**Judging scale for individual evaluation of Akhal-Tekes**

**Document history**

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**Conformation**

**Head**

**9.5-10:**

- A beautiful, dry and proud head, carried high. Fine, thin ears, well set and not too open. A large, round, hooded or slanted, alert eye with good bone structure around it. Fine skin and hair. Light jaws with a good gap between them. Straight or convex nose profile, big nostrils.

**9.0:**

- Beautiful and fine head without faults.

**8.5:**

- Very handsome, expressive and proud head.

- Beautiful, fine head.

**8.0:**

- Handsome, expressive head, can be a little coarse or large if it is faultless in other

ways.

- An expressive head that looks nice, with minor faults.

- Very beautiful head, but with some faults.

**7.5:**

- Head more or less without faults, but no parts especially good.

- Good attributes can cancel out a few faults.

**7.0:**

- Ugly, unattractive head.

- Heavy (fleshy) head.

- Small eyes set deep in the head.

- Ill set ears.

- Coarse ears.

- The nose profile is not straight.

- Very short mouth.

*The same rules apply to one fault or more as is described below (a mark of 6.5 or*

*lower).*

**6.5 or lower:**

- Very coarse and a relatively big head.

- Ill shaped ears badly set

- The nose profile is not at all straight.

- A very ugly head.

*The mark 6.5 or lower is given when one of the above faults is very evident and very*

*few other attributes improve the head. This mark might also be given if each of the*

*faults is not so great, but there are more than one of them and there are very few*

*good points, see also the description for the mark 7,0.*

**Neck, withers and shoulders**

**9.5-10:**

- A long, high-set, fine neck, well-flexed at the poll (zatylok), the neck is clearly

separated from the body, high, prominent and well-shaped withers, shoulders long

and sloping.

**9.0:**

- A long, high-set, rather fine neck, but a little too deep around the chest, well flexed

at the poll, high, well-shaped withers and sloping shoulders.

**8.5:**

- A high-set, average length, but slightly thick neck with well-flexed at the poll, high

and well-shaped withers and shoulders sloping.

- A long, well-set, fine neck, with high and well-shaped withers, shoulders a little too

straight.

- A long, well-set, fine neck, average withers, but with sloping shoulders.

- A long, well-set, fine neck, but lacking flexibility at the poll, high and well shaped

withers and sloping shoulders.

**8.0:**

- A well set, supple, fairly long, but deep and thick neck, high withers, shoulders

sloping.

- A long, slim and well-set neck, with fairly good flexion of the poll, but the withers

are too low, and the shoulder just sloping enough.

- A well-raised neck, but otherwise only average conformation of the forequarters.

**7.5:**

- Average conformation of the forequarters, but no part especially good.

- Average set of the neck, neck too short, thick and/or deep, withers well shaped

(high and wide), shoulders sloping.

- Neck long and well-shaped, but set too low, withers low and shoulders straight.

- A well-raised neck, but ewe-necked and/or poorly muscled crest, otherwise

conformation of the forequarters is average.

**7.0:**

- Ewe-neck.

- Fleshy throat.

- No muscle along the crest.

*The three items above are in addition to the description of the mark 6,5 or lower. The*

*rules apply to each mark as described below (6,5 or lower) i.e. the number and*

*nature of the faults in the conformation of the forequarters shall be evaluated.*

**6.5 or lower:**

- The neck is set very low.

- The neck is very deep.

- The neck is very short.

- The withers are low and flat.

- The shoulders are very straight.

- The shoulders are very tight.

*The mark 6.5 or lower is given when some of the above faults are very evident and*

*very few other attributes improve the forequarters. This mark might also be given if*

*each of the faults is not so great, but there are many of them and there are very few*

*good points, see also the description for the mark 7.0.*

*The requirements for how fine the neck type should be are not the same for stallions*

*as they are for mares or geldings.*

**Back and hindquarters**

**9.5-10:**

- A superb back/top line. The back is supple and flexible, of average length, broad

and well muscled. Along the spine the back is supple all the way back to the

hindquarters. The hindquarters are very well-made, long, adequately sloping,

equally muscled on each side and only slightly narrowing towards the tail. The

thighs are long and well muscled. The tail is extremely well set

**9.0:**

- Especially good top line.

- Especially good back can cancel out minor faults in hindquarters and vice versa if

the back and hindquarters meet well over the loins.

**8.5:**

- Good top line.

- Especially good back can cancel out faults in hindquarters and vice versa if the

back and hindquarters meet well over the loins.

**8.0:**

- A quite good back/top line.

- Good back; supple, broad and well-muscled, back and hindquarters meet well

over the loins. The hindquarters are of average shape, with no very good

attributes.

- An average back; not sway backed, stiff or too rigid. Well shaped hindquarters;

long, fairly sloping, strongly and equally muscled on both sides.

**7.5:**

- Average conformation of the back, loins and hindquarters, but no part very good

(an average top line).

- Good conformation of the back and hindquarters can cancel out faults of the top

line.

**7.0:**

*See the description for the mark 6.5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.*

**6.5 or lower:**

- Hump-backed.

- Very sway-backed/hollow backed.

- Very poor loins

- The back is either very short or very long.

- Very narrow back, lacking muscle.

- Hindquarters tapering very much to the rear.

- Very coarse hindquarters.

- Very short, shallow, flat hindquarters, or a pointed croup..

- Saddle dip much too far forward.

*When giving the marks one must assess the number of faults and how serious they*

*are, as before.*

**Proportions**

**9.5-10:**

- The horse should be full of splendour and presence. The legs should be long and

the body light and cylindrical in shape with front, middle and hind sections

approximately equal. The highest point at the withers should be higher than the

highest point of the croup.

**9.0:**

- Generally very beautiful. The legs are long and the body light and cylindrical in

shape with good height at the withers. Only minor faults in proportions.

**8.5:**

- A beautiful overall appearance. The legs are long and the body light and cylindrical

in shape. Mares should not be croup high, and stallions should stand higher at the

withers than at the croup. Only minor faults in proportions.

**8.0:**

- A nice looking horse.

- Good attributes can cancel out a few faults.

**7.5:**

- Average proportions and harmony.

- Good attributes can cancel out a few faults.

**7.0:**

*See description for the mark 6.5 and lower, but here the faults are less serious.*

**6.5 and lower:**

- The horse is low at the withers and therefore croup high.

- The horse is heavy-set; with a deep chest, a heavy body (very round or flat-sided).

- The legs are short.

- The horse is short and stocky and/or very disproportionate in length, front, middle

and hind sections.

- The horse is disproportionate in the front and the back sections (width, depth)

including the chest being too narrow (collapsed).

**Legs (quality)**

**9.5-10:**

- Firm and dry, very strong tendons and good separation between the tendons and the

bone, solid joints and flexible, strong medium long, pasterns. Very good when viewed from the side.

**9.0:**

- Firm, very strong tendons and good separation between the tendons and the

bone, solid joints and fairly good pasterns.

**8.5:**

- Firm, strong tendons with good separation between the tendons and the bone,

fairly good joints and pasterns.

- Reasonably good separation, but very nice looking

**8.0:**

- Fairly good quality legs.

- Very good aspects can cancel out a few faults.

**7.5:**

- Average quality legs.

- Good attributes can cancel out a few faults

**7.0:**

*See the description for the mark 6,5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.*

**6.5 and lower:**

- Very swollen tendons on either front and/or hind legs.

- Very little separation between the tendons and the bone on the front legs.

- Weak joints on hind- and/or front legs (the heel and knee are especially important).

- Legs are either too straight, or too crooked.

- Very over or under at the knee.

*When giving the marks one must assess the number of faults and how serious they*

*are.*

**Legs (joints)**

**9.5-10:**

- Extremely correct: the front legs absolutely straight with adequate space between

them and between the hind legs. Hind legs may turn out slightly.

**9.0:**

- Very correct. No serious faults.

**8.5:**

- Correct. Only small faults, but hocks are straight.

**8.0:**

- Fairly correct leg position. No major faults.

**7.5:**

- Average. The joints may be a little crooked provided the horse does not overreach

and there are no signs of abnormal stress on the legs.

**7.0:**

*See the description for the mark 6.5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.*

**6.5 and lower:**

- Very crooked joints in front- and/or behind.

- Badly turned hocks.

- The horse moves very close in front and/or behind.

- Very bad front- and/or hind legs; turned-out, bow-legged, cow-hocked.

*When giving the marks one must assess the number of faults and how serious they*

*are. When judging the quality of the joints and the correctness of the legs one should*

*check if there are any signs of overreaching or signs of unnatural stress.*

*When the horse moves very close it is customary to judge straightness when led in*

*walk and in trot. If the hind legs are so wide apart they spoil the look of the horse, this*

*can affect the mark for legs/correctness.*

**Hooves**

**9.5-10:**

- Very deep hooves with concave soles, well shaped, round and good looking,

strong walls and soles, one colour and preferably dark. Large frog and strong

heels.

**9:0:**

- Deep, well shaped and round hooves, strong and of good material, good frog and

sturdy heels.

**8.5:**

- Deep, well-shaped and strong hooves with only minor faults.

**8.0:**

- Fairly deep hooves, without any major faults.

- Medium deep hooves, but very well shaped and of strong material.

**7.5:**

- Medium deep hooves, but faults and good points can cancel each other out.

**7.0:**

*See the description for the mark 6,5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.*

**6.5 and lower:**

- Very shallow hooves, flat or wide with sunken soles.

- Very narrow, boxy hooves.

- Bad quality horn material in the hoof (including damaged walls).

- Very thin horn, hardly any frog or heel.

*When giving the marks one must assess the number of faults and how serious they*

*are.*

**Mane and tail**

**9.5-10:**

- Extremely thin, silky lack of mane and forelock or lack of mane and or forelock. Low set, short and thin so called rat tail (absence to hair on the root of the tail).

**9.0:**

- Thin forelock, mane and tail.

**8.0-8.5:**

- Fairly thin mane, fairly thin tail.

**7.5:**

- Medium thinness and length of mane and tail.

**7.0:**

*See the description for the mark 6.5 and lower, but here the faults are not as serious.*

**6.5 and lower:**

- Very thick and coarse mane and tail. Tail set and carried high.