



Spring 2018 Judges Newsletter

The spring webinar series was a huge success! Thanks goes out to Mike McEntire, chairman of the NRHA Judges Committee and Bill Enk, AQHA Judges Committee member and NRCHA Director of Judges for the outstanding job teaching reining, AQHA ranch riding and working cow horse events. If you did not participate in these webinars, please take a look at their materials on Blackboard.

We are excited to announce Russell McCord, NCHA Director of Judges, has agreed to do an in-depth cutting webinar in September.

Convention Update

Beginning in 2019, the AQHA Judges Department will be implementing the new Scoring Task Force recommendations for showmanship, horsemanship and equitation as follows:

Scoring range of 0 to infinity and average of 70

Maneuver scoring range of +3 to -3

Recommendation that patterns have 6 to 10 maneuvers for scoring

OF&P will be changed to Rider Form and Effectiveness (F&E)

F&E to be scored 0 - +5

Penalty range: minor penalty – 3, major penalty – 5, severe penalty – 10

Your new Judges Committee Chairman is John Pipkin

More information is available in the Judges Committee standing-committee report, which is available at www.aqha.com/convention.

AQHA Ranch Riding Pattern Reminders

Be sure pattern is legal and that there is a walk in both directions

A walk over logs cannot count as one of the walks

Tie-Down Roping Reminders

After the calf is tied, if the exhibitor intentionally touches or grabs the rope, it is a disqualification

When judging tie-down roping, sit further down the arena to get the best view

Official Video Review for Jerk Down Penalty in Tie-Down Roping

To assist the judges in making fair and consistent calls for every exhibitor when assessing the

jerk down penalties, it is recommended that, whenever possible, show management provide an official video review for any tie-down roping class.

The video equipment used should have adequate quality, resolution and memory, and should be operated by a person chosen by show management and agreed upon by the judge(s). A cell phone is not considered adequate video equipment and should not be used.

The videographer can be a volunteer. When selecting the videographer, please keep in mind that it cannot be the show manager, an AQHA Show Steward or anyone with a conflict of interest within the class. To assist in video reviews, the videographer should always state the exhibitor's entry number loud enough that the number is recorded. The entire run should be recorded. The video should be taken from outside the arena fence, on the opposite end of the arena from the roping chutes near the center of the pen.

If using an official video review, every tie-down run must be recorded in the event a jerk down penalty is called by the judge(s). Reviews may only be requested by the judge(s). Due to the proximity of the videographer, this tool may only be used to assist in reviewing a jerk down penalty and is NOT to be used in determining any other penalty. If show management chooses to allow exhibitors to view their runs, viewing by exhibitors may not be allowed until after all roping classes are complete.

Roping Chutes



End of Arena
X – Videographer

Judging Protocol

In all circumstances, be aware of how close you sit to fellow judges during scored events. When judges sit too close together, the perception is that the judges are not competent in judging their own horse show and making their own independent decisions. Be aware of conversations when applying SHW911.7. When judging, only talk to your fellow judges through your ring stewards as needed. Make sure your cell phones are turned off and out of sight during the entire time you are judging.

When you are sitting in the arena for any scored class that has rail work, when the horses go to the rail, it is **imperative** to make sure your chairs are pulled off the rail far enough to be safe. If arena size warrants, chair placement can be far enough off the rail where they don't need to be moved. Do not put the exhibitors in danger! Also, you may not sit in your chairs on the rail while judging the rail work in horsemanship and hunt seat equitation. Look and act professional at all times. Have good posture when you are judging, be aware of what your body language says about your interest in judging. Take pride in yourself and your position. We are all fortunate to have the opportunity to serve the industry and make a living doing what we love.

Hunt Seat Equitation Pattern Considerations

We are seeing a trend in the hunt seat equitation patterns that do not promote the spirit of the class. When choosing patterns please keep in mind the intent of the class. Building a foundation of skills as a stepping-stone to equitation over fences is essential for us to develop riders with proper English riding skills.

Having free-flowing connecting maneuvers, encouraging the horse and rider to move forward through a pattern is encouraged. We discourage having riders pick up wrong diagonals that are not true to the direction they are going or the lead they are on.

Key elements/fundamentals to help a rider negotiate an over fence class that relate to flat work are:

Track work: Change of direction, serpentine, figure eight, half circle back to the track, squares and changing direction across each diagonal.

Lengthening and collecting the horse: Lengthening at trot (sitting and posting), lengthening of the canter, collected trot (sitting), collected canter and hand gallop.

Transitions: Both upward and downward transitions at walk, trot and canter.

Connection: Lead changes, counter canter, turn on haunch and forehand (180 degree or less is encouraged) and two-point position at trot and canter.

Rookie Working Hunter, Equitation Over Fences and Hunter Hack

Please refer to the rookie rules in the 2018 AQHA Handbook. The measurement of the lines are encouraged to be set at 10 feet. Since the implementation of the class, we have found it is easiest for show managers to leave the lines set on a 12 foot stride and the Rookie exhibitors are instructed to add a stride in each line rather than adjusting the whole course. There will be no penalty for the added stride. Safety is our main concern when judging this class.

Update on 2018 Judges Recertification

All-Around judges will recertify in December online through Blackboard. The classes for testing include reining, working cow horse, showmanship, horsemanship and hunt seat equitation. We will be using the new scoring system. As a reminder, all judges will meet in person in Dallas in December 2019.

“The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.” Ray Kroc

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