

AHHA Judge's Protocol

AHHA judges must ensure they are up to date with the rules, regulations and guidelines of the Association and what correctly constitutes a hunter and always ensure that they uphold these definitions whilst judging.

NB: Ignorance of any rules or regulations will not be accepted as a defence in the instance of a breach.

- Judges must perform with integrity at all times.
- AHHA officials shall not solicit judging appointments.
- A judge must not knowingly judge an ineligible entry.
- A judge may request themselves or through the steward, that a competitor or horse be removed from the event for inappropriate conduct.
- A judge will not discuss or inspect any horse entered in competition, or visit any areas outside of the ring such as the stables, parking area or general horse lines prior to/or after, the completion of judging.
- The sale, purchase or lease of any horse shall not be discussed by the judge until the completion of the show.
- Competitors and judges will not fraternise during the show.
- The judge's decision is final except in the case where ineligibility may be determined.
- A judge shall ensure that a steward is present during any discussions with a competitor.
- A competitor wishing to speak to a judge regarding the judge's opinion may request this via the steward or ringmaster. If the judge agrees to speak to the competitor, the discussion will be held at an appropriate time and in the presence of a show official and/or steward. It is urged that the judge will give their opinion courteously without derogatory comment.
- The judge will at all times be respectful and polite to competitors, officials and spectators.
- It is expected that judges will be attired appropriately in either riding or street attire. Clothing should be comfortable and practical for a day on one's feet. Judges are expected to dress to the level of competition and judges should always wear a hat, unless judging indoors where this is optional.
- Judges should be prepared for changes in weather conditions.
- Jeans should never be worn whilst judging and smoking or using a mobile phone in the ring whilst officiating at ANY show is not permitted.
- An invitation to judge should be met with a prompt reply.
- All discussion in regard to expectations and expenses should take place during the invitation period.
- Judges should expect reasonable travel expenses to be reimbursed as well as overnight accommodation where necessary.
- *However, the AHHA does not pay judges and capacity as an official is voluntary.*
- If a judge is unable to attend a judging appointment; it is their duty to notify the show society **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.
- It is expected judges will not fail to attend a judging commitment or fail to Adjudicate in assigned classes or be less than punctual for the advertised
- Commencement of the show – **without good reason**.
- A judge may not send a substitution.
- A judge should avoid accepting too many judging appointments within the season. For example, a judge may not judge the same section (i.e. hunters at One show and then hunters the next week at another show) within the same ASC group boundaries within 30 days.
- A judge will not judge at any show where a horse owned by the judge or Business partner/partner, or immediate family member is competing or taking part. Breed classes are an exemption to this ruling.

An AHHA Judge shall be reportable to the AHHA for failure to:

1. Attend a show to which he/she is committed.
2. Adjudicate in assigned classes
3. Appear at the venue in time for the advertised commencement of the specified Commencement of his/her section without reasonable explanation.