

NORTH AMERICAN FLYBALL ASSOCIATION, INC.®

APPENDIX D

NAFA® Judges Training Program

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Introduction

The NAFA® Rules of Racing (RR) and Corporate Policies & Procedures (CPP) Manuals are designed to ensure fair and equal treatment for all competitors. As a NAFA® judge, you are authorized to enforce and uphold the rules within the NAFA® rulebook. As a representative of NAFA®, you are required to represent NAFA® in a positive manner while discharging your duties. Being friendly, courteous, diplomatic, fair and impartial are all required qualities necessary to represent NAFA®.

The Manual outlines numerous rules and policies that NAFA® judges need to ensure are adhered to, but there are two basic premises that all judges should keep in mind at all times:

- I. NAFA® is founded on fairness and sportsmanship! A judge must leave exhibitors and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage.
- II. The safety and well being of the dogs and exhibitors shall be foremost.

Code of Conduct

As a representative of NAFA®, a judge's behavior and appearance reflect upon NAFA®, the host club and the sport in general and should be professional at all times. Being professional includes, but is not limited to the following:

- The judge is expected to be friendly to all competitors.
- Questions posed by exhibitors or spectators should be answered thoroughly in a courteous and respectful manner.
- The judge should be sympathetic to the needs of the competitors, but firm in enforcing the Rules of Racing and Corporate Policies & Procedures of NAFA®.
- A judge must leave exhibitors and spectators with the feeling that each team was given an equal opportunity and no team was given an unfair advantage
- To prevent the perception of 'favoritism', the head judge should not wear any item that shows team affiliation during the discharge of their duties. (It is highly encouraged, but not required, that relief judges do not wear team apparel while judging.)
- A judge should refrain from engaging in heated debates with disgruntled exhibitors. At no time during a judging assignment, should a judge lose his or her temper with an exhibitor or use foul language with anyone.
- At no time during a judging assignment should a judge consume alcohol.

Requirements to Begin the Training Program

Initial requirements to begin the training program are:

1. The individual must be in good standing with NAFA®
2. The individual must be at least 18 years of age
3. The individual must possess a current copy of the NAFA® Rules of Racing and Corporate Policies & Procedures Manual

The individual should submit a completed form C.5 to the NAFA® Judges Committee to obtain a copy of the Judges Education & Training Manual and Assignment Evaluation Forms.

NOVICE JUDGE:

Overview:

During NAFA® sanctioned tournaments, any decisions rendered by a NAFA® approved judge are considered “Final” when they concern infractions that occurred during racing or are violations of the NAFA® Corporate Policies and Procedures. Managing that authority responsibly requires a thorough understanding of all duties of a NAFA® judge.

Novice Judges must be committed to learning the necessary information and skills before becoming a NAFA® Approved Judge.

Assignments:

- ☐ Box judging assignment
- ☐ Line judging assignment
- ☐ Observational assignment
- ☐ Measuring training
- ☐ Table assignment
- ☐ Completion of the exams

Box Judging:

The Novice Judge is required to box judge a minimum of 25 races under a Supervising or Approved Judge.

Learning objectives:

- Knowledge of the responsibilities of the Box Judge (*CPP Ch. 5 a – e*)
- Identification of all infractions signaled by the box judge (*CPP Ch. 8.3 a,c,e,i,k*)

Line judging:

The Novice Judge is required to line judge a minimum of 25 races under a Supervising or Approved Judge.

Learning objectives:

- Knowledge of the responsibilities of the Line Judge (*CPP Ch. 5 a-e, g*)
- Identification of all infractions signaled by the line judge (*CPP Ch. 8.3 a,b,i,l,m*)
- Familiarization with the C2 form and responsibilities of the line judge in relation to that form (*Appendix C*)

Observational assignment:

The Novice judge is required to observe a Supervising Judge perform the Head Judge duties for a minimum of 25 races.

Learning objectives:

- Set-up, function and testing of the Electronic Judging System (EJS)
- Ensuring all equipment is within expected standards (racing lanes, jumps and boxes) (*RR Ch. 1.1 b-e, 1.2, 2.2, 2.3 a-b, 2.4 a*)
- Familiarization of relationship between line judge, box judge, scoring table and head judge (*CPP Ch. 5 a-g*)
- Observation of interaction between the head judge and competitors
- Identification of infractions signaled by the Supervising Judge and how the action of the dog or handler being signaled violated the Rules of Racing (*RR Ch 6-8*)

Measuring training:

The Novice Judge is required to observe a Judge measure height dogs at three different tournaments over three different weekends. The first two measuring observations may be under a Supervising or Approved Judge, but the third must be performed under a Supervising Judge. The Novice Judge will demonstrate the ability to set up the wicket and practice measure (i.e. unofficial measures) a minimum of 5 dogs at each of these three assignments.

Learning objectives:

- Rules governing measuring (*RR Ch. 4*)
- Proper set-up of the wicket
- Identification of a proper stand as outlined in the NAFA® Rulebook (*RR Ch. 4 m*)
- Identification of the proper place on the dog (withers) to take the measurement (*RR Ch. 4 m*)
- Demonstrate a proper rapport with the dog being measured
- Ability to read the measurement labeled on the wicket obtained during measuring

Table Assignment:

The Novice Judge is required to work the scoring table for a minimum of 25 races under a Supervising or Approved Judge.

Learning Objectives:

- Familiarization with procedures used to record times for a tournament

- Familiarization with process of assigning times for heats when interference occurs (*RR Ch. 8.3 f*)
- Familiarization with a properly documented C2 form (*Appendix C*)
- Familiarization of the interaction between the scoring table and head judge

Judge's Examinations:

After completing the assignments lists above, the Novice Judge should submit the following to the NAFA® Judges Committee:

1. The completed C.16 indicating satisfactory completion of all assignments.
2. A list of all items/infractions that a line judge and box judge must observe for while carrying out their duties.
3. A written essay covering how to set-up the wicket and an explanation of what is considered an acceptable stand as described in the NAFA® Rules of Racing & Corporate Policies and Procedures Manual.

Upon receipt of the above items, the judges committee will forward the applicant the Novice Judge's Exam. A passing score on the exam is 80%.

Objective of the Novice Judge's Examination:

- Ensure that the Novice judge has a through knowledge of the NAFA® Rules of Racing & Corporate Policies and Procedures Manual and the duties of all judges working the ring at events sanctioned by the North American Flyball Association. (*RR Ch. 1 – 8*)

Criteria for advancement to Apprentice judge status:

The Novice judge will be promoted to the level of Apprentice judge upon satisfactory completion of all assignments. From the date of promotion, the Apprentice judge has one year to complete the Apprentice judge assignments and to apply for promotion to Provisional judge status.

Failure to complete any portion of the Novice Judge's training program to the satisfaction of the Judges Committee will result in additional assignments being required of the Novice Judge prior to promotion. The number and nature of the additional assignments are at the discretion of the Judge's Committee and will be designed to remediate any area of expertise deemed to be lacking by the Novice judge.

APPRENTICE JUDGE:

Overview

The Apprentice Judge is expected to have a thorough understanding of the duties of all judges working at a tournament and of the NAFA® Rules of Racing and Policies & Procedures Manual. Under the supervision of a NAFA® appointed Supervising Judge, the Apprentice Judge will demonstrate his or her knowledge of the rules and ability to apply them while judging a NAFA® sanctioned event.

Assignments:

- ☐ Judge a minimum of 25 races at three different tournaments on different weekends under a minimum of two different NAFA® Supervising Judges.
- ☐ Measure a minimum of 8 dogs at three different tournaments on different weekends under the supervision of two different NAFA® Supervising Judges.
- ☐ Oral quiz to be administered by the NAFA® Supervising Judge.

Learning Objective:

- Ability to accurately set-up the wicket and measure dogs
- Ability to identify and signal infractions as outlined in the NAFA® Rules of Racing & Policies & Procedures Manual
- Ability to explain the nature of infractions to competitors
- Ability to control the racing ring
- Ability to interact appropriately with exhibitors
- Development of personal judging style

Evaluation procedure:

The Apprentice judge will be evaluated by the NAFA® Supervising judge on his or her ability to perform the functions of a NAFA® judge. At each assignment an evaluation form will be completed by the NAFA® Supervising Judge.

Criteria for Promotion to Provisional Status:

Once all assignments have been completed, the Apprentice judge will forward all appropriate forms and evaluations to the NAFA® Judges Committee for consideration of promotion to Provisional judge status. The committee will consider the application and make a recommendation to the NAFA® Board of Directors regarding promotion. The chairman of the Judges committee will notify the applicant of the decision of the NAFA® Board of Directors. If promotion occurs, the newly appointed Provisional judge has one year from the date of promotion to complete the Provisional judge assignments and apply for promotion to Approved judge status.

Failure to complete any portion of the Apprentice Judge's training program to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors will result in additional assignments being required of the Apprentice Judge prior to promotion. The number and nature of the additional assignments are at the discretion of the Board of Directors and will be designed to remediate any area of expertise deemed to be lacking by the Apprentice Judge.

PROVISIONAL JUDGE:

The Provisional Judge is to demonstrate the ability to perform the functions of a NAFA® Approved Judge without supervision.

Assignments:

- ☐ Judge a minimum of 25 races at three tournaments on 3 different weekends. Must judge a minimum of 40 races during one of those assignments.
- ☐ Must be the measuring judge at two tournaments on two different weekends and measure a minimum of 8 dogs at each tournament.
- ☐ Receive an evaluation by both the Regional Director & Tournament Director from each assignment

Learning Objective:

- Ability to perform the functions of a NAFA® Approved Judge without relying on the immediate input that is provided by a Supervising Judge.
- Establish a confident ring presence while managing the racing at a NAFA® sanctioned tournament.

Criteria for Promotion to Approved Status:

Once all assignments have been completed, the Provisional Judge will forward all appropriate forms and evaluations to the NAFA® Judges Committee for consideration of promotion to Approved Judge status. The committee will consider the application and make a recommendation to the NAFA® Board of Directors regarding promotion. The chairman of the NAFA® Judges Committee will notify the applicant of the decision of the NAFA® Board of Directors.

Failure to complete any portion of the Provisional Judge's training program to the satisfaction of the Board of Directors will result in additional assignments being required of the Provisional Judge prior to promotion. The number and nature of the additional assignments are at the discretion of the Board of Directors and will be designed to remediate any area of expertise deemed to be lacking by the Provisional Judge.