

APHA JUDGE CODE OF ETHICS

Designation as an APHA-approved judge is a privilege, not a right, bestowed by the American Paint Horse Association and their Judges Committee to individuals whose knowledge, expertise and personal character merit the honor. It is important that you judge by and adhere to all the current rules and regulations as stated in the current APHA Rule Book. An individual's conduct as a member, exhibitor and judge must be exemplary; is subject to continual Judges Committee review; and such designation is revocable by the Judges Committee and subject to only ultimate review by the APHA's Board of Directors.

By signing below, I agree to the following:

- To uphold all APHA rules pertaining to Judges.
- To adhere to the professional standards of the APHA and act in a professional manner.
- To be courteous to all contestants, members and visitors and judge with a positive attitude.
- To have the dedication and conviction to judge by the rules and disqualify entrants in violation of the rules.
- To promptly report to the Association any attempt by third parties to bribe me or otherwise influence me in the furtherance of my judging services.
- To ensure that the welfare of the American Paint Horse is paramount and that every American Paint Horse shall at all times be treated humanely.
- To instill confidence among exhibitors and the public in the entire horse industry, avoiding any action conducive to discrediting it or membership in the American Paint Horse Association.
- To judge honestly, fairly and impartially, each horse exhibited to me, strictly on the horse's conformation and/or it's performance as the rules of the event dictate and require.

Judge's Signature

Date



SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR APHA JUDGES

While the intent of the APHA would never be to stifle one's right to free speech or to openly express themselves, many APHA judges have requested some guidelines when it comes to posting industry related comments on social media outlets. Please remember, as an APHA approved judge, you are ALWAYS serving as a representative of the APHA and your role as a judge is a privilege not a right. As such, please consider the below as some suggestions to remember and guidelines for the appropriate use of social media as judges and representatives of the APHA:

1. Take care in commenting on controversial issues that might directly involve the APHA without knowing where the APHA stands on the issue. If you have questions, contact the APHA directly.
2. Never make negative comments regarding the performance or ability of your colleagues (other APHA judges) regardless of whether it involves them adjudicating an APHA show or not. Remember, what you post is seen by the entire world.
3. If you have a concern with the APHA, consider contacting the APHA directly to discuss before resorting to social media to voice your concerns. Again, as a judge you should always be a positive representative of the APHA.
4. As a rule of thumb, do NOT post anything on social media you would not be comfortable with all other APHA judges viewing.
5. As a trainer, owner, exhibitor, etc., you are of course welcome to use social media to promote yourself, your customers, your stock, and your business as you see fit and the APHA would never consider attempting to regulate those posts. In fact, the APHA encourages you to promote yourself and your great paint horses. However, please be cognizant of your posts in that your colleagues who have judged you and/or your horse one weekend will see your post and you may be judging and working with them at a horse show the following weekend. Please use common sense.
6. While judging an APHA show, limit your time and activity on social media. This includes simple "likes" on Facebook especially of those postings to which you might have judged.
7. As an APHA judge, be careful to make posts or even "like" posts while judging not just an APHA show but any association show – especially of horses you have been judging that day or weekend.

Social media can be a very powerful tool for promoting our Association, our breed and our industry as a whole. We hope the above provide some guidelines for keeping the use of social media outlets a positive experience for all of us. Again, if you have concerns, input, or suggestions, please consider contacting the Association directly before posting something on social media. As a good rule of thumb: when in doubt, don't post for the world to see.

Judge's Signature

Date



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