Judges Rating System ("JRS")

Who does the JRS apply to?

For purposes of the JRS, the terms "Judges" or "All-Around Judges" shall mean all AQHA-approved judges with the exception of AQHA-approved judges that **ONLY** hold the following designation(s) or combination thereof: international judges, specialized judges and/or versatility ranch horse judges.

How do we initially rate Judges?

- Implement per recommendation of Judges Committee to Executive Committee and per Rule 438(n).
- JRS does not otherwise modify rules, regulations and code of ethics regarding judges.
- Inception date of JRS = January 1, 2007.
- JRS will operate on a calendar year basis unless otherwise indicated herein.
- Rating system = AAAA, AAA, AA, and A (AAAA = highest rating).
- The term "Progressive Judge" = judges who can only judge:
    - shows with 350 or less entries from the previous year; or
    - novice shows and introductory shows.

- Beginning January 1, 2007:

    - all Progressive Judges will be assigned a "A" rating;
    - all Judges having served less than two (2) years as All-Around Judges will be assigned a "AA" rating; and
    - all Judges having served for two (2) or more years as All-Around Judges will be assigned a "AAA" rating.

Judges Credits (JCs)

- One (1) credit for each AQHA-approved show judged with less than 450 total entries (Special Events do not earn credits)
- One (1) credit for each special event judged
- One (1) credit for judging of speed and/or timed events at a full show (regardless of the number of total show entries)
- One (1) credit for judging 50 or less total entries at a full show (regardless of the number of total entries)
- Three (3) credits for each AQHA-approved show judged with 450 - 499 total entries
- Five (5) credits for each show judged with 500 or more entries
- Ten (10) credits for judging any of the AQHA World Championship Shows with no meritorious complaint during the calendar year
- Ten (10) credits for judging any of the following: NCHA Futurity, NRCHA Snaffle Bit Futurity, NRCHA World Show, NSBA World Show, NRHA Futurity, PHBA World Show or the IBHA World Show with no meritorious complaint during the calendar year
- One (1) credit for membership in AQHA Professional Horsemen (awarded each year such status is achieved/maintained)
- Two (2) credits for NSBA approval, NCHA AA approval or NRCHA A or AA approval (awarded each year such status is achieved/maintained)
- Five (5) credits for NSBA Category 1 approval, NCHA AAA or AAAA approval, NRCHA AAA approval or NRHA approval (awarded each year such status is achieved/maintained)

- Five (5) credits for current-year attendance at the AQHA Judges Educational Seminar (March)
- Five (5) credits for judging an AQHA Regional Experience during the calendar year
- One (1) credit for serving as a panel member for an AQHA-sanctioned Judges Conference or Educational Seminar during the calendar year
- One (1) credit for serving as an official judge for an AQHA-sanctioned Qualifying Exam during the calendar year
- One (1) credit for current-year attendance at the Color Breed Council (CBC) during the calendar year
- One (1) credit for current-year attendance at the PHBA judges seminar during the calendar year

Beginning each calendar year, all Judges begin with zero (0) points. Points will not be carried over from one year to the next.

What does it take to advance?

- To advance to AAAA:
  - must have completed two (2) years of service as an AQHA judge;
  - earned minimum of twenty-five (25) JCs; and
  - judged at least:
    - two (2) shows with a minimum of 500 entries; or
    - one (1) of the AQHA World Championship Shows.
- To advance to AAA:
  - must have completed two (2) years of service as an AQHA approved judge; and
  - earned minimum of fifteen (15) JCs.
- To advance to AA
  - Must have been granted All-Around Judge status.

Demerits

- Five (5) demerits for each meritorious complaint.
- Multiple complaints re: same conduct will be treated as one (1) complaint.
  - Example 1: Three (3) complaints regarding a Judge inaccurately deducting points in a particular class will be treated as one (1) complaint.
  - Example 2: Three (3) complaints regarding a judge inaccurately deducting points in a particular class **plus** complaint that judge acted inappropriately towards an exhibitor will be treated as two (2) complaints.

- Two (2) meritorious complaints within a 12 month period regardless of credits earned result in an automatic drop in ranking and a review by the AQHA Judges Committee. However, it is understood that, depending on the severity of the conduct in question, one (1) meritorious complaint could result in a multiple ranking drop and/or recommendation that Judge in question be removed from Judges List.

- Five (5) demerits for failure to turn in the JC Tracking Chart by December 15 of each year. Refusal to turn in the JC Tracking Chart could result in disciplinary action ranging from drop in rating, recommendation that Judge appear before appropriate Committee, and/or recommendation that Judge be removed from Judges List.

- Complaints not resolved to satisfaction of Executive Director of Judges will be forwarded to a Judges sub-committee for review to determine whether complaint is meritorious. Meritorious

complaints could result in disciplinary action ranging from demerits discussed above, drop in rating, recommendation that Judge appear before appropriate Committee, and/or recommendation that Judge be removed from Judges List.

- Judges Committee's decisions regarding demerits and/or lowering of rankings may be made with or without notice and formal hearing, subject only to ultimate review by the Executive Committee with or without notice and formal hearing.

Retention of Rating

- A judge will start each calendar year (January 1) with the rating earned as of December 31 of the previous calendar year.

- To retain a AAAA rating a Judge must, during the calendar year:
    - judge a minimum of eight (8) AQHA-approved shows (of which, no more than one is a special event) of which one (1) of the shows must either:
        - have at least 450 total entries; or
        - be an AQHA World Championship Show;
    - have at least twenty (20) total JCs (credits minus demerits).

- To retain a AAA rating a Judge must, during the calendar year:
    - judge a minimum of six (6) AQHA-approved shows (of which, no more than one is a special event); and
    - have at least ten (10) total JCs (credits minus demerits).

- To retain a AA rating a Judge must, during the calendar year:
    - judge a minimum of four (4) AQHA-approved shows (Special Events excluded).

- Leave of absence from judging will result in an automatic one (1) level drop in rating upon return, unless such Judge was a Progressive Judge or a AA Judge in which case such Judge will be ranked the same upon their return.

Tracking

- Each Judge is responsible to keep and verify accurate records of their JCs and to report in writing JCs earned to the AQHA Executive Director of Judges on an annual basis. Credits are to be recorded, by category, on the JC Tracking Chart and submitted to the AQHA Executive Director of Judges no later than December 15 of each calendar year. Furthermore, a request for a change in ranking pursuant to the JRS may be submitted to the AQHA Executive Director of Judges by submitting a JC Tracking Chart.

- AQHA staff will verify earned credits before changing the judges rating.