

NAVHDA Judge and Apprentice Update

November / December 2019

Scoring System

All NAVHDA tests are scored on a point-index system. Each task that a dog must perform and each category on which it is scored during the test is allotted a fixed index number which indicates its relative importance. The dog's performance in each part of the test is given an achievement score based on a scale of Zero (Failure) to 4 (Excellent).

The fixed index number is multiplied by the achievement score to arrive at the score attained in that part of the test.

The sum total of the scores determines the placement of the dog in a first, second or third prize classification, provided it has earned the minimal acceptable score required in each part of the test.

I copied the above three paragraphs from the Aims Programs Test Rules book for reference for the following scenarios.

1. An NA dog earned the following scores: Nose 4, Search 4, Water 4, Pointing 3, Tracking 4, Desire 4, Cooperation 3, for a total of 106 points and a Prize II. The owner/handler asked for an explanation of why he was awarded a prize 2 and not a prize 1. The minimal acceptable scores for a prize classification in NA pointing are 3, 3, 2. The Judges **INCORRECTLY** selected/circled the 3 for the prize two classification! The 3 in pointing qualifies the NA dog for a prize 1 consideration.

2. A similar issue occurred in a Utility test. A UT dog earned a 189 point Prize III. This handler questioned why he was not awarded a Prize II. This dog's steadiness total was a 2. The minimal scores for each prize category in UT steadiness are 3, 2, 2. This judging team felt that the prize III was the appropriate category for their 2. Judging teams do **NOT** have the authority to choose which prize category they want to apply their score of 2 in UT steadiness to. The minimal score for a prize II in UT steadiness is a 2.

In both of the above cases when the Central Office entered the numerical scores in the data base, the computer assigned the correct prize. The test records and the parchments each handler received were correct.

The NAVHDA Annual meeting is being hosted by the Seabastcook Chapter in Portland Maine, January 24-26, 2020 at the Westin Portland Harborview Hotel. The Judges Workshop will be held Sunday January 26, 2020 from 8:00am until 4:00pm at the same location. Please reserve your hotel room and register for the Annual Meeting soon.

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

Chip Bonde

NAVHDA Director of Judge Development