



# National Show Judges Standard Operating Procedure

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**Purpose:** To ensure high quality judging, consistency in judging, and compliance to judging rules, the Judges Committee (JC) of the National Walking Horse Association (NWA) sets forth specific procedures for determining the panel of judges for each NWA National Championship Show.

**Scope:** This procedure applies to the selection of the National Show judges for the NWA National Championship Horse Show.

## **Responsibilities:**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>
Judges Committee	Committee that is appointed by the President of NWA and works under the direction and guidance of the EC and/or Board of Directors in coordination with the Director of Judges.

### 1. Process:

#### a. Rail Judges:

- i. Each year, the JC will survey all current NWA licensed judges to determine their interest in being placed on the election ballot.
- ii. The JC will check and verify the qualifications of each interested judge.
- iii. The JC will ensure that no more than one (1) judge who judges THE National in the preceding year is placed on the ballot.
- iv. The JC will provide the list of five (5) qualified judges to the NWA Office Manager and Board of Directors for review and approval.
- v. The NWA Office Manager will create the National Judges Ballot and send to all current NWA members for voting.

#### b. Versatility Judge

- i. The Versatility Judge for the show must have specific NWA versatility licensure.

## II. Judges Qualifications

- a. To be eligible to judge the NWHHA National Championship Show, the NWHHA licensed judge must:
  - a. Possess an individual current year NWHHA membership and be a member in good standing.
  - b. Possess the current year NWHHA Judges License and be a judge in good standing.
  - c. Participate in the Annual Judges Qualifying Clinic
    - i. Judges Qualifying Clinic will be held once every year (judges must attend once every two years or as deemed necessary by the Judges Committee and Executive Committee)
  - d. Have at least three (3) consecutive years of experience as an NWHHA Licensed Judge
  - e. Have no prior infractions of rule violations (HPA, NWHHA, etc.) or evidence of disciplinary actions or concerns in their files.

## III. Judges Performance

- a. Judges are expected to always act professionally. Integrity, honesty, and good moral character are of utmost importance. Designation as an NWHHA Judge is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by NWHHA according to procedures formulated by NWHHA, to individuals, whose equine expertise and personal character merit the designation.