



AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA

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ASCA Judges Code of Ethics

1. ASCA Judges are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with this Code of Ethics set forth by the Australian Shepherd Club of America Board of Directors. Failure to comply with this Code of Ethics subjects a judge to disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA Judging privileges.
2. ASCA Judges carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. They function as a guiding voice of the Australian Shepherd and should represent the highest ideals in terms of honesty, integrity, impartiality and knowledge of the sport and the breed.
3. The approval to judge ASCA events is a privilege and is not a right or reward. Suspensions in other registries relevant to the task of judging will be a consideration in the approval and maintenance of ASCA judging privileges.
4. All Judges and applicants must agree to abide by the ASCA Judges Code of Ethics.
5. ASCA has the sole right to refuse, suspend or revoke the ASCA judging license of any person in violation of ASCA rules, or for the failure to comply with the provisions set forth in this Code of Ethics. Failure to comply with the Code of Ethics, or any ASCA Program rules, subjects a judge to disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA Judging privileges. Judges will be notified if such action is being considered, the reason for its consideration, and given the opportunity to reply.

Responsibilities

1. ASCA Judges should have thorough knowledge and understanding of the rules and regulations governing the program venue in which they are judging.
2. ASCA Judges should have the safety and welfare of the stock, dog and handler as the judge's foremost concern in reviewing the trial conditions and in judging a working trial.
3. It is the Judge's responsibility to keep up to date with current changes in the program rules for which they are judging and are also expected to continue their education process throughout their career.
4. Judges are to be professional in carrying out their duties and must not allow personal preferences to interfere with the stated guidelines upon which they judge the handler (exhibitors) or dogs.
5. It is essential that exhibitors have complete faith in the impartiality of their judges. A Judge's actions and decisions should leave no doubt that they were made based solely on the merits of the dogs presented to them on that day.

Conduct

1. The Judge's conduct must always be impartial, dignified, and respectful. The Judge's actions and professional comportment must be above reproach. Judges should avoid conduct and casual remarks that might be misconstrued or misinterpreted such as expressing favoritism or specific criticism of dogs or exhibitors.
2. A Judge or their family members should never solicit or promote assignments on the judge's behalf.
3. When attending social functions organized by the event-giving club where exhibitors are present, a Judge is expected to exercise particular discretion in discussing individual exhibitors, dogs or breeders.
4. When officiating at a show, the Judge shall not:
 - a. Discuss the merits or faults of the dogs or handlers (exhibitors) with the stewards, attendants, or spectators during the assignment.
 - b. Hold, have control of, or groom any dog on the show grounds during his assignment that is not wholly owned or co-owned by the judge
 - c. While officiating, a Judge should not ask individuals:
 - i. Who owns the dog;
 - ii. From whom the dog was purchased;
 - iii. What bloodlines the dog is out of.
5. A Judge may not judge any dog, which is owned or co-owned, by the Judge.
6. A Judge may not give advice or guidance on how to handle his/her dog to an exhibitor during an event or class the Judge is judging. This does not prevent the Judge from answering appropriate questions, giving course instructions, informing an exhibitor where to go or inform the exhibitor of proper procedures.

7. Any alterations or changes in scores or placements must be initialed by the Judge per the program rules of the venue in which they are judging.
8. Judges shall score a trial/class based solely on the dog and handler's (exhibitor's) performance as a team as described in the ASCA Program Rules and Regulations, and in no case shall judging be based (nor any consideration be given) on the identity or reputation of the handler, owner, the breeder, or the dog's lineage.
9. Judges shall remember that trials are staffed largely or entirely with unpaid volunteers, and shall treat stock handlers, tracklayers, ring stewards, timers, helpers, exhibitors and spectators with due courtesy and consideration.
10. Judges shall be professional in demeanor and arrive appropriately dressed for the judging assignment, with due consideration of anticipated weather, arena and ring conditions.

Special Rules for Conformation and Tracking Judges

1. When officiating at a trial:
 - a. A Judge shall not judge any dog that is co-owned or bred by the Judge's immediate family.
 - b. A Judge, while judging a tracking event, shall not place himself/herself in positions on the track so as to indicate the correct direction of the track, nor place markers or articles so as to clearly indicate corners.
2. Prior to the completion of a conformation judging assignment, a Judge shall not act as a spectator at the same conformation event at which he is scheduled to judge.
3. A Judge shall not personally exhibit a dog in Conformation in the same state as his assignment four (4) days prior to his assignment as a conformation judge.
4. A Judge or their family members should never solicit or promote assignments on the judge's behalf.

Definitions

- a. Solicitation is the repeated contact and/or the use of influence, persuasion or coercion in an effort to obtain a judging assignment.
- b. Promotion is a Judge's or their immediate family member's attempt to sell or popularize the Judge or their judging assignments through verbal or written advertising and/or publicity.