

FUNDAMENTALS OF JUDGING (For the website)

Judging competitions involving youth is an art, based on a good understanding of youth behaviour, thoughts and emotions. Judging requires keen observation, decision-making skills, sound judgement and a lot of practice. You must cast aside all prejudices and approach the task in an honest and open-minded manner.

JUDGING RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility for becoming a judge should not be taken lightly. It is a great honour to become a judge, and another to be asked to judge at a show. Judges must be diplomats, arbitrators, experts and professionals, conducting themselves with courtesy, politeness and respect at all times.

Most of all judges must be committed. We would all like to pick and choose which judging appointments we accept; however, once you have committed to become a judge, you have committed to all shows, large and small. You will be requested to nominate for appointments in order to be allocated to a particular show.

Judges are required to complete a report for each show judged. Over Judges are also required to complete a progress report so that their apprentice receives appropriate written feedback.

APPLICATION OF THESE PRINCIPLES TO ALPACA PARADER COMPETITIONS.

A judge must be impartial if hoping to have a distinguished future in the field. He/she must be totally familiar with the AAA Inc. Paraders Handbook and Showing Rules Manual. These manuals are the foundation for all shows and have been thoughtfully and carefully written.

A judge must be confident in the ring procedure. The spectators, exhibitors and stewards look to the judge as the manager of all that happens in the ring. The judge has absolute authority and control of the situation and should use that power wisely. The stewards are there to implement the authority of the Judge. Stewards should be made aware of all expectations of themselves and exhibitors whilst inside the ring. Exhibitors should have procedures thoroughly explained to them by the ring steward. A judge should be polite and precise in giving direction to stewards and exhibitors.

A judge must remember his/her responsibility and live up to the high standards expected of them. A failure to do so brings criticism, disrespect and ill repute to themselves, their fellow judges, and the industry as a whole.

SUMMARY OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD PARADERS JUDGE

A good judge will

- be able to observe positive and negative traits (in animal management and behaviour).
- be able to logically analyse, compare and rank the differences between handlers and vocalise his/her analysis in a clear and concise way.
- always be suitably attired.

ACCEPTING THE ASSIGNMENT

You will be requested to nominate for any judging appointments indicating your availability. Once invited to judge a show, you will then receive a judges show agreement, and upon receipt of this you should confirm your acceptance by completing the form and returning to:

1. The show organiser, and ...
2. The A.A.A. National office

You will, in time, receive the necessary details of the show:

- Venue
- Date

- Estimated number of entries
- Classes
- Accommodation
- Transport (if required)

You may need to negotiate with the show organisers for and any special requirements you may have, e.g. Tressle tables, additional animal pens and / or any special dietary requirements.

ATTENDING THE SHOW

Remember to

- be suitably dressed (jeans are not acceptable)
- bring current rules manual
- arrive early
- go straight to the chief steward
- avoid contact with exhibitors - you may acknowledge the youth however conversation is not allowed.
- check the ring operation

Peer Review:

Co-judging appointments may involve completing a peer review on each other. This is not to be used as a complaints medium it is for the use for education and improvement of our judges to keep us all on the same page, consistent and fair.

Parader Judging Levels:

1. Apprentice Judge - must complete 5 appoints. plus 1 over judging.
2. Accredited Judge - able to judge independently
3. Snr Accredited Judge - will judge A grade shows
ie. royals, national etc.

4. Inactive - an inactive status may be granted in extreme circumstances. 1 successful co-judge appt and review to reinstate.
5. Retired - Retired judges may be utilised for youth training events.