

Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS) Judges' and Instructors' Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics



I, _____, will work to carry out the OAAS Mission: *The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies is a resource for its members, providing leadership through communication and education, and encouraging the promotion of a rural way of life in Ontario.*

I further agree that I will adhere to the Certified Judges' Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics as set out in the OAAS Policy Manual **and recorded below.**

Code of Conduct

This Policy directs Certified and Apprentice Judges and Certified and Apprentice Instructors in their conduct when acting on behalf of the OAAS. The Code contains broad principles reflecting the types of behaviour the OAAS expects towards Exhibitors, Agricultural Societies, sponsors, employees, members, fellow judges and the public.

All Certified and Apprentice Instructors must be Certified Judges and thus are covered under the following terms.

OAAS Certified and Apprentice Judges shall:

1. Follow approved judging procedures as set out in the OAAS Judges' Roles and Responsibilities Handbook.
2. Follow approved judging standards as set out in the OAAS Judging Standards Handbooks
3. Maintain confidentiality.
4. Communicate with the public, exhibitors, fellow judges, and Agricultural Society Directors in a responsible, respectful, and professional manner before, during, and after the competition.
5. Participate in OAAS Judging Schools as mandated in the "OAAS Requirements for Certified and Apprentice Judges" document, to keep current in the standards and rules in a manner that will allow judges to render an educated opinion.
6. Respect and work together with the OAAS Judging Program Committee, the OAAS Board of Directors, fellow judges, OAAS employees, and the Agricultural Societies.

Code of Ethics

OAAS Certified and Apprentice Judges shall:

7. Not enter any items in classes they are judging.
8. Identify any judging assignments where they have a conflict of interest (i.e. Immediate family member entered in a class that they are judging.)
9. Not solicit or accept gifts, gratuities, personal property, or any other item of value from any person as a direct or indirect inducement to provide special treatment to exhibitors.
10. Never solicit judging assignments.

11. Act at all times in the best interests of the OAAS and not for personal or third-party gain or financial enrichment. Avoid placing, or the appearance of placing, one's own self-interest or any third-party interest above that of the OAAS.

If any of the above standards are not conformed to, there will be a penalty of:

First Offence: the offending party may, at the discretion of the Agricultural Society, be immediately removed from that Judging assignment. The Agricultural Society will notify the OAAS of the offence. The OAAS Board will send the Judge by mail, a first offence warning.

Second Offence: the offending party may, at the discretion of the Agricultural Society, be immediately removed from that Judging assignment. The Agricultural Society will notify the OAAS of the offence. The OAAS Board will notify the Judge, by registered mail, that they will be removed from the Certified and Apprentice Judges' List and/or Certified and Apprentice Instructors' List. The respective District will be notified of the OAAS Board decision.

I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understood the above information and agree to the terms.

Signature _____ Date _____