
The NAVHDA Apprentice Judge Program

This pamphlet addresses the procedures for becoming a NAVHDA Judge. You will find the information to be quite complete and useful. Free information packets and brochures defining other sanctioned NAVHDA guidelines and events are available from the **NAVHDA International Office, P.O. Box 520, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60006-0520. Telephone 847.253.6488, Fax 847.255.5987, Email navoffice@navhda.org.**



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Welcome

Congratulations on your commitment to the NAVHDA philosophy and your desire to become a NAVHDA Judge. Completing the Judge Program is a demanding and rewarding challenge. The number of dogs you have trained and handled, your participation within your chapter, your hunting experience and your ability to “read” dogs will all enter into your total readiness to be appointed as a NAVHDA Judge. Participation in Handler Clinics, apprenticeships and a willingness and ability to travel are important links indicating your personal commitment to the NAVHDA Judge Program and the privilege of appointment. The Executive Council considers the recommendations of the Director of Judge Development and the Judges when making appointments. These recommendations are based on your Apprentice Judge score cards, your test reports and on the reports submitted by the Judges with whom you have worked. Each Judge appointment is unique and considered separately by the Executive Council.

three year window of your application.

4. Attend a sanctioned NAVHDA Handler Clinic within the three year window of your application.
5. Submit two letters of recommendation from active NAVHDA members with your apprentice judge application.

When you have completed the minimum requirements and feel you are ready to actively pursue your goal to become a NAVHDA Judge, complete the Apprentice Judge Application included in this packet and mail it to: **Director of Judge Development, NAVHDA, PO Box 520, Arlington Heights, IL 60006; or fax: 847-255-5987, email: navoffice@navhda.org.**

Once your application has been reviewed and accepted, you will be listed as an Approved Apprentice and you will receive a copy of *NAVHDA Aims, Programs, Test Rules*.

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Quality Control

The most important factor in determining the success of NAVHDA tests is the quality of judging. It must be uniform, objective and in accordance with NAVHDA rules at all times. Only the Judges have the ability, the power and the opportunity to maintain standardized testing of versatile hunting dogs. Judging is a special privilege and responsibility.

The conduct of Judges and Apprentices must show consideration for the handler and exemplify good field manners at all times. Although NAVHDA Judges and Apprentices do not wear uniforms, they must be aware of their appearance and the manner in which they present themselves to the public. Their dress should be in keeping with the responsibility.

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Apply to Become an Approved Apprentice Judge

To apply for Apprentice Judge status you must complete the following requirements:

1. Be a NAVHDA International member in good standing.
2. Be at least 18 years old.
3. Train and handle a dog in a sanctioned Utility Preparatory or Utility Test with a minimum of a Prize III score within the

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The Duties of an Apprentice

1. It is your responsibility to contact the Chapter Secretary where you would like to apprentice and identify yourself as an approved NAVHDA Apprentice Judge. The local chapters choose Apprentice Judges for their tests. A maximum of two Apprentice Judges are allowed per judging group. You must notify the Test Secretary in advance if you are unable to apprentice for an assigned test. Failure to do so will be noted in your apprentice folder.
2. Your evaluations cannot be included in the scoring of the dogs. However, you are strongly encouraged to ask questions during the testing process and discrepancies between the scores of Judges and Apprentice judges will be explained.
3. You must submit a short report for each test you judge as an apprentice within two weeks. The report should include descriptions of any problems you encounter at the test, suggestions for test improvement and comments on your learning experiences of the day. Mail this report to the Director of Judge Development. Apprentice Judge reports are the basis for recommendation for Judge appointment to the Executive Council and assist the Director of Judge Development when advising apprentices.
4. **You must** submit the Apprentice Judge Year End Activity Report by December 1st of each year.

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Requirements to Become a NAVHDA Approved Judge

1. Meet all requirements set forth for Apprentice Judges.
2. Submit satisfactory reports in a timely fashion to the Director of Judge Development during your apprenticeship. These reports and the judges' evaluations of your performance will be presented to the Executive Council.
3. Attend a sanctioned NAVHDA Handler Clinic or Judge's Workshop within the three years prior to January 1st of the year in which the apprentice is considered for approval.
4. Successfully train and handle a dog you own in a NAVHDA Utility Test with a minimum of a Prize III score or train and handle a dog you own in the Invitational Test within the three years prior to January 1st of the year in which the apprentice is considered for approval.

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Submit Your Application

Once you have met all of the above requirements and you think you are ready to take on the responsibilities of a NAVHDA Judge, submit a resume of all your past activity to the Director of Judge Development. Your name must be submitted for consideration by December 1st prior to the upcoming Annual Meeting.

Your resume should include the following information:

1. Complete the Judge Application
2. Dogs handled. List the names of the dogs, the chapters, the dates of each test, test levels and the scores achieved.
3. Dogs apprenticed. Include the chapters and dates of the tests, and the number of dogs judged within each test level.
4. Handler Clinics and Judges Workshops. List the dates and chapters of each Handler Clinic and Workshop attended.
5. Chapter activities. Mention any duties or offices held within the chapter, and clinics or activities in which you took part.
6. Related Activities. Include any dog related activities outside of NAVHDA in which you have been involved.
7. Reason for wanting to be a NAVHDA Judge. Write a paragraph explaining why you are requesting appointment as a NAVHDA Judge.

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As a NAVHDA Approved Judge:

1. You are required to attend a NAVHDA Judges Workshop every three years.
2. You are also required to handle a dog in a Natural Ability, Utility Preparatory, Utility or Invitational Test every third year.
3. When assigned to judge a test, you must submit an evaluation of the performance of each participating apprentice, and a test report.
4. All NAVHDA Judges are brought up for review by the Executive Council annually and qualified persons are reappointed for the following year.