

NPS CODE OF CONDUCT FOR JUDGES

This code of Conduct runs in conjunction with the Rules for Judges in the current NPS Showing and Competition Rules and should be read carefully by all judges.

1. Judges are appointed annually. The Council reserves the right in its absolute discretion to not appoint or re-appoint to the Judges' Panel.
2. All NPS Judges must be current NPS Members in order to be eligible to judge.
3. It is a requirement that all NPS Judges must attend an NPS Judges Conference/Training Day at least once in every **four** years. Judges who fail to do this may be removed from the Panel of Judges.
4. NPS Judges must return their Annual Return Forms by the deadline date. One reminder letter will be sent, after this, penalties may be imposed.
5. Judges should always check that they are eligible to judge the classes they have been invited to judge, such as number of qualifiers leading to championships. Always ask the Show Secretary for full details of all sections you are to judge. Always check the schedule when you receive it and if you find you are unable to judge a class, contact the secretary immediately.
6. NPS Judges must apply all specific rules of judging to all NPS classes that are official qualifiers.
7. Judges should reply in writing either accepting or declining an invitation to judge within two weeks of receiving the invitation. If for some reason beyond your control you are unable to fulfil a judging commitment, then you must personally contact the show secretary, giving your reasons and offering to find a replacement. (Text messaging is unacceptable as a way of communication).
8. Judges must try to avoid judging the same section in an area more than once during the season.
9. Judges must not accept any hospitality from an exhibitor and should avoid staying with a potential exhibitor at shows where they will be judging.
10. Judges should always be smartly and appropriately dressed according to the weather and wear a hat.
11. Judges should ensure there is adequate first aid cover.
12. Judges are advised to make arrangements with the show secretary regarding their travelling expenses and accommodation. If possible, submit expense forms to the secretary on the show day.
13. Judges should always check the details of the classes they are to judge prior to commencing judging. The judge should carry schedules and NPS Showing and Competition Rules.
14. Judges should arrive on the showground at least half an hour before they are due to start judging and report to the secretary. Make sure you have a contact number for the Secretary, so that should you be delayed, you can inform them of your progress so that they can make alternative arrangements if necessary.
15. Judges should acquaint themselves with the ring they will be judging. Before judging commences discuss with your steward the procedure you would like to use while judging, such as where to line up, corner to use for change of rein etc. Make sure the rosettes, qualifying cards etc. are all accessible for awarding at the end of the class. Whenever possible issue instructions regarding the conduct of the class through your steward. Always thank your steward at the end of your classes.
16. At shows, judges should avoid conversing with exhibitors and/or their helpers on the day of the show prior to entering the show ring for judging.

17. A judge must not call any exhibitor by their name in the ring and should remain impartial during the judging at all times. A polite 'Good Morning', 'How old is your pony' is sufficient.
18. A judge must be seen to be 100% unbiased and fair, every exhibitor receiving the same amount of time and attention during judging. Remember they have all spent the same amount of entry fees to come into your class and every animal should be judged accordingly.
19. Judges should be open to questions from exhibitors regarding reasons for the placing of their animals but keep your reasons brief and discreet.
20. Judges should present the rosettes at the end of the class but first check if there is a sponsor waiting to carry out the presentations. When the class has been completed, ask the steward to dismiss the class.
21. Judges must take into account the condition of overweight/underweight animals when judging and reflect this in their placings.
22. If a Judge decides that a rider is not suitably mounted, they are able to take appropriate action and place down the line.
23. It is strongly recommended that judges of all affiliated NPS classes and those that are to be judged under NPS rules do not touch ponies except where Breed Society rules allow.
24. Judges should not adjust any items of tack on exhibits during classes.
25. Judges should report to the Show Secretary/ NPS Office any health and safety incidents that occur during judging and complete the relevant forms.
26. Judges must report any judging or ring irregularities to the Show Secretary/ NPS Office, such as delays, amalgamation of classes, course building faults, uneven surfaces etc.
27. Judges must report to the show secretary any competitor or animal irregularities such as non-eligibility for classes, competitor rudeness, conflict of interest etc. and provide all relevant details.
28. Rules covering Horse of the Year Show qualifiers appear in a separate rule book available from Horse of the Year Show (www.hoys.co.uk). Judges must acquaint themselves with these rules before judging a Horse of the Year Show qualifier.
29. At the discretion of the Judges Selection Committee a judge may only judge a qualifier and also the FINAL under exceptional circumstances.
30. The Judge's decision is final provided all relevant rules have been followed.
31. **At shows where the schedule states that a class is 'To be judged under the rules of the NPS' the class will be judged according to the rules in this Rule Book. Please be aware that in relation to Horse of the Year Show qualifying classes affiliated to the NPS, there are separate Horse of the Year Show rules which take precedence over the Rules in this book, and it is both the Judges and Exhibitors responsibility to make themselves aware by downloading a copy of the Horse of the Year Show Rules from www.hoys.co.uk**
32. **Please ensure all relevant COVID precautions are observed when judging.**