



***AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL
SADDLEHORSE ASSOCIATION
INC.***

Judges Panel, Selection,

REVISED- 24th July 2024

Required to know all Rules, Regulations, Panel, Selection, Validation & Guidelines

Aims of A.N.S.A.

- To promote the breeding and recognise the qualities of the saddlehorse.
- To further the objectives of the Association and to promote the improvement and popularity of saddlehorses in Australia and elsewhere.
- To promote in any way whatsoever the interests of breeders and owners of ANSA horses.
- To adopt such means of making known the objects and benefits of the Association as may seem expedient.
- To compile, print and publish whenever considered desirable any registers of, or relating to ANSA horses including foal recordings, transfers or any other ancillary records considered necessary.
- In furtherance of the objects of the Association, to support and assist in the progress and development of any agricultural show, to promote competition, to award prizes and to make contributions for that purpose.
- To appoint judges for and maintain a list of persons competent to act as judges for the Association at any show whether promoted or sponsored by the Association or otherwise.
- To hold and promote shows, exhibitions, or sales of ANSA horses and to offer prizes in respect of competition between ANSA horses or between ANSA horses and other breeds or cross breeds.

All ANSA shows are closed to members, ANSA registered horses and ANSA accredited judges. The program should cater for all categories with slight variations to suit localities.

a) Qualifying for acceptance to ANSA Judges Panel

- Financial Member of ANSA of a period not less than 12 months.
- Submission of riding resume and judging experience.
- Detail experience with judging ANSA horses.
- Attend an ANSA Judges clinic.
- Complete an open book exam based upon both the Rules and Regulations and the Judges handbook. Candidates need to achieve 100% to pass. All Candidates will be contacted by a member of the Management Committee to advise of their results.
- In accepting an invitation to join the ANSA Judges Panel they agree to act as Ambassador for ANSA, promote the aims and goals of ANSA and adhere to the judging criterion.
- Judges will be recognised as State or Royal/National
 - Judges will be accepted to General Level on the criteria above.
 - Judges will be nominated to Royal Level by the National Management Committee based on an assessment but not limited to the following criteria:
 - a) Have achieved success as a competitor, breeder/producer, or exhibitor at State /National/Royal Levels
 - b) Be a member of other Judges Panels for other major Breed/Show Societies such as ASHS, AHSA, HHAA. SHCA. EA. AQHA etc
 - c) Have demonstrated experience as a Judge at Royal/National/State Levels
- Plays an active role in the promotion of ANSA and It's aims and goals in various activities.
- Judges on the General list may apply for recognition and elevation to Royal /National based of the preceding criteria by writing to the ANSA National Management Committee

b) Remaining on Judges Panel

- Reviewed yearly by the management committee.
- Agree to remain on panel. A form will be sent each year with membership renewals inviting judges to remain on the Judges List and request they return the form with acceptance of the invitation. It is a privilege to be asked to represent the Society as a judge.
- Attend one ANSA Judges Clinic within a 3-year period.
- To be a financial member of ANSA (unfinancial members will be removed from the judges list).
- Judges who are no longer financial members are required to apply to be reinstated to remain on the Judges Panel. Unfinancial members will need to lodge a Judges Application and complete the Open Book Exam (to demonstrate currency in rules) and submit payment of current membership fee and re-joining fee.

c) Mentor Judges

- The ANSA National Management Committee may nominate and invite selected Judges to be recognised as ANSA Mentor Judges. Invited Mentor Judges have the opportunity to decline the responsibility.
- The role of the Mentor Judge:

- Enable shadow Judging appointments for Level 1 Judges seeking to gain more skills.
- Contribute to Judges Clinics.
- Provide support to all Judges on the ANSA Judges Panel in the instance of problem solving.
- Complete and return mentoring assessments after each appointment.
- The number of Mentor Judges in each state will be proportionate to the number of Judges on each state's list. 1 per 30,
- Mentor Judges will have a long-standing involvement with ANSA, be recognised as a Judge who enjoys a strong and respected reputation with the ANSA Community and is current with competitive and judging practices.
- Mentor judges will be Full Financial Members.

d) When do ANSA Judging Criterion and Rules apply?

- At any dedicated ANSA Feature Show or Event or dedicated ANSA Show Ring.
- Any restricted ANSA Event.
- Where event organisers and programs state ANSA Judging Criterion applies.
- Ruling regarding headwear can be over-ruled by convening show committee.
- Events conducted under Equestrian Australia Rules will over-ride ANSA Rulings.

e) Etiquette, ethics, and professionalism

- Judges' responsibilities to ANSA
 - Understand the aims and goals of ANSA and make sound judging decisions in accordance with those aims and goals.
 - Make judging decisions in accordance with the ANSA Judging Criterion.
 - Promote ANSA. Judges will demonstrate a professional attitude when dealing with Show Societies, Event organisers and ground committees.
 - Attire themselves in a suitable manner. Well-presented Judges endorse their own credibility.
 - ANSA considers the Judge entering the Show Ring to be in a place of work or business thus issues pertaining to OH & S should be observed and recommends the following:
 - a) Judges should dress to conditions.
 - b) Sun protective Hats for Ladies and Gents (Fascinators for ladies only if indoors)
 - c) Dress code for Gents: Judges will include Hat – short or long-sleeved shirt, tie, jacket (may be removed if temperature is high) slacks/long pants and enclosed footwear.
 - d) Dress code for ladies will include a shade providing Hat, suitable length skirt or slacks/long pants, jacket, top/blouse with sleeves, enclosed footwear.
- Interacting with competitors
- Interaction between judge and competitor should be conducted through the ring steward or ground committee – this includes questions regarding the holding of classes in the instance of clashes between rings.
- Any competitor with questions arising from judging decisions must address their query to the show/ground committee.

f) Conflict of interest:

It is not appropriate for judges to judge:

- Their own Students or Instructors
- Family members
- Business partners or Persons with whom they have had recent business dealings including provision or receipt of services, purchased a horse from or sold a horse to as well as horses that they recently sold, etc - within a period of not less than 6 months.
- Horses in training or have been in training with that judge, on behalf of its owners – within a period of not less than 6 months.
- Persons providing accommodation for judges before an event at which they are scheduled to compete under that judge.
- It is always the competitor's responsibility to find out who the judge is and not present for competition if there is a conflict of interest.

g) Frequency

- Judges may not judge ANSA Classes at more than one Royal, National Titles/Championship or A Grade ANSA Show in the same state for a period of two calendar years following:
 - For example: if engaged to judge ANSA Classes at Sydney Royal in 2010, the Judge would not be eligible to accept an appointment to judge ANSA Classes at Bathurst Royal until 2013. As in excluded from judging at that level in that state for 2 calendar years – This does not preclude Judges from accepting appointments at this level in other states during that time.
 - When engaged to judge at any Royal, National Titles/Championship or A Grade ANSA Show a Judge may not judge any ANSA classes at any show in any State for a period of 3 months beforehand.
 - ANSA acknowledges the difficulties Show Societies can experience in securing Judges for their Shows: However, Judges will consider the appropriateness and ethical implications of appointments occurring frequently and often, particularly within a specific region or district with specific regard to the Judging of ANSA Classes. ANSA Judges, in many cases, are also appointed to a number of other Judging Panels and are strongly encouraged to exercise diversity in their appointments.

h) Setting workouts for the ANSA horse

- Workouts should be formulated to demonstrate qualities identified as desirable by the Judging Criterion specifically the first three points relating to conformation, manners, and paces.
- Conformation will impact on the horse's ability to move freely – perceived faults can affect the straightness of his action or his ability to engage.
- The ANSA horse is expected to demonstrate calm and controlled manners; under saddle and in-hand.
- Paces must be free, flowing and straight in their action.
- Setting individual workout which includes 2 or more changes of direction with lengthening of trot and/or canter will demonstrate responsiveness and submission to the aids i.e. freely forward while light to hand and leg.
 - Working the Best Presented Candidate: as detailed in the Judging Criterion the workout should be designed to allow the horse and rider the ability to demonstrate

desirable qualities. In this class the judge will be considering the overall package of horse, rider, presentation and how well they work together.

- Working the Ridden ANSA Horse: workouts will generally include walk, trot and canter in each direction and may request a lengthening of trot and/ canter. Changes of lead will usually be through the walk or trot – flying changes are seldom asked for however if the rider is given the option of choosing their change of lead and the flying change is offered, then the change should be assessed as performed.
- Working the Working ANSA Horse. Each pace should be demonstrated in each direction but might include lengthened paces, flying changes, haunch turns or rollback and fast work.
- All Fast Work will be 'Out of Seat'.
- Fast Work will include Flying Changes.
- In the interests of safety Its recommended that in setting workouts Judges should
 - always consider the quality and size of the workout area to be used.
 - pay consideration to the level of the show - a Royal show workout can be expected to be more demanding to that of a smaller regional show.

