



## Guest Judge

# Standard Operating Procedure

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In order to ensure high quality judging, consistency in judging, and compliance to judging rules, the Judge's Committee (JC) of the National Walking Horse Association (NWHHA) sets forth the following standard operating procedures for regulating Guest Judges, in addition to the NWHHA Rulebook. (NWHHA Rules & Regulations, Section 9 *Judges*)

- I. Circumstances whereby a Guest Judge may be authorized:
  - i. The horse show is located outside of a 500-mile radius of a NWHHA judge's residence and such transportation of a NWHHA judge is cost prohibitive for the show.
  - ii. An NWHHA judge is not available for the date/time of the event (show manager must produce a list of NWHHA judges who have turned down the opportunity to judge show).
  - iii. The Judge's Committee may recommend to the Executive Committee to approve a guest judge based on individual circumstances that are unique to a particular event.
  
- II. Guest Judge Criteria
  - i. Must hold a current/valid judge's license from another horse organization (HIO).
  - ii. Must be at least 25 years of age.
  - iii. Must have at least three (3) years of judging experience
  - iv. Must have experience and/or knowledge of Walking Horses.
  - v. Must have three (3) references from NWHHA sources.
    - *including, but not limited to: trainers, officers, board members, exhibitors, judges.*
  - vi. Exhibits integrity, honesty, and high ethical standards.
  - vii. Exhibits a true commitment to sound horses and be able to produce evidence of such.

***Applicants having a USDA, HPA or NWHHA violation including but not limited to the involvement of sensitivity, scarring, lameness or bad image are ineligible as Guest Judges.***

### III. Procedure

- i. Show manager must complete the Guest Judge Application/request form and send to the NWHHA Office.
- ii. The NWHHA Office forwards the form to Judge's Committee.
- iii. Judge's Committee reviews the information, checks references, discusses the request and makes a recommendation to the NWHHA Executive Committee.
- iv. The NWHHA Executive Committee will make a determination.
- v. Upon determination, the NWHHA office will forward the decision of the Executive Committee to the show manager. Show manager must remit the \$100.00 Guest Judge's fee to the NWHHA office prior to completion of the Guest Judge's contract.

### IV. Special Notes

- i. The NWHHA National Championship Show and all NWHHA Regional Shows must use NWHHA licensed judges.
- ii. All NWHHA affiliated multi-day shows must use NWHHA licensed judges unless approved by the Executive Committee based on recommendation from the Judge's Committee.
- iii. Double point and/or multi-judged shows must use at least one NWHHA licensed judge.