

European Arab Horse Show Commission

Blue Book 2011

Rules for Conduct of Shows



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 ECAHO Veterinary Regulations and ECAHO Rules for Medication Control. The accompanying persons include e.g. trainers or persons representing the show organizer 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.

The show organizer

3. The show organiser reserves the right to refuse an entry, but must give the reason for refusal in writing.
4. The show organizer 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 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.
 - For Shows inside Europe (as defined by the Constitution of ECAHO, Art. 3.2) where prize money is allowed, the total amount and distribution of prize money. The maximum amount is € 5000.
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 organizers 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.

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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. Any exhibitor not declaring an existing conflict of interest will forfeit all entry fees and will be prevented from showing the horse.
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 organization 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.
Any judge may decline to judge any horse if they consider themselves to have a conflict of interests concerning that horse.
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. All handlers at A and Title Shows must be in possession of a valid handlers permit which they must present to the DC in order to participate in the Show.
19. Handlers will be neatly dressed. They may wear any costume normally worn in their country of origin. Handlers will 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 judge, or if more than one, the panel of 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.

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25. a) Any horse becoming loose in the collecting ring is subject to a penalty (of a fine not exceeding 100 €) at the discretion of the DC.

b) Any horse becoming loose in the show ring will immediately continue to be shown and is subject to a penalty (of a fine not exceeding 100€) at the discretion of the DC. 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.

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.

31. 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. Anyone 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, excessive circling of the horse, 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 and Ringmaster 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 on the handlers licence and in the DC report and must be made public by announcement at the show and/or on the ECAHO website and/or other usual means of communication of ECAHO.

37. **A yellow Card** may be issued if there is a further offence after a warning or it may be issued without such warning.

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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. 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 or the ringmaster 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 page 35).

42. All Veterinary treatment necessary at the show ground must be carried out according to ECAHO Veterinary regulations. The person responsible for the horse will ask the vet who treats the horse to complete a treatment form and present it to the DC-vet at the show.

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" page 25).

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 the rules of the EAHSC, contained in the "Blue Book". A complaint concerning a horse or handler is to be made in writing within 1 hour of the alleged infringement occurring. Any other complaint, except concerning a complaint about a judge or any other official including show organisers, is to be made in writing before the end of the show. A deposit of € 200,- or 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 including the show organisers is to be made in writing and signed by two individuals. Such complaint must contain any evidence and be sent to the ECAHO executive Secretary (show section) within 3 days of the show. A deposit of € 300 must be paid in accordance with the instructions and deadline given by the Executive Secretary (show section). The procedure will be conducted in accordance with the Rules for Disciplinary Committees, articles 19 et seq.