

The Role Of The Ring Steward

Arrive at the show at least 30 minutes prior to the start of judging.

You will need to collect judging sheets, ribbons, prizes/prize money from the Secretary's office. Familiarise yourself with the contents of the box before you leave the office and prior to classes commencing. Any unused ribbons and completed judging sheets will need to be returned to the Secretary at the end of the show.

Introduce yourself to your judge.

The ring steward is in control of the ring – not the judge. You are the judge's right hand man/woman, and you are the one that knows the order of the class, ribbons, sashes, trophies, special prizes, and you are the person who knows which donkeys/mules are eligible for Championships.

Your job is to keep the ring running smoothly.

Be familiar with the Donkey & Mule Society Showing rules & guidelines.

If stewarding at an A & P show familiarise yourself with the RAS rules of showing. These rules over-ride Donkey & Mule Society rules.

Check that jacks are being shown in a bridle and bit, wearing the official "S" badges on either side of the bridle and that the handler is wearing "S" armbands.

Check that riders and harness drivers are wearing the approved safety helmets and these have been tagged with a "red" tag. This rule came into effect on 1 August 2017.

Advise the judge what each class is and when all the entries are in the ring.

Direct the ring and follow any instructions your judge gives you. Give the exhibitors any instructions that the judge wants passed on.

Have ribbons, prize money or prizes ready to hand to your judge for each class.

Record results onto judging sheets (you may have a separate recorder at some shows.)

The ring steward must keep in mind that they have been selected to help the judge--not advise them. The steward does not help judge the classes in any way.

When the steward is not actively engaged in his duties, the steward shall place themselves in such a position so as not to interfere with the judging.

The steward must not allow the exhibitors to crowd up in the ring or arena and should, at all times, endeavour to keep the possibilities of an accident at a minimum.

The ring steward shall act as mediator between the judge and the exhibitor.

The ring steward has the authority to ask an exhibitor to remove his/her donkey/mule from the ring for the safety of other donkeys/mules or the spectators or remove an exhibitor for unsportsmanlike conduct.

The ring steward shall assist in arranging the class winners the same in every class. Advise the first and second place getters of classes that are eligible for a championship that they will be required back later for this. Keep a record of

placings so that you know who these exhibitors are when it is time to call them - perhaps write the placings in the schedule by their name.

Only allow first place getters into the ring to parade before the judge for the judging of a championship.

Once the judge has made their decision for the Champion, bring in the donkey/mule that placed second to the Champion to parade with the other first place getters for the judging of Reserve Champion.

Offer your judge a tea/coffee break. Some may wish to keep going, others may wish to take a break.

Remember not to call exhibitors by name, please use their catalogue number or description of donkey and/or handler (eg. lady with the red hat.)

Judges should not have access to the catalogue, however they are allowed to look at the schedule to check wording.

Remember to thank your judge once all classes have finished.