

Judging how it works

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I have been asked to clarify some major misconceptions about our Judges and how we attend to this important job. This I will try to do for you.

To be a Judge is an onerous job you are damned if you do and damned if you don't but to be a judge is a privilege and the majority of our judges take it as such. To be asked to adjudicate on competitors work is a great responsibility and is taken very seriously.

Our Judges train hard and spend many hours keeping up with the latest techniques and ideas . We attend at Seminars and Conventions and in depth training programmes . The last few years have seen a National training programme being set in place and our Judging has been revamped for our programme to come in line with National . We believe in a National Programme . It means that all Judges from all States will start as trained Stewards and work their way up . They will be trained along the same lines and will be able to go from State to State knowing the objects involved with country wide judging .

The latest trainees are well aware of all aspects of competition . They have studied and written schedules . Not an easy job, as it is very difficult to make word perfect a schedule for every competitor . They sat for written exams on all aspects of cake decorating and we have some very talented young judges coming through the ranks

As new products come onto the market so things change. With State and National Competitions schedules can be adjusted very quickly as we control the competition but with Shows outside our jurisdiction we can only offer suggestions. Luckily here in NSW the Royal Agricultural Society listen to our suggestions and adjust their schedule as far as they are able. It must be remembered that persons who enter the RAS shows are not always members of Groups .

Judges do not disqualify that is the duty of the Head Steward. Judges, [after discussion with fellow judges if Panel judging] draw the fault to the attention of the Head Steward. It is up to that person to make the final decision. It is not done lightly. No one involved in any competition wants to see an entry disqualified because the schedule has been misread or not understood.

For years now an information sheet that competitors can use to inform judges of anything on their entry that could be considered as in breach of schedule . This sheet does not list name of competitor just the entry number and it is left with the entry for the judges information. It can greatly assist the judges.

Judges are impartial they do not see the names of the competitors until marking is completed [sometimes they do not know who has won, only the entry number. If they have seen and judged an entry before, then Judges are obliged to inform the Head Steward who again will make a decision as to who will judge that section. Yes sometimes you can recognise the work of a competitor but you are judging that entry against the schedule and against other entries in the section and it is here a Judge must be impartial .

Judges are Individuals and we do not want to clone our Judges therefore you will get individual marks from each Judge. Our judges are trained now to a standard. The marking should be reasonably similar and the Stewards will sometimes ask judges to remark if there is too much discrepancy but it is up to the Judge it is their decision .

I hope this is of some help in understanding the Duties of a Judge in any competition.