

# FROM THE CENTER OF THE RING

MARCH 7, 2011

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The Education and Clinic Committee, along with the Judges and Stewards Committee, in an effort to enhance our awareness of horses, general knowledge of our wonderful breed, and horses in general, including everything related to judging and stewarding, present this newsletter for your consideration. We cordially invite all PFHA Officials to submit and share your opinions, comments, articles, and any information that may benefit our Association. This, in our opinion, is the forum to enhance our general knowledge, by sharing information.

## FROM DR. JOSE M. LARACUENTE CHAIR, PFHA EDUCATION AND CLINIC COMMITTEE



### EDUCATION AND CLINIC COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Chair:**

Dr. Jose M. Laracuent

**Members:**

Ms. Patti Blichmann

Ms. Carmen Micheletti

Mr. Fred Moretti

Mr. Robert D. Yunits

### JUDGES AND STEWARDS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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**Members:**

Dr. Carmen Cepero

Dr. Margaret Fahringer

Dr. Jose M. Laracuent

Ms. Sharon Londono

Ms. Carmen Micheletti

Mr. Fred Moretti

Ms. Susan Niebling

Mr. Don Schanche

## PROTESTS, CHARGES, AND WARNING CARDS- OVERVIEW

BY LYNN GALLUP, PFHA SC/USEF "R" JUDGE AND PFHA S/USEF "r" STEWARD

"Complaint" Fee Structure			
Organization	Protest	Charge	Warning Card
PFHA	\$100/members	\$0.00	N/A
USEF	\$200/members, \$300/nonmember	\$0.00	\$0.00
	Fee refundable if found to be true		

Who Can File			
Organization	Protest	Charge	Warning Card
PFHA	Any member	Show Official, Executive Director	N/A
USEF	Any rider, driver, handler, longeur, exhibitor, owner, agent, trainer or the parent of a junior exhibitor, or any Life, Senior, or Junior member	Show Official , Federation Rep. assigned to a USEF licensed competition, National Officer , CEO, Executive Director	Steward

Timeline to Receive (after alleged violation)			
Organization	Protest	Charge	Warning Card
PFHA			N/A
USEF	*Within 48 hours (if received by show committee or steward); *By the tenth business day following the last recognized day of the competition (if to be received by USEF Hearing Committee)	*Within 48 hours (if received by show committee or steward); *Within a reasonable time (if to be received by USEF Hearing Committee)	Send in with Steward Report

Examples of Protests Not Allowed	
<b>Official Veterinarian</b>	Decision that a certain horse <b>should not</b> be permitted to participate in a particular class or the entire respective show due to a physical condition or soundness of said horse.
<b>Judge's Placement</b>	A Judge's decision relating to the numerical placement of a certain horse in the particular show at which said Judge is officiating, <b>unless</b> such protest clearly alleges that the Judge's decision was in violation of the rules.



**PROTESTS, CHARGES, AND WARNING CARDS-OVERVIEW (CONT'D)**

Examples of Violations		
Protest	Charge	Warning Card
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Allegations against a Judge or Steward</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to attend a contracted show.</li> <li>• Failure to conduct a class in accordance with the class specs or in violation of the rules.</li> <li>• Failure to perform their duties according to the rules.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Against a Licensed Competition</b> for rule violations</li> <li>• <b>Against an exhibitor, trainer, association, member</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Violation of any rule or written policy of the Association</li> <li>• "Amateur" status</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Allegations against a Judge or Steward</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to attend a contracted show.</li> <li>• Failure to conduct a class in accordance with the class specs or in violation of the rules.</li> <li>• Failure to perform their duties according to the rules.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Any exhibitor or trainer who has failed to file a statement with the Steward after the administration of drugs at a competition.</li> <li>• An exhibitor's "Amateur" status</li> <li>• Any misrepresentation or substitution of an entry</li> <li>• Eligibility of any entry to be judged during a class</li> <li>• <b>Cruelty and Abuse</b> Any action against a horse, or neglect of a horse, by any persons anywhere on the competition grounds which is deemed cruel and abusive (extent of abuse)</li> <li>• Against a Licensed Competition for rule violations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Poor Sportsmanship:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Losing temper</li> <li>• Being belligerent</li> <li>• Using foul language</li> <li>• Acting in a rude manner towards officials, other competitors or to staff/ management to a lesser degree not warranting a charge</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Not following the local rules of the competition:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoking</li> <li>• Leash laws</li> <li>• Manure disposal</li> <li>• Use of golf carts</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Excessive schooling that is not to the point of being considered abuse</li> <li>• Shaking of whips or other objects outside or inside the ring</li> <li>• Electronic communication violations</li> <li>• Minor instances of illegal equipment and whips in the schooling areas</li> <li>• Minor instances of illegal schooling jumps</li> <li>• Cruelty and Abuse Any action against a horse, or neglect of a horse, by any persons anywhere on the competition grounds which is deemed cruel and abusive</li> </ul>



2011 Judges & Stewards Clinic Men

Note: USEF allows appeals of Protests and Charges, while PFHA does not allow appeals.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO NEW PFHA OFFICIALS!**

The following judges and stewards completed all the requirements at the last judges and stewards clinic and have been certified by the Paso Fino Horse Association as Officials.

**New Certified Judges:**

Ms. Charlsie Surface Haynor  
333 Laurel Street W.  
Stillwater, MN 55082  
Cell: 651-269-4144  
Email: charlsiesurface@hotmail.com

Mr. Jose Perez-Novó  
P.O. Box 362805  
San Juan, PR 00936  
Cell: 787-380-0338  
Email: jperezpr@yahoo.com

**New Certified Stewards:**

Ms. Paulette Denault-Bryce  
2235 Old Georgetown Rd W  
Cassatt, SC 29032  
Tel: 803-549-6254  
Email: riofino@yahoo.com

Ms. Lynn E. Gallup  
4316 Old US 1 Hwy  
New Hill, NC 27562  
Tel: 919-362-5966  
Email: info@gracewoodpasos.com

**New Applicant Judges and Stewards:**

Mr. Gerardo Estevez  
Ave. Enriquillo No. 98, Edificio CK  
Apartamento 204, Los Cacicazgos  
Santo Domingo, Republica Dominicana  
Tel: 829-546-7600  
Email: gerardoestevez@hotmail.com

Cont'd on next page..



2011 Judges & Stewards Clinic Women

**NEW PFHA OFFICIALS (CONT'D)**

**New Applicant Judges and Stewards:**

**Mr. Diego Gonzalez**  
 P.O. Box 529  
 Isabela, PR 00662  
 Tel: 787-347-5234  
 Email: diegog@yahoo.com

**Ms. Adele Maurer**  
 2267 N. Stage Coach Lane  
 Fallbrook, CA 92028  
 Tel: 760-533-2335  
 Email: fallbrookusa@aol.com

**Ms. Debbie Wolcowicz**  
 8 Happy Hoof Lane  
 Ronks, PA 17572  
 Tel: 717-587-3779  
 Email: deb-  
 bie1985@comcast.net

Please verify your listed information and contact Andy Smith in the PFHA office with any corrections.  
 Tel: 859-825-6004  
 Email: asmith@pfha.org



**PROFESSIONALISM & PROFESSIONAL GROWTH  
 BY MR. WAYNE HIPSLEY**

**PART 1**

**INTRODUCTION**

Welcome to the inaugural issue of The Horse Judge Report™ This monthly report is a no cost method of communicating among licensed judges, show managers and exhibitors. Our goal is to inform them about activities and events, as well as provide valuable information to assist in performing their duties in the most professional manner. You are encouraged to submit your questions, your suggestions and your comments.....all are welcome.

We hope you find this enlightening and helpful.

**PROFESSIONALISM**

In all competitions, the officials should be at the “top of their game” as with any professional official in their sport. But sometimes things happen to cause a distraction from a competitor’s performance or presentation. This momentary distraction can mean the difference between first and second or disqualification. Think about it.....It has happened to everyone judging.

An example: A competitor in a trail obstacle class where the first obstacle is 4 - 360° pivots to the right in a box with rails on each side. The competitor performs the pattern accurately as described, but the judge miscounts the number of pivots and gives the competitor a zero score for being off course, allows the competitor to continue, and discontinues scoring the competitor. Three serious mistakes were made in this single judged show:

1. Miscalculating the pivots, being distracted, and/or not being prepared. The judge should have counted the number of pivots quietly, out loud, or in some systematic fashion to accurately record observations of the competitor.
2. Not blowing the whistle or having the competitor declared officially off course by the announcer. Otherwise, this allows the competitor to believe they were “on course” and expecting a fair score for their performance.
3. If the judge was in doubt, the judge should have continued to score the performance until the course was completed. If a video review is permitted, and can be reviewed to remedy the problem.

Give Them a Break

“Judge Others As You Would Have Them Judge YOU”

If this had been a multi-judged show, and this judge was not the call judge, there were even more mistakes:

1. The judge did not contact the call judge through the ring steward for an official ruling on the completion of this obstacle of the pattern, while the judge continues to score the horse’s performance. In a

Give Them a Break  
 “Judge Others As You Would Have Them Judge YOU”



multiple judge situation, always use the ring steward to communicate with the other judges to clarify any technical issues such as off course during a class. Before the class, the judging team should be very clear on how, as a group, they are going to handle off course competitors.

2. The judge did not continue to score the competitor. If the call judge did not blow the whistle or request for the competitor to be excused, that should be the signal the call judge did not observe the competitor being off course. In this case, the scoring of the obstacles should have continued until the competitor completed the course.



So, let's work to give the exhibitors a "break". Let's understand how to give them the benefit of the doubt. We need more participants in the sport. We need to sustain and grow the sport. Remember, judging is a profession. Licensed horse show judges are trained and licensed professionals in their sport. Judges need to conduct themselves as a professional at all times.

### PROFESSIONAL GROWTH

#### Influence on Decision Making - Adjustment to Multiple Judged Shows - Part 1

Today, many judges find multiple judged shows the rule and no longer the exception. The day of the single day, one judge show is almost history in many parts of the US for

many breeds and disciplines. Yet, there are many non-sanctioned open shows that still employ a single judge. From those ranks come many new judges to the breeds and disciplines who are new to the multiple judge environments. Whether a new judge or a seasoned licensed judge, the multiple judge environment is not always the friendliest working situation, especially for the poorly prepared, insecure judge.

So, let's examine why judges are insecure.

1. Intimidation by one or more judges on the panel either due to their experience, judging status and/or reputation as a judge. The new judge sees the more experienced judge as a "role model" and the role models decisions are the standard for the new judge to attain.
2. Uncertainty about how their placing will compare with the other judges, and hence do not want to appear as the "odd" person on the panel when the results are announced. The new judge does not want to place a horse first in a class that was not placed by the other judges. The new judge spends more time calculating how the other judges are going to place the class rather than concentrating on their own observations and decisions.
3. Lack of confidence due to inexperience judging and development of the needed skills to adjudicate. Perhaps the number one problem with new judges coming to the multi-judge environment is the lack of confidence in making accurate, valid decisions. If the new judge misses a penalty or a rule violation, they automatically put pressure on themselves to not miss another one.
4. The judge could be new to the breed, division or discipline, needing more learner judging experience, just lacking experience to the standards, but very capable of making decisions. This person may make mistakes at the expense of the competitor but will eventually achieve success if their attitude remains professional.
5. The judge's personal behavior, lacking confidence to make decisions independent of others in their personal life. A judge's decision making must be timely and accurate, and for people not trained to make accurate, quick decisions, the multi-judge environment adds social pressure, especially when the new judge is "slow" to turn in their placing card. Quick thinking comes with experience and practice, knowing the rules and regulations and the standards for the sport.

Note to experienced judges: If you see these situations in a judging panel, work to develop a team approach to create a relaxed atmosphere for all to work.

See Mr. Hipsley's Next Issue for Follow Up Section.....PART 2



**"We need more participants in the sport. We need to sustain and grow the sport."**



## Judging is a Huge Responsibility, It Determines the Direction and Success of our Breed

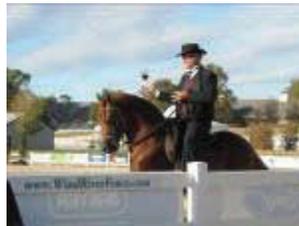
By Kay E. Chiappetta, PFHA Senior Certified Judge

I'm writing to you today because I want to make you more aware that what we do as judges in the ring, both regionally and nationally, has both short and long-term impact on the future of our breed – when I say future, I mean in breeding, training, showing, marketing, sales, and customer satisfaction. As most of us are aware, we have many dissatisfied participants; look around your membership is down, our breeding is down, show numbers are declining, and prices are drastically decreased. What we are going to talk about today is really, really important. So we have all these problems – much of it is due to the economy- but we can't use that as an excuse to cover up the main concern of our membership: the judging in our show rings, especially at the National Show.

This has a huge impact, emotionally and financially, on our members. It creates unsatisfied customers when they can't understand the judging, and that reminds them that there are other breeds, both gaited and non-gaited, or boats or dogs, etc. Most of these people just want to have fun and be treated fairly. They begin to think, "I might leave, I might lose a lot of money depending on my investment, but if I'm unhappy enough, I'll go." We all know many who have come and gone. There are 85,000 USEF members who show in several breeds, not counting Quarter Horses, Paints, Appaloosas, and

others that don't belong to USEF – in other words, many choices for these unhappy people.

Let's just talk about the choices that people and exhibitors have. For example, there are 50 plus other breed registries all in competition for this market. The potential new buyers out there are well aware of many of the trotting breeds such as Quarter Horses, Arabians, Appaloosas, Paints, and of the gaited breeds of Tennessee Walkers, Rocky Mountain horses, Fox Trotters, and the breeds like the Saddlebreds that have trotters and five gaited both. Of all these breeds,



probably the closest to us in temperament are the Saddlebreds, and they are still selling and in demand for prices of \$80,000 plus for the average horse; their winning geldings have sold for more than a half-million.

Another breed that is growing rapidly is the KY or United Mountain Horse, developed following the popularity of the Rocky Mountain and TN Walkers. A class of 15 or more stallions doing their fast gait and coming down to a flat walk with a loose rein (on the buckle as they say) is amazing and excites the crowd.

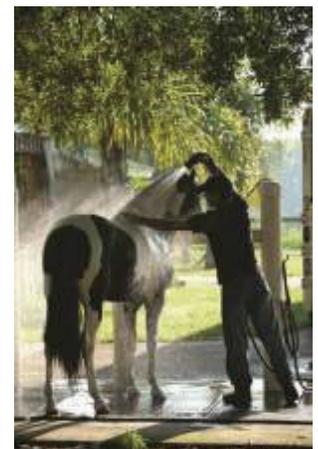
This brings us to the point of what excites the crowd and the potential buyer; what about these breeds makes them saleable and why our horse isn't selling, which is even smoother.

Americans like action, especially front leg action, they love speed, and they don't want to ride a really small horse. Our competitors are giving people what they want – bigger horses, flat walk, good attitude and horses that move out or have an exciting, fast gait. One of the fastest small horses is the Icelandic which is the size of a Paso Fino or smaller and is gaining popularity due to its speed. They had a great demo at the WEG games but the rider and horse picture is not nearly as great as the rider/Paso Fino picture. We need to stop giving people reasons not to buy our horses or reasons to leave our breed if already a part of it.

Our love of the fino horse has been affecting our other divisions. Somewhere along the line, judges began judging the "quickest" horse in every class as the winner. Now as judges, what we place directs the breeders to breed for that type of horse or prompts trainers to go out and buy that type for their owners. I remember last summer a trainer I know went to Florida to buy a "fino reject" to show in pleasure because he knew that would please the



"Americans like action, especially front leg action, they love speed, and they don't want to ride a really small horse."



judges. As you know, the “quickness” gene is very difficult to breed for and if you don’t get that gene, you usually have a horse with very little extension and very little action in the front or back legs, an animal that is not very marketable and not genetically going to improve the breed.

We have very good rules in the rule book which we all need to follow to place a true pleasure horse and a true performance horse - the word QUICK is not mentioned in either class description! Class requirements are either not being used or judges are interpreting them to what

they think they should be. We have lost many owners and breeders because we do not follow the rules, especially at our National Show.

The need for us to change – does anyone believe we should do nothing and hope that exhibitors just become satisfied with our present way of judging? We need to do it together – we need to save the show customer that is spending money. This is only one element – JUDGING – but the impact is huge. It affects everything and everyone!

We need to have three distinct divisions that look and move totally different other

than the four-beat gait. If you read and apply our rules you will understand what I mean. Think how much bigger our market would be if you could breed and train big, beautiful, fiery, performance horses with front action, great hocks, and lovely, good-sized pleasure horses with a great largo, great attitude, and wonderful, smooth gait that did a perfect flat walk under all conditions, and then others breed fino horses with all the electricity they can possess. We then would truly have a horse for anyone – we need to judge them in this way folks!!

Remember, a pencil can destroy a breed!!!!



## REMINDERS:

The CONFEDERACION INTERNATIONAL DE CRIADORES DE CABALLOS DE PASO (“CONFEPASO”), through its affiliate in Colombia, FEDEQUINAS, will be sponsoring an International Workshop for the certification of international judges. The workshop is scheduled for March 12-13, 2011 at the UCDA University in Botoga, Colombia, South America. Those interested may contact Confepaso’s Secretary, Ms. Beatriz Salgado Garcia at [secretariageneral@fedequinas.org](mailto:secretariageneral@fedequinas.org) or the President, Mr. Victor Chavarro at [presidencia@fedequinas.org](mailto:presidencia@fedequinas.org).

Also, the CONFEDERACION INTERNATIONAL DE CRIADORES DE CABALLOS DE PASO (“CONFEPASO”), through its affiliate in Puerto Rico, the ASOCIACION PUERTORRIQUENA DE CRIADORES DE CABALLOS DE PASO FINO DE AMERICA, (“LOS ABIERTOS”) will be sponsoring a second 2011 workshop to certify/recertify international judges. This is scheduled for April 8-9, 2011 in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Please contact Mr. Willman Rodriguez, Executive Director at [willmanrodz@hotmail.com](mailto:willmanrodz@hotmail.com), or (787) 687-0418. Details to follow.

At the last PFHA clinic, it was requested that a reminder be sent to all PFHA Officials about the Classic Fino, Performance, and Pleasure classes. In page 70 of the Rule Book; iii. Classic Fino Division, A. Qualifying Gait, it is stated, “In this class, horses shall demonstrate only the fully collected Classic Fino gait whenever moving.” In page 72, Paso Performance Division, Collected Paso Largo, it is stated, “Loss of form, cadence, or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized,” and “Special attention shall be afforded to brilliance, form, smoothness, and rhythmic consistency of the gaits.” Page 74, Paso Pleasure Division, Paso Largo, states, “The evenly spaced, four-beat cadence must be maintained at all times and loss of cadence, form, or smoothness due to excessive speed shall be penalized, but extension and speed in gait shall be rewarded.” In both the Performance and the Pleasure classes a definite change of speed from the Paso Corto to the Paso Largo must be observed.

**“Remember,  
a pencil can  
destroy a  
breed!!!!”**



## JUDGES PROTOCOL

The following Code of Ethics is now part of the licensed officials' annual renewal form.

### Code of Ethics

As a licensed official of the United States Equestrian Federation, I will conduct my duties with the highest level of integrity. My primary concern is the welfare of the horse while giving full attention to exhibitors and respect to my colleagues.

I will endeavor to have complete and accurate knowledge of all rules governing the competition.

I will exercise my responsibilities in a positive and professional manner, refraining from conducting business and socializing with exhibitors during the event.

I will officiate from a positive perspective in word and deed and complete my duties with consistency and without bias.

My personal behavior will reflect my integrity, character and respect for the sport and the United States Equestrian Federation.

### Conflict of Interest

A judge must avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest. A judge must be neutral, make independent judgments, and maintain a fair position towards all exhibitors, competition management, and other officials. This includes professionalism displayed through posts on social media networks and personal blogs.

The USEF definition of client is found in Chapter 1 of the current USEF Rule Book. Additional rules regarding conflict of interest are primarily located in Chapter 13, with Chapter 10 also containing some conflict of interest references.

The Director of the Licensed Officials Department can render an opinion on a conflict of interest situation, if the circumstances are outlined in writing (email or fax or snail mail are all acceptable). Judges will still be held accountable should any charges or protested be filed and upheld regarding conflict of interest situations.

### Attributes of a Judge

Four main categories describe the attributes of a successful judge. One is not more important than the other – rather, they are equal and overlap in some areas.

#### ***Knowledge of breed or discipline***

- Knowledge of the history of and the principles of the breed or discipline
- USEF class specifications
- Gait analysis & movement
- Conformation of breed, including major and minor faults and whether or not they are inheritable

#### ***Skills***

- Methodology of judging
- Book keeping skills, especially in a division that allows open cards
- Physical ability and stamina to officiate under the conditions and hours of the competition.

#### ***Temperament/Demeanor***

- Aware you are representing USEF
- Responds in a timely manner to communication from competitions prior to the event.
- Works well as part of a team with other judges, respecting colleagues.
- Patient and tolerant when things don't go right at a competition.
- Respecting fellow judges when you are the exhibitor or trainer.

#### ***Integrity***

- Distance yourself from owners, trainers, exhibitors before and during a competition.
- Keep past situations or personal issues with an exhibitor out of your decision making process.
- Ignore any attempts by others to influence your decisions
- Keep cell phones and other communication devices turned off while in the ring or judges' stand.
- Refrain from any conduct that could be considered unbecoming to a judge both on and off the competition grounds throughout the duration of the competition.
- Be punctual



I will conduct my duties with the highest level of integrity.



Dress appropriately – you are representing USEF when you judge.  
 Be well prepared for the classes you are hired to judge  
 Follow the same rules when competing that you are required to enforce as a judge.

### Organizational Hints

Upon initial contact from a competition, write the date on the calendar, include location, contact's name, phone number, and email address. Be sure to give them your current contact information.  
 Discuss and agree upon fee and per diem.  
 Find out if you are judging independently or on a panel and be prepared to handle the responsibility either way.  
 Ask if the competition is being held indoors or outdoors and if the competition requires a certain dress code, such as formal wear for any evening performances. Pack accordingly.  
 Make sure that you understand thoroughly all travel arrangements:  
 Ask about airline ticket and who is making reservations, what airport to fly in to, and transportation to and from the hotel. If driving discuss fee per mile.  
 Ask about departure time regarding the last day of the show. (Never, never make the last day departure time before 6 p.m. unless told otherwise).  
 Keep a competition contact number with you when traveling, just in case.  
 Request a written contract and return it ASAP. Inform competition management in advance of any special restrictions or needs that you may have in regard to food, beverages, etc.  
 not book "A" rated competitions too close together with regards to mileage, or calendar date.  
 If you have not received a prize list within a few weeks prior to the competition, ask for a copy. You need to know what classes you are judging.  
 Prepare workouts to be used at the competition. Have several workouts to choose from based on varying class talent and ring orientation. Have at least 3 copies: one for the office to post, one for the announcer, and one for yourself.  
 Arrive at least ½ hour before the competition begins  
 Check in with the manager, secretary, and steward(s). Locate the 'necessities.'  
 Check your judges' cards to verify that the correct class specifications are printed, if required.  
 Learn the names of your announcer and in-gate person.  
 If a learner judge is working with you, spend time evaluating their reasons for placing horses/riders.  
 Provide receipts and prepare your bill within the time frame requested by the competition.  
 Check with the competition management prior to leaving the competition grounds to verify that all class cards have been signed, etc. Also, verbally thank them for having you at their competition.  
 Sending a short thank you note following the show to the competition management always leaves a good impression.

### Summary

It takes time and practice to become comfortable and confident with your judging. It is important for you to establish a style of judging that is consistent and easy for you.  
 Always show respect and interest for the exhibitor(s) in the ring, including when walking the lineup. Be courteous, responsible, attentive, and treat everyone equally.  
 As a judge you are the one in control of the class. Do not let your support staff interfere with the outcome of your class.  
 If you have trouble with exhibitors and/or management when officiating, please utilize the steward or technical delegate at the competition. If the situation is not handled to your satisfaction, address these issues in writing to the USEF Licensed Officials Committee.

***All USEF licensed officials are representatives of the Federation and status as a licensed official is a privilege, not a right.***

***Individuals whose equine experience and expertise, as well as personal character, has been shown to warrant the status as a licensed official are welcome.***

***An individual's conduct as a rider, driver, handler, owner, trainer, etc., should be exemplary and does affect the person's current and/or future status as a licensed official.***



As a judge  
 you are the  
 one in control  
 of the class.



## WORK OFF GUIDELINES

BY ROBERT D. YUNITS

Here are some helpful hints about work offs:

- 1) Always check your tack, and if the back is required, have all horses do this before executing the work off. If you check after the work off, that would not be a time to see that a top horse does not back, or has illegal tack.
- 2) If you ask for a work off and one of your horses becomes unruly, you may disqualify that horse.
- 3) If a horse does not perform perfectly, you place that horse accordingly.
- 4) If you are working with another judge and you want to see a work off, send over the ringmaster and make sure you have the ringmaster indicate for what placements. If your fellow Judge does not want to see any more work, he may turn his card and sit down.
- 5) It is important when asking for a work off to use the gaits that are required in the class. For instance, if you have a performance or pleasure class, then make sure you use the largo as well as the corto. Do not forget the importance of a walk in the pleasure class.
- 6) When you see work offs that are nothing more than reverses and a board, you cannot see if there is a definite change of speed between the corto and the largo.
- 7) Remember when you ask for a work off and a good horse makes a mistake, make sure you place that horse accordingly. The spectators love to judge from the rail. If you do not use the work off they will be the first to let us know.
- 8) A suggestion: when asking for a work off start with the sounding board and make the rail work be the last thing you do.
- 9) Remember: work offs are for horses that have been relatively close in their placements and you need to see the work off to determine who the winner is.



### PASO FINO HORSE ASSOCIATION

4047 Iron Works Parkway, Ste 1  
Lexington, KY 40511  
Phone: 859-825-6000  
Fax: 859-258-2125  
[www.pfha.org](http://www.pfha.org)

