

JOIN THE RED REIN REVOLUTION

Are you one of the many riders who would like to compete bitless but cannot because of FEI, national federation or Pony Club rules that mandate one or more bits? Here is a way in which you can signal your protest. The rationale for enhancing the safety and welfare of horse and rider by approving the crossunder bitless bridle for all disciplines is undeniable.

Follow the example of 10-year-old Siobhan, a Pony Club member who has been riding for a year and has learned to prefer the crossunder bitless bridle. She was recently thrown from her pony three times at a PC Gymkhana because her pony resented the pain of the bit. The pony's behaviour was completely 'out of character' for this otherwise compliant horse. We should raise a red flag to reduce the frequency of bit-related accidents at all levels. The need for a more humane and safer rein-aid is urgent.

Using red electrical (insulating) tape, wind 'a red flag' around your reins for a distance of two inches (5 cm), starting about a hand's breadth from the snaffle ring and curb. Do this whenever you compete, train and when you are riding bitless. Encourage others to do the same when they ask – "Why the red tape?"



Siobhan in the warm-up ring, prior to three bit-induced falls

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