



**Judges & Stewards Commissioner**  
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## **QUALIFICATIONS TO BECOME AN AHA ACCREDITED NATIONAL/REGIONAL JUDGE AND MAINTAINING N/R STATUS**

### **General Description**

1. An AHA Accredited National/Regional Judge is recognized for his/her integrity, show ring expertise, commitment to AHA and its goals, Code of Ethics and rules and regulations. An AHA Accredited National/Regional Judge is an individual who has demonstrated a keen awareness of the Arabian horse as a proud and noble breed, and who has treated fairly and humanely any and all horses with which the individual has contact, either in or out of the show ring. The AHA Accredited National/Regional Judge is recognized for his/her courtesy and professional behavior and personal integrity at all times. Designation as an AHA Accredited National/Regional Judge is the highest honor and privilege that can be bestowed upon an AHA Recognized Arabian Judge. As such, the AHA Accredited National/Regional Judge agrees to give AHA his/her best at all times.
2. AHA Accredited National/Regional Judge designation is obtained through an application process, which includes an interview regimen, designed to determine the applicant's skill, knowledge, ability, background and suitability to serve in the privileged position of an Accredited National/Regional Judge.

### ***ELIGIBILITY of NEW APPLICANTS***

1. Applicant must have attained "R" Registered Judge status with United States Equestrian Federation (USEF) and/or Equestrian Canada (EC) in the Arabian division. The judge must be current on all USEF and/or EC requirements for licensure.
2. Applicant must have maintained AHA Accredited Judge's designation for a minimum period of six (6) years and attended a minimum of two (2) AHA Judges' Annual Seminars.
3. Applicant must have judged a minimum of ten (10) USEF/AHA or EC/AHA Recognized Shows/Divisions within the past eight (8) years, one of which must have been 150 horse competition, or performed a Mentor Judging. If necessary, the Commissioner's Office will accept up to three AHA Value Shows as counting towards this officiating requirement. At the discretion of the Commissioner, one contracted competition that will be judged by the N/R applicant within six (6) months following the N/R interview date may be counted towards the minimum number of competitions.
4. An AHA Accredited National/Regional Judge applicant must have no AHA Ethical Practice Review Board, United States Equestrian Federation, Equine Canada, or other equine association or federation findings of violations, nor administrative penalties within five (5) years prior to applying. ***This includes official warnings and/or Yellow Cards.***

5. Either in the year in which the applicant decides to seek AHA Accredited National/Regional Judge designation or the previous year, the judge must register for and participate in all sessions of the regularly scheduled AHA Judges' Seminar.
6. An application is required by the Judges & Stewards Commissioner for each individual applying for an Accredited National/Regional Classification. The information contained in this application will be used by the Commissioner's office and the AHA Education Evaluation Commission in the evaluation process to determine whether an individual meets the requirements for Accredited National/Regional Classification.
7. The AHA National/Regional Accredited applicant must complete at least one interview. The interview panel shall consist of Education/ Evaluation Commission members and other know-eligible people of the Arabian horse community, as determined by the Education Evaluation Commission members. The AHA National/Regional Accredited applicant must pass the interview(s) as a pre-requisite to being an AHA National/Regional Accredited judge.
8. Interview times are limited and are filled by qualified candidates on a first-come, first-served basis. Applicants are responsible for the timely submission of applications to the Commissioner's office.
9. Interview schedules are set by random drawing. Interview schedules or panel assignments cannot be changed unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the EEC.
10. Additional evaluation methods may also be used, especially for new N/R applicants. Examples could be video testing on scoring/judging certain classes and/or written tests on rules pertaining to judging.

The Education Evaluation Commission will prepare a final written report that shall be forwarded to the AHA Judges & Stewards Commissioner. The Commissioner will evaluate all reports and available data and will confirm the recommendation of the EEC for approval/disapproval of N/R status.

### ***MAINTENANCE of N/R STATUS***

1. AHA National/Regional Accredited designation is valid for a period of six (6) years.
2. Prior to the expiration of six (6) years, the AHA National/Regional Accredited Judge must make application for renewal of accreditation and complete the same evaluation process as the initial AHA National/Regional Accredited approval process.
3. The AHA National/Regional Accredited Judge must maintain Registered status with USEF or EC and continue to comply with all other requirements for maintaining the status of an AHA National/Regional Accredited Judge.

### ***RE-ENROLLMENT for N/R STATUS***

1. The Education Evaluation Commission acknowledges that circumstances can result in an individual not holding a USEF or EC License for a period of years and then the individual being in a position to request re-enrollment for N/R Status.

2. Before the individual can be considered for an N/R interview, the individual must have regained Registered (R) status with either USEF or EC.
3. The individual must also have judged a minimum of two USEF licensed/EC recognized competitions within a two-year period prior to the N/R interview. Two AHA Value Shows may be substituted for one of the USEF competitions.
4. The individual must be a current member in good standing with AHA.
5. The individual must meet the requirements stated in items # 4-#7 for New N/R Applicants. Items #8 - #10 also apply to re-enrollment interviews.

### ***REMOVAL of JUDGES from the AHA RECOGNIZED JUDGES LIST***

1. A judge who does not meet one or more of the above requirements will be so notified in writing by the Commissioner, and the Commissioner shall remove that individual's name from the recognized list until the deficiency has been corrected to the satisfaction of the Commissioner.
2. In the event of removal of a judge's name from the recognized list, for whatever reason, the judge will be permitted to fulfill only those prior written, contracted judging commitments, provided copies of such contracts are submitted immediately to the Commissioner. No additional judging assignments may be accepted until such time as the Commissioner has reinstated the judge's name to the recognized list.
3. A judge who has been found guilty of any misconduct by the AHA Ethical Practice Review Board, **AHA Peer Review, AHA Commissioner's Review Panel**, USEF Hearing Committee, or other body; or who has been suspended or placed on probation, shall be removed and/or suspended from the recognized list by the Commissioner for a specific period of time, or placed on probation, under terms and conditions imposed by the Commissioner.
4. The Education/Evaluation Commission shall recommend removal, suspension, or probation of a judge to the Commissioner. Upon recommendation by the Education/Evaluation Commission, the Commissioner shall take action to affect this recommendation.
5. A judge who has been declared not in good standing by the Arabian Horse Association, US Equestrian Federation or Equestrian Canada shall be automatically removed from the recognized list until such time as the judge has been returned to good standing by AHA, USEF, or EC.

### ***APPEAL PROCESS***

#### **REVIEW**

1. Any person, whose application for accreditation or national/regional status has been denied, may request a review by the Education/Evaluation Commission to reconsider the decision. The request must be in writing and mailed to the office of the AHA Judges & Stewards Commissioner within thirty (30) days from the receipt of the written ruling of the Education/Evaluation Commission and accompanied by a non-refundable check for \$300.00 payable to AHA.

2. The review shall be after ten (10) days written notice to all parties concerned. The notice shall contain a brief statement of the facts supporting the position of the Education/Evaluation Commission and shall specify the time and place at which the review is to be held. This review may be via electronic communication or be face-to-face.