

# **WDHA MATURITY PROGRAM**

## **for Purebreds and Half-Arabians**

The WDHA Maturity Program is open to any horse six years old or older registered with the Arabian Horse Registry of America, Inc. For Arabians there will be four performance classes (Western Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure and Country Pleasure Driving) and three halter classes (Purebred Mares, Purebred Geldings, Purebred Stallions) and for Half-Arabians four performance classes (Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Saddleseat Pleasure, and Driving) and three halter classes (Half-Arabian Stock Type, Half-Arabian Hunter Type, Half-Arabian English Type). The class(es) entered must be indicated at the time of nomination.

**PURPOSE:** To promote the Arabian and Half-Arabian performance horse. Horses are nominated in the year they show.

### **ELIGIBILITY:**

1. The nominated horse must be registered with the Arabian Horse Registry of America, Inc. Nominated horses must be six years old or older.
2. The owner of the horse must be a member of WDHA in good standing at the time of nomination.
3. Nominations are to be made on an official nomination form and submitted with the correct payment and a copy of the nominated horse's registration papers. Any number of horses may be nominated by the same person.
4. All nomination payments are final and nonrefundable. Substitution of horses is prohibited.
5. Nomination fees do not include class fees, drug fees, stall fees, etc., which fees are necessary show fees.
6. Horses originally nominated by a WDHA member and subsequently sold are eligible to remain in the Maturity providing the new owner is a member of WDHA or joins before the show for the year to be shown.

Payment of any prize money will be made to the owner of the horse as designated on the show entry forms. WDHA shall not be responsible for any disputes arising through change of ownership.

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS:**

1. The Maturity classes for Purebreds shall include Western Pleasure, Country English Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Country Pleasure Driving, Purebred Mares, Purebred Geldings, Purebred Stallions. Half-Arabian classes shall be Western Pleasure, Hunter Pleasure, Saddleseat Pleasure, Driving, Stock Type, Hunter Type, and English Type.
2. The class or classes entered must be indicated at the time of nomination. Nomination fees are due for each class entered. (For example, if the horse will compete in Country Pleasure and Country Pleasure Driving, two nomination fees will be required.)
3. Horses may be shown by professional handlers. All handlers must be members of WDHA in good standing.
4. WDHA Maturity classes will be held in conjunction with the WDHA Open Show.
5. WDHA Maturity classes are not regional qualifying classes.
6. Maturity nominated horses entered in the WDHA High Point Program will receive points as for WDHA Futurity classes.

## **CLASS SPECIFICATIONS**

### **PERFORMANCE CLASS SPECIFICATIONS:**

**ARABIAN AND HALF-ARABIAN WESTERN PLEASURE:** Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Western Pleasure.

**ARABIAN COUNTRY ENGLISH PLEASURE:** Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Country English Pleasure.

**ARABIAN AND HALF-ARABIAN HUNTER PLEASURE:** Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Hunter pleasure. Bridles shall be light show type, either single curb or single snaffle, Pelham or kimberwick bit (Full cheeks are optional).

**ARABIAN COUNTRY PLEASURE DRIVING:** Entries will be shown and judged under the class specifications set forth in the Arabian Division of the USEF Rule Book for Country Pleasure Driving.

**HALF-ARABIAN SADDLESEAT PLEASURE:** Entries will be shown and judged at the walk, normal trot, and canter. To be judged on willingness, manners, performance and quality.

**HALF-ARABIAN DRIVING:** Entries are to be shown in show harness appropriate to a two-wheeled vehicle. A two-wheeled vehicle is required. To be judged at the walk, normal trot and strong trot. To stand quietly and back readily. To be judged on willingness, manners, performance, and quality.

**HALTER MATURITY:**

**GENERAL CRITERIA:** Horses must be serviceably sound. Transmissible weaknesses are a serious fault in breeding stock. Stallions must have both testicles descended. A wry tail or one carried in an unnatural fashion is a breeding fault.

**PUREBRED SPECIFICATIONS:**

**STALLION/MARE CLASSES:** Emphasis placed in the following order of importance: Type, conformation, suitability as a breeding animal, quality, movement, substance, manners, and presence.

**GELDINGS:** Emphasis placed in the following order of importance: Conformation, type, quality, movement, substance, manners, and presence.

**HALF-ARABIAN SPECIFICATIONS:** Conformation, quality, substance, Arabian type in that order

**STOCK TYPE:** Conformation qualities necessary for Western events, a horse of substance, exhibiting ground-covering motion without excessive elevation.

**HUNTER TYPE:** Qualities necessary for all hunter seat events. Carries head and neck lower than Saddle/Pleasure type. Shown in a more relaxed fashion and stance. When in motion has a forward frame; movement has good ground cover, long, low with good push from behind without tension, showing good balance

**SADDLE PLEASURE TYPE:** High set-on neck of sufficient length and set onto the head in such a way as to allow the horse to set up in the bridle properly. Should exhibit a free-flowing and animated trot. A refined horse, more animated than Stock or Hunter.

**AWARDS:**

Prize money will be paid only to the party whose name appears on the original show entry form. In all divisions, the available prize money will be divided according to the number of horses shown as follows:

One horse -- 100%

Two horses -- 60%, 40%

Three horses -- 50%, 30%, 20%

Four horses -- 40%, 30%, 20%, 10%

Five or more horses -- 35%, 25%, 20%, 12.5%, 7.5%

For WDHA Maturity classes, the cost of ribbons and trophies may be deducted from the available prize money.

**PAYMENTS:**

Nomination Fee: \$50.00 Due August 1st

Class Fee: Due at show

**LATE NOMINATIONS not accepted. No nomination exceptions past August 1st deadline.**