

USMRA JUDGES PROGRAM

Adopted September 14, 2008

The following regulations govern the USMRA Judges Program. The Judges Committee is responsible for the policies and procedures and governance of the judge's program. The USMRA Secretary will keep the originals of all the paperwork on each judge applicant.

There are 4 phases in becoming a judge:

- Application
- Written Examination
- Apprentice Judge
- Certification

I. APPLICATION

To enter the judging program, an individual must complete all of the following parts of the application package:

1. Be a USMRA member in good standing;
2. Complete the USMRA judge's application.
3. Submit a resume of dog sport experience.
4. Have two written recommendations from active USMRA members, one of which should be from a current member of the USMRA Board of Directors.
5. Enter the program with either a, b, or c below. Submit a copy of proof of 5a, 5b, or 5c.
 - a. Be a current judge in good standing with an AWDF approved judge's program.
 - b. Be a judge in an FCI recognized working dog sport,
 - c. Have titled (all 3 levels) a dog to the top level of an FCI recognized dog sport and having titled a second dog to the first level in that same or another FCI recognized working dog sport.
6. A judge applicant must have titled a dog to the first level of Mondioring, either
 - a. Upon application
 - b. or within two years of starting the apprenticeship. (Apprenticeship begins with the successful completion of the written test)
7. Send a letter of intent stating why you want to be a judge;
8. Be a member in good standing of an USMRA Full Member club;
9. Be recommended to the Board of Directors based on the contents of the application package by the Judges committee;
10. The candidate will retain copies of all application materials and send the originals to the USMRA Secretary who will assemble the complete package for review.
11. Individuals whose package was deemed unsatisfactory will be not be authorized to take the examination and will be notified in writing as to what parts of the package did not meet the USMRA requirements. The applicant may then either withdraw the application or reapply by correcting the deficiencies.

II. WRITTEN EXAMINATION

The Secretary will send the test within two weeks of completion of the Application phase. The test evaluates the candidate's basic understanding and knowledge of the FCI rules of Mondioring as published on the USMRA website. The written examination will include up to 40 questions. The test will be open book and returned to the USMRA Secretary within 10 days of receipt. The judge's program applicant will have to score 80% of the questions correctly to pass the written examination.

III. APPRENTICE JUDGING

Applicants having passed the written examination may enter their apprenticeship.

1. To complete the apprenticeship the applicant must apprentice judge four (4) times under a certified Mondioring judge, one of which may be under a USMRA judge. The apprenticeship should provide the applicant sufficient experience in learning how to perform all the functions of a judge. The apprentice judge will give to the primary judge an evaluation form to be completed. The original will given to the Trial Secretary to be mailed to the USMRA Secretary with the trial paperwork, and the copy will be given to the apprentice judge.
2. More trials may be required if the Judges Committee notes the total entry to be too small (less than 4 dogs per trial, not to include brevet entries) or if the apprentice has not had sufficient exposure to all levels of competing dogs. The apprentice must apprentice judge a minimum of 10 dogs at MR1, 3 dogs at MR2, and 3 dog at MR3.
3. Any applicant not fulfilling the requirements for, the application process, the written examination, or the apprenticeship with the requisite number of trials in 2 years time will have to begin anew with the application process.
4. An apprentice judge may be suspended by the same due process as revoking the certification of a judge.

IV. CERTIFICATION

1. An applicant that has completed the apprentice judging will arrange to judge two (2) trials under the supervision and evaluation of a certified international Mondioring judge. They must judge a minimum of four (4) dogs per trial (not to include brevets) and must have judged a dog at each of the international levels by the completion of both trials.

2. The apprentice judge will be responsible for setting up the trial, judging the competitors and completing the paperwork, but must defer any judgments to the certified Mondioring Judge. The Mondioring certified judge is ultimately responsible for the trial and will sign the trial paperwork, scorebooks and the apprentice judge evaluation.
3. The certified judge will complete the USMRA evaluation form for the apprentice judge and submit it, along with a copy of the apprentice judge's score sheets, to the Trial Secretary. The Trial Secretary will submit all records to the USMRA Secretary along with the paperwork for the trial.
4. If the apprentice does not achieve a satisfactory evaluation from the certified Mondioring judge, the Judges Committee will decide on the status of the apprentice judge by the same due process as revoking or suspending the certification of a judge.
5. Upon completion of the final judging portion of the apprentice program, the USMRA Secretary will copy the 6 evaluation sheets and send them to the Chair of Judges Committee within 2 weeks of receipt of the second certification trial from the Trial Secretary.
6. Within 2 weeks of receipt of the apprentice judge's final paperwork from the USMRA Secretary, the Judges Committee will recommend approving or disapproving the applicant as a certified judge. If the Judges Committee approves the applicant, the Chair will send the recommendation to the Board of Directors for a vote within 10 days. If the Judges Committee disapproves, a letter will be sent to the applicant and a copy to the USMRA Secretary within 1 week with reasons and recommendations for addressing the problem. The applicant will be given a chance to rectify the problem.
7. The Chair is responsible for notifying the candidate of the decision of the Board of Directors within 2 weeks of the Judges Committee decision.

V. MAINTENANCE AND REVOCATION OF JUDGES CERTIFICATION

1. After judging 6 club trials and a minimum of 2 years of judging, a certified judge may be the primary judge at the USMRA championship.
2. In order to maintain certification, a judge must have trialed a dog at the MR 3 level within 5 years of certification, subject to review by the Judges Committee or 5 years from the adoption of these revisions in the case of the current certified judges.

3. Any USMRA member, Board member or any Judges Committee member may request a review of or they may comment on any possible infraction or misconduct of a certified or apprentice judge that they observed at a sanctioned trial or event. Such a request or comment should be sent to the President or the Secretary of the Board of Directors. The Secretary will send it to the President and to the Chair of the Judges Committee within 2 weeks.
4. The Judges Committee may require further training or request revocation of the certification upon receipt of a complaint from a USMRA member or Board member. Revocation or suspension review will first be performed by the Judges Committee which will submit their findings and recommendations to the USMRA Board, who will then make the final determination. The review will be completed by the Judges Committee within one month of receiving the complaint from the Secretary.
5. Misconduct and infractions will be distinguished by the level of severity.
 - a. Major infractions or acts of misconduct may include, but not be limited to:
 - i. Any act considered intentionally dangerous for the handler and or his/her dog;
 - ii. Flagrant disregard for the monitoring rules, policies and procedures;
 - iii. Judging that demonstrates flagrant bias for or against an entered competitor.
 - iv. Not maintaining certification or memberships by stated requirements.
 - b. Minor infractions or acts of misconduct will be acts that in isolation may not be considered as a major infraction, but that should be recorded to ensure that they are not repeated. These infractions may need to be considered a major infraction if by their cumulative affect it is warranted. Remedial training will be considered for minor infractions not warranting revocation or suspension.
6. A judge may not judge more than a one or two trial weekend in a row for a club. After that the club must have another judge before engaging an USMRA certified judge again.
7. The Judges Committee will review each judge's file on an annual basis.
8. A judge may judge for 9 hours including breaks, as written in the international rules.

VI. OFFICIATION AT TRIALS

Judges will complete a trial evaluation report and mail it to the Chair of the Judges Committee. The USMRA Secretary will mail the report directly to the judge before the trial with a stamped envelope addressed to the Chair of the Judges Committee. USMRA judges must complete the form and mail it within 2 weeks of the trial.

VII. LIST OF JUDGES

USMRA will maintain on the website a list of judges and trials at which they have officiated, including foreign judges who have already judged at USMRA sanctioned trials.

VIII. PROCESS OF RULE REVISION

These regulations may be reviewed and revised as needed by the Judges Committee.