

SECTION 3 RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

1. RULES (Any breach of the Rules could be met by disciplinary action.)

a) Judges must be fully paid up members of the Society.

b) The minimum age for judges is 18 years.

c) All Judges must complete a Judges' Questionnaire and Declaration each year in order to be re-appointed to the Judging Panels annually, which incorporates a declaration of fitness section.

d) Judges must not judge a class where they are aware, or suspect, that they are not fit to do so.

The Society reserves the right to request medical evidence confirming fitness to Judge in the form of a Doctor's Medical Certificate, or other such evidence as deemed necessary.

Judges must always comply with Health & Safety Rules. They must notify the Judges' Administrator (judges@idhsgb.org.uk) accordingly, if illness and/or injury are likely to prevent them from safely judging on behalf of the Society.

e) They should also attend at least one Judges' Conference, organised by the IDHS (GB), the SHBGB, the BSHA or the Showing Council in a three-year period, in order to remain on any of the IDHS (GB) Judges' Panels, providing circumstances allow.

f) Judges must not canvas for judging appointments.

g) Judges should exercise discretion in accepting invitations to judge the same type of Show in the same area in any one year. Judges must not undertake more than **three** affiliated Shows in any one calendar year and the Shows must be well spaced apart geographically, ideally not within a **50** mile radius of each other. Having judged at any particular Show, a Judge must not return to that Show **to judge the same classes** within a two-year period, other than in exceptional circumstances. (i.e. they could judge the breeding classes one year and the Maturity or ride the next year).

h) There are currently 5 Merit Shows (The Royal Bath and West Show, The Royal Three Counties Show, the Great Yorkshire Show, the Annual Breed Show and The Horse of The Year Show).

Judges that have been invited to judge at one Merit Show must not judge the same classes at any other Merit Show in the same season. (i.e. judges may judge in hand classes at one Merit Show and ridden classes at another Merit Show)

i) A Judge must not be an exhibitor, trainer or producer in the ring (whether ridden or in-hand) at any affiliated Show on the same day at which they are officiating as a Judge. This rule also applies to Probationary Judges.

j) Judges must not judge any horse or exhibitor where they have a financial interest. Stud fees and keep fees for mares that are visiting the stud are exempt.

k) A Judge must not knowingly judge any exhibitor for whom they have shown or produced any horse in the current or previous season

l) A Judge must not advise on the purchase of horses, or exhibit or school horses for someone and then, at a later date, judge these horses for the same owner.

m) A Judge must not knowingly judge a horse which they (or a family member) or anyone with whom they are in a business partnership, or anyone they employ or who employs them, or anyone with whom they live, has bred, owned, exhibited, sold, leased or produced, or in which he/she has a financial interest. Should a situation arise when such a horse appears, the competitor must withdraw.

n) Judges should be aware that exhibitors are required to withdraw from a class if their participation is in conflict with any of the rules contained above. Group teaching and showing clinics are exempt.

- o) A Judge who is accompanied by a Probationary Judge **MUST** fill in a Performance Feedback Form with the fullest detail as required and return to the Judges' Administrator within 14 days of the show. Reports are confidential and should give a thorough and accurate account of the Panel Judge's opinion of the Probationer as a future Judge and ambassador of the Society. Judges are not required to show the report to the Probationary Judge on the day but the Society may use the information contained in the report for training purposes.
- p) Judges must inform the Judges' Administrator (judges@idhsgb.org.uk) of any shows where they will be officiating as soon as possible, to facilitate the placement of Probationary judges.
- q) Judges are representatives of both the Irish Draught Horse Society (GB) and the Breed itself. They must display professionalism and respect at all times. Judges should also bear in mind that it is a privilege to be invited to judge at a Show. They should reply promptly to the invitation and, having made the commitment to attend, **should honour it**.
- r) Where a Judge finds it impossible to honour a commitment, due to unforeseen circumstances, they must immediately notify the Show Secretary and the Judges' Administrator (judges@idhsgb.org.uk) so that alternative arrangements can be made and exhibitors notified accordingly.
- s) Judges must not act in any way which is likely to bring the Society into disrepute.
- t) If a Judge on any IDHS (GB) Panel conducts them self in a manner which is contrary to the Rules of the Society, they will be dealt with in accordance with the Society Complaints Procedure.
- u) Judges must be able to give good reasons for their decisions if requested by the Society. It is the Judge's duty to the exhibitor/owner and to the Breed itself to maintain the high standard of which the Society is proud.
- v) A Judge must be smartly and appropriately dressed.
- w) Ride Judges must not wear spurs.
- x) Where a Judge has cause for complaint against a Member of the Society, owner or exhibitor, they must raise such complaint using the Society's Complaints Procedure.
All Judges, whether bringing the complaint, or subject to a complaint, must ensure that they co-operate fully with all persons who may be investigating the complaint.
Judges must not discuss a complaint with any person other than those officially dealing with the matter at hand.
Confidentiality must be maintained at all times.
- y) Ride Judges must ride all the horses in the class in the same manner and remember that they are not there to school the horses. If a horse cannot or will not respond to the ride judges' aids, the horse should be immediately returned to the owner/exhibitor.
- z) When judging a pure bred Irish Draught Class, judges must keep the ID type and Breed Standard in mind.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Judges should be aware that the same rules of confidentiality and integrity apply to the use of Social Media. Judges should never post the results of a show that they have judged, or their opinions of horses they have seen at the show, on any type of social media.

GUIDELINES

- a) Judges should not wear any badge of office other than that provided by the Show Secretary on arrival at the Secretary's Tent.
- b) Judges are advised to consider taking out personal accident insurance cover.

PROCEDURES IN THE SHOW RING

- a) Judges should report to the Secretary of the Show in good time to allow them to familiarise themselves with the layout of the showground and the position of their ring before judging is due to begin.
- b) Judges are forbidden to refer to the show catalogue either before or during judging. They are, however, encouraged to refer to the schedule, which should be carefully studied, noting the number of rosettes available and any special awards.
- c) Before judging commences, discussion with the steward should take place regarding the procedure to be adopted in the ring: where to line up the horses, where to run them out, presentation of rosettes, awards, etc. Instructions to exhibitors generally should be relayed through the Ring Steward.
- d) Under normal circumstances, an exhibitor who is late should not be allowed to join and take part in a class where that class has reached the following stages:-
i) initial trot up has commenced in an In-hand class;
ii) trotting has commenced in a Ridden Class.
other than with the permission of the Judge, which will only be given in exceptional circumstances.
- e) Judges should avoid meeting exhibitors, their helpers and horses on the day of the Show, prior to entering the show ring.
- f) No contact should be made between the Judge and the spectators at the ringside or collecting ring at any time during the period when the classes begin and end.
- g) Judges must not call any exhibitor by their name in the ring and should be polite, diplomatic and courteous without entering into any conversation (apart from saying 'good morning/afternoon, asking the age of the horse and asking permission to ride the horse).
- h) Judges should be entirely independent of outside influence and must not ask the breeding of any exhibit prior to the Championship.
- i) Judges must ensure that all exhibits are judged on their own performance, manners and qualities **on the day** and not be influenced by any previous performance either in a previous class or another competition.
- j) Judges are in command of the class and must not allow themselves to be influenced by their Steward, nor be seen to be taking direction from their Steward.
- k) Judges should never make any comments about any horse, or compare/contrast the conformation, performance or ride of a horse, or discuss any horse in the class with anyone other than the owner/exhibitor, or their co-judge.
- l) Judges should be cautious and discreet in any remarks made during or after the judging is over. They should never get involved in a discussion as to where a particular horse may have been placed and, if asked, it would be wise to say that it was only their opinion on the day that determined the final placing.
- m) Judges must be totally unbiased and fair. They should bear in mind that it is the horses only that are being judged.
- n) Ride Judges are normally expected to ride all horses in a Ridden Class, but may refuse to ride any exhibit deemed to be unsafe, badly behaved or ill prepared.
- o) Judges must be able to differentiate between youthful exuberance, particularly in Youngstock classes and bad manners. However, should the judge feel that the animal presents a danger, either to itself or to other animals, exhibitors or officials, the competitor should be asked to remove the horse from the ring. The Judge's decision on this is final.
- p) In the event of a Judge being unseated in the ring, they must not remount that exhibit in that class. If the judge suffers concussion or is rendered unconscious, they must not attempt to resume judging.

- q) On Health and Safety grounds, in normal circumstances, horses should not be touched during the examination for conformation
- r) The Society discourages the showing of significantly over-weight horses and Judges should take this into consideration.
- s) If, in the opinion of the Judge, a horse is unlevel, they may give the exhibitor, at the earliest opportunity, the option of withdrawing the horse from the class or being placed at the bottom of the line
- t) If a Judge feels that a horse's welfare is being compromised, they have the right to ask the exhibitor to leave the ring. If this option is not accepted, a Veterinary Surgeon may be called, at the owner's expense but, if not immediately available, then the Judge's decision is final.
- u) A Judge is at liberty to demote or disqualify a horse in the final line-up where the horse, producer, owner or handler, exhibits bad behaviour prior to dismissal of the class.
- v) Judges must not penalise a horse in the ring that has not had its facial whiskers trimmed.
- w) A class is completed when the Judge dismisses the class.
- x) THE JUDGE'S DECISION IS FINAL.
- y) The Judge should report to the Secretary's Office before leaving the showground to check on any queries and thank the Show Committee for its hospitality.



SECTION 4 – PROCEDURE FOR APPLYING TO JUDGES' PANELS

Submission of Interest

All potential applicants must be full Members of the IDHS(GB) (membership forms can be downloaded [here](#)) They must submit a completed application form, ([download here](#)) along with the current assessment fee, which can be paid on line via the IDHS (GB) website (www.idhsgb.org.uk). or by cheque (made in favour of IDHS GB)

a) Considerations of Applications

The Judges Team will consider all applications for the Judges Panels. ***Receipt of an application does not guarantee acceptance to an assessment day.***

b) Minimum Age

The IDHS (GB) Conformation and Ride Panels are open to adults only, aged 18 years and over. All applicants will be assessed on their own merits.

c) Occupational Expertise

All applicants should be confident that they have:

- i) A broad knowledge of the Irish Draught Breed and the Breed Standard;
- ii) Sound, working knowledge of horsemanship and conformation in general;
- iii) Substantial communication skills with an ability to deal with people in a courteous but positive manner;
- iv) Due regard for confidential information and upholding the Society's rules.

d) Applicants are asked to provide the name and contact details of two people to provide a reference, attesting to their character and ability. One reference must be from a long standing member of the Irish Draught Horse Society (GB) who has an in-depth knowledge of the Breed and the Breed Standard and the other must be from an IDHS (GB) Panel Judge or another respected member of the equine community. References from a Family Member or business partner or employee will not be accepted.

Please ensure that you have the referees' permission before providing their names. References will be taken up by the Society prior to the assessment, so full and correct contact details should be provided.

e) Ride Panel applicants that are already on the ride judging panel of the SHBGB or BSHA **may** be eligible to be placed directly onto the IDHS (GB) Ride Judges' Panel on completion of the application process.

JUDGES' ASSESSMENT AND SELECTION DAYS

- i) All applicants will be required to attend an Assessment and Selection Day. They must be full members of the Society **before** the assessment day, for which they should be smartly and appropriately dressed.
- ii) All applicants shall pay a fee, which shall be determined by the IDHS (GB).
- iii) On acceptance of their application, all candidates will receive written confirmation of the date and time of the next assessment/selection day. Applicants should confirm that they are able to attend.
- iv) The Judges Assessment panel will be made up of Senior Panel Judges. Where necessary, experts may be called from outside the IDHS (GB) Judging Panels.
- v) **In the interests of all, spectators are NOT allowed at Judges' Assessment/Selection Days.**

FORMAT

(Information sheet can be downloaded [here](#))

ASSESSMENT DAY RESULTS

- i) Applicants will be notified of the outcome in writing as soon as possible after the assessment day.
- ii) Conformation Candidates, who reach the required standard, will have their details added to the list of Probationary Conformation Judges. All successful candidates will complete a period of probation, determined by the Assessors (generally two years), during which time they will attend a number of allocated shows (typically 6), with Senior IDHS (GB) Conformation judges, followed by a re-assessment.
- iii) Probationary Conformation Panel judges will be subject to assessment and reports covering all aspects of their performance throughout their probationary period.

iv) In exceptional cases, an applicant may be accepted directly on to the Full Conformation Judges' Panel, providing that they have satisfied the Assessors that their knowledge of the Breed Standard, type and conformation are up to the standard expected by the IDHS(GB).

v) **Ride Only** candidates, who show sufficient riding skills and knowledge of the Irish Draught breed, conformation and how it may affect the horses' way of going, will have their details added to the Ride Judges List.

vi) Ride Only Judges, who have been added to the Ride only panel as a result of them already being a ride judge on an affiliated panel, will have their details added to the Ride only Judges Panel. .

vii) Ride Only Judges, who are not approved as IDHS(GB) Conformation Judges, are not permitted to judge ID Conformation classes or the conformation element of a ridden class, which must *always* be judged by a member of the IDHS(GB) Conformation Judges' Panel. They must *always* be accompanied by an approved IDHS(GB) Conformation Judge.

(Within the first two years some restrictions at some shows apply. in relation to Finals of competitions, Merit Shows etc.)

viii) **There is no Probationary Panel for Ride Judges**

PROBATIONARY PERIOD (FOR CONFORMATION PANEL ONLY)

i) The Judges' Administrator will allocate shows for probationers to attend, where all aspects of their performance will be assessed by a senior IDHS(GB) Conformation Panel Judge.

ii) Probationary Judges must not canvass for appointments nor arrange them independently.

iii) It is a requirement that probationary conformation judges steward at one IDHS(GB) Annual Breed Show during their period of probation.

iv) Probationary Judges will be issued with six assessment forms, one of which should be given to the Supervising Panel Judge at each show, along with a stamped addressed envelope, for the Judge to complete and return to the Judges' Administrator. On receipt of six assessment forms, the Probationary Judge ***will be subject to re-assessment of their potential for inclusion to the full Panel.*** (A fee is payable for re-assessment).

v) Probationary Judges may ask questions during the class, but may not enter into lengthy conversation with the judge, as this might hold up the proceedings. Probationary judges are reminded that they are not permitted to interact with the competitors or direct the steward.

NEWLY APPOINTED JUDGES

Certain restrictions apply to newly appointed Judges, ***until they have successfully judged a minimum of 6 shows in their own right.***

- **Newly appointed Judges are not permitted to mentor nor supervise probationers;**
- **Newly appointed Judges must not accept invitations to judge at Merit Qualifying Shows (The Royal Bath and West, The Royal Three Counties, The Great Yorkshire, The Annual Breed Show and HOYS);**
- **Newly appointed Judges may not judge in the Finals of any Challenge or Competition held at the Annual Breed Show.**

Not to be part of the Judges' Rules on website

To be enclosed with the letter informing candidates that they have been placed on the probationary panel.

ADDITIONAL ADVICE FOR PROBATIONARY JUDGES AT SHOWS

- a) Probationary Judges are advised to study the Rules and Guidelines for Judges and the Procedure in the show ring, as many points apply even at this early stage in their judging career.
- b) Probationary Judges are reminded that they are being assessed at a Show not only on their knowledge, but also on their suitability as ambassadors of the Society and should act in a courteous and considerate manner both inside and outside the ring.
- c) Probationary Judges must remember that the Panel Judge is the official Judge and **only** the Panel Judge should direct the steward and exhibitors.
- d) Probationary Judges should offer their opinions on the horses only when asked by the Panel Judge and must not enter into discussion with the owners/exhibitors, nor handle the horses.
- e) Probationary Judges may raise any immediate questions/queries with the Panel Judge, which are relevant to the class, but must not delay the running of the class. Any questions which may take time to fully answer should therefore be discussed on completion of the class.
- f) Probationary Judges **must** declare any interest they may have in any exhibit/exhibitor to the supervising Judge(s).
- g) Probationary judges are strongly advised to consider taking out personal accident insurance cover.

