



ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

Judges & Stewards

Procedure for Measuring Hoof Length When a Shoe is Cast in the Show Ring

The Arabian Horse Association/USEF/EC has rules and guidelines for shoeing Arabian and Half-Arabian horses during competition. Those rules are listed in AR106/B1304.7 of the USEF/EC rulebook. To ensure that we comply with those rules and guard the welfare of the horse, the rule stipulates from the time the horse enters until the horse exits, any shoe cast in the ring, must be inspected. Because the current rule allows for the measurement of any hoof at the request of the Judge(s), USEF/EC Steward and/or Competition Management, it has been decided for the benefit of the horse and for fairness of competition, the following procedure will be used.

1. The Steward will discuss with the show manager the new process prior to the show so that entries can be notified of this new procedure. The ring master and judge(s) should also be updated at the show.
2. Shoe inspection will take place in the ring as is the current standard procedure. (See AR106, B1304.7e)
3. The steward should note the back number for the horse/rider and confirm the rider and trainer's names. If the shoe is illegal or the hoof too long, the information must be included in the USEF Stewards Report.
4. The steward will explain to the rider that after the class is completed the steward will accompany them to either the farrier's work area, their stall area, or another location with an appropriate hard, level surface.
5. Once the class is finished the steward will meet the entry at the exit gate and go to the designated area.
6. If the horse's hooves have been wrapped as part of the time out, the opposite foot should be unwrapped prior to measurement. Since the hoof that cast the shoe may be damaged, injured, or the length altered in the process of reshoeing, the affected hoof must not be measured.
7. Using a 6-inch metal ruler the steward measures the front of the hoof in the center, from the hairline to the ground. The hairline is considered the origin of the hair at the coronet band. (USEF has a specific ruler for measuring Arabian/Half-Arabian shoes and hoof.)
8. If the measurement is within the rule (4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches for purebred Arabians and 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches for Half-Arabians and Anglo-Arabians) the inspection is complete. If the hoof is over length, the show manager must be advised to confirm disqualification.

Contact the Judges & Stewards Commissioner's Office if you have any questions about this procedure. (303) 696-4539