

Aljassimya Amateur Challenge - Rules & Regulations

Introduction:

The main reason for these R&R are to unify the method of judging, conduct and scoring system in Amateur Shows in Europe. These R&R shall benefit organizers, judges, exhibitors and spectators, as well as the horses themselves. Compared to most Halter Classes within Arabian Horse Shows, there will be more emphasize on the technical presentation of the handler and the relationship between handler and horse. These additional topics will also be taken into the account for the total scores of the combination.

After the 2017 show season, a general review of the R&R has been made, based on the feedback and experiences of participants, judges and organizers.

Conditions of Entry for the Horses:

- Open to Arabian Purebred horses registered in any WAHO recognized studbook by the closing date of entries.
- Open to Anglo-Arabs and Arabian Part bred Horses, registered in any official studbook. A minimum of 25% of Arabian blood needs to be proven by the certificate of registration.
- No foal classes shall be organized.

Entry Restrictions for Horses:

Entry restrictions only apply to ECAHO-qualifying classes. Liberty, Costume Classes, Junior Handler, etc... are non-qualifying classes for the moment. Levels referred below are according to the Pyramid of ECAHO affiliated shows, as per Blue Book 2018.

Participation in the Novice Classes is not permitted if the horse:

- Has been awarded as a Class winner, Gold, Silver or Bronze Title in, at least, an **ECAHO National C-show**, or higher level, on or before the date of the closure of the entries of the actual show, and in 2017, 2018 or 2019, unless the horse has passed from a junior to a senior category.
- Has been awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze Title in, at least, an **ECAHO Int. B-show** or equivalent (1) level **ever**.
- If the horse has passed from Novice to Amateur/Experience Amateur as defined in the ranking system below. See "Level determination".
- Horses that have been **shown by a professional handler** in the current year, on or before the day of the show.

Participation in the Amateur Classes is not permitted if the horse:

- Has been awarded as a Class winner, Gold, Silver or Bronze Title in, at least, an **ECAHO International B-show**, or higher level, on or before the date of the closure of the entries of the actual show, and in **2017, 2018 or 2019**, unless the horse has passed from a junior to a senior category.
- Has been awarded a Gold, Silver or Bronze Title in, at least, an **ECAHO A or Title-show**, or equivalent (1) **ever**.
- If the horse has passed from Amateur to Experienced Amateur as defined in the ranking system below. See "Level determination".
- Horses not eligible to participate in Novice or Amateur Classes can be shown in the **Experienced Amateur Classes**, except those that have been awarded as a Class winner, Gold, Silver or Bronze Title in a Int. A-Show or Title show in 2017, 2018 or 2019, unless the horse has passed from a junior to a senior category.
- In case these horses have gathered such victories prior to 2016, they can participate in Experience Amateur Classes.

Entry Restrictions for Handlers:

- **Novice classes** are open for Novice handlers. Novice means in this case non-professional inexperienced handlers who have **never achieved a victory** in a class at an ECAHO C-National show or higher.
- Owners having an ECAHO handlers-permit and who only have shown their own horses can participate in Amateur classes.

- Amateur handlers are non-professional handlers with some show experience, which have not shown horses against payment for a third party. Non-professional handlers which have won titles in an ECAHO C-National or C-Int. show shall be considered **Amateur handlers**.
- **Amateur Classes** are open to all non-professional handlers who passed from Novice to Amateur as defined in the ranking system below. See "Level determination".
- Non-professional handlers obtaining a Class winner or Medal, in Shows above C-International level are considered experienced and excluded from participation in Amateur classes.
- **The Experienced Amateur Class** is open for novice/amateur handlers to show. Novice/amateur handlers who have gained qualifying points as defined in the ranking system below will have to move up to experienced amateur-level. See "Level determination".
- No handler shall have been paid in any way for showing, training or producing any horse for a third party.
- *This covers only persons which are paid for training and preparing horses. (If a person on the farm is paid mainly for cleaning the stable and teaches the horse the show-stand in his free time, then he is considered amateur handler. – "Producing" does not mean "breeding" in this sentence. "Producing" means something like "keeping, taking care of, training etc. It means people who take money for stabling and training horses for shows, competitions etc. Breeding (and selling the foals time to time) is not meant by this point. If the breeder breeds on his mare just to sell the foal, it would be described as "breeding and selling" but not producing.*

Handlers keep their qualification level and their points will qualify for the following show seasons.

Method of Judging:

Halter Classes will be judged using a scoring system by 100, full points only, in the following criteria:

1. Type
2. Head & Neck
3. Body & Topline
4. Legs
5. Movements
6. Harmony between handler and horse*
7. Presentation**

The total amount of points will be announced @700 and will NOT be recalculated to points @100.

* Harmony or horsemanship shows the relation/communication between handler and horse

** Technical part with harmonious stand-up, straight walk and correct trot without interruption, etc.

In Novice and Amateur classes, horses will enter the arena in walk during the group judgement. For the individual judgement, horses will enter the arena in walk, walking to the judges, standup, walk in straight line away from the judges and in a straight line back to the judges. The handler will trot the horse around the arena at the sign of the ringmaster.

Procedure for Best in Show:

For the "Best in Show" competition, in all levels, handlers shall trot their horses in individual, trot one round and leave the arena until all handlers have finished the trot. Thereafter they enter the arena in walk and line-up their horses in front of the judges and according to the RM's instructions.

Rules for ties in Classes & Championships:

In the event of a tie in the ranking of horses in a **Halter Class** or **Best in Show**, the higher ranking will go to the combination with the highest points for harmony. If there is still a tie, the higher place will be given to the horse with the highest points for type.

Failing a decision on either these, the preference of the "Call judge" (appointed by ballot) will be the tie-breaker.

The title of "Best Novice" will be selected amongst the Class winners of each Novice Class.

The title of "Best Amateur" will be selected amongst the Class winners of each Amateur Class.

The title of "Best Experienced Amateur" will be selected amongst the Class winners of each Experienced Amateur Class.

Points will be given to the nominated horses as follows:

- A horse nominated by a judge for Best in Show will receive 4 points
- A horse nominated by a judge for 1st runner up will receive 2 points
- A horse nominated by a judge for 2nd runner up will receive 1 point

In the case of a tie, the Rules for Ties in championships will be followed.

The judges will not discuss the horses.

In case of a handler qualifying with multiple horses for the Best in Show Title, the handler will have to choose one horse to show. His or her other horses, that made it to the BIS competition, will have to be shown by another handler from the same level or lower level. In case of "not shown in BIS" the handler loses his points gathered for this combination in the classes. Failing to find a suitable handler, it is compulsory to contact the DC, OC and the representative of AJF to find a solution, in order not to lose the awarded points. Only this procedure will assure the handler or the horse will not lose points due to disqualification.

Level determination:

The level of the handler will be determined by the AJF Amateur Challenge Committee before the start of the show season. In case a handler joins in later in the season, his/her level will be determined before the first participation. ***These points are awarded solely to determine which level of Novice / Amateur / Amateur Experienced you are and do not count towards winning the Paris tickets for that year.***

Handlers need to register by contacting the Aljassima Amateur Challenge Committee.

A "Tool" will be available on this website to determine one's individual level. In case of doubt, a handler shall submit his "handlers' experience and results" to the Committee, in order for them to determine the level. In case of discussion, final decision will be made by this board.

Points are given according to the ranking of the individual class and are gathered by both the horse AND the handler, but not necessarily as a combination.

For example: Novice handlers showing multiple horses can move up to Amateur level, while their horses stay in novice level.

Points for horses and handlers will be rewarded according to the chart below:

- 1st place: 20 points
- 2nd place: 15 points
- 3rd place: 10 points
- 4th place: 8 points
- 5th place: 6 points
- 6th place: 4 points
- 7th place: 3 points
- 8th place: 2 points
- 9th place and lower: 1 point

Additional 5 points will be awarded for the combination "Best in Show Novice".

Additional 5 points will be awarded for the combination "Best in Show Amateur".

At the end of the show season, the total amount of points earned by the handler will determine the level of the next show season.

Handlers who have gained 80 points or more will move up one level.

Handlers who have gained 160 points or more will move up to Experienced Amateur Level.

Horses that haven't been shown in Amateur Shows for two executive years can drop one level, although they still need to apply to all rules for their level determination.

Handlers that did not show horses in Amateur Shows for two executive years are allowed to drop one level. Not compulsory.

Handlers that won any class in their career in Amateur or Experienced Level can never go back to Novice level. Unless otherwise instructed in writing by the AJF Committee.

In case of discussions on the level of the horses/handlers: the valuta date of the payment confirmation (date of transfer of entry fee on the account of the organizing committee) after entry registration for the show is determinant for the level of that show season.

All Show Organizers will forward the results, including the names of the handlers as well as the information on the horse, to the AJF Challenge vzw, within 1 week after the closing of the show, who publishes an up-to-date record of the horses/handlers in each level.

Points Allocation for Paris Tickets:

- 1st place: 5 points
- 2nd place: 3 points
- 3rd place: 2 points
- 4th place and lower: 1 points
- Best in Show Novice 2 points
- Best in Show Amateur 2 points
- Best in Show Amateur Experienced 2 points

The points will accumulate over 2018 and the 30 handlers / riders with the most points will win a Paris Ticket according to the following divisions.

5 highest ranked Novice Halter Handlers

5 highest ranked Amateur Halter Handlers

5 highest ranked Advanced Amateur Handlers

3 highest ranked Handlers in the In-Hand Trail Competition

3 highest ranked Riders in the Ridden Trail Competition

3 highest ranked Riders in Hunter Pleasure (Novice only)

3 highest ranked Riders in Western Pleasure (Novice only)

3 highest ranked Riders in the Classic Pleasure (Novice only)

In the event of a tie for the final ticket in any division, it will be drawn by lot.

The decision of Aljassimya Farm will be final.

General Rules of the Shows:

For 2019 we expect all shows which have participated in the Challenge for two years already (2017 and 2018) to achieve a minimum of 20 different handler / riders competing at their show. Shows which do not attract at least 20 people in their third year will not be considered for sponsorship in the following year.

For 2019 no horse may participate in more than 6 classes on one day.

Officials and Rules

1. The entry form, together with the show schedule is a contract between the show organizer and the person who signs the entry form. That person will be held responsible for the horse in case any sanctions are imposed.

By participating at a show, show organizers, judges, exhibitors, owners and handlers agree that they will unconditionally submit themselves and the persons assisting and 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).

The registered owner or current lessee of the horse will be primarily regarded as the person responsible and liable for the horse with regard to the jurisdiction of ECAHO.

These Rules will be interpreted when necessary under the provisions of the laws of Switzerland.

Show organizers are not permitted to introduce rules which are in conflict with the EAHSC "Rules for Conduct of Shows".

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. If, when a horse attends a show, it's passport is at the Registry for any reason, then a letter from the registrar attesting to this must be provided along with a photo-copy of the passport, including the description and the vaccination records.

Exhibitors will declare on the entry form any actual or apparent conflict of interest with any of the judges invited for the show. Any exhibitor not declaring an existing conflict of interest will lose all entry fees and will be prevented from showing the horse.

Organizers 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. **An actual or apparent conflict of interest may occur if a horse is judged that:**

- is being trained or handled by a member of the judge's family
- 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.

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

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.

- The judge(s) may request that the ringmaster order unruly horses to be withdrawn.
- The judge(s) may request that the ringmaster ask a handler to open a horse's mouth or pick up it's feet for inspection.
- 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.
- Horses will appear in the collecting ring no less than 10 minutes before the start of the class.
- Exhibits that appear late (missing the walk around the ring) will be excluded from the class.
- Stallions and colts aged three years and over may 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. Any horse that is not under control will be removed from the show ring and disqualified.

Soundness

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.

Disguising of Exhibits

No alteration of the basic color of the skin, coat or hooves is permitted. Hoof paints, colorless varnishes, coat dyes, glitter spray and cosmetic operations including skin grafts are forbidden. Colorless hoof oils, Vaseline or oil and white chalk used on white legs will be accepted. Artificial methods of dilating the eyes or affecting the natural action of the horse or otherwise influencing its action or behavior 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.

- 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. "Balding" is not encouraged.
- b) No equipment intended to alter the natural appearance of the horse is permitted in the stables, including neck sweats, neck collars, tail racks, hobbles or weights. Anyone using such equipment on the showground may be suspended by the DC for the period of the show.

Cruelty

Excessive whipping or shanking, excessive stimulation by noise, excessive circling of the horse, intimidation, use of electric shock devices and infliction of pain by any means are forbidden in all parts of the showground or stable areas, at all times. The above actions will be sanctioned.

Judges

All Halter Classes shall be judged by 3 Judges. Minimum one judge shall be of the Nationalist of any Arabian Horse Organization from an ECAHO member. At least one Foreign Judge shall be part of the judging team. There shall be min. one Judge of ECAHO B or A-list. Non-ECAHO Judges can apply for a temporary permit.

Judges that do the Halter Classes can also officiate at the Ridden Competitions at the same show. Ridden Competition or Trail Classes shall be judged by at least one registered Judge.

Disciplinary Committee

A minimum of one member is required, to be chosen from the EAHSC lists of members of the Disciplinary Committee and being able to speak the local language. If there are more than two DCs,

the majority should be from the EAHSC list of DCs. Amateur classes are not qualifiers for Title or A Shows.

Pleasure Classes

Novice Pleasure Classes are open for horses and riders who never rode in an Advanced (A) or Master (M) level in ECAHO-recognized competition.

Advanced Classes may be offered in 2019 in Classic, Hunter or Western Pleasure where the show organiser feels they have potential for entries. For this year they will not count towards the Special Prizes but will be under consideration to fully add to the Challenge in 2020. Should Advanced classes be offered they must be judged by 2 judges on the ECAHO list and the points gained will be forwarded to ECAHO for inclusion in their high points awards.

Entrants may enter both the Novice and Advanced classes for 2019.

Arabian Part Bred and Anglo-Arabian horses can participate in these classes in a separate ranking. ECAHO does not include these horses in the "High Point Horse System".

In hand/ridden Trail Classes

In-Hand and Ridden trail classes have to be organized.

Advanced Classes may be offered in 2019 in Classic, Hunter or Western Pleasure where the show organiser feels they have potential for entries. For this year they will not count towards the Special Prizes but will be under consideration to fully add to the Challenge in 2020. Should Advanced classes be offered they must be judged by 2 judges on the ECAHO list and the points gained will be forwarded to ECAHO for inclusion in their high points awards.

Entrants may enter both the Novice and Advanced classes for 2019.

Please note that the organizer must communicate at least 10 days before the Event, the patterns to all participants of these classes. All means of communication shall be used to announce the patterns.

Addendum:

Pleasure Classes organized according to the ECAHO Green Book 2017, can be(2) included in the ECAHO "High Point Horse System". If so, the invitation with preliminary timetable, entry conditions and the list of minimum 2 Judges need to be approved by ECAHO Sport Commission. Use the official affiliation form for this.

Pleasure and trail classes follow the ECAHO Green book.

Extra info for **novice classes** in this sport disciplines:

In all classes, for safety reasons, a novice rider is allowed to wear a (FEI approved) helmet instead of a western hat.

Organizers have to inform themselves about the applicable rules within their National Equestrian Federation. Some countries have additional rules about vaccinations, helmets, etc... Organizers have to inform their participants clearly, especially if coming from abroad, before they register any competitor.

1. Western pleasure (Ecaho, EAHSpSC affiliated): we follow the green book, only 1 exception: Horses no matter their age can be ridden with a snaffle bit on 2 hands.
2. Classic pleasures (Ecaho, EAHSpSC affiliated): no exceptions to the official rules
3. Hunter pleasure (Ecaho, EAHSpSC affiliated): riders are advised (for their own benefit) to use a hunter saddle, but a classical dressage saddle will be allowed. Note: in higher levels this will NOT be accepted
4. Trail ridden (Ecaho, EAHSpSC affiliated): preferably a full western outfit and tack will be used, including hat or helmet. Horses no matter their age can be ridden with a snaffle bit on 2 hands. Full English outfit and matching tack will be accepted. NO Whips allowed!!!
5. Trail in hand: COSTUME: preferably a full western outfit and tack will be used, including hat or helmet (no saddle, no bit), with a Leather show halter. Chain allowed, No whips allowed. The handler can also decide to wear a full English riding outfit including boots and cap, or a normal in hand show outfit . In this case horses can be presented in a clean leather stable halter or in a Arabian Show halter, preferably with a leather lead . Chain allowed, No bit and/or whips allowed. Note: Touching the horse is NOT allowed, not even to reward the horse, until you have left the ring!

(1): Referring to AHO, EAHS or results in the US, Canada or... In case of doubt, please contact the Aljassimya Amateur Committee.

(2): This is not compulsory for the AJF Amateur Challenge.