

## Shire Horse Society Australia

### Judges Assessment Scheme for Acceptance to the Official Panel of Judges

#### Mission:

To train and qualify Shire Judges with the experience and knowledge to place Shire Horses in the show ring according to their quality, the breed standard and the closeness of their conformation and movement to the stamp of the breed. This becomes a guide for future breeding of Shire Horses and will help ensure that the quality of the breed for modern uses continues to improve, while maintaining the particular historical breed characteristics of the Shire Horse.

This scheme will also cover the attributes of all heavy horses so that SHSA Qualified Judges are capable of judging all breeds of heavy horse.

#### Criteria to become an Associate Judge for Led Classes

- You must have accompanied a senior judge as a probationer at a minimum of 5 shows or have a similar or greater level of experience gained judging heavy horses. Successful performance exhibiting heavy horses is desirable.
- You must be nominated by two senior judges on the SHSA Official Panel of Judges either verbally or in writing to the SHSA Committee to proceed to the assessing level. The Committee may ask for information from these judges about your probationary judging or judging experience and will then vote on whether or not the nominee goes forward to be assessed by a panel of 3 senior judges. The nominee, if present, will exit from the room for the vote.
- The President of the SHSA Inc will select the 3 senior judges on the SHSA Official Panel of Judges to constitute the assessment panel. The time and venue will be decided by the President in consultation with the 3 senior judges and the applicant. The applicant will be notified in writing of the location and who the assessing judges will be.
- The assessment procedure will consist of both practical (verbal) tests and a theory (written) test.

The practical verbal segment will normally consist of 3 led horses being made available for the probationer to assess, workout and place in order of preference as per a normal judging engagement. The probationer will then be asked to give reasons for his/her decisions in placing the horses as well as answering questions on breed characteristics, conformation faults, hereditary unsoundnesses, and the responsibilities of judges, stewards etc.

In the theory exam, they will also be asked, amongst other things, to list in order of importance when judging certain attributes of the Shire Horse.

In the theory (written) segment of the assessment the content and questions may be changed from time to time, so the applicant is advised to research and have a broad knowledge of the quality attributes of the Shire Horse.

## Criteria for Harness Section Assessment:

- Probationary judging or experience judging harness classes is expected and experience in showing in harness is desirable for applicants for this section.
- In respect of the harness segment the probationer will be asked to explain how they would assess a harness turnout class, ie single, pairs, teams. The senior assessing judges may also ask any other relevant questions.
- The theory (written) segment will consist of the probationer being able to identify and name from a photo or drawing various parts or items of a turnout such as for example: harness, vehicles, wheels, collars, shoes etc.

In the theory (written) segment of the assessment the content and questions may be changed from time to time, so the applicant is advised to research and have a broad knowledge in this area.

## Other Rules

- The probationer has the right to appeal to the Committee prior to the assessment on the appointment of one or more of the assessors, based on relevant grounds.
- It is the duty of the assessing judge or judges to decline the invitation to be part of the assessment panel on relevant grounds, for example conflict of interest.
- The probationer will be advised in writing within 3 weeks of the assessment, by the President/Secretary, as to whether they have been 'successful' or 'unsuccessful' in their application.

**Anyone interested in finding out more about how to begin the process, can apply to the committee through the enquiry form on this web site.**