



# ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

## Judges & Stewards

### PERFORMANCE HALTER

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#### GENERAL

- Horses are presented in a relaxed and dignified manner at all times **and may be expressive and attentive.**
  - **No horse(s) will be shown in a manner deemed to be presented with a hard stance.**
  - **On the Muscle/Hard Stand Up is defined as a shift of balance, withdrawing, or an increase in intensity due to any actions or cues from the handler.**
  - Weight **balanced on all four** feet; not stretched. **A horse is considered not stretched if all four feet are flat on the ground and at least one front and one rear cannon bone is perpendicular to the ground.**
  - **A horse that shows natural charisma, presence and enthusiastic forward movement should be rewarded, not penalized.**
  - Not to be shown as in showmanship class.
- Either the “In the Ring” or “Exit the Ring” class procedure may be used. Management decision.
  - No final inspection
- AR Subchapters AR-1, AR-2, ad AR-3 apply. Including, but not limited to excessive amounts of oil or grease on the horse along with the balding rule.
- Horses with loss of sight in one eye may compete.
- Mandatory use of Performance Halter Score Sheet.
- Characteristics/conformation of a good performance halter horse will mirror those of a good breeding/in-hand horse.
- It is acceptable for handlers to raise their hand or use their hand to get the horse’s attention but cannot be intimidating to the horse nor cause an intense reaction from the horse.
- Horses may be shown braided if braiding is appropriate for their performance division(s) but is not required.
- Exhibitors may wear any clothing appropriate to the show ring that they feel best represents their horse, and allows them to show their horse to his/her best advantage. **Suits or riding habits are not required.**
- Equipment
  - a traditional style Arabian show halter, a Western style show halter, or a leather stable halter.

- Horses may be shown in bridles appropriate to their performance divisions.
- Chains through the mouth are not permitted. A chain or leather strap under the chin, or leather pieces connecting the two sides of the halter under the chin, are permitted.
- NOTE: A modified cavesson is permitted.
- **Use of hoof polish is permitted.**
- Horses competing in Performance Halter classes must be shod in accordance with the rules of the Performance class through which they qualified.
- No whips, schooling devices, “bagging”, shakers, noisemakers or aids of any kind are permitted. NOTE: this includes candy, carrots or other treats, plastic wrappers, etc.

### CONTROLLED PADDOCK

- A “controlled paddock” is an area designated by show management outside the competition ring.
- A controlled paddock must be used and all competitors must pass through the “controlled paddock” in the designated order of go to entering the ring.
- A Federation steward and/or the Show Commission must supervise this area.
- In a controlled Performance Halter paddock, no one will school the horse in a manner representative of a hard stand up prior to entering the ring.
- Any rule violation occurring in or around the controlled paddock will result in a warning and/or yellow card in accordance with USEF rules.
- No whips, schooling devices, “bagging”, shakers, noisemakers or aids of any kind are permitted in the

**controlled paddock or in the immediate vicinity of the ring.**

### SCORING SYSTEM

- AHA Performance Halter Score Sheet will be used. Score sheets can be downloaded from the AHA website at <https://www.arabianhorses.org/judges-stewards/patterns>
- For Purebred Arabians, the following seven (7) attributes will be scored:
  - Athletic Structure
  - Breed Type
  - Quality, Balance, Substance at the Walk
  - Neck and Shoulder
  - Back, Loin and Hip
  - Legs and Feet
  - Movement

Individual Score Sheet  
**Arabian Performance Halter**  
(Circle one score per category)

**A** Athletic Structure  
10 | .s | 11 | .s | 12 | .s | 13 | .s | 14 | .s | 15 | .s | 16 | .s | 17 | .s | 18 | .s | 19 | .s | 20

**T** Breed Type  
10 | .s | 11 | .s | 12 | .s | 13 | .s | 14 | .s | 15 | .s | 16 | .s | 17 | .s | 18 | .s | 19 | .s | 20

**Q** Quality, Balance, Substance  
10 | .s | 11 | .s | 12 | .s | 13 | .s | 14 | .s | 15 | .s | 16 | .s | 17 | .s | 18 | .s | 19 | .s | 20

**N** \*Neck and Shoulder  
10 | .s | 11 | .s | 12 | .s | 13 | .s | 14 | .s | 15 | .s | 16 | .s | 17 | .s | 18 | .s | 19 | .s | 20

**B** \*Back, Loin and Hip  
10 | .s | 11 | .s | 12 | .s | 13 | .s | 14 | .s | 15 | .s | 16 | .s | 17 | .s | 18 | .s | 19 | .s | 20

**L** \*Legs and Feet  
10 | .s | 11 | .s | 12 | .s | 13 | .s | 14 | .s | 15 | .s | 16 | .s | 17 | .s | 18 | .s | 19 | .s | 20

**M** Movement  
10 | .s | 11 | .s | 12 | .s | 13 | .s | 14 | .s | 15 | .s | 16 | .s | 17 | .s | 18 | .s | 19 | .s | 20

\*denotes Conformation Category

**P** Penalties (-1 to -3)

<input type="checkbox"/> Disruptive behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive oil, grease, other substance	-1	-2	-3
<input type="checkbox"/> Not shown in prescribed manner	<input type="checkbox"/> Balking			

10 Point Penalty

Unnatural Appearance       Hard Stance

Mandatory Elimination

CAUSE: \_\_\_\_\_ NO SCORE

Judge's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_

Revised 02/25

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

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 horses shall be ranked based on a total numerical score.

Individual Score Sheet  
**Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Performance Halter**  
 (Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian MUST USE Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Performance Halter Score Sheet)  
 (Circle one score per category)

**A** Athletic Structure  
 10 .s 11 .s 12 .s 13 .s 14 .s 15 .s 16 .s 17 .s 18 .s 19 .s 20

**Q** Quality, Balance, Substance  
 10 .s 11 .s 12 .s 13 .s 14 .s 15 .s 16 .s 17 .s 18 .s 19 .s 20

**N** \*Neck and Shoulder  
 10 .s 11 .s 12 .s 13 .s 14 .s 15 .s 16 .s 17 .s 18 .s 19 .s 20

**B** \*Back, Loin and Hip  
 10 .s 11 .s 12 .s 13 .s 14 .s 15 .s 16 .s 17 .s 18 .s 19 .s 20

**L** \*Legs and Feet  
 10 .s 11 .s 12 .s 13 .s 14 .s 15 .s 16 .s 17 .s 18 .s 19 .s 20

**M** Movement  
 10 .s 11 .s 12 .s 13 .s 14 .s 15 .s 16 .s 17 .s 18 .s 19 .s 20

\*denotes Conformation Category

**P** Penalties (-1 to -3)

<input type="checkbox"/> Disruptive behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive oil, grease, other substance	-1	-2	-3
<input type="checkbox"/> Not shown in prescribed manner	<input type="checkbox"/> Balding			

10 Point Penalty  
 Unnatural Appearance     Hard Stance

Mandatory Elimination  
 CAUSE: \_\_\_\_\_ NO SCORE

Judge's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_ Revised 02/25

## TIES

- Ties for Arabian Mares, Fillies, Colts, Stallions
  1. Athletic Structure
  2. Breed Type
  3. Quality/Balance
  4. Conformation
  5. Call Judge
- Ties for Arabian Geldings and Half-Arabians/Anglo-Arabians
  1. Athletic Structure
  2. Quality/Balance
  3. Conformation
  4. Call Judge
- 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.

## RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT

- Provide a separate score sheet for each horse entered in each Performance Halter 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

- There will also be a penalty category of -1 to -3 points for the following rule infractions: Disruptive behavior, Not shown in prescribed manner, Excessive oil, grease, or other substance, Balding.
- In addition, a 10-point penalty must be assessed for an unnatural tail carriage. See AR105.2b
- 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

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option of choosing either the In-the Ring procedure or Exit-the Ring 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.
  - Safety of the horses, handlers, and spectators is the primary factor in the decision on whether the In-ring Procedure, Exit-the-ring Procedure is most appropriate for a specific competition.
- If Exit-the-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.

#### **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
- As each horse enters the ring, the judge writes down the exhibitor number on the score sheet.
- 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 sheet, the change must be clearly indicated and initialed.

- No change to a score can be made after the score sheet is turned in.
- Runner takes score sheet to person assigned to scoring – possibly the ring clerk.
- 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 Procedure.
- The Master Score Sheet (below) and all individual score sheets are kept together by the scorer and returned to the show office; these are the official judges' cards for Performance Halter classes. The individual score sheets are retained for three (3) years by the competition as part of the official records.
  - 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.



# Performance Halter Master Score Sheet

Show - \_\_\_\_\_  
Judge - \_\_\_\_\_

Class # \_\_\_\_\_ Class Name \_\_\_\_\_

Please Print clearly

Entry#	Athletic Structure	Arabian Type (Purebred Only)	Quality Balance Substance @ Walk	CONFORMATION			Movement	Penalties	TOTAL SCORE	PLACING
				Neck Shoulder	Back Loin Hip	Legs Feet				

TIEBREAKERS	
<b>Arabian Breeding Classes</b> (Stallions, Cobs, Mares, Fillies) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Athletic Structure</li> <li>2. Breed Type</li> <li>3. Quality/Balance</li> <li>4. Conformation</li> <li>5. Call Judge</li> </ol>	<b>Arabian Geldings and Half Arabians/Anglo Arabian</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Athletic Structure</li> <li>2. Quality/Balance</li> <li>3. Conformation</li> <li>3. Call Judge</li> </ol>

Scores Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## SCORING CATEGORIES

- The categories on the score sheet are listed in an order commonly utilized by judges as they evaluate each horse.
- Athletic Structure
  - The first impression of Athletic Structure is when a horse enters a ring, but the score could justifiably be the last score recorded.
  - Characteristics include, but are not limited to a short back, sloping shoulder, deeper hips.
  - Can differ slightly but needs to be suitable to the performance discipline the horse is competing in.
- Breed Type
  - Overall breed type is emphasized rather than specific parts of the horse.
  - Purebred classes only
- Quality, Balance, Substance
  - There are two opportunities for the judge to observe Quality, Balance and Substance – first when the horse walks on a loose lead and secondly when it walks up to the judge for individual evaluation.
  - Consider QB&S in the same way as in a breeding/in-hand class
- Neck and Shoulder
  - Conformation as in breeding/in-hand classes
- Back, Loin and Hip
  - Balanced
  - Considered as in breeding/in-hand classes
- Legs and Feet
  - Symmetrical, well-formed feet
    - Entries may use hoof “polish” that is not clear.
  - Short cannon bones, low set hocks
  - Proper leg placement out of shoulder

- Movement
  - Straight, true walk and trot/jog
  - Balanced back to front
  - Quality of gait should be considered over extremes.
- The categories with an asterisk (\*) (*Neck and Shoulder, Back, Loin and Hip, and Legs and Feet*) in front of the title comprise the ‘Conformation Category.’ When a total score for Conformation is needed to break a tie, then these individually scored 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.

## PENALTIES

- **A horse will be eliminated and excused, if it:**
  - is crouching, cowering, buckling at the knees, sweating, trembling, racing backwards or sideways to escape their handlers or other behavior indicating fear, stress or intimidation.
  - exhibits any welt or swelling that look like a whip mark, regardless of how this was caused;
  - is obviously limping or of impaired gait.
  - horse (AR109.3) has fallen;
  - (AR105.6) for inhumane treatment and undue stress.
  - ***Exhibits disruptive behavior such that it or other horses are unable to be inspected by the judge***
  - ***Exhibits behavior such that the safety of it, the handler, an exhibitor, a judge, or another horse is in danger.***

- Is not under the control of the exhibitor.
  - Breaks loose from the exhibitor
  - A horse is shanked (except in circumstances required to gain control.) *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.”*
  - Removal of eyelashes
  - Changing the natural color of the main and tail.
  - 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.
- **Must 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.
    - **A ten-point penalty must be assessed if the horse is deemed to be presented with a hard stance.**
      - **On the Muscle/Hard Stand Up is defined as a shift of balance, withdrawing, or an increase in intensity due to any actions or cues from the handler.**

- Ten Point Penalty must be assessed for an unnatural appearance, see AR105.2b.
- **Excessive amounts of oil, grease, or other similar substances, in accordance with the Performance Halter Score Card.**

## PENALTIES – SCORE SHEET

Each of the following penalties have a specific recording area on the score sheet.

- Disruptive behavior
- Not shown in prescribed manner
- Excessive oil, grease, other substance
- Balding

Total penalty points shall not exceed 3 points, without half-points. (More than one penalty box can be checked, but only one penalty score is assigned and that score cannot exceed -3points.). The unnatural appearance (unnatural tail on card) has a separate line, as does Mandatory Elimination.

P Penalties (-1 to -3)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Disruptive behavior	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive oil, grease, other substance	-1	-2
<input type="checkbox"/> Not shown in prescribed manner	<input type="checkbox"/> Balding		-3
10 Point Penalty			
<input type="checkbox"/> Unnatural tail			
Mandatory Elimination			
CAUSE:		NO SCORE	

## Prepared by the

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