

# EXCA JUDGING FOURM

It's official; by popular demand, the EXCA is pleased to offer its first "Judging forum" at this year's World Show. The event will take place on Tuesday, October 31<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 AM.

This event is an educational, no formal testing event intended to get everyone updated and "on the same page" in regards to EXCA's founding philosophies and pillars of competition, rules, interpretations, applications, expectations, exceptions, best practices, scoring, handling challenges, and giving those in attendance an opportunity to get all their questions on any matters pertaining to competition and judging. The format will be limited to classroom presentation only; no formal written testing or practice judging/live testing will be included due to time and space restraints. Official credit will be given to all judges that are able to attend the entire presentation - which is often an important consideration by show managements considering hiring their judges .... and an important consideration on applications to move to a higher level.

The World Show attracts members from around the world - as such an ideal place and time to hold this important presentation on all matters pertaining to "getting it right" on the score cards and in those challenging situations and exceptions. Attendance is open and encouraged for all judges, judging candidates, exhibitors at all levels, scribes, contestants, and event organizers. The cost will be \$20 per person. You must register **and** pay in advance. Attendance will be limited to those who have preregistered. [Click here to register and pay.](#)

The podium will be shared by Craig Cameron - our founder, CEO, and Extreme Cowboy Racing mentor and Guru; and Pete Fraser- the EXCA's Director of Judging and Judges. They are committed to offering a very focused, fast paced, and informative program that addresses wide ranging matters of judging most often raised by our EXCA membership. Your questions on specific procedures/incidents/exceptions/difficult situations etc. will form a very important part of the presentation and getting the factual answers to "get it right/getting it consistently applied/ and generating score cards that stand up to the scrutiny of an increasingly knowledgeable competitor pool.

Be sure to bring your pencils and note pads or note taking devices to help capture key points on our ambitious list of points to be addressed. General areas of presentation/discussion will include such things as:

- A brief history of just how we got here, where we are going, how influential good/bad judging can impact our sport, and EXCA's "spirit of competition" pillars.
- Key elements of horsemanship - how it impacts obstacle scores as well as assigning final horsemanship score \*understanding difference between hard n fast rules and general guidelines \*getting the right answers to past and future tests - learning to combine multiple rules, what exceptions can apply, the critical distinctions between "shall and should"
- Common misinterpretations and why getting it right matters
- Best practices of successful judges - easy to correct bad habits and maximizing your chances of success
- How much discretion a judge may rightfully assume without breaking the "spirit or intent of a rule"
- How trainers can best address conflicts of interest or divided priorities when in a judging role
- What appear to be exceptions to the rule really aren't

- Practical help for creating consistent and accurate scores - avoiding carryover impressions from one obstacle to next, making sure every obstacle is a new opportunity to succeed, and not judging reputation and belt buckles.
- Fairly and accurately “reporting the news” - getting it right on the scorecards (that more and more are being shared and scrutinized \*judges responsibilities in regards to courses, walk throughs, improper behavior, injured animals, illegal or inhumane equipment, safety concerns, declaring “arena conditions” when things can’t be same for everyone \*working as a team with fellow judge and scribes -expectations, best practices, getting the end decisions right, why scribes can be your best advantage or your worst nightmare \*maximizing the chances of getting it right - what exhibitors can fairly expect, why respect and consideration towards all exhibitors matter, and why we lose good judges for all the wrong reasons
- When things go wrong, judges are expected to lead.
- AND YOUR VALUED QUESTIONS GENERATED FROM ALL OF THE ABOVE THAT NEED FURTHER EXPLANATION OR DETAIL.

In addition, Pete Fraser has agreed to stay available as long as needed after the formal program ends to discuss specific topics or details related to EXCA judging matters. This will let those who have had enough learning for the day or are needed elsewhere to leave in good faith, while a more casual opportunity to keep the discussions going will be available to anyone who wishes. This will be particularly useful for those wanting further help in specific areas, addressing sensitive matters, how to spread the word at home, etc. He will turn out the lights when your last question is answered.

Craig has also asked Pete to offer “ghost judging” opportunities to interested members of our judging core. This is an ideal opportunity to be in the arena with the Director of Judges to test your scores on live runs, get helpful hints and direction, and hone your skills in a very challenging but realistic environment. It usually consists of 1-3 individuals working with Pete for 40-60 minutes ghost judging part or all of a class. Many who have taken advantage of this opportunity have earned World Show assignments down the road. Further details on how to get on the list will be released once Pete’s other duties and assignments at the show are finalized.

Please seriously consider attending this JUDGING FORUM - and consequentially being a very important part of EXCA’s commitment to “getting it right and spreading the word to those back home”