What does it take to be an OFEA Judge

It is the desire of OFEA that we maintain simplicity and a low-key approach to our horse show competition. However, it is also important that our events be judged in a consistent and fair manner and that the OFEA rules are administered properly.

Accordingly, OFEA has approved the following criteria for Judges’ qualifications for open shows (show management may use any qualified Judge or official(s) they choose for schooling and gaming shows).

All judges must be members in good standing with OFEA, have a current rulebook on hand at all shows, and complete the annual renewal program and/or apprentice program. Judges must dress in appropriate and professional attire. Cell phone use, smoking, and drug/alcohol use are prohibited while officiating.

Each judge is to judge each class in union with OFEA rules and specifications of that class as outlined in OFEA, USEF, and/or breed rulebooks.

Each judge must place classes 1st through 5th place (or more places if show requires) with a reserve. In the event of a disqualification, reserve will move up to the 5th place and all others accordingly.

**OFEA Judges (Section 300.10 Rule Book)**

\*OFEA judges must be at least 19 years of age, a current OFEA member in good standing with an updated rulebook and have paid a $20 processing fee.

\*All OFEA judges must complete a yearly open book test (information and rules) with a satisfactory score, as well as attend an open judges’ seminar/discussion once every two years.

\*All OFEA carded judges must attend a judge’s clinic every 2 years and must provide proof of participation.

**Guest Card (Section 300.20 Rule Book)**

\*A guest card may be issued to any person who carries another horse judge’s license (i.e., OHA, USEF, 4-H, or breed carded judge) upon approval of the OFEA Judges Committee. A guest carded judge may only judge one OFEA approved show per calendar year.

\*The OFEA Judges Committee may also issue a guest card to any person who does not qualify to act as an OFEA licensed judge provided the person presents adequate information relative to experience and qualifications that satisfy the committee that OFEA standards will be maintained and that the person has adequate experience as a horse show judge.

\*Each person applying for a guest card will be reviewed by the OFEA Judges Committee according to background and qualifications. There will be a $10 fee per show for guest judges.

\*Each guest-carded judge must obtain a copy of the OFEA rulebook prior to the show.

**Apprentice Program (Section 300.30 Rule Book)**  
\*Any person who is at least 19 years of age and is interested in becoming an OFEA judge and who does not qualify under Paragraphs 300.10, 300.20, and 300.30 may apply to the OFEA Judges Committee as an apprentice. The Judges Committee shall have the  
responsibility and authority for approving judges under the apprentice program.

\*Apprentice judges can obtain an application through the OFEA office. A $5 non-refundable application fee shall apply. Once licensed, the $5 will be applied towards the apprentice judge’s first year judges’ card fee.

\*Minimum requirements shall include a satisfactory score on a test (information and rules) and apprentice at two OFEA approved open shows under any OFEA senior judge.

\*Apprentice judges shall have two years to complete their apprenticeship.