



AHA Judges & Stewards Commissioner's Office

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## JUDGES and STEWARDS GUIDELINES for 2017

**NEW FOR 2017** (see online rule book for complete and most current wording):

- **AR106.1-6** – New shoeing regulations effective 1/1/17
    - Shoes made of tungsten carbide are prohibited
    - A bar shoe must be either a straight bar or an egg bar.
    - A straight bar can be located anywhere within the circumference of the shoe.
    - An egg bar is defined as an uninterrupted, oval shaped shoe.
    - The dimensions of 3/8" thick by 1 1/8" wide must not be exceeded at any point on the shoe.
  - Maximum overall length of toe **4 3/4"** for Purebreds; **5 1/4"** for Half-Arabians/ Anglo-Arabians
  - Measuring is now from the **hairline** to the ground, defined as the origin of the hair at the coronet band.
  - Pads may be **rubber**, leather or plastic
  - 2-year old horses cannot wear a bar shoe nor a pad
  - 3-year old horse cannot wear any type of bar shoe
  - No foreign material can be used to add additional weight or enhance action
  - Inspection of shoe/pad may include visual, x-ray, metal scan, or manual separation of pads
  - There are changes in penalty wording
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- **AR106.14** – No metal attachments are permitted on whips used inside or outside the ring while showing a horse.
    - Apparently, someone had attached a spur rowel to the end of a whip, thus the new rule.
  - **AR112.12** – when headers are allowed in a driving class, **business attire or appropriate show attire** or a plain unmarked smock is required. **NOTE:** this rule does not yet apply to headers in Walk-Trot classes – watch for further development.

**PERFORMANCE HALTER AR123-AR124 – NEW for 2017!!!** Read rule in its entirety – highlights only in this document.

- Separate classes Purebred and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian
- Separate classes stallion, mare and gelding
- Horses 3 years and older must have been entered and shown in a performance class at same show as performance halter class being entered.
- No whips or attention getting devices
- Horses presented in a relaxed and dignified manner, positioned with their weight squarely on their feet, not stretched.
- Performance Halter Score sheet on AHA website. Total scores place class; results must be posted.
- May be shown in traditional style AR show halter, Western style show halter, or a leather stable halter. May also be shown in bridles appropriate to their performance divisions.
- Chains through mouth not permitted.
- Chain or leather strap under chin, or leather pieces connecting two sides of the halter under the chin allowed.
- Purebred class specs: athletic structure; breed type; quality; balance and substance; neck and shoulder; back, loin and hip; legs and feet; movement
- Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian class specs: athletic structure; quality; balance and substance; neck and shoulder; back, loin and hip; legs and feet; movement
- **Additional Performance Halter input from EEC**
  - Please note that there is a revised score sheet for Performance Halter. The scoring itself has not changed but additional information is included on the revised score sheet. AHA link: <https://www.arabianhorses.org/additional/judges-stewards/resources/>
  - This is a new class; some exhibitors may not be informed of the rule about not carrying a whip. Stewards and judges should try to inform not only the show staff but the Announcer and Paddock prior to the class of

the rule. Be proactive but courteous to the exhibitors.

- Unless prohibited in the prize list, juniors may show stallions.
- **AR125.4 – GENERAL PERFORMANCE CLASSES – DRIVING.** In driving classes requiring a reinback in the lineup, the overcheck may be adjusted by the header but must remain fastened until the reinback has been completed. **NOTE:** this rule applies only to the overcheck, not a sidecheck.
- **WORKING HUNTER** – this section has been extensively re-written. If judging or if a Hunter judge is hired to officiate at an Arabian competition, make sure this section is referenced.
- Heel measurements are no longer required nor considered for 14.2. & under height measurements.

**SPORT HORSE SHOWMANSHIP AR184 NEW for 2017!!! Read rule in its entirety – highlights only in this document.**

- May be divided by age of handler
- Judged on presentation of horse, neatness and appearance of handler, overall condition of the horse, handling techniques, appropriate tack and equipment, and ability to show the horse to the best advantage.
- Individual score sheet – available on AHA website
- Horse is presented on the triangle
- Show in an “open position”
- **HUNTER/JUMPING SEAT EQUITATION** – this section has been extensively re-written and has a new title. If judging or if a Hunter/Hunter Seat Equitation judge is hired to officiate at an Arabian competition, make sure this section is referenced.
- **RANCH HORSE RIDING (notes from EEC & Western Committee)**
  - Illegal use of fingers or hands on reins in a zero (0) score.
  - Off-pattern is NOT a zero (0) score. A horse which eliminates or performs an incomplete maneuver shall place below horses performing all maneuvers.
  - Pattern Placement. The pattern should be run as close to the drawn/written description as possible. Deviations from such are deemed to be a fault and a deduction for each maneuver not properly placed should be made. Rider

should make good utilization of the arena space without “riding the rail.”

- Transitions. Not only should maneuvers and transitions be properly placed according to the pattern, but smooth and seamless transitions between maneuvers and from gait to gait should be rewarded. Conversely, rough and awkward transitions should result in maneuver score deductions.
- Way of Going. The overall frame and quality of gait or execution of the maneuver should be taken into account in conjunction with the pattern placement and transition. It is important to take into account the individual conformation of the horse when considering the overall frame or way of going, as well as any “resistance” or “assistance” in maintaining such frame. A good Ranch Riding horse should be “willingly guided or controlled with little or no apparent resistance and dictated to completely.”
- Gaits. All gaits, movement of the Ranch Riding horse should simulate a horse needing to cover long distances, softly and quietly, like that of a working ranch horse, while maintaining a bright, attentive expression.
  - Walk – natural, flat footed, four-beat gait. Rhythmic and ground covering.
  - Jog/Trot – natural, two-beat gait demonstrating more forward motion than the western jog.
  - Extended Trot – an obvious lengthening of stride, with a definite increase of pace, as if covering a large area on a ranch.
  - Lope – a true three-beat gait, relaxed, smooth and natural.
  - Extended Lope – while not a run, an obvious lengthening of stride, demonstrating a forward working speed.
- **WESTERN SEAT EQUITATION AND WESTERN HORSEMANSHIP– New for 2017:** The extended jog and lope may be called on the rail and/or in the pattern. Also, mandatory causes for elimination are itemized in both sections.
- **SHOWMANSHIP** – considerable re-wording of the section, along with a list of mandatory causes for elimination.
- **SHORT STIRRUP REINING** – The following rule change was approved by USEF 4/24/17.  
3. Short Stirrup Reining 10 & under.

**a. Open to Exhibitors 10 years old and under as of December 1st of the current competition year.**

#### **REINING – New from NRHA for 2017**

- **B. Scoring (4)** The following will result in no score:  
**m. use of Bluetooth headsets or electronic devices, excluding para-reining.**
- **Judges guide – NO SCORES – Section 2**  
**Obvious lameness is a clearly evident gait deficit which is**
  - (a) Consistently observable at a jog under all circumstances and/or**
  - (b) Obvious at a walk and/or**
  - (c) Minimal weight bearing in motion and/or rest or a complete inability to move**
- **Judges guide – PENALTY SCORE ZERO – Section 3.** Included as maneuvers in other than the specified order, is the situation wherein a horse runs circles out of order **or exceeds greater than one quarter of the circle out of order** (i.e., when a small slow and large fast circles are required, and the horse runs a large fast and small slow and large fast set of circles, **or when it requires a large fast, a lead change and a small slow and the horse runs a large fast, does a lead change and then continues over one quarter of the next circle in a large fast**) and on ...

#### **TRAIL – ENGLISH – interpretation from EEC (not yet a rule)**

- English Trail – Refusal at a stand-alone only jump – may re-approach, including circling, to attempt retaking the obstacle as long as they stay within the confines of the designated approach to the obstacle. Refusal penalty AR225.2 applies. Explaining this approach area to exhibitors during the course walk-through prior to English Trail class is recommended.

#### **WORKING COW – New from NRCHA for 2017**

- **19.3 Cow Work – 3 point penalties**  
Schooling is defined as gaining an advantage by excessive pulling, turning, stopping or backing or **failure to immediately pull up when a new cow is accepted.**

#### **HELMET CAMERAS:**

As a reminder, effective as of January 5, 2015

1. The USEF does not prohibit the use of helmet cameras.

2. A competition organizer may prohibit use of a helmet camera and the competitor must comply with such prohibition.
3. The decision to wear a camera while competing is voluntary and at the rider's own risk. This policy is effective as of January 5, 2015 for all USEF competitions. It is advised that athletes consult with the helmet manufacturer before mounting a camera on a helmet. The USEF will continue to monitor information and research on helmet cameras as it becomes available.

#### **PADDOCK CONTROL**

<https://www.arabianhorses.org/additional/judges-stewards/education/>

The one specified person assisting with entrance of in-hand horses into the ring will be allowed to use **only** the same length whip and appendages as are currently allowed for the individual handling the horse. Rule reference AR114.2: *Whips are to be no longer than 6' including snapper/lash/appendage. Small appendages (no more than 12 inches in length) of ribbon, plastic, etc. are permitted.*

The designated person will not hit or use any other objects, such as trash cans, walls, etc., to make any noise. No bagging, whipping, banging or other invasive, aggressive or excessive behavior towards the horse will be tolerated.

In addition, the use of plastic or paper bags of any type or size is prohibited in assisting with entrance(s) into the arena.

It is the responsibility of Show Management, along with the USEF Steward(s) to ensure the “designated person” understands this policy and their role. It is important to involve the Breeding/Gelding In-hand exhibitors and to establish consistency between shows.

Should this rule/policy be violated, a Warning Card will be issued to both the handler and the designated person or groom who initiated the forbidden action. Stewards – have them with you!

We would like to thank Joyce Hamblin for sharing a method that has been developed and used by some stewards:

- Set up a 6-8 feet square box in an upper corner of the arena entrance chute.

- Allow only one assistant handler to assist in ring entrance and this person stood inside the designated box.
- A dedicated show whip was in the box and was the only whip that could be used. It should measure 6' or less and have nothing attached that is not allowed in the ring.
- No other attention getting devices are to be used by anyone else in or adjacent to the in-gate area.
- As the horse enters the chute, the assistant can shake the whip and be vocal but at no time can he run behind or chase the horse. The assistant handler stays in the box until the horse passes far enough past the assistant handler's box to no longer be influenced by his/her actions.
- The next horse and assistant handler should be ready and move into position.

#### **EVIDENCE GATHERING GUIDELINES - 2017**

We recommend that you download/print this USEF document, read it, and make sure you are prepared should you be faced with a situation requiring gathering of evidence.

<https://files.usef.org/assets/avuuW4BXmtE/evidence-gathering-guidelines.pdf>