

**POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE AMERICAN HAFLINGER REGISTRY
VOLUNTARY INSPECTION AND CLASSIFICATION PROGRAM:
(Revised June 2014)**

I. ELIGIBILITY:

Open to all purebred Haflinger mares, stallions and geldings registered in the American Haflinger Registry, and to Haflingers registered with the Canadian Haflinger Association that are owned by Canadian residents. All horses must be owned by members of the American Haflinger Registry.

A) Official Inspection and Classification

Open to all Haflingers age two or over.

B) Informal Evaluation

Weanlings and yearlings may be informally evaluated at a reduced fee by the three judges strictly to provide the owner with information via a written evaluation record. The informal evaluation scorecard will differ from the official scorecard in that each section will be marked as “very good”, “good” or “needs monitoring through maturity”, rather than actual point values. In addition, at the conclusion of each evaluation, the owner will receive the judges’ written and verbal commentary.

C) Applications

Only horses with correctly completed paperwork, including application form, copy of pedigree (front and back if necessary to show current owner), copy of DNA results, and full payment shall be eligible to be inspected. Stallions under the age of two years are exempt from providing DNA results, unless required by AHR registration rules.

II: CRITERIA:

A) For horses presented for Official Inspection and Classification, the 100-point system (see attached scorecard) will be used in conjunction with the published breeding objectives of the World Haflinger Federation and the American Haflinger Registry.

B) Horses presented for Official Inspection and Classification will be measured for height, girth and bone.

III: JUDGING:

A) MEASUREMENT: Although the horses are not being scored at this time, the presenter must remember that this is the first impression the judges’ panel will have of your horse. Certain points of the conformation are best reviewed at the time of measurement when the horse is standing on a firm level surface. Therefore, the measurement is part of the Inspections and Classification Judging. Whenever possible, measurements will be taken in tag number sequence prior to and on the same day as Classification. The procedure to accomplish this will be as follows:

- each judge will be given a notepad with a list of halter tag numbers only,
- each judge will use this to make personal notes as desired and will retain these notes in their possession to be used in the classification process at the time of judges consensus meeting, and
- the judges will not consult or discuss any horse during the measurement process.

B) INSPECTION: Horses will be judged standing, walking on a small triangle, and trotting on the large triangle. Additionally they will be free-schooled at trot and canter. Informal evaluation will not include a free-school.

The conduct of all involved in the measurement will be covered in the Code of Conduct.

IV: JUDGES AND OFFICIALS:

A) A panel of three judges will preside at each inspection and classification.

B) A minimum of one of the three judges must be of International stature.

C) The American Haflinger Registry must approve all three judges.

D) A judge may not preside at the classification of a horse that was bred by, owned by, sold by or handled as agent by him/her or members of his/her immediate family.

E) The judges will be responsible for verifying soundness as well as the absence of any genetic defects.

F) A representative of the registry will be present to examine pedigrees and to take a DNA sample to confirm identity.

V: OFFICIALS CODE OF CONDUCT

- A) All officials presiding over an AHR inspection will have reviewed and signed within the current year the official code of conduct.

VI: SCORING FOR OFFICIAL INSPECTION AND CLASSIFICATION:

- A) Horses will be given a mark out of 10 possible points for each of the following categories:
- | | |
|----------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Type | 6. Hindquarters |
| 2. Head | 7. Front Legs |
| 3. Neck | 8. Hind Legs |
| 4. Forehand | 9. Correctness of Movement |
| 5. Mid-Section | 10. Overall Movement |
- B) Individual marks shall reflect the following descriptions:
- 10 = Excellent
 9. = Very Good
 8. = Good
 7. = Sufficient
 6. = Not sufficient
 5. = Poor
- C) The official scorecard for the Inspection and Classification process will be maintained on a two part scorecard maintained by the Inspection Coordinator and the Scribe. Upon completion of the Inspection and Classification, the original copy will be maintained for the AHR records and the copy will be provided to the owner.
1. The Master Scorecard will be maintained by the Classification Scribe. Scribe will record all measurement data on the master as measurements are taken, and working with other administrative personnel will transfer the data to the individual judges' worksheets prior to the beginning of the official inspection.
 2. "Judges Worksheet scorecard" will also be a two part form. The judges will use this scorecard to record their scores and notes on each horse during the inspection judging process. After each horse has completed its free-school, triangle work and conformation inspection, the scorecard will be the basis of the consensus discussion to arrive at the final score for each horse presented. If the judge agrees to a final score on any of the 10 major inspection points that is different than recorded on the judge's individual scorecard, the judge will cross out and initial the change on their individual scorecard.
 - i. The Judge will sign the final copy of their scorecard in addition to signing the Master Scorecard.
 - ii. The original copy of the individual judge's scorecard will be turned into the Site Coordinator and maintained in a confidential file. The copy will be retained by the judge for their personal records.
 - iii. The confidential file may be reviewed annually by a person or persons designated by the Judges and/or Classification committee to identify areas that may require a clarification of standards or to focus judges training sessions to continue to improve the process and the breeding of superior horses in future generations.
 3. The Scribe completes the "Master scorecard" at the completion of the consensus discussion and is responsible for obtaining the signatures of all three judges on the final document. The Master Scorecard must be final and should not include cross outs, blackouts, or changes. This is part of the horse's permanent record.
 4. The original is returned to the AHR record file. The copy is given to the judge designated to review the score and comments with the owner.
 5. After reviewing the score with the owner, the judge presents the respective ribbon and asks the owner's permission to announce the score. If permission is granted, the score is announced to the audience.
 6. The scribe collects the original of each judge's individual scorecard, verifies that the scorecard has been signed and delivers the individual judge's scorecard and the Master scorecard to the Records clerk who will place the original in the AHR Classification file for the horse and the individual judge's scorecards in the confidential file.

VII. PROCEDURE FOR CONSENSUS DEADLOCK

- A) A deadlock may called by any one of the three judges after sufficient discussion and review time has lapsed and it is apparent that a three judge consensus is unattainable.
- B) After fifteen minutes in consultation or thirty minutes from the star of classification has passed, the Classification Committee Chair or their designee will approach the judges to determine how close they are to a consensus or if it will be possible to reach a consensus of all three judges. Should they indicate they are close, an amount of additional time will be allowed to complete the process.
- C) If it is indicated a deadlock exists, the Classification Chair or their designee will consult with the owner and explain that the judges have reached a deadlock and are unable to reach a three judge consensus. The owner will be presented the following options:
1. Proceed with the classification, dropping the score of the judge outside of the consensus with the horse scored and classified on the basis of the consensus of two judges: or
 2. To withdraw the horse from the process and re-present the horse for inspection at a later date at no additional entry fee.
- D) If the horse is withdrawn the scorecards are collected from each judge for the confidential file, with the original and copy of the Master Scorecard returned to the horse's file for destruction.
- E) Overall scores will reflect the following descriptions:
- | Score: | Description: | Ribbon Color: |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 81 points or above | = Excellent | Gold |
| 75 to 80 points | = Very good | Silver |
| 71 to 74 points | = Good | Purple* |
| 69 to 70 points | = Sufficient | White |
- *stallions scoring 74 points or less will not be recommended for breeding
 *mares scoring 68 points or less will not be recommended for breeding

VIII. AWARDS AND RECORDS:

- A) Each inspected horse will receive a certificate of inspection, including the horse's name, total score, measurements and the names of the judges presiding.
- B) The complete inspection scorecard, including all judges' comments and marks in each category, will be kept in that horse's permanent inspection record at the AHR Office, and copy of same released to the owner. See section IX, A, B for policy on re-inspection.
- C) At the end of each horse's inspection, the owner will be informed of his horse's score. At this time, the judges will communicate verbally to the owner the ten scores on each of the ten sections and give comments. This is an educational step for the owner's benefit. The judges' decisions are final, and no arguing or questioning any decision will be tolerated. Limited questions from the owner will be permitted only for the sake of clarification. In the interest of time, no two-way discussion will be permitted.
- D) When the judges' critique is finished, the owner will be awarded the appropriate ribbon. It is desired that all scores be announced, however, the owner may decide to have his or her horse's score announced or unannounced. If the score not announced, the owner agrees it can be published anonymously, in order to maintain complete Inspection records. Horses scoring 75 points or better will be encouraged to return to the arena at the termination of each inspection for the final parade and line-up according to score.
- E) The actual score of any inspected horse will remain the property of the horse's owner for as long as he/she owns the horse, and may only be published anonymously with AHR inspection results unless otherwise instructed by the written consent of the owner.
- F) If an inspected horse is sold, the new owner is entitled, by request to the AHR office, to a copy of the horse's inspection scorecard.

IX: IDENTIFICATION:

- A) A copy of the front and back of the pedigree, showing current owner and original breeder, must be submitted with the registration form. This is for the purpose of identification and verification of registry with AHR by a registry official only. **Judges are not permitted to see any pedigrees prior to inspection of horses.** A copy of the DNA results is mandatory for all horses, including those to be presented for informal evaluation. Stallions under the age of two years are exempt from providing DNA results, unless required by AHR registration rules.

X: TURNOUT:

- A) All horses must be presented barefoot, or in hunter plates only. No heavy shoes or artificial building of hooves permitted. This is to ensure equality of performance between horses.
- B) Horses must be presented in a snaffle bridle or well-fitting halter.
- C) It is recommended that excessively long facial hair, whiskers and long ear hair be trimmed, as well as the feathers and long leg hair at the back of the legs and fetlocks.
- D) Manes and tails should be well groomed and left in a natural length, unbraided.
- E) Horses ideally should be presented in good but not over fat condition.
- F) Each horse will be given a bridle number, which must be worn during presentation.
- G) Handlers should be neatly dressed. No blue jeans permitted. No identification of the farm, owner, trainer or horse should be indicated on the handler's clothing or the horse's equipment.

XI: RE-INSPECTION:

- A) **TWO TO FIVE YEAR OLDS:** Due to potential differences in rate of maturity, all horses aged two through five years old may be re-submitted for re-inspection multiple times, at any time up to and including during his/her five year old year. At age 6 and over, as a mature horse, the horse is eligible for re-inspection **ONCE ONLY** through the appeals process. For all re-inspection, the owner must fill out a standard application form, and the full current fee will apply. The score and scorecard including comments at all re-inspections will be added to all previous records in the horse's permanent file.
- B) **APPEALS:** The judge's score on all mature horses is final, and automatically entered into the horse's inspection record. An owner will be permitted to appeal the judge's decision on a mature horse age 6 or over **ONCE ONLY**. The appeal must be made in writing to the inspection committee. If the appeal is accepted, the owner must pay the appropriate current inspection fee, and the horse may be re-inspected **ONCE ONLY** at an inspection where at least one of the judges was not present at the horse's original inspection. In the case of re-inspection, the score and scorecard including comments will be added to all previous records in the horse's permanent file. Scorecards that document a re-inspection due to an appeal will be designated as such after inspection and before entering a horse's permanent file.

THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS SHALL SERVE TO RECOGNIZE THE ABILITY OF STALLIONS TO REPRODUCE, AS WELL AS TO IDENTIFY AND REWARD EXCEPTIONAL FAMILY LINES OF BOTH STALLIONS AND MARES.

XII: STALLION "PROVEN" STATUS:**A) General:**

1. An additional mark for offspring will be given to stallions that are presented for the "Proven" status with offspring.
2. Two scores (classification & offspring) are required to complete a stallion's classification record: Inspected and Proven.
3. Stallions without the second score for offspring will be considered Unproven.

B) Requirements:

1. To obtain the Proven status for stallions, stallions age 6 or over will be required to present a minimum of 10% of their offspring of any age for examination to determine the stallion's ability to produce quality offspring.
2. A minimum of three to a maximum of twelve horses is required. More horses than the required number may be presented at the owner's request. If you are unsure of the number of horses required for presentation with your stallion, contact the AHR office to obtain a listing of registered offspring.
3. The offspring presented must represent a minimum of three different mares.
4. Stallions age 3, 4 and 5 years may be presented for classification without offspring, but may return at or after the age of 6 with the appropriate number of offspring in order to complete their classification record.

C) Scoring of Offspring

1. Each of the offspring presented will be examined standing, walking and trotting.
2. Marks will be given based on the overall impression of the group as a whole.
3. A score from 1 to 10 will be given in each of 4 categories, and converted to a percentage of total possible marks. The four categories are:
 - a) Type (as per breed standards)
 - b) General Conformation
 - c) Movement
 - d) Genetic Potency: Ability of stallion to pass on positive traits
4. The final mark in each case will be the consensus of the 3 judges.
5. A score of 69% or more is required to achieve "Proven" status.

XIII: STAR, ELITE AND SUPREME STATUS FOR MARES AND STALLIONS:

A) Mares:

1. **Star mares** - classified mares that have had 3 or more offspring score "silver" ribbons or better at classification.
2. **Elite mares** - classified mares that have had 2 or more offspring score "silver" ribbons and one or more offspring score a "gold" ribbon at classification.
3. **Supreme mares** - classified mares that have had 2 or more offspring score "gold" ribbons and one or more offspring score a "silver" ribbon at classification.

B) Stallions:

1. **Star stallions** - classified stallions that have had 6 or more offspring score "silver" ribbons at classification.
2. **Elite stallions** - classified stallions that have had 4 or more offspring score "silver" ribbons and two or more offspring score "gold" ribbons at classification.
3. **Supreme stallions** - classified stallions that have had 4 or more offspring score "gold" ribbons and 2 or more offspring score "silver" ribbons at classification.

Star, Elite and Supreme status will be announced annually in the official publication of the AHR.