



# Arabian Scoring System and New Ring Procedures



April 1, 2008 begins a new era in Arabian Breeding/Gelding In-hand classes. Arabian judges at USEF licensed and EC recognized Arabian competitions that are also recognized by AHA will be using the new halter scoring system as described in the 2008 AHA Handbook and included within this document. Competitions with a start date of April 1, 2008 or later have two options for conducting these classes – the in-ring procedure or exit-the-ring procedure. Both procedures are described in the 2008 USEF Rule Book.

This document will help clarify various aspects of the new scoring system and the two ring procedure options. We cannot anticipate every question that may arise during the implementation of both the scoring system and ring procedure options. A quote from the USEF Rule Book acts as a guideline for situations that are not specifically governed by the AHA Handbook or USEF Rule Book – *“It is obvious that however complete rules may be, they can never cover all possible situations which may arise. If a matter cannot be solved by interpreting the rules to the letter, the solution to be adopted by those responsible should lie in a principle which follows as nearly as possible the spirit of the rules.”*

### Arabian Scoring System: (taken from AHA Resolution 11-06)

The **Arabian Scoring System** is exempt from using the Majority Opinion System (MOS); the Arabian Scoring System shall be added to the list of Scoring Systems in the AHA Handbook.

When adjudicating all Breeding/Gelding In-Hand classes (with the exception of championship classes at Class A, B, C, and Local Competitions and all classes at ACS Shows) judges will use the **Arabian Scoring System**. The various attributes of the horse, which may include but are not limited to:

- Arabian Type and Presence
- Head, Neck & Shoulder
- Body & Substance
- Conformation
- Legs & Feet
- Quality & Movement
- Suitability as a Breeding Animal

will be scored. *Note: The above attributes equal Suitability as a Breeding Animal (except gelding classes)* There will also be a penalty category for rule infractions, poor manners, undue stress or inhumane treatment.

The horses shall be ranked based on a total numerical score. Ties for Arabian fillies/mares and colts/stallions classes will be broken first by the highest total Arabian Type (Presence) Score, and then by the highest total score for Movement. Ties for Arabian Geldings and for Half-Arabians/Anglo-Arabians will be broken first by the

**Purebred Arabian Score Sheet**

Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Judge \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exhibitor Number \_\_\_\_\_

Arabian Type																			
BELOW AVERAGE					AVERAGE					GOOD			EXCELLENT						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

Quality, Balance, Substance at the Walk

BELOW AVERAGE													AVERAGE					GOOD		EXCELLENT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		

\*Legs and Feet

BELOW AVERAGE													AVERAGE					GOOD		EXCELLENT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		

\*Head

BELOW AVERAGE													AVERAGE					GOOD		EXCELLENT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		

\*Neck and Shoulder

BELOW AVERAGE													AVERAGE					GOOD		EXCELLENT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		

\*Back, Loin and Hip

BELOW AVERAGE													AVERAGE					GOOD		EXCELLENT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		

Movement

BELOW AVERAGE													AVERAGE					GOOD		EXCELLENT	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20		

\* denotes conformation category

Sub Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Penalties (-1 to -5)

<input type="checkbox"/> BELOW AVERAGE Manners, undue stress, inhumane treatment	<input type="checkbox"/> Horse appears to be intimidated by Handler	-1	-2	-3	-4	-5
<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive use of Whip	<input type="checkbox"/> Excessive oil, grease, other substance					

Mandatory Elimination

Cause: \_\_\_\_\_ NO SCORE

Judge Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Total Score: \_\_\_\_\_

highest total Conformation Score, then by the highest total Movement Score. 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. If the horses are still tied, then judge two's card and then to judge three's card if necessary.

Each judge(s) scores may be announced immediately following the presentation of the horse. Scores must be posted within an hour of the end of the session in which the final section of the class was held.

The AHA Education and Evaluation Commission (EEC) developed the score sheets included with this document as well as the overall log sheet that is to be used for each class. The score sheets and Master Score Sheet are also available on the AHA website.

### Responsibilities of Management

- Provide a separate score sheet for each horse entered in each Arabian Breeding/Gelding In-Hand class and each horse in the Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Breeding/Gelding In-Hand class.
  - Score sheets will be available as downloadable files from the AHA website.
- 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 Sheet for each class.
- Designate a location on the competition grounds where the Master Score Sheet will be posted.
- 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 or the exit-the-ring procedure:

The form is titled "Half Arabian / Anglo-Arabian Score Sheet" and includes the Arabian Horse Association logo. It contains several tables for scoring different parts of the horse's conformation and movement. Each table has columns for "BELOW AVERAGE", "AVERAGE", "GOOD", and "EXCELLENT", with sub-columns numbered 1 through 20. The sections are: Quality, Balance, Substance at the Walk; \*Legs and Feet; \*Head; \*Neck and Shoulder; \*Back, Loin and Hip; Movement; and Type. Below the tables are fields for "Sub Total", "Penalties (-1 to -5)", and "Mandatory Elimination". The "Penalties" section includes checkboxes for "BELOW AVERAGE Manners, undue stress, inhumane treatment, Excessive use of Whip" and "Horse appears to be intimidated by Handler Excessive oil, grease, other substance". The "Mandatory Elimination" section has a "Cause:" field and a "NO SCORE" option. At the bottom, there is a "Judges Signature" line and a "Total Score:" field.

- Safety of the horses, handlers, and spectators is the primary factor in the decision on whether the in-ring procedure or the exit-the-ring procedure is most appropriate for a specific competition. *Questions to ask:*
- Is there a large enough area with safe footing to dedicate as a controlled paddock that is close to the ring and secure?
- Is a responsible adult/show commission member available to supervise this area? *Note: the steward can oversee the area but cannot be committed to the area fulltime since his duties include other areas of the 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 is chosen, competition needs to mark an area of 40-75 feet where the handler walks the horse after trotting into the ring.

**USEF Rule Book – Arabian/Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Division. Wording in red(appears as dark gray is effective April 1, 2008. Class entrance drawings are for reference only and are not part of the rule.**

**AR107 Conduct and Specifications.**

1. The following procedures shall be followed in all breeding classes, including Gelding In-Hand classes:
  - a. At all AHA Regional and National level competitions, the order of go shall be determined and posted by the birth date oldest to youngest, including post entries. The procedure (for selecting the order of go) may be used at other recognized competitions at the discretion of competition management. All in-hand classes will be conducted as Breeding and Gelding In-Hand Classes.

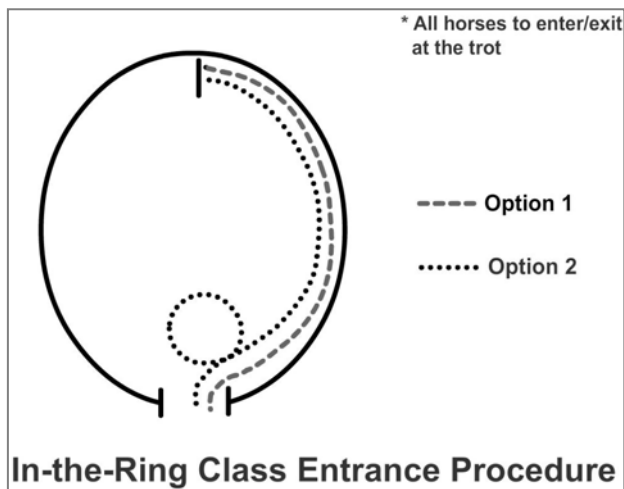
**Effective 4/1/08:** The following procedures shall be followed in all breeding classes, including Gelding In-Hand classes: *(Drawings are not part of the rule – they are for illustration purposes only.)*

*b. Competition management shall have the option of choosing one of two class procedures:*

- (1) - In the Ring Class Procedure*
- (2) - Exit the Ring Class Procedure*

*c. In the Ring Class Procedure*

*Judging begins when the first horse enters the ring. From the moment the horse enters the ring its movement is being evaluated and scored. The horse shall enter at a trot, and at the handler's discretion may either proceed directly along the rail, or trot a counterclockwise circle at the in-gate end of the arena*



*and then proceed along the rail to the far end of the arena. Upon each horse reaching the designated position at the far end of the arena they are to remain relaxed. The judge(s) will then ask for the next horse to enter the ring. When all horses have entered the ring the horses shall be asked to walk collectively counter-clockwise and/or clockwise past each (and all) judge(s). They shall walk in a relaxed manner on a loose lead with the handler at the side of his horse, whips down. The lead line must maintain a discernible drape and the handler must not place his hand on the chain or close enough to in any way restrict the natural head and neck motion. The handler may not unnecessarily impede the*

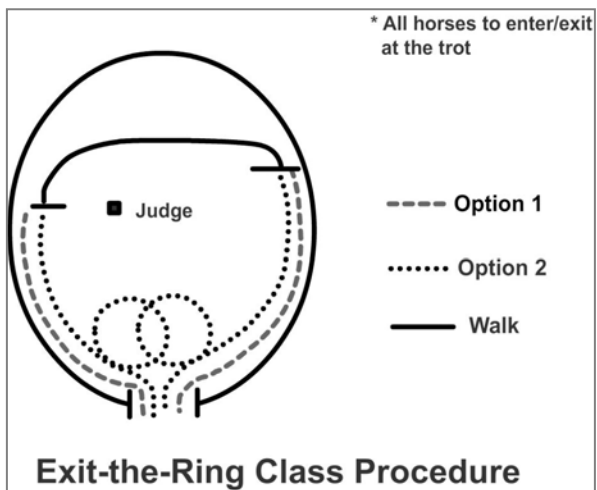
*forward motion of the horse while at the walk. Following the cessation of the walk all horses shall relax within the ring and only the horse “on deck” shall be prepared to show. Each horse shall be led to the judge(s) at the walk and presented for judging. In order to satisfy a proper presentation to the judge, horses should stand correctly, bearing weight on all four feet (not stretched), in a quiet and deliberate manner. Following the evaluation by the judge(s), horses shall walk away from the judge(s), and then strike a trot before turning left and proceeding counter clockwise down the rail. They shall resume their relaxed position at the end of the arena. The scores for all categories will be completed, recorded, and may be announced at this time.*

*d. Handlers are expected to keep a reasonable clearance between horses and judges should modify the alignment of horses to achieve that clearance. Further judging will not commence until the Call Judge approves the placement and spacing of all horses.*

*e. Exit the Ring Class Procedure*

*All class entrants must be in a “controlled paddock” outside the ring until entering the ring individually in the designated order of go (AR107.1a). The horse shall enter at a trot, and at the handler's discretion may either proceed directly along the rail, or trot a counterclockwise circle at the in-gate end of the arena and then proceed along the rail to a designated point by the judges. The horse*

*shall then walk in a relaxed manner on a loose lead with the handler at the side of his horse, whips down. The lead must maintain a discernible drape and the handler must not place his hand on the chain or close enough to in any way restrict the natural head and neck motion. The handler may not unnecessarily impede the forward motion of the horse while at the walk. Each horse shall be led to the judge(s) at the walk and presented for judging. In order to satisfy a proper presentation to the judge, horses should stand correctly, bearing weight on all four feet (not stretched), in a quiet and deliberate manner. Following the evaluation by the judge(s), horses shall walk away from the judge(s), and then strike a trot. At the handler's discretion they may trot a counter clockwise circle and then proceed towards the exit, or proceed directly towards the exit. The scores for all categories will be completed, recorded, and announced at this time. The horse shall be excused from the ring to the controlled paddock where it shall remain until the placings are announced, and the next horse shall enter promptly and be presented accordingly until the class is completed.*



*f. Only the horses “on deck” shall be allowed to prepare for its presentation to the judge(s). Preparation shall include controlled circling and positioning the horse for presentation to the judge(s). The only shanking allowed shall be limited to an unruly horse in order to regain control. All other exhibitors must remain relaxed within the ring or they shall be penalized.*

*g. There can be NO contact of the whip to the horse. ANY contact shall result in elimination by the judge.*

*h. A horse that appears to be intimidated by its handler will be penalized. This may include but is not limited to, crouching, cowering, quivering, withdrawing and buckling their knees. Judge(s) may excuse any entry deemed in violation of any of these restrictions.*

*i. A “controlled paddock” is an area designated by show management outside the competition ring for Breeding/Gelding In-Hand classes. The USEF steward and/or the Show Commission shall supervise this area. Only one specified person appointed by the show committee shall be in the controlled paddock to assist with the entrance(s) into the arena. BOD 1/14/07 Effective 4/1/08*

2. A horse must be handled and shown throughout an entire class by only one and the same person, except that a substitute handler may be used if, during a class, the original handler becomes ill or is injured. Time allowed for the change of handler shall be in accordance with General Rules, GR833. No handler may show more than one horse per class.

3. Specifications.

a. Colt/Stallion, Filly/Mare Breeding Classes. Emphasis shall be placed in the following order of importance: type, conformation, suitability as a breeding animal, quality, movement, substance, manners, and presence. When Colt/Stallion and Geldings are judged together, the above class specifications will be used except that Geldings shall not be judged on suitability as a breeding animal.

b. Gelding In-Hand Classes. Emphasis shall be placed in the following order of importance: conformation, type, quality, movement, substance, manners, and presence.

c. Transmissible weakness shall be considered a serious breeding fault in breeding stock. Colts and Stallions two years old and over must have both testicles descended.

4. In-Hand horses are not to be stretched. A horse is considered not stretched if all four feet are flat on the ground and at least one front and one rear cannon bone is perpendicular to the ground.

5. Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries shall be severely penalized.

6. Additional causes for mandatory elimination from the arena are

a. removal of eyelashes,

b. changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail (See GR802),

- c. balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils. A judge may penalize an entry with excessive amounts of oil, grease or other substances so as to cause an unnatural appearance;
- d. No product shall be applied to a horse's hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Only clear or transparent products may be used on the hooves of horses while being shown in Breeding and/or In-Hand classes.

### **AR108 Championships.**

1. Show Champions and Reserve Champions shall be at least two years old and are selected as outlined in GR810.5. Purebred yearling geldings may compete for Champion gelding.
2. Walking horses quietly on the rail is optional at the judge's discretion.

#### **Explanation:**

- Regionals and Nationals (US, Youth, and Canada)
  - Top 5 (Regionals) or Top 10 (Nationals) scores come back for the final presentation. Horses are brought into the ring individually for presentation; preferably in numerical back number order.
  - Total overall points determines champion/reserve champion. Scores are to be announced for champion & reserve but do not have to be announced for the remaining horses.
  - All scores must be posted within an hour of the final section of the class.
- All other multi-judge – either comparative or total points for champion/reserve – management's choice – publish in prize list.
- USEF/EC/AHA classes judged by a single judge – total points determines champion/reserve

#### **Ties**

- Ties for Arabian classes will be broken first by the highest total Arabian Type (Presence) Score, and then by the highest total score for Movement, followed by the total Conformation score.
- Ties for Half-Arabians/Anglo-Arabians will be broken first by the highest total Conformation Score, then by the highest total Movement Score.
- 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. If the horses are still tied, then judge two's card and then to judge three's card if necessary.
- In a single judge system, and a tie remains after all the above tie breakers are instituted, the judge will do a comparative evaluation to determine champion and reserve champion.

#### **Score Sheet**

1. An individual sheet will be used for each horse. There are separate score sheet for Arabian classes and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian classes.
  - a. The class number and name, competition name, date, and judge's name needs to be listed on each score sheet. The most efficient method of accomplishing this is to apply computer generated labels with this information.
  - b. Score sheet must be kept for three years by the competition (USEF rule)
2. As each horse enters the ring, the judge writes down the exhibitor number on the score sheet.
3. 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.
4. Runner takes score sheet to person assigned to scoring – possibly the ring clerk.
5. 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.



- Major faults in any of the four categories that comprise the ‘Conformation Category’ cannot be scored any higher than a score of 10 for that category. Major faults in any of the other categories are to be penalized.
- 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. (*Note: this would be a ‘no score’ but the exhibitor may remain in ring. List cause on score sheet; sign score sheet.*)
- Total penalty points shall not exceed -5. (More than one penalty can be checked, but only one penalty score is assigned and that score cannot exceed -5.)
  - Penalties can be assigned for poor manners, undue stress, or inhumane treatment
  - A judge may penalize an entry with excessive amounts of oil, grease or other substances so as to cause an unnatural appearance.
  - Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries shall be severely penalized.
  - A judge must eliminate from judging consideration any horse that shows aggression or discontent toward its handler or any person in the ring. (This would be a ‘no score.’)
  - A horse that appears to be intimidated by its handler will be penalized. This may include but is not limited to, crouching cowering, quivering, withdrawing and buckling their knees. Judge(s) may excuse any entry deemed in violation of any of these restrictions.
- Mandatory elimination (*disqualification with dismissal from the ring*) is a ‘no score’ – list the cause on the score sheet; judge still signs the score sheet.
  - Any contact of the horse with a whip.
  - Horse possesses a whip mark (welt) on any portion of the horse. (Judge must complete USEF Whip Mark Form. See AR105.4 for additional information. )
  - removal of eyelashes
  - changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail (See GR802)
  - balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils
  - No product shall be applied to a horse’s hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Only clear or transparent products may be used on the hooves of horses while being shown in Breeding and/or In-Hand classes.
  - 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.

### **Exit-the-Ring Class Procedure**

- All class entrants must be in a “controlled paddock” outside the ring.
- One attendant can accompany the handler and the horse in the paddock.
- The USEF steward and/or the Show Commission/Show Committee shall supervise this area.  
*Note: unless there are multiple stewards present, the steward can oversee the area but cannot be committed to the area fulltime since his duties include other areas of the competition.*
- Only one specified person appointed by the show committee shall be in the controlled paddock to assist with enhancing action as horses enter the arena.

**Major and Minor Faults**

\* in front of Category name indicates a conformation category.

<i>Category</i>	<i>Major Fault</i>	<i>Minor Fault</i>
<b>*Head</b>	Overshot jaw (parrot mouth) Undershot jaw (monkey mouth) Convex head (Roman nose) Small eye (pig eyes) Human eye (purebred only) Glass/blue eyes (purebred only) Cataract/cloudy eye Course muzzle Course, meaty features Lop ears or cow ears.	Narrow eye set Excessive length to head Large coarse ears Wide set ears (sheep eared) Excessively close set ears Long head Narrow head
<b>*Neck and Shoulder</b>	Low set Swan neck Ewe shaped Poor hinge Thick throat Excessive heavy neck Straight shoulder Flat withers (mutton withers)	Straight neck. Short neck Excessive crest
<b>*Back, Loin and Hip</b>	High croup Long coupling – long back Low in the back (sway back) Shallow body Rafter hips Short croup Short hip Steep sloping hip	Hernia
<b>*Legs and Feet.</b>  <i>FRONT LEGS</i>	Calf knees (sheep knees). Bench knees (offset knees) Bow legs (bandy legged) Knock knees (knee narrow) Straight or short pasterns Coon footed (excessive sloped pasterns) Tied in knees (tied in tendons) Toes out (splay footed) Long cannons (high knees) Base narrow (stands close) Base wide (stands wide)	Toe in (pigeon toed) Buck knees (knee sprung) Capped elbow
<b>*Legs and Feet</b>  <i>REAR LEGS</i>	Post legged. Bow legged(bandy hocked) Long cannons (high hocks) Straight or short pasterns Coon footed. Stands wide (base wide) Camped out . Stands close (base narrow) Curb	Stands under (sickle hocks) Toes out Cow hocked Capped hock Bog spavin Thoroughpin
<b>*Legs and Feet</b>  <i>ANY LEG</i>	Club foot Dished foot Contracted narrow feet (mule footed) Splints caused from faulty conformation Ring or side bones Epiphysitis Bowed tendons	Broken axis of pastern and hoof Feet out of balance Wind puffs (joint capsule hygromas) Splints with no faulty conformation)

<i>ANY LEG, cont.</i>	Ossolets Founder (laminitis)	
<b>Arabian Type</b>	No tail carriage. Wry tail	Low set tail
<b>Movement</b>	Irregular strides Stubby movement Choppy stride Short stride Wings in	Lacks coordination Paddles out

### Quick List of Penalty Application

	<i>Penalty Total penalty points shall not exceed -5.</i>	<i>Elimination from judging consideration</i>	<i>Elimination (disqualification) from the ring</i>
Poor manners, undue stress, or inhumane treatment,	Penalize		
Excessive amounts of oil, grease or other substances	Penalize		
Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries.	Severe penalty		
A horse that appears to be intimidated by its handler.	Penalize	Penalize; may be excused from 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.		Ineligible to receive an award in that respective class - no score	
Unsoundness		Eliminate from judging consideration – no score	Unsoundness
Horse that shows aggression or discontent toward its handler or any person in the ring.		eliminate from judging consideration – no score	Horse that shows aggression or discontent toward its handler or any person in the ring.
Any contact of the horse with a whip.			Mandatory
Horse possesses a whip mark (welt) on any portion of the horse.			Mandatory –judge completes whip mark form
Removal of eyelashes			Mandatory
Changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail			Mandatory
Balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils			Mandatory
Product applied to a horse's hoof to hide or conceal a conformation defect. Non-transparent products on the hooves of horses.			Mandatory
Unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger the handler, other exhibitors or their entries.			Mandatory
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			Mandatory