

IMPORTANT: 2016 Egyptian Event  
**HALTER PRESENTATION GUIDELINES**  
**OVERVIEW**

*Treat our Treasures with Respect!*

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As the “Guardians of the Treasure” the Pyramid Society has always been in the lead when it comes to the treatment of our beloved equine companions. We have set the standard before with innovations to our industry, such as the ones listed on the previous page concerning ginger testing and a 4th penalty judge. We also practice:

Strict control of our in-gate and holding paddock during class entry while still allowing an exciting entrance exhibiting true Arabian spirit and charisma.

Taking a public stance against balding and excessive make-up including the “White towel” test in the holding paddock and penalty points assessed if needed for excessive shaving.

After the 2015 Egyptian Event the Pyramid Society Board of Directors were not pleased with the overall level of stress placed on the horses during the presentation to the judges, especially in the Championship classes. With a strong commitment to treating this noble breed of horse with the dignity, compassion and respect it deserves at all times, the Board undertook an extensive review of the current USEF and AHA rules covering everything from the in ring presentation to the conduct on the grounds. Also important was balancing this unwavering commitment with the desire to see our gorgeous horses showcased in an exciting and beautiful manner capable of allowing the spirit and free expression characteristic of the Egyptian Arabian Horse. Many good safeguards were actually in place in the USEF and AHA rules but needed to be brought to the forefront. However, in our research we felt that a further defining of what is acceptable as a presentation pose as well as tightening and expanding the definition of various rules concerning intimidation, shanking and whipping were in order. In November 2015 the Board approved the new rules and guidelines which were submitted to USEF for approval with our Prize List in February 2016.

Recently due to a Hearing at USEF about this very subject, AHA and USEF have themselves tightened their definitions about shanking and placed more emphasis on a humane method of showing. **Please note that our work on this matter began well prior to the filing of that complaint and our approval of our new guidelines was in**

**February well before the ruling on that complaint.** AS “GUARDIANS OF THE TREASURE” WE WELCOME USEF AND AHA JOINING WITH US TO PROTECT THE WELFARE OF THIS NOBLE AND SENSITIVE BREED.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2016 CHANGES WE HAVE MADE:**

1. Excessive Circling and Shanking to intimidate the horse at the trot will be penalized in the movement score.
2. Shanking or positioning of the whip to intimidate the horse during the walk will be penalized in the Balance/Quality/Substance at the Walk score.
3. An entirely new description of the presentation in front of the Judges has been written with an “alert and attentive pose allowed with the natural charisma, pride and intelligent personality of the Arabian emphasized.”
4. In that presentation “elevation of the head and neck are allowed but should NOT exceed a horizontal plane where the nostrils are higher than the eyes” **ANY HORSE EXHIBITED IN SUCH A MANNER WILL BE ASKED TO LOWER THEIR HEAD.**
5. At no time is intimidation of the horse allowed per existing USEF rules with an expansion by The Pyramid Society to deem “withdrawing or evading backwards **OR SIDEWAYS** from the handler, **sudden extreme flinching or shying the head away from hand or whip movements of the handler, anxious pinning of the ears and wringing of the tail**” as signs of intimidation.
6. Defining shanking as “the use of the lead and/or chain in any harsh and forceful manner” especially as used for intimidation. **A light correction or cue to the horse to position, gain control or whoa is acceptable.** “
7. The whip is **NOT** mandatory and we encourage exhibitors to show without a whip and use grass or treats to gain the attention and expression of their horse.
8. **IN ADDITION TO ANY PENALTY ASSESSMENT, ANY EXHIBITOR VIOLATING THESE RULES WILL BE ASKED TO DROP THEIR WHIP AND STAND QUIETLY AT THE SIDE OF THEIR HORSE WHILE JUDGING IS COMPLETED.**
9. A change in the manner in which the Championship classes are conducted. The Judges will judge each entry collectively as a group and only the horse being shown and the horse “on deck” are allowed to pose and/or position their horse for showing. All others must stay relaxed or naturally attentive to their handler. The same presentation changes above also apply to the Championship classes **including the Handler being asked to drop their whip and stand at their horses side if in violation of any rule or guideline or intimidation of the horse during the class.**
10. The stricter enforcement is not limited to the Show Ring. A Show Committee will have members present on the grounds at all times (even during the night) and is

tasked with enforcement of all the rules concerning the treatment of the horses and their welfare at all times. The committee and the Steward will have the ability to issue a **YELLOW WARNING CARD PURSUANT WITH THE RULES OF THE FEDERATION.**

**Please see the 2016 Prize List for extensive sections from the USEF rulebook as well as all of the new rules and guidelines we have put in place in their full format that concern the welfare and treatment of the horse both in the ring and on the showgrounds.**