



# United States Mondioring Association

A Member of the American Working Dog Federation



## USMRA Judges Program

The following regulations govern the USMRA Judges Program. The USMRA Judges Committee is responsible for the policies and procedures and governance of the Judges program. The Judges Committee Chairman will collect and keep the originals of all the paperwork on each judge applicant until the Board approves/disapproves the applicant, then the final paperwork will go to the USMRA Secretary in electronic form.

There are 4 phases in becoming a judge:

- I. Application
- II. Written test
- III. Apprenticing
- IV. Certification

### I. APPLICATION

To enter the judging program, the applicant must meet the following criteria's:

1. Be an USMRA member in good standing.
2. Be a member in good standing of an USMRA full member club.
3. The applicant has to have trained and titled a dog to Mondioring 3 (titling in all three levels in Mondioring)
4. Write a letter of intent stating why the applicant wants to be a judge.
5. Write a resume of dog sport experience.
6. Have two written recommendations from active USMRA members, one of which should be from a current member of the USMRA Board of Directors.

The candidate will send all application documents with verification of membership to the USMRA Judges Committee members for review. The Judges committee Chairman will give a recommendation to let the applicant enter the program (or not) to the Board of Directors based on the contents of the application package. This should be accomplished within 30 days. The Board will vote on applicant at next available board meeting; and will inform Judge Chairman within 5 working days following the board meeting.

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 TEST

Once the applicant is approved by the Board of Directors the Judges Committee Chairman will, within four weeks, send the written test to the applicant who has ten days to complete and return the test to the Chairman. The test will be open book and

evaluates the candidate's basic understanding and knowledge of the FCI rules of Mondioring as published on the USMRA website. The judge's program applicant will have to score 80 % of the questions correctly to pass the test. The Judges Committee will have two weeks to notify applicant of score on test.

### **III. APPRENTICE JUDGING**

Applicant who passed the written test and fulfilled all criteria's may enter the apprenticeship part.

1. An apprentice judge must have participated in official Mondioring trials as a Deputy Judge at least one (1) time and as a Judge's Secretary at least three (3) times. It needs to be a minimum of four (4) dogs per trial in this participation as deputy/secretary role to count. It is the applicant's responsibility to make sure the trial secretary makes a note on the score sheet that the applicant has worked as a secretary/deputy judge. (Apprentice judges can participate in trial but must act as deputy/secretary for a minimum of four dogs to apply). Apprenticing can occur at club to which applicant is member of.
2. To complete the apprenticeship program, the applicant must apprentice judge a minimum of five (5) trials and at least two (2) trials need to be for a certified European Mondioring judge. The official trial Judge overseeing the apprentice should have a minimum experience of fifteen (15) Mondioring trials. The apprenticeship process 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 and reviewed with applicant post trial. The applicant will keep the evaluation sheets until it is time to submit all paperwork to the Judges Committee
3. To complete the apprenticeship program, the applicant must apprentice judge a minimum of five (5) trials and at least two (2) trials need to be for a certified European Mondioring judge. The official trial Judge overseeing the apprentice should have a minimum experience of fifteen (15) Mondioring trials. The apprenticeship process 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 and reviewed with applicant post trial. The applicant will keep the evaluation sheets until it is time to submit all paperwork to the Judges Committee
4. The apprentice must apprentice judge a minimum of
  - 3 Mondio Temperament Tests
  - 3 dogs at Brevet
  - 12 dogs at MR1
  - 5 dogs at MR2
  - 3 dogs at MR3

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.

5. Any applicant who not fulfilling the requirements for the application process, the written test or the apprenticeship with the requisite number of trials in 2 years time will have to begin a new application process.
6. An apprentice judge will be subject to the same process as a judge if any misconduct should occur.

#### **IV. CERTIFICATION**

1. An applicant that has completed the apprentice judging will arrange to judge two (2) trials under the supervision of either a certified European and/or USMRA judge. It is important that in total across both the apprenticeship and certification the candidate has worked under a minimum of three (3) different judges. 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 certified Mondioring judge is ultimately responsible for the trial and will sign the trial paperwork, scorebooks and the apprentice judge evaluation.
3. The certified Mondioring Judge will complete the USMRA evaluation form for the apprentice judge, review and return it to applicant. The applicant will keep the evaluation.
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 provided to a certified judge.
5. Upon completion of the final judging portion of the apprentice program, the applicant will submit all evaluation sheets to the Judges Committee within two weeks of last trial.
6. Within 2 weeks of receipt of the apprentice judge's final paperwork, the Judges Committee will recommend approving or disapproving the applicant as a certified judge. If the Judges Committee approves the applicant, the Chair of the Judges Committee will send the recommendation to the Board of Directors for review at the following regular Board of Directors meeting. The Board of Directors must vote on approval of the candidate. 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 USMRA President is responsible for notifying the candidate of the decision of the Board of Directors within 2 weeks following the Board of Directors meeting.

## **V. MAINTENANCE AND REVOCATION OF JUDGE'S CERTIFICATION**

1. After judging twelve (12) club trials, a minimum of three (3) years of judging, and a minimum of four (4) trials within the past year a certified judge may be the primary judge at the USMRA championship.
2. 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 observe. Such a request or comment should be in written form and sent to the President and ~~of~~ the Judges Committee Chairman. Complaints should be annotated in the annual review for that Judge; if a complaint is filed it will be followed up with by the Judges Committee.
3. 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 of Directors, who will then make the final determination. The Judges Committee will complete the review within one month of receiving the complaint.
4. 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 Mondioring 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.
5. USMRA Judges will not judge for their own club.

6. The Judges Committee will review each judge's file on an annual basis. Each Judge will supply to every Judge Committee members each year by Jan 10 their review of trials from the previous year. It will include for each judge: number of trials annually, number of dogs and level of entry per trial, and any training seminars attended, trials attended but not judged (e.g. Nationals), etc...that would provide additional experience opportunities. (It is the desire of this committee that each judge have the opportunity to judge at least one trial per year, and judge Level 1, 2 and 3 dogs. It is recognized that the number of level 3 dogs is still limited and so it is possible that over the course of a year a judge would not have judged a level 3 dog. ) The Judges committee will review these packages, add any write ups involving these judges and make recommendations based on review, feedback will be given to each judge within 30 days. Final documentation, including Committee review, will be sent in a complete package to the USMRA secretary for reference.
7. A judge may judge for only 9 hours including breaks, as written in the international rules.
8. It is recommended that once a year a Judge's meeting be held, to include apprentice judges, all USMRA Judges, and Judges Committee members. The purpose of the meeting would be to discuss judging issues, address questions, share experiences, review learning from past trials, etc.

## **VI. LIST OF JUDGES**

USMRA will maintain on the website a list of judges and trials at which they have officiated, including foreign judges who has judged at a USMRA sanctioned trials. The current Judges Committee Chairman will assure this is taken care of annually.

## **VII. PROCESS OF RULE REVISION**

These regulations may be reviewed and revised as needed by the Judges Committee. Final approval of any changes must go to the Board of Directors.