



Summer 2017 Judges Newsletter

Your hard work and dedication to judging and support of the American Quarter Horse industry are greatly appreciated. Each and every decision you make both inside and outside of the arena influences and shapes our industry. This is a big responsibility, and we truly appreciate all that you do.

Congratulations to Our New Judges

Six judge applicants were approved by the AQHA Judges Committee to take the 2017 judges qualifying exam. Based on test scores and other criteria, the Judges Committee then approved a list of prospective new judges that were then reviewed and approved by the AQHA Executive Committee.

The following are the new AQHA-approved judges:

AQHA all-around judge:

- Theodore Grose, Sumterville, Florida

AQHA progressive judges:

- Christi Brown, Billings, Montana
- Tabatha Taylor, Terre Haute, Indiana

A total of 29 individuals tested at the AQHA Educational Judging Seminars held in Nashville, Tennessee, and Irving, Texas. The following are the new AQHA-approved specialized Level-1 judges:

AQHA specialized Level-1 judges:

- Shelby Biddlecombe, Claresholm, Alberta
- Kelsey Ebke, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Casey Henry, Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- Kayla Wells-Dill, Phillipsburg, Missouri
- Sydney Reynolds, Canyon, Texas
- Amanda Burrows, Miami, Oklahoma
- Matthew Martin, Dayton, Texas
- Breanna Grebin, Rochester, Minnesota
- Helen Moore, Peru, Indiana

- Kendra Smith, Johnson City, Texas

Pillars of Judging



Please download a [Social Media Document](#) that the judges committee is requiring all AQHA judges to sign. Please sign and return to Carla Nelson cnelson@aqha.org or fax to 806-378-4675.

[Guidelines for self-Monitoring.](#)

As an AQHA judge, you should also be an [AQHA Professional Horseman](#). Check out the [benefits](#) of becoming a [Professional Horseman](#).

AAEP Lameness Scale

Reference SHW.325 ,the judge shall examine and check for lameness of all horses brought into any class. The lameness grading system developed by the AAEP is to aid both communication and record-keeping. The scale ranges from zero to five, with zero being no perceptible lameness, and five being most extreme. Obvious lameness

shall be cause for disqualification. The AAEP guidelines explain the grading system this way:

0:Lameness not perceptible under any circumstances.

1:Lameness is difficult to observe and is not consistently apparent, regardless of circumstances (e.g. under saddle, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.).

2:Lameness is difficult to observe at a walk or when trotting in a straight line but consistently apparent under certain circumstances (e.g. weight-carrying, circling, inclines, hard surface, etc.).

3:Lameness is consistently observable at a trot under all circumstances. Horses are disqualified with a score of three in AQHA events.

4:Lameness is obvious at a walk.

5:Lameness produces minimal weight bearing in motion and/or at rest or a complete inability to move.

Versatility Ranch Horse Reminders

- In VRH Ranch Trail: Exhibitors must dally when performing the drag in VRH trail. If a horse backs during the drag, handle it in your maneuver score, unless it becomes a blatant disobedience. First or second cumulative refusal, penalty 5 for each occurrence and OP for the third refusal or repeated blatant disobedience.
- In the VRH Ranch Cow work: For 2017, an illegal head catch is a 2-point penalty. There will be modifications to this in 2018.

Continuing Education

AQHA Judges have been invited to continue their working hunter and equitation over fences education September 15-17 in Reno, Nevada. This three-day seminar will cover the USEF judges format and more. The clinicians are Scott Hofstetter (AQHA judge) and Julie Winkel. Both classroom and live judging will be used. For more information, visit www.maplewoodstables.com.

Level 1 and specialty over fences judges will be able to recertify via webinar or attend the event in Amarillo in December. Testing for roping and Versatility Ranch Horse will also be available by web or in person.

Judge's Commitment

Take the time to read SHW910.8 – A judge shall 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.

Keep in mind, that show has hired you to judge their show. Unless there are health or family issues, every reasonable effort to judge that show must be made.

Illegal Roping Tie Downs

SHW307.8 Tie-downs may not have a built-in cavesson or noseband. Cavesson or noseband of any kind may not be used during competition.



Legal roping tie downs:



Illegal English bits:



This bit is illegal, because outside of the mouth, the mouth piece drops below the bars and potentially it could sit this way inside the horse's mouth.

The following bits are illegal, because they are unconventional:





Tips For Your Judging Career

- When travelling to judge a show, please wear appropriate attire. When judging, make sure your attire is also appropriate and professional.

Before judging Working Hunter - the judge is responsible for correctness of each course after it has been set. The judge must walk the course and has the right and duty to alter the course in any manner to ensure its safety. Remove any extra jump cups that might left in the jump standards. Make sure the pattern matches the posted pattern.

Patterns - it is the judge's responsibly to supply patterns in a timely manner to show management for showmanship, horsemanship and equitation. Work with show management to make sure your patterns will fit the level of competition. If the show might be smaller, consider using the same patterns for select and amateur and the same pattern for 13 & under and 14-18, in case the classes should be combined. Remember, judges have the final say in all patterns used.

"Leadership is not a rank or position to be attained. Leadership is a service to be given."

- Simon Sinek