GENERAL

- Horses are presented in a relaxed and dignified manner at all times.
  - Horses are not to be shown as in a breeding in-hand class
  - Absolutely critical to enforce this requirement.
  - Positioned with weight squarely on their feet/ie. weight evenly distributed on their feet; not stretched.
- 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, and 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.

SCORING SYSTEM

- AHA Performance Halter Score Sheet will be used. Score sheets can be downloaded from the AHA website at https://www.arabianhorses.org/additional/judges-stewards/resources/

- 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

- 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
There will also be a penalty category for rule infractions, poor manners, undue stress or inhumane treatment.

- 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 horses shall be ranked based on a total numerical score.

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 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.

- It is required that scores that are announced following each horse in the Exit-the-ring Procedure but not in the In-the-ring Procedure. What are the wishes of the 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 (right) 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.

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.
  - Proper Arabian conformation equals good athletic structure.
Correct conformation is key to the intended performance of your horse.
Beauty and functionality must be one single goal.

- **Breed Type** –
  - Overall breed type is emphasized rather than specific parts of the horse.
  - Purebred classes only

- **Quality, Balance, Substance**
  - Look to criteria for Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses in Breeding/In-hand

- **Neck and Shoulder**
  - Look to criteria for Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses in Breeding/In-hand

- **Back, Loin and Hip**
  - Look to criteria for Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses in Breeding/In-hand

- **Legs and Feet**
  - Look to criteria for Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses in Breeding/In-hand

- **Movement**
  - Look to criteria for Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses in Breeding/In-hand

- 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.

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.

- **Ineligible to receive an award but not necessarily excused from the ring:**
  - 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.
  - Removal of eyelashes
  - 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.
• Mandatory elimination from judging consideration (whether excused from the ring or not) is a ‘no score’ – list the cause on the score sheet; judge still signs the score sheet.

• A horse may be disqualified, penalized and/or excused for the following:
  o exhibits disruptive behavior such that it or other horses are unable to be inspected by the judge;
  o exhibits behavior such that the safety of it, the handler, an exhibitor, a judge, or another horse is in danger;
  o is not under the control of the exhibitor;
  o breaks loose from the exhibitor;
  o shanking is not permitted
  o 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.
• A judge may penalize an entry with excessive amounts of oil, grease or other similar substances.

• A judge may penalize for balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils.

• Actions that may disturb other entries shall be severely penalized.

• 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/jrelas-docs/USEF_rules_letter_5122016.pdf

PENALTIES and THEIR APPLICATION

Score Sheet
  • Disruptive Behavior
  • Excessive oil, grease, other substance
  • Balding

NOTE: score sheet is being updated for 2020 – download new form when it becomes available on AHA website.
# Performance Halter
**Master Score Sheet**

**Show:** [Blank]

**Judge:** [Blank]

Please Print Clearly

## CONFORMATION

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<th>Athletic Structure</th>
<th>Arabian Type</th>
<th>Quality Balance</th>
<th>Neck Shoulder</th>
<th>Back Loin</th>
<th>Hip</th>
<th>Legs Feet</th>
<th>Movement</th>
<th>Penalties</th>
<th>TOTAL SCORE</th>
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**TIEBREAKERS**

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<tr>
<th>Arabian Breeding Classes</th>
<th>Arabian Geldings and Half Arabian/Anglo Arabian</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Athletic Structure</td>
<td>1. Athletic Structure</td>
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<td>2. Breed Type</td>
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<td>3. Qualify/Balance</td>
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<td>5. Call Judge</td>
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Scores Signature: ____________________________
# Arabian Performance Halter

**Arabian Scoring System — Individual Score Sheet**

*(Circle one score per category)*

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**Athletic Structure**

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**Breed Type**

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**Quality, Balance, Substance at the Walk**

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**Neck and Shoulder**

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**Back, Loin and Hip**

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**Legs and Feet**

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**Movement**

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**Penalties (0.5 to 2.5)**

- Disruptive behavior
- Excessive oil, grease, other substance
- Excessive oil, grease, other substance
- Excessive oil, grease, other substance
- Balding

**Mandatory Elimination**

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<thead>
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<th>CAUSE:</th>
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**Total Score:**