



International Mounted Games Association Rules Committee

Rule Change Request Document

Name: **Bridget Scott**

Country: **Scotland**

Type of Change

Clarify understanding of existing rule		Major change to existing rule	
Minor enhancement		Major new concept	
Minor change to existing rule	X		

Effective Date

Immediate	X	Next calendar year	
-----------	----------	--------------------	--

Summary of Change Requested:

Add to the section 'Guidance on allowed tack' and GR4.6 "A standing martingale may NOT be attached to the noseband of a bitless bridle"

Current Rule Book Wording:

No current guidance on the use of standing martingales with bitless bridles

Suggested New Rule Book Wording:

GR4.6 "A standing martingale may NOT be attached to the noseband of a bitless bridle"
(also add this sentence to the page with photographs of allowed bitless bridles in the section Guidance On Allowed Tack)

Reason for Change Request:

The question was raised by a trainer as to whether a standing martingale could be used with a bitless bridle. Advice from professional bit and bridle fitter was that standing martingales should not be used attached to the noseband of a bitless bridle as they interfere with the action of the bitless bridle.

For Internal Use Only:

Reference:	2026-11
------------	---------

Submission Date:	26/05/2026
------------------	------------

Decision Date:	30/05/2026
----------------	------------

Votes	
Luigi Irollo	In favour
Jens Martin	In favour
Warwick Slade	In favour
Margaret Welsby	In favour
Jake O'Connor	In favour
Mark Crowe	In favour
Bridget Scott	In favour
Total In Favour:	7
Total Not In Favour:	0

Result:	Accepted
---------	----------

Actual Adopted New Rule Book Wording:

GR4.6 "A standing martingale may NOT be attached to the noseband of a bitless bridle"
(also add this sentence to the page with photographs of allowed bitless bridles in the section Guidance On Allowed Tack)

Reason for Decision:

A standing martingale would interfere with the desired action of a bitless bridle. Excess pressure, caused if the horse pushes into the resistance from the standing martingale, could lead to damage of the soft tissues over the bridge of the nose.

Implementation Date:	Immediate
----------------------	-----------