

Have you ever wondered what the judge was thinking in your halter class?

Now you can find out!

New for 2010.

Check out Sport Horse In-Hand Open Class

What is a Sport Horse?

A Sport Horse is a horse with correct conformation and movement to perform in the sporting events, such as Dressage, Jumping, Eventing,

How is the class shown?

This class is judged individually per horse & handler. There are cones or markers in the arena placed in the shape of a large 30 x 30 x 30 meter triangle with smaller triangle of 15 x 15 x 15 within the larger triangle. The judge stands at the apex of the triangle to view the horse standing up, as well as when observing the movement.

What do I do?

1. You lead your horse at a walk to the apex or point of the triangle. The horse is to be shown in an "open position," for conformation judging. The traditional way of showing open position would be with the right front leg slightly back and the right hind leg slightly forward; but as long as all four legs of the horse are visible to the judge when standing on either side of the horse, this would be acceptable.
2. Upon command from the judge, the handler is instructed to walk the small triangle encouraging the horse to lengthen the stride across the long side of the triangle. You walk counterclockwise around the small triangle.
3. After walking the small triangle you continue on without stopping and trot the large triangle, extending the trot on the long side of the triangle.

Note: the triangle is meant to show straight movement and you should avoid making large rounded turns.

What does my horse wear?

Yearlings must be show in a plain leather stable halter. Bridles are optional for horses two years of age. Over the age of two horses should be shown in a dressage-type snaffle bridle or hunter-type snaffle bridle. Snaffle may be with or without cheeks, keepers allowed. Use of a noseband is optional but if used, it must be a cavesson, flash, figure 8, mexican, dropped, or crescent style noseband. A split or single lead made of either leather or chain (or a combination of both) may be used, attached through both sides of the bit, with/or instead of reins.

What do I wear?

Conservative casual attire is recommended for the handler. This would include casual pants and shirt. Also acceptable would be Dressage or hunter attire including breeches, boots, shirt with tie, stock tie or choker collar. Jackets, hats, vests, and gloves are optional. The handler may carry only one whip, maximum length of six feet, including lash and without attachments (i.e. plastic bags, ribbons, etc.).

SPORT HORSE IN HAND INFORMATION

How is it Judged?

Sport Horse in Hand is judge using a score sheet similar to a dressage score sheet. The Arabian Horse Association Score Sheet is divided as follows:

Movement - 40% (20% for walk and 20% for trot)

Conformation - 40%

Expression, Manners, Willingness - 10%

Quality, Balance and Harmony, Suitability as a Sport Horse - 10%

The scoring for in hand are similar to dressage scoring, each section being marked from one to ten points. Comments are written down on the score sheet by the judge's scribe as the horse progresses through the triangle. This is also very educational and beneficial for the owner, in other words, a fair and constructive critique, with serious leg and other faults being noted as well as the good points. The owners receive their score sheet when the results have been calculated at the end of each class. The winner is the one with the highest percentage.

Where can I find additional information?

This document and the official USEF rules for Sport Horse In-hand and copies of the AHA Score sheet will be posted to the SCCAHA website at www.sccaha.org.

Following are few more links that are good sources for more information on showing a sport horse in-hand.

http://www.wiwfarm.com/Introduction_to_the_Arabian_Sport_Horse.html

<http://www.arabianhorses.org/competitions/spotlight1.asp>

http://www.ehow.com/how_4523775_show-arabian-horse-sporthorse-inhand.html

SPORT HORSE IN-HAND:

Find out what the judge real thinks of your horse!

