



Horse Show Judge Application and Licensing

It is expected that anyone applying to become a Gypsy Vanner Horse judge will already have horse show judging experience. If a person is not familiar with judging horses, they are encouraged to expand their base of knowledge by working with other judges in different breeds and disciplines to gain experience.

1. Submit Written Application

The GVHS provides an application whereby the applicant judge must provide personal and professional information regarding their horse experience and knowledge.

2. Professional References

On the application the judge candidate must submit the names and the contact information for at least 5 persons that are familiar with their judging ability and skills. At least three of these must be show managers and/or licensed judges. The remaining references can be from colleagues in the horse industry, GVHS members and exhibitors.

3. GVHS Approved Judges Educational Seminar

After the judge's application is processed, and the references are received, the judge must attend and participate in a GVHS Approved Judges Educational Seminar. During the seminar, written examination will be administered. The written examination is required pertaining to the current GVHS Show Rules and Regulations. A passing score of 85 points must be achieved on this examination.

4. Learner Judging

A. Individuals that show judge potential – their experience will be reviewed from their application and references. They will be required to learner judge with a GVHS licensed mentor judge at least five GVHS shows. The learner judge must work with at least four different GVHS licensed judges. Each of the licensed judges and show manager will write a letter of reference to be submitted to the GVHS office. Upon completion of the learner process, the application will be reviewed for approval.

B. Experienced Judges carded in other breeds – their experience will be reviewed from their application and references. The applicant may be asked to learner judge with a GVHS licensed mentor judge at one or more large shows to understand the standards and protocols for judging Gypsy Vanner Horses. Upon receipt of the letter of reference from the show manager and the licensed judge, the application will be reviewed for approval.

5. Learner Judging Experience – must be at an approved show with a sufficient number of entries in GVHS approved classes. The Learner Judge cannot be serving in any other capacity at the event they are working as a Learner Judge. The purpose of their role is to learn about the exhibition of the breed and judging standards.

The Learner Judge must have the approval of the show manager and the officiating licensed mentor judge to participate as a Learner Judge. The Learner Judge will provide show management and the judge with Official GVHS Reference forms which are to be completed and sent to the GVHS office by the show manager and judge. These reference forms are to be maintained in a confidential manner by the GVHS.

A case by case decision will be made on the number of entries judged by the Learner Judge with the goal to have a maximum exposure opportunity to practice judging. Before applying to Learner Judge, the applicant should seek historical class entry information.

6. Approval Renewal

A license will be issued for 3 years for a GVHS licensed judge. Their personal contact information will be listed on the website for show managers and others seeking approved judges. Every 3 years the licensed judge is required to attend and participate in an approved GVHS licensed judge's seminar. Failure to do so will result in the removal of the judge's license.

At this time the GVHS is not requiring a criminal background check and the Safe Sport certification.

To receive a Judging License it must be remembered, is a privilege, earned through diligence and work as a professional.