

Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc.

JUDGE'S CODE OF CONDUCT



Members of the Judges Panel of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc. (WPCSA) represent the Society and shall conduct themselves in an appropriate manner at all times.

It is a privilege to be invited to Judge at an event and Judges should reply promptly to any invitation. They should honor the commitment to judge and if unable to attend, inform the Show Secretary as soon as possible.

Judges should refrain from accepting multiple judging assignments in the same area in a twelve month period and cannot judge the same section within 100kms radius within a 90 day period unless approved by the Committee of Management.

The opinions of Judges set the standard for Welsh ponies and cobs, as does their behaviour provide an example for officials, exhibitors and others in attendance.

Judges conduct from the time of their arrival at an event, or at venues prior to the event should be beyond reproach. Judges are acting in an official capacity and they should uphold the reputation and integrity of the Society which they represent.

During an event, except for necessary contact with Show Officials, Judges need to remain reserved with the general public and exhibitors and be only concerned with the animals that come before them in the showing.

Judges must act to ensure the safety of all people and animals in the ring and its surrounds.

Judges must exhibit propriety and integrity when judging events and be fair and unbiased. The role of a judge is to make informed evaluation and decisions based on an animal's merits. Breeding and ownership and handler of the animal play no part in decision making. The standard of excellence, type, conformation and soundness must be utmost in a Judges' mind when making decisions.

Judges shall not be a house guest of a person who is competing at the said event immediately prior or during the event.

Judges' dress should be neat and practical, including the wearing of a hat outdoors, considering the weather conditions and health and safety at all times.

Judges should speak to the Steward before events commence to ensure the Steward is aware of their requirements and to allow the Steward to update or discuss with the Judge any regulation, rule or program requirement.

Judges must be clear, concise and courteous with competitors.

Judges must not smoke; use mobile telephones or be under the influence of any drugs and/or alcohol whilst judging.

Judges must use the official WPCSA workouts for in-hand classes.

For performance classes the official WPCSA Workouts should be used unless space or conditions require adaption for risk management.

Judges should never address a competitor by their first name and must not discuss any details including breeding details, or the merits of any animal shown except as required in their official duty.

Judges should always be aware that the fall of a horse or rider / driver in a class is immediate disqualification and the rider / driver must not remount or get back into a vehicle in the ring.

If a competitor makes a request through the Ring Steward or other show officials for the Judge's opinion concerning their exhibit, the Judge shall give their opinion courteously and with sincerity, in the presence of the Ring Steward or official. The Judge is advised not to enter into a lengthy discussion and only converse with competitors at the conclusion of the event.

Judges must be current financial members of the WPCSA and be the nominee of that membership to remain on the Judges' Panel of the WPCSA.

It is the responsibility of a Judge to ensure they comply with the requirements to remain on the panel, including attendance at Society approved seminars.

It is the responsibility of a Judge to ensure they are compliant with the relevant State requirements for 'Working with Children' checks, and to supply the WPCSA National Office with proof of compliance.

It is the responsibility of the Judge to inform the Society of their inability to comply with the criteria to remain on the panel, prior to possible removal when requirements are not met.

It is a Judge's responsibility to be totally conversant with and comply with the current rules and regulations of the Society and to uphold them. Any breach of the rules and regulations by exhibitors / exhibits in the showing must be dealt with in a discreet and reasonable manner as directed by the Society (see notes below).

SOCIAL MEDIA AND OTHER COMMUNICATION

Judges should be familiar with the WPCSA 'Social Media Policy' and avoid making any comments via social media or other means which may be perceived as inappropriate, biased or offensive to any person.

Once a judge has accepted a judging appointment, they are encouraged to minimise their social media interaction and must not:

- Comment on animals which may be shown under them, from the time they accept an appointment
- Make derogatory comments about exhibits, exhibitors or show.

Judges must comply with this code and all WPCSA regulations.

Failure to comply with this code and other WPCSA codes, policies, rules and regulations will be investigated by the Committee of Management.

Please read this document in conjunction with the WPCSA Judges' Rules and WPCSA Show Regulations.

I agree to abide by this Code of Conduct and all other codes, policies, rules and regulations of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society of Australia Inc.

Signed _____ Membership no. _____

Date _____

DEALING WITH A BREACH OF SHOW REGULATIONS

If a judge considers there has been a breach of WPCSA Show Regulations or WPCSA Judges Rules at a WPCSA approved event they have the option of:

- *Asking the exhibit to leave the ring*
- *Explaining to the exhibitor about the breach of regulations and give them the opportunity to retire from the ring or remain with the understanding that they will not be considered for an award.
or (only if time is available)*
- *If the breach is plaiting or something such as length of whip the exhibitor could be permitted to move to the side of the ring to remove the plaits or give the steward their whip.*

These instructions can be given to the exhibitor by you as the judge or via their steward.