



Becoming an Approved APHA Judge

The following is information on becoming an APHA-approved judge, as well as the forms you need for application and references. If you have any questions about judge requirements or about completing these forms, please email elawhorn@apha.com

How to Apply

- Applicants must have been an APHA member-in-good-standing for one full year prior to applying to become a judge.
- Applicants must be 21 years of age in order to apply.
- There is a \$159 application fee. This fee is nonrefundable.
- In order for an application to be considered for attendance at the Applicant Exam, it must be received in the office no later than November 20th of the year prior to the exam, thus allowing the time necessary for the file to be processed prior to the APHA Convention meeting in February. Only files that are complete can be forwarded to the Judges Committee for consideration.
- As soon as your application is received at the APHA office, you will be sent an open-book APHA rule book test. This test must be completed and returned before your application can be processed.
- Judge applicants are required to submit a completed application and provide a minimum of 10 references. Six of the 10 references must be from currently carded APHA or AQHA judges who have witnessed you judging. The remaining four references must be from show management personnel who have hired you to judge. (Note: A reference may be used only once on an application, meaning that the same name cannot be used both as a judge and a management reference. Also, a husband and wife count as only one reference.) Applicants who are approved AQHA judges are required to submit a minimum of five references—three references from APHA or AQHA judges who have witnessed you judging and two references from show management personnel who have hired you to judge. Judges Committee members may not be used as references.
- Urge your references to complete and return their evaluations as quickly as possible. All references must be received by APHA before your application can be submitted to the Judges Committee.
- Applicants who are applying through the Apprentice Judging Program will have their file automatically forwarded to the Judges Committee once they have completed apprenticing under a minimum of six judges, attended the Judges Academy held at CBC, completed an application and paid the \$159 application fee. No other references are required. Additional references are optional.
- Provide a recent photo, suitable for publication, of yourself in the attire you would wear to judge a horse show. (The photo will remain with APHA.)
- All applicants' names will be published in the Paint Horse Journal a minimum of 30 days prior to the Judges Committee review.
- Periodically, the judge applicant will receive a letter stating the number and type of references still needed to complete the reference requirement. It is up to the applicant to either send in new references—indicating the type of reference being submitted—or to ask that reference letters be re-sent to names on the original list.

- An incomplete file cannot be presented to the Judges Committee for consideration. However, you may submit additional references at any time prior to submission of the file to the committee.
- A statute of limitations applies to applications. A file must be complete and ready for review no later than two years from the date the applicant's name appears in the Journal. Failure to complete the application process within this time will result in the file being declared void, and require that the application process, including repayment of the application fee, be started over.

Judges Committee Consideration

- Once the references have been received by APHA, the judge's file will be held until the next scheduled meeting of the Judges Committee. To be eligible for consideration, a judge applicant's file must be ready for review one month prior to the committee's meeting.
- The Judges Committee reviews the completed files and selects applicants to be invited to the applicant school. Applicants should keep in mind that they are under continual review throughout the entire process. An invitation to the applicant school can be rescinded if additional unsatisfactory information is received.
- Successful applicants will be notified of the date and location of the applicant school. The applicant must attend this school and meet the minimum grade requirement in order to become an approved APHA judge.
- The scores earned at the applicant school will be presented to the Judges Committee at their next scheduled meeting. At that time, the committee determines if an applicant is approved for judging on a temporary status, or if the application will be denied approval.
- If you are approved for judging status, your name will appear in the Paint Horse Journal as an approved judge. All approved judges must maintain their membership in APHA. Your name is also added to the list provided to those who are seeking the names and addresses of approved judges.

How to Reapply

- If your application is denied, you can resubmit an application with new references immediately. A second filing fee must be paid at that time. If you are invited to the applicant school and fail to make a passing grade, you may re-apply immediately. Reapplying will require applicants to resubmit an application and \$159 application fee (no new references). If you fail to pass the second time, you must wait one year to reapply. An individual may not re-apply for a period of five years after being denied three times for any of the following:
 1. Denial of permission to attend a qualifying examination by the Judges Committee.
 2. Failure to pass the qualifying examination.
 3. Failure to obtain approval from the Judges Committee or APHA Executive Committee, for any reason.



American Paint Horse Association

122 E. Exchange Ave., Suite 420 • Fort Worth, Texas 76164
Fax: (817) 834-3152 • apha.com • elawhorn@apha.com

Judges Application Form



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When applying to become an APHA judge, please remember: 1) You must have been a member-in-good-standing for one year prior to your application; 2) You must be 21 years of age; 3) As soon as your application is received at the APHA office, you will receive an open-book APHA rule book test; 4) There is a statute of limitations of two years, during which time you must complete the application process; 5) If invited to do so by the APHA Judges Committee, you must attend the applicant school.

Be sure to mail in the following with your application:

1. Your completed application form.
2. The \$159 application fee (U.S. funds only).
3. A recent photograph, suitable for publication, in the attire you would wear to judge a horse show (photo becomes the property of APHA).
4. Your APHA membership fees (if not current). APHA membership is \$89 per year.

Office Use Only

Applicant School: _____

☐ Approved ☐ Denied

Date: _____

Please type or print

APHA ID Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Full Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Employment Information

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Social Security Number: _____

Business Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Secondary Occupations and Addresses: _____

Judging History

I am participating in the Apprentice Judging Program: ☐ Yes ☐ No

I have attended, or plan to attend, the Judges Academy held at CBC: ☐ Yes ☐ No

Date of Judges Academy attendance: _____

I have judged approximately _____ shows.

List any major shows you have judged: _____

Judging History, continued

List the largest events you have judged, including date, location and show name:

	Date	Location	Name of Show
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			

Are you a member of an APHA regional club? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, which club? _____

Are you an APHA Professional Horseman? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have you applied for approval as an APHA judge previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what year? _____

Have you previously been approved as an APHA judge? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what year? _____

Have you ever been, or are you now, suspended from or on probation with any equine association? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, please explain:

Why do you want to be a Paint Horse judge?

List all recognized equine and horse show associations with which you are currently approved, and the dates of approval:

Association Name	Approval Date	Current Status	Clinic/Seminar	Date & Location

List any seminars you have attended, if not mentioned above:

List your accomplishments with Paint Horses:

List all Paint Horse clubs or associations of which you are a member, and the offices or appointments you have held:

List your accomplishments in the horse industry:

Judge References (AQHA or APHA Judges Only—These References Must Have Seen You Judge a Horse Show)

Standard Applicant—a minimum of 6 references is required. (Judges Committee members cannot be used as references)

AQHA Judge Applicant—a minimum of 3 references is required. (Judges Committee members cannot be used as references)

Apprentice Judge Applicant—List the 6 judges you apprenticed with.

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Show Management References (These References Must Have Hired You to Judge a Horse Show)

Standard Applicant—a minimum of 4 references is required.

AQHA Judge Applicant—a minimum of 2 references is required.

Apprentice Judge Applicant—these references are optional

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please Read and Sign the Following Statement

The information contained on this application is true and correct. I understand that I may be removed as an APHA judge or applicant if it is determined that there are any inaccuracies or discrepancies in this application. I further understand that the position of APHA judge is a privilege and not a right, and that my selection as an approved APHA judge is at the sole discretion of the APHA Judges Committee.

Signature: _____ Date: _____