

Draft and Water Test Judges Qualifications
Revised April, 2001

There will be three levels of judges: Mentor Judges, Partner Judges, and Provisional Judges. Any individual meeting requirements of a specific level will be approved at that level effective the date of this policy.

All persons who have judged between January 1, 1991 to December 31, 1996 with no valid or substantiated complaints, are NCA members AND who have earned at least 1 CD, 1 DD (for draft test judges) or 1 WRD (for water test judges), but who do not meet the criteria for Mentor or Partner judge levels will be considered Provisional Judges until they have fully met the Partner or Mentor requirements. These individuals will not need to fulfill the observational requirement. These individuals need to be paired with a Mentor Judge for automatic approval. These persons can maintain this Provisional status for an unlimited time, provided they judge at least once within the previous 5-year period.

An individual must meet the criteria for the SPECIFIC type of test in order to judge that test (i.e., an individual may be one level of judge for water tests, but another level of judge for draft tests.)

When a specific number of titles is required in order to qualify for ANY LEVEL JUDGE (Mentor, Partner, or Provisional), only original titles actually earned will count toward that number. Requalifications of already titled dogs, while sufficient to be counted towards the number of times an individual has exhibited in the last five years, are NOT TO BE COUNTED as titles earned.

JUDGING LEVELS

Mentor Judges

Mentor Judges will be maintained on the Mentor list if the following criteria are met:

1. Must be a member in good standing of the Newfoundland Club of America.
2. Must have judged a minimum of 5 NCA draft or water tests, and at least two of those assignments must have been within the previous 5 years.
3. Must have earned at least 3 NCA WRD titles (water test judge) or 3 NCA DD titles and one NCA TDD title (draft test judge).
4. Must have exhibited at least once within the last 5 years at an NCA water test (water test judge) or once in an NCA draft test (draft test judge).
5. Must have earned at least one AKC Companion Dog title (CD).

Partner Judges

Partner Judges will be maintained on the Partner list if the following criteria are met:

1. Must be a member in good standing of the Newfoundland Club of America.
2. Must have judged a minimum of 3 NCA draft or water tests, paired with 2 or more different judges, and at least one of those assignments must have been within the last 5 years.

Partner Judges (cont.)

3. Must have earned at least 2 NCA WRD titles (water test judge) or 2 NCA DD titles (draft test judge).
4. Must have exhibited at least once within the last 5 years in an NCA water test (water test judge) or once in an NCA draft test (draft test judge).
5. Must have earned at least one AKC Companion Dog title (CD).

Provisional Judges

1. Must be a member in good standing of the Newfoundland Club of America.
2. Must have earned at least 2 NCA WRD titles (water test judge) or 2 NCA DD titles (draft test judge).
3. Must have exhibited at least once within the last 5 years in an NCA water test (water test judge) or once in an NCA draft test (draft test judge).
4. Must have earned at least one AKC Companion Dog title (CD).
5. Must complete at least one observational requirement (defined below). This requirement must be completed after requirements 1,2,3, and 4 have been met.

Observational Requirement

An individual who has met the requirements 1,2,3, and 4 for a Provisional Judge, and who has served as official Chairperson, Secretary or Head Steward one or more times in the category they are seeking to serve as judge (in water or draft) may request from the appropriate WDC secretary an application for an Observational assignment. The applicant obtains the signatures of agreement from the two judges and the test committee AFTER the test itself has been approved by the WDC.

The judging panel must consist of either a Mentor/Mentor or Mentor/Partner judging team for an Observer to be a part of the test.

The completed Request For Observation Assignment paperwork must be received by the appropriate WDC member at least 60 days prior to the test date so that the test committee will have time to be officially notified and to be able to compile the necessary forms for the observer and judges. It is the responsibility of the Observer to comply with all requirements in order to be approved to observe a test.

1. Only one observer will be allowed at any given test.
2. The Observer must contact the judges and the test chairperson prior to the test to arrange a convenient meeting time with the judges. This time must not be during the judging of the test, but may be any time prior to the beginning of or just after the judge's duties on the day of the test. More than one meeting is encouraged, if time permits. Having two fairly short meetings, one prior to judging and one at the completion, is ideal. During the meeting, the following should be covered:

Observation Requirement (cont.)

- a) The observer's understanding of the NCA Draft or Water Test Regulations.
 - b) The general directions from the judges to the observer concerning the observer's presence during the judging.
 - c) How the judges wish the observer to be involved in the equipment checking process.
 - d) Discussion of the actual judging procedure, including how the judges call each exercise, steward instructions, monitoring the safety of the dogs and handlers, etc.
 - e) Discussion of the reasons for scoring of particular dogs during that test.
3. The observer must observe the test from the area designated by the judges.
 4. The observer must not interfere in any manner with the judging of any dog entered in the test.
 5. The observer must follow all directions given to him/her by the judges during the test.
 6. The observer must mark a score sheet for each dog entered, making comments regarding the performance of each exercise, as a judge would do during judging.

Duties of the Mentor or Partner Judges during the Observational Assignment

1. Be available to meet with the observer as was previously described.
2. Allow time to briefly discuss variations in equipment styles, uses, and strengths and weaknesses of each.
3. Judges must fill out WDC questionnaires regarding the performance of the observer during the observational assignment.
4. It is a judging panel's responsibility to accept an observational assignment requested by the WDC.

Duties of the Mentor or Partner Judge when judging with a first time Provisional Judge

1. When judging with a Provisional Judge during the individual's first judging assignment, the Mentor or Partner should follow the suggestions of the observational assignment above. He/she should take a short amount of time between the judging of dogs to discuss the proceedings.
2. At the completion of the first judging assignment of the Provisional Judge, the Mentor or Partner Judge will fill out the WDC questionnaire regarding the performance of the Provisional Judge during his/her judging assignment.

Duties of the Mentor or Partner Judge when judging with a first time Provisional Judge (cont.)

3. It is recommended that the Mentor or Partner schedule as much time as possible to talk with the Provisional Judge about equipment types, uses, and the strengths and weaknesses of each.

Notification of Status Following the Test

Following the test, the Working Dog Committee will review the evaluation form provided by the two judges, along with the exhibitor evaluations of the test itself.

The Observer will not accept any provisional judging assignments until he/she receives an approval letter from the WDC. The WDC will advise the Observer whether he/she may:

1. Accept a future judging assignment
2. Should compete another observation assignment
3. Should gain additional experience either through exhibiting or stewarding/committee responsibility at other tests before completing another observation assignment.

If the Observer is advised they may accept a judging assignment, if asked by a future test committee, they will be considered a first time Provisional Judge at that time.

A Provisional Judge should be paired with a Mentor Judge for his/her first judging assignment. The Mentor Judge will complete an evaluation form following the test involving a first time Provisional Judge.

The WDC shall review all submitted exhibitor evaluation sheets, along with the evaluation report from the Mentor Judge after the test. The WDC will then advise the Provisional Judge whether he/she is approved to judge a second test assignment with:

1. Either a Mentor or Partner level judge
2. Another Mentor level judge only
3. Should gain additional experience through exhibiting or stewarding/committee responsibility before requesting approval to judge another assignment.

Provisional judges should not accept a second judging assignment until he/she receives confirmation of judging status from the WDC. Completing a first judging assignment does not automatically result in approval to continue judging status.

Automatic Approval and Judge Pairing

The following combinations of judges will be granted automatic approval when proposed by an NCA test giving committee:

1. Mentor/Mentor
2. Mentor/Partner
3. Partner/Partner
4. Mentor /Provisional Judge

Automatic Approval and Judge Pairing (cont.)

A proposed judging panel comprised of any other judging combination will require NCA WDC approval. Approval will be based on careful consideration of the strengths and weaknesses of the judging pair.

Maintenance of Judging Status

1. To maintain Mentor or Partner status, an individual must meet all the criteria of that particular level. If an individual lapses on one or more of the criteria requiring judging or exhibiting, then his/her status automatically changes to the appropriate level.
2. If a judge's performance receives a valid and substantiated complaint, that individual's judging status will be reviewed by the WDC and appropriate action taken.

Approved Judges List

The WDC will maintain a list of judges and their status. The list will be available upon request to regional clubs.

This document revises and therefore replaces all previous copies.
April, 2001.