

July 2023 Judges Email Blast

Judging & Testing Committee

Tom Swezey has decided to step down from the Judging & Testing Committee where he has served for many years as an Apprentice Mentor. A difficult decision certainly, and a loss for NAVHDA as Tom brought a wealth of knowledge and professionalism to all his NAVHDA endeavors. His experience and insight will be missed by the Judging & Testing Committee. Thank you, Tom, for your dedication to NAVHDA and to the Judging & Testing Committee.

Keith Kemmer has stepped up from his current Member at Large position to fill the Mentor vacancy. Donnie Ebersole has been approved to fill Keith's Member at Large position.

As NAVHDA grows, it is important that the Judging and Testing Committee remain diverse and from time to time the committee needs an additional member. With this in mind, an additional Member At Large position has been added. Desiree Stormont has been selected to fill this position.

Husband & Wife Apprentice Teams

The Judging & Testing Committee has granted a temporary waiver that allows husband & wife teams to apprentice together. This waiver can be rescinded at any time at the discretion of the Judging & Testing Committee. In accordance with the NAVHDA Aims and Rules, husband & wife teams will not be permitted to Judge together if they are approved as NAVHDA Judges. We currently have two husband & wife teams who have been granted a waiver to apprentice judge together:

Dinah McKenzie & Luc Raymond

Emily Julin & Ray Julin

Judging Dogs, You Have Bred or Trained

It is acceptable to Judge a dog that you have bred or trained. If you are judging a dog that you have bred or trained, you should inform the rest of the judging team of that fact. For clarification on judging dogs with which you are familiar, please refer to the specific guidelines provided in the NAVHDA Aims and Rules chapter 2, "Judges and Judging." Additionally, the April 2019 Judges email blast states the following: "No Judge or Apprentice can "step out" and not judge a particular dog/handler team and then return and continue judging that day. A judge or apprentice may ask within the team to be allowed to not handle a particular handler for any number of reasons: (e.g.) the handler is a hunting partner; the judge sold the handler the dog; a previously reported adverse incident."

Chapter Test Evaluation Form

If you are giving the chapter a poor or unacceptable rating in any category, please write a detailed explanation as to why on the back of the evaluation form. Also be sure to discuss these ratings with a Chapter officer.

Sick or injured dog during a test

All persons involved in conducting a NAVHDA test are expected to adhere to good sportsmanship. This includes being aware of when a dog is injured or too ill to continue in a test. While the handler is expected to be aware of his or her dog's physical condition, judges have the right and responsibility to ensure an ill or injured dog is not allowed to continue in a test.

The following guidance has been provided at judges' workshops in 2014 and again in 2016 regarding annotating the scorecard if a dog is ill or injured and unable to continue the test: "On the score card - mark all scores up to the point where the dog is injured & pulled. Anything after the dog is pulled, enter zeroes due to the need to keep the database consistent. Enter a total score - no prize. Comment clearly that the dog was injured and unable to continue... Do not tear up the card - it must be submitted with the test packet." Additionally, annotate on the card whether the handler removed the dog or whether the judges made the decision the dog could not or should not continue the test.