

## **European Conference of Arab Horse Organisations**

### **Rules for Conduct of Shows**

1. By participating at a show, show organisers, judges, exhibitors, owners and handlers agree that they will unconditionally submit themselves and the persons accompanying them to the "Rules for Conduct of Shows" and, as regards veterinary matters and drug misuse, to the relevant FEI Veterinary Regulations. The accompanying persons include e.g. trainers or persons representing the show organiser as well as assistants of any of those persons. They will accept the jurisdiction of the Disciplinary Committee (DC), the Standing Disciplinary Committee (SDC) and the ECAHO Appeals Committee (EAC). Show organisers are not permitted to introduce rules which are in conflict with the EAHSC "Rules for Conduct of Shows". The person who has signed the entry form will be considered to be the person responsible for the horse in question. These Rules will be interpreted when necessary under the provisions of the laws of Switzerland.
  
2. Horses must be accompanied at the show by a horse passport containing all vaccination records. Those horses coming from a country that does not issue a passport, must be accompanied by an official Registration document which includes a graphic description and all vaccination records.

#### **Show Organiser**

3. The show organiser reserves the right to refuse an entry, but must give the reason for refusal in writing.
  
4. The show organiser will issue a printed show catalogue. The name of every horse has to be printed in the show catalogue, as well as the names of sire and dam, (and maternal grandsire if possible) date of birth, colour, the names of the breeder and the owner. Should a horse's name not be mentioned in the catalogue, its participation at the show will be allowed only if the exhibitor cannot not be blamed for the omission; it will be for the DC to decide.

The show catalogue shall furthermore contain:

- The Rules for Conduct of Shows,
  - The judging system used, the rules for ties and the rules for championships
  - For Shows outside Europe (as defined by the Constitution of ECAHO, Art. 3.2 ) where prize money is allowed, the total amount and distribution of prize money.
5. No class may be split unless there are more than 16 horses entered. Combination of a class with the next age group of the same sex is permitted if the number of entries for the class is below three.

6. (a) No announcement indicating the identity, breeding or past performance of exhibits, or the identity of their owners will be made during judging. It is, however, permissible for this information to be given out after the judges score sheets have been collected for each exhibit.  
  
(b) Show organisers will not release details of competitors or their exhibits to the press at any time prior to the catalogue being put on sale at the showground. Catalogues will not be offered for sale, published or posted on internet more than one day before the commencement of the show.
7. No member of the show organising team may judge.
8. The show organisers will ensure a proper rotation of judges.
9. The show organiser will provide appropriate transport, accommodation and meals during the show, for the judges, DC members, ring master and any other ECAHO show officials. If a judge, DC member or ring master cancels the invitation after the travel arrangements have been made, he will pay all the costs arising out of this booking.
10. No gifts in the form of fees or money are allowed to be paid or given by the organiser, nor accepted by the judges, DC members and ring masters. Material gifts are allowed.

## **Judges**

11. EAHSC listed judges and judges invited to judge at ECAHO affiliated shows agree to judge with integrity and honesty and to carry out their judging duties solely with the objects of ECAHO and the welfare of the horses in mind.
12. Judges will not consult the show catalogue before or during the show at which they are judging.
13. a) Judges appointed at a show will not knowingly judge horses concerning which there may be an actual or apparent conflict of interest. No judge appointed at the show may exhibit, ride, drive or handle an entered horse.  
b) Exhibitors will declare on the entry form any actual or apparent conflict or interest with any of the judges invited for the show.  
  
c) Organisers will not accept any entries for which any actual or apparent conflict of interest with one of the appointed judges has been indicated, unless a reserve judge is available.
14. An actual or apparent conflict of interest may occur if a horse is judged that:
  - has been bought or sold by the judge either as owner or agent,
  - is owned in whole or part by the judge or by a member of the judge's family, or business partner in an Arab horse business venture,

- has been leased by the judge, at any time
- has been bred by the judge or is the property of a breeding organisation in which the judge is or was an employee,
- has been regularly trained, examined or treated by the judge in a professional capacity,
- is the subject of an on-going negotiation to buy or lease, or a provisional purchase condition to which the judge is a party.

In case of doubt, the DC's decision will prevail.

15. In the show ring, all communication between judges and handlers prior to the presentation of prizes will be through the ring master.

16. Judges may withhold any award if in their opinion the exhibit does not merit such an award.

17. Spare

### **Conduct of Halter Classes**

18. Handlers will be neatly dressed. They may wear any costume normally worn in their country of origin.

19. Handlers may not wear clothes carrying any form of advertising which discloses the connection of the horse they are handling.

20. The judge(s) may request that the ringmaster order unruly horses to be withdrawn.

21. The judge(s) may request that the ringmaster ask a handler to open a horse's mouth or pick up its feet for inspection.

22. Exhibits are to be judged standing, walking and trotting. Handlers who do not comply with the ring master's instructions regarding the above may be given a Yellow/Red card by the ring master. The judges may request that the ring master show a handler a yellow or red card.

23. a) Horses will appear in the collecting ring no less than 10 minutes before the start of the class.  
b) Exhibits that appear late (missing the walk around the ring) will be excluded from the class.

24. Stallions and colts aged three years and over must be shown wearing bridles and bits that are both secure and comfortable for the horse. All bridles without bits are equally to be both secure and comfortable for the horse.

25. a) Any horse becoming loose in the collecting ring is subject to a penalty at the discretion of the DC.  
b) Any horse becoming loose in the show ring will immediately continue to be shown. Should the horse become loose a second time it will be disqualified.

26. Spare.

### **Soundness**

27. Exhibits that appear to be lame may be assessed and placed by the judges. Judges may exclude any horse so lame that assessment will inflict pain.

28. Spare.

### **Disguising of Exhibits**

29. No alteration of the basic colour of the skin, coat or hooves is permitted. Hoof paints, colourless varnishes, coat dyes, glitter spray and cosmetic operations including skin grafts are forbidden. Colourless hoof oils, Vaseline or oil and white chalk used on white legs may be accepted.

30. Artificial methods of dilating the eyes or affecting the natural action of the horse or otherwise influencing its action or behaviour by oxygenating the bloodstream or by the use of weights or artificially weighted shoes, or by electrical or chemical treatment of any kind at any time before or during exhibition are forbidden.

31. Burns, cuts or other marks on the body of any exhibit in such places or positions as to indicate that prohibited methods have been used will be regarded as full and adequate grounds for exclusion of any exhibit from competition, at the discretion of the DC with veterinary advice.

a) In halter classes horses may be fully or partly body-clipped, subject to eyelashes being left uncut, hair inside the ears left unshaved and tactile hair left intact around the nose, muzzle and the eyes. Horses not fulfilling these criteria will not be allowed to participate.

b) No equipment intended to alter the natural appearance of the horse is permitted in the stables, including necksweats, neck collars, tailracks, hobbles or weights. Any handler using such equipment on the showground may be suspended by the DC for the period of the show.

32. Spare

### **Cruelty**

33. Excessive whipping or shanking, excessive stimulation by noise or intimidation, use of electric shock devices or infliction of pain by any means is forbidden in all parts of the showground or stable areas, at all times.

34. The above offences are punishable by issue of a Yellow/Red card.

## **Enforcement**

35. **Verbal warnings:** DC members, ringmasters, stewards or show officials may issue verbal warnings. These are not recorded in the DC report.
36. **Yellow and red cards** may be issued by DCs in the collecting ring and the main ring. They are issued to a handler and are a visible and public warning of an offence having been committed. The date and offence will be recorded by the DC on the handler's licence and in the DC report and it will be made public by announcement at the show and on the ECAHO website.
37. A **yellow Card** may be issued if there is a further offence after a warning or it may be issued without such warning.
38. A **red Card** will be issued if the handler receives a second yellow card for having committed a further handling offense during the same show or any other show within 12 months from receiving the first yellow card. The offender will then be banned from handling any horses for the rest of the show in which he receives the red card. The horse being shown by a handler when he receives a red card may be shown by another handler at the end of the class. In the event of a serious offence involving mistreatment or dangerous behaviour, DCs may issue a red card without prior warning.
39. Any handler disobeying the instructions of any DC member, judge, ring master or other official may be punished immediately by being shown a yellow or red card.

## **Veterinary Matters**

40. Horses with apparent clinical signs of a disease may not participate at the show at the discretion of the DC Veterinarian. If the DC Veterinarian diagnoses apparent clinical signs of a contagious disease, the horse must be immediately put into quarantine and may not participate at the show.
41. Vaccination regulations for shows will require 12 months intervals normally, or shorter where local/national authorities mandate it. Such shorter intervals to be shown on the entry form (see Addendum – Equine Influenza Vaccination).
42. All Veterinary treatment necessary at the show ground must be carried out according to FEI Veterinary regulations.
43. a) The administration of any substance not a normal nutrient (including irritants applied to the skin or mucous membranes or mydriatic drugs in the eyes), whether intentionally or

unintentionally which may affect the performance, temperament or soundness of an exhibit is forbidden.

b) The DC may order chemical tests on any exhibit.

c) Judges may request the DC to test any horse.

(See the section on “Medication Control”).

## **Complaints**

44. A show organiser, appointed judge, ring master, exhibitor, owner or handler of a horse entered at the show may lodge a complaint alleging infringement of these rules. Such complaint is to be made in writing before the end of the show. A deposit of € 200.00 or its equivalent in local currency will be lodged with the DC and may be retained if the complaint is considered frivolous, at the DC's discretion. Such forfeiture belongs to ECAHO.

45. Any complaint about a judge or any other official is to be made in writing and signed by two individuals within 3 days from the incident in accordance with the Rules for Disciplinary Committee (Article 19). A deposit of € 300.00 or its equivalent in local currency must be paid. The procedure will be conducted in accordance with the Rules for Disciplinary Committee.

## **Rules for Ties in Qualifying Places**

In the event of a tie in the qualifying places of a class, the higher place will be given to the horse with the most marks for type. If there is still a tie, the higher place will be given to the horse with the most points for movement. Failing a decision on either of these, one judge chosen by ballot will name his preference.

## **Rules for Championships**

1. Championships will be judged as follows:

a) The horses placed first in their class line up ordered according to age. The horses placed second in their class line up behind them in the same order.

b) The first placed horses will be judged individually, standing and trotting.

c) The champion, gold medallist, will be selected from amongst the horses placed first in their class by individual written votes from each judge. The horse with the highest number of votes will be champion, gold medallist. In the event of a tie, the horse that received the highest number of points in its class will be declared champion, gold medallist. In the event of a further tie, the "Rules for Ties in Qualifying Places" will apply.

The judges will not discuss the horses.

2. The silver medallist will be selected in the same way as the gold medallist from all other horses that have qualified for the championship.

3. The bronze medallist will be selected using the same system used to select the silver medallist. The votes of the judges in the championships will be announced and will be published at the show office immediately after the judging has finished.
4. A fourth horse will be selected, which will become the bronze medallist should one of the three medallists be disqualified. If this exhibit is not apparent from the voting papers, the judges will be asked to nominate one. This horse will not be announced. In the event that two or more of the medallists are disqualified, no further substitution will be made.
5. If a horse placed first in its class is not able to take part in the championship, the horse placed second in the class will move forward and be judged with the other horses placed first. Should a horse placed first be sent out of the ring by the judges or taken out by the handler for any reason, it will be deemed to have taken part in the championship and, therefore, the second placed horse will not be judged with the other first placed horses. Substitutions for absent first-placed or second-placed horses by third-placed or lower-ranked horses will not be permitted.
6. All horses that qualify for their respective championships must take part in the championship. Unless a certificate from the DC veterinarian is produced, failure to compete will disqualify the horse from the show, with its record of score and class placing being deleted and the horse being disqualified from showing for the period of one year as from the date of the show. In the event of a disqualification, horses placed behind the disqualified horse will move up a place in the class, but third or lower placed horses will not be entitled to enter the championship.