

# AOA Judge Training and Certification

The Training and Certification of Judges is under the direction of the Judge Training and Certification Committee. All activities of the JTCC are subject to approval of the Board of Directors. The following program has been established by the Board of Directors, the JTCC and the SRC to provide for fair, accurate and meaningful show ring assessments of alpacas, alpaca fleece, and related activities.

## Section 1. Areas of Certification

- A. Judges must certify in one or more of the following distinct areas:
  - 1. Huacaya Halter
  - 2. Suri Halter
  - 3. Fleece
  - 4. Performance

### Areas of Accreditation

- 1. Spinoff

## Section 2. Approved Certifications

- A. Senior Halter Judge- certified to judge Huacaya and Suri Halter and Fleece classes at all show levels and train Apprentices.
- B. Huacaya Halter Judge Trainer- may train Huacaya Halter Apprentices at Levels I, II, and III 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.
- C. Suri Halter Judge Trainer- may train Suri Halter Apprentices at Levels I, II, and III 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.
- D. Huacaya Halter Judge – although certified to judge Huacaya Halter Classes at all show levels, it is suggested that Level IV and V shows by Judges in conjunction with a Senior Halter Judge.
- E. Suri Halter Judge- although certified to judge Suri Halter Classes at all show levels, it is suggested that Level IV and V shows be judged in conjunction with a Senior Halter Judge.
- F. Huacaya Halter Judge Apprentice– meets the requirements to participate in the education and training curriculum for certification.

- G. Suri Halter Judge Apprentice – meets the requirements to participate in the education and training curriculum for certification.
- H. Senior Fleece Judge– certified to judge Huacaya and Suri fleece classes and train Apprentices at all show levels.
- I. Fleece Judge Trainer – may train fleece Apprentices at Level I, II, and III shows. Although certified to judge Huacaya and Suri Fleece classes at all show levels, it is suggested that Level IV shows be judged in conjunction with a Senior Fleece Judge.
- J. Fleece Judge - although certified to judge Huacaya and Suri Fleece classes at all show levels, it is suggested that Level IV Fleece shows be judged in conjunction with a Senior Fleece Judge.
- K. Fleece Judge Apprentice – meets the requirements to participate in the education and training curriculum for certification as a Fleece Judge.
- L. Senior Performance Judge – certified to judge alpaca performance and youth classes at all levels and train Apprentices.
- M. Performance Judge Trainer – certified to judge alpaca performance and youth classes at all levels and train Apprentices.
- N. Performance Judge – certified to judge alpaca performance and youth classes at all show levels.
- O. Performance Judge Apprentice – meets the requirements to participate in the education and training curriculum for certification as a Performance Judge.
- P. 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.
- Q. 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.

## **Approved Accreditations**

- A. Spinoff Accredited Judge – accredited to judge spinoff classes.

### **Section 3. Halter Judge Apprentice Program**

- A. A resume with the following prerequisites must be submitted to the AOA Show System Administrator:
  - 1. Have a minimum of four (4) years experience breeding alpacas or extensive professional experience judging livestock.
  - 2. Have experience evaluating alpaca fleece, conformation and movement.
  - 3. Have experience showing alpacas.
  - 4. Have experience as a ring steward and gate keeper and demonstrate a depth of knowledge of both positions.
  - 5. Have experience with public speaking.
  
- B. Approval for attendance at the Apprentice Halter Judge Qualification Clinic is at the recommendation of the JTCC and the following must be achieved prior to submitting an application for admittance into the 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
  - 2. Upon achieving a passing score at the Apprentice Clinic, an application may be submitted to the AOA Show System Administrator. When approved by the Judge Training and Certification Committee, the applicant will be recommended to the Board of Directors for approval as an Apprentice Judge.
    - a. Selected Areas of Certification must be indicated on the application:
      - 1. Huacaya Halter
      - 2. Suri Halter
  - 3. Be an AOA Association and Show System 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. Form and Function/Oral Reasons/Halter Immersion Clinic
  - 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 halter classes
    - 2. A Level III and Level IV Show
  - c. Suri Halter Apprenticeships must include:
    - 1. Group halter classes
    - 2. At least two shows must have a minimum of 100 Suris exhibited at each show.
  - d. 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 in both shows
- D. 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 needs to cancel, the Judge Trainer, Show Superintendent and the AOA Show System Administrator need to be notified
- E. 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.
- F. Apprentice requirements must be completed within four years of acceptance into the program.
- G. After completion of all apprenticeships, successful completion of a Certification Clinic will be necessary to obtain halter certification. Testing will include:
- 1. Show rules and procedures (show rules handbook)
  - 2. Conformation and fleece traits identification
  - 3. Placing of alpacas in halter classes
  - 4. Accuracy and presentations of oral reasons based upon the Judging criteria rules stated in the current Show System handbook
  - 5. 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, but may not be unduly withheld.

## **Section 4. Fleece Judge Apprentice Program**

- A. A resume with the following prerequisites must be submitted to the AOA Show System Administrator:
  - 1. Have two years hands-on experience with fleece.
  - 2. Must have handled a minimum of 500 fleeces including both Huacaya and Suri.
  - 3. Must have worked at a minimum of 3 fleece show.
  - 4. Must have participated in a minimum of 3 fleece seminars or educational experiences.
  - 5. Must have skirted a minimum of 35 fleeces including both Huacaya and Suri.
  - 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 Show
    - d. a Color Checker and/or Weight Station Clerk
  - 7. Approval for attendance at the Apprentice Judge Qualification Clinic is at the recommendation of the JTCC and may not be unduly withheld.
  
- B. Approval for attendance at the Apprentice Fleece Judge Qualification Clinic is at the recommendation of the JTCC and the following must be achieved prior to submitting an application for admittance into the Apprentice Program:
  - 1. Attend and achieve a minimum success level at an Apprentice Fleece Judge Qualification Clinic.
  - 2. Complete and submit an application for entry into the Apprentice Program to the AOA Show System Administrator. When approved by the Judge Training and Certification Committee, the applicant will be recommended to the Board of Directors for approval as an Apprentice Judge.
  - 3. Be an AOA Association and Show System Member in good standing
  - 4. Be at least 21 years of age
  
- C. Apprentice Fleece Judge 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

2. Apprenticeships must be successfully completed under at least three different Certified Fleece Judge Trainers.
  3. Apprentice at a minimum of 5 Certified fleece shows, including:
    - a. One show with at least 100 fleeces to include both Huacaya and Suri fleeces and comparing results to those of the Certified Judge Trainer
    - b. A minimum of 500 fleeces must be evaluated by the Apprentice at the minimum 5 fleece shows
    - c. A minimum of 200 fleeces must be Suri
    - d. The Apprentice shall give oral reasons for at least two classes per show.
    - e. One show must be a Walking Fleece Show
    - f. A third Total Immersion Fleece Clinic is optional and will count as one Fleece Apprenticeship
    - g. An Apprentice Judge that works as a fleece scribe the entire fleece show at the National Conference with a Judge Trainer will be permitted to count this experience as a fleece apprenticeship. The Apprentice must be in their 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> 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 needs to 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, but may not be unduly withheld.

## **Section 5. Performance Judge Apprentice Program.**

- A. A resume with the following prerequisites must be submitted to the AOA Show System Administrator:
1. Have two 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
- B. Approval for attendance at the Performance Judge Qualification Clinic is at the recommendation of the JTCC and the following must be completed prior to submitting an application for admittance into the Apprentice Program:
1. Attend and achieve a minimum success level at an Apprentice Performance Judge Qualification Clinic
  2. Complete and submit an application for entry into the Apprentice Program to the AOA Show System Administrator. When approved by the Judge Training and Certification Committee, the applicant will be recommended to the BOD for approval as an Apprentice Judge
  3. Be an AOA Association and Show System Member in good standing
  4. Be at least 21 years of age
- C. Apprentice Judge 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 Certified Performance Judge Trainers.
    - b. The two Performance Shows must include:
      1. A minimum of two Adult Performance and two Youth classes
      2. A minimum of two Showmanship classes
      3. A minimum of one Costume class
      4. A Level II and Level III show

2. It is recommended that the Performance Apprentice Judge attend the Oral Reasons Clinic.
- D. 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 needs to cancel, the Judge Trainer, Show Superintendent and AOA Show System Administrator need to be notified
- E. 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.
- F. Apprentice requirements must be completed within four years of acceptance into the program.
- G. Successful completion of a final Performance Judge Performance 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, but may not be unduly withheld.

## **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 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 testing event, the following action will take place:
  - a. The JTCC will provide the Apprentice Judge a list of clinics and apprenticeships that must be completed in a two year period in order to be eligible to retest
  - b. Only one retest will be granted and must be completed with two years of the previous test date
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 contract approved by AOA Board of Directors.
5. Be an AOA Association and Show System member in good standing.
6. The First three shows accepted by a newly Certified Halter Judge must be at Level I, II, or III. The first three shows accepted by a newly Certified Fleece Judge must be at Level I or Level II.

## **Section 7. Judge Re-Certification Requirements**

### **A. Halter Judge:**

1. Certified Halter Judges will re-certify two years after their initial certification. Successful completion of an AOA Re-Certification Event requires a minimum score of 80%. After completion of the first six-years of judging, if a Judge has judged a minimum of 20 shows (AOA certified fleece and/or halter shows) and met the educational requirements, then that Judge will have met the re-certification requirements for that certification period and will not be required to re-certify. Beyond the sixth year of certification, if a Judge has not judged a minimum of 8 shows and does not meet the below educational requirements in any of their four year certification periods, then they will be required to attend the re-certification testing event and achieve the required score to remain certified.
2. Successful completion of all of the following AOA Clinics for Halter Judges within a certification period (four years) will be required to remain certified.
  - a. Total Immersion Fleece Clinic (TIFC)
  - b. Two Halter Clinics (Form and Function Clinic /Oral Reasons/Halter Immersion Clinic)
3. The Calibration experience (page 17-18) is a valuable learning tool for those in their first 6 years of judging. Beyond 6 years, the JTCC will accept a Calibration

experience at a Level 3 or higher show, as an alternative method of meeting Judge Re-Certification requirements as follows:

- a. 1 clinic requirement (fleece calibration for a fleece clinic or halter calibration for a halter clinic)
  - b. 1 halter show judging requirement (must calibrate at a halter show)
  - c. 1 fleece judging requirement (must calibrate at a fleece show)
  - d. Calibration Judge shall work the entire event
  - e. Judges may use a maximum of 2 calibrations to replace requirements within a 4 year re-certification time frame.
4. Be an AOA Association and Show System member in good standing.
  5. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible for Judge Re-Certification. Such Re-Certification 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 contract approved by Board of Directors.
  6. In the event a Judge does not successfully Re-Certify 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 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. Certified Fleece Judges will re-certify two years after their initial certification. Successful completion of an AOA Re-Certification Event requires a minimum score of 80%. After completion of the first six-years of judging, if a Judge has judged a minimum of 10 shows (AOA certified fleece shows) and met the educational requirements, then that Judge will have met the re-certification requirements for that certification period and will not be required to re-certify. Beyond the sixth year of certification, if a Judge has not judged a minimum of 4 shows and does not meet the below educational requirements in any of their four year certification periods, then they will be required to attend the re-certification testing event and achieve the required score to remain certified.
2. 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)
3. Be an Association and Show System member in good standing.

4. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible for Judge Re-Certification. Such Re-Certification 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.
5. In the event a Judge does not successfully Re-Certify 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 re-certify.

## **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. Form and Function Clinic /Oral Reasons/Halter Immersion Clinic
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 10 of which must be Level III or higher and at least one must be Level V. Provide documentation of experience to the Show System Administrator that demonstrates that the applicant has independently judged a minimum of 10 certified fleece shows at shows at Level II or higher and to accept foreign fleece shows 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 a Judges Re-Certification Clinic and successfully achieved a score of 90% or greater in all areas of certification.
  5. Meet current Judges contract 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 and two fleece shows in the last 24 months.
  8. Be a Halter Judge Trainer.
- 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 of 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 a 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
- F. Be an AOA Association and Show System 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 10 certified fleece shows at shows at Level II or higher and to accept foreign fleece shows 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) in the year of Re-Certification
  - 3. Have attended a Judges Re-Certification and successfully achieved a minimum score of 90% or greater.
  - 4. Meet current Judges contract 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 eight certified fleece shows in the last 24 months.
  - 7. Be a Fleece Judge Trainer.
- 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 of 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 a 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
- F. Be an AOA Association and Show System 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 Re-Certification Requirements**

1. Successful completion of an AOA Re-Certification Event requires a minimum score of 90% for Senior Halter Judges. If a Senior Judge does not meet the below educational requirements in any of their four year certification periods, then they will be required to attend the re-certification testing event and achieve the required score to remain certified.
2. Successful completion of all of the following AOA Clinics for Halter Judges within a certification period (four years) will be required to remain certified.
  - a. Total Immersion Fleece Clinic (TIFC)
  - b. Form and Function Clinic /Oral Reasons Clinic/Halter Immersion Clinic
3. Be an AOA Association and Show System member in good standing.
4. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible for Judge Re-Certification. Such Re-Certification 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 Re-Certification Requirements**

1. Successful completion of an AOA Re-Certification Event requires a minimum score of 90% for Senior Fleece Judges. If a Senior Judge does not meet the below education requirements in any of their four year certification periods, then they will be required to attend the re-certification testing event and achieve the required score to remain certified.
2. 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)
3. Be an AOA Association Member in good standing and registered with the AOA Show System.
4. Upon successful completion of all requirements, the Judge is eligible for Judge Re-Certification. Such Re-Certification 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 13. Senior Performance Judge Re-Certification Requirements**

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

## **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.
  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, and the Performance and Showmanship rules for performance classes.
  3. Halter Judge Trainers: have judged a minimum of ten certified halter shows, at least two of which must be Level V.
  4. Fleece Judge Trainers: have judged a minimum of eight certified fleece shows at Level II or higher, at least one of which must be Level III or higher.
  5. Performance Judge Trainers: have judged a minimum of four certified performance shows.
  6. Be an AOA Association and Show System member in good standing.
- B. Present a 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. Spinoff Accreditation**

- A. Prospective judges must submit spinning samples for evaluation to qualify to attend training
- B. Must attend the spinoff training clinic and pass spinoff examination to be accredited
- C. Judges will not be required to re-accredit



## 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 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 Calibrator Judge may only have one Calibratee or Apprentice per show.
- F. The Calibrator Judge will introduce the Calibratee Judge to the exhibitors in the Exhibitors meeting at the beginning of the show. The Calibration Judge will give a brief explanation to the exhibitors as to the purpose of the Calibration process.
- G. A Calibratee must excuse his/her self from the ring if a conflict exists with an exhibitor occurs.
- H. Calibratee must wear his/her Judge Name badge to identify purpose of ring attendance.
- I. The Calibratee will appear in the ring with the Calibration Judge keeping verbal communication to a minimum in the ring during the judging process.
- J. The Calibratee will step away from the Calibration Judge during the time the judge is completing the class placement, documentation and oral remarks.
- K. The Show System Administrator will send the Calibratee a form detailing requirements of the Calibration Session and the Calibratee 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, 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 allows to avoid any potential for 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 Senior Judges and 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/Re-Certification 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 Association and Show System 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 must attend the next available clinic in their certification area(s). 2. At that clinic, instructors will evaluate skill

level. 3. After the evaluation, JTCC will make a final decision on requirements for re-certification(s). Decision of JTCC is final and not subject for review.

- N. Judges from outside the U.S. and Industry Experts may submit credentials and make application for acceptance into the Judges Program. Following successful completion of a Judges Certification Clinic and with approval from the Judge Training and Certification Committee and the Board of Directors, such individuals may work within the Show System.
1. Waiver of some prerequisites and requirements may be considered by the Judge Training and Certification Committee and the ABA Board of Directors.

## **Section 18. Instructors**

- A. Persons with specific 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 experience with 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. 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, and the Performance and Showmanship rules for performance classes.
  3. Must be a certified Judge Trainer meeting the following requirements:
    - a. Halter Instructor: Minimum of two years as a Halter Judge Trainer having successfully evaluated a minimum of four different Apprentices at certified halter shows.
    - b. Fleece Instructors: Minimum of two years as a Fleece Judge Trainer having successfully evaluated a minimum of four different Apprentices at certified fleece shows.
    - c. Performance Instructors: Minimum of one year as a Performance Judge Trainer having successfully evaluated a minimum of two different Apprentices at certified performance shows.
  4. Be an Association member in good standing and registered with the Show System.

5. 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 an Judge's contract approved by the Board of Directors.
6. Demonstrate ability to create teaching objectives, materials, agenda and present in a clinic environment.
7. 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
8. Candidate must be recommended unanimously by the Judge Training and Certification Committee.
9. 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 i.e., show techniques, conformation, fleece, etc.
- 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.