

# American Ranch Horse Association

## JUDGE'S CODE OF CONDUCT

1. You, as an ARHA-approved judge, represent the equine judging industry, ARHA, your fellow judges and show event officials. Promote judging in a positive light with a general feeling of pride and professionalism. Instill confidence among exhibitors and public in the ARHA judging program, avoiding any action conducive to discrediting it. Do not make negative comments regarding the performance or ability of other ARHA judges, exhibitors, trainers, owners or show management. All ARHA Judges are required to complete scoresheets for all classes, which shall be signed and turned in to the horse show office. The horse show is responsible for submitting them to ARHA.
2. Consider Electronic Communications (ie: email, text, social media) as public at all times— even if created with private intentions. If you are going to use social media in any form, assume your communication may be read by anyone, including other judges, exhibitors, owners and, trainers, at any time.
3. Do not use Electronic Communications or social media to criticize the policies of ARHA or its affiliates, assigning practices, etc. If you have a concern about ARHA, please contact the ARHA office directly to discuss before resorting to Electronic Communications to voice concerns. Again, as a judge, you should always be positive representative of ARHA.
4. Do not post details about your judging assignments or those of other judges on social media. If someone wants to find out who is going to be judging at a show, they should do so through official channels, not your post. Do not post anything relating to shows you have judged or will judge that calls your objectivity into question. While judging an ARHA-approved show, never be on any social media or electronically communicating the day before or during an event. During this period, do not make posts or even “like” posts, especially of horses or exhibitors you judged or will judge. Never use social media to solicit shows to judge.
5. It is the ARHA Judge’s responsibility to be familiar with, complete and sign the ARHA score sheets and turn them into the horse show office. The horse show office will submit them to the ARHA Office. These score sheets can be found on the ARHA web site.
6. It is the Judge’s responsibility to review all current rule changes which are found in the ARHA Rule Book or website.
7. If judging a dual-approved show, all horses in the class must be placed or scored on ARHA scoresheets/judges card to be reported to ARHA.
8. If you have a conflict with any exhibitor or horse complete the Conflict of Interest Form and let the show management know immediately.
9. Judges should be cognizant of animal welfare issues and stop or ward off situations when you are out in the field judging. It is your responsibility to protect the equine industry and the welfare of our animals.
10. If the horse show is utilizing an Equipment Judge in the make-up area, any horse allowed to enter the arena is to be judged as legal equipment/attire.
11. Consequences for violating this policy may range from a reprimand from the ARHA Judges Committee to the suspension of judging privileges for such time as decided by the ARHA Judges Committee. This decision shall be based on the severity of the action and/or frequency of violations.

**My signature acknowledges that I will abide by the ARHA Judges Code Of Conduct above.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ARHA #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_