

Definitions of Maiden, Novice, Limit, Select and AOTS Classes at AHA Shows (2010 rules)

Many of us are confused by the interpretation of rules and rule changes that govern the manner in which we show our horses. I have been confronted by exhibitors on more than one occasion who really did not understand the differences between Maiden, Novice, Limit, Select and AOTS (Amateur Owned, Trained & Shown) classes. The following is an attempt to clarify and simplify the rules governing these classes. This information can be found in the current (2010) USEF Rule Book

*MAIDEN;

Classes are open to horses and/or exhibitors if specified, that have not won a first place ribbon at a Regular Class "A" or Dressage Competitions of The Federation (USEF) or Equine Canada in the particular performance division or level in which they are shown.

*NOVICE;

Classes are open to horses and/or exhibitors if specified, that have not won a total of three first place ribbons at a Regular Class "A" or Dressage Competitions of The Federation (USEF) or Equine Canada in the particular performance division or level in which they are show.

*LIMIT:

Classes are open to horses and/or exhibitors if specified, that have not won a total of six first place ribbons at a Regular Class "A" or Dressage Competitions of The Federation (USEF) or Equine Canada in the particular performance division or level in which they are shown.

In the Arabian division, ribbons won within one division do not count in the reckoning of Maiden, Novice or Limit status if the animal and/or exhibitor if specified, competes in a different division. Therefore, if a horse has won numerous firsts in English, that does not affect his becoming a Maiden, Novice or Limit horse in the Country English division. If the class specifies Novice, Maiden or Limit rider, an exhibitor that has won numerous firsts in Western Pleasure can compete as a Novice, Maiden or Limit exhibitor in another division such as Hunter Pleasure.

Ribbons won in one-horse horse classes do not count in reckoning the Maiden, Novice or limit status of either horse and/or exhibitor in any

division. Therefore, classes with only one entry do not count in regard to the number of blue ribbons won in relation to the status of Maiden, Novice or Limit classes.

The status of Maiden, Novice or Limit is as of the closing date of entries for any licensed Competition. For example, the closing date of entries for the NCAHA show is March 1, 2010, and should a horse and/or exhibitor compete and win 12 blue ribbons at another recognized show between March 1 and the start of the NCAHA show, the horse and/or exhibitor may still compete at the NCAHA show in the Maiden, Novice or Limit classes.

Ref; USEF Rule Book 2010, General Rules, GR134

*SELECT

Classes are open to exhibitors who have not won any of the following:

1. AHA Regional Top Five or higher in that particular performance section in which they are shown.
2. AHA National Top Ten or higher in that particular performance section in which they are shown.
3. Two AHA Regional Top Five Awards or higher in a Select class that particular performance section in which they are shown.
4. An AHA National Top Ten or higher award in a Select class in that particular performance section in which they are shown.

Riders in the Arabian, Half-Arabian, or Anglo-Arabian Divisions shall not be considered separately when competing in the same performance section.

If a rider is eligible to compete as a Select rider in a performance section on December 1, said eligibility remains throughout the current competition year (that eligibility is determined beginning with Regional and National competitions of 1997)

*AOTS, Amateur Owned, Trained, and Shown

Classes may be offered in any section. Exhibitors, attendants, and handlers must meet the specifications for amateur status (refer to GR 1306 and GR 1307, USEF Rule Book). Horses are not to have been professionally trained for a period of one year immediately prior to the competition (riding and driving instruction for the owner to be excluded). In addition, horses are not to be exhibited, prepared, groomed or schooled with the aid of or by a professional while on or off the competition grounds immediately before or during the competition. Horses may be stabled with a professional during the competition, and hauled by a professional. Professional help for

situations relevant to safety is permitted. Owner must sign as owner, trainer, and rider/driver/handler on the USEF/AHA entry blank.

Ref; USEF Rule Book 2010, Arabian Rules, AR 113,
Information furnished courtesy of Jim Paden