



# NORTH AMERICAN SHAGYA~ARABIAN SOCIETY, INC.

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## NASS Free Jumping Assessment

- Required of all stallions at their breeding approval inspection
- Optional for mares but encouraged

Free jumping is used to evaluate the natural jumping talent of horses presented for breeding approval. Factors to be considered include technique (use of front and hind legs, bascule, suppleness of the back), scope (carefulness and ease of jumping), willingness to jump, and overall impression (canter stride, ability to adjust stride naturally for fence, temperament and suitability as a jumper).

The jumping chute is set up so that the horses enter on the left lead away from the in gate. The jumping chute is made up of three jumps, with ~20 feet from the entrance of the chute to the first jump, ~20 feet between the first and second jump, and ~23 feet between the second and third jump, with the open exit from the chute ~20' or more from the third jump. The chute is set up parallel to one long side of the ring, and tape or a similar type of barrier is strung up along the inside jump standards, so the horse cannot avoid a jump by running out of the side of the chute.

### The elements are as follows:

- a) Crossrails set with ends in standards at 30", with a ground pole in front.
- b) Crossrails similar to first, but with a horizontal rail at 30" immediately behind crossrails.
- c) Oxer, 33" high, 24" spread, with a ground pole in front. It will be raised to 36" and 42" for the second and third passes, with spread increased to 28" and 32".

Each horse will be led into the ring by the owner or handler. In the ring will be the judges and three whip handlers (one at the chute entrance, one after the first jump, and one after the second jump. Owners can provide their own whip handlers if desired. The horse is allowed to free run in the arena for 1-2 minutes, then is trotted in hand up to the first element. A 36' nylon cord will be run through both snaffle rings and the horse released about 10' in front of the first jump. Each horse will be allowed two passes at each height, with the judge having discretion to allow one more pass.

If the horse or handler does not appear to be adequately prepared, they will be excused from the ring. Safety of the horse and all participants is paramount.

The judges will give a verbal assessment which will go into the horse's inspection record. No scores will be given.

### Diagram of Fences

