



ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

Judges & Stewards

MOUNTED NATIVE COSTUME

Table of Contents

DESCRIPTION	1
CONDUCT	1
GAITS	1
TACK	2
ATTIRE	2
CLASS SPECIFICATIONS.....	2
CONCLUSION.....	2

DESCRIPTION

- The Arabian Mounted Native Costume class is a unique exhibition of the Arabian breed. For the spectator, the Costume Class is the most eye-catching and spectacular class of the Arabian Division. This class is unique to the breed and a favorite of most of the spectators
- It is obvious that in our costume classes very little of the horse is visible, other than the head, neck, and the tail.
- These visible portions of the horse must be capable of conveying the “Bedouin charging over the desert sands’ effect. For this purpose, a high, arching neck and a high tail carriage are requisite.
- Crowd-pleasing animation and alert eagerness are very important in the costume horse.
- But, he must also be under perfect control at all times.
- The overall picture should be one of spirited enthusiasm on the part of both horse and rider.
- **AT ALL TIMES REMEMBER PERFORMANCE IS PARAMOUNT! IT, ALONG WITH MANNERS, COUNTS 75% OF THE TOTAL – THE COSTUME ONLY COUNTS 25%.**



CONDUCT

- Competitors enter the ring in a counterclockwise direction at the canter.
- Rider must have complete control of horse at all times.
- It is suggested that horses line up head-to-tail the length of ring, in one or two rows, depending on the number of entries.
- Horses shall stand quietly and back readily.
- **UNNATURAL TAIL CARRIAGE (defined in AR105.2b1)** A horse exhibiting an unnatural Arabian tail carriage must be penalized and positioned last in the class.

GAITS

- Walk, a four-beat gait: Brisk, true and flat-footed with good reach.
- Canter, a three-beat gait: Smooth, unhurried, with moderate collection, correct and straight on both leads.
- Hand Gallop: The hand gallop is performed with long, free, ground covering stride under control. The amount of ground covered may vary

between horses due to the difference in natural length of stride. The hand gallop is not a fast collected canter but a true lengthening of stride, correct and straight on both leads. There shall be a distinct difference between the canter and the hand gallop.

- Extreme or reckless speed to be penalized.

TACK

- Bridle may consist of bit, hackamore or other suitable headstall. Safety is of the utmost importance in tack and attire. Decorations in keeping with colorful desert regalia shall be added to equipment.
- No martingales or tie downs permitted.
- NOTE: a mechanical hackamore is allowed.
- A single, inconspicuous tongue stabilizer made of soft, pliable material that gently secures the tongue in its normal position against the lower mandible is permitted in the show ring for any horse competing in Mounted Native Costume. See AR106.11 for complete rule.

ATTIRE

- Attire shall consist of native (Bedouin) type costume including flowing cape or coat, pantaloons (trousers), head dress (kuffiyah; head cord is ighal), scarf or sash.
- No object may be carried in either or both hands other than reins, a portion of an aba (flowing cape), and/or a riding crop or whip.
- Spurs, whip or crop optional, at the exhibitor's discretion.
- Women often wear a veil as part of the costume.



CLASS SPECIFICATIONS

Mounted Native Costume classes will be judged by the below specifications in this order:

OPEN, AMATEUR, LADIES, GENTLEMEN. To be shown at a walk, canter and hand gallop; extreme or reckless speed to be penalized. Horses shall stand quietly and back readily. To be judged 75% on performance and manners; 25% on appointments.

CONCLUSION

- Judging is not an absolute. It is matter of observation and evaluation.
- Judging is based on certain established criteria and rules. However, in judging performance everything is relative.
- Each horse must be judged against the performance of the others in the class.
- Other criteria, such as manners, attitude and quality, must also be considered.
- All of the faults should be considered according to their severity and the depth of competition.
- Good judging depends upon correct observation of the finer points and the selection of the best horses for the purpose of the class.
- The best horse, performing the most correctly as established by the class criteria and specifications, should be the winner.

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