

OFFICIAL DECOY COMMITTEE REPORT - 5/15/12

Summary of 2012 Nationals Certification:

The Decoy Committee has addressed the manner in which the recent decoy certification was conducted following the 2012 Nationals in Costa Mesa California. Judge William Langlois, Jake Schnieder, and Sean Miller sat on the committee conducting the level 2 certification for and Judge William Langlois, Sean Miller and Josh McCleary sat on the committee certifying the level one decoys with Jake Schnieder assisting the committee. The issue pertains to the all 3 decoys which were given passing scores on their certifications.

One decoy was scheduled to take a level 2 certification following the weekend's trial however was unable to complete the physical portion of the certification after having injured his ankle while working a dog after the competition. Having worked a number of dogs throughout the trial this decoy was granted a waiver for the physical portion of the certification. In addition, a written test was never administered and the presiding committee granted him a passing score on his certification.

There were 2 decoys attempting a Level 1 certification which failed the written test. These 2 decoys were allowed to continue on to the physical portion of the test which they were able to receive passing scores on. Following the physical test they were allowed to take the written test a second time with passing scores and were granted their level 1 certifications.

The Decoy Committee acknowledges that these certifications were not conducted in the manner in which certifications have been conducted in the past and would like the Board to review this certification and the following recommendation from the Decoy Committee to determine the appropriate action in response to this issue.

Decoy Committee Recommendation:

The Decoy Committee would like to put forth the following recommendation in response to the irregularities in the manner in which the decoy certification held in conjunction with the 2012 USMRA Nationals was administered.

The Decoy Committee has been in the process of making a new written test for the decoy certification process. We have agreed to complete this task in an expedited fashion and are recommending that to 2 level 1 decoys be required to complete the new written exam with a passing score until which time their certification status will be listed as "pending". The test must be administered in a decoy certification, trial, or sanctioned USMRA event setting. The Decoy Committee would like to reserve the right to pre-approve a partial committee followed by Board approval to assist in administering the exam in a timely manner.

Although decoys who do not pass the written exam typically are not allowed to proceed to the physical portion of the test we would like to request these decoys be given a 90 day waiver on the physical portion of their certifications as they have completed this portion of the certification and their passing scores are not in question. If either decoy is unable to attain a passing score on the written exam on their next attempt or in the allowed time frame they will simply have to re-take the complete certification.

The level 2 decoy did not take the written or physical portion of the decoy certification so unfortunately he will be required to participate in a certification in order to actually certify.

The Decoy Committee does not condone any alterations to decoy certifications during the certification process and would like to state that these proposed actions are meant to uphold the integrity of the Decoy Committee's duties and are not intended to reflect upon the decoys involved in this certification process.

Thank You,

USMRA Decoy Committee David Bilik (chair), Sean Miller, Mac McCluskey, Jake Schnieder, Dennis Bilik