

WELCOME TO
THE JUDGE'S CORNER
MONTHLY NASDA NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 1.2 FEBRUARY 2023



UPCOMING JUDGE'S WORKSHOP DATES

EASTERN U.S.

April 7 Hopkins, SC
Hosted by: NASDA

WESTERN U.S.

May 27-29 Lodi, CA
Hosted by: All Dog Sports Tails &
Trails

SOUTHERN U.S.

September 22-24 Mountain Home, AR
Hosted by: Mountain Home
Dog Sports

If you are interested in hosting a Judge's
Workshop in your area or region contact
Jessica at
judging@NASDA.dog

2023 NASDA INVITATIONAL NEWS

June 21-26
Arlee, MT

Hosted by: Montana K9 Sports

The 2022 Invites have been posted
on the dashboard of the NASDA
website for all Showcase and
Invitational invitees!

Committee planning is underway!

Contact Jessica Clough to be part of
the Championship planning.

Montanak9sports@yahoo.com

Welcome to our Judging Program

Sandi Talerico - Davison, MI
Erin McDaniel – Dayton, OH

FROM THE MOBILE DESK OF THE JUDGING DIRECTOR

2023 is off with a BANG!

The NASDA event calendar is filling up fast and clubs all around the country are announcing all their upcoming trials!

With the formation of so many new clubs, and more new Judges each month it's important to note the value in clear, written communication between Judges and Clubs when it comes to the hiring process.

It is highly recommended that Judges of Record for NASDA trials work with the club and/or trial secretary to create a written Judging Contract that explicitly details the terms of hire. The contract should include, but not limited to: arrival and departure dates, run fees, meals, lodging/accommodations, travel expenses, and judge's dog's runs.

Once the contract is agreed upon by both parties, the club may formally hire the judge and include them in their trial application and premium.

~Jessica Clough, Judging Director

Meet the Judge

Senior Judge/Club Liaison, Beckie Bowers

Originally from Nevada, Beckie has been involved with NASDA since the early days and has been a judge since 2017. In 2021, she relocated to Arkansas, where she started her own club, Mountain Home Dog Sports, and has been spreading NASDA joy around the southeast. Beckie recently became Club Liaison and is happy to help your club grow! She also enjoys competing with her Labrador, Shock, who has her Trailing and Locating Grand Champion title. Beckie is committed to promoting NASDA and helping dog enthusiasts in the region and is excited to see what the future holds for the sport.

Judge Role vs Competitor Role

NASDA Judges are often very fortunate to be able to run their own dogs at events where they are also officiating!

It is very important for each judge to ensure they act appropriately when they move between the Judge role and the Competitor role at NASDA events.

Interactions between a Judging Official and a Judge-Handler should appear the same as interactions with all normal competitors.

Judging Official Etiquette: friendly and welcoming, precise and clear, professional and formal.

Competitor Etiquette: focused on their own dog, focused on the search area, focused on working with their dog, obeys judging directions.

- It is important for Judging Officials and Judge-Handlers to refrain from chit-chat before, DURING, and after a run
- It is important for Judging Officials and Judge-Handlers to refrain from discussing searches and hides while the class is currently being judged
- It is important for Judging Officials to speak to Judge-Handlers in the same manner they speak to all competitors
- It is important for Judge-Handlers to show respect for the Judging Official's calls and refrain from commentary during and immediately following their run

As soon as a Judge takes a dog to a search area, they are in the Competitor role. This means, as a competitor, they must be respectful of other competitors, and be sure to demonstrate appropriate etiquette while waiting for their turn.

This includes respectfully waiting for their turn, and respectfully asking permission to move up in the run order ahead of teams already lined up, as well as graciously understanding they may need to wait for teams in front of them to have their turn.

It is also very important to demonstrate professionalism by refraining from discussing another Judge's search/hides with competitors.

Whether you're a hired official, or just entered at a trial, when you step to the start line with your dog – you are a Competitor and

DID YOU KNOW?

There is a new standardized Apprenticeship Tracking Spreadsheet for Apprentice and Provisional Judges who are tracking their Shadow and Apprentice Judge work? Email me for a copy of it!

Judging Challenges

Judging Criteria – Making The Call

1. Consider your Intent

When a judge chooses a hide location it is important to consider the intention of the hide. What is the challenge? What do you want the team to “take away” from the search?

If you place a hide on an elevated surface- what is your intention? For dogs to locate elevated odor and commit to an elevated location.

If you place a hide inside a cabinet-what is your intention? For dogs to locate odor emanating from the cabinet and commit to indicating source is inside.

Being clear with one's intention will help to begin to answer the next question, “How will this be judged?”

2. Consider your Criteria

After setting a hide and BEFORE judging begins it is vital that a judge spends some time evaluating the hide location and the conditions within the search environment to determine where dogs may be able to access source odor from and the different locations surrounding the source that dogs may choose to indicate source from.

Judges must have a solid understanding of how odor might travel for each hide location and be able to make The Call when a dog shows commitment from one of the possible locations surrounding source.

Judges must understand the ranges of drive, tenacity, confidence, searching styles and hunting styles will lead different dogs to different places surrounding the source. The commitment to an area immediately surrounding source should be a judge's main focus.

In the next edition, I discuss this further and the need for **Flexibility** and **Consistency** in our judging criteria and the importance in seeing opportunities where dogs can teach us about odor!