

USABC JUDGES REQUIREMENTS

Latest Revision 10/18/22

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The outlined criteria and guidelines required for judging with The United States American Bulldog Club (USABC) Sanctioned events. The steps provided within an organization in order to provide documentation of reference for applicants and to identify the appropriate criteria for a “fast track” approval of judges. Supplying appropriate judges and continued education is at the forefront for the United States American Bulldog Club.

CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Judges will, at all times, abide by the USABC Code of Ethics, as seen here:
<https://usamericanbulldog.com/codeofethics>
2. At all times, the conduct and behavior of the Judge should operate under the motivation of:
 - a. Promoting responsible and ethical exhibition of dogs
 - b. Continuously sustain a safe environment for dogs, exhibitors and spectators at all times.
 - i. Judges have sole discretion to dismiss handlers or dogs that they determine to be unsafe. Judges may dismiss any exhibitors that behave in an unsportsmanlike manner, or dogs that are showing dangerous, uncontrolled, or aggressive behavior.
 - c. Upholding sportsmanlike conduct for all participants
 - d. Encouraging greater participation in dog sports by mentoring youth, new competitors and apprentice judges.
 - e. Maintaining the integrity of USABC by consistent judging and awarding of titles.

APPRENTICE JUDGES

The USABC Apprentice Judge level is the first level of judging for USABC.

USABC Apprentice Judges must:

1. Be a member in good standing with USABC.
2. Apprentice and receive a favorable rating (submitted in writing to the USABC Board of Directors) from three separate Judges during at least two separate events. Recognized events for apprenticeship will be honored through any of the following organizations; USABC, UKC, NKC, ABA, or ABNA, any AWDF affiliated club, NARA, USMRA, PSA, NWDA, IronDog, IWPA, APA, ABRA.
3. Apprenticeship must be completed within a two-year period.
4. The Apprentice Judge must complete score sheets and review similarities and discrepancies in assessment with their mentor Judge.
 - a. These must be submitted as part of the application for approval of apprenticeship.
5. Pass a written examination, administered by USABC, on the proper structure and temperament of the American Bulldog
 - a. The Apprentice Judge should review the strengths and weaknesses of dogs in the ring as they compare to the breed standard with their mentor Judge

After completion of Apprenticeship assignments, a Probationary Judge must complete a minimum of a 12-month probationary period, during which they must:

1. Conduct their first judging assignment under the supervision of a fully-appointed USABC Judge and receive a favorable rating (submitted in writing to the USABC Board of Directors) from this Judge.
2. Probationary Judges are only allowed to award titles in the venues where they have trained and titled minimally one American Bulldog. Temperament testing may be performed by Probationary Judges that have been pre-approved by the Board.
 - a. Additional titles may be permitted after completing apprenticeship and achieving endorsement from a fully-appointed USABC Judge or recognized organization, after majority vote by the USABC Board of Directors.
3. Be voted on and approved by the USABC Board of Directors at the completion of the probationary period.

SENIOR JUDGES

The USABC Senior Judge is the highest level of judging for USABC. Only Senior Judges are approved to oversee apprentice judging assignments or judge the USABC Breed Suitability Test (BST). Probationary judges can be conditionally approved by the Board to judge the BST.

USABC Senior Judges must:

1. Have met all the requirements of the Apprentice Judge level
2. Complete the requirements of the probationary period
3. Be approved by a majority vote of the USABC Board of Directors

In order to maintain recognition by USABC as Senior Judge, the individual must:

1. Must be actively competing in at least one dog sport and title at least one dog to any performance title per four-year period
2. If this requirement is not met, the individual must receive a waiver by majority vote from the USABC Board of Directors

Full list of titles may be found here: <https://usamericanbulldog.com/titles>

“FAST-TRACK” JUDGE APPROVAL

In recognition of existing programs where an individual may have achieved adequate training and experience, USABC offers a “Fast Track” approval process.

Fast Track

An individual who is currently licensed to judge in AKC, USABC, UKC, NKC, ABA, or ABNA, any AWDF affiliated club, NARA, USMRA, PSA, NWDA, IronDog, IWPA, APA, ABRA may be fast tracked as a Probationary level judge in USABC.

- Any judge admitted to Fast Track will need to pass a written examination, administered by USABC, on the proper structure and temperament of the American Bulldog.
- An individual who has personally trained and handled (HOT) at least one American Bulldog to SCH3/IPO3/IGP3 or FH and at least 1 other dog to a Level 1 and/or have competed at a Level 3 in a Championship event.

AND

- Has three letters of recommendation from licensed judges and one exhibitor,

AND

- Approved by a majority vote of the USABC Board of Directors.