

July 2020 Judges Email Blast

Covid-19: As we gear up for what is certain to be a very busy late summer and fall testing season, I want to remind everyone that safety remains paramount. As you travel to Judge please make sure you are aware of, and are following, State, Local, and Provincial guidelines. Practicing both social distancing and good hand hygiene will be of great importance. If you see an unsafe situation please say something and work as a team to correct it.

Heat and Humidity: We are experiencing very high temperatures throughout most of the country with no end in sight. Please consider beginning tests early and get your field work done as soon as possible before temperatures get too high. Please also work with the chapter to ensure there are ample water tubs in the field and they are refilled every morning with fresh water. Encourage handlers to hydrate their dogs and themselves often. As Judges we are in the field and sun all day, so hydrating yourselves will be very important. Please use caution to keep yourselves healthy in these extreme temperatures; heat stroke or heat exhaustion are a real concern. Pay attention to your body and how you are feeling.

Judges Workshop: The Judges Workshop this year will be virtual. We will have the workshop on a Sunday sometime in January. We will keep this virtual meeting to no more than 3 hours in length. I am working now with some very experienced IT folks to identify a platform for this meeting; right now it looks like we will use the Microsoft Teams platform. I will provide more detailed information on this at a later date, and in the meantime I will be working with the Judging & Testing Committee to develop the agenda. If you have something you would like to see on the workshop agenda please reach out to me at any time. As a reminder, all Judges are required to attend a workshop once every three years.

Social Media: As social media continues to grow many of our Judges are being asked to participate on pod casts and interviews with various outdoor organizations. In addition, Judges are also being asked to write articles related to training or their experience with NAVHDA. This is certainly acceptable and quite frankly shows how highly regarded NAVHDA Judges are in the dog world. With that said, only a member of the Board is authorized to speak on behalf of NAVHDA International. So, we ask that when you are writing your articles, or being interviewed for a pod cast, that you clearly state the following; "I am speaking as an individual NAVHDA member or Judge. I am not authorized to speak on behalf of NAVHDA International, and my views do not necessarily represent the opinions or policies of NAVHDA International.". In addition, if you are posting videos to any social media outlet avoid using the term "NAVHDA Training", as this again may be confused by viewers as an official or sanctioned NAVHDA video. Lastly, while the EC is currently working on a broader social media policy, in the interim any social media posts should not contain information or images that might be viewed as detrimental to NAVHDA.

Role of the Senior Judge: I spoke about this at the Judges Workshop, but I think it bears repeating. From the Aims & Rules book; "The Senior Judge acts as the team Captain and rules on procedural matters. The Senior Judge, in consultation with the judging team, has the responsibility to assure the test is conducted according to NAVHDA rules". That does not mean the Senior Judge's score carries more weight than any other Judge. The Senior Judge is there to facilitate **consensus**, and to assure the test is administered in a fair and impartial manner based on our standards. The Senior judge also has responsibility to assure all test paperwork and evaluations are filled out completely and his or her cards and paperwork are mailed to the NAVHDA office in a timely manner. All members of the judging team are responsible for teaching Apprentice Judges and debriefing them at the end of the day as a group. Please refer to this guidance in Chapter 2 of the Aims and Rules: "At the end of the test, all Judges provide an evaluation of the Apprentice Judges' performance to the Director of Judge Development."

Requirements to Maintain Judging Status: We have added a new section under the Judges tab on our web site titled "Requirements to Maintain Judging Status". Previously that section was included only in the Apprentice information tab which made it difficult for Judges to find. I encourage you to take a moment to review it at your convenience.