



WDAA Judge's Code of Ethics

As a licensed official of the Western Dressage Association of America (WDAA), my primary concern is the welfare of the horse while giving full attention to exhibitors and respect to my colleagues.

Therefore, I will:

- Conduct my duties with the highest level of integrity.
- I will endeavor to uphold and have complete and accurate knowledge of all rules governing the competition.
- Exercise my responsibilities in a positive and professional manner, refraining from conducting business and socializing with exhibitors during the event
- Officiate from a positive perspective in word and deed and complete my duties with consistency and without bias
- Exude a professional and respectful attitude and behavior at all times toward WDAA Staff, other licensed officials, and competition staff.
- Adhere to the professional standards of USEF and WDAA and, at all times, act in a professional manner
- Be courteous and judge with a positive attitude
- Have the conviction to judge by the rules and disqualify entries that are in the violation of the rules
- Not accept any sort of remuneration, consideration, or anything of value that constitutes a bribe in the furtherance of judging duties
- Promptly report to the WDAA Executive Director any information regarding bribes or illegal persuasion of judges, whether directed toward myself or other judges.
- Instill confidence among exhibitors and the public in WDAA, avoiding any action conducive to discrediting it or membership in WDAA.
- Judge honestly, fairly and impartially each horse exhibited to me strictly on the horse and rider's performance as the rules dictate.
- Abide by the USEF Social Media Policy for Licensed Officials with the following additional clarifications:
 - Consider Electronic Communications as public at all times—even if created with private intentions.
 - If you are going to use social media in any form, assume your communication may be read by anyone, including other judges, exhibitors, owners and trainers, at any time.
 - Promote judging in a positive light with a general feeling of pride and professionalism.
 - Be aware and cautious when commenting on controversial issues that might involve WDAA without knowing where WDAA stands on the issue. Contact WDAA directly if you have questions and verify information before passing it along.
 - Do not use Electronic Communications to criticize the policies of WDAA or its affiliates, assigning practices, etc. If you have concerns, contact WDAA directly to discuss before resorting to Electronic Communications to voice concerns.
 - Do not make negative comments regarding the performance or ability of other WDAA judges, exhibitors, trainers, owners or show management.
 - Do not post comments regarding judging decisions made by other judges.
 - Never use social media to solicit shows to judge.
 - Do not post details about your judging assignments or those of other judges. If someone wants to find out who is going to be judging at a show, they should do so through official channels, not your post.
 - Do not post anything relating to the shows you have judged or will judge that calls your objectivity into question.
 - While judging a WDAA recognized show, never be on any social media or electronically communicating with exhibitors the day prior to or during the event. During this time period, do not make posts or even "like" posts, especially of horses or exhibitors you have been judging.
 - Remember, accountability and integrity should always be your guiding principles. Jeopardizing your impartiality or professionalism should never be a part of your actions or posts.

My personal behavior will reflect my integrity, character and respect for the sport and WDAA.

Judge's Printed Name

WDAA Number

Judge's Signature

Date

Sign & return this form to: Info@WesternDressageAssociation.org