In order to ensure high quality judging, consistency in judging, and compliance to judging rules, the Judge’s Committee (JC) of the National Walking Horse Association (NWHA) sets forth the following standard operating procedures for regulating Guest Judges, in addition to the NWHA Rulebook. (NWHA Rules & Regulations, Section 9 Judges)

I. Circumstances whereby a Guest Judge may be authorized:

   i. The horse show is located outside of a 500-mile radius of a NWHA judge’s residence and such transportation of a NWHA judge is cost prohibitive for the show.

   ii. An NWHA judge is not available for the date/time of the event (show manager must produce a list of NWHA judges who have turned down the opportunity to judge show).

   iii. The Judge’s Committee may recommend to the Executive Committee to approve a guest judge based on individual circumstances that are unique to a particular event.

II. Guest Judge Criteria

   i. Must hold a current/valid judge’s license from another horse organization (HIO).

   ii. Must be at least 25 years of age.

   iii. Must have at least three (3) years of judging experience

   iv. Must have experience and/or knowledge of Walking Horses.

   v. Must have three (3) references from NWHA sources.

      • including, but not limited to: trainers, officers, board members, exhibitors, judges.

   vi. Exhibits integrity, honesty, and high ethical standards.

   vii. Exhibits a true commitment to sound horses and be able to produce evidence of such.

   *Applicants having a USDA, HPA or NWHA violation including but not limited to the involvement of sensitivity, scarring, lameness or bad image are ineligible as Guest Judges.*
III. Procedure

i. Show manager must complete the Guest Judge Application/request form and send to the NWHA Office.

ii. The NWHA Office forwards the form to Judge’s Committee.

iii. Judge’s Committee reviews the information, checks references, discusses the request and makes a recommendation to the NWHA Executive Committee.

iv. The NWHA Executive Committee will make a determination.

v. Upon determination, the NWHA office will forward the decision of the Executive Committee to the show manager. Show manager must remit the $100.00 Guest Judge’s fee to the NWHA office prior to completion of the Guest Judge’s contract.

IV. Special Notes

i. The NWHA National Championship Show and all NWHA Regional Shows must use NWHA licensed judges.

ii. All NWHA affiliated multi-day shows must use NWHA licensed judges unless approved by the Executive Committee based on recommendation from the Judge’s Committee.

iii. Double point and/or multi-judged shows must use at least one NWHA licensed judge.