

# USA JUDGE'S PROGRAM

(Amended and approved by the GB 10-31-02)

## 1. Mandatory Qualifications for Entrance into the USA Judges Program.

A. The candidate should be a USA member in good standing for at least 5 (five) years, and keep up their membership throughout their judging career in USA .

B. A candidate must have trained and shown a dog thru SchH 3, FH and at least one other dog to a SchH 1, and in addition acquired a "B" and an "AD". Also the candidate should have competed at the SchH 3 level in a Regional or National competition.

C. In addition to the above requirements, the candidate should also show a considerable amount of training experience, ( i.e. involvement at the local club level ) .

D. A candidate for USA Judge shall not be a professional, that is, he/she should not earn a substantial portion of his/her income from the breeding, handling, training or showing of Schutzhund-type dogs including Conformation. The methods of determining the income shall be any reasonable means determined by the Judge's Committee.

E. The age requirements for entering the USA Judge's Program are that the applicant should not be younger than 25 (twenty-five) years of age and can not be older than 60 (sixty) years of age. Proof of age required upon entering the USA Judges Program

F. The candidate should have knowledge of and participated in a Breed Survey or a Conformation show.

## 2. Application to the Apprentice Program

A. The applicant must be recommended by his/her club to their Regional Director. A written resume of the applicant's qualifications must accompany the local club's recommendation. Club's should take great care in recommending individuals to participate in the USA Apprentice Judge's program. Only those persons who demonstrate high standards of personal conduct, good sportsmanship, a sound mastery of the basics of Schutzhund and a willingness to work with people on a one-to-one basis and to intelligently promote the sport of Schutzhund should be considered.

B. The Regional Director should acquaint him/her self with the applicant and perform a background check on the applicant and review a criminal history supplied by the applicant. The Regional Director will then forward all of the above information along with his/her recommendation and the club's and the applicant's resume to the USA Director of Judge's and the Judge's Committee.

C. The Director of Judge's and the Judge's Committee shall check the resume and all accompanying material that has been submitted for truth and forthrightness. After review, upon acceptance, the applicant's name will then be published in "SCHUTZHUND USA" for 2 (two) consecutive issues. Any challenges or objections regarding the applicant should be forwarded to the Director of Judge's in writing no later than 4 (four) weeks after the mailing of the second issue, any unsigned letters will be disregarded.

D. All letters received will be sent to the applicant, without the signature.

E. After further review by the Judges Committee, if accepted, the applicant will be placed on the Apprentice Judges list, and is qualified to begin his/her apprenticeship including officiating at local trials, at the request of a Regional Director.

F. Before beginning their official assignments as a USA Apprentice Judge, the applicant will do two (2) walk throughs with judges and attend the USA Judges seminar/workshop to become acquainted with

the intricacies of trial procedure and of the judging experience itself.

3. The Apprenticeship Procedure

A. The Apprentice Judge will send a written request for permission to the Teaching Judge, the Club Contact of the hosting club and the USA Director of Judges. All of this must be done no less than ten (10) days before the event for approval to apprentice.

B. The Apprentice trial report should be sent to the presiding judge no later than thirty (30) days from the completion of the event.

C. After completion of an apprenticeship, (i.e. all copies graded and mailed back) there will be a waiting period of 30 (thirty) days before the next assignment. This will give the Apprentice Judge time to study the results and the presiding Judge's remarks from the preceding event.

D. To apprentice under USA Judges, send 2 (two) copies of the trial report to the judge with the necessary postage. 1 (one) copy of the report with corrections and remarks by the presiding judge will be returned to the applicant. The other copy will go to the USA Director of Judge's with a cover letter from the presiding judge covering the apprentice's work.

E. To apprentice under SV Judges, send 2 (two) copies in ENGLISH and 1 (one) copy in GERMAN to the presiding judge with the required return postage, unless the presiding judge agrees that ENGLISH only is acceptable.

F. ONLY after receiving the corrected copy of the previous trial reports and an elapsed time period of 30 (thirty) days will the apprentice be able to apprentice another trial. All copies from the previous assignments must be presented to the Teaching Judge 10 (ten) days prior to the next event. This will give the Teaching Judge the opportunity to evaluate the apprentice's progress throughout the procedure.

G. There will be a required minimum of 8 (eight) apprenticeship trials as follows:  
..... There will be five (5) apprenticeships under USA recognized judges such as USA, SV, FCI and all Judges from WUSV member countries with approval from the USA Director of Judges.  
.....The first apprenticeship will be under the USA Director of Judges or its' designee.  
..... There will be an apprenticeship at a National Event, (German Shepherd Dog Championship, North American Championship or the USA Schutzhund 3 National Championship) where at least two (2) complete flights of dogs will be followed throughout the event.  
..... The last apprenticeship will be under the USA Director of Judges

H. The Apprentice Judge will also be required to judge a minimum of 50 (fifty) dogs as follows:

- ..... 5 (five) Begleithunde or "BH"
- ..... 2 (two) Ausauerprufung or "AD"
- ..... 5 (five) Farthenhund or "FH".....(either FH 1 or FH 2)
- ..... 10 (ten) Schutzhund 1's
- ..... 5 (five) Schutzhund 2's
- ..... 23 (twenty-three) Schutzhund 3's

I. A written final exam is to be taken by the Apprentice administered by the Judge's Committee with the questions based on the USA Official Rule Book.

J. After completion of all of the above-mentioned requirements, all of the Apprentice's records will be reviewed by the USA Director of Judge's and the Judge's Committee for recommendation to the General Board for licensing.

K. Any apprentice who fails to pass two (2) assignments in a row will be excused from the USA Judges Program.

L. The apprenticeship will last no longer than three (3) years and the apprentice must perform at least three (3) apprenticeships a year to remain current and to remain in the program.

M. The initial licenses will be for a minimum probationary period of 3 (three) years. At the end of the 3 (three) year probationary period, the probationary Judge and his work will be reviewed by the USA Director of Judge's and the Judge's Committee for recommendation to the Board for his/her permanent USA Judge's licenses.

#### 4. Judge's Conduct

A. A Judge is a representative of USA on and off the field at all times, and will be dressed appropriately when judging; this means slacks and sport shirt (shirt w/ collar) during stadium work. Jeans, t-shirts and warm-up suits are not proper attire for judging, especially stadium work (Obedience and Protection). However, jeans may be worn during the Tracking phase at the discretion of the judge, if the terrain and cover warrant it.

B. A Judge should always be fair and unbiased in his/her work.

C. A Judge should always conduct him/her self in a sportsmanlike manner.

D. A Judge should abide by the rules accepted by USA.

E. A Judge should not train or show someone else's dog for money in a Schutzhund Trial, Breed Survey or Conformation Show.

F. A Judge should at all times be concerned with the welfare of our dogs, the spectators and the safe conduct of the trial and all concerned.

G. It is absolutely necessary for everyone involved in the USA Judge's program to inform the USA Director of Judge's of his/her correct address, telephone number and all other vital statistics that may be required for insurance purposes. All of this information must remain current throughout their judging career with USA and will be updated annually.

H. A Judge may not judge his local club or members of a household of which they are a member.

I. A Judge must always abide by the USA Judge's "Code of Ethics".

J. A Judge can judge at any club only once in a 12 (twelve) month period and there must be another trial held with a different judge before they can return. Furthermore, a Judge may not judge consecutive trials at any club except in an emergency which may only be decided by the Regional Director. This restriction will also be lifted if the local club is the sponsor of a Championship event from Regional level on up.

K. A USA Judge can judge a maximum of 25 trials per year. Endurance tests, BH trials and B and C Tournaments do not count towards this total.

#### 5. Required Judge's Activities

A. A Judge should keep expanding his/her knowledge by studying under designated SV Judge's and attending the USA Judge's scheduled workshop/seminar.

B. A Judge must remain actively involved in the training and showing of Schutzhund dogs.

C. A Judge shall be required to judge a minimum of 4 (four) events within the calendar year.

D. A Judge should always adhere to the judge's task list when working an event.

6. Judge's Fees

A. For travel, the mileage reimbursement will follow federal guidelines for any and all travel to and from the trial by personal car (currently .34 cents per mile).

B. Round-Trip airfare when required and all attendant charges, such as parking, etc.

C. Any meals taken while in transit to and from the trial.

D. Lodging if necessary and all meals during the course of the event.

E. A judge's fee as prescribed by the Board for trials and seminars which is currently \$50.00 (fifty) dollars per day, and to include 1 (one) travel day.

7. Removal of Judges

A. Automatic Removal

1. Termination of USA membership for any reason.

2. Voluntary request for removal.

3. Any Judge who does not judge 4 (four) trials in any 1 (one) calendar year without sufficient cause will be placed on suspension until good reason is supplied for failure to judge the required four (4) trials in any one (1) calendar year. If good reason is not supplied to the USA Director of Judges and the USA Judges Committee, the judge in question will be required to perform one (1) apprenticeship with the USA Director of Judges within one (1) year of being placed on suspension to reinstate their license.

B. PUNITIVE: Judge's may be removed as a result of an Executive Board decision and after an impartial hearing; the basis for this action should be:

1. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations of USA.

2. Failure to abide by the USA Judge's "Code of Ethics", rules and regulations and procedural requirements as specified in the USA Judge's program or by the USA Director of Judge's.

C. Inactive Status

1. At any time, the USA Director of Judge's may place an individual on inactive status until a meeting of or a decision by the Executive Board. An individual may also become temporarily inactive until certain requirements are met as specified by the USA Director of Judge's and the Judge's Committee.

2. A Judge may request inactive status for personal reasons.

D. The retirement age for a judge shall be 75 (seventy-five) years old. This age will be observed whether the judge is a working dog judge or a conformation judge. Upon retirement, the judge will receive the title of "Judge Emeritus", and becomes a life-long member of USA with suspension of their yearly dues and would also receive free admission into any USA-sponsored event (as either spectator or competitor) as gratitude for their years of service. This honor is only bestowed upon the judge who is no longer actively judging.

8. Requirements for Judge's to Preside Over Apprentice's

A. They must be a licensed judge for a minimum of 5 (five) years.

B. They must have judged a Championship event at the National level.

C. They must have the approval of the USA Director of Judge's.

9. Requirements for Judging National Events and International Assignments

- A. They must be a licensed judge for a minimum of 5 (five) years.
- B. They must have judged 2 (two) Regional Championships.
- C. They must have attended the USA Judge's workshop/seminar within the last 2 (two) years prior to the event in question.
- D. They must have judged a minimum of 150 (one hundred and fifty) Schutzhund dogs.
- E. USA Judges must have the approval of the USA Director of Judges for all events outside of United Schutzhund Clubs of America.
- F. The final approval for appointment to National events rests with the USA Director of Judge's, the Judge's Committee and the Board.
- G. All international judging assignments must have the approval of the USA Director of Judges.
- H. Any USA Judge wishing to join another organization's judging program will present a formal request from the organization and must be sponsored by the United Schutzhund Clubs of America and have the approval of the USA Director of Judges.

10. Selection of Judge's for National Events

- A. A Judge may only accept 1 (one) assignment at the National level during the World Qualifying series, i.e., the World Qualifier, the North American Championship or the USA National Schutzhund 3 Championship.
- B. In the event of extenuating circumstances, a judge may be allowed to judge at more than one (1) National Event within the World Qualifying Series, provided they meet all of the necessary criteria, and are approved by the USA Director of Judges and/or event Trial Chairperson
- C. A list of eligible judges for National events shall be provided by the USA Director of Judge's and the Judge's Committee.

11. Acceptance of Foreign Judges into USA Judges Program

*(The following will apply to all Judges with considerable judging experience)*

- A. Must be a USA member and keep their membership current throughout their USA judging career.
- B. Must be sponsored by a member of the USA Executive Board.
- C. Must have their name printed in the USA magazine for two (2) issues.
- D. Must be between the ages of thirty (30) and seventy (70) years of age and supply proof of age upon application.
- E. Must supply the USA Director of Judges and the USA Judges Committee with a curriculum of their experience in all aspects of Schutzhund and keep all of their vital statistics current with the USA Director of Judges.
- F. Must have trained one ( 1 ) dog to a SchH 3, another to a SchH 1, and acquired an FH.
- G. Must do two ( 2 ) adjustment trials, one ( 1 ) under the USA Director of Judges, and one (1) USA National Event.