

Becoming an Approved ARHA Judge

The following information on becoming an ARHA approved judge, as well as the forms you will need for application and references. If you have any questions about requirements on these forms, please call ARHA.

All applicants must have had previous equine experience. By applying for an American Ranch Horse Association Judges card, the applicant is indicating they are capable of judging every class in the ARHA rulebook. All judge applicants must attend the ARHA Judges seminar to become an approved ARHA judge. The seminars are designed to establish standards for judging the performance of the ARHA ranch horses and classes.

HOW TO APPLY

- Applicant's must be an ARHA member-in-good-standing to applying to become a judge.
- Applicant's must be 25 years of age as of January 1 of the application year in order to apply.
- There is a \$225.00 application fee. This is non-refundable and non-transferable.
- All Approved judges must maintain current membership in ARHA.
- New Judge applicants are required to submit a completed application and provide a minimum of four (4) references. Reference may be a judge (western/ranch type) that have witnessed you judge or references may be from show management personnel who have hired you to judge. Character references will be accepted if applicant has not judged.
- Urge your references to send in their reference letter as quickly as possible. All references must be received before your application can be submitted to the judges committee.
- Provide a recent photo, suitable for publication, of yourself in the attire you would wear to judge a horse show. (Photo will remain property of ARHA).
- Incomplete applications cannot be presented to the Judge's Committee for consideration and will be declared void, and require that the application process including repayment of application fee to start over.
- Periodically, a judge may receive letter requiring updated information and references.
- To be considered as a 2026 approved judge, all applications must be received by December 31, 2026.

The \$ 225.00 Application Fee includes the seminar, testing, and Interview to become an ARHA Approved Judge.

JUDGES COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

- Once the application has been received by ARHA, a judges file will be created and provided to the ARHA Judges Committee and Board of Directors for review.
- Applicants are required to complete the ARHA Rulebook test in a timely matter and complete an Interview with the Judges Committee. In order to become an approved ARHA judge. Applicant's should keep in mind that they are under continual review throughout the entire process.
- All applicants are to dress as if they were going to judge a ARHA approved show during the Zoom Interview.
- Scores and application will be reviewed by Judges Committee and BOD at the Judges Seminar. At that time, the committee determines if an applicant is approved for judging based on the knowledge, testing, and interview of the judge.
- ARHA will send a letter within two weeks of the seminar to notify judges applicants of the decision.
- If you are approved for judging status, your name will be provided to those seeking names and addresses of ARHA approved judges.
- If your application is denied, you may resubmit an application one year from the date of application. A second filing fee must be paid at that time.



American Ranch Horse Association

PO Box 146 Amory, MS 38821

(606) 872-7893 Email: arhaoffice@gmail.com

ARHA Judge Application Form

WHEN APPLYING TO BECOME AN ARHA JUDGE:

- You must be a member-in-good-standing the year prior to your application.
- You must be 25 years of age as of 1/1 of application year.
- The application is good for the year you submit it.
- You must complete this application and must attend the Judges Seminar, testing, & interview to be considered for approved judge status.

BE SURE TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Your completed application form.
- The \$225.00 application fee.
- A recent photo, in attire that you would wear to judge a show. (Photo becomes the property of ARHA)
- Your ARHA membership fees are included with application fees.
- Application and fees must be submitted by 12/31/2026
- Any Application received after 12/31/2026 will be **\$250.00**

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date: _____

CK #: _____

REC'V: _____

Please type or print

Full Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email: _____

Have you shown at an ARHA show? ____ Yes ____ No If yes, please list date(s) and location(s): _____

Employment Information

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Business Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Secondary Occupations & Addresses: _____

Judging History

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 ARHA Charter? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, which club? _____

Have you previously applied for an ARHA Judges Card? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, what year? _____

Have you previously been an ARHA Approved 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 become an ARHA judge? _____

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

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

List your accomplishments with Ranch Horses: _____

List all clubs or associations of which you are member, and the offices you have held: _____

List your accomplishments in the horse industry: _____

Personal/Judges References

Judge applicants are required to submit a minimum of four (4) references. One of these references may be a judge that has seen you judge a horse show, or personal/character references. Please have these reference letters to ARHA PO Box 146, Amory, MS 38821. Letters must be received by 12/31/2026.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Show Management References

References that have hired you to Judge a Horse Show.

Please have these references send a reference letter to ARHA PO Box 146 Amory, MS 38821 Letters must be received by 12/31/2026.

Please have these references send a letter to ARHA PO Box 146, Amory, MS 38821. Letter must be received by 12/31/2026.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Please read and Sign the Following Statement

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

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION ALONG WITH APPLICATION FEES & PICTURE TO:
ARHA PO BOX 146 AMORY, MS 38821