



WISCONSIN HORSE COUNCIL CERTIFIED JUDGES PROGRAM

The Wisconsin Judge's Certification Program developed from a need in the horse show industry for better qualified judges. Through a joint effort of the University of Wisconsin Extension, and the Wisconsin Horse Council, the first two-day Wisconsin Judging Seminar was held in 1979. The current program is provided by the Wisconsin Horse Council.

The recommendations of many experienced judges were combined with certification systems used by breed associations and the American Horse Shows Association to produce the current system used for accrediting judges for Wisconsin open, all-breed, and 4-H shows. The criterion continues to be updated and modified through input from judges, show committees, trainers, owners and exhibitors.

Purpose of the Judges Seminar

- 1st:** The seminar is designed as an educational opportunity for horse show judges. The presentations have included stock seat equitation & pleasure, hunt seat equitation and pleasure, working hunter and jumping, saddleseat equitation and pleasure, showmanship, pleasure driving and conformation among others.
- 2nd:** The seminar was based upon the United States Equestrian Federation rules in an attempt to provide a standard set of rules and to establish uniform judging criteria.
- 3rd:** The results of the seminar available in this judges' directory provide a listing for show committees to consider when selecting judges.

Listings in the Judges' Directory should not be interpreted as an indication of judging ability—but rather as a statement that these judges have taken the time and made an effort to better their judging skills.

A listing in the Directory does indicate that these judges have:

- Attended the Judges' Seminar
- Passed a written and live judging exams
- Have documented experience judging horses

Criteria For Attaining Certification Are:

Method A:

1. Attend the seminar twice within a three year period..
2. Pass the seminar's written and live exams within the same 3 year period.
3. Verify judging experience by either:
 - a. Judging 6 shows within previous 3 years. **(Obtain Evaluation Form From WHC Office or website)**
 - b. Junior judge 3 shows under 2 different judges within 2 years of taking exam. To be credited for Junior Judging, you must apprentice under a judge that has been judging for at least two (2) years and holds one of the following cards: WHC, Multi-State, or Any Breed Card. The Senior Judge must fill out one WHC Judges Evaluation on the Junior Judge. The Junior Judge **MUST** receive a Good or Excellent rating to proceed.
4. **Need to be a member of the Wisconsin Horse Council.**

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Method B:

1. Judges already certified by a nationally recognized affiliating body (ex: U.S.E.F., A.Q.H.A., U.S.D.F. etc.) with documentation from that association.
 - a) Attending two Wisconsin Horse Judges Seminar every 3 years (starting in 2000) as a Judge Candidate (not an Auditor).
 - b) Judging 6 shows within previous 3 years.
2. **Need to be a member of the Wisconsin Horse Council.**

Criteria To Maintain WHC Certified Judge's Card:

1. Attend the WHC Judges' Seminar (not as an auditor) 1 of every 3 years **OR** may alternate with attending a judges refresher course for a nationally recognized affiliating body (as those examples shown above) for which they hold a current certification providing documentation of attendance and proof of successful completion of testing are received directly from that organization.
2. Pass the WHC Seminar examinations with score of 75% or better within each three year period.
3. **Need to maintain an annual Individual Membership in the Wisconsin Horse Council.**
4. Each Judge must to have two (2) **JUDGES EVALUATION FORMS in their judge's file per current calendar year. Forms must be sent to the WHC Office. Forms must be signed by show committee or other evaluator to be accepted.**

Additionally, a major portion of the Wisconsin judges program is evaluation of judges by show committees, spectators, exhibitors, trainers, grooms, and other judges. Judges are evaluated on their ability to determine placings for performance; conformation and equitation classes; impartiality; use of time; professionalism; attitude; and knowledge of rules and procedures.

The stringent requirements of the Wisconsin Certification System and the evaluation process have been recognized nationwide—as many states are developing similar programs based on the Wisconsin system. The seminar is also recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture and the POAC as continuing educational program for their judges.

Criteria Revised February, 2014. Please Read Carefully.