

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2024	2/1/2024	

Rule Change Intent

To reorganize the performance section for better comprehension and ease of use for exhibitors, officials, and competition management. Further, there is a need to define how performance halter horses are to be shown. Horses competing performance halter are to be shown in a relaxed manner with no attention getting devices.

Proponent Details	Contact Information
AHA	Emily McSweeney emcsweeney@usef.org

Linked Rules	Comments

Committee Actions

SUBCHAPTER AR-4 PERFORMANCE HALTER SECTION

AR123 General

1. ~~Performance Halter classes (See also AR-1, AR-2 and AR-3) Horses with loss of sight in one eye may compete in Performance Halter classes.~~
2. ~~Open, Amateur and Junior Exhibitor classes may be held. Classes will not be split by horse's age. Exception: "Prospect" class for horses two and under at the discretion of show management. Classes must be separated by Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian. In addition, they must be separated by stallion, mare and gelding. All horses three years of age and older must have been entered and shown in an USEF/EC recognized or AHA recognized performance class (Under Saddle and/or Driving) at the same show as the one in which the performance halter class is being held, or have completed an AHA sanctioned Endurance ride or a Competitive Trail Ride recognized by AHA or sanctioned by an AHA recognized Competitive Trail riding organization in the past 90 days. If a horse is disqualified, excused, or voluntarily withdrawn from a performance class, that class may not be used to qualify for Performance Halter. Horses qualifying via Endurance or Competitive Trail must present dated proof of completion to the show secretary. If classes are held in conjunction with an AHA sanctioned Endurance ride or a Competitive Trail riding organization, all registered Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses entered in and having completed the ride are eligible to compete.~~
3. ~~No whips or other attention getting devices are allowed.~~
4. ~~Horses will be presented in a relaxed and dignified manner. Horses should be positioned with their weight squarely on their feet, not stretched. Horse shall be presented for judging, in a relaxed manner.~~
5. ~~Horses will be judged using the Arabian Performance Halter Score Sheet, with the results based on the total scores. Shows must post the results no later than one hour after completion of the class.~~
6. ~~A horse will be eliminated and excused, if it:~~
 - a. ~~is crouching, cowering, buckling at the knees, sweating, trembling, racing backwards or sideways to escape their handlers or other behavior indicating fear, stress or intimidation. This rule will be strictly enforced;~~
 - b. ~~exhibits any welt or swelling that look like a whip mark, regardless of how this was caused;~~
 - c. ~~is obviously limping or of impaired gait;~~
 - d. ~~horse (AR109.3) has fallen; or~~
 - e. ~~(AR105.6) for inhumane treatment and undue stress.~~
7. ~~A horse may be disqualified, penalized and/or excused for the following:~~
 - a. ~~exhibits disruptive behavior such that it or other horses are unable to be inspected by the judge;~~
 - b. ~~exhibits behavior such that the safety of it, the handler, an exhibitor, a judge, or another horse is in danger;~~
 - c. ~~is not under the control of the exhibitor;~~
 - d. ~~breaks loose from the exhibitor; or~~
 - e. ~~shanking is not permitted.~~
 - f. ~~A Ten Point Penalty must be assessed for an unnatural tail carriage, see AR105.2b.~~
8. ~~Horses may be shown in a traditional style Arabian show halter, a Western style show halter, or a leather stable halter. Horses may be shown in bridles appropriate to their performance divisions.~~
9. ~~Horses may be shown braided if braiding is appropriate for their performance division(s). Braiding is not required.~~
10. ~~Exhibitors may wear any clothing appropriate to the show ring that they feel best represents their horse, and allows them to show their horse to their best advantage. Suits or riding habits are not~~

required.

11. Chains through the mouth are not permitted. A chain or leather strap under the chin, or leather pieces connecting the two sides of the halter under the chin, are permitted.
12. No whips, schooling devices, "bagging", shakers, noisemakers or aids of any kind are permitted.

AR124 Procedure

1. Shows may use either "in the ring" or "exit the ring" procedures as identified under AR116.6a and AR116.6b.
2. For Purebred Performance Halter for a colt/stallion, filly/mare and gelding classes emphasis is placed in the following order: athletic structure, breed type, quality, balance and substance, neck and shoulder, back, loin and hip, legs and feet, movement.
3. For Half Arabian/Anglo Arabian Performance Halter for colt/stallion, filly/mare and gelding classes emphasis is placed in the following order: athletic structure, quality, balance and substance, neck and shoulder, back, loin and hip, legs and feet, and movement.
4. For definitions/rules/restrictions not covered herein refer to Subchapters AR-1, AR-2, and AR-3.

AR123 General

1. Open, Amateur and Junior Exhibitor classes may be held. Classes will not be split by the horse's age. Exception: "Prospect" class for horses two and under at the discretion of show management.
2. Classes must be separated by Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian. In addition, they must be separated by stallion, mare and gelding.
3. All horses three years of age and older must have been entered and shown in an USEF/EC recognized or AHA recognized performance class (Under Saddle and/or Driving) at the same show **(the same show is defined by the AHA recognized show number)** as the one in which the performance halter class is being held, or have completed an AHA sanctioned Endurance ride or a Competitive Trail Ride recognized by AHA or sanctioned by an AHA recognized Competitive Trail riding organization in the past 90 days. If a horse is disqualified, excused, or voluntarily withdrawn from a performance class, that class may not be used to qualify for Performance Halter.
4. Horses qualifying via Endurance or Competitive Trail must present dated proof of completion to the show secretary. If classes are held in conjunction with an AHA sanctioned Endurance ride or a Competitive Trail riding organization, all registered Arabian and Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian horses entered in and having completed the ride are eligible to compete. BOD 6/20/22 Effective 12/1/22
5. Horses with loss of sight in one eye may compete in Performance Halter classes.

AR124 Conduct

1. Horses will be judged using the Arabian Performance Halter Score Sheet, with the results based on the total scores **(refer to the AHA Handbook for procedure in placing horses at Regionals and Nationals)**. Shows must post the results no later than one hour after completion of the class.
2. For Purebred Performance Halter for a colt/stallion, filly/mare and gelding classes emphasis is placed in the following order: athletic structure, breed type, quality, balance and substance, neck and shoulder, back, loin and hip, legs and feet, movement.
3. For Half Arabian/Anglo Arabian Performance Halter for colt/stallion, filly/mare and gelding classes emphasis is placed in the following order: athletic structure, quality, balance and substance, neck and shoulder, back, loin and hip, legs and feet, and movement.
4. **Order of go will be at the discretion of competition management.**

AR125 Procedure

1. Shows may use either "in the ring" or "exit the ring" procedures as identified under AR116.6a and AR116.6b *or similar procedure as directed by show management in accordance with options as recommended by the Education & Evaluation Commission (EEC).*
2. *A horse must be handled and shown throughout the entire class by the same person, except in instances of illness or injury that require a substitute handler. Time allowed for the change of handler shall be in accordance with AR108 Time Out Rules. No handler is permitted to show more than one horse per class.*
3. *A "controlled paddock" is an area designated by show management outside the competition ring. A controlled paddock must be used and all competitors must pass through the "controlled paddock" in the designated order of go to entering the ring. A Federation steward and/or the Show Commission must supervise this area.*
4. *In a controlled Performance Halter paddock, no one will school the horse in a manner representative of a hard stand up prior to entering the ring. Any rule violation occurring in or around the controlled paddock will result in a warning and/or yellow card in accordance with USEF rules.*
5. No whips, schooling devices, "bagging", shakers, noisemakers or aids of any kind are permitted *in the controlled paddock or in the immediate vicinity of the ring.*
6. No whips or other attention-getting devices are allowed *within the ring.*
7. Horses will be presented in a relaxed, dignified manner *and may be expressive and attentive. No horse(s) will be shown in a manner deemed to be presented with a hard stance. On The Muscle/Hard Stand Up is defined as a shift of balance, withdrawing, or an increase in intensity due to any actions or cues from the handler.* Horses should be positioned with their weight *balanced on all four feet, not 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.*

AR126 Appointments

1. Horses may be shown in a traditional style Arabian show halter, a Western style show halter, or a leather stable halter. Horses may be shown in bridles appropriate to their performance divisions.
2. Chains through the mouth are not permitted. A chain or leather strap under the chin, or leather pieces connecting the two sides of the halter under the chin, are permitted.
3. Horses may be shown braided if braiding is appropriate for their performance division(s). Braiding is not required.
4. Attire: Exhibitors may wear any clothing appropriate to the show ring that they feel best represents their horse and allows them to show their horse to their best advantage. Suits or riding habits are not required.
5. *The use of hoof polish is permitted.*

AR127 Penalties

1. A horse will be eliminated and excused, if it:
 - a. is crouching, cowering, buckling at the knees, sweating, trembling, racing backwards or sideways to escape their handlers or other behavior indicating fear, stress or intimidation.

- This rule will be strictly enforced;
- b. exhibits any welt or swelling that look like a whip mark, regardless of how this was caused;
 - c. is obviously limping or of impaired gait;
 - d. horse (AR109.3) has fallen; or
 - e. (AR105.6) for inhumane treatment and undue stress.
 - f. exhibits disruptive behavior such that it or other horses are unable to be inspected by the judge;
 - g. exhibits behavior such that the safety of it, the handler, an exhibitor, a judge, or another horse is in danger;
 - h. is not under the control of the exhibitor;
 - i. breaks loose from the exhibitor; or
 - j. ***a horse is shanked (except in circumstances required to gain control);***
 - k. ***Removal of eyelashes; or***
 - l. ***Changing the natural color of the mane and/or tail***
2. A horse ***must*** ~~will~~ be penalized ***in accordance with*** ~~for~~ the following:
- a. ***A ten point penalty must be assessed if the horse is deemed to be presented with a hard stance.***
 - i. ***An on the muscle/hard stand up is defined as a shift of balance, withdrawing, or an increase in intensity due to any actions or cues from the handler.***
 - ii. ***A horse that shows natural charisma, presence and enthusiastic forward movement should be rewarded, not penalized.***
 - b. ***A Ten Point Penalty must be assessed for an unnatural appearance, see AR105.2b.***
 - c. ***Excessive amounts of oil, grease or other similar substance, in accordance with the Performance Halter Score Card.***
 - d. ***Balding the area around the eyes or proximal to the muzzle and nostrils, in accordance with Performance Halter score card.***