



## Judges Newsletter: Spring 2017

**Happy spring, everyone!**

As AQHA senior director of judges, I am proud and honored to have the opportunity to represent you, our amazing group of AQHA judges! Your job as an AQHA judge is rewarding, demanding and character-building. You have the power to drive the industry in a positive fashion, while protecting the integrity and welfare of the American Quarter Horse Association. I know you take this position seriously.

I wish I could be at every show. Since this isn't possible, I'm going to count on you to keep me abreast of what you are seeing out in the field and any issues or negative trends that might be important to address.

Our vision is to give you all the tools you need to be the very best judge you can be. To aid in that mission and to keep things fun, we included a pop quiz in this edition of the Judges Newsletter. Look for more of them in the future!

The AQHA Judges Committee is currently building a survey, which will be circulated in the next month or so. The survey will help drive our judges program in the future. Therefore, when you receive it, please take the time to honestly and thoughtfully complete it. Let's make our judges program the very best it can be!

### **COMMITMENTS/CONTRACTS WITH SHOW MANAGEMENT**

We have received feedback from show managements indicating judges contracts are being broken when a better opportunity arises. Please be cognizant of SHW910.8: Make every reasonable effort to judge a show after accepting a judging commitment. If unable to fulfill the commitment, the judge must notify show management in a timely manner to allow show management maximum time to secure a suitable replacement. The judge must also immediately notify AQHA in writing with a complete explanation of the failure to meet the commitment, including the time, date and manner that show management was notified.

### **CELL PHONES WHILE JUDGING AN AQHA EVENT**

It is unacceptable to carry your cell phone to the judging arena: Cell phones must stay in the show office while you are judging. It's a good idea to leave the show manager's number with your family in case in of an emergency. While officiating an AQHA event, you are expected you to be focused and professional at all times. Please remember you are there to judge a horse show – not to text, call or check social media. Violations will be reviewed by the Judges Committee.

### **MULTI-JUDGED SETTING**

When judging scored events, please make every effort not to sit close to each other. Since judges may now confer regarding lameness, rule violations, disqualifications and major penalties provided a ring steward is present, there is no need to sit close together. Sometimes

this is not possible, but to protect your own integrity, spread out whenever you can.

### **REMINDER OF THE VERSATILITY RANCH HORSE SCORING SYSTEM**

Note: VRH ranch cutting and VRH ranch cow work are not scored on a 60- to 80-point basis:

**SHW557.1** Except for the conformation class, each horse/rider team is scored between 1-100 points and automatically begins the run with a score of 70 points. The horse/rider team is scored on the quality of each maneuver (e.g., -1 1/2 extremely poor, -1 very poor, -1/2 poor, 0 correct, +1/2 Good, +1 very good, +1 1/2 excellent). Plusses and minuses are a reflection of the smoothness, finesse, attitude, quickness and authority of the horse/rider team when performing the various maneuvers. Penalties may be accrued for incorrect maneuver execution.

### **POLE BENDING POP QUIZ**

Test your pole-bending rules knowledge and [take this fun pop quiz!](#)

### **AMERICAN BUCKSKIN REGISTRY ASSOCIATION**

ABRA has refined its judge approval process and any AQHA judge that applies for an ABRA judges card will be “fast tracked” and automatically approved with no requirements to attend a Color Breed Council seminar. The ABRA application can be found at [www.americanbuckskin.com](http://www.americanbuckskin.com). ABRA is proud to offer this opportunity to AQHA judges and look forward to working with you.

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Please [download the 2017 Judge Contact Information Form](#). The completed form should be sent to Carla Nelson, AQHA administrative secretary to the senior director of judges:

Email: [cnelson@aqha.org](mailto:cnelson@aqha.org)

Fax: 806-349-6408

P.O. Box 200

Amarillo, TX 79168

*“A true leader has the confidence to stand alone, the courage to make tough decisions, and the compassion to listen to the needs of others. He does not set out to be a leader, but becomes one by the equality of this actions and the integrity of his intent.” -- Douglas MacArthur*

Thanks for the opportunity to serve you.

Sincerely,

Patti Carter

Senior Director of Judges