

## SECTION VII

### JUDGES

#### 2019 RULEBOOK

of the  
**American Shetland Pony Club**  
**American Miniature Horse Registry**  
**American Show Pony Registry**  
**National Sport Performance Pony Registry**  
**American Shetland Pony International Registry**



## SECTION VII

### JUDGES

#### 1.1 The Judges' Board of Governors

- A. The Board of Governors shall consist of a President appointed Chairman or Co-Chairs and Senior Members in good standing appointed by the Committee Chair(s).
  - 1. The Judges Committee shall consist of a President appointed Chairman or Co-Chairs and Senior Members in good standing appointed by the Committee Chair(s). The judges committee will be tasked with the continued education and training tools for judges and apprentices.
- B. The Judges' Board of Governors upon every application for enrollment, annual renewal, promotion or classification of Judges shall recommend to the Board of Directors whether they issue and/or renew a Judge's card for each applicant, and shall report their decision to the Director of Operations, but not to the Applicants. Each applicant shall be notified of the Board of Governors' decision. The Director of Operations shall then issue to the approved applicant a Judge's Card good for the current calendar year only.
- C. Questionnaire: The Board of Governors committee may send out questionnaires regarding the applicant to Licensed Judges, members of committees, references, and others as it may elect. All such questionnaires shall be returned to the Chairman of the Committee, who shall take necessary measures to insure its proceedings and files are kept in strictest confidence.
- D. The names of all applicants and the divisions they are applying for may be published in The Journal and/or on the Website. Senior members of the Association are encouraged to advise the Judges as to the capabilities and integrity of an applicant, which is to be kept in strictest confidence.

- E. The Judges Board of Governors may review all Judges four times a year. At its discretion, the Board of Governors may recommend to the Board of Directors to refuse to issue or renew a Judge's Card at its expiration. In such instance, the fee will be returned to applicant.
- F. Temporary Cards: In emergency situations, the Judges Committee shall have authority to issue a temporary Judge's Card to an individual who is not currently an ASPC/AMHR/ASPR licensed Judge. Such situations shall be limited to instances in which a show would otherwise be canceled due to the unavailability of a licensed ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Judge. In the event of the issuance of a temporary card, the card will be valid only for the duration of the show.

## 1.2 Licensed Judges

- A. The word "Judge" in these rules applies throughout to licensed Judges. Licensed Judges shall be of two (2) classes:
  - 1. "r" - All new approved Judges will receive an "r" designation beside their name in The Journal. This Judge will be on a probation period for the first 6 months that they begin judging. During that time if any illicit bad behavior or poor reviews are received, the Board of Governors may, at that time revoke that Judge's card. If that person wants to apply for a Judge card again they must complete the apprentice requirements again. No Judge will be considered for promotion without having a Judge's card for a minimum of 4 years from the date they receive their Judge's card. They must adjudicate a minimum of 10 shows in that four-year period. The Judge then must request in writing to the National Office that they be considered for a promotion from small "r" to large "R" status. They must submit in writing a list of the shows and dates that they have judged to fulfill this requirement. Fulfilling this requirement does not mean the promotion will be granted. The Judges' Committee will confer the "R" designation based on the experience and performance of the Judge.

2. "R" - Is a judge who has met the criteria set forth above, and based on experience has been recommended by the Board of Governors for promotion to the Board of Directors.
- B. Any Judge may be licensed in one or more Divisions by an "R" or "r". Only licensed Judges in good standing may officiate at recognized competitions in those divisions covered by the rules and specifications of the current Rulebook. An approved Judge is an individual member of the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR who is so classified in one or more divisions by the Judges Committee. He is entitled to officiate alone at any sanctioned show in the division in which he is registered. Only ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Judges may officiate at ASPC/AMHR/ASPR approved shows.
  - C. To receive the annual Judge's Card, an approved Judge must be a current member of the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR, and in good standing. Failure to renew a Judge's membership shall be cause for being dropped from the Roster of Judges. If a period of less than three (3) years from March 1st has passed, the former licensed judge must take a test, attend one clinic, and pay judges dues to have his/her card reinstated pending the approval of the Judges Board of Governors, and the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Board of Directors. If three years have passed, the former licensed judge must apply as a new applicant.
  - D. Licensed Judges must judge at least one ASPC/AMHR/ASPR sanctioned show or attend an ASPC/AMHR/ASPR clinic in the preceding two (2) years. The Board of Governors may require all Judges who do not officiate at an ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Recognized Show within two years after obtaining a license or, for any two-year period thereafter, to re-apply for a license in order to retain their recognized status.
  - E. All Judges must attend an ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Judges clinic once every three years.
  - F. Judges who have a Judge's card for the current annual year may commit to judge a show or shows in the upcoming annual year so long as he or she pays the annual licensing fee

by the deadline of December 31st of the current year, and otherwise complies with the rules governing Judges. Any other individual, (including Apprentice Judges), who takes a show before paying the annual licensing fee applicable to the show in question, or who does not possess a Judge's card at the time he or she commits to judge a show, will be fined \$50.00. Judge's annual licensing fees are not to be paid for by show management. Any Judge's dues not paid by January 2nd of the year in question will be charged \$100.00 plus the Judge's fee.

- G. ASPC/ASPR Congress Judge(s) Refer to Section XVI, 1.2 for Judges selection and criteria.
- H. AMHR National Show Judge(s) Refer to Section XVI, 1.3 for Judges selection and criteria.
- I. National Area Show Judge(s) Refer to Section XVI, 1.1 for Judges selection and criteria.

### **1.3 Apprentice Judge**

#### **A. Procedure:**

1. Application must be made on the official form and accompanied by the required fee, which is non-refundable.
2. All applicants must take an examination and receive a mark of 95% or better. The completed exam must be returned to the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Office within 30 days from the date of receipt.
3. A new Apprentice Judge must do three (3) or more shows in two (2) areas and must be under three (3) different Judges. All applicants must apprentice under a current carded ASPC/AMHR/ASPR large "R" Judge.
4. It is required that all Apprentice Judges notify the Judges Committee of all the shows they will be apprentice judging for their Judge's card. Permission must also be obtained from both the show management and the Licensed Judge that they will be apprenticing with. Up to two (2) apprentice judges will be allowed per show that has two (2) or more judges. Only one apprentice may be assigned to a judge.

5. Apprentice judging is not permitted inside the ring at the ASPC/ASPR Congress, the Ohio World Show, the AMHR National Show, or at any National Area Show. All new apprentice judges will, in addition to 3 apprenticeships', apprentice outside the ring at the ASPC/ASPR Congress, Ohio World Show, or any other show approved by the Board of Governors for consideration of being awarded their Modern card.
6. Apprentice Judges must apprentice all classes within a Division: Halter, Driving (Pleasure, Harness & Roadster), Showmanship, Riding, Hunter, and Jumper.
7. An Apprentice Judge cannot apprentice at a show where they, their family or clients are competing.
8. During the judging apprenticeship process, Apprentice Judges must abide by all rules and regulations that apply to judges

#### **1.4 Regulations Governing Judges**

- A. A Licensed Judge shall not be an exhibitor, rider, driver, Steward, or manager at any show at which he is officiating, whether or not the classes in which he officiates are conducted under ASPC/AMHR/ASPR rules.
- B. No Judge may officiate in any competition in which a family member is the manager of the recognized ASPC/AMHR/ASPR show.
- C. No member of a Judge's family or any of the judge's clients, or their family's clients may compete as an exhibitor, rider, driver, handler or owner of lessee in any division unless relationship is terminated 30 days prior to the competition.
- D. No ASPC/AMHR/ASPR carded Judge, or a Judge holding a Judging card with any other equine association (includes donkeys and zebras) may hold an amateur card, nor can they show in amateur classes at any ASPC/AMHR/ASPR sanctioned shows.
- E. No horse may be shown before a Judge that has been sold by said Judge or by his employer within a period of three

(3) months prior to the show.

- F. No horse may show before a Judge that has been trained by said Judge within the period of three (3) months prior to the show.
- G. No one may show before a Judge who has received or has contracted to receive a remuneration for the sale, purchase or lease of any horse to or from, or for the account of such person within a period of one month prior to the show unless the sale or purchase has been made at public auction and the sales company is paid directly for the horses or ponies.
- H. No one may show before a Judge who boards, shows or trains any horse under said person's ownership or lease, within a period of one month prior to the show. Stud fees and broodmare board excluded.
- I. No Judge may be a house guest of a person who is exhibiting at the competition or whose family is exhibiting at such competition.
- J. Judges will arrive at the show grounds no more than one hour prior to the commencement of the first class that he or she will judge, and should refrain from speaking with any exhibitors when not judging a class.
- K. Judges will refrain from interacting with exhibitors between classes, and will avoid attending any social functions that may be conducted in conjunction with the show.
- L. Judges are not to have any communication with each other until after all Judges' cards are turned in for that class. Once cards have been turned in by the Judge(s) to the ring official, there shall be no changes in the cards except those made by the Judge while still on the show grounds and initialed by same.
- M. Judges should promptly leave the show grounds upon conclusion of his or her duties at the show
- N. No Judge may discuss with an exhibitor the purchase, sale or lease of any horse during a competition at which he is judging.

- O. Failure of a Judge to attend a show to which he is committed, to perform his/her duties, and to officiate in the classes to which he is assigned shall constitute cause for disciplinary action, by the Board, except in cases of extreme emergency.
- P. A Judge may not visit the horses' stall area, witness the measuring of animals, inspect, or discuss any horse entered in the show before the judging, nor shall a Judge review the show program until after the judging has been completed. Prior to the judging, however, each Judge shall be furnished with a schedule of events by the show management.
- Q. Judges should dress appropriately. Sleeveless tank tops and jeans are not appropriate.
- R. The judge will dismiss any unsafe entry whether due to equipment or behavior of the animal. A Judge must order from the ring any unruly horse, or one whose actions threaten to endanger other exhibitors or their entries. For Safety reasons in any class where the exhibitor does not have control of their horse, it is up to the Judge to excuse the exhibitor. An exhibitor cannot protest this action.
- S. A Judge will complete their judge's cards as follows:
  - 1. Judges will note number of horses in the class.
  - 2. Judges will note all horses disqualified through the required placing(s)/ribbons with the letters "DQ" and the back number of the horse disqualified.
  - 3. Judges will sign each card.
  - 4. Judges will tie one additional place than the ribbons awarded.
  - 5. Judges will initial all corrections.
  - 6. Judges will place an "X" on cards with no class entries.
  - 7. Judges cannot tie placings in a class, this will DQ both placings.
- T. Headers are a safety element for many driving classes, as such during inspection in line-up judges will refrain from walking between the header and the horse or pony, and en-



courage headers to step forward if they are too far removed to assist should the need arise.

- U. A judge may be required to assist a Steward by examining an animal for registration.
- V. Judges will walk the Hunter/Jumper and Obstacle course with the designer, Steward and exhibitors prior to the start of the class.
- W. A Judge who also holds an ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Judge's card cannot officiate the first day of a show as a Steward, and then officiate as a Judge on the second day at the same location on consecutive days. The Judge/Steward can officiate as a Judge on the first day of the show, and then as a Steward on the second consecutive day at the same location.

### **1.5 Guidelines for the Disciplining of Licensed Judges -**

On receipt of a written complaint that a licensed ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Judge has failed to conduct a class in accordance with the specifications or has failed to perform his or her duties according to the rules, the Judges' Board of Governors shall investigate the complaint, and if deemed necessary, will refer the matter to the Hearing committee for a hearing. The complaint must be made in accordance with the rules. In the event that the accused is found guilty at the hearing, he/she may be censured and/or have his/her Judges card revoked by the Board of Directors. Notice of such revocation will be printed in The Journal. Any further penalty will be issued by the Hearing Committee. At the discretion of the Hearing Committee, a Judge who is accused of wrong doing pursuant to this section may have his/her Judges card temporarily suspended for a period not to exceed forty five (45) days pending a full consideration of the matter by the Board of Directors.

- A. If a licensed Judge is found by the Board of Governor and/or Committee to be in violation of the Rulebook or professional behavior expected of this position, he/she will be disciplined in the following manner.
  - 1. First Offense: Judge will receive a written letter of dis-

cipline and have said letter placed in his/her file.

2. Second Offense: Judge will receive a written letter of discipline and pay a fine of \$25.00-\$50.00 and the letter will be placed in his/her file.
  3. Third Offense: Judge will receive a written letter of discipline and must pay a fine of \$50.00-\$100.00 and the letter will be placed in his/her file.
  4. Fourth Offense: Judge's license will be recommended to be revoked for a minimum of one year or permanently depending on the seriousness of the offenses. The National Board of Directors will handle this decision at their next board meeting.
  5. Failure to pay these fines will result in the loss of his/her license.
- B. A licensed judge who commits a serious offense may have his/her license pulled at any time if warranted. The Judges Board of Governors will present their findings to the National Board of Directors and the Board of Directors will make the final decision at their next meeting. The judge in question cannot contract any new ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Shows until the matter is resolved.

## 1.6 Responsibilities of Judges

- A. Good judging depends upon a correct observance of the fine points and the selection of the best horses for the purpose described by conditions of the class. A Judge serves three (3) interests: his/her own conscience, the exhibitor, and the spectators. He/she should make clear to the audience that the best horses win. The attention of Judges is directed to the difference in requirements covering maiden, novice, limit, amateur, youth, junior, and ladies classes versus open classes. These differences should be considered when adjudicating classes. A Judge is obligated to adjudicate each class in conformity with the rules and specifications of that class as they appear in the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR Rulebook. He/she is expected to be proficient in his/her Division and to possess a thorough knowledge of the rules of the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR.

- B. The decisions of each Judge constitute solely his/her individual preference and not a verdict by the ASPC/AMHR/ASPR. Judge's decisions may not be protested.
- C. No one shall approach a Judge with regard to a decision unless first obtaining permission from the Show Steward who shall arrange a meeting with the Judge at a proper time and place. The Steward must be present with the Judge at all meetings. No exhibitor has the right to inspect the Judge's cards without the Judge's permission.
- D. Conduct on the part of any exhibitor or trainer of a detrimental, unsportsmanlike or abusive nature will be reported immediately to show management by the judge or steward.

