



TO: AHA Judges
FROM: Education and Evaluation Commission
**SUBJECT: MENTOR JUDGING PROGRAM OF THE EDUCATION/
EVALUATION COMMISSION**

INTRODUCTION

Recognizing that it is often difficult for Accredited Judges to gain experience at larger horse shows, especially those involving 200 or more horses, the AHA Education/Evaluation Commission has established a voluntary Mentor Judging program. Currently, the requirements for promotion to National/Regional status require that an Accredited Judge be a Large “R”, and have officiated at a minimum of 10 shows, one of those shows being in excess of 200 horses. It has been determined that a Judge may seek promotion if they have accomplished the 10 show minimum, and if one of those shows is not over 200 horses, an additional Mentoring Judge experience will satisfy the requirement for that aspect of the promotion. Under this plan, Accredited Arabian Judges will be allowed to work with National/Regional Judges at regional shows (including Pacific Coast Championship Show and the Buckeye Sweepstakes) to utilize their expertise, experience and knowledge in a mentoring environment. This Mentor Judge Program is designed to provide an opportunity to Accredited Judges to obtain additional insight, organizational skills, confidence and experience of working with a panel of National/Regional Judges without the responsibility of adjudicating the classes. Reports of the mentoring judges and their evaluation of the Accredited Judge will be filed with the Judges & Stewards Commissioner for inclusion the mentored judge’s file for later use by the Education/Evaluation Committee in assisting the Accredited Judge in preparing for their promotion.

In order to be promoted from Accredited to Regional/National status, a judge must have officiated at 10 AHA rated shows, and one of those shows consisting of more than 200 horses. The requirement of a 200 horse show was to insure that the applicant had been exposed to large classes and a tighter time allowance for judging. It has been determined that if the applicant has officiated 10 shows with less than 200 horses, the Mentor Judge experience will count towards the completion of the requirement for officiating at a show consisting of 200 or more horses. This will be a total of 11 shows if including the Mentor Judge experience.

The program will be completely voluntary and will not be a requirement for promotion of an Accredited Judge to the level of a National/Regional Judge. The program will be limited to one (1) mentored judge per show who will have access to the advice, counsel, and comments of the entire mentoring judging panel. The program is voluntary and it is anticipated the all of the National/Regional Judges officiating at the show will assist in the mentoring experience of the Mentored Judge. If a National/Regional judge for some reason declines the opportunity to assist a Mentored Judge, the National/Regional Judge shall advise the Judges & Stewards Commissioner of their reasons therefor no later than two (2) weeks prior to the start of the subject show.

RULES AND PROCEDURES OF MENTOR JUDGING PROGRAM

QUALIFICATION

1. To be eligible to participate in the Mentor Judging Program the Accredited Arabian Judge must have obtained a Large "R" from USEF.
2. The qualified Mentored Judge must select a Regional show (including the Pacific Coast Championship and the Buckeye Sweepstakes) outside to the region in which they reside.
3. The opportunity to participate in the program shall be limited to one (1) time only.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF MENTORED JUDGE

1. The Mentored Judge shall obtain the written consent of the Show Manager of the show at which they are seeking the mentoring experience at least forty-five (45) days prior to the start of the show.
2. Upon acceptance from the Show Manager, it will be the responsibility of the Mentored Judge to contact all of the official Judges of the show to advise them that they have been authorized to attend the show and have the mentoring experience thereat. This contact with all official judges must be completed a minimum of thirty (30) days prior to the start of the show.
3. The Mentored Judge will be personally responsible for payment of all expenses and costs incurred by them in this program including, but not limited to, airfare, ground transportation, lodging and meals. In the event that Show Management reserves lodging or other services for the Mentored Judge, it will be the obligation of the Mentored Judge to make all necessary reimbursement and settle all debts with Show Management before leaving the show.
4. The Mentored Judge shall attend all classes and sessions for the duration of the show and shall conduct themselves as if they were adjudicating the show by displaying proper ring decorum, promptness and professionalism at all times. As is required of all judges, there will be no contact with exhibitors during breaks of following completion of the sessions. Mentored Judges must remember that exhibitors will consider them as licensed officials so professionalism must be maintained at all times to insure the perception of credibility.

5. The Mentored Judge will dress in an appropriate and professional manner at all times while on the show grounds, including wearing formal attire if required by Show management.
6. The rules of USEF pertaining to conflicts of interest will apply to all Mentored Judges.
7. At the conclusion of the show, the Mentored Judge will be responsible for completing and returning to the Judges & Stewards Commissioner a “Mentored Judge” report on the designated form.

RESPONSIBILITY OF MENTORING JUDGES

1. National/Regional Judges who serve as Mentor judges assist in the education and development of the Mentored Judge by displaying proper judicial temperament and demeanor at all times.
2. In addition to setting good examples of conduct, the Mentor Judges are to explain and direct the Mentored Judge in the methodology and organizational skills relating to the placement of classes. They are to counsel, advise and critique the Mentored Judge in a positive manner with a goal of teaching them to work on a judging panel as opposed to officiating on their own.
3. The Mentoring Judges should define the responsibilities that a team of judges should define and resolve prior to the first class regarding potential problems that could arise, including how judges react to show management and personnel.
4. At the end of the show, each Mentor Judge will fully complete the “Mentor Judge” form and return it to the Judges & Stewards Commissioner. This form will contain an assessment of the Mentor Judge regarding professionalism, conduct, comfort level, the ability to establish feasible methodology/organizational skills, and the potential displayed by the Mentored Judge to work on a multi-judge panel as a “team player.”
5. The “Mentor Judge” form will be in a designated form and will be subject to the same confidentiality requirements and restrictions as are other reports to the Judges & Stewards Commissioner.