

# Horses in Action

## Judges' Code of Conduct

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### 1. Appointment

A person who accepts a judging appointment agrees to be bound by the Judges' Code of Conduct and by the Regulations of Melbourne Royal as a condition of their appointment

#### Authenticity

Melbourne Royal may at any time remove a person from the judging appointment if that person has, in the opinion of Melbourne Royal, not observed the Judges' Code of Conduct or the Regulations of Melbourne Royal or their conduct is not in the best interest of the Melbourne Royal.

### 2. Conflict

#### 2.1 A Judge cannot:

- i. Judge and exhibit at the Melbourne Royal Show in the same year.
- ii. Judge the same section within 12 months prior to Melbourne Royal at any Royal Show.
- iii. Have judged at more than two National or State events for the following organisations: Show Horse Council Show (State or National), Equestrian Australia Horse of the Year (State or National) or VAS Ltd Saddle Horse Championships within 12 months.
- iv. Judge's family<sup>1</sup> cannot exhibit or compete at the Melbourne Royal Show upon appointment of judging duties.
- v. Judge an exhibit which they or their family<sup>2</sup> has bred.
- vi. Judge a progeny group sired by a stallion or out of a mare owned by the Judge.
- vii. Judge an exhibit sired by a stallion or out of a mare owned by the Judge.
- viii. Judge an exhibit in hand, under saddle or in harness where the Judge or their family have been rewarded in cash or kind for instruction in the 12 months preceding the Show.
- ix. Judge an exhibit owned, produced or driven by a person who they, or their family, have had a business partnership<sup>3</sup> (excluding stud fees) within 12 months preceding the Show.
- x. Judge an exhibit which they or a member of their family sold to the Exhibitor in the 12 months preceding the Show.
- xi. Judge an exhibit which they or a member of their family have had or have a financial interest in the 12 months preceding the Show.
- xii. Judge an exhibit produced, ridden or driven by a person who has carried out those duties for the judge in the 12 months preceding the Show.
- xiii. Judge an exhibit owned by an exhibitor for whom he/she has produced exhibits in the previous twelve months.
- xiv. Where a Judge is aware the judging of an exhibit is an infringement of the rules listed above then the Judge must refrain from judging that exhibit and immediately inform the Melbourne Royal Chief Steward.
- xv. A Judge must not accept hospitality from an exhibitor immediately before or during the Show.

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<sup>1</sup> Family – Spouse, brother, sister, child, uncle, aunt, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, nephew, niece or cousin (including in-law, step and de-facto).

<sup>2</sup> Family Spouse, brother, sister, child, uncle, aunt, parents, grandparents, grandchildren, nephew, niece or cousin (including in-law, step and de-facto).

<sup>3</sup> Business Partner – A person who is party to contractual and/or verbal agreement between two or more persons carrying on a business venture jointly or independently relating to the breeding, preparing, training, selling and /or agisting of competition horses and/or the training of riders with a view to profit or otherwise.

- 2.2 A competitor/exhibitor/owner should not compete under any judge where a breach of these rules may occur. It is the responsibility of the competitor/exhibitor to ascertain who the Judge of any class/event he/she intends to compete in. Where a conflict may occur, the onus, in the first instance, is on the competitor/exhibitor to abide by the rules and withdraw from competition. In the second instance, a judge should not knowingly judge an ineligible entrant. Ignorance will not be accepted as a defence for breach of the Rules.