

Judges Committee

Standard Operating Procedures

In order to ensure high quality judging, consistency in judging, and compliance to judging rules, the Judges Committee of the National Walking Horse Association sets forth specific procedures for regulating judging.

I. Judges Licenses

To be eligible to become an NWhA judge, a potential applicant must first complete this process:

- i. Complete the application form and submit to the NWhA judges Committee prior to September 1
- ii. List five (5) references of people who possess experience in the walking horse industry (Board members, Board officers, trainers, and judges may be included)
- iii. Successfully complete an interview by the judges committee designees
- iv. Pass the NWhA judges test (rail and/or versatility)
- v. Apprentice a minimum of four (4) NWhA shows, which must be pre-approved by the NWhA judges committee

The applicant must hold current NWhA membership and must be deemed “in good standing” (with dues payment being up to date).

II. Judges Performance

Judges are expected to act professionally at all times. Integrity, honesty and good moral character are of utmost importance. Designation as an NWhA judge is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by NWhA according to procedures formulated by NWhA, to individuals, whose equine expertise and personal character merit the honor. An individual’s conduct and ability as a judge must be exemplary; is subject to continual review; and such designation is revocable by NWhA with or without notice and formal hearing. All judges are expected to comply with the rules for judging put forth in the NWhA Rule Book and attend the annual NWhA Judges Clinic once every two years. If judges neglect to comply with these rules, consequences will involve courses of action as outlined in this document.

III. Judge Evaluation Forms

Judges will receive copies of all evaluation forms that deal with their performance. The evaluations will be completed by exhibitors and sent to the Executive Director who will then remove the exhibitor’s name from the evaluation before forwarding it on to the affected judge.

IV. Censoring a Judge

A censor, in the form of a letter written by the Chair of the Judges Committee will be sent to a judge who receives negative evaluations or concerns that are of a serious nature and are deemed legitimate. They must be deemed “legitimate” by the Judges Committee before this action is taken. To determine legitimacy, the Judges Committee will review complaints and concerns (the Judges Committee receives the same evaluation forms as the judge with no signatures of evaluators), verify these through an interview process, and then discuss alleged violations among the committee members prior to any action. The censor letter will outline the concerns stated in the exhibitor evaluations and will be placed in the judge’s file.

V. Suspension of a Judge’s License

Suspension of a judge’s license will occur if violations of rules continue to be reported to the NWHHA Judges Committee over a period of time consisting of one or more show seasons or if more serious issues occur which require immediate action. Suspension of a judge’s license may also occur if a judge neglects to attend the Judges Clinic two out of three consecutive years. The judge will receive a letter from the Judges Committee informing him/her of the specific concerns and reasons for the suspension. The length of the suspension will depend on the number and seriousness of violations. Judges who are suspended will be required to successfully apprentice at least two shows and will be assigned to specific judges and shows by the Judges Committee. He/she will not be approved to judge at NWHHA shows during their suspension period and will be evaluated by the Judge’s Committee prior to reinstatement of their license. The suspension letter and any accompanying documentation will be placed in the judge’s file.

VI. Revoking a Judge’s License

A judge’s license may be revoked if the violations of rules continue to be reported to the NWHHA over a period of a show season after the judge has successfully completed the suspension period. Further, a judge’s license may be revoked immediately upon any infraction deemed to be based on misfeasance, malfeasance, dereliction of duty or immoral conduct by the Judges Committee. If a judge’s license is recommended for revocation by the Judges Committee, the Board of Directors will determine final action. The judge may request a hearing with the Executive Director prior to Board action. All pertinent documentation will be placed in the judge’s file.

NWHA JUDGE APPLICATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please answer these questions:

1) How long have you been a member of NWHA? _____

2) What contributions (other than monetary) have you made to NWHA (include any committees of which you were a member)?

3) Why do you want to be a judge?

4) What characteristics/talents/ knowledge/experience do you possess that will help you be an exemplary horse show judge?

5) Please list any other organizations, equine or otherwise, of which you are a member:

6. Please list five (5) references of people who possess experience in the walking horse industry (Board members, Board officers, trainers, and judges may be included):

	Name	Phone	Email
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____
5.	_____	_____	_____

I understand that the commitment of a judge is extremely important and by signing this application, I agree to abide by these guidelines:

- I agree to adhere to NWAH's Rulebook at all times.
- I agree to follow the direction of the NWAH Board and Judge's Committee
- I agree to adhere to the Judge's Standard Operating Procedures
- I agree to listen, reason and maintain an open mind to all opinions and comments.

Applicant's Signature

Date