

THE ARAB HORSE SOCIETY RULES FOR SHOWING 2024

All shows affiliated to the AHS are bound by the Rules below.

At shows which are also affiliated to ECAHO the rules of both organisations will apply to some classes but ECAHO Rules take precedence where there could be a clash or conflict.

In THE HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW qualifying classes the rules of both organisations will apply but THE HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW rules will take precedence where there could be a clash or conflict.

1. All exhibitors by entering their horses for AHS affiliated shows are entering into a contract whereby they agree to abide by the AHS Rules for Showing and agree to follow the instructions of the show officials whenever instructions are given. Their grooms, riders, agents or respective companions are also contracted to follow these instructions.
2. All Handlers and all Riders must be members of the AHS before entering the ring to compete at the AHS National Championship Show, in any THE HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW qualifying classes and in classes for pure bred Arabs in EAHSC affiliated classes at a show also affiliated to the AHS.
3. All owners must have public liability insurance which covers yourself and any handler, rider, junior who are showing your horse(s)
4. Title Show or A Show Champion Gold and Silver medal winners are not allowed to take part in a British National Class for the rest of that calendar year and the two calendar years following unless the horse has passed from a junior to a senior, or yearling to junior category
5. If any horse is disqualified from its class because of infringement of any rule, entry fees may be forfeited. Class placings will also be adjusted accordingly.
6. **INCIVILITY.** Any act of discourtesy or disobedience to any judge, steward or show official on the part of the exhibitor, groom, rider, agent or their respective companion of an animal will, at the discretion of the show, disqualify that animal from being judged.
7. The use of mobile phones in the ring by exhibitors, grooms and judges is strictly prohibited.
8. **DRESS.** Handlers, grooms, and exhibitors entering the ring at any time must all be neat and tidy. Traditional in hand showing or riding clothes are preferred. No form of advertising may be displayed by the handler or on any horse in the rings. Gaiters may be worn; however, chaps are not permitted in any class. No earrings, piercings, or visible jewellery should be worn.

9. A handler/rider appearing to display inability for any reason to safely and properly control the horse in his/her charge will be asked to leave the ring or collecting area, in which case the horse may be disqualified from its class.

10. **ELIGIBILITY.** All exhibits in Ridden and In Hand classes, with the exception of foals at foot accompanied by their own dam, must be registered in the appropriate Stud Book/Register of The Arab Horse Society, by the closing date for entries.

a. **STALLIONS.** Stallions must be four years old and over. Handlers of stallions and colts must have attained their 18th birthday.

b. **MARES.** Mares which are entered for classes for mares without foal at foot must not be entered for brood mare classes. Mares with a live foal born in the current year may not be exhibited under saddle.

c. **FOALS.** Foals under 6 months old must be accompanied by their dams at all times. No brood mare or her foal may be shown in any class unless the foal is at least 30 days old on the day of judging.

11. **DEFINITION OF AMATEUR STATUS**

a. Handler or Rider not to have been paid for showing or producing any horse for a third party, this includes any remuneration either as employment, casual showing, or any in-kind benefits whatsoever within the last 36 months.

b. Horse not to have resided on a professional yard on show or training livery in current year. DIY and minimal assisted livery is excluded.

c. Horse not to have been shown by a professional handler or rider in current year.

d. Horse not to have received regular training from a professional in current year.

e. All children aged 14 and under on January 1st 2024 will be eligible for amateur status regardless of points 9.a to d.

12. Horses/ponies in Anglo and Part Bred Arab classes must be shown plaited (regardless of colour) apart from show cobs which may be hogged. Palominos in their class should be shown unplaited.

13. Horses/ponies shown in **High Percentage Part Bred Arab (min 50%) classes** may be shown unplaited (regardless of colour).

14. **TIMETABLE.** Classes will not start earlier than the advertised time unless all the entries are present.

15. **AWARDS.** If an exhibit is not up to the required standard a lower award may be given at the judge's discretion. The Judge's decision is final.

16. **CHAMPIONSHIPS.** First and second prize winners are eligible. Class winner rosettes must be displayed.

All prize-winners eligible must take part in their respective championships and failure to do so may result in disqualification and removal of awards. In certain special cases only permission may be granted by the Show Organiser or veterinary surgeon for exhibits to miss the championship. Any such permission must be granted before the commencement of the relevant championship.

17. **TRIMMING AND CLIPPING.** Pure Bred Arabians - Tactile hair must not be removed by any means. Eyelashes and tactile hair must be left uncut. Removal of hair from inside the ear is forbidden. No coloured products are permitted on hooves.

All exhibits - No alteration to the natural colour of the coat or skin is permitted.

The use of oils and clear make-up on horses exhibiting in the show ring must be kept to a minimum. A judge may disqualify a horse, who in their opinion is wearing excessive make-up and /or oils.

18. **CRUELTY.** Whipping, intimidation, use of electric shock devices or infliction of pain by any means is forbidden in all parts of the showground, or stable areas, at all times.

At the discretion of the judge horses that show fear of their handlers may be asked to leave the ring.

19. **OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE.** Attempting to influence the behaviour of exhibits in the ring is forbidden.

Exhibits must not be stirred up. Horses must remain calmly in the collecting ring with a maximum of one handler/rider and one groom until they enter the ring. No devices, artificial gadgets or loud noises shall be used to excite horses. This rule also applies to persons on the outside of the ring or collecting ring. Exhibits which are excessively excited may be asked to leave the ring or collecting ring and be disqualified from their class.

20. **INTERFERENCE.** Exhibitors will not encourage their horses or ponies in any sort of dangerous behaviour. They will not interfere with another competitor's horse or its performance. The judge is empowered to order any exhibit to be disqualified if he considers that the exhibit or handler has breached the rule.

21. **BEHAVIOUR**

- a. Any horse behaving in a dangerous manner which could threaten the safety of other competitors or spectators may be asked to leave.
- b. Unruly horses may be ordered to withdraw at the judge's discretion.
- c. If a horse becomes loose in the show ring the owner may be required to pay a fine to the organiser. Should the horse become loose a second time it will be disqualified.
- d. Deliberate baiting or crowding of a horse will not be tolerated.
- e. At the British National Championships and all AHS Affiliated Shows horses must shown in their 'traditional' manner.

22. **MISUSE OF DRUGS.** It is forbidden to administer any stimulant, sedative, masking agent, anti-inflammatory agent, irritant or substance other than a normal nutrient to a horse or to cause one to be administered in any way whatsoever or to show or attempt to show a horse, which is found to have had administered to it any such stimulant, sedative or substance, whether intentionally or unintentionally, which may affect performance, appearance, temperament or soundness. Such forbidden substances are listed in the FEI Veterinary Regulations.

The Society reserves the right to cause to be carried out at any show, tests in accordance with the Standard Sampling Procedure prescribed in the Veterinary Rules of the F.E.I. Refusal to submit a horse for the taking of a sample for analysis shall constitute a breach of this rule. Anyone found to be in breach of this rule would be subject to disciplinary action and in the event of a positive test liable to pay administration costs.

23. **SOUNDNESS.** Exhibits which appear to be lame may be asked to withdraw at the judge's discretion.

24. **EXAMINATION.** Judges may require handlers to open horses' mouths or pick up their feet for inspection.

25. **JUDGES** Exhibitors will not associate with judges or their companions immediately before or at any time during the show. Judges and companions will not consult the catalogue at any time before or during the show.

26. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** No announcements of names of horses, exhibitors or handlers may be made until the completion of the class in which they appear.

27. **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

SPECIFIC TO IN HAND

- a) Officials appointed at a show will not knowingly officiate in a class in which horses are

entered concerning which there may be an actual or apparent conflict of interest. No official appointed at the show may exhibit, ride, drive or handle an entered horse or pursue any other activity not consistent with his/ her duties at the show in which he is officiating.

b) Exhibitors will declare on the entry form any actual or apparent conflict of interest with any of the officials invited at the show. Any exhibitor not declaring an existing conflict of interest, of which he is aware, will forfeit all entry fees and will be prevented from showing the horse.

c) Organisers will not accept any entries for which any actual or apparent conflict of interest with one of the appointed officials has been indicated by the exhibitor, unless a reserve official is available.

d) An actual or apparent conflict of interest may occur if a horse is exhibited that:

- Is being trained or handled by a member of the official's family.
- Has been bought or sold by the official either as an owner or agent.
- Has been bred or is owned in whole or part by the official or a member of the official's family, or business partner in an Arab horse business venture.
- Has been leased by the official at any time.
- Has been bred by or is the property of a breeding organisation in which the official is or was an employee.
- Has been regularly trained, examined, or treated by the official in a professional capacity.
- Is the subject of an ongoing negotiation to buy or lease, or a provisional purchase condition to which the official is a party.
- Any official must decline to officiate if they consider themselves to have a conflict of interest concerning a horse, its handler or its owner(s).

SPECIFIC TO RIDDEN.

Exhibitors must not:

a) Exhibit in any class where the horse/ pony is under the ownership or production of any relative for whom he/she, his/her partner or business partner has provided or obtained livery or had any other connection (business or otherwise) with the judge since 1st January of the preceding year. Stud fees are exempt.

b) Exhibit any horse/ pony that is or has been owned, bred, produced, trained, or exhibited by the judge, a relative, business partner or partner (NB: Group teach-ins and demos are exempt, but regular lessons (once a month or more) are not)

c) Any rider must not have shown a horse/ pony owned, produced, or trained by the judge since 1st January of the preceding year. (NB: Group teach-ins and demos are exempt)

d) Exhibit any horse/ pony owned or produced by a person from whom the judge has purchased horses/ ponies or to whom he/she sold horses/ ponies since 1st January of the preceding year.

e) If a judge has reasonable grounds for belief that any section of the above ruling are being contravened then the judge must ask the rider to leave the ring and the rider must withdraw.

f) Sponsored riders should refrain from showing under their sponsors (this does not include Veterinary Practices)

28. OBJECTIONS

28.1 Objections may be submitted and must be made in writing stating the date, the time and the AHS rule believed to have been broken. The AHS complaint form should be used for this purpose.

28.2 Objections must be submitted to the Show Organiser within one hour of the end of the class, or the occurrence to which exception has been taken. If the Show Office is closed at the time of the occurrence objections must be submitted by 9am the following working day.

28.3 In the case of a breach if these rules being discovered after the show an objection submitted in writing to the Shows and Events Committee will be accepted on the following conditions:-

a) It was not possible to make the objection under 26.2 because the information was not available at the show.

b) Any such objection must be made within 5 days of the end of the class or the occurrence to which exception has been taken.

28.4 Objections must be accompanied by a deposit of £50 (cheques made payable to the AHS) which will be forfeited if the objection be deemed frivolous or vexatious.

28.5 **REFERRAL.** In certain cases the Show Organiser may choose to refer the case to the Shows and Events Committee of the Arab Horse Society for settlement.

28.6 The Shows and Events Committee of the Arab Horse Society reserves the right to investigate breaches of these rules that are brought to its attention by any means.

28.7 **PENALTIES.** Penalties may be applied as a result of any breach of the AHS Rules. Details of infringements of the Rules and any penalties applied may be published.

29. **APPEALS.** Any appeal against the decision of the Shows and Events Committee must be made within 14 days in accordance with the AHS Complaints Procedures, copies of which can be obtained from the website or from The Arab Horse Society offices.

30. **LATENESS** Exhibits which appear late (missing the walk around the ring) will be excluded from the class.

SPECIFIC TO IN HAND CLASSES

31. **SHOW HALTERS** Stallions and colts aged three years and over must be shown wearing bridles and bits. All halters and bridles must be both secure and comfortable for the horse. Bridles and bits must not be so thin as to cause pain to the horse. Foals must be suitably haltered without chains. Nosebands and headpieces of cable, beads or any solid material are not allowed unless suitably padded to protect sensitive areas.

32. **HANDLERS.** Handlers may exchange horses. No handler may leave the ring without the permission of the judge via the steward.

33. If a handler removes a horse without the permission of the judge or steward the show organiser will levy a £100 fine on the handler. The exhibitor will be ultimately responsible for ensuring payment.

SPECIFIC TO RIDDEN CLASSES

34. **PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR** - Correctly secured British Standard skull caps/ riding hats that meet with current BSI or European safety standards must be worn by riders 18 years and under. A rider whose hat comes off will be disqualified with the exemption of bowlers, hunting caps and top hats where permitted, when it must be passed up from the ground. A rider, whose strap comes undone whilst competing must on penalty of disqualification, replace it or fasten it before continuing. The rider may stop without penalty to refasten the strap.

35. A Novice horse is one that has not been placed first in three ridden classes at novice or open level at affiliated shows prior to 1 January of the current season and/or has never been awarded champion in a qualifier for THE HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW.

35.1

Pre Novice Rule - Pre Novice Ridden horses must be four years old and will be judged as a riding horse. The judge will NOT ride. A short individual show will be required. Any suitable bridle may be worn and spurs are not acceptable.

A Pre Novice Horse is one that has not been placed first in three pre novice classes and upon the third win would automatically upgrade to normal Novice Classes where the judge rides.

Horses entered in Pre Novice classes may not enter open classes at the same show.

36. Spurs must not be worn in Novice or Pre Novice classes.
37. Whips used in Ridden classes must not exceed 75cms (30ins). Side saddle excepted.
38. If competing in **THE HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW** qualifying classes only shoes that do not cover the frog are permissible. Normal shaped open heeled plastic stick on shoes are permissible. No bar shoes, pads or gel pads are allowed.
39. No horse shall be ridden on the showground in draw reins, side reins or running reins. A breach of this rule may result in the horse being disqualified from its classes in which case entry fees and awards will be forfeited. Side reins may be used when lunging.
40. Ridden class exhibits must wear conventional and well maintained English tack. The judge may refuse to ride or judge a horse if he/ she deems the tack to be unsafe or unsuitable. Under no circumstances may tack be changed during the judging of a class. If competing in a championship the same tack used in the class must be worn. Whips are not considered tack.
41. Horses entered in ridden classes must be 4 years old or over. Age is calculated from the 1st January each year. (e.g. a foal becomes a yearling on the first day of January following that of its birth).
42. **RIDDEN STALLIONS.** Stallion badges **MUST** be worn at all times when mounted, badges should be displayed on the bridle, not the rider.
43. **RIDDEN CLASSES.** The class as a whole should be ridden and not judged solely from the ground; the exception being any pony 148cm and under which must **NOT** be ridden but must be asked for an individual show. In a mixed height class this exception must be communicated to all the exhibitors so that they clearly understand the position from the outset of the class. Individual shows will be required in Championships. Where a show meets the criteria for the Small Shows Scheme and appoints an In Hand Judge for ridden classes none of the exhibits will be ridden.
44. **JUNIOR/INTERMEDIATE RIDER CLASSES.** Restricted to riders who are 18 years and under or intermediate riders who are 25 years and under on the first day of the show. No spurs allowed. No stallions allowed for 18 and under. The judge will not ride any of the exhibits. The horses will give a short individual show and be placed on their performance and the ability of the rider. The winners of these classes do not qualify for the main Championships.
45. **THE HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW QUALIFIERS.** To qualify, the horse must not have previously qualified during the current year. For **THE HORSE OF THE YEAR SHOW** Ridden Arab Horse of the Year the exhibitor must have purchased an AHS Q Card displaying the name of the horse.

We request that all exhibitors accepting a HOYS qualifier do so fully intending to enter and attend HOYS or pass their qualifier down to the next eligible horse.

46. Any exhibitor falling off within the show ring during a class will be disqualified and asked to leave the ring dismounted.

46.1 If the Judge falls from an exhibit, he/she must not remount that exhibit in that class, and it must be asked to leave the ring.

It is at the Judge's discretion as to whether he/she feels fit to continue judging. If the Judge does not feel fit to continue a replacement Ridden Judge may be found. If this is not possible an In Hand Judge may judge from the ground in which case the exhibits will be asked to do an individual show. The Show Organiser has the right to over-ride the Judge's decision should he/she consider that the Judge is not fit to continue.

47. If a rider removes a horse from the ring without the permission of the judge or steward the show organiser will levy a £100 fine on the rider. The exhibitor will be ultimately responsible for ensuring payment. Exceptions may be made if the horse is seen to be unsafe and the rider is unable to attract the attention of the Steward.

48. In ridden classes a horse's manners are important and Judges should refuse to ride unmannerly, unschooled, or dangerous horses.

49. Horses must be trained to stand quietly to be mounted. Judges may choose to use a mounting block.

50. Any horse in a ridden class that behaves in a manner which could cause, or result in danger or injury to any other horse or person in the ring, will be ordered to leave by the Steward on instructions from the judge of that class.

51. **LATENESS.** Exhibits that appear late (missing the walk around the ring) will be excluded from the class.

52. The Horse of the Year show Qualifiers must be judged by a Ridden and In hand judge using a marking system. Judges must **NOT** alter marks unless in extreme circumstances, if the marks are altered the judge must sign the marks sheet and initial the alteration. Judges have the right **ONLY** to alter placings if an animal misbehaves after the marks have been awarded. If a mistake in the marks is discovered, even after dismissing the class, it must be corrected, and any qualification/result amended. All score sheets must be returned to the Arab Horse Society within 7 days.

53. **RIDDEN CHAMPIONSHIPS** All qualified exhibits must be ridden into the ring. However, if a rider has qualified more than one horse, that rider will be allowed, if they wish, to exchange horses and ride each horse for its individual display. A groom is allowed into the ring to hold the horse whilst not being ridden.

54. SOCIAL MEDIA and INTERNET POLICY

(A) Introduction

The AHS acknowledges the importance of the Internet and Social Media sites such as Twitter, Facebook, Linked-In, and all other forms of electronic communication and the role which “Social Media” plays in the day-to-day lives of Members.

This policy note is to remind Members that the Rules of the AHS apply to all Members when using Social Media and the Internet. Failure to adhere to this policy note could lead to disciplinary action being taken against a Member.

(B) Using Social Media

(i) You should be aware the AHS may from time to time carry out internet searches to identify postings which include references to the AHS and its Members.

(ii) AHS images are the subject of copyright

(iii) You should ensure that any material that you transmit or post to Social Media is clearly stated to be your personal view and is not held out to be, or could be mistaken as, the view of the AHS

(iv) You must not post or transmit any material which could damage the name or reputation of the AHS, its Members or former Members or which is derogatory to the character of or prejudicial to the interests of the AHS.

(v) You must not post or transmit any material relating to the AHS, Members, former Members, their horses, or which could otherwise be associated with or which may reasonably be attributed as coming from the AHS:

(a) that is threatening, defamatory, obscene, indecent, seditious, offensive, pornographic, abusive, liable to incite racial hatred, discriminatory, menacing, scandalous, inflammatory, blasphemous, in breach of confidence, in breach of privacy or which may cause annoyance, distress or inconvenience or;

(b) that constitutes or encourages conduct that would be in breach of the AHS Rules, or constitutes a criminal offence, or which could give rise to civil liability, or otherwise be contrary to the laws of, or infringe the rights of any third party in the UK or any other country in the world.

(vi) Any breach of this policy may constitute a breach of the AHS Rules and could also lead to civil and/or criminal proceedings being brought against you.