

## Chapter 15. AOA Judge Training and Certification

The Training and Certification of Judges is under the direction of the Judge Training and Certification Committee. The following program has been established to provide for fair, accurate, and meaningful show ring assessments of alpacas, alpaca fleece, and related activities.

### Section 1. Areas of Certification and Accreditation

- A. Areas of AOA Judge Certification
  - 1. Huacaya Halter
  - 2. Suri Halter
  - 3. Fleece
  - 4. Performance
- B. Areas of AOA Judge Accreditation
  - 1. Spin-Off

### Section 2. Classifications

- A. Approved Certifications
  - 1. **Senior Halter Judge** — certified to judge Huacaya and Suri Halter and Fleece classes at all show levels, train Apprentices, and participate as a clinic instructor.
  - 2. **Huacaya Halter Judge Trainer** — may train Huacaya Halter Apprentices at Levels I and II shows for the first two years of Judge Trainer Certification and then starting at year three of Judge Trainer Certification may train Apprentices at all show levels.
  - 3. **Suri Halter Judge Trainer** — may train Suri Halter Apprentices at Levels I and II shows for the first two years of Judge Trainer Certification and then starting at year three of Judge Trainer Certification may train Apprentices at all show levels.
  - 4. **Huacaya Halter Judge** — although certified to judge Huacaya Halter Classes at all show levels, it is suggested that Level IV or above shows include a Senior Halter Judge.
  - 5. **Suri Halter Judge** — although certified to judge Suri Halter Classes at all show levels, it is suggested that Level IV or above shows include a Senior Halter Judge.
  - 6. **Huacaya Halter Judge Apprentice** — meets the requirements to participate in the education and training curriculum for certification.
  - 7. **Suri Halter Judge Apprentice** — meets the requirements to participate in the education and training curriculum for certification.
  - 8. **Senior Fleece Judge** — certified to judge Huacaya and Suri fleece classes, train Apprentices at all show levels, and participate as a clinic instructor.
  - 9. **Fleece Judge Trainer** — May train Fleece Apprentices at Levels I and II shows for the first two years of Judge Trainer Certification and then starting at year three of Judge Trainer Certification may train Apprentices at all show levels.
  - 10. **Fleece Judge** — although certified to judge Huacaya and Suri Fleece classes at all show levels, it is suggested that Level IV Fleece shows include a Senior Fleece Judge.
  - 11. **Fleece Judge Apprentice** — meets the requirements to participate in the education and training curriculum for certification as a Fleece Judge.
  - 12. **Senior Performance Judge** — certified to judge alpaca performance and youth classes at all levels, train Apprentices and instruct at clinics.

13. **Performance Judge Trainer** — certified to judge alpaca performance and youth classes at all levels and train Apprentices.
  14. **Performance Judge** — certified to judge alpaca performance and youth classes at all show levels.
  15. **Performance Judge Apprentice** — meets the requirements to participate in the education and training curriculum for certification as a Performance Judge.
  16. **Clinic Instructor** — those Judges or Experts deemed essential to the education, training and certification of Alpaca Fleece or Halter Judges and also for the education of show personnel and alpaca owners.
  17. **Education Experts** — U.S. or International – may be invited to participate in specific areas of education and/or production of materials for training Judges or education owner.
- B. Approved Accreditation
1. Spin-Off Accredited Judge — accredited to judge spin-off classes.

### Section 3. Halter Judge Apprentice Program

- A. A resume and **apprentice application** with the following prerequisites completed and included must be submitted to the AOA Show System Administrator:
1. Have a minimum of four (4) years' experience breeding alpacas or other fiber producing animals or extensive professional experience raising and/or judging livestock.
  2. **Must have worked at a minimum of five AOA halter shows (include any walking fleece and/or fleece shows that you participated in, on your resume).**
  3. **Must have participated in a minimum of five seminars or educational experiences. Seminars to include fleece, health, and/or overall conformation.**
  4. Have experience evaluating alpaca fleece, conformation and movement.
  5. Have experience in public speaking.
  6. Have experience showing alpacas.
  7. Have assisted in a halter show as;
    - a. Ring Steward
    - b. Gate Steward
    - c. Compliance Checker
  8. Upon receipt of required documents and having met all requirements approval for attendance at the Halter Judge Apprentice Qualification Clinic is at the recommendation of the JTCC.
- B. The following must be achieved prior to admittance into the AOA Halter Judge Apprentice Program:
1. Attend and achieve a minimum success level at an Apprentice Halter Judge Qualification Clinic. Participation will include:
    - a. Attending classroom sessions
    - b. Serving as an alpaca handlers for the duration of the clinic
    - c. Demonstrate a willingness to be a team player
    - d. Be active and present for the duration of the clinic
    - e. Compliance with all procedures
    - f. **Must achieve 80% composite final score which includes the evaluation process by instructors and written exam**
    - g. Upon successful completion of the halter qualification clinic, the applicant is permitted to attend the halter immersion clinic
  2. Approval of the Judge Training and Certification Committee as an AOA Fleece Judge Apprentice

3. Be an AOA **Business** Member in good standing
  4. Be at least 21 years of age
- C. Apprentice Halter Judge Requirements:
1. Attend and successfully complete the following clinics prior to any apprenticeships:
    - a. Total Immersion Fleece Clinic (TIFC).
    - b. Halter Immersion Clinic
    - c. **Any additional online or continuing education opportunities offered by the JTCC**
  2. Apprentice at a minimum of three (per area of certification) halter and two fleece Certified shows and must have the following:
    - a. Apprenticeships must be successfully completed under at least three different Certified Halter Judge Trainers.
    - b. Huacaya Halter Apprenticeship must include:
      1. Group production halter classes
      2. A minimum total of **500 huacayas**
    - c. Suri Halter Apprenticeships must include:
      1. Group production halter classes
      2. A minimum total of **200 suris**
    - d. Must apprentice at a national show
    - e. The two Fleece Shows must:
      1. Have more than 60 fleeces per show and include both Suri and Huacaya
      2. Have a minimum total of 40 Suri fleeces
- D. There may be only one Apprentice per Judge per show and the Apprentice must complete the entire show and receive a passing recommendation from the Judge Trainer.
- E. Apprentice requirements must be completed within four years of acceptance into the program.
- F. Apprentices are responsible for scheduling apprenticeships at shows as follows:
1. Choose a show for a possible apprenticeship opportunity
  2. Contact Judge Trainer to request an apprenticeship
  3. Contact the Show Superintendent to inform them that the Judge Trainer has accepted the apprenticeship and seek verification from the Show Superintendent that the Show will accept the Apprentice
  4. Upon acceptance from the Judge Trainer and the Show Superintendent, immediately notify the AOA Show System Administrator
  5. In the event the Apprentice must cancel, the Judge Trainer, Show Superintendent and the AOA Show System Administrator must be notified.
- G. Upon completion of all apprenticeships, successful completion of a Certification Clinic will be necessary to obtain halter certification. Halter evaluation will include:
1. Written test on show rules and procedures (show rules handbook), conformation and fleece traits identification.
  2. Applying knowledge of show rules and procedures, conformation and fleece traits by placing of alpacas in halter classes with accuracy and presentation of oral reasons.
  3. Active participation during the Certification Clinic.
- H. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Apprentice is eligible for Certification. Such certification is at the recommendation of the Judge Training and Certification Committee and approval of the Board of Directors.

## Section 4. Fleece Judge Apprentice Program

- A. A resume and **apprentice application** with the following prerequisites completed and included must be submitted to the AOA Show System Administrator:
  - 1. Have **three** years hands-on experience with fleece.
  - 2. Must have evaluated a minimum of 500 fleeces (including Huacaya and Suri) to determine fleece characteristics. A minimum of **20% of both Huacaya and Suri to be completed with an AOA Certified Fleece Judge.**
  - 3. Must have worked at a minimum of five (at least two must be fleece and one walking fleece) fleece shows.
  - 4. Must have participated in a minimum of five fleece seminars or educational experiences. Seminars to include nutrition and environmental factor in relationship to health of the alpaca and the fleece.
  - 5. Must have skirted a minimum of 50 fleeces (minimum 20 Suri and the remaining Huacaya).
  - 6. Have assisted in a fleece show as either;
    - a. a Fleece Show Superintendent
    - b. an Assistant to the Fleece Show Superintendent
    - c. have scribed at a Fleece and/or Walking Fleece Show
    - d. a Color Checker and/or Weight Station Clerk
  - 7. **Upon receipt of required documents and having met all requirements** approval for attendance at the Fleece Judge Apprentice Qualification Clinic is at the recommendation of the JTCC.
- B. The following must be achieved prior to admittance into the AOA Fleece Judge Apprentice Program:
  - 1. Attend and achieve a minimum success level at the Fleece Judge Apprentice Qualification Clinic. Participation will include:
    - a. Attending classroom sessions
    - b. Demonstrate a willingness to be a team player
    - c. Be active and present for the duration of the clinic
    - d. Compliance with all procedures
    - e. **Must achieve 80% composite final score which includes the evaluation process by instructors and written exam**
  - 2. Approval of the Judge Training and Certification Committee as an AOA Fleece Judge Apprentice
  - 3. Be an AOA **Business** Member in good standing
  - 4. Be at least 21 years of age
- C. Fleece Judge Apprentice Requirements:
  - 1. Attend and successfully complete the following clinics:
    - a. Total Immersion Fleece Clinic prior to beginning apprenticeships
    - b. Total Immersion Fleece Clinic upon completion of all requirements
    - c. **Any additional online or continuing education opportunities offered by the JTCC**
  - 2. Apprentice at a minimum of 5 Certified fleece shows, including:
    - a. Apprenticeships must be successfully completed under at least three different AOA Certified Fleece Judge Trainers
    - b. One show with at least 100 fleeces to include both Huacaya and Suri fleeces and comparing results to those of the Certified Judge Trainer
    - c. A minimum of 500 fleeces must be evaluated by the Apprentice at the minimum 5 fleece shows
    - d. A minimum of 200 fleeces must be Suri
    - e. The Apprentice shall give oral reasons for at least two classes per show.

- f. One show must be a Walking Fleece Show
  - g. A third Total Immersion Fleece Clinic is optional and will count as one Fleece Apprenticeship
- D. There may be only one Apprentice per Judge per show. The Apprentice must successfully complete the entire show and receive a passing recommendation from the Judge Trainer.
- E. Apprentice requirements must be completed within four years of acceptance into the program.
- F. Apprentices are responsible for scheduling apprenticeships at shows as follows:
  - 1. Choose a show for a possible apprenticeship opportunity
  - 2. Contact Judge Trainer to request an apprenticeship
  - 3. Contact the Show Superintendent to inform them that the Judge Trainer has accepted the apprenticeship and seek verification form the Show Superintendent that the Show will accept an apprentice
  - 4. Upon acceptance from the Judge Trainer and the Show Superintendent, immediately notify the AOA Show System Administrator
  - 5. In the event the Apprentice must cancel, the Judge Trainer, Show Superintendent and AOA Show System Administrator need to be notified
- G. Upon completion of all apprenticeship, successful completion of a fleece certification clinic will be required to achieve certification. This final exam will occur at the Total Immersion Fleece Clinic and will include:
  - 1. Show rules and procedures (show rules handbook).
  - 2. Fleece traits identification
  - 3. Placing of fleece classes
- H. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Apprentice is eligible for Certification. Such certification is at the recommendation of the Judge Training and Certification Committee and approval of the Board of Directors.

## Section 5. Performance Judge Apprentice Program.

- A. A resume and **apprentice application** with the following prerequisites **completed and included** must be submitted to the AOA Show System Administrator:
  - 1. Have **three** years hands-on experience with alpacas or extensive professional experience judging livestock
  - 2. Have experience showing animals
  - 3. Have participated in alpaca performance classes as an exhibitor as well as a ring/gate steward
  - 4. **Have experience working with youth included in resume**
  - 5. **Upon receipt of required documents and having met all requirements**, approval for attendance at the Apprentice Judge Qualification Clinic is at the recommendation of the JTCC.
- B. The following must be achieved prior admittance into the Performance Judge Apprentice Program:
  - 1. Attend and achieve a minimum success level at an Performance Judge Apprentice Qualification Clinic
  - 2. Approval of the Judge Training and Certification Committee as an AOA Performance Judge Apprentice.
  - 3. Be an AOA Business Member in good standing
  - 4. Be at least 21 years of age
- C. Performance Judge Apprentice Requirements:

1. Apprentice at a minimum of two certified shows that include Performance and Youth classes.
    - a. Apprenticeships must be successfully completed under at least two different **AOA** Certified Performance Judge Trainers.
    - b. The two Performance Shows must include:
      1. A minimum of **two Obstacle or Public Relations classes**
      2. A minimum of two Showmanship classes
      3. A minimum of one Costume class
      4. Sub-junior, Junior, Intermediate, Senior, and adult classes
  2. It is **required** that the Performance Judge Apprentice attend the **AOA Halter Clinic**.
- D. There may be only one Apprentice per Judge per show and the Apprentice must complete the entire show and receive a passing recommendation from the Judge Trainer.
- E. Apprentice requirements must be completed within four years of acceptance into the program.
- F. Apprentices are responsible for scheduling apprenticeships at shows as follows:
1. Choose a show for a possible apprenticeship opportunity
  2. Contact Judge Trainer to request an apprenticeship
  3. Contact the Show Superintendent to inform them that the Judge Trainer has accepted the apprenticeship and seek verification from the Show Superintendent that the Show will accept an Apprentice
  4. Upon acceptance from the Judge Trainer and the Show Superintendent, immediately notify the AOA Show System Administrator
  5. In the event the Apprentice must cancel, the Judge Trainer, Show Superintendent and AOA Show System Administrator need to be notified
- G. Successful completion of a final Performance Judge Apprentice Certification Clinic will be necessary to achieve certification. Testing will include:
1. Show rules and procedures
  2. Mandatory obstacles and approved obstacles
  3. Showmanship procedures
  4. Scoring procedures
  5. Showmanship class placing and/or oral reasons
- H. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Apprentice is eligible for Certification. Such certification is at the recommendation of the Judge Training and Certification Committee and approval of the Board of Directors.

## Section 6. Judge Certification Requirements

- A. Halter, Fleece, and Performance Judge:
1. Successful completion of all AOA Judge Apprentice Program area requirements.
  2. Successful completion of a final AOA Judge Certification Test Event requires a minimum score of 80%. For halter, 80% required per breed certification. For Fleece, successful 80% completion must be in both Huacaya and Suri.
  3. In the event the Judge does not successfully certify at the AOA Judge Test event, the following action will take place:
    - a. The JTCC will provide the Apprentice Judge a list of clinics, apprenticeships, and other educational events that must be completed prior to the next AOA Judge Test Event in order to be eligible to retest

- b. Only one retest will be granted and must be completed at the next AOA Judge Test Event.
- 4. Application to and recommendation by AOA Judge Training and Certification Committee to the AOA Board of directors for approval of active Judge status.
  - a. Requires execution of an AOA Judges agreement approved by AOA Board of Directors.
- 5. Be an AOA **Business** member in good standing.
- 6. The First three shows accepted by a newly Certified Halter Judge must be at Level I or II. The first three shows accepted by a newly Certified Fleece Judge must be at Level I or Level II.

## Section 7. Judge Recertification Requirements

- A. Halter Judge:
  - 1. Halter recertification is a four year cycle following the initial two year period. Recertification will be obtained by meeting the minimum show requirements, continuing education, and/or the AOA Judge Test Event.
  - 2. **AOA Judge Test Event** is required if:
    - a. Certified Halter Judges will recertify two years after their initial certification.
    - b. After the first four year judge cycle, if a Judge has not judged a minimum of 15 shows (AOA certified fleece and/or halter shows), then the Judge will be required to attend the **AOA Judge Test Event**.
    - c. Once the judge has completed six years of certification and has not judged a minimum of eight shows in any of their four year certification periods, the judge will be required to attend the **AOA Judge Test Event**.
    - d. **The AOA Judge Test Event is an evaluation that consists of a written test, placement of alpaca groups, and oral reasons and requires a minimum combined score of 80% per breed for successful completion.**
  - 3. Successful completion of all of the following AOA Educational Events for Halter Judges within a certification cycle (four years) will be required to remain certified.
    - a. Total Immersion Fleece Clinic (TIFC)
    - b. Two Halter Clinics
    - c. **Continuing Education per the JTCC**
  - 4. If necessary a calibration opportunity may be approved to fulfill the below requirements:
    - a. One clinic requirement (fleece calibration for a fleece clinic or halter calibration for a halter clinic)
    - b. One halter show judging requirement (must calibrate at a halter show)
    - c. One fleece judging requirement (must calibrate at a fleece show)
    - d. Calibration Judge shall work the entire event
    - e. Judges may use a maximum of two calibrations to replace requirements within a four year recertification time frame.
  - 5. Must maintain fleece certification.
  - 6. Be an AOA **Business** member in good standing.
  - 7. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible for Judge Recertification. Such Recertification is at the recommendation of the AOA Judge Training and Certification Committee and approval of the Board of Directors.
    - a. Requires execution of an AOA Judges agreement approved by Board of Directors.
  - 8. In the event a Judge does not successfully recertify, the following will apply:
    - a. The JTCC will provide the Judge a list of clinics that must be successfully completed within a two year period in order to be eligible to retest.
    - b. The Judge will be inactive in the area(s) not successfully achieved.

- c. Only one retest will be granted and must be completed within two years of previous test date.
- B. Fleece Judge:
  - 1. Fleece recertification is a four year cycle following the initial two year period. Recertification will be obtained by meeting the minimum show requirements, continuing education, and/or the **AOA Judge Test Event**.
  - 2. AOA Judge Test Event is required if:
    - a. Certified Fleece Judges will recertify two years after their initial certification.
    - b. After the first four year judge cycle, if a Judge has not judged a minimum of ten shows (AOA certified fleece and/or halter shows), then the Judge will be required to attend the **AOA Judge Test Event**.
    - c. Once the judge has completed six years of certification and has not judged a minimum of four shows in any of their four year certification periods, the judge will be required to attend the **AOA Judge Test Event**.
    - d. The AOA Judge Test Event is an evaluation that consists of a written test, placement of alpaca groups, and oral reasons and requires a minimum combined score of 80% per breed for successful completion.
  - 3. Successful completion of the following clinic to be completed within a certification period (four years) will be required to remain certified.
    - a. Total Immersion Fleece Clinic (TIFC)
  - 4. Be an AOA **Business** member in good standing.
  - 5. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible for Judge Recertification. Such Recertification is at the recommendation of the AOA Judge Training and Certification Committee and approval of the AOA Board of Directors.
    - a. Requires execution of an AOA Judges contract approved by the Board of Directors.
  - 6. In the event a Judge does not successfully Recertify at the clinic, the following will apply:
    - a. The JTCC will provide the Judge a list of clinics that must be successfully completed within a two year period in order to be eligible to retest.
    - b. The Judge will be inactive.
    - c. Only one retest will be granted and must be completed within two years of previous test date.
- C. Performance Judge:
  - 1. Judges that have successfully achieved Performance Certification will not be required to recertify.

## Section 8. Senior Halter Judge Certification Requirements.

- A. Senior Halter Judge candidate must:
  - 1. Be certified in all of the following area:
    - a. Huacaya Halter
    - b. Suri Halter
    - c. Fleece
  - 2. Have successfully completed all of the following required clinics:
    - a. Total Immersion Fleece Clinic (TIFC)
    - b. Both Halter clinics during their 4 year cycle
    - c. **All JTCC educational events**
  - 3. Provide documentation to the AOA Show System Administrator which demonstrates that the applicant has judged a minimum of 15 certified halter shows, at least ten of which must be Level

- III or higher. Provide documentation of experience to the Show System Administrator that demonstrates that the applicant has independently judged a minimum of ten certified fleece shows at Level II or higher of which two may be Walking Fleece. Foreign fleece shows may be accepted at a 2:1 ratio up to 50% of the required fleece shows where a minimum of 75 fleeces per show have been independently judged. Documentation to be provided by applicant including foreign fleece score sheets to show equivalency to certified forms.
4. Have attended an **AOA Halter Judge Test Event** and successfully achieved a score of 90% or greater in all areas of certification.
  5. Meet current AOA agreement requirements.
  6. Have documented experience to demonstrate that the applicant has judged under the Show System for a minimum of 48 months utilizing the comparative system of halter shows.
  7. Have judged at least 8 certified halter shows, two fleece shows and one walking fleece show in the last 24 months.
  8. Be a Halter Judge Trainer of at least 4 apprentice teaching experiences.
- B. Requires approval as a JTCC Clinic Instructor:
1. May already be an approved instructor OR must be part of the application for Senior Judge status to become an approved instructor.
- C. Will include an oral interview where the candidate will demonstrate a wide knowledge base including, but not limited to, leadership skills, alpaca characteristics, and communication skills in a committee coordinated by the JTCC and including representatives from the AOA Board of Directors, Judge Advisory Committee, and Senior Judges.
- D. Present curriculum vitae that may include experience with alpaca published work, international experience, and teaching credentials.
- E. Demonstrate a trend of behavior that shows:
1. A reputation in the judging community for excellence, decisiveness, even temperament, and accuracy
  2. Being a team player
  3. Being an ambassador for the industry
  4. Compliance with policies and procedure
  5. Teaching and training skills
- F. Be an AOA **Business** member in good standing.
- G. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible to submit an application for Senior Judge Certification to the AOA Show System Administrator. Such certification is at the recommendation of the Judge Training and Certification Committee and approval of the BOD.
- H. Candidate must be recommended unanimously by the Judge Training and Certification Committee.
- I. Reasons for non-recommendation will be provided in writing to the candidate, AOA Show System Administrator, and the Board of Directors.

## Section 9. Senior Fleece Judge Certification Requirements

- A. Senior Fleece Judge candidate must:
1. Provide documentation of experience to the AOA Show System Administrator that demonstrates that the applicant has independently judged a minimum of ten certified fleece shows at shows at Level II or higher of which two may be walking fleece shows. Foreign fleece shows may be accepted at a 2:1 ratio up to 50% of the required fleece shows where a minimum

- of 75 fleeces per show have been independently judged. Documentation to be provided by applicant including foreign fleece score sheets to show equivalency to certified forms.
2. Have successfully completed required clinics for Fleece Judges:
    - a. Total Immersion Fleece clinic (TIFC)
  3. Have attended an AOA Fleece Test Event and successfully achieved a minimum score of 90% or greater.
  4. Meet current AOA agreement requirements.
  5. Have documented experience to demonstrate that the applicant has judged under the show System for a minimum of 48 months utilizing the absolute scoring system for fleece show.
  6. Have judged at least 4 certified fleece shows of which two may be walking fleece in the last 24 months.
  7. Be a Fleece Judge Trainer and have five (5) apprentice training experiences of which one (1) must be walking fleece.
- B. Requires approval as a JTCC Clinic Instructor:
1. May already be an approved instructor
  2. Must be part of the application for Senior Judge status
- C. Will include an oral interview where the candidate will demonstrate a wide knowledge base including, but not limited to, leadership skills, alpaca characteristics, and communication skills in a committee coordinated by the JTCC and including representatives from the Board of Directors, Judge Advisory Committee, and Senior Judges.
- D. Present curriculum vitae that may include experience with alpaca published work, international experience, and teaching credentials.
- E. Demonstrate a trend of behavior that shows:
1. A reputation in the judging community for excellence, decisiveness, even temperament, and accuracy
  2. Being a team player
  3. Being an ambassador for the industry
  4. Compliance with policies and procedure
  5. Teaching and training skills
- F. Be an AOA **Business** member in good standing.
- G. Upon Successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible to submit an application to the AOA Show System Administrator for Senior Judge Certification. Such certification is at the recommendation of the Judge Training and Certification Committee and approval of the Board of Directors.
- H. Candidate must be recommended unanimously by the Judge Training and Certification Committee.
- I. Reasons for non-recommendation will be provided in writing to the candidate, AOA Show System Administrator, and the Board of Directors.

## Section 10. Senior Performance Judge Certification Requirement

- A. If a Judge meets all the requirements for approval at Senior Halter Judge Certification status and they are Performance certified, then they will be listed as a Senior Judge for Halter in all halter areas including Performance.

## Section 11. Senior Halter Judge Recertification Requirements

- A. Recertification for Senior Halter Judge requires the following:
  - 1. Must complete all Halter Judge Recertification requirements (**Section 7A**)
  - 2. If a Senior Judge does not meet all Halter Judge Recertification requirements in any of their four year certification periods, then they will be required to attend the **AOA Judge Test Event** and achieve the required score of 90% to remain certified.
  - 3. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible for Judge Recertification. Such Recertification is at the recommendation of the AOA Judge Certification Advisory Committee and approval of the AOA Board of Directors.
    - a. Requires execution of an AOA Judges contract approved by the AOA Board of Directors.

## Section 12. Senior Fleece Judge Recertification Requirements

- A. Recertification for Senior Fleece Judge requires the following:
  - 1. Must complete all Fleece Judge Recertification requirements (**Section 7B**)
  - 2. If a Senior Judge does not meet all Fleece Judge Recertification requirements in any of their four year certification periods, then they will be required to attend the **AOA Judge Test Event** and achieve the required score of 90% to remain certified.
  - 3. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible for Judge Recertification. Such Recertification is at the recommendation of the AOA Judge Certification Advisory Committee and approval of the AOA Board of Directors.
  - 4. Requires execution of an AOA Judges contract approved by the AOA Board of Directors.

## Section 13. Senior Performance Judge Recertification Requirements

- A. Senior Performance Judges that have successfully achieved Senior Performance Certification will not be required to recertify.

## Section 14. Judge Trainer Certification Requirements

- A. To apply for Halter/Fleece/Performance Judge Trainer, candidate must meet the following requirements:
  - 1. Be a certified Judge in the judging category requested
  - 2. Have judged under the show System for a minimum of 36 months utilizing the comparative system for halter shows, the absolute scoring system for fleece shows, or the Performance and Showmanship rules for performance classes.
  - 3. Halter Judge Trainers: have judged a minimum of ten certified halter shows, at least three of which must be **Level III or above**.
  - 4. Fleece Judge Trainers: have judged a minimum of ten certified fleece shows at Level II or higher of which two must be walking fleece. In addition, a minimum of at least one IFA show experience.
  - 5. Performance Judge Trainers: have judged a minimum of four certified performance shows.
- B. Present curriculum vitae that may include experience with alpaca published work, international experience, and teaching credentials.
- C. Must participate in an oral interview where the candidate will demonstrate a wide knowledge base including, but not limited to, leadership skills, alpaca characteristics, and communication skills in a

committee coordinated by the JTCC and including representatives from the Board of Directors, Judge Advisory Committee, and Senior Judges.

- D. The Candidate for Judge Trainer will train an Apprentice in a mock show format created by the JTCC. Evaluation includes but is not limited to the positive and appropriate interaction between the Candidate and the Apprentice.
- E. Demonstrate a trend of behavior that shows:
  - 1. A reputation in the judging community for excellence, decisiveness, even temperament, and accuracy
  - 2. Being a team player
  - 3. Being an ambassador for the industry
  - 4. Compliance with policies and procedures
  - 5. Positive and appropriate interactions
- F. Candidate must be recommended unanimously by the Judge Training and Certification Committee.
  - 1. Reasons for non-recommendation will be provided in writing to the candidate and AOA Show System Administrator.
- G. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible to apply for Judge Trainer Certification. Such certification is at the recommendation of the Judge Training and Certification Committee and approval of the Board of Directors.
  - 1. Requires execution of a Judge's contract approved by the Board of Directors.

## **Section 15. Spin-Off Accreditation**

- A. Prospective judges must submit spinning samples for evaluation to qualify to attend training.
- B. Must attend the spin-off training clinic and pass spin-off examination to be accredited.
- C. Judges will not be required to reaccredit.
- D. Must be an AOA Primary Member or an AOA Business Member in good standing.
- E. Must be at least 18 years of age.

## **Section 16. Judge Calibration Process**

- A. The calibration process allows a Judge to participate in a calibration experience with a Senior Judge. This process is designed to maintain consistency among judges.
- B. All Certified Shows will be available for Calibration for both Fleece and Halter.
- C. All Judges in good standing are eligible to participate in the calibration process. Apprentice Judges will follow the Apprentice Program and are not eligible to participate in the calibration process.
- D. The calibration process consists of:
  - 1. Upon acceptance from the AOA Show System Administrator to confirm availability, the Judge will contact Calibration Judge and Show Superintendent to request available calibration position.
  - 2. The assignment can consist of a minimum of one whole day of judging or the entire show.
  - 3. In the event the Judge needs to cancel, the Calibration Judge, Show Superintendent, and the AOA Show System Administrator must be notified.
- E. A Senior Judge may only have one Calibrator or Apprentice per show.

- F. The Senior Judge will introduce the Calibrating Judge to the exhibitors in the Exhibitors meeting at the beginning of the show. The Senior Judge will give a brief explanation to the exhibitors as to the purpose of the Calibration process.
- G. A Calibrator must excuse his/her self from the ring if a conflict exists with an exhibitor occurs.
- H. Calibrator must wear his/her Judge Name badge to identify purpose of ring attendance.
- I. The Calibrator will appear in the ring with the Senior Judge keeping verbal communication to a minimum in the ring during the judging process.
- J. The Calibrator will step away from the Senior Judge during the time the judge is completing the class placement, documentation and oral remarks.
- K. The Show System Administrator will send the Calibrator a form detailing requirements of the Calibration Session and the Calibrator will sign and return.

## **Section 17. Judges Program Rules**

- A. Refer to Standards of Proper Conduct and Show Positions & officials in the current Show System Handbook and AOA Annual Judge Agreement, for specific rules on ethics and conflicts of interest.
- B. Judges that serve in a voting capacity on the JTCC, SRC, and Board of Directors will become inactive during their time served on that committee/Board of Directors. At the conclusion of the assignment, the JTCC will work with the Judge to develop a reentry plan which may include clinics and retesting to be sure the Judge is current with judging skills. A plan will be recommended to the Board of Directors for approval. This rule avoids potential conflict of interest.
- C. Judges will act in a professional manner as shown by their behavior, dress, competence and honesty whenever present in a public situation.
- D. Judges must honor contractual agreements.
- E. No Judge or Apprentice may accept a judging assignment before receiving certification.
- F. Judges may only accept contracts within their approved areas of certification.
- G. Only Judge Trainers may accept Apprentices.
- H. The Judge must file a report evaluating the apprentice's performance within 30 days after the show with the Show System Administrator using the appropriate Apprentice Judge Evaluation Form.
- I. There may be only one Apprentice per Judge Trainer per show and the Apprentice must complete the entire show.
- J. The current Certification/Recertification score will be the score used to determine eligibility for Certification.
- K. Judges who have not recertified within the four-year period shall not accept further judging assignments.
- L. Judges are required to be an AOA Business member in good standing.
- M. If a Judge takes a leave of absence from judging and certification lapses, in order to renew their certification(s) the following will occur:
  - 1. The Judge will participate in a scored calibration experience in which eight classes (three huacaya and three suri) and a championship class in each breed are tracked independently (Senior Judge and Judge) and scored by the Show System Administrator. The Judge will participate in the entire show. Judge may do an initial calibration experience(s) prior to the scored calibration experience if they so choose.

2. If Judge achieves a score of 80% and a Senior Judge recommendation (written evaluation) then they may be eligible to attend the next available clinic in their certification area(s) and test for judge certification. If passing rate is not achieved, Judge may repeat the process.
- N. Industry Experts may submit credentials for special projects/events to participate within the Show System under approved circumstances.
- O. Waiver of some prerequisites and requirements may be considered by the Judge Training and Certification Committee and the AOA Board of Directors

## Section 18. Instructors

- A. Persons with specific recognized Expert Knowledge and Experience may be asked to participate as Guest Instructor/Lecturer at Judge Training and Certification Committee clinics.
1. Present a curriculum vitae that may include those with recognized expertise, alpaca published work, international experience, and teaching credentials.
  2. Must be approved by the JTCC and the Board of Directors.
- OR**
- B. Halter/Fleece/Performance Instructor must meet the following requirements:
1. Be a certified Judge
  2. Must be a certified Judge Trainer meeting the following requirements:
    - a. **Halter Instructor:** Minimum of four years as a Halter Judge Trainer having successfully evaluated a minimum of four different Apprentices at certified halter shows.
    - b. **Fleece Instructors:** Minimum of four years as a Fleece Judge Trainer having successfully evaluated a minimum of four different Apprentices at certified fleece shows.
    - c. **Performance Instructors:** Minimum of two year as a Performance Judge Trainer having successfully evaluated a minimum of two different Apprentices at certified performance shows.
  3. Upon eligibility, Judge may apply for Instructor Certification. Such certification is at the recommendation of the Judge Training and Certification Committee and approval of the Board of Directors.
    - a. Requires execution of a Judge's contract approved by the Board of Directors.
  4. Demonstrate ability to create teaching objectives, materials, agenda and present in a clinic environment.
  5. Demonstrate a trend of behavior that shows:
    - a. A reputation in the judging community for excellence, decisiveness, even temperament, and accuracy
    - b. Being a team player
    - c. Being an ambassador for the industry
    - d. Compliance with policies and procedure
  6. Candidate must be recommended unanimously by the Judge Training and Certification Committee.
  7. Reasons for non-recommendation will be provided in writing to the candidate, Show System Administrator, and the Board of Directors.

## **Section 19. Training and Education Clinics**

- A. Judges Training Clinics shall be scheduled and administered by the Judge Training and Certification Committee for the purpose of educating, training and certifying Apprentices and Judges for Fleece, Huacaya Halter, Suri Halter and Performance show competitions.
- B. Clinics for breeders and owners may address differing needs, e.g., show techniques, conformation, fleece.
- C. Materials for Judging Clinics will be produced by the Judge Training and Certification Committee members and other experts in a manner to assure consistency in training and assessment of Judges and Apprentices.
- D. A non-refundable late fee of \$100 will be charged in addition to the registration fee on all registrations ending four weeks prior to clinic start dates.