



ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION  
**ACADEMY**  
**RIDING PROGRAM**  
*WHERE CONFIDENCE BEGINS AND COMMUNITY GROWS*

Dear Academy Judges,

The purpose of this letter is to provide clarity and consistency in the judging of Academy Classes. Academy serves a distinct and valuable purpose within the horse show community, offering opportunities for riders who are developing their skills, and for horses that excel as lesson horses.

While judging Academy classes, emphasis should be on the rider's ability to effectively control the horse and present it to its best advantage. The quality of the horse should have NO impact on placings. The emphasis is on the rider's ability, and NOT on the horse's performance.

**Horsemanship>Showmanship Classes:**

Horsemanship>Showmanship classes are judged on the rider/handler's performance and ability to present the horse well and make effective use of the ring. Emphasis should be placed on correct diagonals, proper leads, and overall rider effectiveness.

**Equitation Classes:**

Equitation classes are to be judged on the rider's position, balance, use of aids, and correct diagonals and leads. Riders should convey an overall impression of smooth, confident, and effective communication with the horse.

Your role as a judge is essential to the success of the Academy program. Your careful evaluation and understanding of the Academy goals is deeply appreciated. Thank you for your time, your expertise, and for supporting the mission and spirit of Academy competition.

With Appreciation,