



## ***Forging the future of the Shire Horse in Australia***

### **Code of Conduct for SHSA Judges**

- **Before the Show**

Judges should not make public comments about horses in any media, including social media, which are likely to cause annoyance.

Judges should not have close contact with, or accept hospitality from, likely exhibitors in the days leading up to the show.

- **Dress**

Judges should dress appropriately for the role they are going to fulfil, not in casual clothes.

- **Arrival at showground**

A judge should never look at animals he/she has been asked to adjudicate on, either in the horse area or anywhere else on the showground before judging.

- **Basis of Judging**

Exhibitors always enter shows in the rightful belief that their animals will be fairly judged and there are very few proven irregularities. However, it is not only important for all judges to act properly, but to be seen to act this way. An adequate amount of time should be spent with each animal and all exhibits should be seen to have equal attention. Judges should never unnecessarily give exhibitors a chance to be critical.

- **Judges' Interest in a Horse**

In Australia this is a difficult issue with so few numbers of heavy horses. However mention could be made by the Judge of an interest in a particular horse, and a statement that the placings were decided objectively. If possible a referee can be called in for the placing of a horse with a close connection to the Judge.

- **Exhibitor's Behaviour in the Ring.**

If for any reason the exhibitor wishes to leave the ring before the final completion of the class judging, then the exhibitor should ask the Steward's permission to do so, and the Steward in turn should seek the Judge's permission.

Only one person is allowed in the ring with each entry unless special permission is sought from the class steward. This will be granted in exceptional circumstances ie where someone is needed to trot the horse.

If in the opinion of a Judge an exhibitor conducts himself or herself in an improper way during judging, the Judge should instruct the Steward to ask the exhibitor to leave the judging arena. The Judge should also do the same if he or she feels that the safety of the competitors and spectators is at risk.

- **Discussions During Judging**

Judges are asked to follow the accepted rule that they do not hold discussions whilst the class is in the ring either with the stewards or with exhibitors unless it is to ask direct questions. During the break while classes are leaving the ring judges should not hold discussions with spectators around the ringside. At that time, the judge is perfectly entitled to talk to his or her steward, but not spectators.

- **Judges' Public Comments on Placings**

Many shows now require judges to give comments on placings in the class to the commentator over the public address system. Only positive points should be made, on public address systems, and also in social media, written judges' reports, and in other public opportunities to communicate the Judges's views about placings, classes and exhibitors. In these contexts, never criticise exhibits. But Judges can help promote the breed by commenting on what they are looking for to improve the public's awareness of the judging process.

- **Reasons**

If on the completion of judging, an exhibitor asks, in the correct way, for the Judge's opinion on their animal which they had exhibited, the Judge at his or her discretion, is perfectly entitled to give a reason for his or her placing. However this is entirely a matter for the discretion of the Judge. Quite often exhibitors find Judges' comments helpful to them.