

European Arab Horse Show Commission
Blue Book 2024
Rules for Disciplinary Committees



Rules for Disciplinary Committees

1. The show organiser will appoint a Disciplinary Committee (DC). The number of DCs and their qualifications will be as specified in the Rules for Affiliation, according to the category of the show. Their names will be printed in the show schedule and in the catalogue. The DC Chairman will be appointed by the show organizer.
2. No member of a DC shall judge or exhibit or pursue any other activity not consistent with his DC duties, at the show at which he is a DC member.

No Member of the DC / Ringmaster may officiate at more than 15 Arabian horse halter shows in ECAHO Member countries in the calendar year.

Duties and powers of DCs during the show

3. It shall be the overriding duty of the DC to ensure the welfare of the horses at the show at which they are acting and to see that the show is conducted in accordance with the EAHSC Rules. The DC will also keep under supervision the stables area, the horse-van parking area, the collecting ring, the show ring, all of the show ground and all horses throughout the show.
4. EAHSC listed DC members appointed to act at ECAHO affiliated shows will, before, during and after a show, behave in such a way that their integrity and honesty cannot be questioned, and will act with firmness and politeness at all times.
5. When any infringement of the Rules is observed by them or reported to them in accordance with the provisions of Rule 9 below, they will conduct an enquiry into such infringement. The DC will maintain a written record of any such enquiry, their decision upon it and any penalty imposed as a result of it.
6. The appointed members of a DC shall have control over and free access to all places used for the purposes of the show, but may only enter a horse's box in the presence of the horse's owner or handler, trainer or other person responsible for the horse.
7. The appointed members of a DC have full power:
 - a) To verify the identity of entries and to fine and/or exclude any entries with incomplete or faulty identification documents.
 - b) To verify the appropriate vaccination of the entries and to fine and/or exclude any entries with incomplete or faulty vaccination documents.
 - c) To determine all questions arising in connection with the conduct of the show during the course of the show.
 - d) If necessary for the purpose of c) above, to overrule any decision of show officials and/or judges.
 - e) To order the removal of any person or persons from any or all places under their supervision.
 - f) To exclude any horse from any class or from the show, before or after such horse has competed at the show.
 - g) To order the examination by such person or persons as they think fit of any horse entered for any class at the show.
8. The decisions of the appointed DC shall be binding on all parties: exhibitors, show organizers officials and judges, subject always to the right of appeal.

Investigations during the show

9. The DC will investigate any infringement of EAHSC Rules observed by themselves or any alleged infringement reported to them before the end of the show by:
 - a) The show organiser,
 - b) An appointed judge or ring master;
 - c) The exhibitor, the owner or the handler of a horse entered in a class at the show.

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10. When an infringement is reported as in Rule 9 c) above, the complainant will report in writing addressed to the DC, signed and accompanied by a deposit of €200.- or equivalent in local currency which will be forfeited, if the report is decided by the DC to be unfounded. Such report must name witnesses and enclose any relevant documentary evidence.
11. When an infringement is reported, the DC shall by investigation establish the facts, decide whether an infringement has been committed and, if it decides there has, impose on the responsible person one or more of the penalties at its disposal (see Rule 16 below).
12. When during the show no decision can be taken, the DC will report the matter to the ECAHO Executive Secretary who will forward this report to the Standing Disciplinary Committee (SDC).
13. When an infringement concerns the show organiser, the DC will, after investigation, report the facts to the show organiser, who will take appropriate action as the DC may direct. If the DC finds that an infringement occurred, it and the actions taken will be reported to EAHSC.
14. The members of the DC may conduct any necessary investigation by all possible means (witnesses, testimonies, photographs, hearings etc.).
15. Immediately after the show, the DC will write a report about the show. The report will be sent as soon as possible, but not later than one week after the show to the EAHSC (c/o ECAHO Executive Secretary). Any DC who does not send the report within 2 weeks after the show for 3 or more times, will be suspended from the DC list for one year, starting from 1st of January of the following year.

If an investigation has taken place, the report must contain the names of every person involved, full details of any infringement of EAHSC Rules, all the evidence obtained by the DC, such as testimonies, photographs, etc. as well as any action taken by the DC.

Penalties and Measures

16. a) Red and Yellow Cards may be shown as an immediate, visible and public warning of an offence having been committed.

When as a result of an investigation the DC is satisfied that any person has committed an infringement, it has the power at its discretion to impose any one or more of the following penalties or measures:

- b) A verbal warning;
- c) A written warning;
- d) A fine not exceeding €300.- or its equivalent in local currency;
- e) Disqualification of the horse;
- f) Suspension of the person responsible and all his horses from taking part in the current show.
- g) Spare;
- h) A ban from the showground and/or the stables and/or other respective premises for a period of two months;
- i) Any equipment intended to alter the natural appearance of the horse, and any equipment being used to inflict pain, intimidation or noise may be confiscated.

If a fine is imposed by a DC, this must be paid by the implicated party or the horse cannot be shown. If the fine is imposed after the horse has been shown and it is not paid, the horse will be disqualified.

If the fine is not paid before the end of the show it must be received in full by ECAHO before that horse or any other horse owned by the person responsible, stud farm or breeding entity concerned can be shown in an ECAHO affiliated show.

Should the horse /horses be sold to another person/stud farm/breeding entity, the amount of the fine must be received in full by ECAHO before the horse/horses can be shown in an ECAHO affiliated show.

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It is the responsibility of the DC to transfer any imposed fine to the bank account of ECAHO (transfer costs to be paid by ECAHO).

17. When in the opinion of the DC some fine or penalty greater than those permitted to them by Rule 16 above ought to be imposed, it will report the matter to the SDC.

Investigations after the show

The Standing Disciplinary Committee

18. A Standing Disciplinary Committee (SDC) shall be appointed in accordance with Article 21.6 of the Constitution of ECAHO.
19. a) The show organizer, an appointed judge, ring master or an exhibitor, owner or handler of a horse entered at the show may report an infringement in writing to ECAHO Executive Secretary within 3 days of the show. The report must contain any evidence and it must be signed. A deposit of € 300 must be paid in accordance with the instructions and deadlines given by the Executive Secretary, which will be forfeited if the report is considered by the SDC to be unfounded.
b) The Executive Secretary will forward the DC report according to Rule 12 above as well as reports received after the show, to the members of the SDC who will investigate the accusations.
20. The Executive Secretary in conjunction with the Executive Committee is empowered to investigate any infringement of rules that may have occurred within the last 12 months. When sufficient evidence has been gathered, the case will be forwarded to the SDC.
21. When an infringement by a show organiser is reported, the EAHSC shall consider whether the infringement is one of administrative detail or one of principle. If it considers the infringement to be one of administrative detail it will ask the show organiser to amend his procedures in the future. If it considers the infringement to be one of principle, it shall report to the SDC for further consideration.

Procedure of Investigation by the SDC

22. The members of the SDC may conduct any necessary investigation by all possible means (witnesses, testimonies, photographs, hearings etc.)
23. a) The SDC will decide if there is a case to answer and without undue delay inform the person(s) accused of any charge made against them and allow them a period of not less than 14 days to make any statement in their defence. With the reply, the accused person(s) may request a hearing at which the SDC will meet and the accused person(s) or their representative may be heard.
b) The SDC may investigate by inviting any person they find necessary to submit evidence in writing within a period of not less than 14 days. The SDC may hold a hearing if it deems it necessary for a correct appraisal of a case.
c) After the period for answering is complete, the SDC will consider all the evidence and decide on the case. If the decision is “guilty”, the accused person's previous record may be taken into account when deciding on the penalty. The decision will be notified immediately.
d) The written reasons for the decision will be communicated to the accused person(s) by registered mail within one month after the decision has been taken. Other parties involved or having an interest in the case may also be informed, but not before the accused person(s) has been informed.

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Penalties and measures

24. The SDC has the power to apply disciplinary measures as listed below:

- a) a warning;
- b) a reprimand;
- c) a fine not exceeding 4000€;
- d) the suspension of an individual from taking part in any EAHSC affiliated show for a period of up to two months;
- e) the suspension of a horse from taking part in any EAHSC affiliated show for a period of up to one year, regardless of any subsequent change of ownership;
- f) for horses that have been disqualified for dangerous and/or aggressive behaviour, the suspension from taking part in any EAHSC affiliated event, for a period of up to five years, regardless of any change of ownership;
- g) a disqualification;
- h) a ban from the showground and/or the stables and/or other respective premises for a period of two months;
- i) a ban on taking part in any ECAHO and/or ECAHO-related activity for a period of two months;
- j) the return of awards and/or prize money;

The SDC may provisionally suspend a horse or a person from participating in any show, or apply such other interim relief or conservatory measures as it sees fit, prior and pending its final determination of the matter. If such measures (suspension, interim relief, conservatory measures, and like) are imposed, the person responsible or concerned may submit to the SDC a short statement in writing in order to show cause why a measure should be lifted. A measure shall be maintained unless the person responsible or concerned establishes to the satisfaction of the SDC that exceptional circumstances exist that make it clearly unfair, taking into account all of the circumstances of the case, to impose a measure prior to the SDC's final determination of the matter.

If a fine is imposed by the SDC, this must be received in full by ECAHO before that horse or any other horse owned by the person responsible, stud farm or breeding entity concerned can be shown in an ECAHO Affiliated show.

Should the horse /horses be sold to another person/stud farm/ breeding entity, the amount of the fine must be received in full by ECAHO before the horse/horses can be shown in an ECAHO Affiliated show.

Misuse of Drugs

25. The misuse of drugs and the procedures to be followed are detailed in the section titled Rules for Medication Control (page 47).

The ECAHO Appeals Committee

26. An ECAHO Appeals Committee (EAC) shall be appointed in accordance with Article 21.8 of the Constitution of ECAHO.

27. Any person upon whom a penalty has been imposed in accordance with articles 16 or 25 above may appeal to the EAC (c/o ECAHO Executive Secretary) in writing within 30 days from the date of notification of the decision of the SDC (registered mail, date of post mark), stating the grounds of the appeal and submitting the full evidence for the EAC to consider. A deposit of €500 - shall be made at the same time, which shall be forfeited unless the EAC decides there were good and reasonable grounds for the appeal.

28. a) The EAC may investigate by inviting any person they find necessary to submit evidence in writing within a period of not less than 14 days. The EAC may hold a hearing if it deems it necessary for a correct appraisal of the case.

b) After the period for answering is complete, the EAC will consider all the evidence and decide on the case. If the decision is "guilty", the accused person's previous record may be taken into account when deciding on the penalty. The decision will be notified immediately.

29. The EAC will communicate in writing the result of the appeal to the appellant within three months of receipt of the appeal. The written reasons for the decision will be communicated to the accused by registered mail within

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one month after the decision has been taken. Other parties involved or having an interest in the case may also be informed, but not before the appellant has been informed.

30. The EAC may at its discretion order any person to pay such reasonable costs and expenses relating to the appeal as they may determine.

In all matters arising from "Rules of Conduct of Shows" the decision of the EAC will be final and binding on all parties.

General Provisions for Investigations after the Show

Costs and Expenses

31. The SDC or the EAC may at their discretion order any person to pay such reasonable costs and/or expenses relating to proceedings as they may determine.

32. The costs of proceedings include, among others, all costs and expenses of the bodies representing the jurisdiction within ECAHO for carrying out investigations, for taking evidence, for the conduct of hearings, for the decision making, for getting legal advice, for translations, for costs of travel, food and accommodation, for infrastructure, and for any and all other costs arising out of a case.

33. The SDC and EAC may demand advance payments up to the amount of the estimated costs of proceedings to be paid to ECAHO.

34. When a request for an advance payment on costs has not been complied with, the SDC and EAC may suspend their work and set a time limit of not more than 15 days, on the expiry of which the relevant submission shall be considered as withdrawn.

35. The SDC and EAC may take into account such circumstances as they consider relevant, including the extent to which a party has conducted the proceedings in an expeditious and cost-effective manner.

Payment of Fines, Costs and Expenses

36. If a fine and/or the payment of costs and/or expenses is imposed by the SDC or the EAC, the respective amounts must be received in full by ECAHO before that horse or any other horse owned by the person responsible or breeding entity concerned can be shown in an ECAHO affiliated show.