

# 2026 New England 4-H Judges' Renewal Packet

New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program

*a program of the New England Land Grant Universities*



## Judge Levels of Certification

**Novice Judges** – These are individuals just embarking on their judging career. They have a good working knowledge of horse judging and may or may not have been part of a 4-H, youth or college horse judging team. They may currently be judging with experienced judges. They are qualified to judge small shows independently.

### Novice Level Prerequisites

- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Complete application for renewal
- If applying for the first time, you must attend an accepted school in initial application year

**Skilled B Judges** – These are experienced judges qualified and interested in judging most shows. May or may not be interested in judging extremely large shows.

| Skilled B Level Prerequisites                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Ready to Level Up? Novice to B                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be at least 18 years of age</li> <li>• Complete renewal application</li> <li>• Must have current, active judging experience (4-H background preferred)</li> <li>• Submit resume of industry/horse judging experience</li> <li>• Maintain &amp; submit a judging log including:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⇒ Name &amp; location of show judged</li> <li>⇒ Type/Size of show</li> <li>⇒ Show management contact information</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Three letters of reference outlining candidate's judging expertise (remain on file)</li> <li>• See requirements to advance in level.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judged and/or scribed at least 6 shows over a minimum 3 year period</li> <li>• Submit at least 3 evaluation forms of shows judged or scribed under NE "A" judge, including judge's comments.</li> </ul> |

**Skilled A Judges** – These are experienced judges who would be qualified and interested in judging large shows, including County/Regional/State Shows.

| Skilled A Level Prerequisites                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Ready to Level Up? Skilled B to Skilled A*                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete all above B Level requirements</li> <li>• Must successfully complete an interview with the New England Program's Selection Committee during attendance at NEJS</li> <li>• Must be willing to assist/teach if asked at NEJS</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judged at least 6 shows in the last 3 years (<i>not including novice experience</i>)</li> <li>• Submit at least 3 evaluation forms of shows judged or scribed under NE "A" judge, including judge's comments.</li> </ul> <p><b>* currently only offered at in-person NEJS</b></p> |



☐ New Application☐ Renewal Application**JUDGE/STEWARD APPLICATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Contact numbers: 1<sup>st</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> \_\_\_\_\_

Are you over 18 years of age? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

2<sup>nd</sup> Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which level for which you wish to apply or renew. Refer above for level requirements.

\_\_\_ Skilled A \_\_\_ Skilled B \_\_\_ Novice \_\_\_ Steward

**Please rank all of the following classes based on your judging experience (using numbers 1-5—1=most confident, 5=least confident; you may use numbers more than once):**

\_\_\_ Western Horsemanship/Equitation

\_\_\_ Halter

\_\_\_ Hunters/Jumpers over fences

\_\_\_ Lunge Line

\_\_\_ Saddle Seat Equitation/Pleasure

\_\_\_ Discipline Rail

\_\_\_ Hunt Seat Equitation/Pleasure

\_\_\_ Timed Driving Classes

\_\_\_ Driving Reinsmanship/Pleasure

\_\_\_ Gymkhana

\_\_\_ Miniature Horses (multiple types of classes)

\_\_\_ Gaited Horses

\_\_\_ Donkeys and Mules (multiple types of classes)

\_\_\_ Fitting &amp; Showmanship

\_\_\_ Draft Breeds (Halter and driving)

\_\_\_ Trail

\_\_\_ Dressage \_\_\_ English \_\_\_ Western

\_\_\_ Command

\_\_\_ Reining

\_\_\_ Ranch Riding

\_\_\_ High School/College Equestrian Teams

\_\_\_ Horse Judging Contests (must assign cuts &amp; give oral reasons)

Check Associations that you currently hold an Approved Judges Card from:

All 4-H Cards: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ AQHA ☐ AMHA ☐ NSBA ☐ APHA ☐ AHSA ☐ ApHC ☐ IBHA ☐ PHBA☐ PTHA ☐ POAC ☐ Mini: \_\_\_ AMHA \_\_\_ AMHR/ASPC☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_ **(Proof required – please attach)**

Attendance at a New England 4-H Horse Program school or other approved judges' school is required before finalizing your approval as a New England 4-H Horse Program carded judge. Attach proof or email of person who can verify your attendance at said school or other Continuing Education program.

Date 4-H Judges' School was attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of 4-H Judges' School attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Were you ever a 4-H member? \_\_\_\_ leader? \_\_\_\_ volunteer? \_\_\_\_ (check all that apply)

Brief description, if any, of your 4-H experience:

How many years have you been judging? \_\_\_\_\_ stewarding? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever had a novice judge work under your direction? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

**A listing of all shows judged with contact person for each show judged in 2024 to 2025 (a completed evaluation for each show judged will be accepted in place of a listing of shows as long as there is contact information for a show official on that evaluation). Please indicate if show was group rail classes or individual rides. (ex. dressage shows, trail, hunter/jumper, etc)**

If no shows judged please tell us why:

☐ Not Asked

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever been suspended from an association? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

If yes, please explain with attached documentation.

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? \_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_no

If yes, please explain with attached documentation.

I verify that all information on this form is complete and accurate. I also agree to abide by the Expectation of Ethics, and understand that failure to do may result in my removal from the New England 4-H Horse Judges' List.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Checks payable to: CT Horse Advisory Council**

**Return by March 31, 2026 to:**

New England 4-H Horse Show Judge Education Program

C/O Carol Birdsey / Judge's Application Coordinator

2 Randolph Road

Middletown, CT 06457

E-mail: [newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com)





## **New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program DESIGNATION OF OFFICIALS**

The designation of being a New England 4-H Horse Show Judge or Steward is a privilege. Qualifications that the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program is searching for include equine expertise, personal character and an interest in the New England and all 4-H Youth Horse Programs. Professional conduct is expected at all times. Status as an approved New England 4-H Horse Show Judge or Steward may be revoked by the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program's Selection Committee at any time without a formal hearing. As a courtesy, the Program's Selection Committee may grant a 60-day notice if possible. No privilege of appeal shall be available. A rejected applicant may re-apply one year after date of rejection. An additional fee is required for this application.

The information on this application is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge. I fully understand any inaccuracies or discrepancies will be considered unfavorable in my application. Furthermore, I understand that the designated authorities of the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program have the right to accept or deny this application, as well as the right to withdraw my name from the New England 4-H Horse Judges' List at any time. I will not challenge the Program's acceptance or rejection of my application, or its decision to remove me if so moved. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the New England 4-H Horse Show Rulebook & Guidelines, and the Code of Conduct in consideration for the addition of my name to the New England 4-H Horse Judges' List. I also understand that failure to do so may result in my removal from said list.

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Signature of Applicant

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Date

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Printed Name



## CODE OF CONDUCT

***Please initial next to each statement in order to be in compliance with our code of conduct.***

\_\_\_ My primary responsibility is to provide a safe, educational 4-H Program environment and experience for children ages 5 – 18, abiding by all state and federal laws.

\_\_\_ I will represent the 4-H Program in a professional manner in all dealings, respecting diversity of people, ideas, and organizations.

\_\_\_ I will master the rules of this sport and do my best to enforce them fairly and equally.

\_\_\_ I will prepare myself physically and mentally, and dress professionally to maintain the high standards of our industry.

\_\_\_ I will fulfill all my contractual obligations when hired and contracted for a job. In the event I am unable to (emergency), I will notify event managers as soon as possible and help find my replacement.

\_\_\_ I will work with show managers and officials in a cooperative manner.

\_\_\_ I understand that being a New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program Judge and/or Steward is a privilege, not a right, and I will uphold my status with dignity and respect. At any time if my conduct violates this, my status could be revoked by the board of this committee.

\_\_\_ I will refrain from any alcohol use before and during my official duties.

\_\_\_ I will report to the Committee anything that could be a bribe, or an attempt to bribe me in my judging/stewarding capacities.

\_\_\_ I agree to act professionally at all times, treat each person and animal with respect, and make decisions ethically with integrity and with the intent to grow the industry and educate both children and adults to the best of my ability. I also agree to use social media in a professional manner and I understand that my status as a judge/steward could come into question should I violate the use of social media.

\_\_\_ I recognize that 4-H is a positive youth development education organization, engaging youth and volunteers in their area of interest and fostering a sense of belonging in members and volunteers and I will frame any communications with youth and volunteers with this in mind.

\_\_\_ I agree to continue my education and look for ways to learn and grow as a judge/steward, with the priority being to stay current on all rules and regulations, along with industry standards.

\_\_\_ I agree to place each class in accordance with the rules and class specifications of the New England 4-H Horse Show Rule Book & Guidelines.

\_\_\_ I agree to be courteous and respectful, demonstrate good sportsmanship and deal with conflicts in a tactful manner.

\_\_\_ I will be a positive role model for youth.

\_\_\_ I agree to dress professionally in accordance with the event I am judging/stewarding. I am a representative of 4-H and I will conduct myself in a responsible and respectful manner while at any event I am attending as an official.

\_\_\_ I agree to stand for the welfare of all living animals and in the event I am witness to any abuse, neglect or other actions that would question the health or safety of an animal, I will report it to the show management and also follow up with any report or information the show officials may need in order to guarantee that animals will be checked on and cared for now and in the future.

*(Continued on Next Page)*



**CODE OF CONDUCT***Page 2*

I have been provided with the opportunity to review the above code of conduct and have been given the opportunity to ask questions, and any questions have been answered satisfactorily. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to adhere to the code of conduct described in this document. I understand that failure to comply with this code of conduct may result in disciplinary action or termination as a Horse and Pony Judge for the New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program.

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Print Name

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Signature

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Date

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New England Extension Representative Signature

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Date

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Title of Representative



## RENEWAL APPLICATION CHECKLIST

**Have you included all the necessary items required?**

Completed Renewal Application

Supporting Documentation

- Designation of Officials
- Listing of shows judged/stewarded in 2024 to 2025
- Code of Conduct
- Verification Documentation (if applicable)
- Please include a short judging bio which will be published

☐ Payment: Renewal Judge \$50.00, OR Renewal Steward \$50.00

Payment: Renewal Judge AND Steward \$60.00

*A special discounted renewal rate of \$35.00 each or \$45.00 combo, if returned by postmark of March 15, 2026. After that date regular fees will be assessed. Checks payable to: CT Horse Advisory Council*

**More Questions?**

Follow us on Facebook!

@New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program

Contact Us:

**Deb Danforth, Chair**

**New England 4-H Horse Show Rules & Judge Education Program**

802-468-1223 Office / 802-353-6034 Cell

[deborah.danforth@vermontstate.edu](mailto:deborah.danforth@vermontstate.edu)

Your email or call will be returned as soon as possible

**Carol Birdsey, Judge's Application Coordinator**

860-344-1804

[newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com](mailto:newenglandjudgesschool@gmail.com)

*Renewed cards will be issued/mailed after application is processed, by April 30, 2026.*

**\*\*All additional communication will be via email unless you specifically request alternate communication.\*\***

*“Make the Best Better”*

