



Program Overview

The AHA Academy Riding division is designed to welcome new riders into the Arabian horse show world by offering a positive, low-pressure introduction to competition. Open to beginning riders of any breed, Academy classes provide an opportunity to build skills, gain confidence, and experience the joy of showing within a supportive and educational environment.

Through beginner-focused classes offered at Arabian horse shows, the Academy division helps riders, instructors, and shows grow our community together — laying the foundation for lifelong involvement with the Arabian horse.

Rider Eligibility

1. This program is designed for beginner riders in their first 1 to 2 years of showing who are Novice riders as defined by USEF. This program is NOT designed for experienced riders or showers, please be respectful of the spirit and intent of the program.
2. Novice rider is defined as a rider who has not won more than three (3) 1st place ribbons/finishes in a rated show as of the beginning of the current show season. *Single horse classes do not count towards novice rider status.*
3. UAHC Academy Program Riders must be members of the Utah Arabian Horse Club (UAHC — AHA Club #7014). Fill out your UAHC Membership Application with your entry form or mail in prior to the first show of the year.
4. Any issues regarding rider or horse eligibility or protests will be decided by the Academy show committee.

Horses

5. Any breed of horse is allowed. Grade horses are welcome. Registration is not required. Horses must be suitable to the Academy division, displaying good manners and a quiet disposition.
6. Riders and horses are not required to be enrolled in a professionally operated lesson program, though participation in one is encouraged.
7. Horses are not required to be owned by the exhibitor.
8. Show grooming/clipping/braiding is not required, but a neat, clean, well-turned-out horse is strongly encouraged.
9. When horses are presented “Hunter” style in English (All Seats) classes, braiding is allowed but not required.
10. Horses of any age may be shown in a bosal (western) or snaffle bit without penalty. Two-handed riding in western classes is permitted only with horses in a bosal or snaffle bit.



11. Horses may be shared by riders in different age divisions. Horses and riders may cross-enter in Academy type class and rated classes within the same show, but riders may not cross-enter between the Walk/Trot and Walk/Trot/Canter class divisions (rated or Academy).
12. Any horse or rider deemed unsafe or not abiding by these rules may be eliminated by horse show management or the judge.

Attire Specifications

13. Riding saddle seat suits, hunt coats, and western chaps are **NOT allowed**.
14. Riding pants, jodhpurs, breeches, or colored jeans are considered appropriate.
15. A neatly fitted long sleeve shirt or top is strongly suggested.
16. A riding helmet is **MANDATORY** for riders 18 years of age and under, and strongly suggested for all ages. Helmets must be ASTM/SEI or USEF approved.
17. Appropriate footwear with a small heel is **MANDATORY**.
18. Attire and tack should be clean, safe, and well appointed. Excessive bling is discouraged and will not be advantageous in placings.

Tack Specifications

19. Tack must be conservatively colored (brown or black) and in good repair.
20. Black or brown nylon or synthetic tack may be used.
21. A cut-back saddle for saddle seat, western saddle for stock seat, and hunt saddle for hunt seat are to be used.
22. Work bridles and bits, including snaffles, are allowed. Martingales are permitted and encouraged. Tie-down martingales are NOT allowed.
23. Show tack is allowed but not encouraged and will not be advantageous in judging.
24. Whips may be carried in Showmanship and Hunter disciplines but must be of legal length according to USEF rules. Whips may not be carried in Western classes.
25. English classes — riders and tack for horses may be Hunt Seat or Saddle Seat and will be judged accordingly.

Class Specifications

26. These are not AHA or USEF sanctioned classes. Entries must follow written show premium rules.
27. All Academy classes are to be judged on the ability of the rider to control and show their horse to its best advantage, and upon the riding skills of the rider.
28. Equitation classes (on the rail, no pattern) are judged on the rider's basic equitation and horsemanship skills suited to the class discipline, with emphasis on the rider's ability to control the horse at all times. Riders should convey good posture, hand placement, leg placement, balance, and effective control while commanding proper speed of gaits and show ring placement. Riders should be able to identify correct diagonals.



29. Pleasure classes differ from Equitation in that they are judged more on the rider's ability to display their horse to its best advantage, communicating through horsemanship and riding abilities that the horse is a pleasure to ride. Riders should be able to identify leads promptly and control their horse's rate in a consistent manner.
30. Showmanship classes are judged on the handler's basic horsemanship skills. The horse itself is not judged on conformation. Rather, the exhibitor is judged on how well he or she presents the animal to its best advantage, with additional scoring for the grooming and presentation of both horse and handler.
 - a. The pattern exhibitors are to perform will be posted Wednesday evening. It must be memorized; riders may not carry notes or be coached while in the ring. Horses will all enter the ring, line up first, then work the pattern individually.
 - b. An exhibitor is not allowed to touch the horse during the pattern and set up. Each part of the pattern should be treated as a separate task, leaving maneuvers crisp rather than sloppy and run together. Exhibitors should appear confident and happy, ultimately selling themselves and their horse to the judge.
 - c. The "quarter system" will be used when presenting the horse to the judge.
 - d. The judge may ask the exhibitor questions about the parts of the horse, horse management, the age and breed of their animal, and so on. Exhibitors are expected to provide correct answers in a polite, confident, and professional manner.
31. All entries will be placed. Points are awarded based on the number of horses in the class (e.g., 6 horses in class: 1st = 6 points, 2nd = 5 points, etc.).
32. Headers are allowed in the lineup in all Walk/Trot classes.
33. The hand gallop is not to be asked for in any class.
34. If a rider needs to walk the class for safety reasons, that is acceptable and the rider should not be excused, but they will be judged accordingly to maintain fairness and integrity for all competitors.
35. One time-out per exhibitor is allowed per class. If more than one time-out is requested, the horse may be excused from the ring or disqualified. The entrant will not receive points but will still receive credit for participating in the class.
36. In equitation, riders who are unseated may be disqualified at the discretion of the judge.
37. Classes may be split at the discretion of show management.
38. Classes will be judged by USEF guidelines.



Program Specifications

2026 Academy Classes

The following classes will be offered at UAHC shows in 2026:

English Equitation

- 162 ACADEMY W/T English Equitation — All Ages
- 163 ACADEMY English Equitation — 13 & Under
- 164 ACADEMY English Equitation — 14–18
- 165 ACADEMY English Equitation — 19 & Over

English Pleasure (All Seats)

- 166 ACADEMY W/T English PL — All Ages
- 167 ACADEMY English PL — 13 & Under
- 168 ACADEMY English PL — 14–18
- 169 ACADEMY English PL — 19 & Over

Showmanship — English

- 170 ACADEMY W/T Showmanship — English — All Ages
- 171 ACADEMY Showmanship — English — 13 & Under
- 172 ACADEMY Showmanship — English — 14–18
- 173 ACADEMY Showmanship — English — 19 & Over

Western Equitation

- 198 ACADEMY W/T Western Equitation — All Ages
- 199 ACADEMY Western Equitation — 13 & Under
- 200 ACADEMY Western Equitation — 14–18
- 201 ACADEMY Western Equitation — 19 & Over

Western Pleasure

- 202 ACADEMY W/T Western PL — All Ages
- 203 ACADEMY Western PL — 13 & Under
- 204 ACADEMY Western PL — 14–18
- 205 ACADEMY Western PL — 19 & Over

Showmanship — Western

- 206 ACADEMY W/T Showmanship — Western
- 207 ACADEMY Showmanship — Western — 13 & Under
- 208 ACADEMY Showmanship — Western — 14–18
- 209 ACADEMY Showmanship — Western — 19 & Over



Fees

- 39. **Academy class entry fee:** \$15.00 per class.
- 40. **UAHC Membership (AHA Club #7014 — Utah Arabian Horse Club):**
 - Adult — \$30.00 / year
 - Youth — \$25.00 / year
- 41. Standard show office fees apply for all Academy entries.

High Point & Awards

- 42. High point awards will be run in accordance with the UAHC 2026 High Point Rules.
- 43. Points are awarded based on the number of horses in the class (e.g., 6 horses: 1st = 6 points, 2nd = 5 points, etc.). Tie breaker is determined by overall number of highest placings (most 1sts, then most 2nds, etc.).

How to Enter

- 44. Enter complete name, address, and zip code of Owner/Trainer/Rider on the Academy Entry Form.
- 45. Mandatory signatures of Owner/Agent/Rider/Trainer/Coach are required on the form. All riders must sign the entry form. Youth cannot sign the entry form — Parents/Agent/Trainer must sign for youth exhibitors.
- 46. Permission of Minors to show signature is mandatory on the back of the entry form (if applicable).
- 47. Fill out UAHC membership application at the show or mail in with your entry form prior to the first show.

Abbreviations

- AHA: Arabian Horse Association
- UAHC: Utah Arabian Horse Club
- USEF: United States Equestrian Federation (formerly known as USAE or USA Equestrian)
- W/T: Walk/Trot
- PL: Pleasure