

Saddle Seat

ATTIRE OF RIDER/TACK OF HORSE

Refer to Current USEF/EC Rules

Properly fitted, clean tack and clothing along with a well-groomed, neatly clipped horse go a long way toward perfecting the ultimate final picture. Some judges have even been known to check the bottom of a rider's boots for cleanliness, so be prepared! Horses must be shown in full bridle and with a flat english-type saddle.

Informal saddle suits should be of a conservative, preferably dark color, which appears to be solid. Small pinstripes or herringbone-type patterns are acceptable as long as the material appears from a distance to be of a solid nature. According to the *USEF Rule Book*, accessories are to be the same color as the suit itself. Taken literally, this would mean that derbies, boots, ties, vests, hatbands and gloves must all match. However, at this time the Arabian division (and others) is tolerant of and will allow contrasting derbies, ties, boots, hatbands, vest and gloves, but the key word to remember when considering them is *conservative*. The coat, vest and jodphurs must be from the same bolt of fabric. An emerald green to fire engine red derby may match your vest, but is definitely not conservative and should be avoided. This also applies to contrasting hatbands and gloves as well as derbies. A safe rule of thumb to follow is that if a contrasting derby is worn, it should be the same color family as the riding habit but may be several shades lighter or darker. It is also reasonable to assume that if you have doubts as to whether a particular color of fabric is conservative, then others will probably have the same doubts and you would be wise to choose something else. Day coats are not permitted.

Formal attire is even more conservative and may be worn only after 6:00 pm. It is recommended, but not mandatory, that tuxedos be worn in the evening, so judges should not penalize riders who do not wear them. There is no allowance for formal attire of contrasting colors, with one exception made for gloves. This means the collar and lapels must be of the same color as the jacket and the top hat must match the entire ensemble. White or black tie may be worn but no contrasting tie/cummerbund sets. Also, either black or white gloves are proper but keep in mind that white gloves draw attention to the hands, so make sure yours are very good before you wear white gloves. Finally, if earrings are worn, they should be small and also conservative. Small stud earrings are more appropriate for formal attire.

Spurs, if worn, must be unrowelled and not so large that they noticeably interfere with the smooth line of the jod pants. A whip or crop is optional, but if used should be of an appropriate length.

Exhibitors are reminded to always refer to current *USEF/EC Rule Books* for specific rules regarding Saddle Seat attire and tack. Exhibitors are reminded to refer to the current *AHA Handbook* for procedures.