



# ARABIAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

## Judges & Stewards

### SHOWMANSHIP

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#### CLASS DESCRIPTION

- Good Showmanship is developed through the knowledge and understanding of the horse and the ability of the handler to present the team in a confident manner.
- Showmanship involves the handling of the horse, learning the horse's conformation, learning how to position and present the horse at its best, and understanding the disposition of the horse.
- Showmanship teaches the handler poise and self-carriage. A good Showmanship handler shows alertness and a confident attitude, always presenting the horse in a positive manner, and paying attention to every detail.
- The handler is always aware of their surroundings, the horse, the judge and the other exhibitors.

- The showmanship class is not a halter class and should not be judged as such. The conformation of the horse is not to be judged, since the horse is considered a means of displaying the abilities of the showman.
- Horses are to be presented in the appointments (tack and attire) suitable for that horse's style.
- The class is designed to evaluate the exhibitor's ability to execute, in concert with their horse, a set of maneuvers prescribed by the judge with precision and smoothness while exhibiting poise and confidence, all while maintaining a balanced, functional and fundamentally correct body position.
- Style of presentation should be decided upon by two primary considerations. First, the type of horse, its movement and way of going determine if it is best to go western, hunter, saddle seat, dressage or show hack style.
- Safety is paramount when considering the type of lead and method of attachment or utilization of the reins to lead.
- Consideration of the size of the horse and height of the handler is important to a safe and successful presentation.

#### JUDGING GUIDELINES

##### Showmanship

##### Leading

- The exhibitor must lead, back and turn from the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand a reasonable length, with safety in mind.

- The right hand must remain on the lead at all times (not on the chain). It is not appropriate to switch hands while completing the maneuvers (except set-up).
- If exhibitor has changed hands during the set-up maneuver, they are to put the lead back in the right hand for all other maneuvers.
- Smaller exhibitors may need to use a longer hold on the lead strap.
- The excess lead strap is held in the left hand, either in a round coil or a figure-8, as long as it is being handled safely by the exhibitor.
- Both options are acceptable and exhibitors will not be penalized for either method used. Neither the coil nor Figure-8 should not be taped as this compromises safety.
- When leading, the exhibitor should be positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position.
- Leading, backing, turning and initiating the set-up should be performed from the left side of the horse. At no time should the exhibitor ever stand directly in front of the horse.
- The exhibitor should not touch the horse with their hands or feet, or visibly cue the horse by pointing their feet at the horse during the set-up.
- At no time should the exhibitor ever stand directly in front of the horses.
- The horse should be led in a straight or curved line, as indicated in the pattern, and track briskly and freely at the prescribed gait as instructed. The horse's head and neck should be straight and in line with the body.
- Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position. Height of the arms

may vary depending on the size of the horse and exhibitor, but the arms should never be held straight out with the elbows locked..

- When demonstrating the trot, the exhibitor should run as naturally as possible. The exhibitors should demonstrate a natural frame and gait.

#### Showing

- The exhibitor should perform the work accurately, precisely, smoothly, and with a reasonable amount of speed.
- Increasing speed of the work increases the degree of difficulty; however, accuracy and precision should not be sacrificed for speed.
- The horse should lead, stop, back, turn and set up willingly, briskly and readily with minimal visible or audible cueing.
- A severe disobedience will not result in a disqualification but should be penalized severely, and the exhibitor should not place above an exhibitor that completes the pattern correctly. Excessive schooling or training, willful abuse, loss of control of the horse by the exhibitor shall be cause for disqualification.
- The presentation/set up: The horse may be set up with a split stance or square. Either option is allowed and acceptable. Exhibitors will not be penalized for either set up style.
- Exhibitor should stand toward the front, off the horse's shoulder, facing the horse. If at any time the horse is out of position, the exhibitor should work to position the horse correctly
- After the horse is set up for inspection: As the judge moves around the horse, handlers should position themselves so as to avoid obstructing the judge's view of the horse.

- The handler is to show using the Quarter System, where the exhibitor is always in the quadrant next to the judge. The horse should be shown quietly and effectively at all times. Handlers must not just show themselves.
- The exhibitor should maintain a position that is safe for themselves and the judge. The position of the exhibitor should not obstruct the judge's view of the horse and should allow the exhibitor to maintain awareness of the judge's position at all times.
- The exhibitor should not crowd other exhibitors when setting up side-by-side or head-to-tail.
- When moving around the horse, the exhibitor should change sides in front of the horse with minimal steps (3-4) and should assume the same position on the right side of the horse that they had on the left side.
- The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right
- Pull turns (pulling horse toward you to left) to the left should be 90 degrees or less.
- Push turns/Pivot (pushing the horse away from you). On turns of greater than 90 degrees, the turn consists of the horse pivoting on a hind leg while stepping across and in front of the right front leg with the left front leg.
- When executing a back, the exhibitor should turn from the leading position to face toward the rear of the horse with the right hand extended in front of the exhibitor's chest still maintaining slight bend in the elbow and walk forward. The ideal position is for the exhibitor's left shoulder to be in alignment with the horse's left front leg, never standing directly in front of the horse.
- The horse should back up readily with the head, neck and body aligned in a straight or curved line as instructed by the pattern.
- The stop should be straight, prompt, smooth and responsive with the horse's body remaining straight.
- Crowding should be penalized, as it is dangerous. The handler should maintain 8-10' from the horse in front of them in a head to tail line. When lined up side by side, there needs to be sufficient room between entries. If someone is at risk – they are too close.
- The whip must not be used as a prop, to intimidate the horse or to encourage a maneuver. The whip should be down unless in the presentation/set up portion of the class, then the whip is to be up.
- Utilizing a whip effectively can raise the degree of difficulty; however, if not demonstrated effectively, it can be cumbersome and a detriment to the presentation

#### Poise/Alertness/Attitude

- Exhibitors should be poised, confident, courteous and genuinely sportsmanlike at all times, quickly recognizing and correcting faults in the positioning of the horse.
- The exhibitor should continue showing the horse until the class has been placed or they have been excused, unless otherwise instructed by the judge.
- The exhibitor should appear business-like, stand and move in a straight, natural and upright manner, and avoid excessive, unnatural or animated body positions.
- Handler should show the horse to its best advantage for its style of presentation throughout the class.

- Handlers should be focused on the class and not be distracted by people/other things inside or outside the arena.

### **Presentation**

#### Condition

- The horse's body condition and overall fitness should be assessed.
- The horse should be alert and healthy.

#### Grooming

- The hair coat should be clean, well-brushed and in good condition. The mane, tail, forelock and wither tuft may not contain ornaments (ribbons, bows, etc.), but braiding as defined in the appointments chart is allowed.
- The length of mane and tail may vary, as long as they are neat, clean and free of tangles. The bridle path, eyebrows, and long hair on the head and legs may be clipped.
- Grooming oils should not be overdone
- Hooves should be properly trimmed and if shod, the shoes should fit correctly and clinches should be neat.
- Hooves must be clean and may be painted clear or black hoof dressings, or shown naturally.

### Appointments

- Attire and tack should be clean, well-fitting and in good repair. A workman-like appearance should be presented.
- Attire should reflect the intended use of the horse and should be consistent with attire requirements described in the division depicted.
- Tack: An Arabian show halter, a leather show halter with or without silver (silver not to count), hunter/dressage/ show hack style bridle, or a double bridle may be used.
- A western style or bosal bridle are prohibited.
- Leads may be attached to the halter or cavesson.
- If a chain is used is, it is prohibited to go through the horse's mouth, over the nose or through the bit.
- When leading with the reins, they must be attached to both sides of the bit.
- Hats are optional.
- Spurs are prohibited.
- A handler must wear the correct number on their back and it must be clearly visible at all times, penalty is at judge's discretion.

## TACK and ATTIRE CHART

<b><i>Tack</i></b> <b><i>(Optional: whip/crop)</i></b>	<b><i>Attire Guidelines</i></b> <b><i>(Protective headgear may be worn without penalty)</i></b>
<b>Arabian Halter Style:</b> Arabian Show Halter or leather stable halter, with or without silver (silver not to count)	Long sleeved top, long pants, shoes or boots Optional: hat, gloves, vest, sweater or jacket, tie
<b>Western Style:</b> Western plain leather or Western show type halter with silver (silver not to count over clean plain leather halter). <b>Or</b> - Arabian Show Halter	Western hat, long sleeved shirt or tunic, long pants, western boots.  Optional: Western jacket, vest, belt, tie, gloves
<b>English, Hunter Style:</b> Plain leather halter or hunt bridle (additional leather lead may be added when using a hunt bridle and is attached to the bit or to the cavesson (noseband)  Horses may be braided. If braided, the above tack is required. <b>Or</b> – Arabian Show Halter (not braided)	Hunt cap or helmet with harness, hunt coat, breeches, hunt boots, hunt style shirt with collar, shirt and tie  Or Hunt cap or helmet with harness, hunt coat, jodhpurs, jodhpur knee straps (garters) paddock boots, hunt style shirt with collar, shirt and tie. Usually worn by handlers 10 & under  Or Long sleeved shirt, long pants, shoes or boots  Optional: gloves, jacket, tie
<b>English, Saddle Seat Style:</b> Double Bridle  <b>Or</b> – Arabian Show Halter	Long sleeved shirt, long pants, vest, tie, paddock or jodhpur boots.  Optional: Derby or soft hat, saddle suit, gloves  Formal attire may be worn when appropriate. It is usual to wear such attire after 6 p.m. or in championship classes
<b>English Dressage or Show Hack Style:</b> Dressage or Show Hack bridle or plain leather halter.  Horses may be braided. If braided, the above tack is required. <b>Or</b> - Arabian Show Halter (not braided)	Helmet or top hat, dressage coat or shadbelly dark conservative color, shirt with collar or stock tie, light or white breeches, boots  Optional: gloves

## LEADS & ATTACHMENT

### Types and Definitions of Leads and Methods of Attachment

1. Leather lead – attached in bottom center ring of leather stable halter. There is no chain
2. Leather lead with connector. Connector is a leather piece with buckles on each side. There is no chain. Can be attached to the bit in several of the presentation styles
3. Leather lead directly attached to complete and closed noseband/cavesson. Chain may be used with closed noseband/cavesson. Chain is never to be run through any bit.
4. Leather lead with chain that has a ring on each end-- length of chain varies depending on presentation style
  - 4a. Non-captured chain – chain with a ring on each end is run through the sides of the halter and the rings are connected below to the lead
  - 4b. Captured chain – chain with a ring on each end is run through the sides of the halter and the rings and the center of the chain under the chin are all connected below to the lead
5. Leather lead with a chain, or other suitable soft material that provides a release, manufactured to it and a snap on one end. Length may vary depending on presentation style.
  - 5a. Chain under chin –Chain will run through the left side ring of the halter under the chin of horse through the right side ring of the halter and up to the right cheek ring on halter. Snap connects on right cheek ring on halter facing out. Ideally with only 6-8” of chain coming out of the left cheek ring.
  - 5b. Chain Double Up –Chain runs through either method described in 5a or 5b above. Because the length of chain is too long it may be run through the right cheek ring on the halter and run back down to the right side ring and attached to the right side ring with the snap facing out. This method will

work, but it is preferable to not Double Up the Chain. (A shorter chain is a safer presentation.)

## ELIMINATIONS

### Mandatory Causes for Elimination

1. Horse escapes from exhibitor
2. See AR105.6 for inhumane treatment and undue stress
3. Excessive schooling or training
4. Loss of control or severe disobedience that endangers others to include but not limited to: biting, pawing, rearing, bolting, lunging, breaking away, kicking out or continuously circling the exhibitor – The judge can deem it necessary to excuse the exhibitor.
5. Whip marks
6. Prohibited equipment. (*See chart.*)

Note: access the Showmanship Manual for photos of the various tack.

[https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/judges-stewards/js-docs/JS\\_Equitation\\_Manual\\_Showmanship.pdf](https://www.arabianhorses.org/export/content.export/judges-stewards/js-docs/JS_Equitation_Manual_Showmanship.pdf)

**NOTE:** The AHA Equitation Manual has additional, extensive information on showmanship.  
<https://www.arabianhorses.org/judges-stewards/patterns/> Figure references are from the Equitation Manual, Showmanship.

#### CLARIFICATION CHART

<b><i>Style &amp; Tack</i></b>	<b><i>Lead Strap/Reins</i></b>	<b><i>Elimination</i></b>
<b>Arabian Halter Style:</b> Arabian Show Halter Whip no longer than 6', including lash or appendage	Throatlatch is mandatory. Lead strap may only be 4a or 4b	
<b>Arabian Halter Style:</b> Leather stable halter	Lead strap may only be 1, 4a, or 4b	
<b>Western Style:</b> plain leather halter or Western show type halter with silver	Lead strap may only be 1, 5a, or 5b	Lead Strap/chain may not run through horse's mouth or over nose. Horse may not be shown in a western style bridle, hackamore or bosal.
<b>English, Hunter Style:</b> Plain leather halter Whip or crop not to exceed 30"	Lead strap may only be 1, 4a, or 4b	
<b>English, Hunter Style:</b> Hunt Bridle; Snaffle bit Whip or crop not to exceed 30"	Noseband/cavesson must be intact and closed. Lead strap may only be 2 or 3. Reins can be attached to the mane or removed from the snaffle. Horse may be led by the reins.	Full Bridle/Pelham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead straps cannot be used – with or without a chain</li> </ul> Snaffle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead strap cannot be attached to only one side of the bit</li> <li>Chain cannot run through the bit</li> </ul>
<b>English, Hunter Style:</b> Hunt Bridle; Kimberwicke bit Whip or crop not to exceed 30"	Noseband/cavesson must be intact and closed. Lead strap may only be 2 or 3. Reins can be attached to the mane or removed from the Kimberwicke. Horse may be led by the reins.	Full Bridle/Pelham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead straps cannot be used – with or without a chain</li> </ul> Snaffle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead strap cannot be attached to only one side of the bit</li> <li>Chain cannot run through the bit</li> </ul>
<b>English, Hunter Style:</b> Hunt Bridle; Pelham bit Whip or crop not to exceed 30"	Noseband/cavesson must be intact and closed. Lead strap may only be 2 or 3. The connector is to be attached to the top ring of the	Full Bridle/Pelham <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lead straps cannot be used – with or without a chain</li> </ul> Snaffle

	Pelham with the reins attached to the mane or removed from the pelham. Horse may be led by all the reins.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead strap cannot be attached to only one side of the bit</li> <li>• Chain cannot run through the bit</li> </ul>
<b>English, Saddle Seat Style:</b> Double Bridle	Noseband/cavesson must be intact and closed. Horse may be led by the snaffle rein with the curb rein over the horse's neck or the horse may be led by all reins.	Full Bridle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead straps cannot be used – with or without a chain</li> </ul> Snaffle is not allowed
<b>English Dressage or Show Hack Style:</b> Dressage snaffle Whip not to exceed 47.2"	Noseband/cavesson must be intact and closed. Lead strap may only be 2 or 3. Reins can be attached to the mane or removed from the snaffle. Horse may be led by the reins	Full Bridle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead straps cannot be used – with or without a chain</li> </ul> Snaffle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Modified cavesson is not allowed</li> <li>• Lead strap cannot be attached to only one side of the bit</li> <li>• Chain cannot run through the bit</li> </ul>
<b>English Dressage or Show Hack Style:</b> Double bridle Whip not to exceed 47.2"	Noseband/cavesson must be intact and closed. Horse may be led by the snaffle rein and the curb rein must be over the neck attached to the braid or the horse may be led by all reins.	Full Bridle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead straps cannot be used – with or without a chain</li> </ul> Snaffle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead strap cannot be attached to only one side of the bit</li> <li>• Chain cannot run through the bit</li> </ul>
<b>English Dressage or Show Hack Style:</b> Leather Stable Halter Whip not to exceed 47.2"	Lead strap may only be 1, 4a or 4b	



## **PATTERNS and CLASS CONDUCT**

- The pattern for each class must be posted one hour (Regionals and Nationals – 24 hours) prior to the start of the class.
- Classes can be offered for junior exhibitors as well as for adults. Take the age and expected experience of the handlers into consideration when choosing your patterns.
- The pattern MUST indicate which one of the three procedures will be used. The choices are on the pattern itself:
  - In the Ring – Exhibitors enter arena and remain collectively for the entire class. Exhibitors are to enter the arena at the walk. Trot at the marker and line up at the direction of the ringmaster.
  - In and Out of the Ring – Exhibitors enter arena one at a time and are excused at the completion of their pattern.
  - At the Gate – Exhibitors enter arena one at a time and are gathered in arena for final inspection as a collective group.
- Cones or markers may be used to mark the pattern in the arena.
- It is appropriate to meet with the exhibitors at the gate before the class to answer any questions.
- Subsequent patterns are to be available immediately following the last working section of each phase.
- Each handler shall correctly lead their horse to and from the judge or designated person or marker in a straight or curved line, a circle, serpentine or figure eight and show his/her horse according to the instructions from the judge.

### **HOW TO SELECT LEVELS**

- Patterns are classified by level 1, 2 or 3 with 3 being the most difficult. The level chosen by the judge must take into account the ages of the exhibitors, the environmental conditions and the experience level of the

exhibitors/competition. Judges must assess exhibitor capabilities and choose patterns accordingly.

- Many patterns do not display the lineup allowing judges to bring exhibitors into the arena individually or as an entire class to perform the pattern from the lineup.
- This allows for variance in arena configurations and gate locations as well as show management desires. Indicate on your pattern and be clear with exhibitors of expectations.
- AHA has revised a number of patterns to not include a cone or a marker; these patterns increase the level of difficulty for the exhibitor.
- Judges are required to use the Showmanship Scoring System. At larger shows, regionals, and national competitions, a designated person may be utilized. Use of the Showmanship Score Sheet is not yet mandatory but is highly recommended. An assigned scribe makes using the Score Sheet easier, as does having a Ladder Sheet for recording scores as the class progresses.

### **TESTS FROM WHICH JUDGES MUST CHOOSE**

1. Walk or trot horse to or from judge or designated person or marker in a straight or curved line, a circle, serpentine, or figure eight.
2. Set horse up.
3. Back horse in a straight or curved line.
4. Movement of handler so as not to obstruct judge's view of the horse.
5. Turn horse (90, 180, 270, 360 degrees, etc.)
6. Trot down rail or around ring.
7. Move the horse to a different spot in the line-up.

Additional questions on relevant subjects maybe asked of each handler, such as:

- a. Parts of the horse
- b. Grooming

- c. Basics in horse care
- d. Proper attire

*NOTE: If questions are asked, the same or similar questions must be used with each handler so tested.*

## **METHOD OF SHOWING**

- The Handler is to show using the **Quarter System** where the exhibitor is always in the quadrant next to the judge.

### **THE "QUARTER" SYSTEM**

- The quarter system is also very effective and offers added safety, but is a bit more complicated.
- The Quarter System involves drawing imaginary lines bisecting the horse into four equal areas as shown in the drawing.
- They are numbered I, II, III, IV for identification. One line runs across the horse just behind the withers. The other runs from head to tail.
- When the horse is set up for inspection, the exhibitor stands in area IV. When the judge or designated person moves to area II, the exhibitor moves to area I.
- When the judge or designated person moves to area III, the exhibitor moves back to area IV.
- When the judge or designated person moves to area IV, the exhibitor moves back again to area I.
- An exhibitor should never stop directly in front of the horse, since this is a danger zone.
- When the judge or designated person is in the front half of your horse, you should be on the opposite side of the horse.
- When the judge or designated person is in the back of your horse, you should be on the same side of the horse.
- The handler stays out of the way of the judge and still maintains control of the

situation.

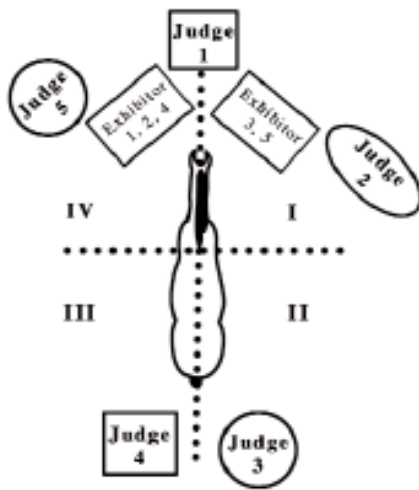
- When you cross over, move naturally. Your goal is to be smooth and efficient in crossing to the other side of your horse.
- Think of the horse as a clock, with 12 o'clock at his nose.
- When you set up your horse for inspection, you'll be at the 11 o'clock position.
- To move to the 1 o'clock position, you have to move around the edge of the clock and around your horse's nose.
- It takes most people three steps to move to the other side, and a fourth step to close their feet together.
- Start with your outside leg for your first step. It helps you take a step forward around your horse's nose.
- When you've reached 1 o'clock, close your feet and stand with your toes pointed in the general direction of the horse's opposite shoulder.
- Optimum crossovers should be completed in 4 steps.

## **FURTHER EXPLANATION OF PROPER EXECUTION OF SHOWMANSHIP MANEUVERS**

### **The Presentation/Set-up**

- The horse may be set up with a split stance or square. Either option is allowed and acceptable. Exhibitors will not be penalized for either set up style.
- There are typically three times to set your horse up during the class. First -to start your pattern, second- during the actual presentation to the judge or designated person, third- during the line up.
- Always be aware of the proper quarter regardless of how far the judge or designated person is away from you.

**Diagram of the 'Quarter' system**



### **The Back**

- In a showmanship class, keeping a straight or curved line, depending on the directions in the pattern and an effortless look when backing is ideal.
- Exhibitors must ensure they position themselves in the correct position and never stand directly in front of their horse.

### **The Walk and Trot and Body Position**

- The exhibitor must lead on the horse's left side holding the lead shank in the right hand a reasonable length, with safety in mind, from the halter on the lead strap.
- The right hand must remain on the lead at all times (not on the chain). It is not appropriate to switch hands while completing the maneuvers (except set-up maneuver).
- Smaller exhibitors may need to use a longer hold on the lead strap.
- Hold the excess lead strap in your left hand, either in a round coil or a figure-8, as long as it is being handled safely by the exhibitor.
- When leading, the exhibitor should be

positioned between the eye and the mid-point of the horse's neck, referred to as the leading position.

- Both arms should be bent at the elbow with the elbows held close to the exhibitor's side and the forearms held in a natural position.
- Height of the arms may vary depending on the size of the horse and exhibitor, but the arms should never be held straight out with the elbows locked.
- The same position should be held during the trot. Some flexibility can be given to the left arm when trotting a circle.
- The trot/run should be flowing, not over animated.
- Exhibitors should not exhibit unnatural gaits such as high knees, squat, prance, or duck run or anything that looks stiff and animatronic.
- At the walk or trot arms should not be extended in a locked position in front of the body.

### **The Turn or Pivot**

- A proper right turn is on the haunches, with a hind foot remaining planted throughout the turn.
- The position of the exhibitor when executing a turn to the right is the same as the leading position except that the exhibitor should turn and face toward the horse's head and have the horse move away from them to the right. Diagrams are pending.

### **SHOWMANSHIP CREDITS**

- Handlers should show complete control over their horse and must perform the maneuvers of the class promptly and correctly.
- A pivot executed correctly should be credited as it shows control. A pivot or turn around on the haunches should be just that. The haunches are stationary and the forehand moves around in a

neat, very controlled motion. The pivot should never wander.

- Handlers that show poise and alertness without being stiff, artificial or rigid are credited.
- Hands should have a purpose showing control.
- Handlers are credited for showing their horses in a safe and correct manner.
- If showing with a whip all movements should be precise and used effectively and correctly.
- Credit handlers that stay attentive to the horse and to the judge, always aware of the judge's position in the ring with respect to their own position and the horse's position and with regard to others in the ring.
- Credit handlers that walk or trot the horse directly in a deliberate line straight or curved as directed in the pattern. your pattern is complete it is not necessary to look back and nod at the judge.
- Credit handlers who perform the entire class with a consistent pace and rhythm that is complementary to the handler's gait and the horse's movement.

## SHOWMANSHIP FAULTS

- Any motion or action jeopardizing the safety of anyone in the ring is a major fault.
- Loss of control or not following judge's directions is a fault. Not performing the pattern precisely and accurately is a fault.
- Executing the pattern in a sloppy, haphazard fashion, not tracking correctly to or away from the judge or designated person, pivots or turns that wander are penalized.
- Any loss of control of the horse is penalized. This includes horses that spook and run past the handler or circle the handler, horses that do not stand still while being shown, horses that trot

too fast for the handler or horses that do not trot at all.

- Over-showing of oneself and not being aware or not paying attention to the horse and the horse's actions is penalized.
- Handlers who are too stiff, rigid and artificial and carry themselves in an unnatural position are penalized.
- Looking back continuously while walking or trotting away from the judge or designated person is antiquated and not necessary.
- Lack of paying attention to the position of the judge or designated person will be penalized.
- Handlers that move abruptly or unnecessarily for show rather than effective showing will be penalized.
- Handlers should not demonstrate an unnatural gait of running (squat run, duck run, prance run). Gratuitous moves can be detrimental to a pattern.
- Poor use of the whip or fumbling with whip should be penalized.

## SCORING

The scoring will be on the basis of 0-infinity, with 70 denoting an average performance. The individual maneuvers are scored in ½ point increments for a low of -3 to a high of +3 with 0 denoting a maneuver that is correct with no degree of difficulty. Penalty points will be applied as they occur. A final score of 0 to +5 will be given for the overall Form and Effectiveness (F&E) at the completion of each run.

- **+3 EXCELLENT:** *The horse and handler perform the maneuver in complete cadence and harmony with each other while demonstrating the highest degree of difficulty and precision. The horse's coat is clean, in good flesh and excellent condition. The handler is extremely proficient in their performance, clean and dressed*

appropriately for the style they represent. The horse and handler's performance throughout the maneuver are VISUALLY IMPRESSIVE.

- **+2 VERY GOOD:** The horse and handler perform the maneuver in cadence and harmony with each other while demonstrating an increased degree of difficulty. The horse's coat is clean, in good flesh and in very good condition. The handler is very proficient in their performance and presentation, clean and dressed appropriately for the style they represent. The horse and handler's performance throughout the maneuver are VISUALLY ATTRACTIVE.
- **+1 GOOD:** The horse and handler perform the maneuver in correct form with some degree of style. The horse's coat is clean in good flesh and in good condition. The handler is proficient in their performance, clean and dressed appropriately for the style they represent. This horse and handler display some quality, but lack the degree of difficulty performed by the very good or excellent pairs. The horse and handler's performance throughout the maneuver are VISUALLY PLEASING.
- **AVERAGE:** For the most part, horse and handler perform the required maneuvers in correct form, with minimal style with little to no degree of difficulty exhibited. The horse and handler's performance are good but displays by slight errors in form. The horse and handler's performance throughout the maneuver leave a visually NEUTRAL IMPRESSION.
- **-1 POOR:** The horse and handler fail in some way to negotiate the maneuver in correct form and style. There is a noticeable void in some of the qualities of the maneuvers performed and minor penalties may have incurred.

Cadence and quality may have been compromised. Over all turn out of horse/handler is below average

- **-2 VERY POOR:** The horse and handler noticeably fail to negotiate an element of the pattern in correct form with no style. Several minor penalties and/or a major penalty may have occurred. Safety may have been compromised. The horse and handler exhibit a noticeable lack of cadence and quality. The overall turnout of horse and/or handler turn out is not clean or in good condition.
- **-3 EXTREMELY POOR:** The horse and handler negotiate the maneuver in unacceptable form with no style. The maneuver performed is careless. Multiple minor or major penalties have been incurred. Severe penalties have incurred. There is an extreme lack of cadence between the horse and handler. The turnout of the horse and handler are extremely poor but lack the elimination factor.

TIES: If at the end of the class there are ties on your score card, first use the F & E (Form and Effectiveness) score. If ties still remain, use the total number of penalties to break ties. It is recommended that you use a ladder to help place class as it progresses.

## SHOWMANSHIP PENALTY CHART

<b><i>Minor Penalties (1-point)</i></b>	<b><i>Major Penalties (3-point)</i></b>	<b><i>Severe Penalties (5-point)</i></b>
Break of gait at walk or trot up to two strides	Break of gait at walk or trot for more than 2 strides	Exhibitor not in required position during inspection.
Over or under turning up to an 1/8 of a turn	Splitting cone/marker (cone/marker between horse and handler)	Touching the horse
Ticking or hitting cone/marker	Stepping out of set up during presentation	Standing directly in front of horse
Sliding or lifting pivot foot	Steps out of or moving pivot foot during a pivot or turn	Loss of lead shank or two hands on lead shank
Lifting the pivot foot and replacing it in the same place	Over or under turn 1/8 to ¼ of turn	Completely stepping out of or moving hindquarter significantly during a pivot or turn
Lifting foot and replacing it in same place during presentation		Severe disobedience to include but not limited to biting, pawing, rearing, kicking out or continuously circling exhibitor.
		Goes off pattern; wrong side of cone, never performing specified gait.
		Knocking over cone/marker
		Fall of horse or handler
<b><i>MANDATORY ELIMINATION</i></b>		
Horse escapes from Exhibitor	Excessive schooling or training	Whip marks
Inhumane treatment and undue stress, see AR 105.6	Loss of control or severe disobedience that endangers other exhibitors, to include but not limited to: bolting, lunging or kicking out	Illegal equipment: chain through the horse's mouth, over nose or through the bit, modified cavessons, western

## SHOWMANSHIP SCORE SHEETS

The recommended score sheet for Showmanship is available on the AHA website. We encourage you to utilize this score sheet for consistency in the adjudication of your classes. There are two versions of the score sheet, one with more explanatory text but fewer lines for exhibitors' scores; the other with no explanatory text but with additional lines for scores.

Utilize a Ladder Sheet to track scores; this will enable you to place the class accurately, quickly and efficiently.

The form is titled "AHA SHOWMANSHIP SCORESHEET". It includes fields for "PATTERN", "EVENT", "DATE", "CLASS", and "JUDGE". Below these is a section for "MANDATORY ELIMINATIONS" with a list of rules. The main scoring area is a grid with columns for "Exhibitor", "1", "2", "3", "4", "5", "6", "7", "8", "9", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17", "18", "19", "20", "21", "22", "23", "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47", "48", "49", "50", "51", "52", "53", "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77", "78", "79", "80", "81", "82", "83", "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "100". The grid is divided into sections for "Mandatory", "Optional", and "Eliminations".

This form is also titled "AHA SHOWMANSHIP SCORESHEET". It includes fields for "PATTERN", "EVENT", "DATE", "CLASS", and "JUDGE". Below these is a section for "MANDATORY ELIMINATIONS" with a list of rules. The main scoring area is a grid with columns for "Exhibitor", "1", "2", "3", "4", "5", "6", "7", "8", "9", "10", "11", "12", "13", "14", "15", "16", "17", "18", "19", "20", "21", "22", "23", "24", "25", "26", "27", "28", "29", "30", "31", "32", "33", "34", "35", "36", "37", "38", "39", "40", "41", "42", "43", "44", "45", "46", "47", "48", "49", "50", "51", "52", "53", "54", "55", "56", "57", "58", "59", "60", "61", "62", "63", "64", "65", "66", "67", "68", "69", "70", "71", "72", "73", "74", "75", "76", "77", "78", "79", "80", "81", "82", "83", "84", "85", "86", "87", "88", "89", "90", "91", "92", "93", "94", "95", "96", "97", "98", "99", "100". The grid is divided into sections for "Mandatory", "Optional", and "Eliminations".

## TIPS FOR JUDGING SHOWMANSHIP

- Know your arena size, center ring and gate location as you select patterns to ensure they can be executed correctly and safely (consider the number of exhibitors in each class)
- Talk to management before the show regarding the depth of skills of showmanship exhibitors
- Be respectful of exhibitors
- Be sure you have indicated on the pattern if you'd like the exhibitors to "set up" at the gate prior to entry
- Choose a pattern and manage your class that will not exhaust your exhibitors,

particularly in warmer climates with large lengthy classes.

- Patterns at Regionals and Nationals must be posted 24 hours prior to the first section of the class and the must indicate which of the three procedures must be used.
- In classes with multiple judges, indicate on your pattern where the call judge will be standing – and then be in that spot
- In classes with multiple judges, only the call judge, or designated ring steward, is to walk the inspection.
- Know your material before setting up for the class
- If you are utilizing a designated person to assist in the class, discuss expectations and procedures prior to the class.
- If you want to ask a question, ask the same question of every exhibitor. This is not recommended for multiple judge teams, as the other judges are not in proximity to hear the answer. If you ask an anatomy question, ask the exhibitor to describe the location on the horse

rather than pointing as it gives the potential answer away to the remaining exhibitors.

- Ensure proper cone/marker placement prior to the first exhibitor executing the pattern.
- It is appropriate to meet with exhibitors at the gate prior to the class to answer any questions. Be aware of horse safety – ask for only the handlers to convene. Do your best to have clear directions in your pattern and if asked a question, answer it in a clear manner.
- Expect the horses to be shown in the style of what the horse does for a living. The horse's movement will dictate what type of appointments he and the handler should be dressed in.
- Demonstrate consistency of your location as judge for each exhibitor's execution of the pattern
- When doing your inspection have a consistent path and rhythm around each

exhibitor paying attention to not hesitate or stop on a quarter line.

- When inspecting the horse, walk around each exhibitor with consistent speed and pauses at the same location of each entry. When stepping around the horse **go to your left first** for the inspection. Handlers will not move into their next quarter until you break the line of your next quarter.
- Due to the various safety and health concerns, judges are not to touch the horses during the class including during the inspection.
- Arabians are shown in many disciplines, and we offer showmanship exhibitors something no other breed does: freedom of expression for the type and style of their choice. We do not need to limit style or expression; we need to reward excellence.



## SAMPLE CLASS – Pattern GG – Level 3

Shoe \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_ Judge \_\_\_\_\_

**A R L**

**2 is the flag** – Exhibitors enter arena and locate themselves by the marker only. Exhibitors are to enter the arena in the order that is the marker and set up at the direction of the signpost.

**2 is the end of the flag** – Exhibitors enter arena and set up at a time and set up at the completion of their pattern.

**2 is the end** – Exhibitors enter arena and set up at a time and set up at the completion of their pattern and set up at the completion of their pattern.

# Showmanship

## PATTERN GG • LEVEL 3

Exhibitors are to complete the pattern on the side of the marker as indicated in the drawing

Be ready at marker A.

Stand and wait with judge.

Stop, proceed in a single turn.

Stand in judge.

Stop, set up for inspection.

When directed, back four steps, execute approximately a single turn.

Test around marker B and marker C, and toward marker D.

Stand to wait before marker D. Stop at marker D.

Before to finish at the end or set up directed to the signpost.

73 2011-2012



AHA

## SHOWMANSHIP SCORESHEET

PATTERN

NO.

GG

EVENT

DATE

CLASS

JUDGE

## 1 POINT PENALTIES

- Break of gait at walk or trot less than 2 steps
- Over/under turn up to 1/8 of turn
- Ticking or hitting cone/marker
- Sliding/lifting pivot foot
- Lifting pivot foot and replacing in same place
- Lifting foot and replacing it in same place in presentation

## 3 POINT PENALTIES

- Break of gait at walk or trot more than 2 steps
- Splitting cone/marker
- Stepping out of set up during presentation
- Steps out of moving pivot foot during pivot or turn
- Over/under turn 1/8 to 1/4 of turn

## 5 POINT PENALTIES

- Exhibitor not in required position during inspection
- Touching the horse
- Standing directly in front of horse
- Loss of lead shank or 2 hands on lead shank
- Completely stepping out of/moves hindquarter significantly during a pivot/turn
- Severe disobedience to include, but not limited to: biting, pawing, or continuously circling exhibitor
- Goes off pattern/wrong side of cone/never perform specified gait
- Fall of horse or handler

## MANDATORY ELIMINATIONS

- Horse escapes from exhibitor
- Inhumane treatment and undue stress (AR 105.6)
- Excessive schooling or training
- Loss of control or severe disobedience that endangers other exhibitors (bolting, lunging, kicking out, etc.)
- Whip marks
- Illegal equipment (chain through horses' mouth, over nose, through bit; modified cavesson, western bridle or bosal, reins only attached to one side of bridle)

Maneuver Score: -3 Extremely Poor / -2 Very Poor / -1 Poor / 0 Correct / +1 Good / +2 Very Good / +3 Excellent  
Final Score of 0 to +5 for overall form & effectiveness at completion of run / Base Score of 70

Entry #	Maneuver Description	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9 to +5	Penalties	SCORE
1	Penalty											
	Score	+1	+2	0	+1	+1	0	+1	-1	3		78
	Sub Total	71	73	73	74	75	75	76	75	78		
2	Penalty					5					5	
	Score	0	+2	+1	+1	-3	+2	+2	+2	2 1/2		74 1/2
	Sub Total		72	73	74	66	68	70	72	74 1/2		74 1/2
3	Penalty		1				1					
	Score	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	-1	0	2 1/2		69 1/2
	Sub Total		69			68	66	67		69 1/2		
4	Penalty						3					
	Score	+1	+2	+1	+1	+2	0	+2	+2	+4	3	82
	Sub Total	71	73	74	75	77	74	76	78	82		
5	Penalty						1				1	
	Score	0	+1	0	0	0	0	+1	0	3 1/2		74 1/2
	Sub Total		71				70	71		74 1/2		

Judge's Signature

Page #

of

## LADDER SHEET

Class/Division

LADDER SHEET

Judge \_\_\_\_\_

	+	-		+	-		+	-
100			83			66		
99.5			82.5			65.5		
99			82			65		
98.5			81.5			64.5		
98			81			64		
97.5			80.5			63.5		
97			80			63		
96.5			79.5			62.5		
96			79			62		
95.5			78.5			61.5		
95			78			61		
94.5			77.5			60.5		
94			77			60		
93.5			76.5			59.5		
93			76			59		
92.5			75.5			58.5		
92			75			58		
91.5			74.5			57.5		
91			74			57		
90.5			73.5			56.5		
90			73			56		
89.5			72.5			55.5		
89			72			55		
88.5			71.5			54.5		
88			71			54		
87.5			70.5			53.5		
87			70			53		
86.5			69.5			52.5		
86			69			52		
85.5			68.5			51.5		
85			68			51		
84.5			67.5			50.5		
84			67			50		
83.5			66.6					

Scores below 50:


DQ's:


### Prepared by the

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