

Process for Appointment to the Judge Panel of the WPCS of A Inc

Before commencing the journey to becoming a judge it is advised that you consider why you would like to undertake this task. Judges are often placed under considerable pressure by show societies and exhibitors and it is important that you are able to withstand these and continue to judge impartially and efficiently. The integrity of a judge must remain beyond reproach at all times.

The process for becoming a judge and advancement as a judge has recently been reviewed. A three tier structure applies with judges advancing from Tier 3 to Tier 1 depending on judging experience, age and assessment. The aim of the new system is to enable judges to receive sufficient experience and training prior to being asked to judge major shows.

Judges may be appointed to different Tier levels for different disciplines.

Judges will be held accountable should they accept appointments they are not eligible to judge according to their Tier status:

- First breach – an explanation will be required, and the judge will receive a letter of reprimand
- Second breach – the judge will be automatically demoted to the next lowest Tier level for 12 months after which time the original Tier level will be reinstated.
- Third breach – the judge will be removed from the Society panel of judges for 12 months after which time the judge will be reinstated.

Tier 3 Judge

Tier 3 judges who are eligible are encouraged to participate in the Young Judge competition held at All Welsh Shows.

How to become a Tier 3 Judge:

Eligibility to apply:

- You must have been a Member of the WPCS of A Inc or an approved overseas Welsh Society for a minimum of 5 years and currently be the nominee of that membership. The 5 years need not be consecutive, but you must be a current financial member of the WPCS of A Inc. Membership must be a Full Membership unless the applicant is associated with a Full membership in which case being the nominee of a separate Associate membership is accepted.
- You must be able to declare that you have never had any conviction relating to animal cruelty or child abuse.
- You must be a minimum of 21 years of age.
- You must submit an application with resume on the WPCS of A application form for consideration prior to beginning the judge process.

Assessment Process

- You must attend a WPCS of A judges' seminar after you have been approved to begin the judges panel process
- You will be expected to successfully complete an Open Book assessment which will cover topics such as the Rules & Regulations, Judge Code of Conduct, conformation, type and Standard of Excellence.
- You will be interviewed by two judge examiners who will submit their report to COM. Subject to the report, you will either be approved for inclusion to Tier 3 or it will be recommended that further education or mentoring in the form of Probationary Judging assignments be undertaken prior to applying again. Where an applicant resides in a remote location it may be possible to have the interview conducted by one judge examiner via electronic methods.

In order to maintain the Tier 3 Judge status

- You must remain a member of the Society and be the nominee of that membership (Membership level applicable is the same as for an applicant).
- You must attend a WPCS of A Inc judges seminar at least once every 3 years. It is strongly recommended that you attend as many as possible.
- You must adhere to the Judges Code of Conduct and all Society Codes of Conduct and Rules & Regulations.
- Successfully complete an Open Book Test and sign Code of Conduct & Appointment Documentation as sent by COM annually and attend Zoom workshops where applicable.

Eligibility To Judge (note the Tier level applies to the specific discipline to be judged)

Tier 3 judges are eligible to judge:

- Welsh & Part Welsh classes at non WPCS of A events and non medal award shows.
- Futurity events at any show with at least one Tier 1 or Tier 2 judge.
- Judges who are on another National judges panel for ridden and/or harness are eligible to judge associated medal awards
- Judges who are on another judges panel for ridden and/or harness may be eligible to judge associated medal awards as approved by the Events Sub-Committee of COM
- Judges may be eligible to judge non medal classes at WPCS of A events as approved by the Events Sub-Committee of COM

Tier 3 judges are not eligible to judge:

- Welsh & Part Welsh in-hand events eligible for medal awards
- Welsh or Part Welsh in-hand events at Royal Shows as a WPCS of A Inc panel judge
- Welsh or Part Welsh in-hand events at medal status Overseas Shows as a WPCS of A Inc panel judge
- ARC In-Hand
- Young Judges
- Tier 3 judges are not eligible to inspect animals for Foundation Stock registration or change of Section.

Tier 2 Judge

Note: there is no requirement to be a Tier 3 judge prior to applying to become a Tier 2 judge, the Tier 3 judge step is optional but recommended.

How to become a Tier 2 Judge

Eligibility to apply:

- You must have been a member of the WPCS of A Inc or an approved overseas Welsh Society for a minimum of 5 consecutive years and be the nominee of that membership at the time of appointment to the Judge panel.
Membership must be a Full Membership unless the applicant is associated with a Full membership in which case being the nominee of a separate Associate membership is accepted.
- You must be able to declare that you have never had any conviction relating to animal cruelty or child abuse.
- You must be a minimum of 25 years of age.
- You must have bred at least five Pure Welsh animals or bred &/or owned &/or produced & exhibited a minimum of 10 Pure Welsh animals over a minimum 5 year period in order to be appointed to the Welsh In-Hand panel (Production is defined as "A person involved in the training conditioning and or exhibition of show or competition horses"). This does not apply for appointment to the Part Welsh, Ridden or Harness panels. It must be remembered that as a Stud Book society it is paramount that judges are able to assess breeding stock.

- You must have attended a WPCS of A judges' seminar within the previous 2 years.
- The Society must be in receipt of at least 4 satisfactory probation judging reports from Tier 1 judges.
- At least two of the probationary judging appointments must be with Mentor or Overseas judges. The probation judge reports must be submitted to the Society by the assessing judge and not by the judge candidate and the assessing judge must not be an immediate family member or in a business relationship with the probationary judge as defined by the Society showing regulations.
- The judge candidate is responsible for ensuring that sufficient reports have been received prior to making application for upgrade. The reports will detail such things as your ability to conduct and organise a ring efficiently, consistency of judging, attitude towards the show and exhibitors.
- To be assessed for a section, three of the Probationary Judge reports must include classes relevant to that discipline ie to be assessed for the ridden panel at least 3 Probationary appointments must include ridden classes.
- One of these appointments may be replaced with a one-on-one ringside Mentor session with a Mentor or Overseas panel judge, a probation judge report completed by the mentor judge must be submitted to COM. Where a judge is already on a recognised judge panel at National level for the performance discipline being applied for then this requirement shall not apply ie a National Panel EA Show Horse judge would not be required to complete the three probationary ridden assessments. Such judges shall be advanced to Tier 1 for the Performance section upon submission of a suitable resume following successful completion of the Tier 2 Judge assessment.
Where a judge is already on a recognised judge panel at National level for ridden then satisfactory reports from two mentor judges will suffice for inclusion to Tier 2 for Part Welsh.
- You must have independently judged at least three shows with details submitted to COM.

Assessment Process

You will be expected to successfully complete a full judge assessment which will include judging a minimum of two Welsh in-hand classes, completion of a written test and an extensive interview conducted by two judge assessors who will submit their report to COM. Subject to the report, you will either be approved for inclusion to Tier 2 or it will be recommended that further education or mentoring be undertaken prior to applying again. The assessors may recommend that appointment be made for one or multiple disciplines.

In order to maintain the Tier 2 Judge status

- You must remain a member of the Society and be the nominee of that membership (Membership level applicable is the same as for an applicant).
- You must attend a WPCS of A Inc judges seminar at least once every 3 years. It is strongly recommended that you attend as many as possible.
- You must adhere to the Judges Code of Conduct and all Society Codes of Conduct and Rules & Regulations.
- Successfully complete an Open Book Test and sign Code of Conduct & Appointment Documentation as sent by COM annually and attend Zoom workshops where applicable.

Eligibility To Judge (note the Tier level applies to the specific discipline to be judged)

Tier 2 judges are eligible to judge for the disciplines they are appointed to:

- Led Welsh & Part Welsh classes at all shows in Australia and Overseas excluding Gold or Silver Medal events and classes that qualify for Gold or Silver medal awards.
- Bronze medal events.
- Young Judges competitions at all WPCS events excluding the National competition
- All other classes that may be offered
- Tier 2 judges are eligible to inspect animals for Foundation Stock registration or change of Section.

Tier 2 judges are not eligible to judge:

- Welsh & Part Welsh Gold or Silver medal classes or classes that qualify for Gold or Silver medal awards
- Young Judges WPCSA National Competition

Tier 1 Judge

How to become a Tier 1 Judge

Eligibility to apply:

- Prior to 1st August each year, eligible Tier 2 judges wishing to be considered for inclusion as Tier 1 judges must submit the relevant Application for Tier 1 form to the Society.
- You must have been a Tier 2 judge of the WPCS of A Inc for a minimum of 5 years or be a Silver/Gold medal approved judge with the WPCS (UK) in order to be appointed to the Tier 1 Welsh In-Hand panel.
- You must have been a member of the WPCS of A Inc or an approved overseas Welsh Society for a minimum of 5 consecutive years and be the nominee of that membership. Membership must be a Full Membership unless the applicant is associated with a Full membership in which case being the nominee of a separate Associate membership is accepted.
- You must have bred at least five Pure Welsh animals in order to be appointed to the Welsh In-Hand panel. This does not apply for appointment to the Part Welsh, Ridden or Harness panels. It must be remembered that as a Stud Book society it is paramount that judges are able to assess breeding stock.
- You must be able to declare that you have never had any conviction relating to animal cruelty or child abuse.
- You must have attended a WPCS of A judges' seminar within the previous 2 years.
- You must have judged a minimum of 5 Tier 2 and 3 medal Welsh judging appointments (can be at the Tier 2 show) shows in the discipline to be applied for with details of the events and show organiser contact details supplied on the application form.
- If you are a National panel judge for performance with an approved Society you will be eligible for inclusion as a Tier 1 judge for that discipline.

In order to maintain the Tier 1 Judge status

- You must remain a member of the Society and be the nominee of that membership. (Membership level applicable is the same as for an applicant).
- You must attend a WPCS of A Inc judges seminar at least once every 3 years. It is strongly recommended that you attend as many as possible. Speciality performance judges who are only on the panel for a performance discipline must attend a seminar relevant to the section they are appointed to judge at least once every 3 years and confirm attendance with COM. Tier 1 judges who have been on the Society judge panel for a minimum of 10 years and who have judged at least 10 Welsh shows since their appointment will only be required to attend a WPCS of A seminar at least once every 5 years.
- You must adhere to the Judges Code of Conduct and all Society Codes of Conduct and Rules & Regulations.
- Successfully complete an Open Book Test and sign Code of Conduct & Appointment Documentation as sent by COM annually and attend Zoom workshops where applicable.

Guest Judge

Tier 1 judges who due to age, illness or infirmity no longer wish to judge for long periods of time but are prepared to judge in a reduced capacity and/or assist with judge training may apply to be transferred to the Guest Judge category.

How to become a Guest Judge

Eligibility:

- You must have been a Tier 1 judge of the WPCS of A Inc
- You must have been a member of the WPCS of A Inc or an approved overseas Welsh Society for a minimum of 5 consecutive years and be the nominee of that membership. Membership must be a Full Membership unless the applicant is associated with a Full membership in which case being the nominee of a separate Associate membership is accepted. If the judge is no longer breeding then Associate membership will suffice.
- Tier 1 Judges may be appointed to the Guest Judge panel upon written application to COM

In order to maintain the Guest Judge status

- You must remain a member of the Society and be the nominee of that membership. (Membership level applicable is the same as for an applicant).
- It is recommended that Guest judges attend a WPCS of A judges' seminar at least once every three years & attend an annual Zoom Judges Workshop when applicable.
- You must adhere to the Judges Code of Conduct and all Society Codes of Conduct and Rules & Regulations.
- Successfully complete an Open Book Test and sign Code of Conduct & Appointment Documentation as sent by COM annually
- It is recommended to attend Zoom workshops where applicable.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Probationary Judging Appointments

- In order to advance to Tier 2 the judge applicant is required to participate in some probationary judging appointments with Tier 1 judges. The purpose of these is to ensure that the Tier 3 judge is proficient in ring management and that they have had the opportunity to assess Welsh ponies with the benefit of an experienced Welsh judge to discuss things with.
- As a studbook society, it is imperative that judges are able to assess breed type as judges are the custodians of the breed.
- The appointment should not be viewed as a stewarding experience. The Tier 1 judge should be able to discuss the ponies confidentially with the Tier 3. The Tier 3 judge does not necessarily feel that they would place the animals in the same order as the Tier 1 judge but they must not have missed anything important and should be able to justify their decision in a positive manner.
- It is important to remember that judging is a balancing action between good and bad. It is important that judges do not fault judge and that they are able to reward good attributes as well as recognising bad.
- There should only be one probationary judge in the ring at any one time.
- Probationary judging appointments are not able to include ARC or Foal Futurity events.
- Prior to progressing to a Tier 2 assessment, the Society must be in receipt of at least 4 satisfactory probation judging reports from Tier 1 judges. At least two of the probationary judging appointments must be with Mentor or Overseas judges. The probation judge reports must be submitted to the Society by the assessing judge and not by the judge candidate and the assessing judge must not be an immediate family member or in a business relationship of the Tier 3 judge as defined by the Society showing regulations. The judge candidate is responsible for ensuring that sufficient reports have been received prior to making application for upgrade. The reports will detail such things as your ability to conduct and organise a ring efficiently, consistency of judging, attitude towards the show and exhibitors.
- In order to be assessed for a section, three of the Probationary Judge reports must include classes relevant to that section ie to be assessed for the ridden panel at least 3 Probationary appointments must include ridden classes. One of these appointments may be replaced with a one-on-one ringside Mentor session with a Mentor or Overseas panel judge, a probation judge report completed by the mentor judge must be submitted to COM.
- Where a judge is already on a recognised judge panel at National level for the performance discipline being applied for then the 3 relevant probationary appointments shall not apply ie a National Panel EA Show Horse judge would not be required to complete the three probationary ridden assessments. Such judges shall be advanced to Tier 1 for the Performance section following successful completion of the Tier 2 Judge assessment. Where a judge is already on a recognised judge panel at National level for ridden then satisfactory reports from two mentor judges will suffice for inclusion to Tier 2 for Part Welsh.

Tier 2 Judge Assessment – Welsh

- The judge applicant will be assessed by two Judge assessors. A written exam will be conducted, this will consist of questions from the WPCS of A Inc Showing and Judge regulations as well as general questions pertaining to Welsh ponies, conformation, movement etc. Should the judge applicant wish to be assessed for the ridden panel or harness panel then specific questions pertaining to these disciplines may be included. The pass mark is 80%.
- The judge applicant will assess a minimum of two Welsh in-hand classes, in order to be eligible for appointment to the Welsh in-hand judge panel, and will then be interviewed in order to discuss the order of placings as well as other things considered important in his appointment of a judge.
- Following this process, the judge assessors will recommend to COM whether the applicant should be appointed to Tier 2 or whether further education is required.