

APPENDIX B — JUDGES' GUIDELINES

Judges are the backbone of any sport and their actions and opinions influence conduct beyond the performance ring. Because of that influence, the United States Dog Agility Association, Inc. has taken an active part in educating and approving judges in the sport of dog agility.

In order to continually improve the standards of adjudication at agility tests and events, USDAA has developed standards for judges. Persons meeting these qualifications may be added to the "Approved Judges List". In connection with such qualification, the list shall be divided into class levels, based on the extent of knowledge and training demonstrated through examination and experience.

Standard for Judges

Qualified individuals shall have met the following requirements before being placed on the Approved Judges List:

- have sufficient experience to competently perform the judge's responsibility as may be evidenced by active participation in the sport, indicated by earning a title, being an active member of an agility club or training group or school that has routinely followed or taught USDAA rules and regulations for a significant period of time, or other significant experience to demonstrate a person's ability
- have satisfactory attendance, participation and completion of an approved USDAA judging clinic & examination, demonstrating sufficient knowledge, self-confidence, creativity and understanding of course design principles, physical mobility and effectiveness while judging
- be of good character and in good standing, setting forth a professional image for the sport and USDAA.

The judging clinic requirement may be satisfied prior to other requirements; however, an individual must be retested if all requirements are not fulfilled within one year from the date of satisfactory completion of the judging examination.

In order to maintain a position on the Approved Judges List, each judge must:

- be a current member of USDAA
- periodically pass the short form examination dealing with rule changes
- have satisfactory attendance, participation and completion of an approved USDAA judging clinic & examination once every three years until being approved at the Masters level without supervision
- Masters level judges are strongly encouraged to attend a rules & course design clinic once in each five (5) year period in order to stay abreast of current course design techniques
- maintain an active role in the sport
- be of good character, setting forth a professional image for the sport and USDAA.

Code of Conduct

Persons on the Approved Judges List –

- are expected to uphold an image of integrity and as a competent professional, both on and off the course *An integral part of this image is appropriate attire consisting of slacks with a coordinating shirt, which may bear the USDAA logo. A judge shall not wear any apparel bearing business, sponsor or other organization insignia without the express written consent of USDAA.* Failure to uphold this standard may result in removal from the Approved Judges List or other disciplinary action.
- shall recognize their role as a judge is a privilege and not a right.
- shall diligently fulfill all responsibilities with regard to judging assignments including, but not limited to, timely filing of course plans and judge's reports as required by USDAA policy.
- shall not become an activist in disputes, campaigns designed to influence another judge's decisions or to direct attention to others' shortcomings, or similar behavior that may be generally viewed as inappropriate conduct or as a conflict of interest as a representative of

USDAA. As such, persons on the “Approved Judges List” shall seek to maintain an objective posture at all times.

- should give of themselves freely as a representative of the sport to USDAA member groups and the community in the promotion of dog agility as a sport for dogs without regard to pedigree.
- shall not at any time promote themselves as an authority in the sport on the basis of their standing as a USDAA judge or otherwise hold themselves out in personal endeavors as a USDAA judge.
- shall seek to assist fellow judges when needed in fulfillment of judging responsibilities when viewed in the best interest of the sport.
- shall judge a minimum of three sanctioned events in a two year period or judge a minimum of one sanctioned event per year combined with attendance, participation and completion of an approved USDAA judging clinic and examination within a two-year period.

Disciplinary Actions

A person on the Approved Judges List who shall violate the standards in fact or in spirit shall be subject to disciplinary action in the form of reprimand, probation, suspension or removal from the Approved Judges List. All disciplinary action proceedings shall be conducted by the USDAA Board of Directors in “closed session” and shall remain confidential, except that the decision to suspend or remove a person from the Approved Judges List shall be published.

The Board of Directors shall conduct inquiries into formal written complaints filed with USDAA. The board shall review the results of such inquiries and statements of the parties to the complaint, along with any other information readily available regarding a complaint, in making its decision pursuant to guidelines established in Appendix C to these rules and regulations.

Upon rendering of its decision to suspend or remove a judge from the Approved Judges List, the judge (subject of the complaint) may request an appeal by providing any additional evidence in writing to the board pursuant to procedures for appeal as established in Appendix C. No additional judging assignments shall be accepted following the board’s notification of its initial decision regarding suspension or removal until a person has been reinstated.

In the event of suspension or removal of a judge’s name from the Approved Judges List, the Board of Directors shall –

- publish the decision to suspend or remove a name from the Approved Judges List
- establish whether or not the judge shall be permitted to fulfill previous judging assignments for events already approved
- establish provision for reinstatement, if reinstatement will be allowed; the decision for reinstatement may be postponed pending a future hearing.