



Sound Horses
Honest Judging
Objective Inspections
Winning Fairly

JUDGES AND JUDGING SYSTEMS

Revised March 2025

JUDGES AND JUDGING SYSTEMS

Judges at SHOW affiliated shows must be chosen from the approved judges list of SHOW. The SHOW office will furnish a list of approved and qualified judges in show packets and upon request to organizations or persons planning to conduct affiliated shows. No person shall judge at a SHOW affiliated show unless he/she holds a valid judges license.

All judges will be reviewed annually by the SHOW Judges Committee and a recommendation to the SHOW Executive Committee will be made for judges to maintain their current designation or approved for a new designation.

All judges must attend the mandatory Judges Seminars when held. If there is a year that a seminar is not held, all currently licensed judges will complete a written test with their renewal application. All SHOW licensed judges will be required to sign an Oath of Office and a Code of Ethics every year with their renewal application.

After a Judge's license has been issued to any person, and such Judge shall demonstrate a lack of competence, skill, knowledge, integrity, cooperation, or the desire to conduct himself/herself in a manner worthy of such a Judge, the license of the Judge may be suspended or revoked by SHOW. Also if a valid negative Judges Evaluation form or a written complaint is received, the SHOW Judges Committee will review the issue for validity and if deemed necessary will make a recommendation to the SHOW Executive Committee as to the best way to address the issue.

Judges holding a SHOW Judges License who have an indebtedness to a horse show or sale of required fees which are 30 days past due will result in the loss of their license for one year and the indebtedness record will be filed in the Judge's file. He/She may reapply for their reinstatement for a license the following year once the indebtedness has been paid in full.

A. LICENSING OF JUDGES AND REINSTATEMENT OF LICENSES - *A new applicant to the licensing process is someone who has never held a judge's license in any accredited HIO.*

LICENSING PROCESS FOR NEW APPLICANTS

1. To apply for a SHOW judge's license, the applicant must be 21 years of age at the time of application. No application will be considered for a Judges' license if that person has been convicted of a felony offense.
2. The applicant must contact the SHOW office for an application. This application must be complete when returned to the SHOW office and must include the required reference letters. Incomplete applications will be held for 30 days. If the missing information is not received in that time frame, the applications will be discarded and the applicant will have to begin the process over.
3. The new applicant MUST attend the SHOW Judges Seminar or watch the video from the most recent seminar and take a written test. The test and video must be conducted in the SHOW office. It will not be an open book test.
4. Once the complete application and references are received, and the written test taken, it will all be forwarded to the SHOW Judges Committee for review and a recommendation will be made to the SHOW Executive Committee as to whether or not the applicant should be

approved. If the applicant does not pass the written test, they will automatically be denied their apprentice designation. If after three (3) attempts, the applicant has still not passed the written test, they cannot reapply for a judge's license. To pass the written test, the applicant must receive a score of 85% or better.

4. a. If an applicant that has held a judge's license with another HIO contacts SHOW for a judge's license, they must apply as a new applicant and attend the SHOW Judges Seminar or watch the video from the most recent seminar and take a written closed book test that will be conducted in the SHOW office. The individual must relinquish any judges license held with any other HIO & provide written proof. Once those steps are completed, the SHOW Judges Committee will review the applicant's credentials and make a recommendation to the SHOW Executive Committee for license status & classification.
5. Upon approval by the SHOW Executive Committee, the applicant will be notified by letter from the SHOW office that they are eligible to begin their apprenticeship. They will then be required to sign an oath of office and the Code of Ethics. If an applicant is declined, they will be notified by letter from the SHOW office.
6. New applicants must have their paperwork complete and in to the SHOW office for review and approval no later than April 1st of the current year. If an applicant applies after that date with complete paperwork and is approved by the SHOW Executive Committee, they may do their apprenticeship in that year but will not be considered for a AA license until the following year.

REINSTATEMENT PROCESS FOR FORMER SHOW LICENSED JUDGES

1. If a currently licensed SHOW judge is suspended or disqualified by SHOW or suspended by the USDA, they cannot judge any future shows regardless of previous contracts until the suspension or disqualification is completed and the SHOW Judges Committee has recommended to the Executive Committee to approve the reinstatement of the license. The SHOW office will then notify the person of the decision by letter.
2. If the suspension or lapse of a SHOW judge's license is less than one year, once the reinstatement request has been received in writing by the SHOW Judges Committee and approved by the Executive Committee, the license will be reinstated with no additional requirements. The SHOW office will notify the person of the decision by letter.
3. If the suspension or lapse is over three years, the individual will have to re-apply to SHOW Judges Committee and once successfully completing the requirements in #3 (Licensing Process for New Applicants), the committee will individually evaluate each applicant and determine if they need to apprentice/guest judge approved shows or can reinstate to previous classification without further requirements. The decision of the SHOW Judges Committee will be sent to the SHOW Executive Committee for approval prior to license being issued.
4. If a suspension or lapse is over three years, upon receipt of the application to the SHOW office, the applicant must then attend the SHOW Judges Seminar or watch the video from the most recent seminar and take a written closed book test that will be conducted in the SHOW office. Once those steps are completed, the SHOW Judges Committee will review the applicant's credentials and make a recommendation to the SHOW Executive Committee for license status & classification.

A. CLASSIFICATION OF JUDGES

Judges shall be licensed or certified in seven classifications A, AA, AAA, AAAA, Pleasure, Equitation, and Versatility. A judge may apply for a license in only the Pleasure, Equitation and/or Versatility.

1. **A Designation-** This is the apprenticeship phase after a new applicant has passed all of the requirements to be considered for a SHOW judge's license. (See following section for licensing process and reinstatement process). This judge must be at least 21 years of age at time of application. The A judge must apprentice four (4) SHOW affiliated shows or performances that are pre-approved by the SHOW Judges Committee under a AAA or AAAA licensed judge. At the discretion of the SHOW Judges Committee, an apprentice may be required to apprentice more shows in order to gain additional experience and knowledge.
2. **AA Designation-** This judge may officiate in all performance and flat shod classes at any SHOW affiliated show. This is the first designation once a new applicant passes their apprentice phase. Once a judge becomes licensed as an AA judge, they must judge or co-judge one (1) SHOW affiliated show/performance every three years to qualify for renewal of their designation.
3. **AAA Designation-** This judge may judge both performance and pleasure classes. To become eligible for this designation, a judge must have held a SHOW judges license for three years (which does include their 'A' or apprentice year). They must have judged at least eight (8) shows/performances, at least one being a multi judge show, and be at least 24 years of age. Once the designation is obtained, the judge must complete all continued education and license renewal requirements to qualify for renewal of their designation.
4. **AAAA Designation** – The highest rating of a judge. This designation requires a judge to be certified and licensed in ALL divisions including the Pleasure and Equitation designations. To be eligible for this designation, a judge must have judged a minimum of twelve (12) shows/performances in his/her lifetime. Once the designation is obtained, the judge must complete all continued education and license renewal requirements to qualify for renewal of their designation.
5. **P, E, V Designations-** A judge must take additional written tests for each of these divisions (Pleasure, Equitation & Versatility) to qualify for these additional designations. The test results will be forwarded to the SHOW Judges Committee for review and a recommendation based on those results will be made to the SHOW Executive Committee for approval or denial.
6. **Elevation of Rating** - A judge who meets the qualifications listed above and wishes to elevate his/her rating from AA to AAA or AAAA must notify the SHOW office in writing. To be considered, the judge must request the elevated rating and must provide a list of the shows/performances he/she has judged. The judge must be in good standing. If a newly licensed judge has had previous judging experience or has been an active trainer, licensed with the WHTA, then upon written request by the individual to the SHOW Judges Committee, they will be reviewed for a license designation upgrade. The Judges Committee recommendation will be made to the SHOW Executive Committee for final approval.

C. RULES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A JUDGE

1. A judge is obligated to adjudicate each class in conformity with the Rules and specifications of that class as they appear in the SHOW Rule Book. He or she is expected to be proficient and to possess a thorough knowledge of the rules of SHOW.
2. All judges licensed by the SHOW HIO must conduct themselves in a manner which reflects credit upon SHOW, the horse show and the Tennessee Walking Horse and comply with the Code of Ethics set forth as an Exhibit to this Section.
3. No individual may retain their license as a SHOW judge if that individual acts in the capacity of a horse show judge, or in the capacity of a principal, officer, director, committee member, or substantially similar position for any other HIO, unless approved by the SHOW Board of Directors. This does not preclude any individual from being a Board member or Executive Committee member of the TWHBEA. Upon verifiable information to the sole satisfaction of SHOW, a judge so acting shall be immediately terminated, and there shall be no appeal. The individual may reapply for licensing four (4) years after last acting as a horse show judge or in the capacity of a principal, officer, director, committee member, or substantially similar position for any other HIO. A SHOW licensed judge may officiate at a show where there are no Walking Horses exhibited **if the show is not affiliated with a competing HIO.**
4. A judge cannot arrive on the showgrounds until one (1) hour prior to the start of the show time listed on the official class list.
5. Once a class has been judged, it shall not be re-judged, and once the Judge has marked his or her records and places for awards made, there shall be no changing of the Judge's record.
6. Failure of a Judge to attend a show to which he or she is committed to perform his or her duties and to officiate in the classes to which he or she is assigned shall constitute cause for disciplinary action, except in cases of extreme emergency.
7. A judge by accepting an invitation to officiate a show assumes responsibility to protect show management by excusing from the ring all horses suspected of being in violation of the HPA and SHOW rules.
8. An entry may, at the discretion of the Judge, be excused from the ring for any infraction of non-compliance of the HPA or SHOW Rules or for deviating from the described gaits and standards of the Tennessee Walking Horse as set forth in the Rule Book and the Standards Charts. The entry shall be eligible to show in a succeeding qualifying class if the problem can be corrected. If the show utilizes a multi judge system, to excuse a horse upon entrance of the ring requires the majority of the panel to agree on excusing the horse. Once the class is called to order, an individual judge may excuse an entry at any point during the class.
9. It is the responsibility of a Judge to report any violation to SHOW.
10. Remuneration and expenses paid to a Judge shall not affect the amateur status of the recipient as an owner or exhibitor.

D. ETHICS & RULES FOR JUDGES, OWNERS, EXHIBITORS & TRAINERS

1. As owners, exhibitors, trainers, judges and other show officials you are expected to have knowledge of and compliance with the rules stated in this Rule Book.
2. Prior to the start of a show, no horse entered in a show shall be discussed or inspected by the judge unless requested by show management. An exhibitor, owner or trainer may make a request for the judge's opinion and reasons concerning the exhibitor's horse. The request must be made at the conclusion of the show to horse show management. It is urged that the judge will give his/her reasons for placing the horse/class courteously and sincerely in the presence of show management and in a private setting.
3. No one that has an interest in any horse expected to be shown should contact a judge regarding the show they have been selected to officiate. All contacts made in violation hereof shall be reported immediately to SHOW by the judge. It is the duty of the judge to report any phone call or contact, in any manner, from trainers, exhibitors, owners or others that in any way could be considered an attempt to influence the judge in their duties to SHOW.
4. A judge cannot act in the capacity of an exhibitor or manager at any show in which they are officiating. Exhibitors, owners or trainers cannot have horses entered in the show if they are acting in the capacity of a show official or manager.
5. A horse cannot be entered in a show that is owned, co-owned or leased by the judge officiating the show.
6. A horse cannot be entered in a show that is owned, co-owned, leased or exhibited by the immediate family of the judge officiating the show. (See definition of Immediate Family in the Rule Book Divisions and Class Rules and Requirements Section 2. Definitions, Letter J)
7. A horse cannot be entered in a show where either the judge, exhibitor, owner, or trainer is employed by the other party. If employment ceases, a thirty (30) day waiting period applies before a horse owned by any of the parties can show in front of the parties involved.
8. A horse cannot be entered in a show that is being trained or boarded by the judge officiating the show. However, stud fees and care and associated mare care are excluded from this rule.
 - a. If an owner has horses in training with multiple trainers and one of those trainers is officiating a show, then none of the horses owned by that owner can show under that judge.
9. There is a waiting period of thirty (30) days before a horse can be shown in front of a judge if that judge has boarded, trained, owned, shown, sold, acted as the agent in the sale or received commission on the horse.

10. A judge shall not be a house guest of an owner, trainer, or exhibitor that is competing in the horse show that the judge is officiating.
11. Regarding Equitation classes, a judge shall not judge an exhibitor if they have received any form of remuneration within a period of thirty (30) days prior to the show they are officiating in connection with the sale, lease, boarding, or training of a horse from the exhibitor or their immediate family. Nor can they judge an exhibitor that they have instructed, coached, or tutored, regardless of remuneration within thirty (30) days prior to the show they are officiating. However, conducting clinics or seminars is not considered to be instructing, coaching, or tutoring unless individual instruction is given.
12. The individual member(s) acting on behalf of a member organization who directly contacts the judge(s) for the purpose of employing said judge(s) for that show shall not show or have their horses shown before that judge in that show for which the judge(s) was employed.
13. An exhibitor, owner, or trainer shall not exhibit intentional conduct at an equine event that could adversely affect the exhibition or ride of any other exhibitor's horse at the event. This could include, but is not limited to, ring conduct such as riding up closely behind another horse, with the intention of distracting behavior to scare a horse, striking another horse or exhibitor with a crop or verbally making unsportsmanlike comments to another exhibitor, trainer, judge or show official.
14. Talking to or criticizing a judge at a SHOW affiliated show is a violation and the judge(s) or any other show official(s) that are witness to such incident must report the violation to SHOW. The judge(s) or other show official(s) has no choice except to report the violation. A SHOW approved judge shall be treated with courtesy, cooperation, and respect. No person, exhibitor, owner, trainer, spectator, or otherwise, shall direct abuse or threatening conduct toward the judge, either in the furtherance of their judging duties or as a result thereof, whether or not the conduct occurs during an approved event or show or on the showgrounds.

E. GENERAL JUDGING PROCEDURE

1. All horses shall enter the ring at a Flat Walk or Pleasure Gait in the case of All Day Pleasure, shall go to the right (counter clockwise) and MUST PROCEED AT A FLATWALK (or Pleasure Gait) down the straightaway to the beginning of the first curve before going at ease to allow the remaining horses to enter the ring. This allows the Judge(s) to observe each horse's way of going upon entering the ring and alleviates horses bunching up and crowding right inside the entrance gate. Once the entry has reached the end of the first straightaway, they may go at ease or continue to dog walk (trail walk) in a counterclockwise direction on around to the other side of the ring at their discretion but the entry cannot go past the entry gate until the class is called to order. An entry cannot stop just inside the entrance gate and turn left (double back) and dog walk to the

other side of the entrance gate. IF AN ENTRY DOUBLES BACK, THE ENTRY WILL BE EXCUSED IMMEDIATELY.

If an entry enters the ring after the gate is closed and the class has been called to order, the entry must be excused immediately. Judging of a class begins when the class is called to order and put on the rail at the close of the gate. Judging of the performance of the horse ceases when they are called to the lineup but manners on pleasure horses and other issues judged in the lineup continue until the Judge turns in his/her card. The Judge is responsible for making calls regarding issues such as unruly horses and unacceptable image at any time the horse is in the ring. As the horses enter the ring and at any time during the class, the Judge must observe their way of going, and if he/she finds that an entry is not in compliance as set forth in the rules and standards, the entry must be excused immediately.

2. The Judge shall then call for the gaits in the following order: Flat Walk, Running Walk, Flat Walk, Canter (if applicable to the class), Flat Walk. When horses are reversed, the order shall be the same. A second Running Walk may be called for the last way of the ring as the last gait at the Judge's discretion. *See Gaits of the All Day Pleasure Division.
3. Horses shall be worked both ways of the ring at all required gaits sufficiently for all horses to have performed before each officiating Judge. Horses MUST perform all required gaits both ways of the ring. A horse that has not performed all required gaits shall not be placed over a horse that has performed all gaits. This shall include placing a horse that refuses to back in the lineup over a horse that does back.
4. Horse show or horse exhibition workouts or performances of Two Year Old Tennessee Walking and Racking Horses and working exhibitions of Two Year Old Tennessee Walking and Racking Horses (horses eligible to be shown or exhibited in Two Year Old classes) at horse sales or horse auctions that exceed a total of ten (10) minutes continuous workout or performance without a minimum five (5) minute rest period between the first such ten (10) minute period and the second such ten (10) minute period and more than two such ten (10) minute periods per performance, class, or workouts are prohibited.
5. After the preliminary work of a class, all horses shall be lined up and inspected by the Judge(s), unless a qualified Ringmaster or a qualified Show Official is present. In a class where a workout is held, the lineup does not have to be walked by the Judge(s), qualified Ringmaster, or qualified Show Official until the final lineup. The Judge makes the final decision on possible rule violations as to whether to excuse a horse or permit it to remain in the class. Action devices which clearly show the condition of the pastern area need not be removed unless requested by the Judge(s). If the Judge(s) finds that an entry does not conform with the rules, the entry must be excused immediately.
6. One attendant may be allowed in the show ring during the lineup in Amateur and Youth exhibitor classes only for the purpose of aiding, assisting, and encouraging the exhibitor. The attendant may not touch the horse below the knees, unless directed to do so by the Judge. SHOW strongly recommends that an attendant come into the show ring during the lineup in all Youth 11 and under classes.
7. In Championship classes, horses may be stripped for conformation at the discretion of the Judge or Show Management. Grooms will not touch the horse or tack below the knees unless directed to do so by the Judge. Maximum of two grooms will be allowed into the ring.
8. There shall be no changing or touching of the action devices after the entry has entered the show ring, except in the event of breakage or loss of the action device and then only the broken or lost action device may be replaced. If the action device that is not broken or lost is touched, the entry MUST be excused from the class immediately.

9. Other than an exhibitor's back number, no equipment shall be handed to an exhibitor across the rail once the entry enters the show ring. Violation of this rule results in immediate disqualification from the class.
10. Minor adjustments to bridles or curb chains which can be made by an exhibitor without dismounting, when horses are being reversed in the ring shall be allowed. However, no assistance in accomplishing this is permitted. Physical assistance across the rail (touching the horse) is not permitted. Violation of this rule results in immediate disqualification from the class.
11. Time outs interrupt a show; therefore unauthorized time outs will not be permitted.
 - a. An exhibitor desiring a time out will ride to the center of the ring, remain mounted and request a time out from the Judge. The judge will ascertain the reason for the time out and either grant or deny the request.
 - b. After an exhibitor pulls into center ring, he/she should obtain a time out before dismounting. The entrance of a trainer or an assistant into the show ring before a time out is granted may require the Judge to excuse the entry. Judges should use their discretion in this matter. If the horse or rider is in danger, this rule may be waived.
 - c. If the Judge grants a time out, horses on the rail will go at ease. A groom or farrier will be ordered into the ring as required for the entry in need of assistance. The exhibitor may then dismount. Exhibitors granted a time out may not make adjustments to any equipment other than that for which a time out is authorized except for such adjustments as they could make while mounted.
 - d. Exhibitors at ease on the rail during the time out may make such adjustments as they can make while mounted, but assistance over the rail is not permitted. Physical assistance (touching the horse) is not permitted and will result in the entry being excused.
 - e. If the Judge finds the reason for the time out not valid, he/she must order the entry back to the rail immediately.
 - f. Time outs may be granted by the Judge for replacement of shoes, replacement of broken equipment, or in other instances where the Judge finds reason. In any division, a shoe thrown in the ring must be presented immediately to a DQP for inspection. The DQP will determine if the shoe is in violation. Loss of lead weight attached to the bottom of pads shall not be considered breakage of equipment. However, time outs for adjustments of equipment, such as curb chains, bridles and action devices are not allowed. Exception: Horse or rider in immediate danger. (Example: If a cavesson is too tight, cutting off the horse's air, a time out may be granted).
 - g. A total of ten (10) minutes in aggregate shall be allowed for each entry for authorized time outs, but no more than two time outs per class.
 - h. All time outs will begin when justifiable reasons are acknowledged, except for the replacement of shoes, in which event the time out shall begin the moment the farrier lifts up the horse's foot. Time will be allowed prior to the beginning of a time out for locating the thrown shoe.
 - i. In the event a horse throws a shoe in the warm up area after being inspected by the DQP, the entry may choose to have the shoe replaced by the show farrier after the entry enters the ring to show. The entry will be charged with a time out, with normal time out rules prevailing.
12. All horses chosen for a workout must be worked both ways of the ring at each gait asked for by the Judge. A Judge shall not place any entry in a workout unless the entry has performed all required gaits both directions of the ring in the initial performance. Horses not making the good workout initially do not have to be worked both ways of the ring. Any Judge ignoring this rule

shall have subjected himself/herself to disciplinary action by SHOW. Workouts will be judged as a separate class. Exception: Pattern work in Equitation classes.

13. Falls of the horse and falls of the rider:

- a. An exhibitor is considered to have fallen when he or she is separated from a horse that has not fallen in such a way as to necessitate remounting into the saddle. This does not disqualify the entry.
- b. A horse is considered to have fallen when the shoulder and haunch on the same side have touched the ground. The fall of a horse shall disqualify the entry except when the fall is a result of contact interference from another horse or rider. In that situation, the rider and horse at fault will be excused.

14. Horses being unruly, rearing, balking, running off or leaving the ring must be excused.

15. Disqualification Cards (DQ Cards) must be filled out by the Judge when excusing an entry from the class for the following reasons:

- a. Unacceptable
- b. Prohibited Equipment
- c. Unacceptable leaving the line up
- d. Unruly
- e. Any rule violation that constitutes an entry to be excused

The Judge may also use the DQ Card for reasons to send the horse back to the DQP, but not disqualify the entry. (Example: Action device appears to be too heavy or horse is unacceptable coming out of line up).

If for any reason a horse is excused from the ring by a Judge, a DQ card must be filled out with the class number, back number and reason for disqualification and signed by the Judge. These are triplicate copy forms. One will be sent with the entry when disqualified, one will be sent back to SHOW with the Judge's cards and one will be retained by the Judge for their records.

If a horse is disqualified by the Judge during the class for being unacceptable, the entry should be directed to pull into center ring and wait until the Judge directs the entry to leave. This will prevent disruption of the class.

See Divisions Standards Charts:

English vs Western Silhouettes



Flat Shod Standards Chart

| Flat Walk/ Running Walk | Ideal | Faults | Unacceptable/Elimination |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | | |
| Flat Walk/ Running Walk | *Distinct level 4-beat gait | *Pacing, trotting, racking or any other variation in gait | *Excessively abnormal gait |
| | *Long ground covering stride with ample overstride | *Unlevel with either the front or hind legs | *Refusal to go forward |
| | *Smooth and fluid motion | *Cramped or artificial and labored gait | *Unruly/Rears |
| | *Up & down headshake originating from the shoulders in rhythm with footfall | *Stumbling | *Loss of control by the rider/ runs off |
| | *Clear distinction in change of gait from Flat Walk to Running Walk | *Side to side headshake | *Lameness |
| | *Quiet and mannerly | *Lack of headshake | *Fall of horse; ref Rule 13B |
| | *Riding on a lighter rein | *Bumping/Pumping/See-sawing of the horses mouth | |
| | *Balanced | *Excessively tight rein | |
| | *Horse and rider well suited | *Gaping mouth or fighting the bit | |
| | *Horse should be bright and looking forward through the bridle | *Any bouncing, swaying or undulating motion by the rider | |
| Canter | | *Break of gait | |
| | | *Pinning ears/Tail Wringing | |
| | *Correct leads | | |
| | *Distinct 3-beat gait | *Cantering on the incorrect lead | |
| | *Driving deep with the hock while lifting through the shoulder | *Cross-cantering | |
| | *Relaxed while performing the canter | *Refusal to canter | |
| Back | *Smooth transition into the canter | *Excessive speed | |
| | | *Bumping or pumping of the reins | |
| | *Bucks readily 2-3 steps minimum | | |
| | *Quiet | *Refuses to back | |
| | *Mannerly | *Refuses to stand quietly | |
| | *Yields to the riders cue | *Bucks with resistance to rider | |

This horse must exhibit a strong and pronounced four beat gait with long stride, pronounced lift and reach and a cadenced head shake. This horse should not appear artificial, labored or cramped in its way of going.

Horses exhibiting Standard characteristics are desirable choices for a Judge's card. Horses exhibiting the Non-Standard characteristics should not be placed over horses that exhibit the Standard gaits and characteristics. Horses that exhibit Unacceptable gaits or characteristics MUST be excused.

Please review your SHOW Rulebook for specific class and division rules.

Fine Harness Standards Chart

| | Standard | Non-Standard | Unacceptable/Elimination |
|--------------|---|--|---|
| Flat Walk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Four Beat Gait * Level with front & hind legs * Overstride/Long stride | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Crampy, artificial, labored way of going | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stumbles/spins action device more than once * Lameness or abnormal gait/Excessive unlevel or hopping gait |
| Running Walk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Smooth, fluid, rhythmic motion * Smooth, arching, breaking & Reaching with front legs * Rhythmic head shake * High headed * Ears alert & interested * Balanced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Unlevel on either end/Skipping or hitching behind * Stumbles/spins action device * Hanging behind action device * Pacing, trotting or racking * Not performing proper gaits or or breaking gait * Flipping/crossing/winging of front Feet * Reluctance to move forward * No head shake/Head dipping or Uneven head shake * Fighting bit * Excessive Speed | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Overloaded or laboring excessively/too heavy or square * Rocks back repeatedly * Rears/refuses to go * Unruly or runs off * Horse falls of own accord |
| Line Up | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Proper attire * Immaculately turned out horse, Harness & cart * Proper equipment-including snaffle, Kimberwick or liverpool bit, not to Exceed 4 1/2" * Braced tail | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Poor turnout | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Prohibited equipment * Low chain |

Talent should be rewarded in the Tennessee Walking Fine Harness Show Horse. This horse must exhibit a strong and pronounced four beat gait with long stride, pronounced lift and reach and head shake. The Fine Harness horse should not appear artificial, labored or cramped in its way of going.

Horses exhibiting Standard characteristics are desirable choices for a Judge's card. Horses exhibiting the Non-Standard characteristics should not be placed over horses that exhibit the Standard gaits and characteristics. Horses that exhibit Unacceptable gaits or characteristics MUST be excused.

Please review your SHOW Rulebook for specific class and division rules.

Performance Standards Chart (Including Show Pleasure & Park Performance)

| | <u>Standard</u> | <u>Non-Standard</u> | <u>Unacceptable/Elimination</u> |
|---------------------|---|--|---|
| Flat Walk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Four Beat Gait * Level with front & hind legs * Overstride/long stride | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Crampy, artificial, labored way of going | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Stumbles/spins action device more than once * Lameness or abnormal gait/Excessive unlevel or hopping gait |
| Running Walk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Smooth, fluid, rhythmic motion * Smooth, arching, breaking & Reaching with front legs * Rhythmic head shake * High headed * Ears alert & interested * Balanced | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Unlevel on either end/Skipping or hitching behind * Stumbles/spins action device * Hanging behind action device * Pacing, trotting or racking * Not performing proper gaits or or breaking gait * Flipping/crossing/winging of front Feet * Reluctance to move forward * No head shake/Head dipping or Uneven head shake * Fighting bit * Excessive Speed * Wringing tail continuously in Park Performance & Show Pleasure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Overloaded or laboring excessively/too heavy or square * Rocks back repeatedly * Rears/refuses to go * Unruly or runs off * Horse falls of own accord |
| Canter | Correct leads | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Incorrect canter lead/refusal to canter/ Cross cantering | |
| Line Up | * Stands quietly | * Spur marks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Prohibited equipment-no cross chain Cavesons in Park Performance & Show Pleasure * Low chain |

Talent should be rewarded in the Tennessee Walking Performance Show Horse. This horse must exhibit a strong and pronounced four beat gait with a long stride, pronounced lift and reach and a cadenced head shake. This horse should not appear artificial, labored or cramped in its way of going.

Horses exhibiting Standard characteristics are desirable choices for a Judge's card. Horses exhibiting the Non-Standard characteristics should not be placed over horses that exhibit the Standard gaits and characteristics. Horses that exhibit Unacceptable gaits or characteristics MUST be excused.

Please review your SHOW Rulebook for specific class and division rules.

F. VIOLATIONS, PENALTIES, FINES AND SUSPENSIONS

A violation is any act committed by a Judge prejudicial to the best interest of SHOW, including but not limited to:

- a. Any violation of the SHOW Judges Code of Ethics
- b. Any failure to apply the standard and non-standard guidelines while judging a SHOW affiliated event
- c. Any failure to excuse a non-compliant or unacceptable horse
- d. Any violation of the rules of SHOW

Penalties, Fines and Suspensions

All violations shall carry the fines and suspensions as found in the Penalty Matrix below. Any violation not described in this rulebook or not having an assigned penalty in the Penalty Matrix or as modified from time to time by SHOW shall be penalized at the discretion of the SHOW Executive Committee in accordance with the procedures set forth herein, by a fine of not less than \$100 and/or a suspension of not less than one day up to life. SHOW may publish a new judges Penalty Matrix at any time so long as it gives the public notice of the same and five (5) days advance notice.

- e. Any notice, document, instrument, or other paper required to be served on any person, unless otherwise specifically provided, shall be served upon such person by certified United States mail addressed to the last known post office address of such person.
- f. Suspension notices will be issued within ten (10) days of the show where the violation occurred or of the knowledge of when the violation occurred, by sending the notice to the Judge at his/her last known post office address, via certified and regular mail.
- g. All suspensions shall begin twenty (20) days from the date of the suspension notice unless appealed, and once deposited in the United States mail it shall be considered delivered and served. That decision shall be final unless appealed. The appeal must be filed within twenty (20) days of the date of service of the original suspension notice. Any appeal shall follow the process set forth in Section VII B 6. Initiation of Third Party Complaint Disciplinary Proceedings-non DQP ticket of the HPA Compliance Section.
- h. SHOW reserves the right to immediately suspend a Judge for any offense identified above or for any other offense that it deems detrimental, improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of SHOW or the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

JUDGES PENALTY MATRIX

Standard vs Non Standard Violation:

First Offense:

Letter of warning and up to a three month suspension of license

Fine between \$0-\$500

Second Offense:

Letter of warning and minimum three month suspension up to a maximum six month suspension of license

Fine between \$0-\$1,000

Any Additional Violation:

Minimum of six months suspension up to maximum one year suspension of license

Fine between \$0-\$1,500

Non-Compliant Violation:

First Offense:

Letter of Warning and minimum of three months suspension up to a maximum one year suspension of license

Fine between \$0-\$1,000

Second Offense:

Minimum one year suspension up to a maximum of two year suspension of license

Fine between \$0-\$2,500

Any additional violation:

Revocation of license

Code of Ethics Violation:

To be reviewed by the SHOW Judges Committee with a final determination by the SHOW Executive Committee, depending on the type of violation, the egregious nature of the violation, any extenuating circumstances and shall be subject to a suspension and penalty up to and including a lifetime suspension and a fine up to \$5,000.

SHOW Rules Violation:

Suspension and fine to be reviewed by the SHOW Judges Committee with a final determination by the SHOW Executive Committee

SHOW may suspend immediately any Judge for any offense identified above or for any other offense that it deems detrimental, improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of SHOW or the Tennessee Walking Horse industry.

SHOW HIO JUDGES CODE OF ETHICS

As a condition precedent to my appointment, or to my renewal, as a SHOW Licensed Horse Show Judge, I, the undersigned, do hereby swear, affirm and agree to;

1. Abide by the provisions of the "Horse Protection Act" ("HPA") and the current Rules and Regulations of SHOW;
2. Judge each horse or exhibitor fairly, without bias, without prejudice, without influence and based solely upon the performance before the Judge, to the best of my ability;
3. Excuse any horse from the show ring if that horse, its trainer, its exhibitor, its owner, or its groom is in violation of any provision of the Horse Protection Act, any Rule or Regulation of SHOW, or any other rule or regulation having the force and effect of law;
4. At all times demonstrate the integrity, professionalism, competence, and skill necessary to be a SHOW Licensed Judge and to deport myself accordingly;
5. At all times, whether actively judging or otherwise, treat other judges, exhibitors, owners and/or trainers with courtesy and respect and refrain from directing any abuse or threatening conduct toward them;
6. At all times, whether actively judging or otherwise, to conduct myself in a manner which reflects credit upon the Tennessee Walking Horse, the Tennessee Walking Horse Industry, and SHOW and not in a manner deemed improper, unethical, dishonest, unsportsmanlike or intemperate, or prejudicial to the best interest of SHOW;
7. To cooperate fully and truthfully with SHOW in regard to any questions pertaining to a horse show at which I judge, including submission to a polygraph examination by an examiner chosen by SHOW;
8. To not accept any sort of remuneration, consideration, or anything of value that constitutes a bribe in the furtherance of judging duties, to promptly report to SHOW any attempt by third parties to bribe me or otherwise influence me in the furtherance of my judging services, and to report any information regarding bribes or illegal persuasion of judges, whether directed toward myself or other judges. To report any phone call or contact, in any manner, from trainers, exhibitors, owners or others that in any way could be considered an attempt to influence me in the furtherance of my judging duties;
9. I agree to remain current and pay all amounts due to any horse show, sale or SHOW for any indebtedness which are 30 days past due, and be bound by and agree to all Rules of SHOW.
10. I agree that I will not judge more than 4 horse shows in any given year without obtaining the permission of SHOW.

G. JUDGING SYSTEMS

Olympic High-Low Judging System:

With this system, five judges work independently of each other will place each class. Judge Number One will be the Call Judge. Points will be assigned to the placings on a one to ten basis with first place receiving ten points, second place receiving nine points, third place receiving eight points, and so forth on down to one point for tenth place. The highest placing and the lowest placing are eliminated for each entry. The remaining three placings are totaled and the entry receiving the most points wins the class. In case of a tie, then all five placings are added up. If still tied, then the First Judge or Call Judge's card will break the tie. If a horse receives four or less placings, only the top score is eliminated.

MAJORITY OPINION THREE JUDGE SCORING SYSTEM (M-O-S)

Under the Majority Opinion System (M-O-S), all three judges carry equal weight in the final class decision, and winners are placed by the best two out of three votes. Each horse is judged as if it were working individually and then compared with the performance of all other horses in the class who are judged on the same basis.

All judges place the same number of entries in each class, depending on class size. Ties are resolved by averaging the opinions of the three judges.

PRE-SHOW

Before the horse show begins, show management should meet with the Judges, Ringmasters, Announcer and Scorer to discuss the system.

- *The Show Manager should instruct the Judges, Ringmasters and Announcer on workout procedures before the show.
- *The Judges must work independently and should tie a maximum of three additional places. They should rotate and vary their judging positions in the ring.
- *The Ringmasters must verify the proper number of placings on each judge's card. In the event of a workout, he should make certain all judges know what horses are working and for which positions.
- *The Announcer must call for horses in a work out in numerical order.
- *The Scorer must understand the scoring system as outlined in the following Supplement and be able to work quickly and accurately.

JUDGING

Judges must work independently, with no discussion of any kind until the winners are announced. They should vary their judging positions and rotate around the ring for each class. Horses are worked under the directions of the Call Judge until the judges are satisfied that proper placement can be made.

ROTATION

Mark the judges' cards ahead of time with the rotation and indicate who will be the Call Judge and the Second and Third Judges for each class. No referee is required since all ties are broken by a two-thirds majority vote.

PLACINGS

It is recommended that three additional placings be marked on each card if the number of entries warrants it. The Ringmaster should return an incompletely tied card to the judge for correction before giving it the Scorer.

WORKOUTS

Any judge may request a workout in any class by communicating through the Ringmaster. The judge making the request must state what horses he wants called and what positions they are to be worked for. The Ringmaster relates this to the other judges one at a time. A workout requires agreement by two of the three, or the class must be tied without a workout.

If a workout is agreed upon, the Ringmaster must ask the other Judges if they wish to add other horses to those being sent to the rail. The Ringmaster must be sure that all judges know what horses are working for what position.

In order to be included in a workout, an entry must appear on two judges' cards. If an entry does not receive two votes for inclusion in the workout, that entry does not return to the rail. If no entries receive two workout votes, there is no workout and the class is tied.

The Ringmaster must inform the Announcer of the workout request. Whenever horses are being called for a workout, the Announcer must call for them in numerical order.

AUTOMATIC WORKOUTS (Identical 3 Way Tie for First Place)

When a three way identical tie occurs for first place, a workout is mandatory.

If the tie is still identical after the workout, the class will be tied by the fall of the cards (see scoring supplement).

At no time will horses ever be asked, or required, to perform more than one workout per class. (Exception: Equitation).

When the identical three way tie is for second place or lower, the class is determined by the fall of the cards.

SCORING

The Scorer works with the three judges' cards in each class. Final results and placements are based on how the judges' place competitor's numbers on these cards. When a computer program is used for scoring the M-O-S , it includes the information contained in the Position Chart used in breaking ties. The computer program allows for the possibilities of two way and three way similar and identical ties, as well as adding safeguards against human error in the data input.

SCORING SUPPLEMENT

After the Judges turn in their cards, the Ringmaster checks each card for accuracy and that the correct number of places is tied. The Ringmaster then hands the cards to the Scorer to determine the best two out of three votes for each placing. The cards are handled as follows:

- *Line the cards up evenly. Card arrangement does not affect the results, but it is suggested that they be aligned in order (Call Judge, Second Judge, Third Judge).
- *Read the votes from left to right (→) and from the top line down (↓). Mark all the votes for one number at the same time.
- *Each number should be marked with a check (✓) for the first time it appears, circled (O) the second time it appears and exed out (X) the third time it appears. Acknowledging votes in this manner ensures that each vote for every horse has been considered in the final tabulation.
- *Go back to the top and mark the next number. Repeat until all entry numbers have been acknowledged.
- *Whenever a circle appears, the entry has already received two votes. If a number is marked on only two of the three cards, the third (or low vote) is recorded as an X.

After marking all votes, the first place horse will have its number circled highest on the three judges' cards and all places will follow as the circles fall from high to low. The first place entry number does not have to be circled on line one. Also, two or more numbers may be circled on the same line. For further explanation of those situations, see Similar and Identical Ties.

In the following example, after all votes are acknowledged, the entries are placed simply by seeing where the circles appear.

| | A | B | C | Final | Vote Count |
|----|------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| 1. | 812✓ | 240✓ | (240) | 240 | 1-1-2 |
| 2. | 240X | (812) | 812X | 812 | 1-2-2 |
| 3. | 706✓ | (706) | 259✓ | 706 | 3-3-4 |
| 4. | 321✓ | (259) | 706X | 259 | 3-4-5 |
| 5. | 259X | (321) | 321X | 321 | 4-5-5 |
| 6. | 290✓ | (290) | 290X | 290 | 6-6-6 |

NOTE: It is possible for a horse to win without having a first place vote. This rare situation only occurs when there is significant variation in the judges' opinions.

SIMILAR TIES

Circles can and will appear on the same line. When this occurs, a vote count is necessary – a tally of votes from the highest to lowest. Resolve ties immediately, rather than waiting until all numbers have been acknowledged. Refer to the Position Chart to **determine** the best vote count.

The Position Chart is read from left to right (→), and from the top line down (↓), as are the judges' cards. Since middle votes are always identical in these cases, they are ignored. Compare high and low combinations.

TWO WAY SIMILAR TIE

| | A | B | C | Final | Vote Count |
|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| 1. | 440 ✓ | (440) | 440 X | 440 | 1-1-1 |
| 2. | 213 ✓ | 352 ✓ | (352) | 352 | 2-2-3 |
| 3. | 352 X | (213) | 236 ✓ | 213 | 2-3-6 |
| 4. | (236) | 245 ✓ | 561 ✓ | 236 | 3-4-5 |
| 5. | (561) | 236 X | (245) | 245 | (4-5-6) |
| 6. | 245 X | 699 ✓ | 213 X | 561 | (4-5-7) |
| 7. | (699) | 561 X | 699 X | 699 | 6-7-7 |

If a number is marked on only two of the three cards, the third (or low vote) is recorded as an X (i.e. 3-5-X). If the tie is a (4-5-6), (3-5-X) and a (4-5-X), locate the (4-6), (3-X) and (4-X) on the Position Chart. (4-6) is best, then (3-X), then (4-X).

THREE WAY SIMILAR TIE

| | A | B | C | Final | Vote Count |
|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| 1. | 9 ✓ | 289 ✓ | (289) | 289 | 1-1-3 |
| 2. | 412 ✓ | 290 ✓ | (412) | 412 | 2-2-5 |
| 3. | 289 X | 349 ✓ | 410 ✓ | 9 | (1-4-5) |
| 4. | (410) | (9) | (349) | 349 | (3-4-5) |
| 5. | 349 X | 412 X | 9 X | 410 | (3-4-6) |
| 6. | 176 ✓ | 410 X | (290) | 290 | 2-6-7 |
| 7. | 290 X | 296 ✓ | 306 | 296 | 7-8-X |
| 8. | 486 | 61 | (296) | ---- | ---- |

IDENTICAL TIES

There are also two-way identical ties, an example of which follows:

TWO WAY IDENTICAL TIE

| | A | B | C | Final | Vote Count |
|----|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|
| 1. | 510 ✓ | (510) | 510 X | 510 | 1-1-1 |
| 2. | 517 ✓ | (517) | 823 ✓ | 517 | 2-2-3 |
| 3. | 281 ✓ | 637 ✓ | 517 X | 637 | (3-4-5) |
| 4. | 225 ✓ | (281) | (637) | 281 | (3-4-5) |
| 5. | 637 X | (225) | 281 X | 225 | 4-5-6 |
| 6. | (823) | 823 X | 225 X | 823 | 2-6-6 |

When a vote count reveals that the horses received identical votes from the Judges, it is still possible to determine a two-thirds majority. In this case, Judge A placed 281 over 637, but Judges B and C placed 637 higher than 281. Since two out of three judges placed 637 over 281 then 637 must be placed over 281.

THREE WAY IDENTICAL TIE

When three numbers are circled on the same line and their vote counts are identical, it is an extremely rare three way identical tie. It is resolved by the "Fall of the Cards" unless it involves first place. In that instance, there is an automatic workout. (See section under Automatic Workouts).

| A | B | C | Vote Count | |
|-------|-------|-------|------------|------------------------|
| 101 ✓ | 102 ✓ | 103 ✓ | 1-2-3 | Use this line to score |
| 102 | 103 | 101 | 1-2-3 | |
| 103 X | 101 X | 102 X | 1-2-3 | |

The number that is positioned first (not the circled line) on the Call Judge's card will be the winner (101). The second (102) and third (103) places are then determined by the Judge's choices as their cards are placed in sequence.

In the example shown above, if B was the Call Judge, then 102 would be first, C's choice of 103 would be second and A's choice of 101 would be third. If C were the Call Judge, then 103 would be first, 101 would be second and 102 third.

BASIC RULES

Acknowledge Votes on judges' cards one number at a time with a check, circle, X.

Final Votes after resolving ties, by placing circled numbers 1st, 2nd, 3rd, etc. as read from highest to lowest position on the judges' cards.

Similar Tie – Two or three circles, same line, vote counts different. Compare votes for best two thirds. Mark for position

Position Chart – Use to resolve questionable best two thirds in Similar Tie situations. Compare high and low vote combination (middle votes are always identical).

2 Way Identical Tie – Two circles, same line, vote counts identical. Check Judges' cards for number placed the highest by 2 out of 3 judges. Mark for position.

3 Way Identical Tie – Three circles, same line, vote counts identical. Resolve by the "Fall of the Cards"

Alternate – Always score one extra place for each class as an alternate in case of disqualification.

“M-O-S” Position Chart

