

Article 1: Independent Judges Association - General Information

Basis of the IJA Program

101 Background of the Program

The Independent Judges Association was founded in 1998, as a subset of the Friends of the Sound Horse, to provide a source of trained and qualified pleasure horse judges to preside at open, saddle club and gaited breed specific shows. Although IJA judges are qualified to judge non-gaited horses, the primary emphasis of the program is on Walking Horses and Gaited Horses.

102 Purpose of the Rule Book

The IJA is a subset of FOSH. FOSH will issue a Rule Book, known as the IJA Rule Book, that will be followed by all IJA judges hired by show managers. The Rule Book is more than a guideline. It provides the standard by which horses competing in a variety of disciplines, and exhibiting a variety of gaits, must be judged. The purpose of the Rule Book is to eliminate as much as possible the subjectivity too often found in horse shows and replace it with an objective and measurable standard common to all judges that can be depended upon by exhibitors, spectators and show management.

Duties of the Director of Judges

103 Designation as the Director

The Director of Judges is appointed by the President of FOSH and serves at the pleasure of the President. The Director is the liaison between the FOSH board of directors and the judges.

104 Duties of the Director

The Director maintains the Rule Book, gathers comments for proposed changes to the Rule Book, responds to exhibitors' critiques of judges, maintains the judges' file, attends the national horse show as the expert on the application of rules and standards, sits as a member of the Judges' Licensing Committee, issues letters for renewal of licenses and applications for prospective judges, issues guest cards, coordinates the annual professional training seminar, and makes recommendations for the acceptance of new judges or apprentices into the program.

105 Relationship of Show Management to Judges

All contacts between show managers and judges are conducted as personal business transactions. Stipends for judging services and incidental expenses are arrived upon between the judge and the show manager. There is no fee payable to the IJA for use of the judges' list.

106 Guest Cards

FOSH sanctioned show managers who desire to hire judges from outside the IJA program, may upon payment of a \$50 guest card fee, hire a licensed judge who agrees to use the IJA Rule Book and standards for evaluating horses at the event in question. Just as IJA judges are prohibited from holding licenses in other TWH judging associations, FOSH will not sanction a show that desires to use a 'guest' judge who holds a license with another TWH judging association. Only one guest card per year will be allowed per individual judge.

107 Assignment of Judges

On occasion, a show manager or show committee may choose not to select a judge and may request that FOSH select a judge for their event. The Director of Judges will recommend judges for such shows and will contact judges on behalf of shows, offering stipends as directed by show management. The contract for the judge's services will be issued by a member of show management and all travel arrangements will be made through show management after the judge has been selected and assigned.

General Requirements to Hold an IJA License

108 Number of Licenses that Can Be Held

Although IJA judges are encouraged to maintain their licenses with other breed associations, they may hold a license with only one walking horse licensing body. Attendance at an IJA professional training seminar is required every three years for a judge to retain a license. IJA judges may have no violations of the Horse Protection Act, either federal or HIO violations, after they have received a license with the IJA. An upheld violation results in the removal of the IJA license and the license may not be reissued at any time in the future. In order to be considered for a license, the prospective judge's HPA record must be clear of any upheld violation for five years before application.

109 Acceptance of Guest Cards

Because of the difference in standards found in walking horse programs, IJA judges may not accept guest cards to officiate at any walking horse show where the IJA rule book and standard is not the standard employed in evaluating entries.

110 Restrictions on Personal Conduct as a Condition of Licensure

An IJA judge's license can be removed by the action and vote of the Director of Judges and three members of the board of FOSH. Additionally, licenses for prospective judges will not be granted or licenses for existing judges renewed for any conduct not considered to be in concert with the FOSH statement of purpose, to include the owning, training or exhibition of so-called performance (padded and chained) Tennessee Walking Horses; the placement of any horse in training with a padded walking horse trainer; and the boarding of any personal horse in the custody or on the grounds of a facility operated by individuals associated with padded walking horses. Judges may not judge at any non-affiliated or non-sanctioned FOSH show that offers classes using anything larger than the 1inch shoes as described herein.

111 Removal of a License for Cause

Grounds for removal of a license include incompetence regarding the judge's ability or willingness to tie classes in accordance with the requirements of the IJA rule book and any show specific standards; violations of professional conduct to include profanity at a horse event, public intoxication, smoking or the use of other tobacco products in center ring; favoritism to competitors; the acceptance of money, remuneration or other gratuities 180 days prior to a show or within 180 days after a show from exhibitors or trainers after having served as an official where these individuals competed or were represented; solicitation of business for training, selling or brokering a horse while an official at a show; failure to arrive at a show grounds at the appointed hour, except in a bona fide emergency; failure to abide by the terms of the contract entered into with show management.

112 Additional Grounds for Removal of the License

Judges may also be removed from the IJA list for failure to pass a written test on the IJA rule book and standards; failure to pay annual licensing fees within 60 days of the due date; failure to attend mandatory professional training; the removal of judge's credentials from any other organization for incompetence, violations of drug policy or cruelty to animals, or ethical violations; conviction of a felony; conviction including misdemeanors, for any form of inhumane treatment to animals of any kind; fraudulently representing personal qualifications or licenses held with other organizations.

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113 Relationships between Judges and Potential Exhibitors

No IJA judge may judge an exhibitor or an entry which they have had any sort of contractual relationship for training or services, either orally or in writing, within 180 days of the event. Prohibited relationships include schooling, riding, consulting or training of any kind of an exhibitor or an entry, other than clinic experience where the clinic is open to the general public. IJA judges are prohibited from being a houseguest of any exhibitor or trainer scheduled to participate in an event where the judge is scheduled to officiate for 60 days prior to the event. IJA judges are not to participate in aisle parties during horse shows, or pre-event activities with the exception of supervised presentations made to the general public relative to the explanation of IJA rules and standards, and may not take meals, receive gifts, or take part in any activity that would put the appearance of their objectivity at risk.

Sanctions for Judges

114 Reissuing Licenses

Once an IJA license has been removed for any of the reasons cited in this Rule Book, with the exception of late payment of annual fees, the IJA will not reissue a license at any time in the future to the judge in question. Nonpayment of fee violations require that a \$200 penalty be paid before a license may be reissued.

115 Letters of Caution, Direction and Removal of License

In the first instance where the Director of Judges finds that a judge has not met the standards of this Article and that no further action is warranted, a letter of caution will be issued to the judge. In the second instance, a letter of direction that details what the judge must do in order to keep his IJA license will be issued. In any further instances, proceedings to remove the judges' IJA license will be instituted.

116 Release of Information concerning Judges to the Public

The hallmark of the IJA will be integrity. In the event that an IJA judge has his license removed for any reason, the Director will prepare a press release, citing the removal and the cause, and will release the information to show managers and other interested media. The press release will also be posted on the FOSH website. Acceptance of an IJA license includes acceptance of this provision.

117 Appeal Rights

There is no appeal from the decision of the Judges' Licensing Committee. There is no inherent right to hold a judge's license. The issuance of the IJA license is based on the requirements established by FOSH, a member, public benefit, and humane association, operated by a board of directors. The IJA is a subset of FOSH, a corporation registered in the state of Delaware. The holding of a judge's license is a privilege granted by the parent body, based on its needs, requirements, and standards.

Individual Requirements to Hold an IJA License

118 Minimum Requirements for Licensure

Prospective IJA judges must complete the IJA professional training seminar prior to licensure. They must have held a license with another recognized equine licensing program, or must complete a minimum of three shows, where walking or Gaited Horses are predominant, as an apprentice under a licensed judge. At least two of those shows must take place under an IJA judge. Apprentice judging is done at the expense of the candidate.

All judges, including apprentices, must take and retain notes concerning their placement of classes at shows where they officiate. These notes are to be used in evaluating the quality of the judging or the conformance of the judge to IJA Rules. These notes must be submitted to the Director upon request.

119 Evaluation of Apprentice Judges

The master judge must submit to the Director of Judges a written evaluation of the apprentice and a recommendation concerning the ability of the individual to judge horse shows. If, in the opinion of the Director of Judges, the recommendations indicate that more experience as an apprentice is needed, the prospective judge will be advised of the number of additional shows required before he may again be considered for a license. The evaluations of master judges are confidential and will not be shared with the apprentice. The ties of apprentice judges do not count for awards in any class or for high point or versatility awards.

120 Basic Personal Requirements for Licensure

A candidate must be 25 years old to apply for a license. Individuals who are younger than 25, with exceptional judging experience gained from college or 4-H judging programs, may with recommendations be awarded provisional licenses and may officiate at FOSH sanctioned shows, with the exception of regional championships and the national show, with full credit given for their ties.

121 Annual Professional fees

The annual licensing fee for IJA judges is \$50. Fees for professional training vary from year to year depending on the seminar, its location and other related costs. All costs are borne by the judge or applicant.

122 Responsibility for Notification

Judges must notify the Director of Judges of the initiation of any punitive or administrative action taken against him by other breed organizations or by the USDA, HIO or civil authority and must also notify the Director when the situation has been resolved, producing documentary evidence of the outcome.

Each IJA judge must forward to the Director a biography sheet and photo that will be made available upon request to show managers or other interested parties. Judges must also complete after action reports at the completion of a judging assignment and forward the report within 15 working days to the Director of Judges. IJA judges must notify the Director of any shows that they have been hired to judge if they were selected from the IJA list. They must provide to the Director, within 30 days of the show, the name and address of the show manager who hired them.

123 Scope of Authority of Judges

The IJA judge's sole purpose at the show is to judge the performance of horses and riders and to tie in descending order the winners and placements through the number of awards indicated on the premium. Each class tied by an IJA judge will be tied two places below the prize winners to allow for disqualifications. Judges must sign each card before turning it in to show management and must initial all changes. Cards are to be marked in ink or permanent gel substance rather than pencil.

124 Period of Licensure

The IJA license is issued for a period of one year only. Judges must be invited each year to reapply for a license. The IJA program licenses a maximum of 30 judges and may choose, at the end of the 12 month period, to invite new officials based on the needs of the program and decline to reissue invitations to existing judges.