

Note: The following excerpts from the AHA rules are provided for MAHA Breeders Futurity members who are interested in showing in Sport Horse classes at the 2004 Futurity.

Sport Horse In Hand

PURPOSE: TO EVALUATE AND ENCOURAGE THE BREEDING OF ARABIAN AND HALF-ARABIAN/ANGLO ARABIAN HORSES SUITABLE FOR DRESSAGE, WORKING HUNTER, EVENTING, JUMPER, COMPETITIVE TRAIL AND ENDURANCE. TO PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF BREEDING PROGRAMS. FORM TO FUNCTION WILL BE EMPHASIZED.

In-hand Classes: Judge must excuse from the ring any unruly horse or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors or their entries. A whip may be used to guide the horse. Excessive use of the whip or actions that may disturb other entries shall be severely penalized. (Maximum length is 6 feet).

Conformation is evaluated in terms of potential trainability, potential performance and predisposition to soundness. Blemishes are not to count unless resulting from conformation faults. Gaits are to be evaluated in terms of horse remaining sound and useable are most important. Purity and quality are judged mainly in profile. Correctness is judged mainly while the horse is coming to and going from the judge's position. Colts and Stallions two years and over must have both testicles descended.

Classes to be divided in two divisions: 1) Arabian, and 2) Half-Arabian/Anglo Arabian. Classes may be held in any age groups deemed appropriate by competition management and published in their prize list.

Attire: AHA rules state 'conservative attire'. The unwritten rule that comes from the open division means conservative attire should be a white shirt and beige or white casual style pants. Running shoes are advisable, but personal preference. If the scheduling of the show is tight, you may also be dressed in breeches, boots, & jacket. Hat, vest and gloves are optional. If whip is used, maximum length is 6 feet.

Appointments: Snaffle bridles mandatory on three-year-olds and up, and optional for two-year-olds. Two year-olds may wear a plain stable halter. Stable halters are **mandatory for under two-year-olds**. The reins can be over the horse's neck and braided into the last braid (leading by a shank attached to nose band or chain through the bit), or exhibitor can show by holding the reins. The reins can also be removed and the exhibitor can show from a lead shank-either with a chain through the bit, or with the lead buckled to the noseband. Braiding is optional.

Conduct of class: Horses will be shown individually on the triangle. Triangle may be adjusted to fit local conditions. Following a posted or announced order, or on request from the judge, entries in each class will approach the judging area one at a time, walk to the apex (start) of the triangle and await the judge's request to proceed.

Patterns: The judge will stand at the apex (top) of the triangle. When the exhibitor approaches to stand for conformation judging, the judge will ask in which discipline (dressage, working hunter, etc.) the horse will be used for. The handler should stand the horse so all 4 legs are visible from profile view and leave the horse to carry its head/neck in a natural position (NO POSING OF HEAD AND NECK POSITION IS ALLOWED). When it is time to show, the handler should organize the horse for a straight line on the freest lead line possible (no choke holds) and show a normal walk. It takes time and training for horse to stay away from the handler and walk a straight line. The handler should pause at the apex in order to make an organized turn. When proceeding, the handler should walk down the left side of the small triangle (clockwise direction), turn right and show an extended walk across the base of the triangle. In order to show the horse at extended walk, the handler should extend his/her own walk- do not quicken the pace or the horse will jig or trot. The point of the extended walk is to show over tracking, a loose back, and balanced, relaxed head and neck position. Turn right again and show a normal walk towards the judge. Continue around the apex of the triangle, past the judge and begin the normal (working) trot down the left side of the larger triangle. It is O.K. to pause before making the right turn to the base of the large triangle to ensure both handler and horse are balanced to show the extended trot. Again, the judge will be looking for an over tracking, lifting the back, and reaching with the head and neck. Slow down and make a balanced final turn towards the judge and show the normal working trot. This should be a fairly conservative but still a quality two beat gait as the judge is looking for the correct flight of the front feet. The judge may want the handler to stand the horse again for a further conformation look, or the judge may excuse the handler in order to complete the score sheet.

Preparation for this class is important. Practice the pattern as well as random patterns of walking, halting, trotting, and extending the gaits. If you remember to walk long, not fast, then your horse should mirror actions. It is acceptable to build to the extended trot over 2-3 strides. If you turn and immediately run hard, your horse will probably blow. Work to maintain control.

Scoring: The judge shall use the approved AHA individual score sheets provided to competition management by AHA.

A scribe shall be provided for each judge. The scribe's main duty is to record judge's scores and comments on the score sheets.

Tied scores shall be broken first by referring to the totals of the movement scores. If still tied, the tie may be broken at the judge's discretion.

Scores shall be reported as a total based on the stated percentages against a possible total of 100% and all scores and placings must be posted.

For further reference/information, refer to the USA Equestrian Rule book Chapter 12 under the Arabian, Half-Arabian & Anglo-Arabian section.