



JUDGES

Specialized Judge Application Information

Specialized Cards Offered: Cutting, Reining, Working Cow Horse, Roping, Over Fence Classes, Versatility Ranch Horse, Ranch Riding, Team Penning & Ranch Sorting, Speed Events, Halter, Level 1

The following criteria must be met before becoming an AQHA-approved judge:

1. Have individual, current-year AQHA membership, in good standing
2. Be at least 25 years of age (except Level 1 applicants who must be 21 years of age).
3. Each applicant's name must be listed on the AQHA Website or appear in at least one issue of *The Quarter Horse Journal* prior to review by the Judges Committee.
4. Receive approval from AQHA State Selection Committee for judges.
5. Receive approval from AQHA Judges Committee.
6. Receive approval from AQHA Executive Committee.
7. If favorable approval is received, the applicant will be notified by AQHA that the applicant must:
 - Attend the next new judge orientation
 - Complete mandatory testing (if applicable)
 - Complete and return the Judges Code of Ethics and Electronic Communication Policy
8. Receive final review and approval by Judges Committee and Executive Committee.
9. Required to complete recertification and/or a rulebook test each year via online testing.
10. Required to complete recertification as determined the by the Judges and Executive Committee.
11. The Judges Committee will review specialized applications three times per year:
 - March (Convention) - Deadline for application is December 1.
 - June – Deadline for application is March 1.
 - September - Deadline for application is June 1.
 - THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THESE DEADLINES
12. An individual may not re-apply for AQHA Specialized judges credentials after being denied 2 times for any of the following:
 - Denial of permission to attend a qualifying examination by the Judges Committee;
 - Failure to pass the qualifying examination; or
 - Failure to obtain approval from the Judges Committee or AQHA Executive Committee, for any reason.

****\$175 non-refundable application fee must be submitted with application****

[CLICK HERE TO GO TO THE APPLICATION](#)

As of October 1, 2021, all AQHA judge applications MUST BE submitted electronically.

The online application may be started, saved, and continued later. The application requires the following information and questions:

APPLICANT INFORMATION

- Name, Address, Email, Phone Number, Date of Birth
- Photograph (*The photograph should include only the head and shoulders of the applicant. The photo does not have to be professionally done; it can be a snapshot. You should be dressed in the attire that you would wear to judge a horse show.*)
- Primary Occupation, Education
- What specialized judge's card(s) you are applying for
 - Cutting requires you to be a current NCHA Judge
 - Reining requires you to be a current NRHA Judge
 - Working Cow Horse requires you to be a current NRCHA 2A or 3A Judge
 - Over Fence Classes requires you to be a current USEF "R" Judge
 - Halter requires you to be a current WCHA Judge

AQHA MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

- AQHA ID Number (A current, individual membership is requirement to complete your application. [Click here](#) to renew your membership or join AQHA.)
- Are you a member of a local, state or provincial AQHA Affiliate? If yes, please list
- Have you ever held an office in a local, state or provincial AQHA Affiliate? If yes, please list
- Have you ever held an office or committee assignment in any equine association? If yes, please list
- Are you a current AQHA Professional Horseman/Horsewoman?
- Have you enrolled in a course on [AQHUniversity](#) or previously attended an AQHA Judges Educational Seminar? If yes, what course did you enroll in or when did you attend?
- Have you ever been suspended, placed on probation, denied membership, or had your membership terminated by any equine-related association?
- Have you ever been placed on probation as a judge or had a Judges Card suspended or terminated by any organization?

REFERENCES

- Current AQHA Judges are not required to submit references if applying for an additional specialized card.
- You must have 3 reference forms submitted to complete your application. A link to fill out the reference form will be emailed to the addresses provided.
- Required references include 1 from an AQHA-approved judge, 1 from an AQHA member and 1 from a character reference not involved in the American Quarter Horse industry. List those individuals submitting references on your behalf: Name, Location, Email
- The reference form can be [found here](#).

AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE INFORMATION

- Have you ever owned an American Quarter Horse, or do you own one now? If yes, provide horse name and years owned
- Are you, or have you ever been, a breeder of American Quarter Horses? If yes, for how long
- Have you ever shown an American Quarter Horse in the class(es) in which you are applying for a specialized card? If yes, provide horse name and years shown
- During the past five years, how have you been active in the management or training of American Quarter Horses? Please include people for whom you have managed or trained in the past five years.

Please note that you can upload additional files in this section if you need additional room. Only PDF files are accepted.

JUDGING INFORMATION

- Have you previously applied for an AQHA All-Around Judges Card? If yes, when
- Knowledge and Expertise of Various Events: please rate your ability to judge classes in each of the following areas: (as applicable)
 - Halter, Over Fence Classes, Equitation on the Flat, Hunter Under Saddle, Pleasure Driving, Cutting, Working Cow Horse, Roping, Reining, Ranch Riding, Ranch Classes, Speed/Timed Events, Team Penning/Ranch Sorting, Rail Classes, Pattern Classes, Western Riding/Trail
- What do you perceive as the roles and responsibilities of an AQHA-approved judge?
- Why do you want to become an AQHA Judge and what value do you believe you will bring to the association and its' membership?
- Have you ever been, or are you, an approved judge for any other equine association or group (NRHA, NCHA, NSBA, NRCHA, WCHA, USEF, etc.)? If yes, please list the association(s) and year(s) approved
- Have you judged any type of horse show not requiring a judge's card? (i.e. Open shows, 4-H, etc.)
- Approximately how many shows have you judged?
- Explain and list the names and locations of the largest shows you have judged or any major events.
- Explain and list the names and locations of shows you have judged in the previous year and the names and locations of the shows you plan to judge during the current year.

Please note that you can upload additional files in this section if you need additional room. Only PDF files are accepted.

Applications and supporting materials become the property of AQHA and cannot be returned. If you have questions, please email judges@aqha.org.