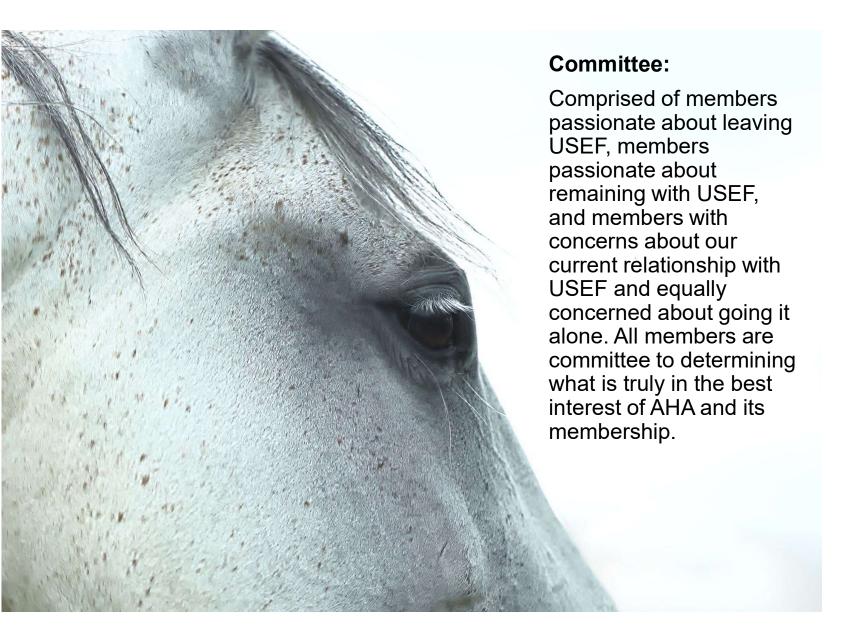
USEF Relationship Ad Hoc Committee

PURPOSE:

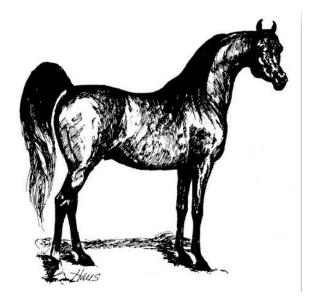
To review AHA's relationship with the United States Equestrian Federation.





Members:

Jim Hitt, Chair
Nancy Harvey
Leslie Lockard
Michael Damianos
Duane Esser
Stan Morey
Lisa Blackstone, AHA
President





Objective: To look at three options for the future;

- Determine which of the following three outcomes is most advantageous to the membership of the Arabian Horse Association.
- 1. Maintain the current relationship with USEF we have had.
- 2. AHA go to USEF with a proposal of what we want and don't want from them in order to maintain our affiliate relationship.
- 3. AHA leaves USEF and either goes at it alone or helps create a consortium of sorts with other breeds and/or disciplines.



Process:

The Committee has met monthly and has been fact finding and exploring. We have had various guests and made direct inquiries to help answer questions.



USEF – AHA AFFILIATE AGREEMENT

- USEF OBLIGATIONS (15 Items): Highlights:
- · First Sentence:

"USEF agrees to comply with the requirements necessary to maintain certification by the USOPC, as the NGB, and recognition by the FEI as the National Federation, for equestrian sport in the United States"

- Promote best practices for safeguarding athletes.
- Preserve and protect the welfare of the horse. (Drug testing & Animal Welfare)
- Uphold, maintain, publish rules
- Ensure the integrity of the sport & fair competition free from doping & manipulation.
- Serve as the coordinating body for equestrian sport in the US. (Lobby)
- License Officials & facilitate training & education
- License date for equestrian competition
- Recognize & enforce decisions made by the affiliate.



USEF – AHA AFFILIATE AGREEMENT

- AHA OBLIGATIONS (41 items):
- Highlights:
 - Comply with USEF BOD actions & USEF rules,
 - Recognize & reciprocate USEF Hearing Committee decisions.
 - Maintain good standing with USEF.
 - Provide USEF with a copy of financials and federal tax returns.
 - Partner with USEF to promote USEF Clean Sport & Safe Sport.
 - Work with USEF on issues of animal welfare.
 - Adhere to all Safe Sport Requirements
 - Agree USEF retains sole authority over official interpretation of USEF rules.



What does that all mean for USEF?

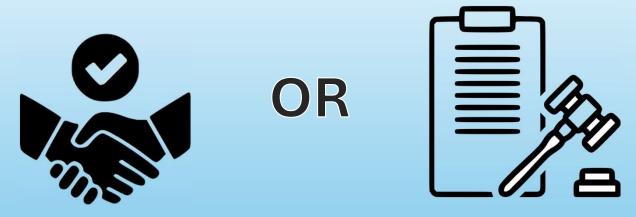
- Maintains an excellent hearings program and handles violations that take place at horse shows.
- Administers Safe Sport modules to the membership.
- Random drug testing at USEF /AHAApproved shows. (Note: AHA pays an extra fee to USEF to test the national shows each year)
- Offers "Horse of the Year" awards for an additional fee.
- Publishes and maintains the rule book we follow.



What does that all mean AHA?

- Adhere to all USEF rules including some that are not beneficial or supportive to Arabian shows.
- AHA members that compete at USEF shows (including all regional & national shows) must be USEF Members \$100 annual fee.
- Complete annually a Safe Sport Module.
- Judge Applicants after successfully completing a grueling evaluations must make an application to USEF with references to be licensed.
- Licensed officials must comply with a background check and a diversity module.
- Comply with the USEF timeline for impletation and approval of our rule changes.
- Horse shows must comply with substantial USEF requirements.

On the Surface it all looks simple, but if you look deeper the question arises is USEF our partner or our regulator?



- "Business is not about one's own success or failure, but how successful we make our partners." – <u>Donald Trump</u>, US president
- "There's nothing magic about regulations, too much is bad, too little is bad." - <u>Hillary Clinton</u>, former first lady & former secretary of state.



Entry Closing: September 11, 2024 See premium for Los Angeles Equestrian Cerpost entry requirements Arabian Horse Association Construction Construction Construction Construction Construction Construction Construction Cons			iestrian Cente er 20 - 22, 202	r, Burbank, 24	Mail Entry & Fees to: Show Secretary – Nancy Harvey 490 E. Mentecito Ave. Sierra Madre, CA 91024					
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Arabian Value Show:

- AHA Membership w/ Competition Card
- Registration





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USEF Show:

- AHA Membership w/ Competition Card
- Registration
- USEF Membership
- Safe Sport Completion
- Proof of Vaccinations
- Microchipped





 AHA is a breed organization. We have a vested interest in the ARABIAN BREED. Our goal is to encourage every member to want to participate at Arabian shows and breed Arabian horses.

Which Image Should we Project?

- USEF has evolved into a discipline-based organization. They hold events geared towards Olympic disciplines. The first sentence of our Affiliate Agreement is "USEF agrees to comply with the requirements necessary to maintain certification by the USOPC, as the NGB, and recognition by the FEI as the National Federation, for equestrian sport in the United States"
- Their persona encourages interest in International, FEI, and Olympic disciplines, competitions, and aura.
- Should our "partner" encourage participation away from the breed and towards International disciplines outside of our breed?





When does over-regulation become over-reach?

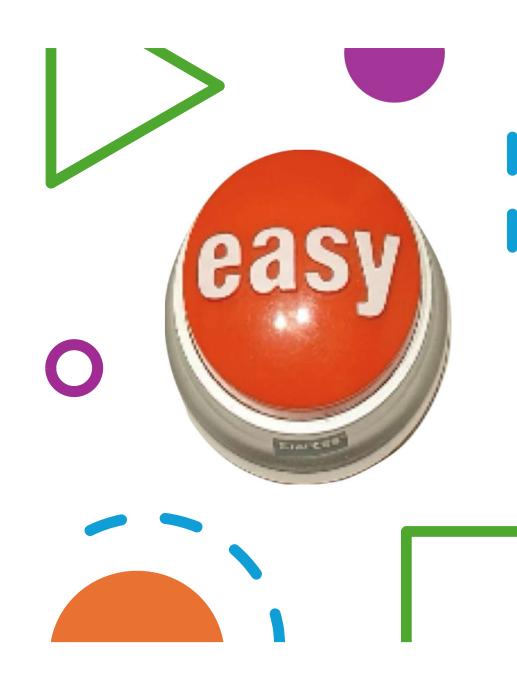
Over-regulation stifles innovation and growth

- Said by Some Smart Guy
- GR838.3 A Participant is subject to penalty for the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse that occurs after November 30, 2024 somewhere other than at or in connection with a USEF Licensed or Endorsed Competition. For the Unethical Treatment of a Covered Horse under this paragraph that occurs off U.S. soil by a Participant who is a member of a foreign National Federation, the Federation will refer the matter to the relevant National Federation and FEI for resolution.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." – Ronald Reagan

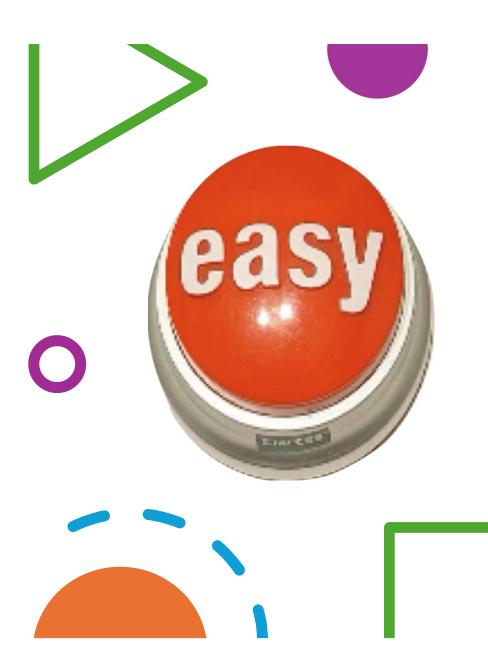
It is undeniable there are benefits to our relationship with USEF...





Benefits of being an USEF Affiliate..

 Hearing & protests process. - An industry standard. It would require significant expense, legal review, and time to develop our own program to replace what USEF does for us.



Risk Mitigation



-While direct indemnification is not provided, the AHA's relationship with USEF confers significant protective advantages. These include a reduced risk profile due to litigants' tendency to pursue larger entities, the opportunity for joint legal defense, and access to risk management resources and expertise on industry standards. Together, these factors constitute an effective risk mitigation strategy that strengthens the AHA's legal and operational resilience.



Drugs & Medication Program



- An industry standard. Necessary for a level playing field.
- The Equine Drugs and Medications Program
 has worked to protect the welfare of equine
 athletes and ensure the balance of
 competition for more than 50 years. The
 program utilizes veterinarians and
 technicians around the country to collect
 blood and urine samples from horses
 competing at USEF events.
- Drug & Medications Questions: Email & Phone number
- Barcode Lookup on USEF website for results of tests.



5 U.S. CENTER FOR SAFESPORT

Safe Sport Implementation.

"I. AUTHORITY

The U.S. Center for SafeSport (Center) is recognized by the United States Congress, the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee (USOPC), and the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) as the official safe sport organization for all Olympic, Paralympic, Pan American and Para Pan American sports in the United States." – DIRECTLY FROM SAFESPORT WEBSITE - "SAFESPORT CODE"







• The USEF Rule book –Rules are managed copyrighted.

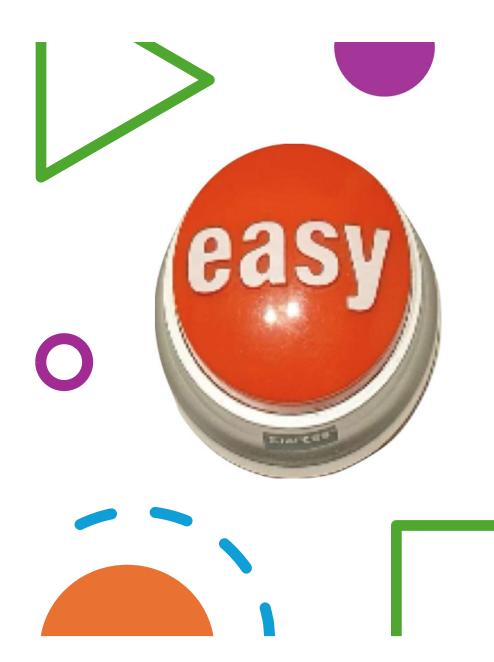
Opening Pages	GR General Rules	GR1 Definitions and Governance	GR2 Membership Categories and Requirements	GR3 Competition Licensing
GR4 Drugs and Medications	GR5 Measurement of Entries	GR6 Protest and Charges	GR7 Violations and Penalties	GR8 Conduct of Licensed Competitions
GR9 Competition Prize Lists and Entries	GR10 Licensed Officials	GR11 Federation Records and Awards	GR12 Competition Officials, Employees, and Volunteers	GR13 Competition Participants and Associated Individuals

AR Arabian, Half-Arabian and Anglo-Arabian Division CP Carriage Pleasure Driving Division DR Dressage Division EQ Equitation Division

HU Hunter Division

JP Jumper Division

WD Western Dressage



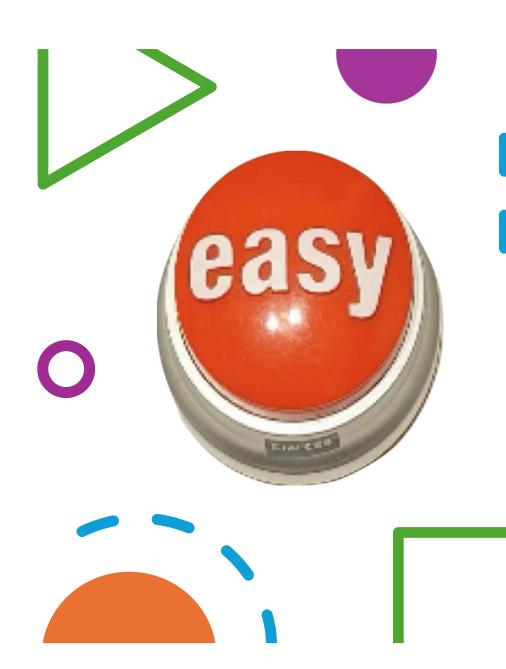


Attention to Animal Welfare

 Public Relations & Public Perception







Other Benefits of being an USEF Affiliate..

- Discounts available on a number of products & services (Membership Perks)
- Insurance available to members for Personal Equine Liability & Accident Death and dismemberment
- Show Steward Training/Education

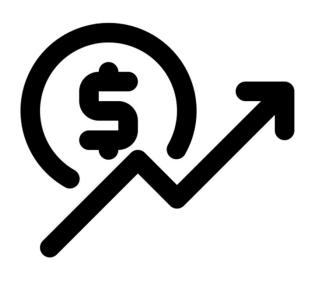


Challenges of being an USEF Affiliate..

- Additional regulations
- Two rule books (AHA & USEF) Often difficult to find a rule
- Two year rule change process
- Safe Sport implementation.
- Branding not specific and/or possibly counter productive to the Arabian Horse.
- USEF does not always accept or gives "push back" to our rule changes.
- AHA must accept show approval rules. Distance restrictions are particularly difficult at times.
- Bureaucracy of USEF makes it difficult to effect positive changes in a timely manner.



USEF Rate Increases

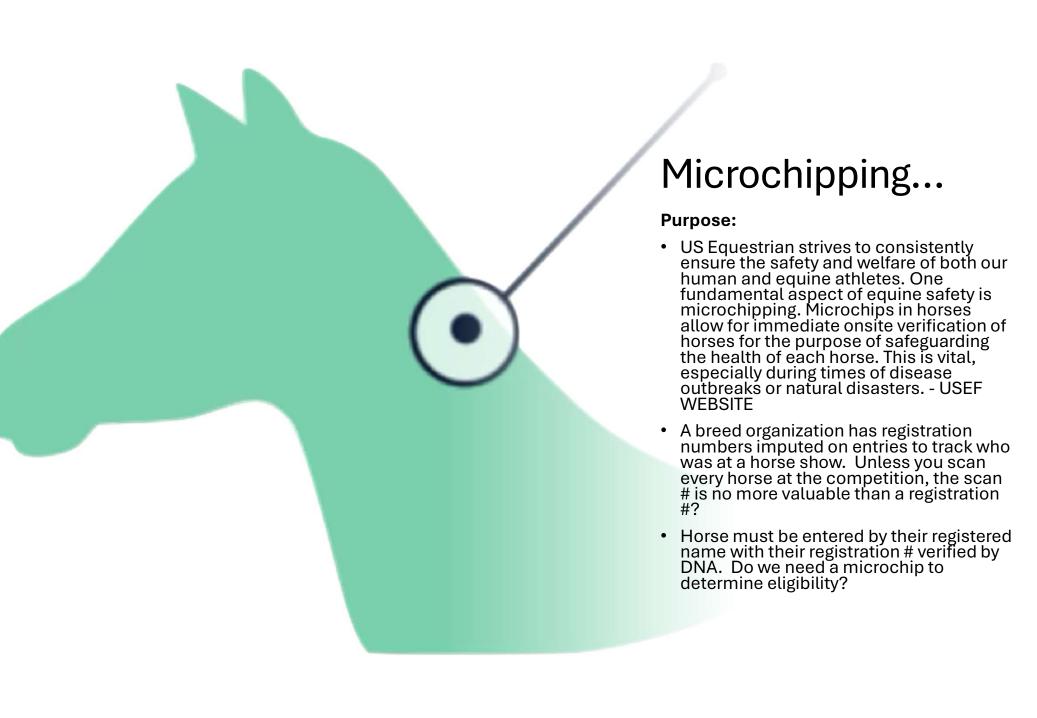


Beginning **December 1, 2025**, administrative fees (formerly \$8) will increase to \$10. Show passes (formerly \$45) will increase to \$85.

Beginning April 1, 2026, the following fee changes will apply:

- Competing Membership fee will increase from \$80 to \$100
- Subscriber Membership Fee will increase from \$25 to \$35
- Annual Horse Recording will increase from \$95 to \$115
- Lifetime Horse Recording will increase from \$300 to \$500
- Individual Lifetime Foal Recording will increase from \$35 to \$50

You can save on your competing membership by enrolling in a three-year membership for \$285.



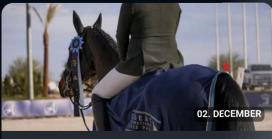


events >



uestrian UC Davis vs Oklahoma

estrian Center Ocala / United States



CSI5* Major League Show Jumping Desert Holiday I

Desert Horse Park, CA / United States



CSI5* Major League Show Jur Holiday II

Desert Horse Park, CA / United Sta

What do
these images
do for the
Arabian
Breed?

Sterling USEF Pony Finals



szy Zhou & Editorial

Pony Medal



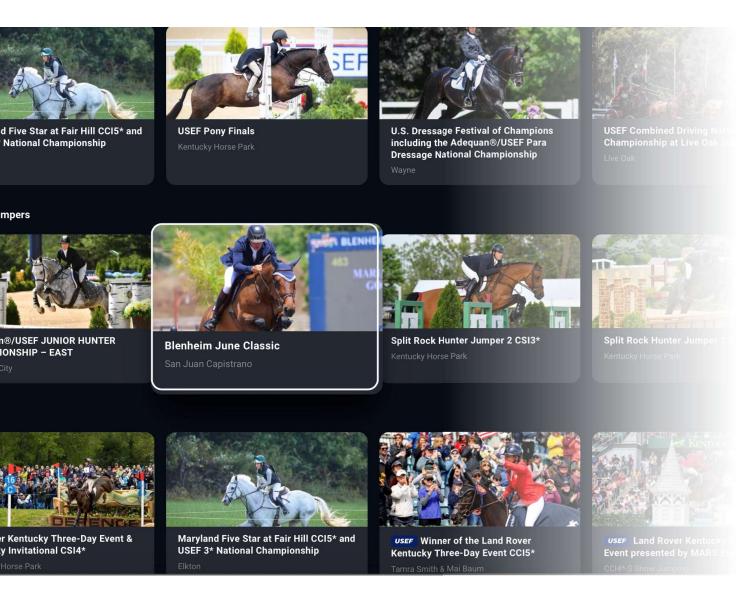
USEF Victory & Currie Cooper

Large Regular Pony Hunter National Championshi

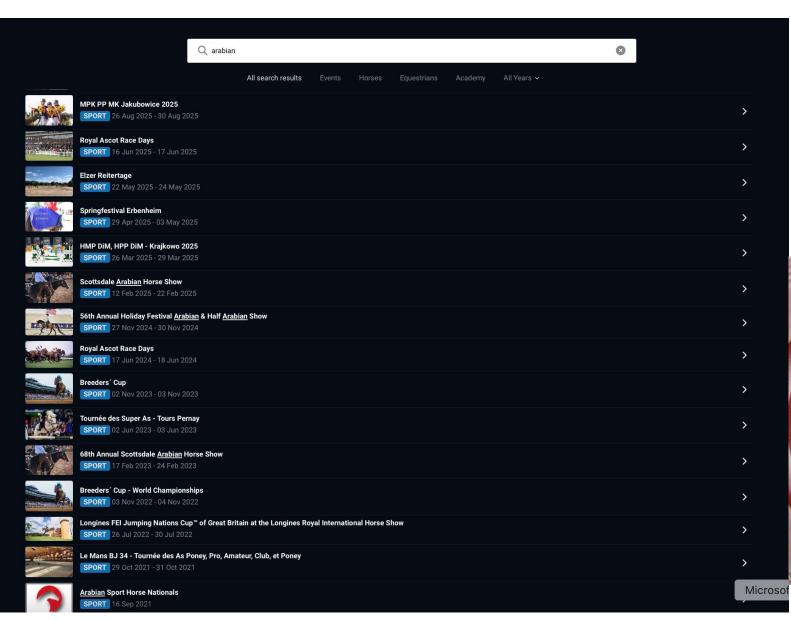


USEF Elin Uhrig & Juan Bay

Large Pony Jumper National Champions



How About These?



SEARCH RESULTS: "ARABIAN"

- Scottsdale 2025
- Florida (Holiday Festival)
 2024
- Scottsdale 2023
- Sport Horse Nat'ls 2021



The needs and point of view of the Disciples vs the needs and point of view of the Breeds. Rules & Regulations that cover a very large group of are very difficult to administer with the possible specificity of each of the breeds. This can become cumbersome for an umbrella organization, however, as a partner, the umbrella organization needs to acknowledge and integrate the needs of their partners for both of the entities to succeed.

Examples:

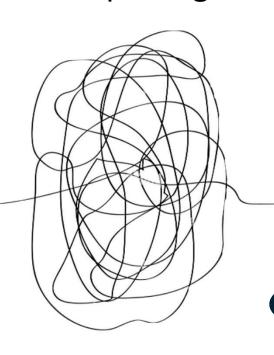
UPHA Class Experience

- AHA Response
- UPHA Response
- USEF Response

Judge Experience

- What the partner planned to do
- What ultimately was done

Working with a group that is not your partner can end up being a.....



mo·rass | məˈras |

noun

1 an area of muddy or boggy ground: in midwinter the track beneath this bridge became a muddy morass.

2 a complicated or confused situation: she would become lost in a morass of lies and explanations.

Drug Testing:

AQHA currently contracts with USEF for drug testing, should we leave USEF it would be our hope to follow suit and contract. However, there are other labs that provide this service.

In 2023 approximately 20 Arabian shows were tested including the 3 national shows. AHA paid additional fees for testing at the national shows. Every horse at an USEF show incurs a USEF Federation Fee \$25.





SAFE SPORT ACT (Safe Sport Website)

The <u>Proecting Young Victims from Sexual Abuse and Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017</u> codified the U.S. Center for SafeSport, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, as the nation's safe sport organization. It gave us the scope and authority to resolve abuse and misconduct reports for more than 11 million individuals **throughout the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Movement**—from whom we are fully independent

Safe Sport (USEF Website):

The U.S. Center for SafeSport was created to address the issue of abuse in sport. The Center works with National Governing Bodies, including US Equestrian, to enforce the SafeSport Code and the Federal Safe Sport Act. The policies in both the Code and Federal Law are aimed at protecting athletes from harm and abuse and apply to all Olympic and amateur sporting disciplines

THESE ORGANIZATIONS DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN SAFE SPORT.





























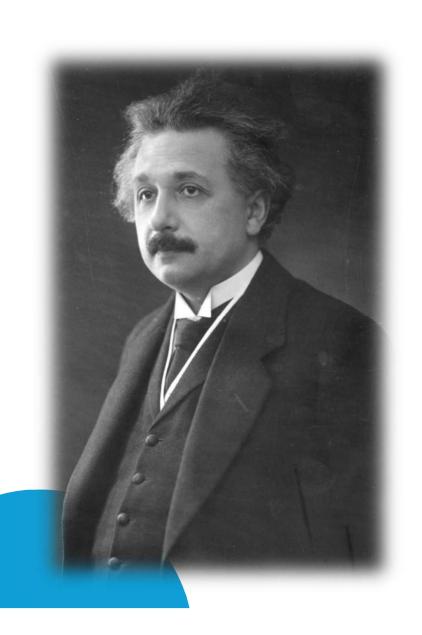
Membership Survey - Demographics

- 65% have competed over 10 years.
- 60% were over 50 years
- 60% no longer compete because of expense
- 90% were female

Based on these percentages, the respondents were primarily an informed group. (Experienced & Knowledgeable)

Membership Survey – Results (nearly 2000 responses)

- 70% of respondents WOULD NOT find a USEF membership valuable if not required.
- 70% of respondents DO NOT participate in the Horse of the Year Program
- 70% of respondents believe AHA can provide a level playing field without USEF
- 70% of respondents believe a drug testing program is important
- 60% of respondents place LITTLE or NO value on USEF being a NGB
- 45% of respondents believe Safe Sport is a valuable program.



"The measure of intelligence is the ability to change."

- Albert Einstein



Board Motion11/19/2025



AHA 0205 (Rev. 6/23)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MOTION FORM

Whereas, The Arabian Horse Association (AHA) is member organization of USEF/EC; and

Whereas, USEF/EC are believed to devote little attention to promotion and advancement of the Arabian Horse and seemingly fail to fairly represent the interests of AHA through its 18 Regions; and

Whereas, AHA members face increased costs for competing in AHA events including proposed increase

in membership fees to USEF/EC and lack of reciprocity between USEF and EC adds further

complications for AHA members; and

Whereas, Several breed organizations are independent from USEF/EC;

Whereas, AHA is on the cusp of change for the better; Therefore, Be It

Moved, That it is the sentiment of the Board of Directors of AHA representing our membership that the

current relationship between AHA and USEF is unsatisfactory and must be resolved.

Effective: Immediately





The decision to stay, attempt a compromise, or leave is up to the members of the association.



Do we have a balanced partnership?

Promotes growth



Or our we merely regulated?

Stifles growth

• If there is NO compromise possible, which **pain** do you chose?

- The toil, time, expense and possible mistakes in becoming an independent A.H.A.
- Continue accepting regulation, bureaucracy, & over-reach for the perception of safety U.S.E.F. provides.



The journey to independence...

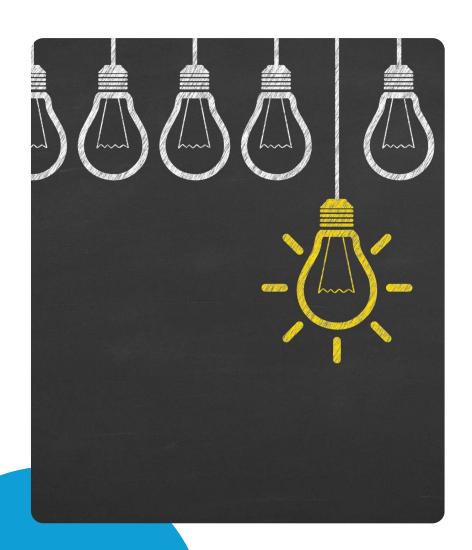








- The decision is up to the members
- It is the members responsibility to communicate to your leaders the path you choose.
- To remain or leave are legitimate options.
- There is no absolute, "NO", to either alternative, but there is a cost to "YES" for either one.



Thought:

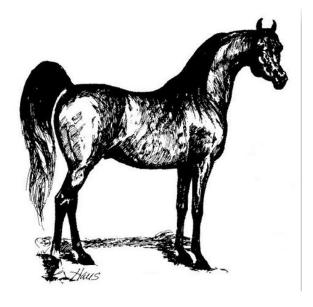
The German Philosopher Aurthur Scopenhaur (1788-1860) wrote "All truth passes through three stages":

First it is ridiculed

Second, it is violently opposed

Third, it is accepted as being self evident

We are on a quest for truth as to what is best for our Association and its membership with respect to our affiliation with USEF.





Objective: To look at three options for the future;

- Determine which of the following three outcomes is most advantageous to the membership of the Arabian Horse Association.
- 1. Maintain the current relationship with USEF we have had.
- 2. AHA go to USEF with a proposal of what we want and don't want from them in order to maintain our affiliate relationship.
- 3. AHA leaves USEF and either goes at it alone or helps create a consortium of sorts with other breeds and/or disciplines.

Thank you for your time...

• The USEF Relationship Ad Hoc Committee.



