IN-HAND CLASSES

ARABIAN SCORING SYSTEM
COMPARATIVE JUDGING

Prepared by the
Education/Evaluation Commission
and
Judges & Stewards Commissioner
10805 E. Bethany Drive
Aurora, Colorado 80014-2605
(303) 696-4539

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JUDGING SYSTEMS
BREEDING/IN-HAND CLASSES

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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 Arabsians 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/additional/judges-stewards/resources/](https://www.arabianhorses.org/additional/judges-stewards/resources/)

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
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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?

### 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 AR114.2:

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 Management, along with the USEF Steward(s) to ensure the "designated person" understands this policy and their role.

5. 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. [https://www.arabianhorses.org/content/aha-press-releases/AHA_Press_Release_20160208.pdf](https://www.arabianhorses.org/content/aha-press-releases/AHA_Press_Release_20160208.pdf)

### 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)

2. As each horse enters the ring, the judge writes down the exhibitor number on the score sheet.

3. The judge will circle a score for each category, indicate any penalties, and sign the form. If a judge needs to change a score PRIOR to turning in the score.
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sheet, the change must be clearly indicated and initialed. No change to a score can be made after the score sheet is turned in.

4. Runner takes score sheet to person assigned to scoring – possibly the ring clerk.

5. After verifying that a score has been circled for each category and that the score sheet was signed by the judge, the scores are added and scores of all categories for each horse and each judge are transferred to a Master Score Sheet. (This transfer can be electronic through a computer program or by hand.) The scores may be announced at this time if the competition is using the In-the-ring Procedure; they must be announced if the competition is utilizing the Exit-the-ring or Combined Ring Procedure.

6. The Master Score Sheet and all individual score sheets are kept together by the scorer and returned to the show office; these are the judges’ cards for the breeding/gelding in-hand classes

7. The individual score sheets are retained for three (3) years by the competition as part of the official records.

8. The Master Score Sheets are to be posted within an hour of the end of the session in which the final section of the class was held. They are also retained for three (3) years and are kept with the individual score sheets for that class.

Hints to Judges for Use of the Score Sheet
- Use a clip board with a letter size page of paper behind the smaller score sheet. This page is handy for recording notes during a class, such as the list of all horse numbers as they enter the ring.
- Refer to AR104 for breed standards
- Refer to Conformation section of AHA Judges Notebook for major/minor faults
- The categories on the score sheet are listed in an order commonly utilized by judges as they evaluate each horse.
  - The first impression of type is when a horse enters a ring, but the type score could justifiably be the last score recorded.
  - The walk is the next category with two opportunities for the judge to observe the horse at a walk – first when the horse walks on a loose lead and secondly when it walks up to the judge for individual evaluation.
  - The four categories that have an asterisk (*) in front of the title comprise the ‘Conformation Category.’ Each of the four categories receives an individual score. When a total score for 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 -2.5 and can be assigned in half-point increments. (More than one penalty can be checked, but only one penalty score is assigned and that score cannot exceed -2.5.)
  - 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.

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
- 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.
  - Shanking, 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.” See:
    https://www.arabianhorses.org/content/judges-stewards/js-docs/USEF_rules_letter_5122016.pdf
- 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.

In-hand Classes effective 12/1/19
a. **Poor Manners**: Suggest no more than one-half (0.5) 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, bulling over the handler, or other means.

b. **Undue Stress**: Suggest at least one-half (0.5) penalty point depending on severity.
   1. Quivering
   2. Excessive sweating

c. **Shanking**: Suggest up to 2.5 points penalty point 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** Common sense should dictate what is excessive. If it bothers you or other exhibitors, you should issue a minimum one-half (0.5) penalty point.

e. **Horse Appears to be Intimidated by Handler**: Suggest at least one-half (0.5) penalty point depending on severity. In extreme cases you go as high as two and one-half (2.5) 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 one-half (0.5) 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.

**CHAMPIONSHIPS – New wording effective 12/1/19**

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.

BOD 1/12/19 Effective 12/1/19
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Poor manners, showing signs of undue stress or inhumane treatment</th>
<th>Arabian Scoring System</th>
<th>Penalties Comparative Judging</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Removal of eye-lashes</td>
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<td>Changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail</td>
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<td>Inhumane treatment</td>
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<td>Shanking – elimination situation – unprovoked aggressive force</td>
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<td>Shanking – penalize situation – done to regain control of the horse</td>
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In-hand Classes effective 12/1/19
COMPARATIVE JUDGING SYSTEM

COMPARATIVE JUDGING

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

In-hand Classes effective 12/1/19
• 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.
• 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