

**SUBJECT: Competition Eligible Horse Certification**

*(STANDARD)*

Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101 & 102 for submission requirements

Committee Action:

Approve

Disapprove

Committees required to review: *(This section to be completed by the Agenda & Resolutions Committee)*

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| Amateur Committee                       |  |  |  |
| Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes Commission |  |  |  |
| Arabian Breeders Sweepstakes Trustees   |  |  |  |
| Awards Committee                        |  |  |  |
| Board of Directors                      |  |  |  |
| Breeding/In-Hand Committee              |  |  |  |
| Budget & Finance Committee              |  |  |  |
| Competition Advisory Committee          |  |  |  |
| Dressage & Western Dressage Committee   |  |  |  |
| Equitation/Showmanship Committee        |  |  |  |
| Executive Committee                     |  |  |  |
| Eventing & Driving Committee            |  |  |  |
| Hunter/Jumper Committee                 |  |  |  |
| Professional Horsemen Committee         |  |  |  |
| Registration Commission                 |  |  |  |
| Sport Horse Committee                   |  |  |  |
| Sport Horse National Show Commission    |  |  |  |
| U.S. National Show Commission           |  |  |  |
| USEF Arabian Division Committee         |  |  |  |
| Working Western Committee               |  |  |  |
| Youth Committee                         |  |  |  |
| Youth National Show Commission          |  |  |  |

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**CONVENTION ACTION:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved                      \_\_\_\_\_ Approved with Modification                      \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved

\_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn                      \_\_\_\_\_ Referred to Committee \_\_\_\_\_

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**PROPOSED CHANGE: (*Check one*)** ☒ Add new rule    ☐ Delete existing rule    ☐ Change existing text  
Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) AHA - COMP, ACH, and USEF - AR.

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**RESOLUTION:** Use ***bold/italic*** for new wording, ~~strike through~~ to indicate deletion

Whereas,                      The welfare, health, and safety of Arabian horses is of primary importance to the Association and its members; and

Whereas,                      A primary mission of the Equine Welfare Committee is to reduce stress experienced by Arabian bred horses; and

Whereas,                      A primary mission of the Membership Committee is to grow the membership of the Association through all categories of members; and

Whereas,                      Many Arabian and part Arabian horses end up, often through no fault of their own, sold through low end auctions and “kill pens”, separated from their registration papers; and

Whereas,                      multiple studies have determined that equines suffer great stress in the kill pen pipeline, including gastroenteric disorders, heat stress, prolonged hunger and thirst, respiratory disorders, resting problems, restrictions of movement, and sensory overstimulation (EFS Panel of Equine Health and Welfare- EFSA Journal 2025, <https://doi.org/10.2903/ijefsa.2025.9178>); and

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- 35 Whereas, The Arabian 300 Club, alone, has assisted with rescue of 4,912 Arabian bred horses, between 2016 and  
36 2024, according to the statistics posted on their website; and Love This Horse Arabian rescue has assisted  
37 with 749 in that same period; and
- 38 Whereas, At the same time, membership in the Association has continued to decrease; and
- 39 Whereas, Having the ability to compete in breed classes helps to make a horse more marketable and less likely to be  
40 placed into and/or returned to the kill pen cycle; and
- 41
- 42 Whereas, Current technology allows a horse that has been registered to be identified through DNA testing; and
- 43
- 44 Whereas, AHA REG 126 currently reads:
- 45 REG 126. TRANSFER WITHOUT SIGNATURE OF RECORDED OWNER
- 46 Whenever legal title to a registered horse passes to another by reason of death of the recorded owner, by  
47 reason of foreclosure of any lien or by any order or decree of court, or otherwise by operation of law, the  
48 AHA Registry may transfer the registration of such horse to the new owner:
- 49 1. Upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction or other satisfactory proof of authority for the transfer;
- 50 2. Upon payment of the transfer fee and any reasonable costs and expenses of investigation; and
- 51 3. Upon satisfaction of such other requirements as may be defined by the AHA Registry., and
- 52
- 53 Whereas, The time and expense of a judicial proceeding to obtain a court order can often be prohibitive, for many  
54 persons who acquire horses that have been separated from their registration, and
- 55
- 56 Whereas, The average cost of a small trial typically is between \$25,000 and \$50,000 (<https://www.stimmel-law.com/en/articles/cost-benefit-american-litigation>); and
- 57
- 58
- 59 Whereas, Lawful owners of previously registered horses present an opportunity to grow the Association's  
60 membership and revenues by generating additional unknown DNA tests and certifying previously  
61 registered horses as eligible to compete in breed shows and competitions, while providing for the welfare of  
62 known registered Arabian and part-Arabian horses; Therefore, Be It
- 63
- 64 Resolved, That the Table of Contents for Chapter 11 of the AHA Handbook and the titles within such Chapter 11 be  
65 amended by adding "***and Competition Eligible Horse Certificate***" after "Registration" in the COMP 2 and  
66 COMP 207 section titles, and; Be It Further
- 67
- 68 Resolved, That COMP 207 be amended by adding a new Paragraph 4 as follows:
- 69 ***4. A COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE will be issued for a horse proven by their***  
70 ***DNA to have been previously registered as either a purebred, half-Arabian, or Anglo-Arabian, but***  
71 ***for which the recorded owner is not willing or able to transfer the registration of the horse to the***  
72 ***horse's lawful owner. For purposes of the foregoing, a lawful owner is:***
- 73 ***(i) a person who would be considered a bona fide purchaser of the horse for value under the law,***  
74 ***being someone who has acquired the horse through a good faith purchase or inheritance; or***
- 75 ***(ii) someone who has acquired ownership of the horse from a state licensed rescue, in states which***  
76 ***license rescue organizations, or***
- 77 ***(iii) 501 (c)(3) organization, in states that do not license rescue organizations, after the hold period***  
78 ***required by law in the state where the rescue occurred.***
- 79 ***a. A good faith purchase may be shown through a bill of sale that is not contested by the recorded full***  
80 ***registration owner within sixty days of notice being delivered to the last known address of such last***  
81 ***recorded owner. Such notice shall be issued by AHA through certified mail, return receipt, if***  
82 ***requested by the person claiming ownership of the horse following DNA testing, and such person***  
83 ***has paid to AHA the then established postal service rates for certified mail return receipt delivery of***  
84 ***such notice. If the horse is acquired from a licensed rescue or 501(c)(3) organization in***  
85 ***compliance with applicable law, notice is not required. The sole basis for the recorded full***

registration owner to contest the issuance of a **COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE** is that the recorded full registration owner sold the horse to the person requesting the **COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE** or a member of their immediate family and/or a business entity in which they have an ownership interest or vice versa, and payment or part of the payment is still owed to the recorded full registration owner.

- b. **Horses with a COMPETITION ELIGIBLE CERTIFICATE will not be recognized for purposes of breeding; but are allowed to compete at breed shows as Arabians, half-Arabians, or Anglo-Arabians, as their DNA determines, for all purposes except (i) classes intended to showcase breeding stock and (ii) classes for which a breeder or prior owner has nominated the horse and paid a nomination or other fee, such as Arabian Breeder's Sweepstakes, Arabian Halter Futurity, and the Arabian Performance Futurity/Maturity Derby Program.**
- c. **"A Competition Eligible Certificate will be sufficient for the horse to compete at a Regional or National show or in the Arabian Performance Futurity/Maturity Derby Program or other prize money classes where the current owner has paid all involved fees, and Be It Further**

Resolved, That COMP 207, Section 1, be amended to read: "See USEF/EC Rules for complete Registration **and/or Competition Eligible Horse Certification** requirements for all horses and for registration **and/or Competition Eligible Horse Certification** requirements for horses being shown in Amateur Owner classes. Note, the owner must be recorded with the appropriate registry and must meet the family definition to compete in AO/AAO/JO classes, **or the owner must be the owner of record of a Competition Eligible Horse Certificated horse to compete it in AO/AAO/JO classes**"; and Be It Further

Resolved, That the first sentence of COMP 207, Section 2, be amended to add "**or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate**" following "registration certificate", and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 207, Section 2 (a), be amended to read as follows: "In the case of a lessee, pending transfer, contract of sale, or cash sale, a copy of the registration certificate **or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate, as applicable**, must be submitted, along with proof of lease or ownership and these documents must be attached to the copy of the registration **or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate** and must contain the correct registered name and number of the horse, date, and the signature of the seller or lessee. This requirement is good only for Open and AT/AAT/JT classes, and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 207, Section 3, be amended to read as follows: "Horses must be registered **or certificated** in order to have results recorded. (Refer to COMP 603.4.f.) and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 301, Section 9 (a), be amended by adding "**or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate**" after "registration certificate", and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 401, Section 3, be amended to read as follows: "Must provide space for the horse's registered name and number **or, for Competition Eligible Certificated horses, for their Competition Eligible Horse Certification number.**" and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 603.4.f be amended by adding as follows:

- f. List the name and registration numbers of all horses. Only horses with permanent registration numbers will be recorded. Horses shown with a pending registration number and their rider, driver, handler will not be recorded. (BOD 1/ 02). **For horses with A COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE, the number on that Certificate will be recorded.,** and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 603, Section 6 (a), be amended by adding "**or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate**" after "registration", and Be It Further

Resolved, That REQ 106, Section 15, be amended by adding "**or competition**" after "registration", and Be It Further

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- 144 Resolved, That REQ 109, Section 1 (a), be amended by adding “*or competition certified*” after “registered”, and Be It  
145 Further
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- 147 Resolved, That REQ 112, Section 3, be amended by adding “*or competition certified*” after “registered”, and Be It  
148 Further
- 149
- 150 Resolved, That QUAL 101, Section 15 (a), be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*” after  
151 “Certificate of Registration”, and Be It Further
- 152
- 153 Resolved, That QUAL 109, Section 1, be amended by adding “*or competition certified*” after “registered”, and Be It  
154 Further
- 155
- 156 Resolved, That QUAL 117 be amended by adding “*or competition certified*” after “registered”, and Be It Further
- 157
- 158 Resolved, That CT 102, sub-section 1 (a) (i) and (ii), be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse  
159 Certification*” after “registration”, and Be It Further
- 160
- 161 Resolved, That CT 113, sub-section 1 (a), be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*” after  
162 “Certificate of Registration”, and Be It Further
- 163
- 164 Resolved, That CT 113, sub-section 1 (b), be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certification*” after  
165 “registration”, and Be It Further
- 166
- 167 Resolved, That END 103, Section 2 (a), be amended by adding “*or competition certified*” after “registered”; and “*or  
168 Competition Eligible Horse Certificate, as applicable*” after “registration papers”, and Be It Further
- 169
- 170 Resolved, That END 104, Section 1, be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certification*” after  
171 “registration”, and Be It Further
- 172
- 173 Resolved, That END 106 be amended by adding “*or competition certified*” after “registered”, and Be It Further
- 174
- 175 Resolved, That END 110, Section 1, be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certification*” after  
176 “registration”, and Be It Further
- 177
- 178 Resolved, That END 112, Section 1 (a), be amended by adding “*or competition certified*” after “registered” and “*or  
179 Competition Eligible Horse Certificate, as applicable*” after “registration papers”, and Be It Further
- 180
- 181 Resolved, *That as it is anticipated that the foregoing resolution will cause a financial impact on the Arabian Horse  
182 Association, to modify its data base and/or software programs to incorporate and maintain the  
183 Competition Eligible Horse Certification program, fees to certify or transfer a horse with a Competition  
184 Eligible Horse Certification be established by the Board of Directors, based on the recommendation of a  
185 new Competition Eligible Horse Certification Committee to be formed and charged with the duty of  
186 administrating the program, and Be It Further*
- 187
- 188 Resolved, *That such fees be established and adjusted from time to time, if necessary, to bring the certification and  
189 transfer fees in line with the costs of creating and maintaining the Competition Eligible Horse  
190 Certification program, using the fees generated both through certification and transfer of Competition  
191 Eligible Horse Certification horses; and through fees generated through competitions at which such  
192 horses compete, and the committee will provide a report to the AHA Board of Directors from time to time  
193 and Be It Further*
- 194
- 195 Resolved, That ACH 101, Paragraph 3 be amended by adding as follows:
- 196
- 197 3. All horses must be registered by the Arabian Horse Registry of America, Inc., the Canadian Arabian  
198 Horse Registry, the Half-Arabian Registry, or the Anglo-Arabian Registry or the Canadian Partbred  
199 Arabian Register *or a COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE issued by AHA (See  
200 COMP 207, 4.), and Be It Further*
- 201
- 202 Resolved, *That USEF SUBCHAPTER AR -1 rules be amended to include a COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE  
203 CERTIFICATE as an alternative to a certificate of registration, and Be It Further*

- 204  
205 Resolved, That REC 102, Section 2, be amended by adding “*or holding a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*”  
206 after “registered”, and Be It Further  
207
- 208 Resolved, That MEM 102, Section 4 (a), be amended by adding “*or holding a Competition Eligible Horse*  
209 *Certificate*” after “registered”, and Be It Further  
210
- 211 Resolved, That PERF 104, Section 1, be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certification*” after  
212 “registration”, and Be It Further  
213
- 214 Resolved, That PERF 106, Section 1, be amended to read: “Horses must be registered with AHA, CAHR, or CPAR  
215 and possess a current Certificate of Registration *or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate; provided that*  
216 *horses for whom a prior owner nominated the horse and paid the nomination fee may not be shown in*  
217 *Performance Futurity/Maturity/Derby classes, unless the new owner holds the Certificate of Registration*  
218 *in their name or the prior owner who nominated the horse approves, in writing, for the horse to be*  
219 *competed with a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*, and Be It Further  
220
- 221 Resolved, That PERF 106, Section 2, be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certification*” after  
222 “registration”, and Be It Further  
223
- 224 Resolved, That PERF 107, Section 11, be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate, as*  
225 *applicable*” after “Certificate of Registration”, and Be It Further  
226
- 227 Resolved, That ACH 101, Section 1, be amended by adding “*or have a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*” to  
228 the end of such Section, and Be It Further  
229
- 230 Resolved, That ACH 101, Section 6, be amended by adding “*or holding a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*”  
231 after “registered”, and Be It Further  
232
- 233 Resolved, That ACH 102, Section 6, be amended by adding “*or holding a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*”  
234 after “registered”, and Be It Further  
235
- 236 Resolved, That AWD 104, be amended by adding “*or Competition Certified*” after “registered”, and Be It Further  
237
- 238 Resolved, That AWD 105, Sections 4 and 6, be amended by adding “*or Competition Certified*” after “registered”, and  
239 Be It Further  
240
- 241 Resolved, That AWD 106, Section 1, be amended by adding “*or Competition Certified*” after “registered”, and Be It  
242 Further  
243
- 244 Resolved, That AWD 107, Section 2 (b), be amended by adding “*or Competition Certified*” after “registered”, and Be  
245 It Further  
246
- 247 Resolved, That AWD 108, Section 1, be amended by adding “*or Competition Certified*” after “registered”, and Be It  
248 Further  
249
- 250 Resolved, That AWD 111, Section 1 (c), be amended by adding “*or Competition Certified*” after “registered”, and Be  
251 It Further  
252
- 253 Resolved, That YTH 109, Section 1, be amended by adding “*or Competition Certified*” after “registered”, and “*or*  
254 *Competition Eligible Horse Certification*” after “registration”, and Be It Further  
255
- 256 Resolved, That SUS 102, Section 1 (c), be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*” after  
257 “registration”, and Be It Further  
258
- 259 Resolved, That SUS 102, Section 3 (d), be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*” after  
260 “registration”, and Be It Further  
261
- 262 Resolved, That SUS 103, Section 4, be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*” after  
263 “registration”, and Be It Further

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Resolved, That MEM 105, Section 1 (c) and sub-sections (1), (2), and (3), be amended by adding “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*” after “registration papers”, and Be It Further

Effective: December 31, 2026 or when approved by USEF/EC

(If a Standard resolution, the effective date will be December 31 of the year after the Convention)

RESOLUTION TYPE (**REQUIRED**): Standard   X   Extraordinary            “If indicated as “Extraordinary”, the proponent must list reasons which establish Chapter 9, RULE 101.3.a. has been met)

PROPOSERS FINANCIAL IMPACT (**REQUIRED**): Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 102.6. & 102.7 for financial requirements

The proponent has obtained a bid to prepare a stand alone database of \$15,000.

**AHA IMPACT STATEMENT:**

Contact Person: Bill Arakali – [bill.arakali@arabianhorses.org](mailto:bill.arakali@arabianhorses.org)

SUBMITTED BY:

Region Number:

Member Organization    ☐ Committee    ☐ Commission    ☐ Board    ☐ Region    (*check one* ☒)

Who voted:    Members    ☐ Board    ☐ Delegates    (*check voting body*)

Total Number Eligible to Vote:                      Number of Yes votes:                      Number of No votes:

How vote was taken: ☐ mail ☐ email/other electronic means ☐ phone ☐ meeting (check one) (Must have **Quorum with majority of yes votes**)

Where documentation of this vote is recorded: *(Must have printed documentation on file)*

Date vote taken:

Contact Person:

Phone:

Email: