

American Quarter Horse Association

Apprentice Judging Program

The following policies have been established by the AQHA Judges Committee and the AQHA Executive Committee for apprentice judges. These standards are designed to give apprentice judges the opportunity to adjudicate with AQHA 4A-rated-judges to learn correct judging procedures and application of the *Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations* in the competition ring.

I. AQHA Apprentice Judge Requirements for Enrollment

- a. An apprentice judge must be a current member of AQHA, 21 years of age or over, to whom the office of the AQHA Executive Director of Judges has granted permission to apprentice at an AQHA-Approved show.
- b. Before enrolling in the Apprentice Judging program, an apprentice judge must attend an AQHA Educational Seminar. After attending an Educational Seminar, an apprentice judge must contact an AQHA-approved show manager and an AQHA-Approved Judge to obtain permission to apprentice. Once both a 4A judge and show manager has granted permission, an apprentice must contact the office of the AQHA Executive Director of Judges to acquire an official apprentice application. All approvals and forms must be in the AQHA office a minimum of 3 weeks prior to the show.
- c. The application must be made on the official form provided for that purpose, signed by the applicant, and must be accompanied by a nonrefundable \$50 application fee.

II. AQHA Apprentice Judging Standards, Policies and Procedures

- a. An apprentice judge must adjudicate with an AQHA-approved, 4A-rated judge and must adjudicate all the classes assigned to the 4A judge. Ratings of judges may be found under the “Judges Section” at www.aqha.com. Written exceptions to judging all classes may be granted by the AQHA Executive Director of Judges in extraordinary circumstances.
- b. An apprentice judge must abide by Rules 438 (a) (5,6,7,8,12) and 438 (c) (2) (C,D,E) of the *Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations*.
- c. An apprentice judge must adhere to the same ethical, appearance and conflict-of-interest standards as approved judges. Comments made by an approved judge, while in the ring, are confidential. Show management is not required to provide meals, transportation, lodging or any other amenities.
- d. Violations of any rules regarding ethical, conflict of interest and confidentiality are subject to review by the AQHA Judges Committee.
- e. Approved judges and apprentice judges may discuss the adjudicated class only after the approved judge has completed and turned in the requisite

judge's card to an assigned ring steward. There will be no discussion of the class being judged until after the approved judge has turned in the card to the ring steward.

- f. Only one apprentice judge is allowed at a show (defined by AQHA show number) and only one approved judge may be used as an apprentice reference at that show. An individual may not apprentice at back-to-back shows.
- g. Amateur exhibitors are not allowed to participate in the Apprentice Judges Program.
- h. Approved judges are not allowed to receive remuneration for allowing a participant in the program to apprentice under them.
- i. It is suggested, but not required, that apprentice judges adjudicate shows outside their geographic area.
- j. Apprentice judges are not allowed at regional or world championship shows or in three-, four-, or five-judge systems.
- k. Any apprentice that fails to attend 2 (two) scheduled shows, without a valid reason, will not be approved for future events.
- l. Parts II and III of the AQHA Apprentice Judge Evaluation Form must be:
 - 1. Completed by the AQHA-Approved judge who officiated at the show and
 - 2. Returned to AQHA by the AQHA-Approved judge with his or her official show report card. The apprentice judge completes only Part I of the form.
- m. Apprentice judge evaluations are confidential. All apprentice judges waive any right they may have to require disclosure to them by the AQHA Executive Director of Judges or the AQHA Judges Committee of any information obtained to evaluate them. Apprentice judges waive any right to withhold information from the AQHA Executive Director of Judges or the AQHA Judges Committee necessary to evaluate their performance as an apprentice judge. The AQHA-Approved Judge completing the form agrees that the accuracy of information given on the apprentice evaluation form concerning the apprentice's character, reputation or judging abilities is paramount to any disclosure rights the apprentice may have, if any.

American Quarter Horse Association
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(806) 378-4712
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Apprentice Judge Application

Full Name _____

AQHA ID Number _____ Date of Birth _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Apprentice Show Information

Name of show I wish to apprentice judge _____

Name of judge I wish to apprentice with _____

Location of show _____

Date(s) of show _____

Name of show manager contacted _____

I have contacted the above-named judge and show. They have granted their permission for me to apprentice judge.

Signature of Apprentice Judge

Date

AQHA Apprentice Judge Evaluation Confidential

The following evaluation form must be completed by an AQHA-Approved 4-A rated judge who is currently on the list of AQHA-Approved Judges. This form is for the review of the AQHA Judges Committee only. The apprentice judge must complete Part I of the evaluation and give the form to the approved judge. The approved judge must complete Parts II and III and mail the completed form to AQHA with their show report card from the show listed below.

All apprentice judges waive any right they may have to require disclosure to them by the AQHA Executive Director of Judges or the AQHA Judges Committee of any information obtained to evaluate them. The AQHA-Approved Judge completing the form agrees that the accuracy of information given on the apprentice evaluation form concerning the apprentice's character, reputation or judging abilities is paramount to any disclosure rights the apprentice may have, if any.

Part I (To be completed by the Apprentice Judge)

Apprentice Judge's Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (Home) _____ (Work) _____

Part II (To be completed by the evaluating judge only)

Name of Show _____ Show # _____

Location of Show _____ Date of Show(s) _____

Average number of horses per class:

Halter: _____ Western Rail _____ Western Pattern _____

Western Scored _____ English Rail _____ English Fence _____

Cattle _____

Did the apprentice judge adjudicate all classes at this show? Yes ____ No ____

Part III (To be completed by the evaluating judge only)

A. Please evaluate the Apprentice Judge on the following criteria:

	Poor	Fair	Average	Good	Excellent	Unknown
General knowledge of rules:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
General knowledge of ring procedure:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Attitude towards Exhibitors:	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to judge halter	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to judge Western rail	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to judge Western pattern	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to judge Western scored	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to judge English rail	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to judge English fence	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Ability to judge Cattle classes	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
Personal appearance and demeanor	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Comments regarding this apprentice judge (Required) -

Judges Name (Please Print) _____

Judges Signature _____ **Date** _____