



ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

Judges & Stewards

AHA SPORT HORSE SPECIALTY CARD

A BIT OF HISTORY

- Convention Delegates approved Draft 2 of Resolution 5-22, establishing the AHA Sport Horse Specialty Card with the effective date December 31, 2023 or when approved by USEF/EC.
- The resolution will allow Arabian judges who obtain the AHA Sport Horse Specialty Card to officiate Arabian/Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Sport Horse classes at non-regional and non-national level competitions.
- The resolution authorized the Education and Evaluation Commission, together with the AHA Sport Horse Committee, to determine the parameters of experience required for Sport Horse Specialty Card applicants, the content and delivery of education, all aspects of the approval process, and ongoing evaluation of officiating experience.
- The resolution gave authority to the Judges & Stewards Commissioner to approve or disapprove a candidate.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

- An applicant must be a current USEF or EC Arabian division judge, in good standing with all requirements met, and on the AHA List of Approved Judges.
- In addition, the applicant must not have received any USEF/EC or AHA disciplinary actions within the past five (5) years.

REQUIREMENTS TO ENROLL IN THE TRAINING PROGRAM

PART A: All three (3) Parts must be completed.

Note: Documentation can be in the form of USEF or AHA competition records/reports and should be attached to or included with this form. A typed list is also acceptable. A \$50 application fee is required.

A1: Required Regional Level or Above Competition Experience:

1. Have documented competition record within the past ten (10) years as a trainer/rider/**coach** or handler to a minimum of one (1) Top 5 placing at the regional level or higher in **BOTH**:
 - a. Sport Horse Under Saddle or Sport Horse Show Hack **and**
 - b. Sport Horse In-hand

A2: Required USEF/EC Dressage or Hunter Over Fences Competition Experience:

1. A minimum of one (1) documented **English** Dressage Score or Hunter Over Fences participation as a rider, trainer **or coach** is required.; level, score and fence heights required are listed below. Applicants are also welcome to include documented experience in any of the other sport horse disciplines.

- a. **English** Dressage 2nd Level - 60% or higher, open USDF/USEF/EC Dressage or USEF/EC Arabian competitions.
- b. Hunter Over Fences – 2’6” or higher, open USEF/EC Hunter or USEF/EC Arabian competitions

A3: Scribing Requirement and Additional Information

1. The applicant must have scribed for a minimum of eight (8) hours actual scribing time (does not include breaks) at Federation/EC licensed DSHB competition(s) or for Arabian Sport Horse in-hand classes at AHA approved shows within the last five (5) years. Experience scribing both Hunter Type and Dressage Type **sport horse** classes is encouraged.

After Parts A1, A2, and A3 are completed, submit the Sport Horse Specialty Certification application found at this link: <https://www.arabianhorses.org/judges-stewards/education/>, along with all supporting documentation. Please include the non-refundable \$50 application fee.

Approval to Continue in Training Program

1. Information in Parts A1, A2, and A3 will be verified **before approval to participate in the Training Program** is granted by the J&S Commissioner. Notification of approval to continue will be sent to the applicant, along with additional information and forms.
2. Any apprentice work completed prior to approval into the training program will supplement, but does not replace, the required Training Program apprentice experiences.
3. The applicant has three (3) years after approval into the program to complete the apprentice requirements and participate in all sessions of the Arabian Sport Horse Specialty Seminar, including a final evaluation.

Part B: Training Sessions and Apprenticing

- Participate in all sessions of the Arabian Sport Horse Training Program. The sessions will be a combination of online modules and/or webinars as well as in-person participation sessions.
- The candidate judge must apprentice judge Arabian Sport Horse classes at a minimum of two (2) USEF/EC AHA competitions or AHA Value shows with two different judges who must be licensed in one or more of the following disciplines: Dressage (**English**), Dressage Sport Horse Breeding, ~~or~~ Hunter, **or Hunter Breeding**.
 - An Apprentice Evaluation Form and Apprentice Verification Form will be provided and available on the AHA website. Either the judge or the candidate will submit the evaluation form to the J&S Commissioner’s office after each apprentice experience.
 - Apprentice requirements over a minimum of two competitions to include:
 - 50 Sport Horse In-hand entries
 - 50 Sport Horse Under Saddle and/or Sport Horse Show Hack entries
 - Submit the Apprentice Verification Form to the AHA Judges and Stewards Commissioners office after all apprentice work is completed.
- After all requirements of the training program are completed, submit names and email address of at least ten (10) but no more than 12 current USEF/EC Arabian, Dressage (**English**), Dressage Sport Horse Breeding, Hunter, Hunter Breeding judges and/or Category 2 Stewards/Dressage Technical Delegates for references. The J&S Office will send forms to the individuals listed as references; a minimum of eight (8) completed references must be returned.

- Final review will be by members of the Sport Horse Working Group and others the Judges & Stewards Commissioner may appoint for this purpose.
- AHA J&S Commissioner's Office will send notification of the Sport Horse Specialty Card approval or disapproval. Those approved for the Sport Horse Specialty Card will have this designation listed in the AHA Officials' Directory.
- After the Specialty Card is granted, the judge must maintain USEF/EC Arabian judge's card status, membership in AHA, continuation on the AHA List of Approved Judges, and attend an AHA Sport Horse specific continuing education seminar at least once every three (3) years.

Please contact the J&S Commissioners Office with any questions.

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