

Code of Ethics for Officials of the American Driving Society

The purpose of the Code of Ethics is to assure fair, knowledgeable, and honest officiating. Adherence to this code assures integrity and acceptance of ADS officials by those coming in contact with ADS officials.

1. Good officiating depends upon a correct observance of the fine points during the competition and the selection of the best animals according to the rules of the competition.
2. An official serves four interests to assure the best animal wins:
 - a. the official's,
 - b. exhibitors,
 - c. managers, and
 - d. spectators.
3. All officials must conduct themselves with honesty and fairness.
4. Work as an official is an honor, therefore all involved must be treated with respect and conflicts must be avoided.
5. Because appearance of impropriety can be as damaging as actual impropriety, any conduct that appears to be improper is unacceptable.
6. Conflicts of interest both real and perceived are to be avoided.
7. The acceptance of inappropriate hospitality or gift giving from competitors is prohibited. Inappropriate hospitality is defined as the offering or receiving of personal benefits such as accommodations, gifts, tours, event tickets, entertainment, meals or other similar items.
8. Officials are required to report to a show on time and stay until released by the management.
9. Officials must be appropriately dressed in professional a manor.
10. Officials must not smoke or drink alcohol while officiating.
11. Officials must always show respect and interest for the competitor and treat everyone equally.
12. Officials, when attending an event as a competitor or spectator, are expected to hold to these same official standards.
13. Officials must not act in an arrogant and rude manor.
14. Officials must not discuss any exhibitor's faults with other competitors, managers or officials except in their official capacity.
15. Officials must know the rules for the competition or class.
16. Judges must judge based on the rules or standards of the class or competition and must not base decisions based on personal likes or dislikes. Technical Delegates are required to respect show management and course designers' right to design courses within the rules and shall not change courses unless they are unsafe or unfair to competitors.
17. Officials are required to submit all required reports and evaluations on time.

18. Failure by officials to adhere to these standards can result in disciplinary action as stated in the Advisory Process.

The Business of Officiating:

1. An official should never refer to a competitor by name. Exhibitors should only be referred to by number.
2. Cell phones must be turned off while judging.
3. Officials must not ignore the improper conduct of a competitor.
4. Officials must act with official demeanor and avoid inappropriate small talk, joking or laughter while officiating.
5. Competitions must be judged efficiently to keep the show or competition running on schedule.
6. Officials must not allow themselves to be intimidated or coerced into failing to report the facts of what occurred at a show.
7. Officials must confirm the assignment to officiate by communicating in advance with the show management regarding:
 - Date of the competition or show
 - Time and dates of the classes or competition
 - Fees
 - Travel data (arrival time, departure time, and mode of travel)
 - Housing arrangements
8. Officials have the duty to discuss procedures for running the competition with the ringmaster/announcer/manager/volunteers prior to the start of the competition.