

FEBRUARY 2022 EDITION

JUDGES

NEWSLETTER



**BEST
IN SHOW**



UKC[®] JUDGES NEWSLETTER

WELCOME TO 2022!

As the world is moving forward from the devastating pandemic, we wish everyone a safe and prosperous future with the opportunity for our exhibitors to be able to spend time once again with their dogs and friends. Please be sure to understand and observe state laws and regulations regarding the pandemic when attending events. Each state has their own set of guidelines that are required as well as the common recommendations from the CDC.

The year 2021 was a busy year at the United Kennel Club. UKC added new rulebooks, latest updates, and new clarifications to many of the Performance Rulebooks and Conformation. It is critical that UKC Judges stay up to date with any Rulebook changes or additions. To make these changes easier to find, a rule change insert has been added and is found on the last pages of the rulebook that details where the changes are found by Chapter and Section along with a brief description of the addition, change or clarification for a specific rule.

MOVING DOGS UP IN A CLASS

Please be aware that no club, Judge, or other exhibitor should ever tell anyone that their dog has completed a title, or to move the dog up. A club, a Judge, or another exhibitor does not know what points or wins are on a dog's record. They do not know if there are any invalid wins or, if they are trying to help an owner calculate their points if those wins or points are correct.

Moving a dog up to the next level is the sole responsibility of the exhibitor. If an exhibitor moves a dog up and the dog has not completed the requirements for the move up, UKC will not be held responsible, will not hold the club or other exhibitor responsible, and will invalidate the incorrect entry.

Should an exhibitor ask you to verify their wins toward their title, please feel free to let the exhibitor know they are welcome to check their dogs' points anytime through the UKC website. The link to the UKC on-line points check is found on the home page and is listed below for your convenience.

- UKC On-Line Points Check: <https://www.ukcdogs.com/points-check>

WHO DO YOU CONTACT?

When a club has questions, it is not always clear as to who to contact. The All-Breed Sports Team is available to help clubs with their questions and events. However, when it comes to an exhibitor asking a club about their points or wins, we highly recommend a club to have the exhibitor use the UKC On-Line Points check from the UKC Website. The All-Breed Sports Team is also available, and exhibitors are always welcome to send their specific questions to the following emails.

- Questions regarding Conformation events can be sent to: conformations@ukcdogs.com
- Questions regarding Performance events can be sent to: performance@ukcdogs.com
 - When sending emails regarding wins, please be sure to include the following:
 - UKC or TL (Temporary Listing) number

- Breed and name of dog
- Type of points or wins (Conformation (intact or altered, Performance (which type of event)
- Any details that will help us with your dog's record.
- Questions regarding judging procedures, clarification of a rule and other judge related questions may be sent to: judges@ukcdogs.com

Judge Coordinators. UKC has Judge Coordinators to assist our licensed judges. Please feel free to contact your coordinator directly.

- **Anne Sahli.** Judges with last name starting with A-M: asahli@ukcdogs.com
- **Leslie Kroger.** Judges with last name starting with N-Z: lkroger@ukcdogs.com

Program Managers: A club may always contact the program managers for specific event problems as outlined below.

- **Karen Shivers.** Nosework, Rally, Obedience, Dock Jumping, Precision Coursing: kshivers@ukcdogs.com
- **Denise Vavla.** Conformation, Drag Racing, Lure Coursing, Agility & Weight Pull: dvavla@ukcdogs.com

YOUR JUDGE'S BOOK AND YOUR RESPONSIBILITY

Judge's Books. Each Judge is responsible for the accuracy of the wins or scores that are recorded in the official Judge's book. Judges must keep copies of their Judges' books on file for at least one year following the event dates. Digital copies are acceptable.

- **Reviewing Judges' Books.** When judging has finished for the day, it is important for Judges to take some time to review their Judges' books. Be sure all placements are marked, all dogs have a score (with running time), NQ, or absent filled in, and any excusals or disqualifications are accompanied by a reason.
- **Correcting a Judges' Book.** By signing the official judge's book, the Judge is authenticating that the wins or scores and placements are accurate.
 - **During the Event.** All errors made by the Judge in the Judge's book during the event must be corrected and initialed by the Judge.
 - **After the Event.** If a correction to a Judges' books is needed after the event is over, please notify UKC. All corrections to Judges' books must be made in writing with UKC and must provide the name of the club, date of event, event type, class, UKC number, breed and what correction needs to be made.
- **Win Disputes.** Should an exhibitor contact UKC and claim that there is an error in the official Judges' book, and the issue cannot be resolved, UKC will contact the officiating Judge for that event directly. UKC will provide a description of the claim and the Judge must check this against their copies of their Judges' books. It is imperative that a Judge responds to UKC within 10 business days and states whether a correction is needed or not. UKC will



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make any necessary changes stated by the Judge. In cases where there is overwhelming evidence that a win is incorrect and needs to be corrected, UKC will adjust the records.

ALL-BREED SPORTS, CONFORMATION BREED UPDATES

Breed Standard Changes. The following changes to the listed breeds below are in effective as of January 1, 2022

- Romanian Carpathian Shepherd Dog to change groups from Herding to Guardian.
- Japanese Akita breed name to change to Japanese Akitainu
- Porcelaine: blue eyes are now a DQ.

GETTING READY FOR THE NEW YEAR

The All-Breed Sports has updated several event rulebooks with multiple clarifications. Each rulebook can be found on the UKC website. All judges should be aware of the rules and all updates for their specific activity and for the licenses they hold. Below is a quick overview:

Minimum age requirements for entry into UKC events. It must be noted that many events in UKC have different age requirements before being eligible to enter the specific event.

- **3 months of age and under 6 months:** Non-Licensed class for Conformation Novice Puppy
- **6 months of age:** Conformation, Obedience (including non-licensed classes), Rally Obedience, Nosework, Dock Jumping, Precision Coursing Puppy Dash (6 mo. to under 1 yr.).
- **1 year of age:** Precision Coursing, Lure Coursing, Drag Racing, Weight Pull,
- **15 months of age:** Agility
- **7 years of age:** Weight Pull Veteran, Conformation Non-Licensed Veteran Class

Rulebook updates. Clarifications and rule updates to some of the existing rulebooks are noted on the cover of each rulebook. For example, take the Official Nosework Rulebook: It has an “effective” date of January 1, 2020, but just below that date is an asterisk that lists a “revised” date of October 15, 2021.



Please be sure to check out all the Rulebooks for each event activity you are licensed to judge for any updates. If you are licensed for any event that has a *revised “date” on its cover, then it is advisable to review the updated clarifications. Updates and clarifications can be found in the Rule Change Insert, in the back of the rulebook.

PERFORMANCE RULEBOOK UPDATES

2021 Official Agility Rulebook. This rulebook was effective March 1, 2021 and had additional revisions that were effective on October 2, 2021. The March 1, 2021 rulebook was completely revised from the older version with new classes and opportunities for exhibitors.

The October 2, 2021 Rule Change Insert is located on page 40 and 41 of the Agility rulebook, and outlines the changes, additions or clarifications that became effective as of that date. In addition to the new classes and titles, some notable changes are:

- Age requirement has changed from 1 year of age to the current age of 15 months.
- Replacing Veteran with Minimum Jump Height, which is open to dogs of any age. Dogs jumping the minimum jump height will use the jump height of the division below their true height division and will have an extra five seconds added to their running time, working just like the Veteran did.
- Changing to make calling faults allowable in Intermediate. They may be called at the discretion of the judge.
- Clarifying that taking the correct obstacle in the sequence backwards (for example, entering the wrong end of a tunnel or taking a hurdle backwards) is scored as an off course.
- Correction added that no more than two obstacles with delimiting lines may be used on a course. However, these obstacles may be back-to-back.

2020 Official Dock Jumping Rulebook. This rulebook was revised and was effective April 1, 2020. No additional changes have been made to this rulebook. Please be aware that Dock Jumping is now fully under the management of the United Kennel Club and is no longer in partnership with Ultimate Air Dogs. This allows titles to be issued much faster and rules to be aligned with UKC principles. Any previous reference to Ultimate in a dog’s title has been changed to Elite to reflect this change, and the division has now been renamed to Elite for future titles. The major change to dock jumping was the allowance of titles to be earned wherever the dog jumps. This allows the dog to earn titles in any division the dog jumps in on that day and at that trial.

2022 Drag Racing Rules. UKC is excited to announce the newly updated Drag Racing Rulebook. This rulebook became effective January 1, 2022.

Drag Racing Summary

- There are now more classes and opportunities to earn additional, and multiple Drag Racing titles.
- Inexperienced dogs will no longer need to run with dogs earning Champion points.
- All classes are Total Dog eligible
- Champion and Grand Champion point scale allows more dogs to earn points and competition.

Please refer to the 2022 Drag Racing Rulebook for all the new classes and changes now in effect.

2017 Official Lure Coursing Rulebook. This rulebook was effective May 5, 2017. At this time, the only change to the Lure Coursing Rulebook is that all classes are now eligible for Total Dog / Total Junior.

2020 Official Nosework Rulebook. This rulebook was effective January 1, 2020 and revised with an effective revision date of October 15, 2021. The October 15, 2021 Rule Changes Insert can be found on page 52



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and 53 of the Nosework Rulebook. One of the main overall changes was the reference to “Certifying Official” being changed to “Judge,” making the terminology consistent throughout all performance programs.

Additions to the rulebook for 2022:

- Addition of the Hall of Fame Awards.
- Toy Distraction required in Advanced level.
- Additional distractions allowed in Master and Elite levels.
- Time restraints added to when Handler Discrimination items can be brought to the ring and what happens when handlers are not present.
- Allowance for a Novice dog to make one incorrect call and continue to search within the allowable time frame with a fault. Second incorrect call will be a non-qualifying performance.
- Placements, Awards, and Ribbons given their own chapter.
- Qualifying ribbons are no longer mandatory and are optional for any trial.

Clarifications to the rulebook:

- Reuse of hide areas
- Running of trials and use of search areas
- Dog in White allowances
- Odor and hide placements
- Placement of boxes in Handler Discrimination

2021 Official Obedience Rulebook. This rulebook was effective January 1, 2021 and revised with an effective revision date of January 1, 2022. The January 1, 2022 Rule Changes Insert can be found on page 77 of the Obedience Rulebook. Please be sure to visit the UKC YouTube channel for additional clarification on the new Obedience classes: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLb_krZ1jPbRgS3fJRCzNmMvUsEQT-lfc-

Additions to the Rulebook for 2022:

- Handlers will inform the Judge prior to the beginning of the exercise if they will be performing a sit or a down for the stay in Beginner Novice.
- Handlers will let the Judge know when they are ready to begin the Greeting exercise prior to telling their dog to stay.
- Pre-Novice and Novice dogs who tie in their prospective classes will perform any tie-breaking exercises on-leash.
- Time allowances and estimated numbers of judging per day.
- Qualifying ribbons are no longer mandatory and are optional for any trial.
- Requirement for clubs to include the new High in Trial Scoresheet with all trial reports.

Clarifications to the Rulebook:

- Eligibility of dogs in particular classes
- Handlers asking to be excused from the ring
- Entering regular and additional titling classes and All-Star eligibility
- Where the handler is allowed to stand for the Broad Jump exercise
- Leaving the dog for the Figure 8 and Down Stay exercise

- Scoring of additional sit commands
- Obedience to Odor clarifications
- Specifics to the Master and Elite classes

2020 Official Precision Coursing Rulebook. This rulebook was effective May 1, 2020 and revised with an effective revision date of August 24, 2021. The only changes to this rulebook were the clarifications of course designs for the Novice/Advanced, Superior/Master, and Elite course designs.

2020 Official Rally Obedience Rulebook. This rulebook was effective January 1, 2020 and revised with an effective revision date of January 1, 2022. The January 1, 2022 Rule Changes Insert can be found on page 89 of the Rally Obedience Rulebook. Please be sure to visit the UKC YouTube channel for additional clarification on the Rally Obedience exercises: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLb_krZ1jPbRjCp6tnKgWH95QH83vOBWeG

Additions to the 2022 Rulebook:

- Qualifying ribbons are no longer mandatory and are optional for any trial.
- Removal of the word “directly” from Exercise 205 to reflect the handler taking one or two steps forward before facing the dog.
- Timetable added for schedule of classes and judging allowances.

Clarifications to the Rulebook:

- Handler asking to be excused from the ring.
- Exercise 409/410 using only three cones not six
- Entrance and exit for performance of exercise 418

2016 Official Weight Pull Rulebook. This rulebook was effective September 1, 2016 and was revised October 30, 2019.

UKC will be updating the Dock Jumping, Lure Coursing, and Weight Pull rulebooks in the near future. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us through the performance@ukcdogs.com email or through the appropriate program managers.

COMING SOON

UKC Judge’s Handbook. We are happy to announce that the UKC Judge’s Handbook has been revised. The new Judge’s Handbook has more content and is extensive and expanded to cover multiple areas.

UKC will be posting each section of the Judge’s handbook on the appropriate website page. The sections are divided as follows:

- **General Information for All Judges.** (All judge’s must have this section to go with their specific judging section.)
- **Conformation Section.**
 - Conformation Judging Procedures
 - Obtaining the Breed Specific Licenses
- **Agility Section.**
- **Dock Jumping Section.**
- **Drag Racing Section.**
- **Lure Coursing Section.**



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- **Nosework Section.**
- **Obedience Section.**
- **Precision Coursing Section**
- **Rally Obedience Section**
- **Weight Pull Section**

UKC will be updating the Dock Jumping, Lure Coursing, and Weight Pull rulebooks in the near future. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us through the performance@ukcdogs.com email or through the appropriate program managers.

UPCOMING 2022 PREMIER NATIONAL AND 2021 TOP TEN AND ALL-STARS

UKC would like to congratulate all the 2021 Top Ten, Group and All-Star finalists. All finalists will be receiving their Top Ten, Group or All-Star placement certificates, along with information regarding entering the Premier National Top Ten and All-Star competitions in June. Exhibitors are encouraged to verify their mailing address on record for their Top Ten, Group, All-Star, and Top Junior information to be sure their Premier invitation is received in a timely manner.

The Premier National event kicks off on Wednesday June 15, through Sunday, June 19, 2022. We are ready for a fun filled weekend and look forward to seeing all of you in June.

Wednesday, June 15

- Independent Specialties

Thursday, June 16

- All-Star Competition
- Top Junior Nationals
- Top Ten
- Nosework

Friday, June 17 through Sunday, June 19 - Each day:

- Agility
- Conformation/Junior Showmanship
- Dock Jumping

- Drag Racing
- Lure Coursing
- Nosework
- Obedience
- Precision Coursing
- Rally Obedience
- Weight Pull

Saturday, June 18: Special Recognition for Total Dog and Total Junior participants will be held

- Total Junior Parade and Awards
- Total Dog Qualifiers and Total Dog Best in Show

Sunday, June 19; Best of the Best. Sunday will wrap up the week with a Best of the Best competition. This special award is for all dogs that were awarded a Best in Show during the three days of Premier Nationals, the Total Dog BIS winner, and all the Best of Breed winners from the Wednesday Independent Specialties.



The UKC All-Breed Sports team is looking forward to another great year of events and working with our Judges, clubs, and exhibitors. For any questions, please contact one of the Judge coordinators as previously listed or email judges@ukcdogs.com.