

# **Apparel for Hunter/Jumper Competition**

*(for Equine Canada sanctioned competitions)*

## **General:**

**RULES:** *All competitors must be properly dressed within the confines of the arena, including during the inspection of the course and prize-giving. Neatly and suitably dressed in coat, shirt and tie, choker, or stock; breeches or jodhpurs, and boots. Only approved helmets of a conservative colour are allowed. If competitors are not suitably dressed, the judge may refuse to allow them to compete.*

## **Helmets**



**RULES:** *Anyone mounted on a horse must wear an ASTM/SEI, BSI/BS EN, EN or AS/NZS approved protective headgear at all times, with the harness securely attached. Must be a conservative colour in the show ring.*

*Juniors showing any horse in a jog for soundness must wear ASTM/SEI/BSI/EN/AS/NZS approved protective headgear with the harness securely attached.*

*If the harness becomes undone or the helmet falls off, the competitor must do up the harness and/or retrieve the helmet (with assistance if necessary) before the next obstacle is taken. Failure to do so results in elimination.*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A dark, conservative ASTM approved helmet is recommended. Helmets with vents are cooler in the summer and may be particularly important for children who may not be aware that they are becoming overheated.

## **FITTING:**

All helmets should sit with the brim horizontal to the ground and above the eyebrows. They should fit snugly, so that when the brim is gently wiggled, the rider's forehead moves with it. The hat should not move as the rider trots, canters, etc., whether the harness is attached or not. There should not be any pressure points on the rider's head; in that case, it is better to try a different fit (i.e. 'long oval') or a different brand altogether. If need be, the rider can go a size up and use foam padding to fill in the gaps and ensure an secure fit. The harness is designed to keep the helmet in the correct position in the event of a fall; it should always be fastened securely.

If a rider with long, thick hair usually schools with her hair loose or in a pony tail, it may be necessary to have one helmet for schooling and one for showing as the hair is normally tucked into the helmet when competing, which may require a larger size to fit comfortably.

## **Hair**



**RULES:** *No regulation.*

## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Unless a rider has very thick and long hair (in which case it may need to be in a long braid), the rider's hair should not be noticeable. It should be hidden within the helmet in a hairnet, or, in the case of girls on ponies two braids are also acceptable.

## **FITTING:**

Hairnets – All of the rider's hair should be covered by the hairnet. With long hair it is usual to put it in a ponytail, fold it up over the back and top of the head and then contain it in the hairnet.

## Shirts



### RULES:

*Jumpers: Shirt with choker, stock, or tie. When permitted by the Competitions Committee, jumper riders may not have to wear jackets. In that case they will be permitted to wear dress or riding shirts, with or without chokers and ties, or open-neck polo shirts. Shirts must be neatly tucked into breeches.*

*No sweatshirts, t-shirts, tank tops or similar dress permitted.*

*Hunters: Shirt with choker, stock, or tie. In extremely hot weather, jackets may not be necessary.*

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

A long-sleeved shirt in white (or a colour which coordinates well with the rider's jacket) with about  $\frac{3}{4}$ " of cuff showing out of the jacket sleeve presents the most 'finished' picture in the **hunter** ring. A snap collar or choker are both acceptable.

For informal or hot-weather **jumper** classes, the rider can wear a solid-coloured polo shirt with a collar. Avoid wild colours & prints, and note t-shirts or anything sleeveless is not permitted. In classes requiring a jacket (including all **equitation** classes), a long-sleeved shirt with about an inch of cuff showing out of the jacket sleeve is most correct.

### FITTING:

The shirt must be long enough that it stays tucked into the breeches at all times. It will be most comfortable if it is form-fitting enough not to have too much bulk inside the jacket, but not so tight it will constrict the rider's movements.

## **Ties, etc.**



**RULES:** *A tie, stock, or choker may be worn*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A choker or wrap-neck snap collar is standard in hunter, equitation and formal jumper classes. Men and boys wear a regular shirt with a collar and tie.

### **FITTING:**

The choker normally has a small buttonhole which fastens on the lower of the two buttons on the collar of the shirt, and fastens in the back with buttons, snaps or Velcro. Make sure the shirt collar is covered and the choker is straight. A loose choker looks sloppy and a tight one is uncomfortable, so sometimes it is necessary to make slight adjustments to the choker that comes with the shirt. A wrap neck collar offers a nice presentation as well and should fit comfortably around the neck. Minor alterations of the snaps can help provide greater comfort and a polished look.

## Jackets



**RULES:** *Required unless waived by the competition organizing committee due to inclement or extremely hot weather.*

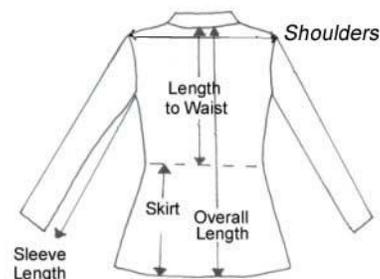
### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A tailored, three-button jacket in a conservative colour that looks well with the horse's colour is recommended. Navy or black are the best choices for equitation and formal jumper classes, but any colour is allowed. Show jackets have traditionally been a lightweight wool, however technical fabrics with some stretch are cooler and becoming more popular.

### **FITTING:**

There are four key areas to focus on when selecting a jacket. First of all, the jacket should be roomy enough in the shoulders, arms and body to allow the rider to move freely, but still present a streamlined, fitted look. Some of the fabrics with stretch make this much easier to achieve.

The overall length of the jacket has two components – from the neck to the waist ('short', 'regular', and 'tall' or 'long'), and from the waist to the hem of the coat. It is most important to get the length to the waist correct – if the waist (narrowest) part of the jacket doesn't correspond with the rider's narrowest part, the jacket will not hang correctly. The length of the 'skirt' (waist to hem) is less critical; some riders prefer a slightly longer or shorter coat and it does not necessarily detract from the overall picture, but the standard hem usually lies about even with the most prominent part of the rider's seat when viewed from the side. Some of the more European styled



JACKET FITTING MEASUREMENTS

jackets seen in the jumper ring are quite a bit shorter than that. Hunter/jumper jackets are shorter than those seen in the dressage ring.

### **Body Protective Vests**



#### **RULES:**

*A body protective vest may be worn in colours permitted for jackets.*

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

An SEI/ASTM or BETA-approved vest will provide a tested degree of protection for the ribcage, chest and spine against bruising in case of a fall. Choose the vest which is most comfortable and provides freedom of movement.

#### **FITTING:**

Protective vests should cover the collar bone down to just below the ribs in front, and from the base of the neck to just above the tailbone in back. The arm holes need to be big enough for freedom of movement; the back should not be so long that it interferes with the saddle when the rider sits down or jumps; and the vest should feel form-fitting without being constricting. They are adjusted on the sides and front with Velcro, zippers, and/or lacing, so once the correct length is found, the width is usually easy to fit.

## **Breeches**



**RULES:** *Required.*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Most popular at present are front or side zip low-rise ‘Euro-seat’ (there is a seam running up the back of each leg and rounding over the seat) breeches in beige or tan, khaki or light grey. White breeches are seen in the more formal jumper classes and certain equitation classes. You should wear a (usually brown) belt with your show breeches as it presents a much more ‘finished’ look when riding without a jacket, and also may save the day should your button or zipper malfunction!

### **FITTING:**

The two things to consider for fitting breeches are the leg length and the rise to the waist. There are no standard leg lengths for ‘regular’ or ‘long’, so you may need to try on breeches from different manufacturers to find the ones that suit you, but not all breeches come in more than one leg length. Regular rise breeches work best with taller riders and longer upper bodies. Mid-rise or low-rise are a matter of personal preference, but take care with low-rise breeches that they are high enough in the back so that your shirt will stay neatly tucked in when you are jumping or riding without a jacket on.

## **Boots**



**RULES:** *Breeches and tall boots, or jodhpurs and paddock boots.*

*Black or brown smooth leather half-chaps and matching paddock boots are permitted.*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Black Field boots with laces at the ankles are the ‘most correct’ footwear for showing hunters and jumpers, but as the rules state, there is quite a bit of leeway in this area and, depending on your budget and particular challenges presented by some rider’s legs and feet, you can certainly be properly turned out in one of the alternatives.

Zippers make tall boots much easier to get into and take off, but they are also the weakest point on a boot and it is not abnormal to have to replace the zippers every couple of years under normal use.

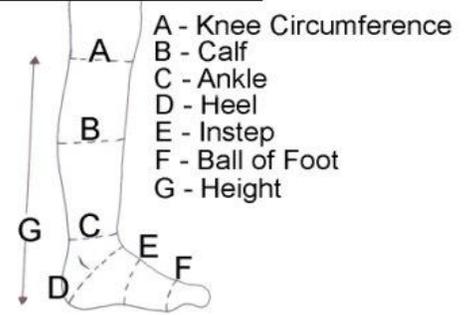
Always store boots standing up with boot trees inserted; this is probably the biggest single thing you can do to prolong the life of your boots. Waterproofing the feet is also a good idea, and make sure the zippers are kept clean and free of grease or soap. When you clean your boots, giving the zippers a quick once-over with a dampened nail brush and a spritz of WD-40 will help make them last.

### **FITTING:**

Comfortable feet and the right height and width of calf are the most important things to consider when fitting boots. The hunter and jumper rider bends the knee and flexes at the ankles so the most comfortable boots are softer leather and are generally only lined around the top to provide a close feel of the horse. A long, slim, elegant-looking

leg is most desirable, and because field boots 'drop' (wrinkle at the ankles and thus become 'shorter') as they are broken in, it is important to buy boots that are almost too tall when brand new – around 2-4 centimetres taller than what is immediately comfortable, depending on the boots.

### Boot Measurements



Paddock Boots and Half-Chaps: If you plan to show in this option it is wise to go with black. It will present the most traditional appearance and you won't have the worry about matching the brown of the boots with the half-chaps. Essentially, you select a paddock boot (either lace-up or zippered style) that is comfortable, and then choose a leather half chap of the correct height and width for your calf. Half-chaps should fit very snugly so they don't slip down, and the zippers should be maintained just like on regular boots.

### Gloves



**RULES:** *No regulation*

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Black or dark brown gloves are most acceptable. Look for a cool glove with good grip for the summer. A washable glove is a bonus as they tend to get sweaty and smelly fairly quickly. Make sure you school in gloves at least some of the time, or they will feel quite foreign when you wear them at a show. It's not a bad idea to have two sets of gloves; one you wear most of the time and one for shows. Take your 'schooling' pair to the show as a back-up.

#### **FITTING:**

A comfortable glove is a well-fitting glove. Gloves from different manufacturers fit differently, so try several to find the best ones for your hands.

## **Spurs**



**RULES:** *No regulation. In Equitation, spurs must not have rowels.*

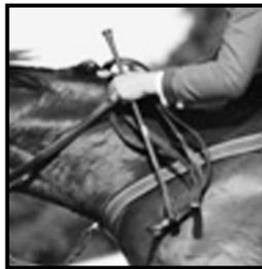
### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Whether you wear spurs or not is up to you and your coach. If you sometimes ride with them, bring them even if you don't plan to use them – sometimes they are useful in the warm-up or at the end of the day as the horse gets tired.

### **FITTING:**

The arms of the spurs should lie horizontal, at a height on the boots at which they are most effective. Stainless steel spurs can usually be gently bent by hand to make a slightly tighter or looser fit on your boots. The buckle on spur straps should lie at the center or to the outside of the rider's foot on each side, and should be trimmed to fit neatly, without loose ends flapping about. Leather straps should be cleaned and polished the same as your riding boots.

## **Whips**



**RULES:** *A whip up to 75cm (29 ½") may be carried, except in hack classes where they are not permitted. Exception: Dressage whips up to 120cm are permissible on the flat in schooling areas.*

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

A dark, conservative colour is recommended. Pick one with a comfortable handle for your hand and one that feels balanced. Mark your name on it. As with spurs, bring your whip whether you plan to use it or not.