

**ATTENTION: MANAGERS
OF AHA RECOGNIZED EVENTS**

**Recommendations For Posting
Standards Of Conduct
And
Paddock Guidelines**



In order to create a broad awareness that humane care and treatment of horses is paramount to those in the Arabian horse community, the Professional Horsemen Committee has developed the enclosed Professional Horsemen Standards of Conduct and Paddock Guidelines.

At Show Management's discretion, please post these at your show/event (show office, paddock, in-gate, barns etc.) and feel free to reproduce them for placement in your exhibitor packets. These flyers may be enlarged and/or reproduced as your needs require.



**AT THE DIRECTION OF THE
AHA JUDGE'S & STEWARD'S
COMMISSIONER, AND THE
AHA EDUCATION AND
EVALUATION COMMISSION,
THE JUDGE(S) WILL BE
PENALIZING HORSES WITH
UNNATURAL TAILS.
CONVERSELY, HORSES WITH
NATURAL TAIL CARRIAGE
SHOWING EXPRESSION
THAT IS NOT ANGRY OR
OFFENSIVE WILL NOT BE
PENALIZED.**

A Message From The Judges & Stewards Commissioner

Controlled Paddock

Since the controlled paddock was first instituted, the use of large plastic bags and other items has escalated well beyond what is necessary to assist our in-hand horses into the arena. Additionally, we have erred by not clearly stating how this one specified person appointed by either the show committee or the exhibitor is to go about assisting with entrance(s) into the arena. It is well past time for us to establish these parameters and we ask for the support of all our owners and spectators in understanding that these parameters are for the welfare of our horses and our breed. These parameters will also help remove some of the negativity expressed regarding the current practices of how our in-hand horses are presented to the judges and to the public.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY: The one specified person assisting with entrance of in-hand horses into the ring will be allowed to use **only** the same length whip and appendages as are currently allowed for the individual handling the horse. **Rule reference AR114.2: Whips are to be no longer than 6' including snapper/lash/appendage. Small appendages (no more than 12 inches in length) of ribbon, plastic, etc. are permitted.**

The designated person **will not hit or use any other objects, such as trash cans, walls, etc., to make any noise.**

In addition, **effective immediately**, the use of plastic or paper bags of any type or size is prohibited in assisting with entrance(s) into the arena.

It is the responsibility of Show Management, along with the USEF Steward(s) to ensure the "designated person" understands this policy and their role.

Should this rule/policy be violated, a warning card may be issued to both the handler and the designated person or groom who initiates this violation.

R. Stanton Morey
Judges & Stewards Commissioner
Arabian Horse Association

PREAMBLE

We, as professional horsemen of AHA, pledge to assume a positive role as leaders in the Arabian horse community. While achieving the goals of promoting, showing and caring for the horse, we shall protect the health, image and welfare of the breed.

Therefore, we set forth the following standards:

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT

- ◆ We shall comply with and actively encourage all professional horsemen to adhere to all rules and regulations of AHA, USEF, EC and CAHR.
- ◆ We shall instill confidence, trust and mutual respect in our clients, fellow exhibitors and the public by a commitment to ethical practice and avoidance of any action conducive to discrediting the Arabian horse, AHA or our fellow horsemen.
- ◆ We shall conduct all business affairs with integrity, sincerity and accuracy in an open and forthright manner.
- ◆ We shall act with integrity in financial dealings with clients, other professionals and the public.
- ◆ Horsemen will never perform, condone or allow surgical alteration of an Arabian horse unless professionally prescribed by a licensed veterinarian, and then, only for the survival or threatened health of an Arabian horse.
- ◆ Horsemen will not administer to any horse engaged in competition drugs or medications that give an unfair competitive advantage or serve no required therapeutic purpose.
- ◆ We shall ensure that the welfare of the Arabian horse is paramount and that every Arabian horse be treated humanely and with dignity, respect and compassion.

PROFESSIONAL HORSEMEN'S Paddock GUIDELINES

The Professional Horsemen Committee has adopted the following paddock guidelines. These standards of etiquette are applicable in the paddock and in-gate areas from the moment the first class is called for any given session and will cease when the last class of the session has exited the arena.

1. Any act of mistreatment as defined by but not necessarily limited to the AHA Professional Horsemen's Code of Ethics and Conduct or any act of mistreatment as defined by the United States Equestrian Federation, Equine Canada, or the Canadian Arabian Horse Registry is strictly forbidden.
2. Only those individuals necessary for the preparation of an entry to the show arena, including the handler, rider or driver, are to be permitted in the paddock or in-gate area. These areas are not to be used as part of any other traffic pattern.
3. Any act of preparation for the show ring that could be considered disruptive to another exhibitor or not in the best interest of the breed, is strictly forbidden.
4. The use of any device, chemical compound, or action not considered in the best interest of the Arabian horse, or which could be perceived as attempting to alter the normal carriage or performance of the horse, is strictly forbidden.
5. Show officials, including judges, stewards, show management, show committees and volunteers, are to be treated in accordance with all applicable USEF, AHA and EC rules at all times.



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Commissioner's Letter to: **AHA Judges/Stewards/Exhibitors/Members**

On April 27th AHA received the results of a USEF Hearing Committee decision that will have a significant impact on rules interpretation for showing horses in hand. The entire notice may be read [HERE](https://www.usef.org/documents/rules/HearingCommittee/2016/HearingCommitteeRulings/AR116.6a3.pdf)
<https://www.usef.org/documents/rules/HearingCommittee/2016/HearingCommitteeRulings/AR116.6a3.pdf>

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY
(quote from USEF document dated April 27, 2016)
"... AR116.6a3 will allow shanking in Arabian Halter classes or competitions only in emergency situations where a horse becomes dangerously unruly and immediate shanking is required in order to regain control of the horse and prevent imminent harm to the horse or others.

In conjunction with AR115.1, with the exception of emergency circumstances where the horse is physically out of control and creating imminent danger to itself or others, from the date of the ruling forward, the threatening use of a whip (or potentially other objects) as a visual cue while preparing or presenting a horse in Arabian Halter classes or competitions must be recognized as intimidating behavior that is disallowed under AR115 and the general provisions of GR839".

The most significant parts of the ruling are as follows:

- USEF has determined that shanking [unprovoked aggressive force] "... must be recognized as intimidating behavior that is disallowed under AR115" and that it could also be considered abuse or inhumane treatment under rule GR839 except under the circumstance of a horse being out of control to the point that it is a danger to itself or others. This ruling supports our current Rule AR116.6a3 which states "only shanking allowed shall be limited to an unruly horse in order to regain control".
- The USEF Hearing Committee Panel stated that its references to shanking are defined as "... situations such as where a handler jerks hard on the lead, yanking the horse's head and causing the neck to twist or torque in another direction and the horse to abruptly shift its body posture to compensate."
- It is important to note that "The Panel is not referring to the use of appropriate lead contact, including short "bumps" on the lead, for correctional purposes.
- The lead may be used to position a horse, to make it stop, to have it come down from a canter to a trot, etc.
- In effect USEF has determined that if a horse is shanked (as defined above **and not a situation of regaining control of an unruly horse**) in the competition ring, the horse is either being intimidated and/or abused by the handler, or the handler believes it has become a danger to itself or others. Therefore, going forward, judges must excuse from the ring any horse that is shanked as defined by USEF.
- **Should shanking occur anywhere on the competitions grounds outside the competition ring, appropriate official warnings, eliminations or other sanctions will be applied. (See AR105.4)**
- The USEF panel also noted that the use of a whip in a threatening or intimidating fashion is prohibited and must be penalized under rule AR115.1. This is a reminder to all of our judges and exhibitors that any form

of intimidation MUST be penalized and this includes the use of a whip in such a manner as to intimidate the horse.

As Commissioner I felt it imperative that I immediately inform all of our exhibitors, judges and stewards of how AR116.6a3 and AR115.1 will be interpreted and the consequences of shanking a horse in the show ring or anywhere on the competition grounds. Please note that shanking, as defined by USEF, is only permitted *“where a horse has become dangerously unruly and immediate shanking is required in order to gain control of the horse and prevent imminent harm to the horse or others.”*

AHA and the Commissioner’s office will be working to develop additional guidelines for licensed officials and Show Committees on how to deal appropriately with shanking or intimidating use of a whip that occurs on the grounds but outside of the ring.

Stan Morey
Arabian Horse Association
Judges & Stewards Commissioner