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All AHA program and event deadlines must be met as specified, whether submitted by hand delivery, postal service, fax, e-mail, internet, or other electronic means.

OFFC 101. GENERAL INFORMATION

1. AHA Judges and Stewards/TD's are required to hold an AHA individual Adult Membership (refer to MEM 105.1). Specialty Judges and Guest Judges must hold either: (BOD 10/18)
 - a. A USEF/EC Senior/Adult Membership, or
 - b. An individual AHA Membership.
2. All AHA Arabian/Half-Arabian/Anglo-Arabian Recognized Shows must use judges and stewards listed in the Directory of AHA Recognized Judges and Stewards.
 - a. The Directory of officials can be found on the [AHA website](#). (Res. 5-90, 7-90, 40-91)
 - b. **Exception:** OFFC 106 Specialty Classes that require a discipline specific judge or AHA Specialty Judge.
 - c. Multi-breed shows with AHA Recognition shall not be required to select stewards from the AHA Approved Stewards List. (Res. 40-91)
 - d. Contact the Judges and Stewards Commissioner's Office for any questions about the status of judges and/or stewards.
3. Recognized Judges may not adjudicate in back-to-back AHA Recognized shows unless they are not adjudicating the same type of classes. Class type is defined by:
 - a. Sections – Western, English/Country English, Hunter, Reining, Trail, etc.
 - b. Sex for Breeding/In-Hand – Stallion, Mare, Gelding.
For example: A judge may adjudicate Western Pleasure and Stallion Breeding at the first show and then would be changed to adjudicate English/Country English Pleasure and Mare Breeding at the second show.
 - c. Splitting of judging assignments in a back-to-back situation by AO/JO/AAO/AT/JT/AAT within a section does not fulfill this requirement. (BOD 8/16)
 - d. Exception: For Specialty Judges refer to OFFC 106. (BOD 8/18)
4. All AHA Judges, Specialty Judges, Guest Judges and Stewards/TD's are held to the Rules of Conduct found in ETHICS 104. If for any reason a judge or steward is removed from the AHA Recognized Judges and Stewards List, they will be permitted to fulfill their assignments for those shows for which a contract has been signed. (BOD 11/17)
5. The Judges & Stewards Commissioner is empowered to take action which the Commissioner deems appropriate in any matter in which the Commissioner considers, in their sole opinion, that failure to act in a timely manner will result in immediate and irreparable harm to the public or exhibitor's confidence in the conduct of the Judges or Stewards of any AHA approved competition. (Res. 5-90) (Res. 35-08)
6. The Judges and Stewards Commissioner is empowered to
 - a. Issue a warning.
 - b. Require more education.
 - c. Suspend or remove a judge or steward from the AHA Approved Judges & Stewards List, as appropriate.
 - d. Monitor activities of a judge or steward outside of officiating when such activities reflect negatively on AHA judges and stewards. (Res. 3-24)
 - e. Said action subject to a de novo review by the Education and Evaluation Commission (EEC), if so, requested by the judge or steward, and such review shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the entire EEC to overturn the actions of the Commissioner. (Res. 35-08)

- f. Levy fines (\$100 per offense) ranging from \$100 for the first offense, to \$300 for a third offense within a 36-month period, payable to the Judges and Stewards Commissioner's Office.
7. A judge shall conduct himself/herself in a manner fitting and proper to one afforded the honor of officiating at any AHA approved or sponsored contest.
 - a. Any misconduct on the part of the judge at any AHA contest, the use of abusive language, showing favoritism to or discriminating against either an individual or a horse performing in the contest, or any other action unbecoming to one in his/her position, either on the grounds or elsewhere during the entire show will make the judge subject to review by the AHA Judges & Stewards Commissioner.
 - b. The complaint must be submitted in writing by the show management or AHA Steward or may be sent directly to the AHA Judges & Stewards Commissioner. (BOD 11/13)
 8. Each judge must sign their scorecard (Official Judges Card or score sheet) and the Show Management shall post the same (when required) in a conspicuous place immediately following each go-round and finals.
 - a. There must not be any consultation between judges until scorecards are turned in. (BOD 11/13)
 - b. Discussion is permitted when reviewing video runs in working western classes that allow or require videotaping. Judges are not required to change their scores based on the discussions.
 - c. After judge's cards are turned in, there will be no changes, except to rectify a transcription error.
 - d. Electronic signatures through a PDA or similar device used to record scores will fulfill the signature requirement.

OFFC 102. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

1. A judge may not judge their parents, children, spouse, spouse's parents, relatives of either the judge or their spouse.
2. A judge may not judge their employer or employees.
3. A judge may not judge a horse that they have owned, exhibited, trained, managed, or sold for direct or indirect remuneration within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding any AHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating either in full or in part.
4. A judge may not judge any individual rider, or horse owned by said rider, who has had training from or given training to said judge within the thirty (30) day period immediately preceding the AHA approved or sponsored event at which said judge is officiating in full or in part.
5. If such a horse, owner or rider is entered in a contest, the entry fee shall be refunded, and the entry not shown. (BOD 11/13)

OFFC 103. REGIONAL JUDGES, GENERAL INFORMATION

1. Regional Championship Shows, Pacific Slope Championships, East Coast Championships, Eastern and Western Canadian Breeders must be judged by a USEF Registered ("R") or an EC Senior ("S") Arabian judge who is on the AHA Recognized Judges List.
 - a. Judges contracted must be from the list of AHA Accredited National/Regional Judges (Res. 10-00) or
 - b. The Competition must request and receive an exception to use an AHA Accredited Judge (Res. 10-00) from the Judges and Stewards Commissioner's office. (Res. 5-90)
 - c. **Exception:** OFFC 106 Specialty Classes
2. A judge must not judge more than two Regional Championship Shows including the East Coast, Pacific Slope, Eastern and Western Canadian Breeders Shows in any one calendar year.
3. A judge must not judge contiguous Regions in any one calendar year unless the same type classes are not judged (For instance, a judge may judge Western and Stallion Breeding and In-Hand classes at one show and English and Mare Breeding and In-Hand classes at another show. (**Exception:** OFFC 103.6). (BOD 11/97)
4. In Regional Championship Working Hunter and Jumper classes, judges with at least a USEF recorded ("r") licensed in Hunters/Jumpers or EC equivalent are suggested for use at the Regional Shows. However, this is not a requirement if they are listed on the AHA Recognized Judge List. (Refer OFFC 106 Specialty Classes)

5. For Judges of Regional Championship Cutting Horse classes see OFFC 106.6.
6. There is no minimum distance of residence requirement for Regional Judges.
7. There is no restriction of the two show and contiguous Region limit on Regional "Specialty Class" judges as defined in OFFC 106.
8. For an Arabian judge who also holds one or more Specialty Cards listed in OFFC 106 and officiates only those Specialty classes at a competition, the show will not count towards the two-show or contiguous Region limit.

OFFC 103. NATIONAL JUDGES, GENERAL INFORMATION

1. All AHA National Championship Shows must be judged by USEF Registered ("R") or EC Senior ("S") judges in the Arabian Division who are on the AHA Recognized Judges List and selected by the Judges Selection Committee (Res. 15-83) (Res. 5-90)
 - a. Canada's National Arabian Championship will select their judges from the above list and are subject to OFFC 13.3.
 - b. Exceptions: discipline specific classes as listed below:

1) Working Hunter/Hunter Hack 9)	Reined Cow Horse
2) Jumper	10) Herd Work
3) Cutting	11) Trail/Trail In-Hand
4) Dressage	12) Breeding/In-Hand
5) Equitation	13) Carriage Pleasure Driving
6) Sport Horse (BOD 5/02)	14) Western Dressage
7) Reining	15) Ranch Horse Classes
8) Working Cow Horse	
2. Any judge selected as a National Championship Judge may officiate at
 - a. No more than two Regional Championship Shows that same year. A judge must not judge contiguous Regions in one calendar year. (Refer to OFFC 103)
 - b. Only one (1) AHA National Championship show in the same calendar year.
 - c. U.S. National Arabian judges are prohibited from officiating in any USEF or EC recognized Arabian class during a 30-day period prior to the date of the U.S. National Championship Show (Canada's National Arabian Championship and Youth/Mid-Summer Nationals judges are exempted from the 30-day restriction.)
 - d. Specialty Judges as defined in OFFC 106 are not held to these restrictions, nor are Arabian judges who also hold one or more of the Specialty Cards listed in OFFC 106 and officiates only those Specialty classes at a competition.
3. Hunter Seat Equitation Judges at the National Championship Show must have at least a USEF "r" or EC equivalent in Hunter Seat Equitation (**Exception:** U.S. National Championship Show). (BOD3/16)
4. In Equitation classes, the call judge selected to judge the Youth/Mid-Summer National Show, must hold both a USEF/EC Arabian large 'R' card and a USEF/EC large 'R' card in the discipline seat or an AHA Specialty card in the respective discipline seat they are to judge. (**Exception:** Hunter Seat Equitation over obstacles, Refer OFFC 106 Specialty Classes) (Res. 31-99)
5. NCHA approved judge(s) shall judge National Championship Cutting Horse classes (Youth/Mid-Summer Nationals exempt). (BOD3/16)
6. Five judges are required for the Reining Horse and Trail Horse classes at U.S. Nationals.
7. Judges must provide patterns to AHA office 90 days prior to the National Show they are adjudicating.
8. All AHA Specialty Judges are held to the same requirements as found in OFFC 101.2. (Res. 41-10)
9. Hunter/Jumper Classes. A USEF/EC judge licensed in the Hunter or Jumper divisions is required for all National shows. (Res. 27-07)

OFFC 105 SELECTION COMMITTEE

1. The Judges Selection Committee shall select an appropriate number of judges to officiate in a timely and efficient manner at the National Championship Show, giving due consideration to the various judging requirements and specific judging qualifications needed for each class.
2. The Judges Selection Committee is to select the Judges required for the National Shows from the Recognized Judges (exception: Canada's National

Arabian Championship will select their judges from the Recognized Judges). If fewer than the required number of judges are available from the AHA Accredited National/Regional Judge List, (Res. 10-00) then the Selection Committee may select from the AHA Accredited Judge List only after exhausting the list of all AHA Accredited National/Regional Judges in that order. (Res. 38-97) (Res. 10-00)

3. Members of the Judges Selection Committee may not exhibit at any function for which they select or hire Judges. (Res. 5-90)

OFFC 106. SPECIALTY CLASSES AND SPECIALTY CLASS JUDGES

1. Specialty Classes are defined as those AHA Recognized classes which do not require a judge from the AHA Recognized Judges List.
2. Dressage, Working Hunter, Jumper, Trail, and Sport Horse In-Hand classes may be run on open cards. See the USEF/EC rules.
3. AHA Specialty Judges' Cards are issued by the Judges and Stewards Commissioner in conjunction with the Education and Evaluation Commission to
 - a. Discipline judges licensed by specified organizations outside of USEF/EC.
 - b. Arabian judges who have met the requirements of an AHA Specialty Card program for a specific set of classes.
 - c. See USEF/EC Guest Judge rules.
 - d. Any guest judge card limitations in the USEF Rule Book do not pertain to Arabian Specialty carded judges. (Res. 41-10)
 - e. Judges that hold a "Specialty Card" will be held to the same requirements found in OFFC 101.2 (Res. 41-10)
4. Judges must be licensed by USEF/EC in their respective divisions to adjudicate the following specialty classes:
 - a. Dressage.
 - 1) USEF Recorded Dressage Judges ("r") (EC equivalent) may judge USDF Introductory through Second levels. (Res. 41-10)
 - 2) USEF Registered Dressage Judges ("R") (EC equivalent) may judge USDF Introductory through Fourth levels. (Res. 41-10)
 - 3) USEF Senior Dressage Judges ("S") (EC equivalent) may judge from USDF Introductory through Grand Prix levels. (Res. 41-10)
 - 4) Dressage Seat Equitation, a USEF/EC judge licensed in Dressage. (Res. 22-10)
 - b. Sport Horse Classes. A USEF/EC licensed judge in Dressage Sport Horse Breeding, Hunter Breeding, Dressage, Hunter or Jumper divisions or an Arabian judge with an AHA Sport Horse Specialty Card. (Res. 20-98) (Res. 5-22)
 - 1) The Education and Evaluation Commission together with the AHA Sport Horse Committee will determine the parameters of experience required for Sport Horse Specialty Card applicants, the content and delivery of educational sessions, all aspects of the approval process, and the ongoing evaluation of officiating experience. The J&S Commissioner will have authority to approve or disapprove a candidate. (Res. 5-22)
 - c. Western Dressage.
 - 1) USEF Recorded Western Dressage Judges ("r") (EC equivalent) may judge Introductory, Basic and First levels and rail classes.
 - 2) USEF Registered Western Dressage Judges ("R") (EC equivalent) may judge Introductory, Basic through Fourth levels and rail classes.
 - 3) An Arabian judge or Arabian Guest Carded judge, may officiate the Western Dressage Suitability, Western Dressage Hack, and Western Dressage Seat Equitation classes.
5. Judges must be one of the following: on the current AHA Recognized Judges list (r, R, N/R) or be licensed in their respective divisions or hold an AHA Specialty Judges' Card (refer to OFFC 106.3) to adjudicate the following specialty classes: (Res. 41-10)
 - a. Equitation:
 - 1) Hunter Seat Equitation Over Obstacles – 2'9" and Modified Equitation Over Obstacles – 2'3", a USEF/EC judge licensed in the Hunter Seat Division. (Refer to OFFC 103.6) (Res. 18-15)
 - 2) Hunter Seat Equitation Not to Jump, a USEF/EC judge licensed in the Hunter Seat Division (refer to OFFC 103.6)

- 3) Saddle Seat Equitation (includes UPHA classes), a USEF/EC/UPHA judge licensed in Saddle Seat (refer to COMP 508.1).
 - 4) Reining Seat Equitation, a USEF/EC licensed judge licensed in the Western and/or Reining Division or a NRHA approved judge. (BOD 8/16)
 - b. Working Hunter/Hunter Hack, a USEF/EC judge licensed in the Hunter Division.
 - c. Jumper, a USEF/EC judge licensed in the Jumper Division.
 - d. Carriage Pleasure Driving, A USEF/EC judge licensed in the Carriage Pleasure Driving Division. (BOD 11/08)
 - e. Breeding/In-Hand, a judge/breeder with experience in their respective country and on the USEF list of Approved Foreign Breeding Experts.
 - f. Cutting (also includes Ranch Cutting), an NCHA or Judges & Stewards approved judge.
6. **Cutting:** Any AHA Recognized show which offers any cutting class(es) with over \$100 in added prize money must utilize an NCHA Judge. Cutting classes with \$100 or less in added prize money may utilize a non-NCHA Judge if approved by the AHA Judges & Stewards Commissioner. Reasons for all non-NCHA Judge approvals (or non-approvals) by the Judges & Stewards Commissioner will be conveyed to the Show Management. (Res. 12-13)
 7. **Cutting:** When two or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest and one or two judges can not complete judging of the go-round, the score or scores of the remaining judge or judges who complete the go-round will be the sole basis of computing the go-round. Each judge must score each horse individually, and if any one of their scores is counted in a go-round, all of their scores must be counted except as provided herein; where five or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest, the highest and the lowest scores for each horse may be discarded and the accumulated scores of the remaining judges used to compute the go-round. This rule shall also apply to finals. (BOD 11/13)
 8. **Cutting:** When two or more individuals are judging a cutting horse contest of more than one go-round or with finals, and one or more judges become unable to continue between the go-rounds or finals, said judge or judges shall be replaced first by the alternate judge named for the contest and second by a judge acceptable to the majority of the contestants and to the show management. If the alternate judge is unavailable, the second option shall be used. (BOD 11/13)
 9. Reining, a USEF/EC judge licensed in the Reining Division or Western Division or NRHA or NRCHA licensed judge. (Res. 51-95)
 - a. Working Cow/Reined Cow/Herd Work, a USEF/EC judge licensed in the Western Division or a National Reined Cow Horse Association (NRCHA) or National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) approved judge (BOD 11/07).
 - b. Trail/ Trail In-Hand, a USEF/EC judge licensed in the Western Division.
 - c. Ranch Horse Classes, a USEF/EC judge licensed in the Western Division or an NRHA, NRCHA or licensed by a recognized Ranch Horse Association (i.e., NVRHA, RHAA, SHOT, ARHA) or judges licensed in another non-USEF breed (i.e., AQHA, APHA, Apha, etc.). (BOD 8/18)
 10. Specialty judges and Arabian judges officiating only specialty classes are exempt from OFFC 101.3 and may adjudicate at back-to-back competitions including any pre-show and Regional Championships. (BOD 8/18)