

## **Judges Committee Guidelines**

1. Examine credentials of those applying for designation as an AQHA-approved judge and determine such standards of qualification.
2. Review the character and qualifications of approved judges, investigate complaints against judges filed with the Association, and, if so determined, conduct hearings regarding meritorious complaints that could result in subsequent drop in rating or removal from the approved judges list.
3. Review the rules related to approved judges and, if necessary, make recommendations for amendment of such rules.
4. Review the educational process for judges and determine what format and events need to be covered.
5. Attend and actively participate at the annual AQHA Convention and Fall Meeting in September.
6. Keep confidential the information reviewed about applicants, judges and hearings.
7. When called upon, respond in a timely manner to letters, faxes and emails regarding judges committee rulings.

**Judges Committee Agenda  
San Antonio, Texas  
2009**

1. Remarks by Chairman
2. Review Committee guidelines
3. Meeting protocol
4. Member review of and comments on agenda items
5. Letters from Judges who did not judge 4 shows in 2008
6. Files of Judges who did not Judge 4 shows in 2008
7. Letters from judges requesting retirement
8. Hearing

The following member recommendations will be discussed:

9. Amend Rule 448(b) Halter Classes by adding 448(b)(1) Failure of an individual to exhibit good manners will result in disqualification. Blatant disobediences include, but are not limited to balking, striking, rearing, kicking, biting, falling or bolting.  
(Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)
10. Amend rule 473B(c) in Western Horsemanship to read, "the whole class, or just the finalists must work all three gaits at least one direction of the arena".  
(Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)
11. Allow shows to hold speed events (barrel racing, pole bending and stake race), without a judge  
(Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)
12. Discuss the Dressage Task Force recommendation regarding judges and judges' requirements (Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)
13. Delete the words "and #3" from the 8<sup>th</sup> item under "Disqualified-0 Score" in Rule 453B(f). (Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)
14. Amend Rule 453(f), Western Riding, by adding new rule under "Disqualified-0 Score"- failure to start lope within 30 feet of designated area in patterns 2,3,4, 5, and Green Western Riding patterns 1,2 and 3, (Except for Novice Classes)

(Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)

15. Amend Rule 454B(f), Trail, change the third item under “1 point penalty” to read: both front or hind feet in a single-strided slot or space at a walk or jog”.

(Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)

16. Amend Rule 454B(f), Trail, add to “1 point penalty”- incorrect number of strides, if specified.

(Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)

17. Amend Rule 454B(f), Trail, change the fourth item under “3 point penalty” to read: stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of obstacle, with designated boundaries, with one foot. ....and the fifth item under “5 point penalty” to read: stepping outside the confines of, falling or jumping off or out of obstacle, with designated boundaries, with more than one foot. ....

(Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)

18. Amend Rule 454B(f), Trail, add under “5 point penalty” Holding saddle with either hand

(Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)

19. That a numerical score be given after each rider completes their individual work in hunter hack classes at the youth world and world show.

(Judges Committee recommendation, Show Committee Primary)

20. Amend Rule 475A and 475B to add missed diagonals and incorrect leads to the list of faults

21. Amend Rule 476 to add missed diagonals to the list of faults

22. AQHA Specialized Over Fence Judges, who have a USEF “R” rating, are not required to attend the AQHA Judges Conference providing they are in compliance with USEF educational requirements

23. Judges do not have to place, or can place in any order and/or may disqualify, any horse which does not conform to the rules of the class

24. License fee and/or fee to attend Judges Conference

25. Require judges’ scores to be posted within an hour after the last class of the day  
(Show Committee recommendation)

26. Amend rule 438(a) to require that judges scores and placing of all horses be posted (Show Committee-recommendation)

27. Require scores from trail and western riding be posted at all shows  
(Show Committee Recommendation)
28. At least two specialized over fence judges be used in working hunter and equitation over fences at the AQHA World Show.  
(Show Committee Recommendation)
29. Amend Rule 465B, Western Pleasure, by adding Rule 465B(l)(3): Performing any of the following as described in Rule 447(d) "Poor Walk", "Extremely Poor Jog", "Poor Extended Jog", "Extremely Poor Lope".  
(Professional Horsemen Committee Recommendation and Show Committee Recommendation, Judges Committee Primary)
30. Sub-committee's recommendations on the scoring system/score sheets for horsemanship, showmanship and hunt seat equitation
31. Add FEI to other Judges Cards held on the AQHA-approved Judges List
32. Incorporate language in Rule 438(a) to require judges to disqualify non-qualified horses
33. Modify Rule 438(a)(14) to include provision that non-qualified runs will not be counted towards number of entries
34. Require judges to turn in all score sheets
35. Applicants for:
  - a. 2009 Judges Qualifying Exam
  - b. Specialized Judges Cutting Card
  - c. Specialized Over Fence Card
  - d. Specialized Reining Card
  - e. Specialized Roping Card
  - f. Specialized Team Penning Card
  - g. Specialized Timed Event Card
  - h. Specialized Working Cow Horse Card
  - i. Specialized Versatility Ranch Horse Card
  - j. Specialized Novice Card
36. Applicant scores from the Specialized Novice Judge test in Raleigh, N.C.
37. Consideration of Other Business
38. Adjourn