



JUDGES' CODE OF CONDUCT

First issued to All Members on 21 July 2005

Amended: August 2018

APPROVED BY: AAA Ltd Board

Provisions contained in this Code are in addition to those found in the AAA Showing Rules Manual 2018.

1. Judges are in a position of privilege in being entrusted with the responsibility of judging alpacas and fleeces at shows and must respect that privilege by:
 - a. Acting impartially and in a professional manner at all times;
 - b. Treating exhibitors, stewards, members of the AAA and members of the public with courtesy and respect;
 - c. Refraining from commenting on the capabilities/performance of any of their fellow judges in a negative manner, particularly during the conduct of a show and/or in the public domain;
 - d. Refraining from making inappropriate comments in public or in the public domain (whether on social media platforms or otherwise) regarding any alpacas that they have judged or expect to judge in the near future; and
 - e. Ensuring that they behave at all times in a manner that will not bring the AAA into disrepute.
2. Judges are expected to accept AAA invitations to judge unless exceptional circumstances would prevent a judge from attending a show he or she had been invited to judge. Judges should accept or decline an invitation to judge within seven days of receiving the invitation by replying to the person nominated by the AAA to handle judge allocations.
3. Judges may not use their position as a judge to benefit themselves or any business or person associated with them.
4. Where an allegation is made in writing to the Board or the Showing and Judging Committee that a Judge has breached the AAA Constitution, this Code, any provision of the AAA Showing Rules Manual 2018 or any other relevant AAA Code of Conduct (a **Conduct Breach**), a panel of three shall be formed to investigate the allegation. The panel shall comprise the Chair of the Showing and Judging Committee, a Board Member and one other member of the Showing and Judging Committee (provided that if the Chair of the Showing and Judging Committee is not an experienced judge, the additional member of the Showing and Judging Committee appointed to the Panel must be an experienced judge). The panel's investigation shall be governed by the following principles:
 - a. All panel members must disclose any professional or personal conflicts that might, or might appear to, impair their ability to consider the allegation objectively and where any two panel members believe that the objectivity of the remaining panel member is in doubt, that panel member must step down from the panel;



- b. Where the Chair of the Showing and Judging Committee steps down from the panel because his or her objectivity is in doubt, he or she will be replaced by the President or the Vice President of the AAA;
 - c. The panel must provide the judge under investigation with complete details of the allegation and must afford the judge under investigation the opportunity to respond to the allegation;
 - d. The panel may call for further evidence and may request statements from witnesses where appropriate;
 - e. The panel must determine whether the judge under investigation has committed the alleged Conduct Breach and report the outcome of their deliberations to the Board.
 - f. If the panel determines that the judge under investigation has committed the alleged Conduct Breach the panel must also make a recommendation to the Board as whether any and if so what disciplinary action should be taken against the judge.
5. Where a panel appointed under clause 4 determines that the judge under investigation has committed the alleged Conduct Breach and has recommended that disciplinary action be taken against that judge, the judge shall have the right to appeal the panel's determination to the full Board provided he or she does so within 30 days. The appeal will be heard at a Board meeting at which both the chair of the panel and the judge under investigation shall have the right to present evidence. The determination of the Board regarding the allegation shall be final.
 6. The outcome of the investigation shall be disclosed to all judges and the Showing and Judging Committee without naming the judge concerned.
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