



NORTH AMERICAN SHAGYA – ARABIAN SOCIETY, INC.

A 501 (C)(5) Non Profit Tax Exempt Organization



“NASS Protocol for Inspection Procedures and Judging”

Prior to a horse being presented to the judging team the horse will be measured, and his or her registration certificate checked to verify the identity of the horse and that the color and markings are correct. The horse owner, handler, or alternatively a NASS official, will take the measurements while the judging team observes, checking for proper technique and accuracy. The measurements will be recorded by a NASS official (can be a member of the judging team, a learner judge as scribe, or Breeding Committee member or BOD member).

The horse must be standing on a reasonably flat surface. The wither height at its highest point will be measured in hands in 1/2 inch increments using the official NASS measuring stick. This number of inches is multiplied by 2.54 to give the official height in cm. The stick height at the withers shall be recorded in both hands and cm.

The horse's girth will be measured using the official NASS measuring tape. The girth measurement is taken immediately behind the withers and the point of the elbow. It is recorded in inch and 1/2 inch increments and in cm.

The cannon bone of the front leg is measured midway between the knee and the fetlock. The tape is pulled snug around the leg. The tape is read starting from the 10 cm point rather than the 1 cm point so that the tape can be pulled snug. The measurement is recorded in cm and 1/2 cm units only, not in inches.

The horse is usually then stood up in the open position, non-mane side towards the camera, for its official photo. The photo can be made in a different sequence depending upon scheduling and factors at each site.

The horse is then presented to the judging team. The horse is presented standing at the apex of the judging triangle. When requested by the team, the horse is then walked on the triangle, then shown at a trot on the triangle. Then, conditions permitting, the horse is free lunged at all gaits if possible.

Stallions will also be free jumped, utilizing the protocol in the "NASS Free Jumping Assessment" document. Mares may be free jumped but are not required to free jump.

The judging team consists of the judges which have been invited to judge the inspection by NASS. The team will judge the horses using the ISG criteria listed in Dr. Frielinghaus's "Leaflet for Judging Shagya Arabians", with one more criteria added—that for judging the canter or gallop. Each judge will jot down his or her own marks independently of the other judges. Then the judging team will briefly discuss the appropriate mark for each criterion and agree by consensus on one official mark for each criterion. The team will then generate a brief descriptive paragraph describing the horse, working collectively and reaching consensus for the wording of the paragraph. All of the judging discussions shall remain private and confidential—spectators should not be allowed to hear anything except the final results when they are announced.

Learner judges usually work with the official judges on a one-on-one basis, with no more than one learner judge for each official judge. Learner judges may participate with the team by asking questions, etc., but should make their own marks independently as the other judges are doing so. Learner judges usually also can be asked to assist the judging team by serving as "scribes" for the team.



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Usually all stallions for breeding approval are presented first, in descending order of age, the oldest to the youngest.

Ideally, after all stallions are presented, all stallions are walked in hand together in the arena and a representative of the judging team introduces each horse, describing sire, dam, breeder, owner, measurements, individual and average score, descriptive paragraph, and decision regarding approval. Sometimes this is not feasible to present the stallions as a group again, but in any case the official scores are not announced until all stallions are presented.

Then all the mares for breeding approval (including purebred Arabian mares) are presented, same as with the stallions.

Then Shagyas and Appendix Shagya (Part-Shagya-Arabian) underage for breeding approval are presented.

Then Purebred Shagya geldings, Appendix Shagya (Part-Shagya-Arabian), and any other horses for evaluation (but not for breeding approval) are presented.

Foal Evaluations:

Foals will be scored on 3 criteria: type, conformation and movement. No measurements are taken. The foal receives also a written description similar to those for the older horses.