Reining Australia Judge Assessment and Monitoring (JAM) System

Board endorsed education and quality assurance framework

Member introduction

Reining Australia is committed to maintaining high judging standards while supporting fairness, consistency, and confidence for all competitors.

The Judge Assessment and Monitoring (JAM) System provides competitors with a clear, confidential, and respectful pathway to request an educational review of judging at Reining Australia approved events.

The JAM System:

- empowers competitors by providing a structured and appropriate pathway for review
- supports judges through education, calibration, and professional development
- protects the integrity of results and officials
- operates independently of protests, penalties, and disciplinary processes

This system recognises how shows operate in Australia and ensures competitors, judges, and volunteers are all treated fairly.

Governance status

The Judge Assessment and Monitoring (JAM) System has been formally endorsed by the Reining Australia Board as part of the Association's governance and quality assurance framework.

Background

The JAM framework has always been intended as an education focused mechanism, not a protest or appeal process.

Following review and feedback, refinements were made to:

- improve clarity around how and when requests are made
- remove unnecessary pressure from show offices and volunteers
- eliminate any real or perceived conflict of interest

- align the JAM System with Reining Australia's existing penalty review safeguards
- recognise that competitors may require time to obtain official show video

These refinements strengthen the original intent of the JAM System and ensure it remains robust, fair, and trusted as the sport continues to grow.

Guiding principles

The JAM System is built on the following principles:

- education focused and non punitive
- transparent, consistent, and time bound
- appropriate separation between competitors and judges
- confidential handling through governance channels
- realistic and accessible for members

Judge assessment and monitoring (JAM) process

Purpose

The Judge Assessment and Monitoring (JAM) System is an educational and quality assurance process established to support judging consistency, rule application, and professional development across Reining Australia approved events.

The JAM System:

- is non punitive
- does not alter placings, scores, or results
- is not a protest or appeal mechanism
- operates independently of disciplinary or penalty review processes

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Eligibility

- JAM requests may only relate to Reining Australia approved classes and events
- Official show video must be provided
- Non approved events or classes are not eligible for review

Lodgement of requests

- Requests must be submitted directly to the Reining Australia Board
- Requests must be lodged within 14 days of the conclusion of the relevant class or event
- Requests must be submitted using the approved JAM request form available on the web site
- A fee of $110 applies and must accompany the request

Requests must not be submitted through:

- judges or judging panels
- judges committees
- show management or show offices
- show representatives or officials

This separation is intentional and designed to prevent real or perceived conflicts of interest and to protect judges from direct approaches.

Video and material handling

- Official show video must be obtained through the authorised event videographer
- Video material is forwarded directly to the Reining Australia Board
- Competitors must not provide commentary or communicate directly with judges in relation to a JAM request

Where required for appropriate assessment, the Board may include:

- additional runs from the same class
- relevant score sheets

Initial assessment

Upon receipt, the Reining Australia Board or its delegate will:

- confirm eligibility
- confirm video availability and sufficiency
- determine whether the request falls within the scope and intent of the JAM System

The Board may decline a request where criteria are not met or where the request is outside the intent of the process. The Board's decision is final.

Review process

- Accepted requests are referred to appropriately qualified independent reviewers
- Reviewers are appointed through the judging governance framework
- Reviewers receive only the material required for assessment and do not receive competitor correspondence

The review focuses on judging standards, scoring consistency, and rule application.

Outcomes and confidentiality

- JAM outcomes are confidential
- Feedback is provided only to the relevant judge or judges for educational purposes
- Competitors are not provided with scoring opinions or findings
- Competitors may be notified that the review has been completed

Where a judge requests review of their own performance, feedback may be provided directly to that judge.

Relationship to other processes

- The JAM System operates independently of penalty reviews, protests, and disciplinary processes
- Participation in JAM does not initiate disciplinary action
- JAM outcomes cannot be used to challenge or reopen results

Alignment with penalty review framework

The JAM System mirrors the structure and safeguards used in Reining Australia's penalty review process, including:

- clear timeframes
- central governance intake
- no direct contact between competitors and judges
- confidential handling
- final decision authority resting with the Board

This alignment ensures consistency across governance processes and reduces ambiguity for members, officials, and volunteers.

Footnote

This document has been informed by the original Judge Assessment and Monitoring System material provided by the Reining Australia Judges Committee. The Board acknowledges this contribution and notes that the refined process builds on that work to strengthen governance clarity, consistency, and member confidence.

Reining Australia

Judge Assessment and Monitoring (JAM) Request Form

Confidential – Submitted directly to the Reining Australia Board

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Important information

The Judge Assessment and Monitoring (JAM) System is an educational and quality assurance process.

Before submitting this form, please note:

- JAM is not a protest or appeal process
- JAM does not alter placings, scores, or results
- JAM is non punitive and education focused
- Outcomes are confidential
- Competitors will not receive scoring opinions or review findings
- A fee of $110 applies

Requests must be lodged within 14 days of the conclusion of the relevant class or event.

Section 1 – Competitor details

Full name:
Membership number:
Email address:
Phone number:

Are you the rider in the class?
☐ Yes
☐ No

If no, please specify your role (owner, trainer, etc):

Section 2 – Event details

Event name:
Location:
Event dates:
Class name and number:
Draw number:
Horse name:

Date class was held:

Section 3 – Request details

Please briefly outline the basis of your request.

Note: This section is not an opportunity to argue or protest placings. The purpose is to identify areas where you are seeking an educational review of judging consistency or rule application.

Section 4 – Video confirmation

Official show video must be available for the review to proceed.

Name of official videographer:
Have you arranged access to the official video?
☐ Yes
☐ No

If yes, confirm how the video will be supplied to Reining Australia:

Section 5 – Declaration

I acknowledge that:

- I understand the JAM System is educational and non punitive
- I understand results will not be changed
- I understand I will not receive scoring opinions or findings
- I agree not to contact judges or judging panels regarding this request

- I confirm this request is submitted in good faith

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Section 6 – Administration (Board use only)

Date received:
Fee received: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Eligibility confirmed: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Video confirmed: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Accepted for review: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Date referred to reviewers:
Date review completed:

Submission instructions

This form must be submitted directly to: secretary.reiningaustralia@gmail.com

Payment of $110 must accompany this request.