



ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

Judges & Stewards

RESPONSIBILITIES of a JUDGE

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GR1032.1

Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and the selection of the best horses for the purpose described by the conditions of the class. A judge serves three interests:

- His own conscience
- Exhibitors
- Spectators

A judge should make it clear that the best horses win.

Read the entire GR1032 rule!

AHA CODE of ETHICS

- Judges and stewards are responsible for a thorough knowledge, understanding, and proper application of the general rules of AHA, USEF, EC, or other governing body, as well as the specifications for each class/event that is to be judged.
- No one shall attempt to influence judges by telephoning, writing, sending pictures, emailing, **social media posts**, or by any other means before or during events that the judge has been employed to adjudicate.

- Judges and stewards shall exhibit the highest standard of integrity at all times, and decisions shall not be made based upon improper influence.
- Rules which appear in the USEF Rule Book (in the U.S.) or the EC Rule Book (in Canada) regarding conflicts of interest for judges and exhibitors shall govern AHA.
- Judges shall comply with AHA contractual requirements, USEF rules (in the U.S.), and EC rules (in Canada) with regard to contact with persons at an event.
- Judges shall report to the steward or event management any improper approaches or contact by persons at an event.
- In the furtherance of their official duties, all Association representatives, including staff, licensed officials and volunteers shall be treated with courtesy and respect and no person shall direct abusive or threatening conduct toward them.

Read the entire ETHICS 103

APPLICATION OF ETHICS

- Much more exists to good judging than placing the best horse in the class. The Arabian judge must have integrity and knowledge. Webster defines integrity as honesty, sincerity and completeness. Integrity is the primary attribute of a qualified Arabian horse judge. A judge licensed in any division or breed organization must possess and exhibit knowledge of that breed or division. However, if

a judge lacks integrity, the breed, the exhibitors, the competition and all other judges suffer.

- Horses must be judged on what you see in a specific class on a specific day. You must not be dazzled by either the horse's past performance, its advertising, its popularity or its reputation. Neither should you be dazzled by the reputation of the trainer, the owner or the crowd's reaction to a particular entry. You must disregard past performance, reputation and handler. You must only judge the horse on its performance in that class on that day.
- You must have the integrity and courage to tie a previous champion horse down if the horse fails to merit a ribbon in that class on that particular day. Neither must a judge look "above the saddle." Nationally known trainers and competitors should not be given more favorable or unfavorable treatment. Judge the horse and the horse only.
- All competitors, regardless of experience, are aware of the requirement to judge the horse and not the rider or handler. The accusation of "swapping out" is heard throughout the show season. While usually unjustified, it can become obvious to everyone that a judge has favored a particular stable or exhibitor. It is absolutely unacceptable for this to occur. If a judge has earned the respect of the competitors by demonstrating the knowledge and integrity to tie the best horses, without exception, then any competitor with honor and knowledge will respect and accept your placings in the class.
- If a judge ever feels he must place a friend because of fear of reprisal or to maintain a friendship, then that

competitor is not a friend. The competitor is using you. On the other hand, if the friend has the best horse in the class, do not be afraid to tie the horse in first place. Simply judge the horse.

AHA VALUE SHOWS/USEF LITE

- Rules for AHA Value Shows are separate from the AHA Handbook; they can be found at <https://www.arabianhorses.org/competition/aha-recognized/value-shows/>
- Rules for USEF Lite Competitions can be found at: <https://www.usef.org/compete/resources-forms/lite-competition-program>
- AHA Value Shows that has a history of 125 or more horses entered in the show, as determined from the previous year, must have an AHA Compliance Official. At this time, currently licensed stewards are considered AHA Compliance Officials.
- USEF Lite Competitions can hire either a licensed Steward/TD or someone enrolled and currently pursuing a USEF Steward/TD license who has completed the Designated Applicant Training.
- Only a small percentage of AHA Value Shows meet the requirement to have an AHA Compliance Official so it is important for the judge to understand their additional responsibilities at an AHA Value Show.
- We recommend that you be prepared to assist applicant an applicant steward/td should one be hired for USEF Comp Lite competition.
- Additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
 - Inspecting and measuring shoes and/or pads that are thrown

- during a class. Bring measuring tools for this purpose.
- Conducting equipment checks for Reining and other classes requirement the checks.

HOW TO AVOID PITFALLS

The following are some general guidelines for you to consider:

- Accept only judging jobs for which you have the knowledge and ability to adjudicate the classes properly. Do not accept a judging assignment for which you are not qualified.
- Avoid overloading yourself by accepting too many competitions at one time or in the same area. Remember, there is a USEF rule regarding distance and time requirements for judging Arabian competitions.
- Abide by the USEF conflict of interest rules; if in doubt contact the USEF Licensed Officials Department.
- Review the rules, patterns, and score sheets in advance of the show.
- Practice judge pattern classes using videos to sharpen your eye.
- Review the class specs in advance, have 'cheat sheets' with the gaits required just in case the class cards do not have the correct information.
- Judge horses and not people.
- Remember, it is acceptable to tell an exhibitor you do not remember him or his horse. Do not become bogged down in too many details. You are judging a horse show, not running a clinic. You cannot do both at the same time.
- Avoid becoming embroiled in matters that are not the exclusive jurisdiction of the judge.
- Consult and use your USEF licensed/AHA Recognized Arabian Stewards.
- Use the official veterinarian when needed.
- Do not make statements that can be fodder for a rumor mill.
- Do not post or reply to posts on social media during the competition.
- Ignore the applause.
- Save tours of the barn area for other competitions where you are not judging.
- Avoid prolonged discussions with friends at a horse show if they are exhibiting.
- Graciously decline invitations to exhibitor parties or functions.
- Do not acknowledge friends in the grandstands, as they may own the horse you just pinned first in the class.
- Show respect toward all exhibitors, even when they exhibit a lack of knowledge or respect to you. Remember, you are the professional. If an exhibitor's behavior is so rude as to be unsportsmanlike, do not lower yourself to them. Be professional and file a charge, if appropriate.
- Do not expect the same horse to win all the classes.
- Ignore protests unless they are officially made.
- Do not fall for the sudden "new friend." Avoid situations where an individual may be attempting to unduly influence you. If you have never golfed, shopped, socialized, visited a particular farm or training facility, and after being asked to judge a major show you are suddenly asked to golf, shop, socialize or visit a particular farm or training facility, ascertain the motivation behind such an invitation. Do not allow yourself to be dazzled by sudden popularity.
- Avoid consuming alcoholic beverages in public and preferably not at all during a competition.

- Your appearance and behavior reflects on your level of professionalism at all times.
- Avoid the mental hazards of unwittingly favoring or penalizing popular horses, local horses, horses known to you, winners of other classes or shows, or horses you have previously judged.
- Family members or significant others are not to be at the horse show with you while you are judging. If a situation is unavoidable, work with competition management to assure that the family member or significant other is not mingling with the exhibitors or spectators. If this person should ever be in center ring, the same restrictions on use of communication devices needs to be followed.
- Make your decisions obvious to the spectators.
- Allow the entries to show to their best advantage and make them show for the benefit of the spectators.
- Make certain it is obvious you have seen and considered each entry in the class.
- Use your ringmaster, steward and announcer.
- Keep control of the ring.
- Meet with your working western scribe prior to judging the class. Confirm that the scribe understands the score sheet and explain how you will convey scores and penalties to the scribe.

ART to JUDGING

While there are a number of rules and regulations a judge must follow, there is also an “art” to judging. To be excellent at the “art” of judging, you should consider the following:

- Understand the mechanics of running a competition, running a class and judging a class. When you understand these matters you can exercise good judgment.
- Develop a proper and consistent approach to judging. It is easy to select the best horses in each class if you do so. If your approach is haphazard or incorrect, good judging is impossible.
- Develop and following a standard step-by-step procedure for judging and marking each type of class. Develop a simple, quick, and consistent method of recording your observations.
- Exude confidence. Do not exhibit uncertainty or panic.
- Respond to emails and phone calls from competition representatives in a timely manner.
- Return contracts in a timely manner.
- Reserve flights well in advance of a competition so as to get the best possible cost for the competition. Keep in mind the show schedule as you make your flights. Do not book the last flight to your destination; make sure there is a later flight in case yours is canceled. Also, leave plenty of time after the show for your return flight.
- Submit any necessary patterns well in advance of the competition.
- USEF is the licensing body and has the authority to revoke a license, place a license on probationary status, reduce a license by one level, temporarily suspend a license, or refuse to renew an official’s license.
- AHA Judges & Stewards Commissioner has the authority to remove an individual from the accredited list of judges and/or to

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

remove N/R (National/Regional) status.

- Judges are responsible for maintaining the correction memberships with both USEF and AHA and for renewing their USEF licenses by December 1st of each year. This includes Safe Sport training and background checks required by USEF.
- Licensed officials are held to a high standard – be extremely cautious regarding comments posted to social network sites or sent via email or text message. Licensed judges and stewards officiating at AHA competitions are required to read, sign, and follow the Electronic Communication Policy.
https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/judges-stewards/js-docs/AHA_Show_Officials_Communication_Policy.pdf
- Take responsibility for furthering your education in any and all matters pertaining to judging Arabian horses.

PROTOCOL/GUIDELINES

The EEC has developed a protocol document to help guide officials in the handling of certain situations.

https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/judges-stewards/js-docs/JS_Protocol_Policy_Procedures.pdf

WORKING WITH an APPRENTICE

- Registered (R) Arabian judges may be asked to have an apprentice accompany them at a USEF/ AHA competition. The individual must have initiated the USEF checklist for the Arabian license, including Safe Sport and a background check. The individual must first gain permission from the competition management, usually the manager to be an

apprentice. Regional competitions and other large shows with a multi-judge panel do not typically accept apprentices as there are already a large number of individuals in the ring.

- Additional information, along with Instructions for use of the form and the evaluation form itself are found at this link:
- <https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/judges-stewards/js-docs/Judges-Stewards-Instr-working-with-apprentice.pdf>

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