

Points of Emphasis for 2025 Competition Year

Per directive of the Judges and Stewards' Commissioner's Office

Hunter Pleasure

- Please split classes into two groups before asking them to back when they are spread out.
- It will be easier to observe a clump of horses rather than spread out entries.

Western Pleasure Backing

- Judges are being asked to back Western Pleasure horses at all levels. Judges are reminded to adequately factor in a "poor," back in their final results.
- If exhibitors are asked to back their horse in any performance class, watch the horses and weigh the back into the final placings. Judges are encouraged to back horses in all classes where backing is permissible. Please refer to individual class specifications.

Natural Arabian Appearance (aka Unnatural Tail)

- Link to Natural Appearance PPT <https://www.arabianhorses.org/judges-stewards/education/>
- USEF has ruled that the unnatural tail penalty is applicable for Equitation, Showmanship, and Horsemanship classes. Refer to AR105.2. Any class that is an Arabian class and runs under the USEF Arabian Division rules and division fall under the AR 105.2.b.i, ii, iii. This would include equitation classes that are Arabian equitation class. If the class runs under another organization's rules (Example: UPHA Saddle Seat Equitation classes. The "unnatural" tail rule would not be judged because it is not an Arabian

division class and only the rider is being judged. These classes fall under UPHA organization rules.)

Showmanship Score Sheet

- Remember, using the Showmanship Scoring Judging System is mandatory.
- In order to efficiently track scores, the J&S Commissioner and the Education & Evaluation Commission strongly recommends that judges use and become comfortable with Score Sheet. Posting of the score sheet is not required at this time. (*Note: a resolution was approved in November 2024, effective December 1, 2025 that addresses use of and posting of the score sheet.*)
- A 'ladder sheet' helps track scores; a sample ladder sheet is available on the AHA website. https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/judges-stewards/js-docs/SH_Showmanship_Ladder_Sample.pdf

Walk the Line

- When part of a multi-judge panel or a concurrently judged competition, all judges are to walk the line together before placing the class.

Judge to Specs

- Concentrated effort to judge according to class specifications, including ordering of importance.