

# **2007 USA PERFORMANCE JUDGES PROGRAM**

( Revised USA General Board Meeting – November, 2007 )

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## **Section A : Mandatory Qualifications for Apprenticeship**

Part 1 : The candidate must have been a USA member in good standing for a minimum of 5 ( five ) years and must maintain that membership throughout his/her judging career in USA.

Part 2 : A candidate must have trained and shown a German Shepherd Dog through SchH 3, FH and at least 1 ( one ) other dog to a SchH 1. Also, the candidate should have competed at the SchH 3 level in a Regional or National competition.

Part 3 : In addition to the above requirements, the candidate should also show a considerable amount of training experience, ( i.e., involvement at local club level ).

Part 4 : 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, training or showing of Schutzhund-type dogs, including Conformation. The methods of determining this income shall be by any means determined by the USA Judges committee.

Part 5 : 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 not older than 60 ( sixty ) years of age. Proof of age required upon entering the USA Judge's program.

Part 6 : The candidate must have a knowledge of and participated in a breed show and/or a breed survey.

## Section B : Application to the Apprentice Program

Part 1 ; 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.

Part 2 : The Regional Director should acquaint him/her self with the applicant, 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, the club's recommendation and the applicant's resume to the USA Director of Judge's or their designee, for the applicant's file.

Part 3 : The USA Director of Judges or his/her designee shall check the resume and all accompanying material that has been submitted for truth and forthrightness. This material will then be disseminated by the USA Director of Judges to the USA Judges committee for final approval and recommendation to the USA Performance Judges program as an Apprentice Judge Applicant.

Part 4 : After review, upon acceptance, the applicant's name will then be published in the magazine "SCHUTZHUND USA" for 2 ( two ) consecutive issues. Any challenges or objections regarding the applicant should be forwarded to the USA 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. All letters received will be sent to the applicant, with all signatures removed.

Part 5 : Before beginning their official assignments as a USA Apprentice Judge, the applicant will do 2 ( two ) 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.

Part 6 : After further review by the USA Judges committee, if accepted, the applicant will be placed on the USA Apprentice Judge's list and is qualified to begin his/her apprenticeship, including officiating at affiliation trials, at the request of the Regional Director.

## Section C : The Apprentice Procedure

Part 1 : The Apprentice Judge must send a written request for permission to apprentice at an event to the Presiding Judge, the Trial Secretary of the trial hosting club and the USA Director of Judges, or their designee. This must be done a minimum of 10 ( ten ) days before the event.

Part 2 : The apprentice trial report must be sent to the Presiding Judge and the USA Director of Judges no later than 2 ( two ) weeks after completion of the event.

Part 3 : After apprenticing under a USA Judge, the apprentice must send 2 ( two ) copies of the trial report to the presiding judge with a self-addressed envelope, an envelope addressed to the USA Director of Judges and the required return postage for each. The Presiding Judge will return 1 ( one ) copy of the report to the apprentice, with corrections and remarks as well as a cover letter evaluating the work of the apprentice, and will send 1 ( one ) copy of the same documents to the USA Director of Judges. In addition, the apprentice will send copies of all Presiding Judges cover letters to all members of the USA Judges committee so they may stay apprised of the apprentice's progress.

Part 4 ; After apprenticing under an SV Judge, the apprentice must send 2 ( two ) copies in ENGLISH and 1 ( one ) copy in GERMAN to the Presiding Judge ( unless the Presiding Judge agrees that ENGLISH only is acceptable ) with a self-addressed envelope, an envelope addressed to the USA Director of Judges and the required return postage for each envelope. The Presiding Judge will return 1 ( one ) copy of the report to the apprentice, with corrections and remarks, as well as a cover letter evaluating the work of the apprentice and will send 1 ( one ) copy of the same documents to the USA Director of Judges. In addition, the apprentice will send copies of all Presiding Judges cover letters to all members of the USA Judges committee so they may stay apprised of the apprentice's progress. It is the RESPONSIBILITY of the apprentice to have all cover letters and reports translated for the USA Director of Judges and the USA Judges committee if this has not already been done by the Presiding Judge.

Part 5 : Only after receiving the corrected copies of the previous trial report and an elapsed period of 2 ( two ) weeks, will the apprentice be able to apprentice at another trial. Cover letters from all previous trials are required to be sent to the next Teaching Judge 10 ( ten ) days prior to the next apprenticeship assignment and may be sent by U.S. Mail or electronic means ( i.e., fax or e-mail ). However, the apprentice must bring all of his previous work to the trial where he/she will be apprenticing for the Teaching Judge to go over. Failure to do this will prevent the apprentice from proceeding with the assignment.

Part 6 : There will be a required minimum of 6 ( six ) apprenticeship trials as follows :

- The first apprenticeship will be under the USA Director of Judges or their designee
- 4 ( four ) apprenticeships will be under USA-recognized judges such as USA, SV, Canadian, FCI and all judges from WUSV-recognized countries with the approval of the USA Director of Judges.
- The last apprenticeship will be under the USA Director of Judges.

Part 7 : The Apprentice Judge will additionally be required to judge a minimum of the following 50 ( fifty ) dogs :

- 5 ( five ) Begleithunde or “ BH “
- 5 ( five ) Fahrtenhund or “ FH “ .....( either FH 1 or FH 2 )
- 10 ( ten ) Schutzhund 1's
- 5 ( five ) Schutzhund 2's
- 25 ( twenty-five ) Schutzhund 3's

Part 8 : Any apprentice who fails to pass 2 ( two ) assignments in a row will be excused from the USA Apprentice Judges program.

Part 9 : The apprenticeship will last no longer than 3 ( three ) years, and the apprentice must perform at least 2 ( two ) apprenticeships per year to remain current in the program.

Part 10 : At the final apprenticeship, a written final exam is to be taken by the Apprentice administered by the USA Director of Judges with the questions based on the USA Official Rule Book.

Part 11 : After completion of the above-mentioned requirements, the USA Director of Judges and the USA Judges committee will review all of the apprentice's records and will grant a probationary license to those apprentice judges that have successfully completed their apprenticeship.

Part 12 : The initial license will be for a minimum probationary period of 3 ( three ) years or 30 ( thirty ) trials, whichever comes first. The Probationary Judge during this period will also be required to perform 1 ( one ) walk-through at one of the following national events :

- United Schutzhund Clubs of America German Shepherd Dog National Championship
- United Schutzhund Clubs of America North American Championship
- United Schutzhund Clubs of America H. O. T. Championship
- American Working Dogs Federation National Championship

and provide a cover letter evaluating the event to the USA Director of Judges and the USA Judges committee. At the end of the 3 ( three ) year or 30 ( thirty ) trial probationary period, the USA Director of Judges and the USA Judges committee will review the Probationary Judge's work for recommendation to either Board of Directors for his/her permanent USA Performance Judges license.

## **Section D : Judges Conduct**

Part 1 : A USA Judge is a representative of USA on and off the field at all times, and will be dressed appropriately; during judging, slacks and sport shirts ( shirts w/ collar ) will be worn when judging stadium work. Jeans and T-shirts are not proper attire for judging stadium work ( Obedience and Protection ). However, jeans may be worn during the Tracking phase at the discretion of the judge, if the terrain warrants it.

Part 2 : A USA Judge will always be fair and unbiased in their work.

Part 3 : A USA Judge will always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.

Part 4 : A USA Judge will abide by the rules accepted and followed by USA.

Part 5 : A USA Judge will not train or show someone else's dog for money in a Schutzhund Trial, Breed Survey, Conformation show or any other event sanctioned by USA.

Part 6 : A USA Judge will at all times be concerned with the welfare of our dogs, the spectators and the safe conduct of the trial and all concerned.

Part 7 : It is absolutely necessary for everyone involved in the USA Performance Judges program to inform USA and the USA Director of Judges of their 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.

Part 8 : A USA Judge may not judge their local club or members of their household of which they are a member.

Part 9 : A USA Judge must always abide by the USA Judge's "Code of Ethics".

Part 10 : A USA 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 upon by a Regional Director. This restriction will also be lifted if the local club is the sponsor of a championship event as in a Regional or National Championship, in which case, the Regional Director does not have to make the decision.

Part 11 : A USA Judge may judge a maximum of 25 ( twenty-five ) trials per year. Endurance tests, BH trials, seminars and Obedience and Protection tournaments do not count toward this total.

## **Section E : Required Judges Activities**

Part 1 : USA Judges should keep expanding their knowledge by attending the USA Judges college ( seminar/workshop ) or any other corresponding seminar/workshop.

Part 2 : USA Judges must remain actively involved in the training and/or trialing of dogs in the sport of Schutzhund.

Part 3 : USA Judges are required to judge a minimum of 4 ( four ) trials in each calendar year.

Part 4 : A USA Judge will always adhere to the USA Judges task list when working an event.

## **Section F : Judge's Fees**

Part 1 : For travel, the mileage reimbursement will follow federal guidelines for any and all travel to and from the trial by personal car. ( currently .55 cents per mile )

Part 2 : Round-trip airfare when required and all attendant charges, such as parking, baggage charges, etc.

Part 3 : Any meals taken while in transit to and from the trial.

Part 4 : Lodging, if necessary, and all meals during the course of the event.

Part 5 : A USA Judge's fee is as prescribed by either Board of Directors for trials and seminars, which is currently \$100.00 ( one-hundred dollars ) per day of judging and to include 1 ( one ) travel day.

## Section G : Removal of Judges

### Part 1 : Automatic Removal

A : Termination of USA membership for any reason.

B : Voluntary request for removal.

C : Failure to judge 4 ( four ) trials in any one calendar year without sufficient cause will result in suspension by the USA Director of Judges until good reason is supplied to the USA Director of Judges and the USA Judges committee. If good reason is not supplied, the judge in question will be required to perform 1 ( one ) apprenticeship with the USA Director of Judges within 1 ( one ) year of being placed on suspension in order to reinstate their license.

Part 2 : Punitive.....USA Judges may be removed as a result of an USA Executive Board decision and after an impartial hearing; the basis for this action is :

A : Failure to abide by the rules and regulations of USA

B : 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 Judges.

### Part 3 : Inactive Status

A : At any time, the USA Director of Judges may place an individual on inactive status until a meeting of or a decision by the USA Executive board. An individual may also become temporarily inactive until certain requirements are met as specified by the USA Director of Judges and the USA Judges committee.

B : A USA Judge may request inactive status for personal reasons. If the judge remains inactive for more than 18 ( eighteen ) months, they must perform 1 ( one ) apprenticeship under the USA Director of Judges or their designee to be reinstated as a fully licensed USA Judge.

Part 4 : The retirement age for all USA Judges shall be 75 ( seventy-five ) years of age. Upon retirement, judges will receive the title of "JUDGE EMERITUS", become life-long members of USA with suspension of their yearly dues and receive free admission into any USA-sponsored or sanctioned event ( as either spectator or competitor ) as gratitude for their years of service. This honor may only be bestowed upon judges who are no longer actively judging and have completed at least 15 ( fifteen ) years of active service.



## **Section H : Requirements for Judges to Preside Over Apprentices**

Part 1 ; Must have been a licensed USA Judge for 5 ( five ) years and be a USA Teaching Judge.

Part 2 : Must have judged a national championship.

Part 3 : Must have the approval of the USA Director of judges.

## **Section I : Requirements for Judging National Events & International Assignments**

Part 1 : Must be a licensed judge with a permanent license and 3 ( three ) years of service.

Part 2 : Must have judged 2 ( two ) Regional Championships.

Part 3 : Must have attended the USA Judges workshop/seminar within the last 2 ( two ) years prior to the event.

Part 4 : Must have judged a minimum of 150 ( one-hundred fifty ) Schutzhund dogs.

Part 5 : USA Judges must have the approval of the USA Director of Judges for all events outside of the USA organization.

Part 6 : The final approval for appointment to national events rests with the USA Director of Judges, the USA Judge's committee and the Boards.

Part 7 : All international judging assignments must have the approval of the USA Director of Judges.

Part 8 : Any USA Judge wishing to join another organization's judging program must be sponsored by USA and have the approval of the USA Director of Judge's.

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## Section J : Selection of Judges for National Events

Part 1 : Judges may accept no more than 1 ( one ) assignment at the national level during the WUSV / FCI Championships qualifying series :

- *USA German Shepherd Dog National Championship*
  - *USA North American Championship*
  - *USA Handler-Owner Trained Championship*
- *American Working Dog Federation National Championship*

The WUSV / FCI Championships qualifying series will start with the USA German Shepherd Dog National Championship.

Part 2 : In the event of extenuating circumstances, a judge may be allowed to judge at more than 1 ( one ) national event within the WUSV / FCI Championships qualifying series, provided they meet all of the necessary criteria and are approved by the USA Director of Judges and the event Trial Chairperson.

Part 3 : The USA Director of Judges will establish a rotation schedule of qualified judges for national events that will be fair and equitable to all.

Part 4 : At the end of the year, the USA Director of Judges shall provide a list of eligible judges for national events. The list will be available to all national event hosting clubs and USA Regional Directors.

## **Section K : Acceptance of Foreign Judges into USA Judges Program**

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

Part 1 : Must be a USA member and keep their membership current throughout their USA judging tenure.

Part 2 : Must be sponsored by a member of the USA Executive board, accompanied by a written resume.

Part 3 : Must be between the ages of 30 ( thirty ) and 70 ( seventy ) years of age and supply proof of age upon application.

Part 4 ; Must have their name printed in the USA magazine for 2 ( two ) issues.

Part 5 : 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 and the USA office.

Part 6 : Must have trained and titled at least 1 ( one ) German Shepherd Dog to a SchH 3 and at least 1 ( one ) other dog to a SchH 1 and also acquired an FH.

Part 7 : Must present themselves and actively participate in the annual USA Judges college, at the end of which the USA Director of Judges will recommend to the USA Judge's committee to sponsor and accept the presenting judge as a licensed USA Judge or recommend either 2 ( two ) walkthroughs or an appropriate number of formal apprenticeships. This will be at the discretion of the USA Director of Judges.

Part 8 : The USA Judges committee will present their recommendation to the USA Executive board for approval via a mail ballot : ( electronic or U.S. mail ) or at the next USA Executive or general board meeting.

## **Section L : Requirements for USA Teaching Judges**

The position of USA Teaching Judge will be a strictly voluntary opportunity for USA Judges who qualify and wish to pursue this position. These judges will serve as mentors to the future USA Apprentice Judges who enter the USA Performance Judges program. These judges will come from within the USA Performance Judges program and will insure the continued development of that program.

Part 1 : The applicant for USA Teaching Judge must have finished their probationary period and been a USA licensed judge for 5 ( five ) years.

Part 2 : The applicant must have judged a minimum of 150 ( one-hundred fifty ) dogs, inclusive of BH, FH, SchH/VPG 1, SchH/VPG 2 and SchH/VPG 3 and IPO 1, 2 and 3.

Part 3 ; The applicant must have judged a minimum of 1 ( one ) Regional and 1 ( one ) National championship.

Part 4 : The applicant must present an application for the position of USA Teaching Judge to the USA Judges college with a letter of recommendation from the USA Director of Judges.

Part 5 : The USA Judges college shall review the application and vote on acceptance, with a simple majority vote required for approval.

Part 6 : The applicant must be actively training and/or trialing a dog in the sport of Schutzhund.

Part 7 : Final approval for acceptance shall be at the discretion of the USA Director of Judges.

*The USA Performance Judges program was revised to its' current form at the USA Judges college held in St. Joseph, MO. held in August of 2006. There were 18 out of a possible 22 USA judges and USA Apprentice judges at this meeting.*

*The program was approved in its' current form by the USA General board at the USA General board meeting at the USA German Shepherd Dog Championship in Gasden, AL. in November of 2006.*