



PRIMER FOR JUDGING THE ARABIAN SPORT HORSE DIVISION



PURPOSE OF THE DIVISION: To evaluate and encourage the breeding of Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses, suitable for dressage, working hunter, eventing, jumper, driving, or long distance disciplines; and to provide an opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of breeding programs. Form to function will be emphasized.

Please reference USEF and EC Arabian Chapter Rules, Sport Horse Section, for complete information.

Eligibility to compete – All entries must be serviceably sound and in good condition. Horses with loss of sight in one eye may compete in performance classes only. Braiding is optional. Only one time out per entry per class.

SPORT HORSE IN-HAND

AHA In-Hand Score sheets to be used. Use of decimals acceptable. Open card system may be used by the show. One handler, one horse. A handler may show multiple horses in any class.

Appointments: Bridles mandatory on horses 3 years and older. Dressage type snaffle or hunter type snaffle bridles. Bits may be with or without cheeks. Use of noseband optional but may be cavesson, flash, figure 8, Mexican, dropped or crescent style. Split or single lead made of leather or chain (or combination) may be used but must be attached through/to both sides of bit, with or instead of reins.

Horses 2 years old may be shown in a bridle, as described above, or plain leather stable halter. Horses under age 2 years must be shown in a plain leather stable halter. Non-conforming appointments = elimination from judging consideration.

Attire: Conservative casual attire recommended but handlers may also wear dressage or hunter attire. Only one whip allowed with maximum length of 6 feet, including lash and no attachments.

Specifications: Judges are to be supplied with a scribe. Horses are shown on the triangle at the walk and trot. Form to function and quality and purity of gaits to be emphasized. These classes may be split into “dressage type” and “hunter type”, at the discretion of show management. Conformation judging may take place before and/or after the work on the triangle. Horses to be shown in the open position when standing at the apex. **Only clear products** are permitted on the hooves of the horse.

Some causes for mandatory elimination:

- removal of the eyelashes
- changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail
- applying a product to the horse’s hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect

An entry must be penalized for:

- excessive amounts of oil, grease or other similar substances
- balding the area around the eyes, or proximal to the muzzle or nostrils
- excessive use of whip or actions that may disturb other entries

Scores, with no further showing, will determine champions and reserve champions.

SPORT HORSE UNDER SADDLE

No score sheet – only a judges’ card for placings. No scribe required. You may want a notepad to track your observations of the class and organize your placings.

Appointments: Bridle may be a dressage type snaffle, hunter type snaffle, Pelham (no converters and two reins required), or a dressage type or hunter type double bridle. If a double bridle is used, the lever arm of the curb bit may not be longer than 3.94 inches, or 10 cm.; and the inside diameter of the bridoon may not exceed 3.15 inches or 8 cm.

Cavesson nosebands to be used, but a flash attachment may be worn with a snaffle bit.

JUNIOR HORSE classes require snaffle bits only.

No martingales allowed.

Saddles to be dressage, hunter or all-purpose type.

Non-conforming appointments will **eliminate** entrant from judging consideration.

Attire: Dressage or hunter attire, Half chaps acceptable. Spurs/whip optional. Length of whip according to current dressage rules.

Specifications: Horses to be judged at walk, trot and canter, both directions of the ring. Judge may ask for lengthen stride at any gait. May request a rein-back when class is lined up. This class may be split into “dressage type” and “hunter type”, at the discretion of show management.

This class should take no longer than 10 to 12 minutes to judge.

SPORT HORSE SHOW HACK

No score sheet – only a judge’s card for placings. No scribe required. You may want a notepad to track your observations of the class and organize your placings.

Appointments: Bridle may be a dressage type snaffle, hunter type snaffle, Pelham (no converters and two reins required), or a dressage type or hunter type double bridle. If a double bridle is used, the lever arm of the curb bit may not be longer than 3.94 inches, or 10 cm.; and the inside diameter of the bridoon may not exceed 3.15 inches or 8 cm.

Cavesson nosebands to be used, but a flash attachment may be worn with a snaffle bit.

No martingales.

Saddles to be dressage, hunter or all-purpose type.

Non-conforming appointments will **eliminate** entrant from judging consideration.

Attire: Dressage or hunter attire, but formal attire (shadbelly) is acceptable – particularly for championship classes or shows. Half chaps acceptable. Spurs/whip optional. Length of whip according to current dressage rules.

Specifications: Horses may enter at the normal walk or the normal trot. Horses to be judged at the walk, trot and canter (normal, collected and extended gaits) plus hand gallop, both directions of the ring. Rein-back to be requested in the line-up.

This class should take no longer than 10 – 15 minutes to judge.

Thank you for your expertise and time in judging our Arabian Sport Horse division. We would appreciate your input on how AHA, USEF, and EC can improve your experience as a judge of the Arabian/Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian sport horses.