



ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

Judges & Stewards

JUDGING BREEDING/IN-HAND CLASSES

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CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

- Horses must be serviceably sound and be in good condition.
- All horses must have vision in both eyes to compete in Breeding/Gelding In-Hand classes.
- Transmissible weaknesses shall be considered a serious fault in breeding stock. Colts and stallions two years old and over must have both testicles descended.
- A wry tail is a breeding fault and judges must consider it as a fault in adjudicating breeding and in-hand classes. **Horses with an unnatural tail carriage (see AR105.2b) must be positioned last in the class.**
- In **Purebred Arabian** Colt/Stallion, Filly/Mare Breeding Classes, emphasis shall be placed in the following order of importance:

- type,
- conformation,
- suitability as a breeding animal,
- quality,
- movement,
- substance,
- manners, and
- presence.
- When Colt/Stallion and Geldings are judged together, the above class specifications will be used except that Geldings shall not be judged on suitability as a breeding animal.
- Gelding In-Hand classes may be offered, shown and judged under the same provisions and procedure as the Breeding classes. Emphasis shall be placed in the following order of importance:
 - conformation,
 - type,
 - quality,
 - movement,
 - substance,
 - manners, and
 - presence.
- **Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian** classes will be judged on
 - conformation,
 - quality, substance and
 - Purebred Arabian type, in that order.
- The Half-Arabian or Anglo-Arabian may show characteristics of any other breed. The foregoing first named three qualities shall take precedence in adjudication of in-hand classes over Purebred Arabian breed type.
- Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian stallions may show in Half-Arabian/Anglo-

Arabian Classes and may also show in Arabian/Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian classes when Arabians and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabians compete together.

- Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian halter classes may be divided into Stock/Hunter or Saddle/Pleasure type. Conformation type is determined by the breeding and conformation characteristics, including way of moving, displayed by the horse.
- A Half Arabian or Anglo Arabian entered in the split in-hand sections of Stock/Hunter or Saddle/Pleasure at a competition is not eligible to cross enter into classes of the other group at that competition. The two groups shall consist of:
 - Group #1 the Stock/Hunter In-Hand division shall include the following classes: Western Pleasure, Working Western classes, Hunter Pleasure and Working Hunter classes. Stock type horses display the conformation qualities necessary for western events. Hunter type horses display the conformation qualities necessary for all hunter seat events. Horses of this type carry their heads and necks lower than the Saddle/Pleasure type horses. It is shown in a more relaxed fashion and stance. When in motion, the horse has a forward frame. The Stock/Hunter type should be a horse of substance, exhibiting ground-covering motion without excessive elevation.
 - Group #2 the Saddle/Pleasure In-Hand division shall include the following classes: English Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, Park and all Driving classes. Saddle type horses display the conformation qualities necessary for Saddle Seat English type events. Pleasure type horses should display the

conformation qualities necessary for any pleasure type event except western and hunter events. Horses of this type carry a high set-on neck of sufficient length and set onto the head in such a way as to allow the horse to sit up in the bridle properly and should exhibit a free flowing and animated trot. The Saddle/Pleasure type should be a refined horse that is more animated than a Stock/Hunter type.

- Part of judging conformation is observing the horse in action. Features to consider when observing the horse in action are as follows:
 - Length of stride
 - Trueness
 - Spring
 - Regularity
 - Power
 - Height
- Consideration must also be given to the substance and quality of the horse. Substance and quality can be found in the following:
 - Smooth muscles
 - Clean, well-defined bone
 - Finely textured hair coat
 - Masculinity in stallions
 - Femininity in mares
 - refinement

NATURAL ARABIAN APPEARANCE

AR105.2 Natural Arabian Appearance

a. An "altered" tail as determined by an evidential proceeding, civil, criminal, or administrative hearing, arbitration, or other tribunal finding renders the horse ineligible to enter and compete in any Arabian Division class. No horse may compete in a class in the Arabian Division with a tail carriage that has been altered in any manner or by any means. Violations of this rule are considered serious infractions because such

alterations constitute misrepresentations of the breed type.

b. An "unnatural" tail is deemed, by a judge's opinion, to be carried in a manner not consistent with the typical Arabian or Half-Arabian type. Judges are required to penalize a horse exhibiting unnatural Arabian tail carriage. Conversely, horses with natural Arabian tail carriage showing expression that is not angry or offensive shall not be penalized. A horse's tail carriage shall be considered "unnatural" when it is obviously and consistently carried in an unnatural manner throughout its performance in a class.

i. In all non-scored classes, a horse exhibiting an unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be penalized and positioned last in the class.

ii. In all scored classes, a horse exhibiting an unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be assessed a 10-point penalty. Exception: Hunter/Jumper and Breeding In-Hand classes using the Score Sheets will utilize the penalty outlined in AR105.2bi.

iii. Dressage and Western Dressage are exempt from AR105.2bi and ii

CONTROLLED PADDOCK

1. 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 AR116.6c4:
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.
3. The designated person will not hit or use any other objects, such as trash cans, walls, etc., to make any noise.

4. 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
5. Management, along with the USEF Steward(s) to ensure the "designated person" understands this policy and their role.
6. Should this rule/policy be violated, a warning card may be issued to both the handler and the designated person or groom who initiates this violation.

THE PROCESS OF USING A SYSTEM

Class routine may vary, but whatever your routine, make certain you consider the following:

- Position yourself so you can observe the horse standing from some distance (25-50 feet).
- Make a close inspection of the horse.
- Observe the horse's action at the walk and trot from the front, rear, and/or side to appraise the horse's movement.

As a capable judge you must develop a technique to efficiently and accurately judge the entries presented to you. You must know what is important and what is less important.

The required walk will allow you to evaluate the horse in a relaxed natural manner. You can also get an overall view of the quality of the entire class as the horses walk the arena. Routinely the horses are then positioned head to talk around the perimeter of the arena.

You can make your written or mental notes as you observe each horse. Develop the habit of observing each horse with the same routine or pattern of looking at each entry. One of the biggest criticisms of judges heard repeatedly is that *"The judge did not look at my horse."*

The side view from a distance is your first real hard look at an individual entry. From this view you can quickly assess the animal from head to tail. You are looking for "balance" among other things. Balance is how all the parts of the horse fit together. Look for the size or length of the head in relationship to the overall size of the horse's body. Look at the head/neck connection, neck/shoulder connection, slope of the shoulder, length/shape of the back, length and shape of the croup/hip, the set of the tail. Look at the relationship of the length of the horse's body to the length of the legs. Check the front and rear leg angles and look at the overall condition and fitness of the animal.

Have the horse walk to you in a straight line. Observe foot flight, look at the horse from his ears to the hoof from the front view as the horse approaches you. Observe how the forelegs enter the body. Are the knees pointing straight towards you or do they deviate from our ideal? Does the hoof swing in or paddle out? Does the hoof leave the ground from the middle of the toe or from the inside or the outside of the hoof? How a horse moves will usually be an indication of how a horse will stand.

The handler will stand the horse up for the judge's individual inspection. It bears repeating here that a judge must have a pattern of observation and use it consistently to give each exhibitor a fair evaluation.

Stand directly in front of the horse for your frontal view. Look at the horse from the tips of his ears to the ground as he stands there. Start with the ears. Are the ears large, small, well shaped, long, short, blunt, foxy shaped, on top of the horse's head or on the side, close together or far apart and lop eared? Let your eye follow down the horse's head from the frontal view. Where are the eyes located in the vertical plane between ears

and nostrils? Are the eyes low set or high set? Are the eyes large, small, round or almond shaped, wide apart or close together? Is the head clean cut and well-defined (dry), or is it meaty with little definition? Does this horse appear to have a normal tooth alignment without an obvious overbite or under bite? Is there symmetry in the head, are both sides equal in shape and size?

As you complete your assessment of the head let your eye follow down to the front neck/chest connection, are the shoulder bones wide or narrow? Is there sufficient width, but not excessive width between the forelegs? How do the forelegs connect to the body? Do they connect straight into the body or at any angle with a base wide or base narrow posture? Let your eye follow down the leg to observe the plumb line of the bones through the knee to the hoof. Look for knock-knees, bowlegs, insufficient size of knees, and off set cannons (bench knees), toed in or toed out posture. If splints are present on the leg look for the cause of the splints. Does the leg deviate from the vertical plumb line from the body to hoof to create a weakness that caused the splint(s)? Or is there no evidence that alignment deviation caused the splints. The cause of the splint(s) is more important than the splint.

As you near the ground with your eyes, look at the pastern/fetlock connection for windpuffs or swelling. Can you detect any ringbone or sidebone? Look for symmetry in the size and shape of each hoof. A horizontal coronet band and vertical center line will indicate balance in the hoof.

After completing your inspection of the horse from the front view, move to the side of the horse. For our discussion here we will have you go to the off side of the horse first, but in reality you may chose to go to the near side first. Look at the horse from front to

rear. Observe the head in a side profile from the ears, to eyes, to nostrils. What shape is the head? Is it wedge shaped with the "teacup muzzle" or is the jaw as deep as the nostril in the side view like a "mailbox"? Does the head appear to be long or short? Are the branches of the jaw wide or narrow? What does the head/neck connection look like? Does the horse have a clean and long throatlatch or is the throatlatch short and thick which will make it difficult for the horse to flex the poll in a graceful manner and still be able to breath comfortably?

Look next at the length and shape of the neck. Is the neck longer on the crest side than the underside or does it appear to be long on the underside and short on the crest side (ewe-necked)? Does the neck blend into the withers and chest area? This will depend on the slope of the shoulder. Is the neck set on high or set on low into the chest? Well laid back shoulders usually provide for a high set neck and a short back.

In the side view observe where the front legs exit the body in relationship to the point of the shoulder and withers of the horse. Do the legs exit too far to the rear (stands under himself usually associated with a straight shoulder)? Using a visual plumb line, look to see if the horse's knees are behind the vertical (calf-knees) or in front of the vertical (buck-knees). Look for tied in tendons *the front of the cannon bone and tendon side profile should be parallel lines between the knee and the fetlock). Are the pasterns long or short, sloping or vertical? Is the horse coon-footed with excessive slope to the pastern?

Check the angles of the hoof in the side view. Do the feet match in that they are the same length and angle in the toe and heel? Both front feet should match and both hind feet should match. Is the face of the hoof straight, convex or dished? Are the hoofs smooth or ridged? Are those growth rings or

founder rings on the hoof? As a judge you need to be able to tell the difference. The growth rings will be parallel, and the founder lines will be closer together at the heel and wider at the toe. Is there any indication of a "club foot"? A "club foot" is distinguished by any hoof with more than a 60-degree angle.

As you move to the rear of the horse observe the shape and length of the back and how it ties into the withers. Is the back straight, swayed, short, long, wide, narrow, or roached? Look at the depth of the heart girth in relationship to the depth of the flank. The top line of the back and the bottom line of the belly should be relatively parallel to each other with the top line short and the underline long.

Take an oblique view of the rear legs as you approach the rear. From this oblique rear view you can look for bone and bog spavins in the hock area, and get your initial impression of the angle of the rear cannon bone and hoof. From this angle you can also check stallions for both testicles.

As you continue to the rear, look at the hip and loin connection. Are the hip bone and last rib close together and strong or is that area far apart and weak looking? Is the horse wide and strong across the loin or narrow and weak across the loin? Is the tip of the hip higher or lower than the withers? A high hip is undesirable because that may cause a horse to be heavy on the forehand which predisposes that horse to move weight being carried on the forelegs. Horses which are higher in the hip than the withers may give the impression of being sway backed. What makes the horse appear higher in the rear than the front? Is the hind leg too long to look in balance, is the horse post legged in the rear leg?

Look at the angle of the croup from the highest point of the hip to the dock of the tail. What angle is the croup? Is it relatively

horizontal or steep, long or short? Where does the tail sit on the rear of the horse? Is it high or low set? Continue down the rear leg of the horse looking at the stifle angle and hock angle. Is there too much angle to the hock (sickle hocked) or is the hock and lower leg too far behind the point of the buttock (camped out)? Look to see if the hind leg is too straight (post legged). Look for hard or soft swellings (capped hocks, curbs, thorough pins, spavins and windpuffs.)

Step completely straight behind the horse and look from the horse's ears, neck, withers, back, loin and hip to see if the horse is the same on both sides. Then focus on the hip from top to bottom. Is the hip pointed (rafter-hipped) or broad, flat and strong? Follow down the hind leg. Is there sufficient muscle mass in the gaskin and loin area inside and outside of the leg? Do the hocks have sufficient size to be strong or are the hocks small and undefined which indicates a weakness? Do the hocks face directly to the rear or is there a deviation? Are the hocks closer together than the fetlocks (cow-hocks) or wider at the hock than the fetlock (bow-legged)? At the lower rear leg look for deviations from the vertical plumb line in the fetlock, pastern, and hoof such as toe out or toe in.

As you step around to the near side of the horse take a look at the front legs at an oblique angle. Look at the knees; you can see off set knees, splints, toe in, and toe out. Check the symmetry of the front hoof's heels (they should both be the same angle and height and the location of the frog – it should be in the middle of the hoof). Continue around to the front of the horse, reaffirming what you saw on the opposite side of the horse.

At the front of the horse, look closely at the eyes of the horse to check for vision problems. If you are going to check the teeth

of the horse up close for an overbite or an underbite, now would be the time to do that by asking the handler to open the horse's mouth.

Routinely now the handler is asked to trot the horse away from the judge and trot down the rail and line up at the end of the rotating line.

As the horse steps off in the trot you are in a position to observe the flight path of the front and rear legs. You can focus on the bottom side of the foot and shoe (if they have on a shoe) to see if the horse breaks over the middle of the toe. You can see if the legs are carried in a straight line or if there is inward or outward deviation. Does the horse promptly pick up his feet or drag his toes in the dirt? Does he carry a natural tail straight and not off one side or the other (wry tail)?

As the horse turns and the judge sees the horse in side view at the trot, does the horse trot soundly? Is there regular rhythm and cadence to his stride? Does he trot freely or is the motion labored? Is there some athleticism in his movement? .

Arabian Scoring System: If the competition or judge chooses to use the Arabian Scoring System, mark the individual score sheet. Check card for accuracy (All attributes have a number circled), sign and turn in your card to the ring assistance or runner.

ARABIAN SCORING SYSTEM

- When adjudicating Breeding/Gelding In-Hand classes judges may utilize the "Arabian Scoring System".
- The various attributes of the horse, which may include but are not limited to: Arabian Type and Presence, Head, Neck & Shoulder, Body & Substance, Conformation, Legs & Feet, Quality &

Movement and Suitability as a Breeding Animal will be scored.

- There will also be a penalty category for rule infractions, poor manners, undue stress or inhumane treatment.
- The horses shall be ranked based on a total numerical score.
- Ties for Arabian breeding classes will be broken first by the highest total Arabian Type Score, second by the highest total score for Movement, third by the highest total Conformation score, and finally by call judges card.
- Ties for Arabian gelding classes will be broken first by the highest total Conformation score, second by the highest total score for Movement, and finally by call judges card.
- Ties for Half- Arabians/Anglo-Arabians will be broken first by the highest total Conformation score, second by the highest total score for Movement, and finally by call judges card.
- In a multiple judge system the same tiebreakers will be used. If a tie still remains the call judge’s card shall break the tie.
- Each judge(s) scores may be announced immediately following the presentation of the horse. Scores must be posted within an hour of the end of the session in which the final section of the class was held.
- The “Arabian Scoring System’s” composition, format and scoring procedures described herein may be modified by the AHA Education and Evaluation Commission.
- For Purebred Arabians, the following seven (7) attributes will be scored:
 - Type (*Purebred Arabians only*)
 - Quality, Balance, Substance at the walk
 - Legs & Feet
 - Head
 - Neck & Shoulder
 - Back, Loin & Hip

- Movement
- *Note: The above attributes equal Suitability as a Breeding Animal (except gelding classes)*

- For Half Arabians, the following six (6) attributes will be scored:
 - Quality, Balance, Substance, and Type
 - Legs & Feet
 - Head
 - Neck & Shoulder
 - Back, Loin & Hip
 - Movement

In addition:

- The horses shall be ranked based on a total numerical score.
- Each judge(s) scores may be announced immediately following the presentation of the horse when the competition is utilizing the In-ring Procedure.
- The scores must be announced when the competition is utilizing the Exit-the-ring

Procedure or the Combined Ring Procedure.

- Scores must be posted within an hour of the end of the session in which the final section of the class was held.
- The AHA Education and Evaluation Commission (EEC) developed the score sheets included with this document as well as the overall log sheet that is to be used for each class. Score sheets can be downloaded from the AHA website at <https://www.arabianhorses.org/judges-stewards/patterns/>

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT

- Provide a separate score sheet for each horse entered in each Arabian Breeding/Gelding In-Hand class and each horse in the Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Breeding/Gelding In-Hand class.
- Provide a 'runner' to transport the score sheet from the judge to the ring clerk or scorer. This should be done after each horse.
- Provide a ring clerk or scorer to tabulate the score sheet and to maintain the Master Score
- Designate a location on the competition grounds where the Master Score Sheet will be posted.
- Competition management utilizing the Arabian Scoring System shall have the option of choosing the In-the Ring or Exit the Ring procedure or the Combined procedure.
- Determine in advance which ring procedure will be utilized – this information should be published in the prize list. The EEC recommends the use of the In-ring Procedure for the majority of competitions.
- How to decide whether to use the In-the-ring Procedure, the Exit-the-ring Procedure, or the Combined Ring

procedure and using the control paddock.

- Safety of the horses, handlers, and spectators is the primary factor in the decision on whether the In-ring Procedure, Exit-the-ring Procedure or the Combined Ring Procedure is most appropriate for a specific competition.
- If Exit-the-ring or Combined Ring Procedure is chosen, competition needs to mark an area of 40-75 feet where the handler walks the horse after trotting into the ring.
- Is there a large enough area with safe footing to dedicate as a controlled paddock that is close to the ring and secure?
- Is a responsible adult/show commission member available to supervise this area? *Note: the steward can oversee the area but cannot be committed to the area fulltime since his duties include other areas of the competition.*
- It is required that scores that are announced following each horse in the Exit-the-ring and Combined Ring Procedure but not in the In-the-ring Procedure. What are the wishes of the competition?

USING THE SCORE SHEET

1. An individual sheet will be used for each horse. Different score sheets are used for Arabian classes and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian classes.
 - a. The class number and name, competition name, date, and judge's name needs to be listed on each score sheet. The most efficient method of accomplishing this is to apply computer generated labels with this information.
 - b. Score sheet must be kept by the competition for three years (USEF rule)

- Conformation is needed to break a tie, then the four categories are added together.
- Major faults in any of the four categories that comprise the 'Conformation Category' cannot be scored any higher than a score of 15 for that category. Major faults in any of the other categories are to be penalized.
 - A horse with a cut or abrasion showing clear evidence of fresh blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip area must be considered to be ineligible to receive an award in that respective class. *(Note: this would be a 'no score' but the exhibitor may remain in ring. List cause on score sheet; sign score sheet.)*
 - Total penalty points shall not exceed -3 points. (More than one penalty can be checked, but only one penalty score is assigned and that score cannot exceed -3 points.)
 - Penalties can be assigned for poor manners or undue stress
 - A judge may penalize an entry with excessive amounts of oil, grease or other similar substances. (Causes an unnatural appearance.)
 - A judge may penalize for balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils.
 - Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries shall be severely penalized.
 - A judge must eliminate from judging consideration any horse that shows aggression or discontent toward its handler or any person in the ring. (This would be a 'no score'.)
 - A horse that appears to be intimidated by its handler will be penalized. This may include but is not limited to, crouching cowering, quivering, withdrawing and buckling their knees. Judge(s) may excuse any entry deemed in violation of any of these restrictions.
 - Mandatory elimination from judging consideration is a 'no score' – list the cause on the score sheet; judge still signs the score sheet.
 - Any contact of the horse with a whip. Horse possesses a whip mark (welt) on any portion of the horse.
 - Removal of eyelashes
 - Inhumane treatment
 - changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail (See AR106)
 - No product shall be applied to a horse's hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Only clear or transparent products may be used on the hooves of horses while being shown in Breeding and/or In-Hand classes.
 - Shankings, as defined by USEF, is only permitted "where a horse has become dangerously unruly and immediate shanking is required in order to gain control of the horse and prevent imminent harm to the horse or others."
 - A judge must order from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger the handler, other exhibitors or their entries.
 - A judge must order from the ring any handler who exhibits inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of any exhibitor, their entries or the safety of class officials.

PENALTIES and THEIR APPLICATION

- It is important to remember your horsemanship and horse sense when administering penalties in Breeding/Gelding In-hand classes. It is also important to be consistent with what you saw, not what you thought you saw. Example: a horse rearing from either intimidation or aggression as

opposed to a young horse that is possibly being playful. These suggested guidelines for Halter penalty points should help all judges and exhibitors in adjudicating and exhibiting Arabian and Half-Arabian horses.

a. **Poor Manners:** Suggest **no more than 1 penalty** point per instance. The following are examples of poor manners.

1. Rearing with an aggressive intent. A playful or naturally exuberant horse should not be penalized.
2. Kicking or striking at the handler.
3. Disrespecting the handler by not standing still, bullying over the handler, or other means.

b. **Undue Stress:** Suggest **at least 1 penalty** point depending on severity.

1. Quivering
2. Excessive sweating

c. **Shanking:** Suggest **up to 2 penalty** points per instance; elimination from judging consideration in other situations; see interpretation from USEF/AHA to guide decision as to which application is correct.

d. **Excessive Use of Whip** (no contact with the horse) Common sense should dictate what is excessive. If it bothers you or other exhibitors, you should issue a **minimum 1 penalty** point.

e. **Horse Appears to be Intimidated by Handler:** Suggest at **1 penalty** point depending on severity. In extreme cases you go as high as 2 penalty points if no other penalty points have been issued. The following are examples:

1. Cowering
2. Crouching
3. Fleeing backwards due to man-made action

f. **Excessive Oil, Grease, Other Substance:** Suggest no more than **1 penalty** point.

You should use your own judgment as to what is excessive. Please keep in mind each individual's own tastes in presenting their horses and penalize what is truly excessive.

New: a horse exhibiting an unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be penalized and positioned last in the class.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

AR118 Breeding/Geldings In-Hand Championships

1. Halter/Breeding Championship and Reserve Championship horse shall be at least one year of age or older.

2. Qualifying classes leading to a Halter/Breeding Championship class must be designated in the prize list.

3. Eligible first and second place horses may compete in the designated Halter/Breeding Championship class.

4. The Championship title shall be awarded to an eligible first place horse.

5. The second place horse to the named champion may compete with the balance of first place horses for the Reserve Championship title.

6. Walking horses quietly on the rail is optional at the judge's discretion.

	Arabian Scoring System Total penalty shall not exceed -3 points	Penalties Comparative Judging
Poor manners, showing signs of undue stress or inhumane treatment	Penalize	Penalize
Excessive amounts of oil, grease or other substances	Penalize	Penalize
Unnatural Tail	Horses with an unnatural tail carriage (see AR105.2b) must be positioned last in the class.	Horses with an unnatural tail carriage (see AR105.2b) must be positioned last in the class.
Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries.	Penalty	Penalize
A horse that appears to be intimidated by its handler.	Penalize; may be excused	Penalize; may be excused
A horse with a cut or abrasion showing clear evidence of fresh blood in the mouth, nose, chin, shoulder, barrel, flank or hip area.	Ineligible to receive an award in that respective class	Ineligible to receive an award in that respective class
Unsoundness	Eliminate from judging consideration; may be excused	Eliminate from judging consideration; may be excused
Horse that shows aggression or discontent toward its handler or any person in the ring.	Eliminate from judging consideration	Eliminate from judging consideration
Any contact of the horse with a whip.	Elimination from judging consideration; may be excused	Elimination from judging consideration; may be excused
Horse possesses a whip mark (welt) on any portion of the horse.	Excuse from the ring	Excuse from the ring
Removal of eye- lashes	Elimination	Elimination
Changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail	Elimination	Elimination
Inhumane treatment	Elimination	Elimination
Shanking – elimination situation – unprovoked aggressive force	Excuse from the ring	Excuse from the ring
Shanking – penalize situation – done to regain control of the horse	Penalize	Penalize
Balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils	Penalize	Penalize

Product applied to a horse's hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Non-transparent products on the hooves of horses.	Elimination	Elimination
Unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger the handler, other exhibitors or their entries.	Mandatory - excuse from ring	Mandatory - excuse from ring
Handler who exhibits inappropriate or dangerous behavior or whose actions would in any way threaten the safety of any exhibitor, their entries or the safety of class officials	Mandatory -Order (excuse) from the ring	Mandatory - Order (excuse) from the ring

COMPARATIVE JUDGING SYSTEM

COMPARATIVE JUDGING SYSTEM

1. Class Procedure for AHA Recognized shows including Regionals and Nationals;
 - a. Judging begins when the first horse enters the ring. From the moment the horse enters the ring its movement is being evaluated. The horse shall enter at a trot, and at the handler's discretion may either proceed directly along the rail, or trot a counter-clockwise circle at the in-gate end of the arena and then proceed along the rail to the far end of the arena. Upon each horse reaching the designated position at the far end of the arena they are to remain relaxed. The judge(s) will then ask for the next horse to enter the ring. When all horses have entered the ring the horses shall be asked to walk collectively counter-clockwise and/or clockwise past each (and all) judge(s). They shall walk in a relaxed manner on a loose lead with the handler at the side of his horse, whips down. The lead line must maintain a discernible drape and the handler must not place his hand on the chain or close enough to

- in any way restrict the natural head and neck motion. The handler may not unnecessarily impede the forward motion of the horse while at the walk. Following the cessation of the walk all horses shall relax within the ring and only the horse "on deck" shall be prepared to show. Each horse shall be led to the judge(s) at the walk and presented for judging. In order to satisfy a proper presentation to the judge, horses should stand correctly, bearing weight on all four feet (not stretched), in a quiet and deliberate manner. Following the evaluation by the judge(s), horses shall walk away from the judge(s), and then strike a trot before turning left and proceeding counter-clockwise down the rail. They shall resume their position on the rail.
- b. Handlers are expected to keep a reasonable clearance between horses and judges should modify the alignment of horses to achieve that clearance. Further judging will not commence until the Call Judge approves the placement and spacing of all horses,

- c. After the last horse is presented, judges will have a period of time to finish their evaluation of entries and turn in their card (the specific time period to be determined by Show Management.)
- 2. That in the event that any comparative judging is used, it is optional that the Judge(s) provide reasons. Should show management desire reasons to be provided to their exhibitors, in a one (1) judge system, judge shall give oral reasons for their decisions after the card is handed in. (Res. 14-16). In the event of concurrent shows the two (2) judges shall alternate classes in giving reasons.

NOTES:

- The Arabian is a breed of Balance and Substance
- The placement should be in order of the horse that best fulfills the class specs as written in the USEF Rulebook
- Traits or components that are EXTREME are not undesirable, however should not override a more complete entry
- The Judge can mentally or literally score the horse for their use only to place the class.

- With the advent of the Scoring System, the comparative has been less practiced
- After the last horse is presented, judges will have a period of time to finish their evaluation of entries and turn in their card (the specific time period to be determined by Show Management.)
- It is recommended to either score the horse or take detailed notes to aid in your final placement
- Penalties
 - No direct way to account for a penalty situation with Comparative Judging
 - It is at the discretion of the Judge as to the final placement of the horse that is in a penalty situation, unless the penalty is defined, such as contact with the whip.
- ***Horses with an unnatural tail carriage (see AR105.2b) must be positioned last in the class.***
- Give special attention to the Walk as it will give the Judge the best opportunity of the class
 - Offers the most complete and authentic view of the horse
 - Separates the “Transformers” from the Real Deal

MAJOR AND MINOR FAULTS CHART

* in front of Category name indicates a conformation category of Arabian Scoring System.

Category	Minor Faults	Major Faults
*Head	Excessive length to head Large coarse ears Wide set ears (sheep eared) Excessively close set ears Narrow head	Overshot jaw (parrot mouth) Undershot jaw (monkey mouth) Convex head (Roman nose) Small eye (pig eyes) Human eye (purebred only) Glass/blue eyes (purebred only) Cataract/cloudy eye Lop ears or cow ears.
*Neck and Shoulder	Straight neck. Short neck Excessive crest Low set	Ewe shaped Poor hinge Thick throat Excessive heavy neck Straight shoulder Flat withers (mutton withers)
*Back, Loin and Hip	Low in the back	High croup Disproportionally short croup or hip Steep sloping hip Sway back Shallow body Rafter hips Disproportionally long back
*Legs and Feet. <i>FRONT LEGS</i>	Toe in (pigeon toed) Buck knees (knee sprung)	Calf knees (back at the knee). Bench knees (offset knees) Bow legs (bandy legged) Knock knees (knee narrow) Straight or short pasterns Coon footed (excessive sloped or long pasterns) Tied in knees (tied in tendons) Toes out (splay footed) Long cannons (high knees) Base narrow (stands close) Base wide (stands wide)
*Legs and Feet <i>REAR LEGS</i>	Stands under (sickle hocks) Toes out Cow hocked	Post legged. Bow legged (bandy hocked) Long cannons (high hocks) Straight or short pasterns Coon footed. (excessively sloped or long pasterns) Stands wide (base wide) Camped out Stands close (base narrow)
*Legs and Feet <i>ANY LEG</i>	Broken axis of pastern and hoof Asymmetrical feet	Club foot Dished foot Contracted narrow feet (mule footed)
Arabian Type	Low set tail	No tail carriage. Wry tail Crooked tail
Movement	Lacks coordination Paddles out	Irregular strides Short stride Wings in

RESOURCES

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