



Queensland Ag Shows

Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Incorporated

ABN 79 086 021 294

Code of Practice and Conduct Show Judges & Stewards

Issued June 2019

The Code of Practice and Conduct clarifies the standards of behaviour that are expected of Judges and Stewards who accept engagements with the Queensland Chamber of Agricultural Societies Inc. (QCAS) and its affiliated Members (Shows) in the performance of their duties. It gives guidance in areas where Judges and Stewards need to make personal and ethical decisions. It is not intended to cover all issues that may arise. Rather, it is a framework within which Judges and Stewards can address ethical issues, which may arise through the performance of their duties.

Judges

1. A Judge shall act with professional decorum at all times.
2. A Judge shall give every exhibit and exhibitor fair and equal opportunity in each and every class.
3. A Judge shall act in a polite manner whilst carrying out each judging engagement.
4. A Judge shall present himself/herself in attire that is acceptable, appropriate and comfortable for each judging engagement. Footwear appropriate to the discipline shall be worn.
5. A Judge is required to be punctual in availability to fulfil their judging engagement.
6. A Judge will not smoke nor consume alcohol nor illicit substances in the judging environ, or present themselves in an intoxicated condition at any time during the judging engagement.
7. If in the judging process an exhibit displays an obvious physical impediment or is unable to be handled or can be regarded as savage or vicious the exhibit should be excused from the competition.
8. A Judge shall not enter or exhibit any entry in any Class at any Show at which he or she is engaged to judge.

9. Should an exhibitor offer information to the Judge that may be regarded as designed to influence the Judge, the Judge shall excuse the exhibitor and their exhibit(s) from competition and report the incident to the Show Secretary/Committee.
10. Should a Judge be approached to favour or disfavour a particular exhibit(s) the matter is to be reported to the Show Secretary/Committee.
11. Should a Judge be approached with an inducement and/or bribe to advantage or disadvantage an exhibit(s) the Judge is to report the matter in writing to the Show Secretary/Committee.
12. Where a Judge is aware the judging of an exhibit presents a conflict of interest, then the Judge must refrain from judging that exhibit and immediately inform the Chief Steward. A conflict of interest exists when a Judge could be influenced, or a reasonable person would perceive that a Judge could be influenced, by a personal interest when carrying out the engagement.
13. A Judge shall not solicit a judging appointment.
14. A Judge shall not solicit or seek entry of any particular exhibit(s).
15. A Judge shall not allow entries for a Show at which that person is judging to be received at the Judge's address.
16. A Judge must not accept hospitality from an exhibitor before a Show once their appointment as judge is confirmed or during a Show and must not visit any owner or exhibitor or inspect or discuss any exhibit(s) entered in the Show except in the judging environ until judging at the Show has been completed.
17. A Judge must not refer to a show catalogue or steward's list either before or during judging, nor can a judge be in possession of a show catalogue whilst in the ring.
18. A Judge should not discuss any exhibit's faults with stewards or other competitors.
19. A Judge may direct his/her steward to order any person from the judging environ for improper conduct or any other proper cause, including any act of unreasonable discipline or cruelty towards an exhibit.
20. Where a Judge is aware the judging of an exhibit is an infringement of any rule, then the judge must refrain from judging that exhibit and draw the attention of the steward and Chief Steward to the issue.
21. A Judge may refuse to judge any exhibit he/she considers to be unsound. This is very difficult – the competitor might argue that the Judge is not qualified in which case independent expert advice should be sought (e.g. a veterinarian).
22. A Judge may withhold an award if, in his/her opinion, no exhibit is worthy of the award.

23. A Judge has the discretion to agree or to refuse to discuss his/her opinion of an exhibit with an exhibitor but should only agree to enter such discussion if the request comes through the steward or Chief Steward.
24. A Judge should ensure that a steward or other show official is present during any discussion with an exhibitor and should give his or her opinion courteously and sincerely while refraining from engaging in debate.
25. A Judge's decision representing his/her individual preference is final and cannot be the subject of a protest, except where ineligibility is officially determined.
26. A Judge shall complete all the requirements of the judging engagement promptly. Any verbal acceptance of an engagement of a Judge shall be subject to the receipt of the contract within fourteen (14) days.
27. At the time of completing a contract the Judge shall inform the inviting body of any disability or limitation that could restrict carrying out in full the reasonable handling of all exhibits to be judged.
28. Accommodation provided to the Judge to fulfil an engagement is for the Judge only except where prior mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body for variation.
29. A Judge shall be responsible for the cost of all personal telephone calls, alcoholic beverages and any personal laundering except where mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body at the time the contract is accepted.
30. A Judge shall not criticise by act or word the work of other judges, nor offer criticism of any previously judged exhibit(s) to anyone including other officiating judges during the course of the Show. Except for authorised ringside mentoring.
31. A Judge must judge exhibits in accordance with their relevant standard.
32. A Judge by accepting a judging engagement agrees to be bound by the Code of Practice and Conduct – Show Judges and Stewards and any other applicable Show Rules, Regulations or By-Law.

Stewards

33. Stewards shall act with professional decorum at all times.
34. Stewards shall act in a polite manner whilst carrying out each stewarding engagement.
35. Stewards shall present himself/herself in attire that is acceptable, appropriate and comfortable for each stewarding engagement. Footwear appropriate to the discipline shall be worn.

36. Stewards are required to be punctual in availability to fulfil their stewarding engagement.
37. Stewards must not smoke nor consume alcohol nor illicit substances in the judging environ, or present themselves in an intoxicated condition at any time during the stewarding engagement.
38. Stewards are to assist the Judge where and when required but must not in any way be seen to influence the Judges' decision.
39. Stewards shall notify Show staff or Committee members if mediation between a judge and/or exhibitors is required.
40. Stewards must be courteous to all other officials, Show staff members, exhibitors and the general public.
41. Stewards must ensure results and records are accurately input into the records and notify Show staff if issues arise.
42. Where a Steward is aware the judging of an exhibit presents a conflict of interest, then the Steward must refrain from being present at the judging of that class or exhibit and immediately inform the Chief Steward. A conflict of interest exists when a Steward could have an interest in the result of the judging of a class or exhibit, or a reasonable person would perceive that the Steward could be in a position to influence a judging decision, because of a personal interest in the result of a decision (e.g. where the Steward or an associated person has an entry in the respective class/exhibit being judged)
43. A Steward by accepting a stewarding engagement agrees to be bound by the Code of Practice and Conduct – Show Judges and Stewards and any other applicable Show Rules, Regulations or By-Laws.