



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HORSE®
ASSOCIATION

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SHOW JUDGING COMMITTEE RULES
& REGULATIONS

Show Judging Committee
Revised: March 2018

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HORSE ASSOCIATION SHOW JUDGING COMMITTEE RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following requirements, rules and regulations are set forth for all RMHA Judges to follow and enforce at all RMHA shows and the Annual International Rocky Mountain Horse Show.

I. General Requirements:

A. The qualifications for RMHA Judges are: (1) equine expertise; (2) a *thorough working knowledge of the current RMHA Show Rules and Regulations* (“Show Rules”) (3) personal, professional and ethical characteristics which, in the opinion of the RMHA, are necessary to carry out their duties; (4) a demonstration of support for the Rocky Mountain Horse with the *goal of promoting and preserving their natural characteristics*; (5) and, in relation to the foregoing, a commitment to maintaining a high quality of judging skills. The conduct of the judge must be exemplary. All judges are subject to continual review. The judge must be in compliance with these Rules and Regulations, the current RMHA Bylaws and RMHA Show Rules and Regulations.

B. Designation as an approved RMHA Judge is granted as a privilege. A judge’s status is subject to continual review by the Show Judging Committee (SJC). The SJC shall have the authority to designate status assigned to a judge. The status assigned to a judge may be:

- a. Apprentice Judge,
- b. Junior Judge, or
- c. Senior Judge.

The SJC shall have the authority to revoke or change the status of a judge after it is assigned. All action of the SJC in carrying out the foregoing shall be in accordance with procedures established by the SJC, and approved by the Board of Directors.

C. A licensed RMHA judge must notify the SJC Chair within 10 days after he/she has been hired to officiate at any show with RMHA classes. The judge shall notify the SJC Chair within 10 days after he/she has completed the contract of such completion. The form of such notifications shall be **in writing**.

D. A RMHA judge’s license will remain in effect until terminated in writing by the judge **or** the Show Judging Committee. Judges may be required to attend a RMHA Judge’s Clinic at the discretion of the Show Judging Committee or at a time frame not to exceed three years.

E. A RMHA licensed judge must be at least 21 years of age.

II. Apprentice Requirements:

A. Those applicants who successfully complete the RMHA Judges’ Clinic with an acceptable score in all categories of testing (including interview) may be considered for the Apprentice Judges’ Program.

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B. An Apprentice Judge (“Apprentice”) must apprentice at two RMHA class “A,” or other SJC-approved shows, under two different qualified RMHA licensed Senior Judges before requesting advancement to Junior Judge status. In order for an Apprentice to have a show considered as meeting this requirement, the apprentice must be evaluated by the Senior Judge and complete a self-evaluation to be reviewed by the SJC who will determine whether the apprenticeship is satisfactory. The Apprentice must complete apprenticeship within two years following completion of their RMHA clinic. Only Senior Judges are qualified to evaluate Apprentices. Additional apprenticing experience may be recommended by the SJC upon reviews, or in the event the Apprentice desires more experience per his or her own written request.

C. The Apprentice must notify the SJC Chair of his/her intention to apprentice within 10 days after he/she has obtained approval from the Show Manager and the officiating Senior Judge to ensure credit is given for apprenticing a show. The Show Manager shall contact the Judge for approval for the Apprentice to apprentice. In the case of multiple Judges at one RMHA class “A” show, the Apprentice must only apprentice under the same Judge with whom the permission to apprentice had been granted.

D. No more than one (1) Apprentice may be approved to apprentice under each Senior Judge at an RMHA Class “A” show. It is the Apprentice’s responsibility to check with show management at the time permission is granted to apprentice, in order to ensure he/she is the only permitted Apprentice. In the event there is more than one Judge at the same show, there can only be one Apprentice per Senior Judge who can be granted permission to apprentice at that particular show.

E. Each Apprentice will have a Performance Evaluation Form completed and submitted by the Senior Judge with whom the Apprentice has worked, as well as a completed and submitted Self-Evaluation Form. The purpose of each evaluation is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the apprentice with regard to applying the Show Rules and with regard to his/her professionalism. Both the completed Self-evaluation Form and the Senior Judge’s Performance Evaluation Form are to be sent to the SJC Chair within 10 working days of the show apprenticed. At its next regular or specially called meeting, the SJC will review all pertinent data. The Apprentice will be notified within 10 working days after the SJC has met, if credit is being given or denied for the show apprenticed.

F. The Apprentice should not have any conversation with the Senior Judge until the Senior Judge’s score card for a particular class has been turned in. The Apprentice is not to influence the way classes are tied.

G. The manner of completing the score card used by the Apprentice must be comparable to the manner used by the officiating Senior Judge. An index card may be used as an acceptable form of score card for the Apprentice. Placings

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are to be the opinion of the Apprentice as he/she sees best fitting of the rules and may or may not be comparable to the placings of the Senior Judge. Within 10 days of the completion of the show, the Apprentice should send his/her score cards to the SJC Chair.

H. Apprentices may not apprentice at the Annual International Rocky Mountain Horse Show.

I. Apprentices must follow the same rules as the officiating Judge with the exception of gaining approval to Apprentice.

III. Junior Judges:

A. Upon satisfactory completion of the required apprenticeship, the Apprentice Judge will be reviewed by the SJC for promotion of the apprentice to Junior Judge Status. Upon approval, the Junior Judge must successfully complete the judging of one class "A," or other SJC-approved show.

B. If the Junior Judge has demonstrated the required knowledge of the Show Rules, the Junior Judge may apply in writing to the SJC for review and approval for promotion to Senior Judge level.

C. If the Junior Judge has been denied advancement by the SJC, he/she will be required to officiate another RMHA class "A" shows before reapplying to the SJC for advancement.

D. Junior Judges may not officiate as a show ring judge at the annual International Rocky Mountain Horse Show nor may they oversee/evaluate Apprentice Judges.

IV. Senior Judges:

A. The title of Senior Judge may be granted to those individuals who have consistently demonstrated thorough knowledge of the Show Rules; and have

been consistent in presenting a professional and ethical image to the RMHA. The Senior Judge, including his/her status, is subject to continual review by the SJC.

B. In the event a Senior Judge is evaluating an Apprentice's performance at any RMHA class "A" show, the Show Manager shall return the Senior Judge's score cards to the SJC Chair within ten (10) working days of the show. The Senior Judge shall return the completed Apprentice Evaluation to the SJC Chair within ten (10) working days of the show officiated.

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V. Judges Rules and Regulations:

(Applies to Apprentices, Junior and Senior Judges.)

A. A Judge is **REQUIRED** to judge each class in conformity with the rules and specifications of that class as they appear in the RMHA Show Rule Book. He/she is required to possess a thorough knowledge of the current RMHA Show Rule Book **PRIOR** to arriving on the show grounds.

B. No individuals, including Spectators, Exhibitors, Show Management, Ringmaster, Stewards, Show Committee members, or others are to influence the way classes are tied provided, however, that SJC is specifically authorized by majority vote of the RMHA Board of Directors to, and may at any time before or during the show, discuss with show judges, breed standards and the need to comply with RMHA bylaws and show rules concerning such standards.

C. A Judge, by accepting an invitation to officiate at an RMHA class, event or show, assumes a responsibility to support the Show Management by excusing from the ring all horses that in the Judge's opinion are in flagrant violation of RMHA Show Rules.

D. No Judge selected to officiate at a show shall be contacted either directly or indirectly relative to this show by any person having an interest in any horse expected to be shown in such show. Any Judge contacted must report such contact to the SJC Chair (and Show Management if during a show).

E. No Judge may be included on the list of active Judges for the calendar year if he/she participates in any RMHA show (including the International Rocky Mountain Horse Show) as Owner, Exhibitor or Trainer during that year. The SJC Chair should be notified, in writing, no later than January 1 of each year, by any Judge if such Judge's intention is to change status from "showing to judging" or "judging to showing" during such year.

F. An RMHA Judge shall not attend, as a spectator or otherwise, another RMHA sanctioned show within 72 (seventy-two) hours preceding any show he/she has contracted to Judge.

G. During the line-up, Judges are required to conduct a brief inspection of equipment.. A show ring Judge will be the final authority of enforcement of equipment violations whether or not an Equipment Steward/Judge is present. The Show Manager will notify the officiating Judge(s) prior to the start of the show if there is not an Equipment Steward/Judge.

H. It is the responsibility of the Judge to report immediately any observed RMHA show rule violation to the SJC Chair and the Show Manager (who in turn forwards the complaint to the Show Advisory Committee (SAC) Chairperson.) Forms can be obtained from SJC Chair or Show Manager. If a form is not

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available at the time or date of violation, a detailed account should be documented and reported in the same manner on available paper. If information is incomplete, the SJC Chair will contact the Judge.

I. Judges are to report to the SJC Chairperson all contacts via phone calls, emails, indirect contact, etc. received by the Judge prior to the show from Members, Trainers, Owners, or Exhibitors. (See VI-Standards of Ethical Conduct)

J. The Judge's decision is final. Once a class has been judged, it shall not be rejudged and once the Judge has marked his/her score card and placements of awards are made, there shall be no changing of the Judge's record, except in the case of clerical error. Changes in placements of awards may occur, however, in the case of rule violations and subsequent disqualifications that occur after a class has ended.

K. Failure of a Judge to attend a show to which he/she is committed to perform his/her duties and to officiate in the classes to which he/she is assigned shall constitute cause for administrative action. In cases of extreme emergency a release may be obtained from the SJC Chair before the scheduled show.

L. When a Judge is officiating at a show, he/she is not to arrive on the show grounds more than one hour prior to show time.

M. An entry may, at the discretion of the Judge, be excused from the ring for any infraction of the RMHA Show Rules. The nature of the infraction(s) are to be noted by the Judge on the judges score card which should include the name of show, class number, exhibitor number and nature of infraction

N. When more than one Judge is used to officiate at a single show, conversation among or between Judges is prohibited until score cards are turned in. Discussion of a preceding class should be kept to a minimum as entries may reappear in future classes. It is the responsibility of the Judge to make each placement in the class independently and to mark his/her score card accordingly.

O. A Judge shall at all times remember that he/she is a representative of the RMHA and should project himself/herself in a professional and ethical manner. Exchanging or voicing harsh words, behavior, etc., with management, staff, exhibitors, etc., is unacceptable and shall be reported to SJC for review and necessary action.

P. In the show ring, the Judge generally should utilize the Ring Master to perform tasks requiring touching the horse/rider. e.g., check chin strap/chain for tightness, blood in mouth, illegal bit, etc. However, the judge may at his/her discretion, perform these and other verifications as necessary.

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Q. A judge may, at his/her discretion, speak with exhibitors in the lineup after the score card has been submitted, as a means of instructing and encouraging compliance with the RMHA show rules. Additionally, a judge may speak with exhibitors in designated Beginner's Classes before and after judging as a means of instructing and encouraging new participants.

R. It is the responsibility of the Judges to provide the SJC with their current address and phone number to be included in the contact list provided to the show managers.

S. Judges on break must be escorted to and from the ring. Judges are not to have any contact with exhibitors, spectators, owners, or any other persons except for specifically authorized and identified SJC personnel, either inside or outside of the show ring, from the time the Judge enters the show grounds until the Judge departs from the show ring of an RMHA sponsored or affiliated class, event, or show including the annual RMHA International Show. At the conclusion of the show, the show manager may request that the judge be available to answer questions from exhibitors/owners as outlined in the Show Rules

T. All judges must take and retain notes concerning their placement of classes for shows at which they officiate. These notes are to be retained for one year and may be requested by the SJC Chair as a means of verifying conformance to RMHA Rules, the quality of judging decisions, and auditing of show results.

VI. Judges Ethical Conduct

A. RMHA Judges are to be aware of and avoid all conflicts of interest. RMHA Judges should represent the RMHA professionally and ethically at all times.

B. A Judge shall not perform any other show staff duties (manager, DQP, etc.) or be an Exhibitor, and/or rider at any show at which he/she is officiating.

C. A Judge shall not judge in any show in which a member of his/her immediate family, any horses belonging to his/her immediate family are competing, or any horses trained/leased/boarded by said Judge or the Judges immediate family. (stud fees and services are excluded) For purposes of these Rules and Regulations, "immediate family" shall include parent, grandparent, brother, sister, lineal descendant, whether by birth or legal adoption, ward, spouse, or significant other residing in the same household.

D. A Judge shall not, during the period of a show at which he/she is judging, have any personal or social contact outside of his/her official duties as a Judge with any person who is exhibiting in the show or whose immediate family is exhibiting in the show.

E. No horse may be shown before a Judge that has been sold, boarded, owned,

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trained, or shown by said Judge or his employer or employee within a period of six months prior to the show.

F. No one may show before a Judge where either the Judge or Exhibitor has remunerated (e.g. paid or compensated) the other person for the leasing, boarding, riding, training, consulting, schooling, assisting or tutoring of any horse within a period of six months prior to the show. (Stud fees are excluded.)

G. It is the duty of the Judge(s) to immediately report any violations of these Rules and Regulations (as outlined in Section V) to Show Management or the SJC.

H. A Judge shall not inspect or discuss any horse entered into a show prior to the start of the show.