



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

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### **Code of Ethics for ASCA Judges**

- A. ASCA Judges and Judge applicants must agree to conduct themselves in accordance with this Code of Ethics set forth by the Board of Directors of the Australian Shepherd Club of America.
- B. ASCA 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.
- C. ASCA has the sole 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 provisions set forth in this Code of Ethics. Failure to comply with the Code of Ethics, or any ASCA program rules, subjects a Judge to disciplinary action by the ASCA Board of Directors, including the possible revocation of ASCA judging privileges. Judges will be notified if such an action is being considered, provided with the reason for its consideration, and given the opportunity to reply.
- D. 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 considered in the approval and maintenance of ASCA judging privileges.

### **Responsibilities**

- A. ASCA Judges will have thorough knowledge and understanding of the rules and regulations governing the program in which they are judging.
- B. ASCA Judges will have the safety and welfare of the stock, dog, and handler as the judge's foremost concern in reviewing the trial conditions and in judging a working trial.
- C. It is the Judge's responsibility to keep up to date with current changes in the program rules for which they are judging. Judges are expected to continue their education process throughout their careers.
- D. 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 the dogs or exhibitors.
- E. 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 that day.

### **Conduct**

- A. The Judge's conduct must always be impartial, dignified, and respectful. The Judge's actions and professional comportment must be above reproach. Judges will avoid conduct and casual remarks that might be misconstrued or misinterpreted such as expressing favoritism or specific criticism of dogs or exhibitors.
- B. A Judge or their family members should never solicit or promote assignments on the Judge's behalf.
- C. When attending social functions organized by the event-giving club where exhibitors are present, a Judge is expected to exercise discretion in discussing individual exhibitors, dogs, or breeders.
- D. When officiating at a show, the Judge must not:
  - 1. Discuss the merits or faults of the dogs or handlers (exhibitors) with the stewards, attendants, or spectators during the assignment.
  - 2. Hold, have control of, or groom any dog on the show grounds during their assignment that is not owned or co-owned by the Judge.
  - 3. Ask individuals: Who owns the dog? From whom the dog was purchased? What bloodlines are the dog out of?

- E. A Judge will not judge any dog which is owned or co-owned by the Judge. An exception is made in the case of an Agility Judge, in accordance with Section 1.3 of the Agility Rules. **Effective June 1, 2023.**
- F. A Judge will not give advice or guidance on how to handle their dog to an exhibitor during an event or class the Judge is judging. This does not prevent the Judge from answering appropriate questions, giving course instructions, informing an exhibitor where to go, or informing the exhibitor of proper procedures.
- G. Any alterations or changes in scores or placements must be initialed by the Judge per the program rules of the program in which they are judging.
- H. Judges must score based solely on the dog and exhibitor's performance as a team as described in the ASCA program rules, and in no case will judging be based (nor any consideration be given) on the identity or reputation of the exhibitor, owner, breeder, or the dog's lineage.
- I. Judges will remember that trials are staffed largely or entirely with unpaid volunteers, and will treat stock handlers, tracklayers, ring stewards, timers, helpers, exhibitors, and spectators with due courtesy and consideration.
- J. Judges will be professional in demeanor and arrive appropriately dressed for the judging assignment, with due consideration of anticipated weather, arena, and ring conditions.

## **Special Rules for Conformation and Tracking Judges**

- A. When officiating at a trial:
  - 1. A Judge must not judge any dog that is co-owned or bred by the Judge's immediate family.
  - 2. A Judge, while judging a tracking event, must not place themselves in positions on the track to indicate the correct direction of the track, nor place markers or articles to clearly indicate corners.
- B. Prior to the completion of a conformation judging assignment, a Judge will not act as a spectator at the same conformation event at which they are scheduled to judge.
- C. A Judge will not personally exhibit a dog in conformation in the same state as their assignment four days prior to their assignment as a conformation judge.

## **Definitions**

**Solicitation** is the repeated contact and/or the use of influence, persuasion, or coercion to obtain a judging assignment.

**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.