



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

In order to better serve the judging community in particular and the fancy in general, The Ad Hoc Committee appointed by Chairman Menaker recommends that the Board of Directors approve a refined judging approval policy and process in order to simplify and streamline both. The presumption is that judges are passionate students of purebred dogs and that they each learn in their own unique manner. In this new system many specific requirements have been changed or eliminated and the manner of application itself is simple. Highlights of the new policy and process are as follows.

- On all but the initial application, specific requirements are not indicated.
- Applicants are free to devise their own combination of educational activities to prepare to judge additional breeds.
- A letter outlining preparation replaces the application forms.
- An approved breed judge may apply for up to one half of the number of breeds in the largest group on any application for additional breeds.
- The Judges Review Committee will determine the number of breeds approved on a case by case basis based on the quality of the preparation and, most importantly, the competence demonstrated in all previous judging experiences as indicated by performance evaluations.
- Three “Permit” (Provisional) assignments replace the previous five.
- The process to remove breeds is expedited.
- Individuals (New Breed or Approved Breed applicants) who have demonstrated exceptional competence, dedication and passion, and have been recommended by Executive Field Representatives, Judges, Breeders, Parent Clubs, Show Chairmen and/or Professional Handlers may be invited by the Judges Review Committee to apply for up to a group or its equivalent.
- Parent Clubs may make yearly recommendation for members to be approved as permit judges in their breed.
- Any eligible individual in good standing may be approved to Judge at National or Parent Club Specialties by invitation.
- The Visiting Judges Policy is restructured to assist event holding clubs in the assignment of their judging panels.

Given the opportunity, this policy will improve the overall quality of the judging community, benefiting our breeders and exhibitors. Achievements will be recognized through the advancement of those judges that have displayed a higher level of competency at AKC® events. This will create a larger pool of quality judges approved to judge a greater number of breeds and groups. In addition, those judges that have displayed inabilities or challenges in their judging will be identified and addressed in an efficient manner. This results in either the removal of their problem breeds or through the restriction of their advancement that is afforded through the elimination of the one for one policy. The focus will return to proficiency in the ring to determine the abilities of the applicant judge, and away from filling in blanks and checking boxes. The approval of this policy as written will not have an increase in the current budget of the Judging Operations Department.



Judging Approval Process

Effective: March 1, 2012

The current judging approval process was adopted in **November 2011** by the sitting Board of Directors. The American Kennel Club® has long directed special attention to the judging approval process, with particular emphasis on the improvement of judging. Quality judging is based upon breed expertise, combined knowledge of the governing Rules, Regulations and Policies achieved through lifetime experience and judges' education. This new system is designed to introduce and infuse, if you will, a significant higher level of expertise in the judging process at all AKC shows.

Approval to judge is a privilege and not a right. Anyone applying or accepting an AKC assignment does so with full acceptance of that statement. It is important to understand there is a basic difference between equality of opportunity to judge and identical treatment of applicants. **Merit** will be paramount in advancing through this approval process, and AKC will naturally encounter a wide range of abilities and experiences. This enhanced application process will focus on appreciation for canine knowledge, through lifetime experience and continuing education. This will result in varied outcomes for applicants. The successful development of judging competency requires talent and ability to judge, individual motivation, significant personal effort and ongoing study of even approved breeds. Advancement at any level in no way implies that subsequent approvals will be automatic; rather, they will be more predictable. It is essential to recognize the abilities of each

applicant and act accordingly. Self-motivation is critical to achieve competence in judging. It is also vital to understand there is a significant investment of both time and resources as well as a considerable amount of individual effort that will be required – it is an ongoing educational process.

Qualified fanciers on their first application may be approved for a maximum number of breeds equivalent to the largest group or a complete group. The Judges Review Committee will determine the number of breeds approved. On subsequent applications, applicants may apply for no more than one-half the number of breeds in the largest Group under the then current additional breed policy.

The requirements for initial and additional breeds will concentrate heavily on the applicant's preparation which would include breed education and the application of this knowledge in the ring. All experiences will be considered. Performance of judging current breeds will be an important component for consideration when being reviewed by the Judges Review Committee for approval of requested additional breeds. Therefore current evaluations are an essential part of the process.

The open design of this program places the responsibility for advancement in the hands of the applicant. The program is intended to remind all newly approved judges that they are still students with a subject to master, and that their

mastery of each breed is an ongoing process. This understanding will enable AKC staff, recognized breed experts, emeritus and regular judges, who are committed to the success of the student judge, to become teachers, mentors or coaches.

In this program, the applicant gains more personal control over their advancement through preparation, education, years of experience, ability and dedication to the sport.

The application process and the application itself are not confidential. Once accepted, a notice is published on the Secretary's page of the AKC Gazette. The application is reviewed by numerous in-house staff members and the Judges Review Committee. All information contained in an application must be signed by the applicant indicating the information is correct and true and is subject to verification by AKC.

This system will be based on Merit for advancement and supported with documentation of experience, background and education provided to the Judges Review Committee for determination of breeds requested.

All Judges on provisional assignments will be referred to as "Permit Judge" and assignments for those breeds in which they do not have regular status will be referred to as "Permit Assignments".

(Policy shall apply, as much as practical, to all pending applications and all judges currently on Provisional status for any breed prior to that date.)

Judges Review Committee

The Judges Review Committee as referenced within this policy is defined as a committee of five members to be comprised of the COO of the American Kennel Club, the Vice President of Dog Show Judge whom shall be Chair, one AKC Executive Field Representative appointed by the CEO for a two year term, with a four year limit, one Senior Judge (at least 20 years' experience and having at least three groups) and one designated person both of whom will be recommended by the CEO and confirmed by the Board of Directors and are subject to the Board of Directors confirmation if recommended by the CEO for a second term.

AKC Executive Field Representative

The AKC Executive Field Staff will seek and consider the opinions of the fancy for evaluations and recommendations of judging members of the sport. The Executive Field Staff may seek from members of the fancy perceived to be experts in their breed or with considerable experience in the sport such that their opinions would be of merit. Opinions may be sought in consideration of recommendations for advancement or in the clarification of finite details of a breed in the evaluation process.

- All judges are subject to evaluations by AKC Executive Field Staff including procedural and breed evaluations.
- All interviews for new or additional breed applicants will be performed by AKC Executive Field Staff.

All New Breed Applicants

Every New Breed Applicant must satisfy all of the following requirements:

- Complete six stewarding assignments at AKC member or licensed shows in the three years immediately preceding application.
- Complete six judging assignments at AKC Sanctioned matches, specialty matches, sweepstakes, futurities, Open Shows and AKC approved Special Attractions. Sweepstakes, futurities and Open Shows count as two assignments.
- Meet AKC's occupational eligibility requirements.
- Submit and successfully complete mandatory anatomy and procedural open book tests. If applying for Junior Showmanship submit JS exam with application.
- A non-refundable \$25 per breed processing fee required.

Only those breeds in which the applicant has documented hands-on experience in owning, breeding or exhibiting will be granted on the first application. Qualified fanciers on their first application may be approved for a maximum number of breeds equivalent to the largest group or a complete group. The Judges Review Committee will determine the number of breeds approved. For example, a prospective applicant may apply for the largest Group or up to 28 breeds providing the breeds applied for do not include all of the breeds in a single group. If the application included all breeds in the Non-Sporting Group, it would be limited to the 19 breeds in that group.

All initial breed applicants must attend a Basic Judging Institute presented by AKC prior to

submitting their regular status request, but not earlier than two years prior to the submission of their initial application.

12-5-4 Method

Individuals applying as New Breed judges must meet the following minimum criteria:

- Have 12 or more years experience exhibiting in conformation in at least one breed applied for.
- Must be a member of a household where five or more litters in each breed applied for have been bred and whelped.
- Qualifying litters must have been whelped and raised on applicant's premises.
- Qualifying litters must have produced four or more champions.
- A non-refundable \$25 per breed processing fee required.

If an applicant does not meet litter and/or champion requirements under the 12-5-4 System, the New Breed Alternate Method may be used to ensure that quality of experience, rather than quantity, is the determining factor in breeds granted.

New Breed Alternate Method

If an applicant does not meet the litter and/or champion criteria in the initial breed(s), he/she is encouraged to consider applying under the New Breed Alternate Method. Applicants must have 15 or more years experience in conformation in at least one breed applied for and must be able to document having accomplished any combination of four of the following components in each initial breed:

- Bred at least two champions in each breed requested.

- Bred and raised four litters in each breed requested on his or her premises.
- Breeder of Merit
- Owned or maintained for the duration four dogs in each breed requested that earned championships or grand championships while residing at applicant's home.
- Personally exhibited four unique dogs in each breed requested to their championship, earning all 15 points and both majors, or grand championship, earning all 25 points, three majors and defeating a special on three occasions. (This requirement is the same for owners and professional handlers).
- Personally exhibited two dogs in each breed requested as specials for a minimum of two years or approximately 60 shows. (This requirement is the same for owners and professional handlers).
- Document 25 years of experience exhibiting dogs in AKC Conformation events.
- A non-refundable \$25 per breed processing fee required.

Individuals with extensive experience and abilities beyond those points listed above will be given due consideration.

Interviews

All interviews must be scheduled through the AKC Judging Operations Department. Applicants are welcome to interview in the North Carolina office by prior appointment. The AKC Executive Field Representatives will discuss each breed requested with the applicant and remind applicant that satisfying all educational requirements and a successful interview do not guarantee approval of the breed(s) requested.

The application interview will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- Review breed standards including all applicable disqualifications and/or conditions of class.
- Review of breed-specific seminars as well as seminars listed multiple times.
- Review and discuss Table, Ramp, Floor breed(s).
- Verification of continuous breed mentoring.
- Discussion and explanation of unanswered questions/blanks.
- Discussion of strengths, weaknesses and differences within the breed(s).
- Discuss dentition, if applicable.
- Pass test on use of wicket and scales, if applicable.
- Review of rules, regulations, policies and guidelines.
- Discussion of proper procedure for handling protests, disqualifications and excusals.
- Discussion of importance of positive reports from AKC Executive Field Representatives in being granted regular status.
- Must successfully pass the interview in order to receive permit status.

Final Approval

Applications at every level will be acted on at monthly meetings by the Judges Review Committee. It is at this meeting that the number of breeds to be approved on Permit status will be determined by review of the complete application process and the results of the interview process with the Executive Field Staff. The Judges Review Committee letter will be e-mailed/mailed to the applicant. **As a result of the October 2010 Board Meeting**, publication notice in the Gazette was combined into one

notice; the applicants name and breeds will be published in the next possible publication of the Gazette. The approval process includes an opportunity for the fancy to respond to the application to judge. Upon the review of any responses received the applicant will be advised of any questions or concerns that arise and provided the opportunity to respond before any further AKC action is taken if warranted.

Applying for Additional Breeds

On each additional breed application, judges may not apply for more than one-half the number of breeds in the largest Group under the then current additional breed policy. On subsequent applications for additional breeds, applicants must have regular status for all previously approved breeds. The number of breeds approved will be determined by Judges Review Committee in relationship to experience, background and education. Applicant will display this information for review within a letter of synopsis for each breed to include the following with verifiable dates:

In a letter of synopsis the applicants should include all information that may be relevant relating to the applicants education and experience for each breed in which they have applied. This should include but not limited to seminars, workshops, institutes, mentors, personal experience with the breed and previous judging experiences. All experiences should include dates and be verifiable:

- Explain why you are applying for this breed and what you have accomplished to prepare for this breed.
- Applicant must provide qualifications to judge each breed, documenting experience, background and education criteria:

- Must continue to meet AKC's occupational eligibility requirements.
- Pass Interview with AKC Executive Field Representative.
- Pass a wicket and /or scale test if applicable.
- A non-refundable \$25 per breed processing fee required.

Education may include:

- Institute or Seminar: all attendees must pass AKC breed test in order to receive credit for attendance.

Observer Experience may be included, only at Specialties:

- Observer may observe with parent club approved mentors or individuals meeting the current AKC mentor guidelines. Observations with mentors not meeting the criteria will not be considered within the letter of synopsis.
- Formal observations will be allowed with parent club approved mentors at National or Regional Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club (This is as it has always been). (Individuals engaged in Parent Club mentoring may not exhibit to the judge/applicant for a period of four months after and the mentor may not show to the judge following approval of the breeds for four months after.)
- There must be adequate entries for the breeds observed. Smaller entries may require more observations. (Two entries of 50 plus dogs observed may satisfy this requirement; whereas three observations of seven or eight dogs meet the requirement but do not accomplish the greater objective.)

Requirements for Regular Status for New Breed and Approved Breeds

The applicant must complete a minimum of three assignments in each permit breed with sufficient dogs present of acceptable quality to demonstrate sufficient competence in the breed(s). Unlimited assignments may be accepted. Additional permit assignments may be required. Judges with breeds on Permit status must be observed three times by different AKC Executive Field Representatives on any combination of permit breeds.

Following a Marginal or Does Not Meet Evaluation at least two additional evaluations on that breed will be required. Judges may apply for regular status on a completed permit breed before completion of all permit breeds, but may not apply for additional breeds before achieving regular status in all permit breeds. All initial breed applicants must attend a Basic Judging Institute presented by AKC prior to submitting their regular status request, but not earlier than two years prior to the submission of their initial application.

Staff Committee reviews all requests for regular status to verify accuracy of information supplied and that all criteria have been met. Extenuating circumstances may be considered on a case for case basis.

All permit judges approved under the previous policy will be required to satisfy the requirements of the current policy, minimum of three assignments in each permit breed with sufficient dogs present of acceptable quality to demonstrate sufficient competence in the breed(s). Judges with breeds on permit status must be observed three times by different AKC

Executive Field Representatives on any combination of permit breeds.

Low Entry Breed Exception Program

Criteria for regular status approval in Low Entry Breeds is not solely based on existing requirements as each request for regular status will be reviewed on a case by case basis for the judges overall performance in other breeds. A list of Low Entry Breeds is posted on the website and updated annually.

Re-Evaluation

Applicants may request re-evaluation by writing to the Judging Operations Department. Requests for re-evaluation must be filed within 60 days of the letter of notification by contacting Judging Operations and submitting a non-refundable \$25 processing fee. The request is to include sufficient additional information not submitted in the original application to warrant re-evaluation. All additional information must refer to experience that preceded the submission of the application. Re-evaluation involves a review of the entire application and may result in fewer breeds granted.

Requests for re-evaluation not including sufficient additional information will not be entertained as the Judges Review Committee only acts on those meeting these criteria. The judge will be advised of the Judges Review Committee's decision by e-mail/mail. Applicants who wish to contest the re-evaluation decision may request a review by the Judges Appeal Committee which is comprised of three appointed Board Members and meets quarterly.

Appeal Process

Applicants may appeal a re-evaluation decision by writing to the Judging Operations Department. This request must be filed within 60 days of the date of notification by contacting Judging Operations and submitting a non-refundable \$25 processing fee. All Appeals are acted upon by a three-member committee of the AKC Board of Directors. The Judges Appeals Committee (JAC) meets quarterly. Only the information included in the application or submitted for re-evaluation will be reviewed.

The Appeals process offers three options: (1) the applicant may appear in person, with or without counsel, (2) the applicant may attend via a conference call, or (3) the JAC, without additional input from the applicant, may review all material submitted in connection with the application. If appearing, applicants are granted 30 minutes to present their case and if your attorney appears with you, he or she may advise you but may not otherwise speak or address the committee. No new supporting information may be supplied. The JAC, serving as arbiter, has two options: (1) concur with the re-evaluation action, which concludes the process, or (2) recommend full or partial breeds be accepted, which requires approval of the full Board. The applicant is notified in writing of the decision.

Newly Recognized Breeds

Once a new breed enters a Group, all judges eligible to judge the Group are automatically granted the breed after passing the appropriate breed standard test and submitting a \$25 per breed processing fee.

Failure to pass the breed standard test in two (2) attempts and/or submit the \$25 processing fee will result in the removal of Group approval status. Affected judge may continue to judge the Group on pending panels only and additional assignments will not be approved for any affected Group until such time as the breed has been approved. Judges may apply for approval of affected breed(s) after six months and a realistic effort to re-educate themselves.

Best In Show

Best In Show approval:

- Must have current approval for one full Group.
- Must have judged the group 5 times.
- Must have positive reports on current breeds from AKC Executive Field Representatives.
- A non-refundable \$25 processing fee required.

Miscellaneous Class Judging Approval

Any judge eligible to judge a Group on regular status may also be approved to judge the Miscellaneous Class.

Reinstatement/Reactivation

All judges who voluntarily request resignation must submit a letter to Judging Operations.

- Judges who become AKC employees (and members of their immediate household) will be placed on inactive status and need not submit a letter to Judging Operations; additionally, judges who have not been heard from for five years or more and cannot be located are also placed on inactive status.

- Judging Operations Department will publish the names on the Secretary's Page in the next available Gazette.
- Judges requesting reinstatement of their judging privileges must do so in writing and successfully meet the current criteria. AKC Staff will review and validate the request and the Board will be notified at its next meeting. The judge's name and approved breeds/groups will be published as Reinstated on the Secretary's Page of the next available Gazette.
- Current employees (and members of their immediate household) who have letters on file "resigning" their judging privileges, are considered to be on inactive.
- A non-refundable \$25 processing fee required.

Criteria:

- Judges who have been on resigned/inactive status for **less than one** year would receive automatic reinstatement/reactivation.
- Judges who have been on resigned/inactive status for **more than one** year may not need to reapply under the current system if they can document continuous in-depth activity in the sport (see Note).
- Judges who have been on resigned/inactive status **for more than one** year must reapply under the current system if they cannot document continuous activity in the sport (see Note).
- Eligibility and the reason for reinstatement/reactivation must be reviewed and validated by Staff.
- All individuals resigned/inactive for more than one year must be interviewed on current Rules, Regulations, Policies, Guidelines and Breed Standards; pass a

Procedural Examination, Anatomy Test, and meet current requirements.

- Only previously approved breeds/groups may be reinstated/reactivated. In the case of a Group(s) with a newly recognized breed(s), breed standard test(s) must be passed.
- Uncompleted permit requirements must be met before applying for additional breeds.
- Requests received from resigned/inactive judges meeting all eligibility requirements would receive automatic reinstatement/reactivation from AKC staff for all previously approved breeds/groups.
- The Board will be notified of all reinstatements/reactivations and the applicant's name and breeds will be published on the Secretary's Page of the next available Gazette.

Note: Continuous in-depth activity may include but not be limited to: judges who resigned to exhibit dogs on breed/group level; employment with AKC; licensed superintendent; dog food salesperson or solicitor; publisher of a dog publication; other occupation or involvement at Conformation events on a weekly or monthly basis.

Applying for Additional Breeds:

- Individuals may apply for additional breeds at the time of request for reinstatement/reactivation, if eligible.
- Applications for additional breeds will be handled under the then current application process.

Removal of Breeds

Three unsatisfactory evaluations of "Marginal" or two "Does Not Meet" from AKC Executive Field Representatives in any combination of breeds places judge on probation for those affected breeds.

- Any additional unsatisfactory evaluation on previously affected breeds of "Marginal" or "Does Not Meet" from AKC Executive Field Representatives will result in review by Judges Review Committee and potential removal of that breed(s) with negative reports.
- Three consecutive positive reports on each affected breed(s) from two or more AKC Executive Field Representatives will remove judge's name from probationary status.
- Judges receiving negative reports on weighing or measuring will be required to pass the applicable wicket and /or scale test.
- Failure of this test will result in review by the Judges Review Committee and the potential of all applicable breeds being removed.
- Judges on probation may not apply for additional breeds.
- Removal of breed for a Group judge – judge may continue to judge the Group on pending panels only; any additional assignments will not be approved for any removed breed and affected Group until such time as the breed has been re-instated.
- Removal of breed for a Best in Show judge – if removal of breed results in judge no longer being approved for regular status for one complete group, judge may continue to judge Best in Show on pending panels only. Any additional assignments will not be approved for any removed breed and

affected Best in Show until such time as the breed has been re-instated.

- Request for re-evaluation may be requested within 60 days by contacting Judging Operations and submitting a non-refundable \$25 processing fee.

Judges may apply for reinstatement of affected breed(s) after six months and a realistic effort to re-educate themselves.

Qualifications for Advancement by Invitation: (New Breed & Approved Judges)

Individuals may be recommended to the Judges Review Committee for invitation by Executive Field Representatives, Breeders, Parent Clubs, Professional Handlers, Judges and Show Chairpersons.

Individuals being considered for Advancement by Invitation in this portion of the process will be considered due to their commitment and responsibility to the sport. Invitations are solely based on history and ability to judge current breeds they are approved for or in the case of new breed judges, experience and exceptional background. Their talent, knowledge, integrity, attitude and accomplishments of judging dogs demonstrates their passion and support of the AKC in order to preserve the reputation of the organization and all that it stands for - the **betterment of purebred dogs**. The applicant's judging observation reports by AKC Executive Field Representatives have consistently demonstrated above average abilities and knowledge to select dogs of quality in any class and reward virtues according to the Parent Club breed standard.

Criteria:

- Qualified judge(s) must be presented to the Judges Review Committee for consideration.
- File should contain all positive reports indicating exceptional ability by AKC Executive Field Representatives and positive correspondence.
- Number of permit breeds approved to be determined by the Judges Review Committee up to one complete group or a combination of breeds from multiple groups (not to include a complete group) up to the equivalent of the largest group.

Requirements:

- Brief synopsis from applicant on how they prepared to judge breeds, defining experience, background and preparation for submission to the Judges Review Committee for analysis.
- Procedural and anatomy test for New Breed applicants, if applicable a scale and wicket test for New Breed and Approved Breed applicants.
- Interview by AKC Executive Field Representatives.
- A non-refundable \$25 per breed processing fee required.

Parent Club's Recommendation for AKC Approval on a member of their club to judge their breed

- To participate, the Parent Club must have been recognized by AKC for a minimum of 10 years.

- Parent Club is invited to submit recommendations, not to exceed three members each year.
- Submit certified copy of meeting minutes at which action was taken by the Parent Club Board.

Requirements from Applicant/Judge

- All Recommendations by Parent Clubs must include 20 years in the breed by applicant with breeding/exhibiting success.
- Must include 10 year's membership in Parent Club.
- Must be occupationally eligible.
- Must be 21 years of age.
- Procedural and anatomy test required and if applicable, scale and wicket test required.
- Provide letter of synopsis defining background and experience in the breed.
- Pass interview with AKC Executive Field Representative.
- Complete three permit assignments with dogs present and AKC Executive Field Representative reports before applying for regular status.
- A non-refundable \$25 per breed processing fee required.

Parent Clubs by request may invite eligible individuals to judge their Nationals or Specialties

Requirements for Applicant/Judge

- Any eligible individuals including, but not limited to, professional handlers may be approved on a case by case, event by event request from the National Specialty Club for approval to judge their Parent Club National or Parent Club Regional events.

- Must be 21 years of age.
- Must be occupationally eligible.
- Should be knowledgeable, with success in breeding/exhibiting/handling in the breed for 15 years or more.
- Procedure and anatomy test required and if applicable, scale or wicket test required.
- A non-refundable \$25 per breed processing fee required for non-approved judges.

("Professional handler is defined as any person who belongs or has belonged to a professional handlers' organization, distributed rate cards, or otherwise advertised or represented themselves as handling dogs for pay.")

Visiting Judge Policy

- Visiting judges who do not trade or traffic in dogs may be eligible to judge at AKC events, any breed(s) for which they are approved by an AKC recognized registry as listed in AKC's Special Registry Services.
- Registries listing both CAC and CACIB approval, judges from these countries using these designations will only be approved for breeds listed for both CAC and CACIB.
- Visiting judges from an AKC recognized registry may be approved to judge up to eight All Breed assignments in one calendar year. Approval may include Groups providing the judge is approved for all individual breeds within the AKC Group. Note: the Visiting Judges Approval of FSS breeds. Best in Show judging approval will be consistent with the current AKC Best in Show approval policy.
- Individual breed judges may be approved to judge that breed at an unlimited number of AKC specialty shows and no more than eight AKC All-Breed shows if they are

- approved to judge that breed in their own country and by an AKC recognized registry regardless of their residency.
- Negative field reports may result in denial of continued approval to judge AKC events, or the necessity to pass a procedural examination.
- Visiting Judges are not eligible for approval to judge Jr. Showmanship Classes at AKC events.
- A visiting judge who has established residence in the U.S. will only be approved as a visiting judge for two years, after which they will be required to apply under the AKC system.
- Visiting judges must document residency if U.S. mailing address is submitted.

We invite visiting judges into our system. Visiting judges who wish to judge more than eight All-Breed shows per year may apply under AKC's visiting judges' approval process as follows:

Individuals must have judged at AKC shows for over eight years, have been an approved judge for ten years in their own country, and have received a minimum of twelve positive reports from Field Staff. Visiting judges who have judged the breeds requested on the initial application at least eight times in the U.S. over the past three years will not be required to meet the match show judging and stewarding requirements or to judge permit5 assignments. The following information is applicable to the visiting judge's initial AKC judging application:

- Applicant may apply for up to fourteen breeds based on the required background and experience.

- Applicant must complete the judging application for submission to AKC Judging Operations Department and be published in the AKC Gazette.
- Applicant must successfully complete all required testing including applicable breed standard tests.
- Applicant must speak and read English OR arrange for an interpreter when judging at AKC events.
- Educational background and preparation in country of residence will be considered for the breeds requested.
- One year must elapse since date of original approval, and five assignments in the U.S. must be completed before being eligible to submit a second application, which will be processed under the current AKC system.
- Judges applying under this process must conform to AKC's occupational eligibility and Conflict of Interest rules and guidelines.

To clarify existing policy:

Visiting judges choosing AKC approval will no longer be approved to judge AKC events using their previous visiting judging qualifications.

Visiting Judges Approval – FSS/AKC Breeds

Approval for breeds not currently recognized in the country in which they are approved including FSS breeds.

- To all current and new visiting GROUP judges:
- Mandatory for judging Group assignments.

- Must request and pass all breed standard tests on breeds not recognized in their country.
- Must submit a non-refundable \$25 processing fee with each breed standard test.
- Failure to take and pass breed tests will result in non-Group approval.

Visiting Judge Exempt List

Visiting judges on the Exempt list will be approved to judge unlimited assignments in the United States.

Invitees being considered must be approved by the Judges Review Committee based on merit reports submitted by AKC Executive Field Representatives indicating above average abilities and consistently selecting dogs of quality in each and every breed.

Reports: Two “Does Not Meet Expectations” from AKC Executive Field Representatives within a two year period will result in the visiting judge being removed from the list. All other judges will be limited to eight All Breed assignments per year and unlimited Specialties.

AKC CODE OF SPORTSMANSHIP

PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.