



Judge's Training and Qualification

Section: Judges

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This Policy and Procedures document outlines the process by which an individual may become an AAC judge. The general duties and responsibilities of AAC Judges are outlined in the Judge's Policy and Procedures Document

A judge licensed by another agility association shall be fully subject to the policy and procedures outlined here, unless deemed exempt by the AAC Board of Directors.

The AAC Board of Directors reserves the right to allow exceptions to the terms and conditions outlined below.

The AAC Board of Directors reserves the right to reject a candidate's application to attend a judge's clinic if it has reason to believe that the candidate would not be an asset to the AAC judge's pool. In such a case, the reasons for refusal of entry shall be disclosed to the unsuccessful applicant.

I- General Eligibility Requirements:

In order to apply for *any level* of AAC-sanctioned judge's training, the applicant must:

- Be eighteen years of age or older on the first day of the judge's clinic being applied for.
- Be a Regular AAC member in good standing for at least 3 consecutive years on the first day of the judge's clinic being applied for.
- Have been involved in the sport of agility *as a competitor* for at least 3 years.
- Have trialed at least one dog to an ATChC (or equivalent), OR put multiple Masters (or equivalent) titles on one or more dogs.
- Be physically capable of performing the duties of judging. Such duties include, but are not necessarily limited to: moving through the ring during building and wheeling, standing for long periods of time, moving into position to judge each dog as it is running without interference or undue distraction to the team on course, being able to clearly see the dog and handler as they move around the course, signalling faults or points so as to be clearly visible to the scribe.
- Have access to Clean Run Course Designer, v. 3 or higher.
- Provide a personal reference from a current Masters level judge, not of the same household as the applicant, attesting to the suitability of the applicant to train as an AAC judge (a separate letter from a different judge is required for each judge's clinic level being applied for).

The following will be considered assets to a candidate's application to attend a judge's clinic, and may be used to prioritise entries:

- Judging experience in other agility organisations, or in related sports (e.g. dog obedience, rally obedience, equestrian events).
- Demonstrating a commitment to the betterment of the sport, by regularly volunteering at trials, in any capacity.
- Knowledge of the sport of agility and its goals, by being a trial host, an agility instructor, or an assistant instructor.



- Currently running a dog at the Advanced level or equivalent (Master's level or equivalent for Master's candidates), or higher.
- STRONG preference will be given to applicants who can document that they have already secured sponsorship from a trial host, who has agreed to provide the required number of classes and dogs (including offering no charge FEO runs, if needed) to fulfill the provisional judging requirements WITHIN ONE YEAR of the date of the judge's clinic. **PLEASE NOTE** that this is an exception to the general AAC prohibition against soliciting assignments. Judge candidates at every level are actively encouraged to seek out sponsorship, and may negotiate (e.g. offer to forgo expenses during a provisional judging assignment) with potential host clubs to secure their provisional assignments.

II- Eligibility to Attend a Starters/Advanced Level Judge's Clinic:

In addition to the general eligibility criteria outlined above, attendance at a Starters/Advanced level Judge's Clinic requires that the candidate must also:

- Demonstrate a familiarity with current AAC rules and judging guidelines by scoring **85%** or higher on the pre-clinic entrance examination. This is an open book exam. *The grade achieved on this exam may be used to prioritise entries.*
- Design and submit FOUR satisfactory sample courses (must conform to current AAC course design guidelines, as found in the most current version of the AAC Rules and Regulations, and the Judge's Handbook), using CRCD software. These include:
 - ✓ Two Starters Standard courses.
 - ✓ Two Advanced Standard courses.

*At the discretion of the Clinic Facilitators, other courses may be added and/or substituted.

Starters-only judges who wish to upgrade to Advanced judging should refer to Section IX-Upgrading.

III- Eligibility to Attend a Masters Level Judge's Clinic:

In addition to the general eligibility criteria outlined above, attendance at a Masters level Judge's Clinic requires that the candidate must:

- Have completed an approved AAC Starter/Advanced level Judge's Clinic, and received satisfactory scores in all sections of the examination.
- Have successfully completed the provisional judging requirements for Starters/Advanced judges, and be released from supervision.
- Hold a valid Advanced judging permit, with no current suspensions, and no disciplinary actions related to judging on their record.
- Have been judging at the Advanced level for a minimum of 12 months, starting from the time of the candidate's Practical Examination.
- Have judged at least FIVE different assignments, for at least TWO different clubs. These assignments must have been completed with no substantiated complaints from the trial host, and must include the following courses (at least 10 dogs/class required):
 - ✓ Ten ADVANCED Standard courses.
 - ✓ Four ADVANCED Gamblers courses.
 - ✓ Four ADVANCED Snooker courses
 - ✓ Ten additional courses, at least six of which must be at the ADVANCED level.
- Demonstrate a familiarity with current AAC rules and judging guidelines by scoring **90%** or higher on the pre-clinic entrance examination. This is an open book exam. *The grade achieved on this exam may be used to prioritise entries.*
- Design and submit FOUR satisfactory sample courses (must conform to current AAC course design guidelines, as found in the most current version of the AAC Rules and Regulations, and the Judge's Handbook) using CRCD software. These include:



- ✓ One MASTERS Standard course.
- ✓ One MASTERS Gamblers course.
- ✓ One MASTERS Steeplechase *or* one MASTERS Jumpers course.
- ✓ One MASTERS Snooker course.

*At the discretion of the Clinic Facilitators, other courses may be added and/or substituted.

Applicants who have not yet met all of the judging pre-requisites may request permission from the AAC Board of Directors to attend a Masters level judging clinic, but they **MUST** complete ALL the Advanced judging requirements before they can schedule their Masters Practical Examination and begin provisional Masters Judging; i.e. candidates are not permitted to complete their Advanced judging pre-requisites AND to judge Masters events during the same trial weekends.

Acceptance into a Masters judging clinic under such circumstances is at the sole discretion of the AAC Board of Directors, and will be dependent on the availability of judge's clinics in the area, and on the number and the quality of the other applicants (fully qualified Advanced judges will be given priority).

IV- Auditing a Judge's Clinic.

Interested parties may apply to attend a Judge's Clinic as an auditor. Acceptance of auditors is at the discretion of the clinic host. If it becomes necessary to prioritise applicants for auditor spots, current AAC judges shall be given first priority, followed by the clinic host(s) and members of the AAC Board of Directors. AAC members shall be given priority over non-members.

Auditors are not subject to the eligibility requirements outlined above.