



## **AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD CLUB OF AMERICA®**

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### **Official ASCA Guidelines/Code of Ethics for Conformation Judges**

1. ASCA Judges are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with these Guidelines set forth by the Australian Shepherd Club of America Board of Directors. Failure to comply with these guidelines subjects a judge to possible disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA Judging privileges.
2. ASCA Conformation Judges carry a tremendous amount of responsibility. They function as a guiding voice of the Australian Shepherd and should represent the highest ideals in terms of honesty, integrity, impartiality and knowledge of the sport and the breed.
3. The approval to judge ASCA events is a privilege and is not a right or reward. Suspensions in other registries relevant to the task of judging will be a consideration in the approval and maintenance of judging privileges.
4. All Judges and applicants must agree to abide by the ASCA Judges Code of Ethics.
5. ASCA has the right to refuse, suspend or revoke the ASCA judging license of any person in violation of ASCA rules, or for the failure to comply with the guidelines set forth in the ASCA Judges Code of Ethics. Failure to comply with these guidelines, or any ASCA rules, subjects a judge to possible disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA Judging privileges. Judges will be notified if such action is being considered, the reason for its consideration, and given the opportunity to reply.

#### **RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. ASCA Judges should have thorough breed knowledge, understanding of the Breed Standard and full comprehension of the rules concerning ASCA's Conformation Program. They are expected to demonstrate efficient ring procedure and control. It is their responsibility to keep up to date with current changes in both the program rules and Breed Standard.
2. Judges are expected to continue the education process throughout their career.
3. Judges are to be professional in carrying out their duties and must not allow personal preferences to interfere with the stated guidelines upon which they judge animals.
4. It is essential that exhibitors have complete faith in the impartiality of their judges. A judge's actions and decisions should leave no doubt that they were made based solely on the merits of the dogs presented to them on that day.

## **CONDUCT:**

1. The general conduct of judge, both inside and out of the ring, should be above reproach. Judges should avoid conduct and casual remarks that might be misconstrued or misinterpreted such as expressing favoritism or specific criticism of dogs or exhibitors.
2. Prior to the completion of a judging assignment, a judge shall not act as a spectator at the same conformation event at which he is scheduled to judge.
3. When officiating at a show, the judge shall not:
  - a) Discuss the merits or faults of the dogs with the stewards, attendants, or spectators during the assignment.
  - b) Address handlers or dogs in the ring by name
  - c) Hold, have control of, or groom any dog on the show grounds during his assignment that is not wholly owned or co-owned by the judge.
  - d) While officiating, a judge should not ask individuals:
    - Who owns the dog.
    - From whom the dog was purchased.
    - What bloodlines the dog is out of.
4. A judge shall not personally exhibit a dog in Conformation in the same state as his assignment four (4) days prior to his assignment.
5. When attending social functions organized by the event-giving club where exhibitors are present, a judge is expected to exercise particular discretion in discussing individual exhibitors, dogs or breeders.
6. A judge or their family members should never solicit or promote assignments on the judge's behalf.
  - a) Solicitation is the repeated contact and/or the use of influence, persuasion, or coercion in an effort to obtain a judging assignment.
  - b) Promotion is a judge's or their immediate family member's attempt to sell or popularize the judge or their judging assignments through verbal or written advertising and/or publicity.
7. Although a judge cannot directly control who enters under him, he should advise potential exhibitors not to enter under him when he feels there is a possible conflict of interest to avoid improprieties or perceived improprieties. Examples of such conflicts might be:
  - An employer or employee
  - A relative
  - A person with whom the judge co-own dogs
  - A person with whom the judge is traveling or housing with.