

Rule Change Type	Effective Date	Draft Received	Board Action
Standard	12/1/2025	5/5/2025	Approved 6/17/2025

Rule Change Intent

This change will allow for Designated Runner Exemptions in the Performance Halter division. As a breed and an Association, AHA wishes to encourage participation in horse shows and to encourage exhibitors who need assistance, but still wish to compete. AHA's base of exhibitors is aging and we wish to encourage those that want to remain active. Other organizations have acknowledged and addressed this same challenge in their own right. As a breed and an Association, we wish to encourage all to participate and we do not want to discriminate against anyone physically unable. The Arabian breed is a kind and charismatic horse that we should continue to promote as such.

(Resolution 5-24)

Proponent Details Contact Information

AHA

Ashton Street

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Linked Rules Comments

SUBCHAPTER AR-4 Performance Halter Section

AR125 Procedures

(...)

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 ~~or a designated runner exemption has been granted~~. 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. *A designated runner exemption may be granted under the following conditions:*

- a. *An exhibitor in any youth or amateur Performance Halter class who is unable to perform the trot portion as determined by a physician, may appoint a designated runner and submit to the competition at the time of check in to the show office a designated runner exemption form along with a signed physician statement. The physician statement must state the exhibitor is unable to perform the trot in hand portions of the class and the effective dates of the physician letter are not to exceed one year.*
- b. *It is the show management's responsibility to inform judge(s) of any designated runner exemptions.*
- c. *The designated runner must hold current memberships as required by the competition and these rules, and satisfy the eligibility requirements of the class. In addition to the handler, the designated runner must sign the entry blank as an exhibitor.*
- d. *The designated runner must be appropriately attired in accordance with the class or section requirements.*
- e. *The designated runner will handle the horse at the trot upon entrance and upon completion of the stand-up conformation judging. The exchange between the handlers will take place upon completion of the trot entrance and following completion of the stand-up conformation judging. The designated runner will remain in the arena for the duration of the class at a safe and reasonable distance dependent upon the configuration of the arena. In the event the handler requires emergency assistance, the designated runner may assist the handler, however any other coaching or assistance is prohibited.*