

OCTOBER 2020 EDITION

NOSEWORK

NEWSLETTER



HELLO NOSEWORK OFFICIALS!

We have had a challenging beginning with the new rules taking effect and the cancellation of trials due to the Covid-19 virus. As trials begin to resume, we want everyone to continue to be as safe as possible. Please be aware of any local restrictions and follow what is required for the area as well as being sure that exhibitors feel safe when attending UKC events.

Several questions have been raised since January, and I would like to take this opportunity to address and clarify the following points.

For Exhibition Only.

Please do not allow any dogs other than those that qualify to be judged using the back-up system to run and be excluded from placements. In the above case, these dogs would be considered as dogs being run For Exhibition Only (FOE).

The rules clearly state on page 8, Chapter 1, General Rules, Section 13 under Class Restrictions "No Nosework class may be entered for exhibition only." Please do not allow any dogs to compete FEO (for exhibition only) at any time. Dogs who are entered under the back-up system may be judge and a "J" put in the column for placement to designate that the dog belongs to a judge and is therefore excluded from placements.

Spectators as Photographers or Videographers.

Exhibitors are allowed one (1) person to accompany them into the search area during the running of their dogs to video or photograph their performance. These people are to remain in a designated area during the performance per the rules. A judge or a club must not prohibit an exhibitor taking this person with them unless the club has designated an official photographer or videographer for the trial. If the club has designated an official photographer, the exhibitor may take a person with them to video their performance. If a club has an official videographer, the exhibitor may take one person with them for photographs.

General Spectators.

When possible, accommodations for spectators should be made. If these accommodations are available and spectators can observe the dogs run, judges and club officials should not ask spectators to leave the area for certain dogs or by request of the handler. We expect dogs that compete in Nosework to be of stable temperament and able to handle someone watching them if the area being used for searching can accommodate these spectators. This would be no different than people watching any other event hosted by UKC that allows spectators to be present.

Qualified Dog In White.

A qualified DIW is one that has experience at that class level. A dog with only a Novice title should not be used to check the area for an Elite search.

Reactive Dogs. Please remember that UKC does not allow any provisions for reactive dogs to be exhibited at UKC trials or events. Dogs showing inappropriate behavior are to be excused from the search area and asked to leave the trial grounds by the Event Committee. Dogs should be fully capable of walking through doorways, waiting calmly in the staging area, or walking past other dogs at a reasonable distance. Dogs that need handlers holding their muzzle shut, choking them, or dogs that are displaying aggressive or dominant behavior (standing with hackles up, tail up in a challenge position, growling at or barking at another dog just while in the presence of the other dog) should not be allowed to compete or remain on the event grounds.

New Process to Become a Nosework Official

The process to become a Nosework Official has changed, as there are now five status levels when applying for a Nosework Official License. The five levels are as follows: Applicant, Apprentice, Provisional, Regular, and Senior. Because of this new process, we would like to provide you with the necessary information regarding what is expected from new apprentices as well as Senior Officials.

Once an official reaches regular status and they meet the following criteria, they can request Senior status. Senior status is very important to the sport and gives our new officials the best resource for learning the skills required to become proficient at judging Nosework. We want to make sure you are aware of the new requirements, what is needed to complete them, and how to apply to be a Senior Official if you are interested.

Senior Status Criteria. The Regular Official must apply for Senior Official status by completing and sending the All-Breed Sports a completed request form found on the UKC website under Nosework Forms and Rules - Request for Regular/Senior Status. Additionally, the Regular Official must meet the following requirements while officiating during the Regular Official Status:

- Judge a minimum of four (4) weekends of Nosework trials,
- Judge a minimum of sixteen (16) Nosework trials,
- Judged all four elements (*Container, Interior, Exterior, Vehicle*) and all five levels (*Novice, Advance, Superior, Master, Elite*), a minimum of twice for each element and level.



- Provisional assignments will not count toward the 16 trials.
- Backup judging assignments will not count toward the 16 trials.
- The Regular official must provide documentation of the Nosework trials officiated.
- The Regular judge must submit two (2) letters of recommendation from two (2) different UKC Nosework clubs with whom you have held an assignment and of which you are not a member.
- The Regular judge must submit one (1) letter of recommendation from one (1) Senior Official that has not already submitted a letter of recommendation.
- A Senior Official may apply to go back to being a Regular Official at any time.

Only approved Senior Officials may accept apprentices. It is the responsibility of the apprentice to bring the Senior Official the Apprentice Evaluation form and for the Senior Official to fill that form out and return it to UKC. The following are duties of the Senior Official.

Receiving a request for an apprenticeship. An apprentice must request an apprenticeship assignment and send the request to the Senior Official in writing by email or regular mail. The request should be sent at least 14 days prior to the scheduled event. Once an apprentice judge has submitted their request for an apprenticeship assignment the Senior Official is to notify the host club as soon as possible that an apprentice will be present during their assignment. The notification is a courtesy for the host club.

- The club does not have the authority to deny an apprentice, but they may provide the judge with any reasons why an apprentice should not be accepted.
- The judge may take those reasons into account when deciding whether to accept an apprentice's request.
- Apprenticeship requests received on the day of the event must be denied.

Responding to a request for an apprenticeship. A Senior Official must respond within 7 days from the submitted request whether the apprenticeship assignment is accepted or denied. If a Senior Official must deny an apprenticeship request, the reasons for denial must be provided to the apprentice. A copy of this correspondence must be sent to the UKC Judges' Review committee at judges@ukcdogs.com or by mail.

Working with the Apprentice. The Senior Official is responsible for supervising all the work done by the Apprentice in addition to the following:

- **Procedures.** Ensure that all rules and safety procedures are followed.
- **Rules.** Ensure that the search area, essential oils,

containers, hide objects, and distractions complies with UKC rules.

- **Scoring Reviews.** The Senior Official should provide information on what to look for in a performance, where to position themselves during judging, specific points to look for, and problems that can occur with the movement of odor.

- The Senior Official must review the apprentice's score sheets and discuss the various searches, results, and problems that occurred during the trial. These reviews may be done after each class or at the end of the trial as time permits.

- The Senior Official should compare their score sheets with the apprentice's score sheets particularly comparing any faults given and any non-qualifying performances.

Based on the review and discussion, the Senior Official must evaluate the Apprentice's knowledge of the UKC Nosework Rules and Judging Procedures. All UKC rules and codes of conduct that apply to fully licensed officials will apply equally to the apprentice on the day of their apprenticeship assignment.

The Apprentice Evaluation Form can be found on the UKC website under Nosework Forms and Rules – Nosework Judge Apprentice Form and consists of six parts:

Cover Page - Information. There are two sections on the cover page. The top portion is to be completed by the apprentice. The middle section provides space for the Senior Official to write the number of actual runs per class that were judged. It is important that the numbers be accurate since the apprentice needs to meet specific numbers per class to fulfill the apprenticeship requirements. The rest of the cover page and the remainder of the apprenticeship form is to be completed and signed by the Senior Official. Instructions on completing the form are found on the cover page.

Section A. Timelines and Preparedness. This section asks about the apprentice's ability to meet deadlines, show professionalism, and be prepared for the assignment.

Section B. Procedures. This section asks about specific functions the apprentice is to fulfill and the Senior Official is to evaluate.

Section C. Search Area Set up and Rules Review. This section is the items a Senior Official should cover within the apprenticeship assignment.

Section D. Oral Review. This section is extremely important and requires the Senior Official to ask the apprentice specific questions about Nosework and the applied rules. The Senior Official will grade the apprentice on how well they know and can articulate the answers to each question in



this section. Any question that is scored as a zero must be explained in the comment section as to why the question had not been asked.

Section E. Recommendation. This section is for the Senior Official to provide their recommendation and to write any concerns they have about the apprentice's ability to be granted the Nosework Official license. This section can also include suggestions on any additional areas the apprentice should concentrate more effort.

Tasks that must be performed with the apprentice at the trial with the Senior Official are as follows:

Search area set-up. The apprentice must assist in setting up the search areas in compliance with the officiating Official's instructions.

- **Search area familiarization.** The apprentice must supervise all search area familiarizations during a trial.
- **During the Trial.** The apprentice must shadow the Senior Official throughout all levels of each class.
 - Apprentice must evaluate each search and recognized the dogs change in behavior in response to the target odor.
 - Apprentice must be familiar with how the Search and Element times work during all levels.
 - Apprentice must be able to determine if a fault has occurred, what type of fault it was, and if it was qualifying or non-qualifying.
 - Apprentice must evaluate each exhibitor using a score sheet that they themselves must provide.

Prohibitions

- **Awards.** The apprentice may not hand out awards or ribbons.
- **Conversation.** The apprentice may not engage in conversation with exhibitors or spectators while in the search area.
- **Handling Dogs.** No apprentice may handle a dog in any event in which they are apprenticing, except when the back-up judge provision is active, and then they may only handle their own dogs in the Nosework trial.

- An apprentice that trials their own dog is not eligible for any placements or awards in any trial they apprentice but may earn legs and Championship points.
- **Event Committee Member.** No apprentice may work as an Event Chairperson or Secretary in any event for the hosting club in which they are apprenticing.
- **Stewarding.** No apprentice may work as a steward on the day in which they are apprenticing.

Every apprentice must meet the following criteria before being able to apply for Regular status and begin judging:

- Serve as an apprentice at three (3) different UKC licensed Nosework trials in all classes offered.
- Apprentice for and receive favorable recommendations from at least three (3) different UKC licensed Nosework Officials.
- The following minimum number of entries must be observed and judged by the apprentice. Should the apprentice not meet the required number of entries within their three apprenticeships, the apprentice must complete additional apprenticeship assignments until the minimum requirements have been met.
 - Apprentice judge Fifteen (15) dogs from each Novice Element Class (Container, Interior, Exterior, Vehicle).
 - Apprentice judge Fifteen (15) dogs from each Advanced Element Class (Container, Interior, Exterior, Vehicle).
 - Apprentice judge ten (10) dogs from each Superior Element Class (Container, Interior, Exterior, Vehicle)
 - Apprentice judge ten (10) dogs from each Master Element Class (Container, Interior, Exterior, Vehicle).
 - Apprentice judge ten (10) dogs from each Elite Element Class (Container, Interior, Exterior, Vehicle).

Please do not hesitate to email or contact me directly by phone with any questions or for additional assistance. Thank you for your dedication and support of UKC Nosework.

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