

So You Are Going to Be a Judge/Judicial Judging

The American Dairy Goat Association expects judges to maintain a high level of professionalism. If you are going to be a judge, you must understand these expectations. What follows is a short list of important points to keep in mind, in order to be successful as a judge.

Prior to a Show

- Provide quick response to inquiries for judging assignments.
- Provide definitive answers to inquiries regarding:
 - ◆ Dates
 - ◆ Assignments (breeds to judge, classes, showmanship classes, buck shows, etc.),
 - ◆ All fees and expenses (including travel, lodging & food)
- Secure a signed formal contract or a letter of confirmation for assignments, dates, times, fees, etc.
- Assemble the necessary items you might need:
 - ◆ Guidebook
 - ◆ Flashlight
 - ◆ Measuring paraphernalia
 - ◆ ADGA judging kit (provided by ADGA; includes Guidebook, Show Forms, Rules)
 - ◆ ADGA show information (will be mailed to you by ADGA)
 - ◆ Copy of judging contract
 - ◆ Plastic bag for judging clothes for return trip
 - ◆ Phone numbers & contact information for show officials, transportation & lodging
- Only accept shows within your capability and experience.

At the Show Location

- Be prompt and plan ahead for unforeseen circumstances (have names & phone numbers, flight information, motel name & number, etc.).
- If you are going to be delayed, communicate with show officials as soon as possible
- Be aware of and avoid major conflicts of interest (Guidebook: Article XII.C.7).
- Wear proper attire for the particular show (Guidebook: Article XIV.H).
- Avoid compromising situations (transport by an exhibitor, excessive conversation or contact with exhibitors or their animals prior to judging, etc.).

During the Show (Guidebook: XII.C)

- Survey the ring to understand the best way to use its features to best present yourself and animals to the exhibitors, the show committee, and the ringside.
- Discuss the procedures you will be using with show officials and especially the ring steward to ensure a good flow of animals in and out of the ring, as well as signals you can use to verify that the entries for each class are present and complete.

- Get an estimate of the numbers of animals you will be judging so you can establish a pace that will allow you to finish the class with sufficient time to make travel connections or meet the expected schedule of the show. Adjustments may need to be made during the show.
- Establish a standard ring procedure that exhibitors adopt quickly and easily.
- Evaluate all animals thoroughly, with special care to detect disqualifications that could affect the outcome of a class and a breed, including measurements, if deemed necessary.
- Disinfect your hands during the show, as necessary.
- Notify the show officials of any disqualifications and presence of dry animals that must be separately accounted for in a class or breed tally.
- **Deliver reasons that are “concise and to the point, stressing the main reason for placing one animal over another. Avoid general descriptive terms.”** George Proctor
- **“Ring presence is most important. Be confident, but not arrogant. Be polite, but firm. Demand respect, but be humble. Be quick, but be thorough. Try hard to leave no doubt but that you are honestly placing the class as you see it today.”** George Proctor
- Avoid excessive chatting with exhibitors as you meet them and evaluate their animals.
- Take special care in reading tattoos before animals leave the ring and see that they are properly recorded (Guidebook XII.L). Try to keep a rough count to see if a particular breed has presented sufficient numbers for official legs of a championship.
- As the show closes, thank the exhibitors and show committee for their participation and assistance.
- Review the report of awards before signing to make sure the necessary signatures are present and the necessary blanks are completed (Guidebook XII.K) Sign only ADGA official show documents unless also sanctioned by another registry.

After the Show

- If there is time, try to be available for questions and comments.
- Be sure you have taken the proper copies of the show report and left the show committee with their copy.
- Finalize the process of getting reimbursed for all fees, which may include signing special fair reports, submitting expense forms, etc.
- Promptly mail the original copy of the show report to ADGA, no later than 10 days after the show (Guidebook: XII.L.8).

Situations will arise that may not be covered specifically by this instruction. In those cases, a judge must use common sense and their best judgment. It may help to consult with other judges, but the Guidebook and the Judge’s Pledge of Eligibility and Ethics (Guidebook XIV. E) should be your best references.