2014-12 (both with BSI Kitemark or Inspec IC Mark) or Snell E2016 or ASTM F1163: 2004a and subsequent updates or AS/NZS 3838 (2006 and any subsequent updates)	BODY PRO- TECTOR BETA BETA Level 3 (Turquoise e) 2018 Standard	G L O V E S	S T O C K SELF TIE	IPC T I E	W H I P S Padded baton whips will be the only whip allowed in 2027 Max length 70cm	SPURS Jnr 2cm Snr. / Int. 3 cm Metal with curve pointed down- ward. Easy spurs allowed. Plastic spurs not allowed Under 12's not allowed use spurs.	C O L O U R S	MEDICAL ARMBAND WITH PHOTO
Eventing	X	C	C	R	C	X	75cm	✓	✓	C
Hunter Trials	X	C	C	R	C	X	75cm	✓	✓	C
Tetrathlon	X	C	C	R	C	X	75cm	✓	✓	C
Minimus	X	C	C	R	C	X	75cm	X	✓	C

HORSE

	BRIDLE (Leather recommended) If using synthetic fiber leather insert in buckle end.			NOSEBAND		RUNNING MARTIN- GALE	GIRTHS Min. of two buckles	BOOTS OR BANDAGE S WELL SECURED	SURCINGLE
	Snaffle	Pelham	Double	Cavesson Drop / Flash Grackle	Kineton				
Eventing	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	C	✓	R
Hunter Trials	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	C	✓	R
Tetrathlon & Minimus	✓	✓	x	✓	✓	✓	C	✓	R

Key to symbols: ✓=permitted, X=forbidden, C=compulsory, R=recommended