All American Quarter Horse Congress
Collegiate Judging Contest 2026

GENERAL RULES:

1. This contest is open to properly accredited two- and four-year Colleges and Universities in the United States and Canada. Teams in the Junior and Senior College divisions must consist of four (4) or five (5) members with the four highest scores making the composite score for the team. Schools may enter two teams per Junior or Senior division. Students in the Limited division will judge as individuals only. There is no limit on the number of entries from an individual school in the Limited Division.

2. **Contestants and Eligibility:** Each intercollegiate team (Junior or Senior) shall consist of four or five members. If five members are designated, the four high scores shall constitute the team score. Any college undergraduate student representing their institution who is in attendance as a regularly enrolled student in the institution and who has never acted as an official judge of horses in any interstate fair show, and who has at no time served in the capacity of teacher of livestock or horse judging in a college or secondary school, may be entered as a member of a team to represent the college in which they are matriculated. The contest will have **three** divisions: 1) **Junior College** division – open to teams from Junior (2 year) colleges or for freshman or sophomore students at a four-year college, 2) **Senior College** division – open to students of any rank at a Junior or Senior College, and 3) **Limited** division – open to students of any rank at a Junior or Senior College if they have not actively participated on a Junior or Senior College team in the Junior or Senior College division. A contestant may judge in any division only once and cannot judge in the Junior division after having judged in the Senior division. Universities may enter two teams per Junior or Senior College division. Additional students from Junior or Senior Colleges may compete only as individuals. There is no limit on the number of entries from an individual school in the Limited Division.

3. While the contest is in progress, there will be no communication between contestants or between a contestant and anyone else except as directed by the chairman or his representatives. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices are not allowed. Failure to abide by this regulation will result in disqualification of the contestant.

4. Contestants may use clipboards, notebooks, plain paper, official AQHA score sheets and the AQHA Official Handbook of Rules and Regulations as long as these items are clean and free of marks. Contestants may not have in their possession horse judging manuals, texts or lists of terms. Failure to abide by this rule will result in disqualification of the contestant.

5. **Classes:** Approximately twelve classes of four individuals in each class shall be judged. There shall be approximately four halter classes and approximately eight performance classes. If suitable horses are available, the halter classes (halter or performance halter) will consist of stallion, gelding, and mare classes. The performance classes will follow AQHA Novice rules and will be selected from: Showmanship, Western Pleasure, Reining, Western Riding, Hunter Under Saddle, Hunter Hack, Western Horsemanship, Trail, Ranch Pleasure, Ranch Riding, and Hunt Seat Equitation.

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6. **Time:** Fifteen minutes will be allowed for contestants to place all non-reasons classes. Those classes in which oral reasons are to be given will be judged in a period of seventeen minutes.

7. **Card Placing:** The contestant will hand to the group leader the card bearing his placing of the class as soon as time is up for the class. A judging card turned in after the time is up for the class and all of the cards for that class have been collected will be scored a zero.

8. **Oral Reasons:** Shall be given upon classes in each of the above mentioned groups. Five sets of reasons will be given for the Junior and Senior divisions. Of the five sets of reasons given in the Junior and Senior divisions, approximately two sets of reasons shall be given on halter classes and approximately three sets of reasons shall be given on the performance classes. Two sets of reasons will be given from the approved list of classes in the Limited division. The contestants shall be notified at the time of placing whether or not reasons will be required on the class being judged. Reasons shall be given orally before the judge or judges and for this purpose, private rooms shall be provided. Two minutes will be permitted for oral reasons on each class. Reasons that exceed the two-minute limit will be penalized.

9. **Final Standing:** This shall be based both upon the placings and oral reasons. Fifty points shall constitute a perfect score for oral reasons. In classes where no reasons are required, the placing only will be considered.

10. **Group Leader:** An individual shall be placed in charge of contestants as they judge the various classes, to observe the contestants to see that the animals are properly shown and moved, to answer questions which do not pertain to the actual placing or instruction regarding the animals in the contest, and to collect placing cards at the end of each class.

11. **Judges:** Judges will be provided for each class in the contest.

12. **Awards:** The final results of the contest will be made available and awards will be presented on the morning following the contest. The time and place will be announced by the chairman.

13. **Entry Fee and Deadline:** Entry is due by **Sept. 1st** of the current year. No entries will be accepted after October 1st of the current year.

13. **Judging Clinic:** A judging clinic is held each year prior to the contest on the Congress show grounds. Please refer to the schedule on the website (http://horse.osu.edu) for the location and time of this clinic each year.