

SUBJECT: Competition Eligible Horse Certification

(STANDARD)

Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 101 & 102 for submission requirements

Committee Action:

Approve Disapprove

Committees required to review: *(This section to be completed by the Agenda & Resolutions Committee)*

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|---------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Amateur Committee | | | |
| Board of Directors | | | |
| Budget & Finance Committee | | | |
| Competition Advisory Committee | | | |
| Professional Horsemen Committee | | | |
| Registration Commission | | | |

CONVENTION ACTION:

_____ Approved _____ Approved with Modification _____ Disapproved

~~XXX~~ Withdrawn _____ Referred to Committee _____

PROPOSED CHANGE: (**Check one**) ☒ Add new rule ☐ Delete existing rule ☐ Change existing text
Indicate affected Article/Rule number (AHA/USEF/EC) AHA Handbook in chapters indicated below

RESOLUTION: Use **bold/italic** for new wording, ~~strikethrough~~ to indicate deletion

Whereas, The welfare, health, and safety of Arabian horses is of primary importance to the Association and its members; and

Whereas, A primary mission of the Equine Welfare Committee is to reduce stress experienced by Arabian bred horses; and

Whereas, A primary mission of the Membership Committee is to grow the membership of the Association through all categories of members; and

Whereas, Many Arabian and part Arabian horses end up, often through no fault of their own, sold through low end auctions and “kill pens”, separated from their registration papers; and

Whereas, multiple studies have determined that equines suffer great stress in the kill pen pipeline, including gastroenteric disorders, heat stress, prolonged hunger and thirst, respiratory disorders, resting problems, restrictions of movement, and sensory overstimulation (EFS Panel of Equine Health and Welfare- EFSA Journal 2025, <https://doi.org/10.2903/ijefsa.2025.9178>); and

Whereas, The Arabian 300 Club, alone, has assisted with rescue of 4,912 Arabian bred horses, between 2016 and 2024, according to the statistics posted on their website; and Love This Horse Arabian rescue has assisted with 749 in that same period; and

Whereas, At the same time, membership in the Association has continued to decrease; and

Whereas, Having the ability to compete in breed classes helps to make a horse more marketable and less likely to be placed into and/or returned to the kill pen cycle; and

Whereas, Current technology allows a horse that has been registered to be identified through DNA testing; and

Whereas, AHA REG 126 currently reads:

REG 126. TRANSFER WITHOUT SIGNATURE OF RECORDED OWNER

RESOLUTION 16 – 25

Whenever legal title to a registered horse passes to another by reason of death of the recorded owner, by reason of foreclosure of any lien or by any order or decree of court, or otherwise by operation of law, the AHA Registry may transfer the registration of such horse to the new owner:

1. Upon order of a court of competent jurisdiction or other satisfactory proof of authority for the transfer;
2. Upon payment of the transfer fee and any reasonable costs and expenses of investigation; and
3. Upon satisfaction of such other requirements as may be defined by the AHA Registry., and

Whereas, The time and expense of a judicial proceeding to obtain a court order can often be prohibitive, for many persons who acquire horses that have been separated from their registration, and

Whereas, The average cost of a small trial typically is between \$25,000 and \$50,000 (<https://www.stimmel-law.com/en/articles/cost-benefit-american-litigation>); and

Whereas, Lawful owners of previously registered horses present an opportunity to grow the Association's membership and revenues by generating additional unknown DNA tests and certifying previously registered horses as eligible to compete in breed shows and competitions, while providing for the welfare of known registered Arabian and part-Arabian horses; Therefore, Be It

Resolved, That the Table of Contents for Chapter 11 of the AHA Handbook and the titles within such Chapter 11 be amended by inserting "**and Competition Eligible Horse Certificate**" after "Registration" in the COMP 2 and COMP 207 section titles, and; Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 207 be amended by inserting a new Paragraph 4 as follows:

4. A COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE will be issued for a horse proven by their DNA to have been previously registered as either a purebred, half-Arabian, or Anglo-Arabian, but for which the recorded owner is not willing or able to transfer the registration of the horse to the horse's lawful owner. For purposes of the foregoing, a lawful owner is:

(i) a person who would be considered a bona fide purchaser of the horse for value under the law, being someone who has acquired the horse through a good faith purchase or inheritance; or

(ii) someone who has acquired ownership of the horse from a state licensed rescue, in states which license rescue organizations, or

(iii) 501 (c)(3) organization, in states that do not license rescue organizations, after the hold period required by law in the state where the rescue occurred.

a. A good faith purchase may be shown through a bill of sale that is not contested by the recorded full registration owner within sixty days of notice being delivered to the last known address of the last recorded owner. Such notice shall be issued by AHA through both email and certified mail, return receipt, if requested by the person claiming ownership of the horse following DNA testing, and such person has paid to AHA the then established postal service rates for certified mail return receipt delivery of such notice. If the horse is acquired from a licensed rescue or 501(c)(3) organization in compliance with applicable law, only email notice is required. The sole bases for the recorded full registration owner to contest the issuance of a COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE are that (i) the recorded full registration owner sold the horse to the person requesting the COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE or a member of their immediate family and/or a business entity in which they have an ownership interest or vice versa, and payment or part of the payment is still owed to the recorded full registration owner; or (ii) a court has determined that the applicant was not a bona fide purchaser and/or the applicant receiving a COMPETITION ELIGIBLE CERTIFICATE for the horse would violate the lawful rights of the recorded full registration owner. In this regard, the Association will recognize any distinction a court or the involved parties would make, in regard to the activities the COMPETITION ELIGIBLE CERTIFICATE horse could engage in; so that if, for example, the horse was only to be prohibited from being shown, it might still receive a COMPETITION ELIGIBLE CERTIFICATE to qualify to compete in distance rides and/or the recreational riding program, etc. .

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- b. *Horses with a **COMPETITION ELIGIBLE CERTIFICATE** will not be recognized for purposes of breeding; but are allowed to compete at breed shows as Arabians, half-Arabians, or Anglo-Arabians, as their DNA determines, for all purposes except (i) classes intended to showcase breeding stock and (ii) classes for which a breeder or prior owner has nominated the horse and paid a nomination or other fee, such as Arabian Breeder's Sweepstakes, Arabian Halter Futurity, and the Arabian Performance Futurity/Maturity Derby Program.*
- c. *"A **Competition Eligible Certificate** will be sufficient for the horse to compete at a Regional or National show or in the Arabian Performance Futurity/Maturity Derby Program or other prize money classes where the current owner has paid all involved fees, and Be It Further*

Resolved, That COMP 207, Section 1, be amended to read: "See USEF/EC Rules for complete Registration **and/or Competition Eligible Horse Certification** requirements for all horses and for registration **and/or Competition Eligible Horse Certification** requirements for horses being shown in Amateur Owner classes. Note, the owner must be recorded with the appropriate registry and must meet the family definition to compete in AO/AAO/JO classes, **or the owner must be the owner of record of a Competition Eligible Horse Certified horse to compete it in AO/AAO/JO classes**"; and Be It Further

Resolved, That the first sentence of COMP 207, Section 2, be amended to add "**or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate**" following "registration certificate", and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 207, Section 2 (a), be amended to read as follows: "In the case of a lessee, pending transfer, contract of sale, or cash sale, a copy of the registration certificate **or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate, as applicable**, must be submitted, along with proof of lease or ownership and these documents must be attached to the copy of the registration **or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate** and must contain the correct registered name and number of the horse, date, and the signature of the seller or lessee. This requirement is good only for Open and AT/AAT/JT classes, and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 207, Section 3, be amended to read as follows: "Horses must be registered **or certified** in order to have results recorded. (Refer to COMP 603.4.f.) and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 301, Section 9 (a), be amended by inserting "**or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate**" after "registration certificate", and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 401, Section 3, be amended to read as follows: "Must provide space for the horse's registered name and number **or, for Competition Eligible Certified horses, for their Competition Eligible Horse Certification number.**" and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 603.4.f be amended by inserting as follows:

- f. List the name and registration numbers of all horses. Only horses with permanent registration numbers will be recorded. Horses shown with a pending registration number and their rider, driver, handler will not be recorded. (BOD 1/ 02). **For horses with A COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE, the number on that Certificate will be recorded**, and Be It Further

Resolved, That COMP 603, Section 6 (a), be amended by inserting "**or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate**" after "registration", and Be It Further

Resolved, That REQ 106, Section 15, be amended by inserting "**or competition**" after "registration", and Be It Further

Resolved, That REQ 109, Section 1 (a), be amended by inserting "**or competition certified**" after "registered", and Be It Further

Resolved, That REQ 112, Section 3, be amended by inserting "**or competition certified**" after "registered", and Be It Further

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| 158 | | |
| 159 | Resolved, | That QUAL 101, Section 15 (a), be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” after |
| 160 | | “Certificate of Registration”, and Be It Further |
| 161 | | |
| 162 | Resolved, | That QUAL 109, Section 1, be amended by inserting “ or competition certified ” after “registered”, and Be It |
| 163 | | Further |
| 164 | | |
| 165 | Resolved, | That QUAL 117 be amended by inserting “ or competition certified ” after “registered”, and Be It Further |
| 166 | | |
| 167 | Resolved, | That CT 102, sub-section 1 (a) (i) and (ii), be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse |
| 168 | | Certification ” after “registration”, and Be It Further |
| 169 | | |
| 170 | Resolved, | That CT 113, sub-section 1 (a), be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” after |
| 171 | | “Certificate of Registration”, and Be It Further |
| 172 | | |
| 173 | Resolved, | That CT 113, sub-section 1 (b), be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certification ” |
| 174 | | after “registration”, and Be It Further |
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| 176 | Resolved, | That END 103, Section 2 (a), be amended by inserting “ or competition certified ” after “registered”; and |
| 177 | | “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate, as applicable ” after “registration papers”, and Be It Further |
| 178 | | |
| 179 | Resolved, | That END 104, Section 1, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certification ” after |
| 180 | | “registration”, and Be It Further |
| 181 | | |
| 182 | Resolved, | That END 106 be amended by inserting “ or competition certified ” after “registered”, and Be It Further |
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| 184 | Resolved, | That END 110, Section 1, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certification ” after |
| 185 | | “registration”, and Be It Further |
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| 187 | Resolved, | That END 112, Section 1 (a), be amended by inserting “ or competition certified ” after “registered” and “ or |
| 188 | | Competition Eligible Horse Certificate, as applicable ” after “registration papers”, and Be It Further |
| 189 | | |
| 190 | Resolved, | <i>That as it is anticipated that the foregoing resolution will cause a financial impact on the Arabian Horse</i> |
| 191 | | <i>Association, to modify its data base and/or software programs to incorporate and maintain the</i> |
| 192 | | <i>Competition Eligible Horse Certification program, fees to certify or transfer a horse with a Competition</i> |
| 193 | | <i>Eligible Horse Certification be established by the Board of Directors, based on the recommendation of a</i> |
| 194 | | <i>new Competition Eligible Horse Certification Committee to be formed and charged with the duty of</i> |
| 195 | | <i>adminstrating the program, and Be It Further</i> |
| 196 | | |
| 197 | Resolved, | <i>That such fees be established and adjusted from time to time, if necessary, to bring the certification and</i> |
| 198 | | <i>transfer fees in line with the costs of creating and maintaining the Competition Eligible Horse Certification</i> |
| 199 | | <i>program, using the fees generated both through certification and transfer of Competition Eligible Horse</i> |
| 200 | | <i>Certification horses; and through fees generated through competitions at which such horses compete,</i> |
| 201 | | <i>and the committee will provide a report to the AHA Board of Directors from time to time and Be It Further</i> |
| 202 | | |
| 203 | Resolved, | That ACH 101, Paragraph 3 be amended by inserting as follows: |
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| 205 | | 3. All horses must be registered by the Arabian Horse Registry of America, Inc., the Canadian Arabian |
| 206 | | Horse Registry, the Half-Arabian Registry, or the Anglo-Arabian Registry or the Canadian Partbred |
| 207 | | Arabian Register or a COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE CERTIFICATE issued by AHA (See COMP 207, |
| 208 | | 4.), and Be It Further |
| 209 | | |
| 210 | Resolved, | <i>That USEF SUBCHAPTER AR -1 rules be amended to include a COMPETITION ELIGIBLE HORSE</i> |
| 211 | | <i>CERTIFICATE as an alternative to a certificate of registration, and Be It Further</i> |
| 212 | | |
| 213 | Resolved, | That REC 102, Section 2, be amended by inserting “ or holding a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” |
| 214 | | after “registered”, and Be It Further |

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| 215 | | |
| 216 | Resolved, | That MEM 102, Section 4 (a), be amended by inserting “ or holding a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” after “registered”, and Be It Further |
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| 218 | | |
| 219 | Resolved, | That PERF 104, Section 1, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certification ” after |
| 220 | | “registration”, and Be It Further |
| 221 | | |
| 222 | Resolved, | That PERF 106, Section 1, be amended to read: “Horses must be registered with AHA, CAHR, or CPAR and |
| 223 | | possess a current Certificate of Registration or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate; provided that |
| 224 | | horses for whom a prior owner nominated the horse and paid the nomination fee may not be shown in |
| 225 | | Performance Futurity/Maturity/Derby classes, unless the new owner holds the Certificate of |
| 226 | | Registration in their name or the prior owner who nominated the horse approves, in writing, for the |
| 227 | | horse to be competed with a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate , and Be It Further |
| 228 | | |
| 229 | Resolved, | That PERF 106, Section 2, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certification ” after |
| 230 | | “registration”, and Be It Further |
| 231 | | |
| 232 | Resolved, | That PERF 107, Section 11, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate, as |
| 233 | | applicable ” after “Certificate of Registration”, and Be It Further |
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| 235 | Resolved, | That ACH 101, Section 1, be amended by inserting “ or have a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” to |
| 236 | | the end of such Section, and Be It Further |
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| 238 | Resolved, | That ACH 101, Section 6, be amended by inserting “ or holding a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” |
| 239 | | after “registered”, and Be It Further |
| 240 | | |
| 241 | Resolved, | That ACH 102, Section 6, be amended by inserting “ or holding a Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” |
| 242 | | after “registered”, and Be It Further |
| 243 | | |
| 244 | Resolved, | That AWD 104, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Certified ” after “registered”, and Be It Further |
| 245 | | |
| 246 | Resolved, | That AWD 105, Sections 4 and 6, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Certified ” after “registered”, |
| 247 | | and Be It Further |
| 248 | | |
| 249 | Resolved, | That AWD 106, Section 1, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Certified ” after “registered”, and Be It |
| 250 | | Further |
| 251 | | |
| 252 | Resolved, | That AWD 107, Section 2 (b), be amended by inserting “ or Competition Certified ” after “registered”, and |
| 253 | | Be It Further |
| 254 | | |
| 255 | Resolved, | That AWD 108, Section 1, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Certified ” after “registered”, and Be It |
| 256 | | Further |
| 257 | | |
| 258 | Resolved, | That AWD 111, Section 1 (c), be amended by inserting “ or Competition Certified ” after “registered”, and |
| 259 | | Be It Further |
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| 261 | Resolved, | That YTH 109, Section 1, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Certified ” after “registered”, and “ or |
| 262 | | Competition Eligible Horse Certification ” after “registration”, and Be It Further |
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| 264 | Resolved, | That SUS 102, Section 1 (c), be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” after |
| 265 | | “registration”, and Be It Further |
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| 267 | Resolved, | That SUS 102, Section 3 (d), be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” after |
| 268 | | “registration”, and Be It Further |
| 269 | | |
| 270 | Resolved, | That SUS 103, Section 4, be amended by inserting “ or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate ” after |
| 271 | | “registration”, and Be It Further |

Resolved, That MEM 105, Section 1 (c) and sub-sections (1), (2), and (3), be amended by inserting “*or Competition Eligible Horse Certificate*” after “registration papers”, and Be It Further

Effective: December 31, 2026

(If a Standard resolution, the effective date will be December 31 of the year after the Convention)

RESOLUTION TYPE (**REQUIRED**): Standard ☒X ☐ Extraordinary ☐ “If indicated as “Extraordinary”, the proponent must list reasons which establish Chapter 9, RULE 101.3.a. has been met)

PROPOSERS FINANCIAL IMPACT (**REQUIRED**): Refer to Chapter 9, RULE 102.6. & 102.7 for financial requirements

The proponent has obtained a bid to prepare a stand alone database of \$15,000.

AHA IMPACT STATEMENT:

Note: a stand alone database will not tie into the current database and do the functions requested.

A total of 424 hours estimated to modify the HRS system, 300 hours estimated to modify the website, 150 hours estimated for Web Services, Back Office and PARS changes. \$87,000 estimated to implement.

Contact Person: Bill Arakali – bill.arakali@arabianhorses.org

SUBMITTED BY: Equine Welfare

Region Number:

☐ Member Organization ☒ Committee ☐ Commission ☐ Board ☐ Region (*check one* ☒)

Who voted: ☒ Members ☐ Board ☐ Delegates (*check voting body*)

Total Number Eligible to Vote: 134 Number of Yes votes: 54 Number of No votes: 0

How vote was taken: ☐ mail ☐ email/other electronic means ☐ phone ☒ meeting (*check one*) (*Must have Quorum with majority of yes votes*)

Where documentation of this vote is recorded: At the AHA Office (*Must have printed documentation on file*)

Date vote taken: May 19, 2025

Contact Person: Sue Schultz (*Has authority to amend, combine or withdraw*)

Phone: (618) 624-3478 Email: sschultz@sandbergphoenix.com