



8 POINT SADDLE CHECK



The center of the saddle seat (Sweet spot) should lie parallel to the ground. The balance is the most important factor determining the position of the rider.



The saddle should not twist or fall to one side when viewed from the back.



Dependent upon the anatomy of the horse (mutton or high withered), 1-3 fingers clearance above the wither and 1-2 fingers on either side.



Wide enough that the panel does NOT interfere with spinal processes or dorsal ligament system (6-7 fingers at front tapering to 4-6 fingers minimum at the back). Daylight clearance should be visible above the spine.



While running the hand along the horse under the panel and applying pressure to the seat there should be even pressure from front to back. There should be no "bridging" or rocking.



Billets should hang perpendicular to the ground and place the girth in the correct position (one hand-width behind the elbow).



While applying pressure to the pommel, run the hand from the top of the withers to the bottom under the tree points of the saddle. There should be less pressure at the top and it should become tighter towards the bottom. This ensures that the muscle and scapula have the freedom to move underneath the tree points.



The saddle must not exert any pressure behind the last rib on the horse's back. To locate the last rib, look at the hair on the flank. You will notice that hair comes from two directions and forms a line down the flank. Straight up from this line in the hair is the last rib. The saddle panels should not extend beyond this line.