Guidelines:

Side Saddle Tack for the Australian showring/competition

By the Australian Side Saddle Community.

The condition, safety, and security of all gear are critical when participating in side saddle events. Side Saddles should be correctly fitted for both the horse and rider.

ENGLISH SIDE SADDLE AND PRESENTATION

- If the saddle includes a roller bar, it must be paired with an appropriate safety stirrup.
- Numnah/Pads: A side saddle-shaped saddle pad or numnah. Some riders choose to forgo this option.
- No coloured browbands are allowed. Except for 'Best Presented' classes.
- Martingales, Boots, and Bandages are NOT permitted during competition.
- Balance Strap: Though not mandatory, the balance strap is optional on modern saddles. However, be mindful that some horses may not be comfortable with them. Not all side saddles have a balance strap.

WESTERN SIDE SADDLE AND PRESENTATION

- Must use a Western saddle.
- American/Eastern side saddles are not allowed in western classes.
- A Western bridle is required.
- A standard western blanket.
- Reins can be either romal or closed.

Specific Gear Rules:

- Girths: Girths with elastic ends are not permitted.
- Youth Riders (Under 18): Youth competitors must ride with a simple snaffle bit.
- Adult Riders: Adults may choose to ride with a double bridle or use a Pelham bit with double reins.

This helps ensure uniformity and safety in side saddle competitions while also preserving the tradition and elegance of the discipline, whether you're riding in an English or Western style.