

SUBJECT: Rewrite of Sport Horse Rules in USEF/EC Rulebooks (USEF/EC)

(This section to be completed by the Agenda and Resolutions Committee.)

Committees required to review:

Committee Action:

Approve

Disapprove

Sport Horse Committee

USEF Arabian Division Committee

CONVENTION ACTION:

_____ Approved

_____ Approved with Modification

_____ Disapproved

_____ Withdrawn

_____ Referred to Committee _____

RESOLUTION:

(Refer to Article 901 for submission requirements.)

Whereas, The sport horse division is becoming more popular each year; and

Whereas, It is desirable to have the rules for this division be as easily understood as possible; and

Whereas, The format for this section had been different from the other sections in the Arabian rules Chapter; Therefore, Be It

Resolved, That the USEF Chapter 12 be deleted and replaced with the following

“CHAPTER XII – SPORT HORSE SECTION

Article 1649. Purpose.

- 1. To evaluate and encourage the breeding of Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo Arabian horses suitable for dressage, working hunter, eventing, jumper, combined driving, competitive trail and endurance; and to provide an opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of breeding programs. Form to function will be emphasized.

Article 1649A. General

- 1. In-Hand, under saddle and show hack sport horse classes for 1) Arabians and 2) Half-Arabians/Anglo Arabian sport horses may be held separately or in conjunction with any recognized Arabian competition. Sport horse in-hand, under saddle and sport horse show hack classes may be held for stallions, mares and geldings. Refer to Chapter XXVII for rules on Half-Arabians and Anglo Arabians and 1699W.4 for eligibility of stallions to show.
- 2. In-Hand classes may be held in any age groups deemed appropriate by competition management and published in their prize list with the exception that horses of one sex shall not be judged against those of the opposite sex. Specified group classes or specified championship classes are excepted. See Art. 1699X.3. Judge must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors or their entries. A whip may be used to guide the horse. Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries shall be severely penalized. See Articles 1607.6 for additional causes for mandatory elimination from the arena or designated judging area. See also Article 1607.7.
 - 2.1 Group Classes- Get of Sire (without sire) – two or three offspring entered under the sire’s name; and Produce of Dam (without dam) – two or three offspring entered under the dam’s name. Multiple ownership permitted, all owners must be listed. More than one entry per sire/dam is permitted in the same class. All horses must have been judged in their individual in-hand classes.
 - 2.2 SPORT HORSE IN-HAND CHAMPIONS AND RESERVES shall be at least two years of age. The Champion shall be the top scoring horse in each section for which a Championship is offered, and the Reserve Champion shall be the horse with the second highest score in their section. This is determined by points, without further showing. Special overall Grand Championships or Junior Championships may be offered at the discretion of competition management. Details must be included in the prize list.
 - 2.3 Articles 1601, 1602, 1604, and 1605, apply to Sport Horse in-hand classes.

- 55 2.4 Articles 1601, 1602, 1604, 1605, 1612, 1613, and 1614 apply to Sport Horse Under Saddle and Sport Horse Show
56 Hack classes.
- 57 3. When possible, the announcement of placings will include the breeding of the horses placed: sire and dam as well
58 as the name of the owner and breeder.
- 59 4. Sport Horse In-Hand Classes. Conformation is to be evaluated in terms of potential trainability, potential
60 performance and predisposition to soundness. Form to function is to be emphasized. Blemishes are not to count
61 unless resulting from conformation faults. Gaits are to be evaluated in terms of purity, quality and correctness.
62 Correct gaits which contribute to ease in training and the horse remaining sound and useable are most important.
63 Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile. Correctness is judged mainly while the horse is coming to and going
64 from the judge's position. Colts and stallions two years and over must have both testicles descended.

65 Article 1649B. Appointments

- 66 1. Braiding is optional.
- 67 2. Boots or bandages of any kind are forbidden during a class. (Exception: Article 1612.7)
- 68 3. SPORT HORSE IN-HAND CLASSES. Bridles mandatory on horses three years and older. A bridle shall be
69 dressage or hunter type with snaffle bit, with or without cheeks, keepers allowed, reins and headstall with
70 throatlatch. Noseband is optional. A split or single chain may be used with or instead of reins. Horses age two
71 years may be shown in a bridle or a plain leather stable halter. Horses under the age of two years must be shown in
72 plain leather stable halters.
- 73 3.1 The handler may carry only one whip, maximum length 6', including lash and without attachments; i.e. plastic bags,
74 ribbons, etc.
- 75 3.2 Conservative casual attire is recommended for the handler. Dressage or hunter attire is also appropriate. Gloves,
76 hat, vest, jacket are optional. (See Art. 318.1)
- 77 4. SPORT HORSE UNDER SADDLE CLASSES. Dressage or hunter type bridle required, with a snaffle, with or
78 without cheeks, keepers allowed; or a pelham. Kimberwicks are prohibited. Unconventional bits may be penalized
79 at the discretion of the judge. Martingales prohibited, breastplates permitted. Type of saddle shall be dressage or
80 forward seat. Girth may be leather or other suitable material.
- 81 4.1 Dressage (Art. 1920.1) or informal hunter (Art. 1636.5) attire required. Rider may carry a whip or crop, maximum
82 length 4'.
- 83 5. SPORT HORSE SHOW HACK CLASSES. Dressage or hunter style bridles, single snaffle or double bridle or
84 pelham bit acceptable. Converters on pelham bit not permitted. Kimberwick bit is not permitted. If using a double
85 bridle, the lever arm (length below mouthpiece) must not exceed 10 cm. (3.94"). The inside diameter of the bridoon
86 ring must not exceed 3.15". Non-conforming bits may be penalized at the judge's discretion. Martingales not
87 permitted. Type of saddle must be dressage or forward seat. Girth may be leather or other suitable material.
- 88 5.1 Conservatively colored dark coat, breeches and boots, with hunting cap, derby or protective headgear. Protective
89 headgear may be worn without penalty (See Gen. Rules, Art. 318). Formal attire consisting of white breeches, top
90 hat and shadbelly coat may be worn. It is usual to wear such attire after 6:00 p.m. or in championship classes.

91
92 *TAKE OUT CURRENT 1649D – COMPETITION VETERINARIAN This issue is covered in General Rules – Article*
93 *1040.4.1 and 4.2, and Article 1205.*

94
95 1649C. Qualifying Gaits.

- 96 Innate quality movement is a priority in the sport horse classes. All gaits should be pure in rhythm, and should be
97 without tension or resistance.
- 98 1. (a) Walk.(also Normal Walk) The rhythm of the walk is 4 beats. The walk is to be regular and unconstrained.
99 (b) Collected Walk. The rhythm is 4 beats. The stride maintains the marching quality of the normal walk, with
100 hindlegs well engaged. The stride covers less ground but tends to be higher than the normal walk.
- 101 (c) Extended Walk. The rhythm is 4 beats. While maintaining the march quality, the horse does not rush, but with
102 regular steps, will clearly show the hind feet touching the ground in front of the footprints of the forefeet. The
103 rider allows the horse to stretch forward with head and neck, but does not release contact with the mouth.
- 104 2. (a) Trot. (also Normal Trot). The rhythm of the trot is 2 beats. The trot is free, active and regular. The steps should
105 be balanced and elastic with the horse demonstrating a supple back and well engaged hindquarters,
106 (b) Collected Trot. The rhythm is 2 beats. The horse continues to move forward with impulsion, and demonstrates
107 an ability to further engage the hocks, which allows the shoulders of the horse to become lighter and the stride
108 to become shorter. The neck is raised and arched, but not constrained.
- 109 (c) Extended Trot. The rhythm is 2 beats. The horse covers as much ground as possible, while maintaining
110 regularity and balance. The stride lengthens as a result of great impulsion. The rider allows the horse, while
111 remaining on the bit, to reach with its frame. The forefeet should touch the ground where they point. The
112 transitions to and from should be balanced and smoothly executed.

- 113 3. (a) Canter (also Normal Canter). The rhythm of the canter is 3 beats. The canter should be light, cadenced (rhythm
114 with a suitable tempo combined with springy impulsion) and regular. Transitions should be without hesitation and
115 balanced. The canter should always be straight on straight lines.
- 116 (b) Collected Canter. The rhythm is 3 beats. The horse moves forward with impulsion, through increased
117 engagement of the hindquarters and lightness of the forehand. The neck is raised and arched but not
118 constrained. The back remains supple and the strides are shorter.
- 119 (c) Extended Canter. The rhythm is 3 beats. The horse covers as much ground as possible while maintaining
120 regularity and balance. The stride lengthens as a result of great impulsion from the hindquarters and the rider
121 allows the horse to lower and extend the neck, without losing contact with the bit, or leaning.
- 122 4. Lengthening Stride – when a lengthening of stride is requested at walk, trot, or canter, the horse should maintain
123 rhythm, regularity and balance, while reaching with the frame and stride. The rider should maintain contact with the
124 bit, while allowing the lengthening. The strides should be more ground covering and the horse should remain calm
125 and supple.
- 126 5. Hand Gallop. The rhythm is 3 beats. The hand gallop is performed with long, free, ground covering strides. The
127 amount of ground covered will vary between horses due to the difference in the natural length of stride. The hand
128 gallop shows a looser, freer elongation of stride and frame of the horse. The horse must remain mannerly, correct,
129 and straight. Extreme speed to be penalized.
- 130 6. Rein-back. The rhythm is 2 beats. The feet are raised and set down by diagonal pairs. The horse should remain
131 calm and obedient, lifting and setting down the feet, without shuffling.

132 Article 1649D. Conduct of Classes.

- 133 1. ARABIAN SPORT HORSE IN-HAND CLASSES. The AHA Individual Score Sheet shall be used. Each Judge
134 will be assigned a scribe who will record scores and comments as dictated by the judge. Horses will be shown
135 individually on the triangle. Following a posted or announced order, or on request from the judge, entries in each
136 class will approach the judging area one at a time, walking to the apex of the triangle. Conformation judging may
137 take place before or after performance on the triangle, so wait for the judge's instructions. Wait for the judge's
138 request to proceed on the triangle. The handler will lead the horse on the perimeter of the triangle at the walk and
139 trot, returning to the apex and wait for further instructions. At the completion of the judging the handler will lead
140 the horse away from the judging area. The triangle may be adjusted to fit local conditions.
- 141 1.2 Triangle corners should be well defined. A marker will be used at the apex and at each corner to define placement
142 of the turn for the exhibitor. Use of plants or flowers is allowed.
- 143 2. The horse is to be shown in an "open position" for conformation judging. The traditional way of showing open
144 position would be with the right front leg slightly back and the right hind leg slightly forward; but as long as all four
145 legs of the horse are visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse, this would be acceptable. The
146 horse's head and neck should be allowed to show in a natural and comfortable carriage, and the handler should stand
147 away from the horse with a loose lead line.
- 148 3. ARABIAN SPORT HORSE GROUPS IN-HAND (Get of Sire/Produce of Dam). The AHA Group Score Sheet shall
149 be used. Each Judge will be assigned a scribe who will record scores and comments as dictated by the judge.
150 Groups will be examined one group at a time, but not necessarily on the triangle. The judge will require the
151 individuals of each group to move at the walk and trot. Horses shall stand for conformation judging before and/or
152 after completion of the group's movement.
- 153 4. Foals may not be shown loose.
- 154 5. All horses to be awarded Championships In-Hand, will be called to the arena as a group and remain while all
155 Championship awards are given. The awards will be presented as soon as possible, following the last In-Hand class.
- 156 6. ARABIAN SPORT HORSE UNDER SADDLE. To enter the ring counterclockwise at the trot. To be shown at the
157 walk, trot and canter, both directions of the ring. Judge may request lengthening of stride at any gait and may
158 request horses to back in the line-up.
- 159 7. ARABIAN SPORT HORSE SHOW HACK. To enter the ring counterclockwise at the normal walk or normal trot.
160 To be shown at the walk, trot and canter - collected, normal and extended gaits to be called for, and the hand gallop.
161 Horses should stand quietly and back readily.
- 162 8. Judges are required to consider the performance at each gait equally in adjudicating Sport Horse Under Saddle and
163 Sport Horse Show Hack classes.

164 Article 1649E. Arabian Sport Horse Class Specifications.

- 165 1. IN-HAND CLASSES. Horses shall be shown at the walk and trot on the triangle. The AHA Score Sheet is divided
166 as follows:
167 Movement – 40% (20% for walk and 20% for trot)
168 Conformation – 40%
169 Expression, Manners, Willingness – 10%
170 Quality, Balance and Harmony, Suitability as a Sport Horse – 10%
- 171 Transmissible weaknesses or predisposition to unsoundness shall be penalized commensurate with severity.

- 172 2. GROUP CLASSES. (Get of Sire/Produce of Dam). Horses will be judged at the walk and trot, but not necessarily
173 on the triangle. Horse shall stand for conformation judging before and/or after completion of the group's movement.
174 The AHA Score Sheet is divided as follows:
175 Movement – 40% (20% for walk and 20% for trot)
176 Conformation – 40%
177 Quality and Uniformity of Quality (Reproductive likeness) – 10%
178 Overall Quality, Balance, Harmony (Apparent ability of sire or dam to produce or beget Sport Horse performance or
179 breeding stock – 10%
- 180 3. UNDER SADDLE CLASSES. To be shown at the walk, trot and canter, both directions of the ring. Judge may
181 request lengthening of stride at any gait and may request horses to back in the line up.
- 182 3.1 OPEN, MAIDEN, NOVICE, LIMIT, STALLIONS, MARES, GELDINGS, LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be
183 judged on performance (purity and quality of gaits), manners, conformation, suitability as a Sport Horse and quality.
- 184 3.2 CHAMPIONSHIP. To be eligible, horse must have been entered, shown and judged in a designated Open
185 qualifying class in the Sport Horse Under Saddle section at that competition. To be judged on performance (purity
186 and quality of gaits.), manners, conformation, suitability as a Sport Horse and quality.
- 187 3.3 JUNIOR HORSE. To be judged on quality, suitability as a Sport Horse, performance (purity and quality of gaits),
188 conformation and manners.
- 189 3.4 JUNIOR HORSE CHAMPIONSHIP. To be eligible, horse must have been entered, shown and judged in a
190 designated Junior Horse qualifying class in the Sport Horse Under Saddle section at that competition. To be judged
191 on quality, suitability as a Sport Horse, performance (purity and quality of gaits), conformation and manners.
- 192 3.5 ATR, AOTR, AAOTR, JTR, JOTR. To be judged on manners, performance (purity and quality of gaits), suitability
193 as a Sport Horse, conformation and quality.
- 194 3.6 CHAMPIONSHIP – ATR, AOTR, AAOTR, JTR, JOTR. To be eligible, horse must have been entered, shown and
195 judged in a designated Amateur horse qualifying class in the Sport Horse Under Saddle section at that competition.
196 To be judged on manners, performance (purity and quality of gaits), suitability as a Sport Horse, conformation and
197 quality.
- 198 4. SPORT HORSE SHOW HACK CLASSES. To be shown at a walk, trot, and canter – collected, normal and
199 extended gaits to be called for, and the hand gallop. Horses should stand quietly and back readily.
- 200 4.1 OPEN, MAIDEN, NOVICE, LIMIT, STALLIONS, MARES, GELDINGS, LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be
201 judged on performance, manners, quality and conformation.
- 202 4.2 CHAMPIONSHIP. To be eligible, horse must have been entered, shown and judged in a designated Open
203 qualifying class in the Sport Horse Show Hack section at that competition. To be judged on performance, manners,
204 quality and conformation.
- 205 4.3 ATR, AOTR, AAOTR, JTR, JOTR. To be judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation.
- 206 4.4 CHAMPIONSHIP – ATR, AOTR, AAOTR, JTR, JOTR. To be eligible, horse must have been entered, shown and
207 judged in a designated Amateur horse qualifying class in the Sport Horse Show Hack section at that competition.
208 To be judged on manners, performance, quality and conformation.
- 209 Article 1649F. Scoring Procedures.
- 210 1. The judge shall use the AHA approved individual score sheets for individual classes, and the individual group score
211 sheet for group classes (Get of Sire/Produce of Dam). The AHA score sheets will be provided to competition
212 management by AHA. Competition management may make as many individual copies as necessary for their
213 competition. Score sheets are not required for Sport Horse Under Saddle, or Sport Horse Show Hack classes.
- 214 2. Decimals may be used in scoring.
- 215 3. A scribe shall be provided for each judge whose main duty is to record the judge's scores and comments on the
216 score sheets. The scribe may be asked to transfer scores from the individual sheets to the master score sheet.
- 217 4. Tied scores shall be broken first by referring to the totals of the movement scores. If still tied, the tie may be broken
218 at the judge's discretion by the use of decimals, or the horses may be examined again (movement only).
- 219 5. When more than one judge is officiating, each judge will have a separate triangle, separate score sheets and scribes.
220 When more than one judge is officiating and there should be a tie still existing after re-examination, the call judge
221 shall break the tie.
- 222 6. Scores shall be reported as a total based on the slated percentages against a possible total of 100% and all scores and
223 placings must be posted. Unofficial scores may be posted during the class and/or final score may be posted at the
224 end of each class.
- 225 7. If a mathematical error on the score sheet is discovered, it must be brought to the attention of competition
226 management within one hour of the official posting of the scores from the last class of the competition day.
227 Competition management must announce said posting, and must make score sheets available to competitors
228 immediately.”

229 Article 1649G. Triangle Pattern (Note: Remove 'v' Pattern)

230

231 (PATTERN TO SHOW HERE)

232

233 Effective: When approved by USEF/EC

234

235 PROPONENT'S FINANCIAL IMPACT:

236 (Refer to Article 901.2.e. for financial requirements.)

237

238 None

239

240 AHA IMPACT STATEMENT:

241

242 None

243

244 SUBMITTED BY:

245 Name: Sport Horse Committee

246 Member Organization Committee Commission Board Region (check one)

247 Who voted: Members Board Delegates (check voting body)

248 Total Number Eligible to Vote: 80 Number of Yes votes: 37 Number of No votes: 0

249 How vote was taken: mail email phone meeting (check one) (Must have Quorum with majority of yes votes)

250 Where documentation of this vote is recorded: Committee minutes

251 Date vote taken: December 3, 2003

252 Contact Person: Janet Henderson (Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw)

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