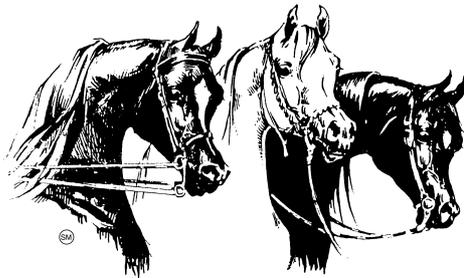


***RESPONSIBILITIES  
of an  
USEF/AHA<sup>SM</sup>  
ARABIAN JUDGES***



***Prepared By The  
Education/Evaluation Commission  
Judges & Stewards Commissioner  
10805 East Bethany Drive  
Aurora, Colorado 80014  
(303) 696-4539***

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## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE USEF LICENSED/AHA RECOGNIZED ARABIAN JUDGE**

### **GR1034.1**

Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and the selection of the best horses for the purpose described by the conditions of the class. A judge serves three interests:

- His own conscience
- Exhibitors
- Spectators

He should make it clear that the best horses win.

### **USEF Licensed Officials Renewal Form**

- As a licensed official of the United States Equestrian Federation, I will conduct my duties with the highest level of integrity. My primary concern is the welfare of the horse while giving full attention to exhibitors and respect to my colleagues.
- I will endeavor to have complete and accurate knowledge of all rules governing the competition.
- I will exercise my responsibilities in a positive and professional manner, refraining from conducting business and socializing with exhibitors during the event.
- I will officiate from a positive perspective in word and deed and complete my duties with consistency and without bias.
- My personal behavior will reflect my integrity, character and respect for the sport and the United States Equestrian Federation, including my use of Social Media.

### **AHA Code of Ethics and Sportsmanship, Chapter 3**

- Judges and stewards shall exhibit the highest standard of integrity at all times and decisions shall not be based upon improper influence.”
- Much more exists to good judging than placing the best horse in the class. The Arabian judge must have integrity and knowledge. Webster defines integrity as honesty, sincerity and completeness. Integrity is the primary attribute of a qualified Arabian horse judge. A judge licensed in any division or breed organization must possess and exhibit knowledge of that breed or division. However, if a judge lacks integrity, the breed, the exhibitors, the competition and all other judges suffer.
- Horses must be judged on what you see in a specific class on a specific day. You must not be dazzled by either the horse’s past performance, its advertising, its popularity or its reputation. Neither should you be dazzled by the reputation of the trainer, the owner or the crowd’s reaction to a particular entry. You must disregard past performance, reputation and handler. You must only judge the horse on its performance in that class on that day.
- You must have the integrity and courage to tie a previous champion horse down if the horse fails to merit a ribbon in that class on that particular day. Neither must a judge look “above the saddle.” Nationally known trainers and competitors should not be given more favorable or unfavorable treatment. Judge the horse and the horse only.
- All competitors, regardless of experience, are aware of the requirement to judge the horse and not the rider or handler. The accusation of “swapping out” is heard throughout the show season. While usually unjustified, it can become obvious to everyone that a judge has favored a particular stable or exhibitor. It is absolutely

unacceptable for this to occur. If a judge has earned the respect of the competitors by demonstrating the knowledge and integrity to tie the best horses, without exception, then any competitor with honor and knowledge will respect and accept your placings in the class.

- If a judge ever feels he must place a friend because of fear of reprisal or to maintain a friendship, then that competitor is not a friend. The competitor is using you. On the other hand, if the friend has the best horse in the class, do not be afraid to tie the horse in first place. Simply judge the horse.

How can you avoid pitfalls in judging Arabian competitions? The following are some general guidelines for you to consider:

- Accept only judging jobs for which you have the knowledge and ability to adjudicate the classes properly. Do not accept a judging assignment for which you are not qualified.
- Avoid overloading yourself by accepting too many competitions at one time or in the same area. Remember, there is a USEF rule regarding distance and time requirements for judging Arabian competitions.
- Abide by the USEF conflict of interest rules; if in doubt contact the USEF Licensed Officials Department.
- Judge horses and not people.
- Remember, it is acceptable to tell an exhibitor you do not remember him or his horse. Do not become bogged down in too many details. You are judging a horse show, not running a clinic. You cannot do both at the same time.
- Avoid becoming embroiled in matters that are not the exclusive jurisdiction of the judge.
- Consult and use your USEF licensed/AHA Recognized Arabian Stewards.
- Use the official veterinarian when needed.
- Avoid the gossipy individual. Do not make statements that can be fodder for a rumor mill.
- Ignore the applause.
- Save tours of the barn area for other competitions where you are not judging.
- Avoid prolonged discussions with friends at a horse show if they are exhibiting.
- Graciously decline invitations to exhibitor parties or functions.
- Do not acknowledge friends in the grandstands, as they may own the horse you just pinned first in the class.
- Show respect toward all exhibitors, even when they exhibit a lack of knowledge or respect to you. Remember, you are the professional. If an exhibitor's behavior is so rude as to be unsportsmanlike, do not lower yourself to them. Be professional and file a charge, if appropriate.
- Do not expect the same horse to win all the classes.
- Ignore protests unless they are officially made.
- Do not fall for the sudden "new friend." Avoid situations where an individual may be attempting to unduly influence you. If you have never golfed, shopped, socialized, visited a particular farm or training facility, and after being asked to judge a major show you are suddenly asked to golf, shop, socialize or visit a particular farm or training facility, ascertain the motivation behind such an invitation. Do not allow yourself to be dazzled by sudden popularity.
- Avoid consuming alcoholic beverages in public and preferably not at all during a competition.
- Your appearance and behavior reflects on your level of professionalism at all times.
- Avoid the mental hazards of unwittingly favoring or penalizing popular horses, local horses, horses known to you, winners of other classes or shows, or horses you have previously judged.

- Family members or significant others are not to be at the horse show with you while you are judging. If a situation is unavoidable, work with competition management to assure that the family member or significant other is not mingling with the exhibitors or spectators. If this person should ever be in center ring, the same restrictions on use of communication devices needs to be followed.

While there are a number of rules and regulations a judge must follow, there is also an “art” to judging. To be excellent at the “art” of judging, you should consider the following:

- Understand the mechanics of running a competition, running a class and judging a class. When you understand these matters you can exercise good judgment.
- Develop a proper and consistent approach to judging. It is easy to select the best horses in each class if you do so. If your approach is haphazard or incorrect, good judging is impossible.
- Develop and following a standard step-by-step procedure for judging and marking each type of class. Develop a simple, quick, and consistent method of recording your observations.
- Exude confidence. Do not exhibit uncertainty or panic.
- Make your decisions obvious to the spectators.
- Allow the entries to show to their best advantage and make them show for the benefit of the spectators.
- Make certain it is obvious you have seen and considered each entry in the class.
- Use your ringmaster, steward and announcer.
- Keep control of the ring.
- Meet with your working western scribe prior to judging the class. Confirm that the scribe understands the score sheet and explain how you will convey scores and penalties to the scribe.

Remember, a judge can make or break a competition. Even though you may not be asked back the following year, your actions at the competition can have a long-term impact.

### **ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS**

- ❖ USEF is the licensing body and has the authority to revoke a license, place a license on probationary status, reduce a license by one level, temporarily suspend a license, or refuse to renew an official's license.
- ❖ Judges are responsible for maintaining the correction memberships with both USEF and AHA and for renewing their USEF licenses by December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.
- ❖ Licensed officials are held to a high standard – be extremely cautious regarding comments posted to social net work sites or sent via email or text message. Remember the verbiage on the USEF Licensed Officials Renewal form to show respect to my colleagues. This means outside of the ring as well as inside the ring, whether you are an exhibitor or trainer at a competition or are posting on a social network site.
- ❖ Take responsibility for furthering your education in any and all matters pertaining to judging Arabian horses.



**Judges & Stewards Commissioner**

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ahcommish@arabianhorses.org

**MEMBER'S CONFIDENTIAL RATING OF AHA RECOGNIZED JUDGES**

Name of Judge:

Show

Name:

Show

Dates:

This form is the exhibitor's opportunity to confidentially evaluate an AHA Recognized Judge's performance in the show ring. This form is provided in the show secretary's packet and is also available from the US Equestrian Federation/AHA Steward at the show. You may also request forms from the Judges & Stewards Commissioner's Office. Evaluations are confidential and are used solely by the AHA Judges & Stewards Commissioner and the Education/Evaluation Commission to evaluate a judge's performance in the show ring as part of the AHA Judges' Classification System. Additionally, the Judges & Stewards Commissioner may, at his option, investigate any other matter reported on this form. **Return the form only to the address shown on the back. Note: Unsigned rating forms will not be considered.**

**PLEASE RATE THE JUDGE IN THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES**

	Excellent	Good	Average	Fair	Poor
1. Punctual	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Appeared to be cooperative with management	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. Knowledge of ring procedures and rules	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. Courteous to exhibitors	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Judged in accordance with class specifications	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. Utilized time appropriately	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Displayed ring efficiency	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Dressed appropriately and professionally	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Impartiality	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

**RATING ON CLASSES JUDGED:**

10 . Costume	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
11 . Country English Pleasure	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
12 . Dressage	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
13 . Driving	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
14 . English Pleasure	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
15 . Equitation	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
16 . Halter	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
17 . Hunter/Jumper	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
18 . Park	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
19 . Reining/Working Cow/Cutting	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

20		_____	_____	_____	_____
.	Trail				
21		_____	_____	_____	_____
.	Western Pleasure				
22		_____	_____	_____	_____
.	Other (please specify)				
23		_____	_____	_____	_____
.	Would you show under this judge again?	Yes _____	No _____		
.	Comments	_____			
:		_____			

**The following must be completed in order for this rating form to be considered by the Judges & Stewards Commissioner or the AHA Education & Evaluation Commission:**

**Please**

**Print:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name of AHA Member:** \_\_\_\_\_

**AHA Membership Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Your participation in the show (circle all that apply):**

Judge    
 Steward    
 Owner    
 Trainer    
 Rider    
 Driver    
 Groom    
 Spectator

**Signature (required):** \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ASSIST AHA IN THE ON-GOING EVALUATION OF ITS JUDGES. YOUR INPUT IS APPRECIATED.**

**RETURN TO: AHA Judges & Stewards Commissioner  
10805 East Bethany Drive  
Aurora, Colorado 80014**