

# Junior Showmanship

**Conformation  
Junior Showmanship  
Regulations, Guidelines  
for Judging Juniors in  
Conformation, Juniors  
in Performance Event  
Regulations**

**Amended to September 2020**  
Published by The American Kennel Club



An AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB Program



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

## AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT

The American Kennel Club® is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Founded in 1884, the AKC® and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

### THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB:

Records the parentage of approximately one million dogs annually, but is not itself involved in the sale of dogs and cannot therefore guarantee the health and quality of dogs in its registry.

Sponsors more than 15,000 dog competitions each year held by licensed and member clubs. Only dog clubs may be AKC members.

Supports and promotes the sport of purebred dogs.

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## Helpful Phone Numbers

To obtain a Junior Handler number:

Call . . . . . (919) 233-9767

Email . . . . . [juniors@akc.org](mailto:juniors@akc.org)

JR Certification forms:

Call . . . . . (919) 233-9767

Email . . . . . [juniors@akc.org](mailto:juniors@akc.org)

This form is also available for download on the AKC website.

Customer Service & Registration:

Call . . . . . (919) 233-9767

For ordering information, please refer to back cover.

## **Regulations For Junior Showmanship**

**Section 1. Approval of Classes.** Any club that is approved to hold a licensed or member all-breed show or a specialty show held apart from an all-breed show, may also be approved to offer Junior Showmanship competition at its show and/or in conjunction with a Junior Showcase event.

**Section 2. Amateur Status.** An individual listed as an agent is not eligible to compete in Juniors, nor any person who distributes rate cards or otherwise advertises themselves as handling dogs for pay in the show ring, or accepts payment for handling dogs. "Participation in Junior Showmanship is intended to encourage Juniors to learn how to care for and present different breeds. Part of the educational process could include apprenticeship or assisting professional handlers. Juniors may take their employers' dogs into the ring while still retaining amateur status."

**Section 3. Standard for Judging.** Junior Showmanship shall be judged solely on the ability and skill of the Juniors in handling their dogs as in the breed ring. The show qualities of the dogs shall not be considered. Junior Handlers shall not be required to exchange dogs. The judge must excuse a handler and dog from the ring if, in his opinion, the handler cannot properly control the dog.

**Section 4. Approval of Judges.** The criteria for eligibility to judge Junior Showmanship at an AKC® All Breed event include experience in at least two of the following and being a minimum of 18 years of age:

- Having been a Junior
- Being the Parent of a Junior
- Having been a Professional Handler
- Having taught handling classes
- Having judged Junior Showmanship at least three times at AKC All Breed Sanctioned Matches
- Having attended a seminar on the judging of Junior Showmanship in the last 24 months.

Any Junior no longer eligible to compete in Junior Showmanship Competition may apply for approval to judge Junior Showmanship.

Limited Status Junior Showmanship Judge will allow an individual to judge Juniors at a Specialty show for a breed they are approved to judge.

A Limited Status judge with approval to judge all breeds in a group may judge Junior Showmanship at a group show for those breeds.

The individual applicant must complete the application form and it will be handled under the same process as the current judging approval system.

The name and assignment of each judge shall be included in the list of judges sent to AKC for approval by show giving clubs. Junior Showmanship entries shall be included in computing judges' assignments under Chapter 7, Section 13, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. Any change in judges shall be handled in accordance with the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*.

**Section 5. Classes and Divisions.** The regular Junior Showmanship Classes shall be:

- (A) **Novice.** This shall be for boys and girls who are at least 9 years old and under 18 years old on the day of the show and who at the time entries close have not won three (3) first place awards, with competition present, in a Novice Class. A first place in Novice without competition leading to a Best Junior award with competition would count as one win towards moving to Open at a licensed or member show. Junior Handlers who win a third Novice Class with competition, if a win in Novice leads to a Best Junior with competition present it will count as one win towards moving to Open, after the closing of entries for a show are required to transfer their entry from the Novice Class to the Open Class by notifying the Superintendent or Show Secretary prior to the judging of the class at the show.
- (B) **Open.** This class shall be for boys and girls who are at least 9 years old and under 18 years old on the day of the show, and who have won three first place awards in a Novice Class or if a win in Novice leads to a Best Junior with competition present it will count as one win towards moving to Open in a licensed or member show.
- (C) **Master.** This class will be for boys and girls who are at least 9 years old and under 18 years on the day of the show, and who have won the 10 Best Junior wins with competition. The calendar for this class will be consistent with the eligibility dates for the AKC National Championship. All Juniors meeting the criteria for this class are required to enter the Master Class and must change their entry the day of the show if entries have already closed. Once the eligibility time frame for that year has passed all participants return to the Open Class to complete for the following year.

No entry may be changed or cancelled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries, prior to the closing date and hour for entries, except that a correction may be made from

one age division to another, as well as, move from Master to Open or Open to Novice if a win has been disallowed or the Junior miscalculated number of placements, provided this transfer is made by the Superintendent or Show Secretary prior to the judging of the class at the show.

- (D) **Junior, Intermediate and Senior Classes.** The Novice and Open regular classes may be divided by age into Junior, Intermediate and Senior Classes, provided the division is specified in the premium list. A Junior Class shall be for boys and girls who are at least 9 years old and under 12 years old on the day of the show. The Intermediate Class shall be for boys and girls who are at least 12 years old and under 15 years old on the day of the show. The Senior Class shall be for boys and girls who are at least 15 years old and under 18 years old on the day of the show.
- (E) **Best Junior Handler.** A club offering Junior Showmanship must offer Best Junior Handler. If a prize is offered, it must be described in the premium list in accordance with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 5, Section 4. The Junior Handler placed first in each of the regular Junior Showmanship Classes, if undefeated in any other Junior Showmanship Class at that show, shall automatically be eligible to compete for this prize.
- (F) **Reserve Best Junior Handler.** An All Breed club offering Junior Showmanship shall offer Reserve Best Junior Handler, a Group Club or Specialty Club has the option to offer Reserve Best Junior. If a prize is offered, it must be described in the premium list in accordance with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 5, Section 5. After the judge has awarded the Best Junior Handler, the second place winner from the class that the Junior was awarded Best Junior Handler is to return to the ring to compete for Reserve Best Junior Handler.

**Section 6. Armbands.** Armbands with the catalog numbers assigned to the Junior must be worn in the ring.

**Section 7. Eligibility of Dog.** Each dog entered in a regular Junior showmanship Class at an all-breed dog show must be an AKC recognized breed or FSS Breed with an AKC number and at least 6 months of age on the day of the event.

A Limited Breed Dog Club, Group Show, has the option to offer the opportunity for a Junior to show any breed eligible to be entered at an All breed event or a breed eligible to compete in that event including the Miscellaneous Class breeds. At Specialty Shows, only the breed for the specialty is eligible to be entered.

Dogs may be PAL, Full-, or Limited-Registered to compete in Junior Showmanship Classes, additionally,

spayed and neutered specimens are eligible for competition. A Foreign dog, from a registry accepted by AKC for Registration, of an AKC Recognized breed is eligible to be entered on it's foreign number in accordance with *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 11, Section 1.

The dog must be entered in one of the classes associated with the event or must be entered for Junior Showmanship only.

An eligible dog other than the one entered may be substituted. Such substitution must be accompanied by an official AKC entry form. The junior must have the AKC number of the substitute dog. All such substitutions must be made with the Superintendent or Show Secretary prior to the judging of the class at the show. Each dog must be owned or co-owned by the Junior Handler or by the Junior Handler's father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather, or grandmother, including the corresponding adopted, step and half relations, or by a permanent member of the Junior Handler's household as recorded with The American Kennel Club at the time entries close or an application for transfer of ownership must be sent to The American Kennel Club by the new owner within seven days after the last day of the show. BITCHES IN SEASON ARE NOT ELIGIBLE.

A Junior is limited to one substitution at a dog show. If one of the owners of the dog is a judge, the dog may be entered in Junior Showmanship Only to be exhibited by the Junior at an event where the judge is judging classes other than Junior Showmanship.

**Section 8. Premium List.** A club that has been approved to offer Junior Showmanship must list the classification in its premium list, with a description of the entry requirements for each class offered, and the name of the judge of each class. The number of entries in any or all classes may be limited, provided the limits are specified in the premium list. Junior Showmanship at FSS Open Shows is for exhibition only.

**Section 9. Entry Forms.** To be acceptable each entry form must meet all requirements of Chapter 11, Section 4 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* and must show in the appropriate areas the name and address of the Junior Handler, the Junior Handler's AKC number, the Class which the Junior Handler is entering, the Junior Handler's date of birth, and if the dog is not owned or co-owned by the Junior Handler, his relationship to the owner. The identification slip for the entry of the dog shall show the entry of Junior Showmanship and the Class.

**Section 10. Closing of Entries.** Entries for regular Junior Showmanship Classes shall close at the same time entries close for the show.

**Section 11. Judging Program.** The judging program shall list the Junior Showmanship Classes, the ring(s) in which they are to be judged, the name(s) of the judge(s), the hour of judging, and the number of entries in each class.

**Section 12. Catalog.** The complete information on any dog entered for Junior Showmanship shall be listed by classes in a separate section of the catalog following the regular classes. Such information shall include: The Junior Handler's number, the Junior Handler's name, the dog's name, the dog's registration number, dog's date of birth, breeder, sire, dam, owner, breed, and number in regular classes if applicable.

**Section 13. Ribbons and Prizes.** The color of ribbons or rosettes for Junior Showmanship Classes shall be:

- First Prize: Rose
- Second Prize: Brown
- Third Prize: Light Green
- Fourth Prize: Gray
- Participation Ribbon for Novice Class exhibitors that do not receive a placement at the option of the Club: Light Blue. This ribbon is not required to have the club name and date.
- Best Junior: Rose and Green
- Reserve Best Junior: Rose and Gray

Ribbons shall be at least 2 inches wide and approximately 8 inches long, and shall bear a facsimile of the AKC seal, the words Junior Showmanship, the name of the show-giving club and the date.

No money prizes shall be offered.

Gift cards/certificates, non-redeemable for cash or US Savings Bonds may be offered.

Clubs offering a scholarship as a prize must submit funds directly to the school the Junior is attending. Clubs may establish an account to maintain these funds until the time the Junior requests the award be sent to the school.

All other prizes must be described or value stated, and must be offered for outright award. No prize may be offered that is conditional upon the breed of the dog being handled.

**Section 14. Judge's Book.** Each club holding Junior Showmanship shall provide for the judge a judge's book, which shall contain a breed judging sheet with appropriate heading for each Junior Showmanship Class. The judge shall place the handlers first, second, third and fourth, and mark his/her book accordingly. Absentees should be noted in the judge's book along with the dogs excused and the reason therefore. The judge should also note the time that he/she commences, and the time that he/she finishes judging and shall sign the book.

**Section 15. Limited Classes.** A club that is approved to hold a licensed or member all-breed show may be approved to hold a Limited Junior Showmanship Class or Classes at its show. A club may have the option to be

approved to offer regular Junior Showmanship Classes and Limited Junior Showmanship Classes at the same show.

Limited Junior Showmanship Classes shall be open only to Junior Handlers who have qualified by reason of certain wins in Junior Showmanship competition as specified in the premium list within a specified period of about 12 months ending not more than 3 months prior to the date of the show; and may be further limited to Junior Handlers who reside within a specified geographical area, or who have qualified at shows held within a specified geographical area.

**Section 16. Exceptions for Limited Classes.**

All of these Regulations relating to regular Junior Showmanship Classes shall also apply to Limited Junior Showmanship Classes except that:

- (A) The premium list or a separate announcement may specify a closing date or acceptance of entries in Limited Junior Showmanship Classes later than the date for closing of entries in the show.
- (B) The dogs handled in Limited Junior Showmanship must meet the eligibility requirements outlined in Section 7 of these Regulations. They may, but need not, be entered in breed or obedience at the particular show. Any limitation or restriction on entries in a show shall not apply to dogs that are brought on the show premises only to be handled in Limited Junior Showmanship.
- (C) The information on dogs to be handled in Limited Junior Showmanship that are not entered in the show, and the names of the Junior Handlers, must be given in the catalog.
- (D) The age limits specified in Section 4 shall apply to the age of each Junior Handler at the time of the last win required to qualify for the Limited Junior Showmanship Class, rather than to the age on the date of the Limited Junior Showmanship competition.
- (E) If the entries in Limited Junior Showmanship warrant, the club may specify, in the first or in a later announcement, that preliminary classes will be held at the show, from which the judge(s) will select a specified number of Juniors to compete for Best Junior Handler, and no placements will be made in the preliminary classes.
- (F) If, after the close of entries for a Limited Junior Showmanship competition, it develops that for any reason a dog to be handled in the competition



cannot be shown, the Junior Handler may substitute another otherwise eligible dog, provided he supplies the Superintendent or Show Secretary with the required identifying information on the dog prior to the start of judging of the class in which the Junior Handler is to compete. (See Section 7.)

**Section 17. Records.** The Superintendent or Show Secretary shall forward to The American Kennel Club, with the records of the show, the judges' books for the Junior Showmanship Classes. A certificate will be issued from the American Kennel Club to each Junior Handler upon the recording of their third win in Novice with competition and the tenth Best Junior Handler win with competition during the eligibility timeframe. The Board of Directors shall determine, from time to time, whether a recording fee shall be required, and the amount of it.

## **Junior Showmanship Judging Guidelines**

**Section 1. Definition and Purpose.** Junior Showmanship classes are non-regular classes which are judged solely on the ability and skill of Juniors in handling their dogs as in the breed ring. The purpose of Junior Showmanship Competition is twofold: to introduce and encourage Juniors to participate in the sport of dogs; and to provide Juniors with a meaningful competition in which they can learn, practice, and improve in all areas of handling skill and sportsmanship. It is important that judges of Junior Showmanship Competition understand the definition and purpose of these classes and take seriously their role in guiding the future guardians of the sport. JUDGES ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE A GENUINE INTEREST IN JUNIORS AND IN JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP COMPETITION.

**Section 2. Limited Status Junior Showmanship Judge.** Limited Status will allow the individual to judge Juniors at a Specialty show of a breed they are approved to judge and if approved to judge all breeds in a group may judge Juniors at a Group Show for those breeds. Limited Status Judges may not judge Juniors at specialties for breeds they are not approved to judge, nor may they judge Juniors at all breed shows.

**Section 3. Prerequisites for Judges.** (See Page 1, Section 4) Those who judge Junior Showmanship must be familiar with the Junior Showmanship Rules and Regulations as well as all other Rules and Policies that apply to all judges. The occupational eligibility requirements in Chapter 7, Section 1, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* would apply to Junior Showmanship Judges, except that a professional handler may be approved. The Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges apply

to individuals approved to judge Junior Showmanship and it is therefore necessary to be thoroughly versed in these areas.

Judges must complete all provisional requirements for Breed or Junior Showmanship. They shall have demonstrated successfully their ability to conduct their ring in a consistent, businesslike and safe manner that will instill confidence in exhibitors and spectators. A Procedural Report for the Judging of Junior Showmanship will be used by the Field Representative to discuss any recommendations or procedural deficiencies and submitted to the judge's file. Continuation of deficiencies may result in changing the approval status to Limited Junior Showmanship.

**Section 4. Responsibilities of the Junior Showmanship Judge.** It is important for judges to be teachers by example. They should be prompt, courteous, patient and properly attired. Judges must be impartial and totally separate the handling ability of the Juniors they judge from any other consideration. As a judge of Juniors at an all breed event it is essential to be familiar with the appropriate presentation for every breed. Impartiality extends to eliminating from the judging process bias for or against the breed handled, friendships, external knowledge of a Junior's record of competition, or prior knowledge or assumption of the dog's training or preparation.

Judges may solicit or offer to judge Junior Showmanship. No assignment should be taken which does not meet the time and distance requirements of 200 miles and 30 days as set forth in the Guidelines for Judges.

Chapter 11, Section 13, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* would not apply to individuals approved to judge Junior Showmanship only. However, if Junior Showmanship Judges plan to exhibit or handle dogs at a show, or if dogs owned by them are to be entered, the judge should not attend pre-show social functions with other judges for that show or attend the judges' luncheon the day of the show.

If a Junior co-owns a dog with a judge, the dog may be entered in Junior Showmanship Only, at an event where the judge is judging classes other than Junior Showmanship.

**Section 5. Safety.** Juniors with varying degrees of experience and dogs with great differences in size, temperament and training need safe ring conditions. Judges must make every effort to ensure the safety of the Juniors and their dogs during competition. Judges should arrange or rearrange competitors in order of gaiting speed or size of dog to avoid crowding and instruct Juniors to leave adequate space between

themselves and the Junior in front of or behind them. Moving two dogs together (side by side) is discouraged as is any pattern which places any dog in close proximity to other dogs when lead control is at a minimum, e.g., on a loose lead, etc. In large classes judges should admit only as many Juniors into the ring as can be safely examined. Never hesitate to divide any class for any reason where the safety of the individuals or the dogs is involved. Likewise, do not hesitate to excuse from the ring any dog which is out of control, lame or which is otherwise ineligible to compete. Any dog showing signs of menacing or threatening behavior should be excused immediately. Any dog that attacks any individual in the ring shall be disqualified in accordance with Chapter 11, Section 8A, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. In the case of a disqualification the judge must inform the Junior that the dog is not eligible to be exhibited again at any AKC event, and complete the necessary form for Disqualifying a dog for attacking. Advise the Junior to speak with the AKC Field Representative about the reinstatement policy.

**Section 6. Judging Routine.** The actual routine of judging is to be consistent with the procedures utilized when judging conformation. The number of Juniors, size of the ring, ring conditions, weather and time of day will influence the actual procedures used. Judges will strive to evaluate competitors in an appropriate and consistent manner. It is essential that only the gaiting patterns and procedures used in regular dog show classes be used.

It is the responsibility of the judge to be aware of the appropriate presentation for all breeds, which is to include knowledge of which breeds are normally examined on a table. Upon request, the Superintendent or Show Secretary will provide the list of breeds entered in Junior Showmanship.

It is urged that the judge request each Junior to present their dog individually for examination, allowing the judge to observe the rapport between the junior and the dog while being set up on either the ground or the table. Judges should ask the Junior to show the dog's bite, although with younger Juniors judges should use their discretion. The procedure for completing the examination of the dogs should closely resemble that of breed judging but need only be cursory as the quality of the dog is not being evaluated. Judges should be consistent with every Junior, using the same gaiting patterns, the same procedural requests, and allowing each Junior approximately the same amount of time. Judges may revise the gaiting patterns when making final decisions. A judge should not confuse the ability of a Junior to take directions with the Junior's ability to handle his dog. Some freedom of expression and expertise should be allowed.

Judges should consider how their own movements in the ring might precipitate awkward and unusual handling results. For example, when examining the class as a whole in motion, the judge should be inside the circle; and when examining a class of standing or posed dogs the judge should not move from one side of the line to the other, creating unnecessary movements.

Judges should limit conversation with Juniors during competition to that which is absolutely necessary. However, judges should be prepared to answer Juniors' questions following judging and be able to provide positive comments and constructive criticism. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD QUESTIONS BE USED AS A MEANS OF TESTING A JUNIOR'S KNOWLEDGE. A suggestion: Should the Junior ask for comments following the judging, ask them to return with their dog, time permitting, and review their presentation.

**Section 7. Conflicts.** A Junior may have a conflict with their dog in another class. The judge may allow a Junior to enter the ring up until the time they have examined and gaited every dog in the class.

Should a Junior request to be excused to go show in another ring, they are permanently excused and may not return.

**Section 8. Judge's Examination and Evaluation.** The judge should examine and evaluate the class of Juniors in four basic areas: proper breed presentation, skill in the individual dog's presentation, knowledge of ring procedures, and appearance and conduct. The general rule in evaluating a handler's capabilities is ECONOMY OF MOTION. Handlers who use exaggerated motions and gestures in any phase of their presentation of the dog should be faulted. In essence, the judge should hardly be aware of the capable handler's presence while completing the dog's examination. In many respects a Junior Showmanship judge's principal consideration should be to find those Juniors who possess a "hand for dogs." Those handlers having this attribute neither over- nor under-handle their dogs. They present their dogs in a quiet, efficient manner. They are able to keep their dog's attention without dramatic or unnatural movements. They are able to gait their dogs in a collected trot, never distracting or interfering with the judge's vision of the dog.

**BREED PRESENTATION.** While the judge must consider all areas important in evaluating the overall capabilities of Juniors, it is doubly important both that the Junior present his dog in the proper manner for the breed being handled and that the judge be cognizant of the proper presentation for that breed. It is imperative,

therefore, that the judge have prior knowledge of the breeds which are to be presented and familiarity with the proper ways of handling those breeds, to include the appropriate place to examine each breed. Breeds designated as ramp optional may be judged on the ramp or ground at the discretion of the Judge. Mandatory ramp breeds must be judged on the ramp. Examination location for a breed **must** be consistent within the class. Please refer to the current table/ramp list available at the AKC website. If the Show Superintendent or Show Secretary does not furnish a list of those breeds in the Judging Program, then the judge should request the list well in advance of the show date. In the individual presentation of the dog the Junior should demonstrate the ability to handle the dog as it is handled in the breed ring, showing the dog to its best advantage in pose and in motion. During all phases of handling the Junior's concentration should be on the dog and not on the judge, but not to the extent that the Junior is unaware of what is taking place in the ring. Remember, you are judging the handler, but time should be spent looking at the dog to gain insight as to how well it is being handled.

1. Is the dog responsive to the handler? Do dog and handler work as a team?
2. Does the dog appear posed or interested at all times?
3. Is the dog under control?
4. Is the dog moved correctly to the best of its ability?
5. Are the dog's main faults being minimized?
6. Do both the dog and handler appear relaxed?
7. Is the dog presented with an apparent minimum of effort?

**KNOWLEDGE OF RING PROCEDURE.** The judge shall evaluate the ability of the Junior to follow directions, use space wisely, and execute the requested gaiting patterns. Juniors should appear "ring wise," be alert to the judging progression and be prepared for changes in the judging routine.

**APPEARANCE AND CONDUCT.** The judge should be aware of the appearance of both the handler and the dog. The Junior should be suitably dressed for the occasion, wearing clothing that will not hinder or detract from the presentation of the dog. The dog should be groomed and trimmed in the manner associated with the breed for conformation. However, the judge should not evaluate either the dress of the handler or the grooming of the dog, but rather that an effort has been made. Excessive grooming of the dog in the ring to gain the judge's attention is inappropriate and should be faulted accordingly.

The judge shall evaluate the general conduct of Juniors in the ring. Juniors should appear prepared, confident, businesslike and attentive. They should be courteous

to both the judge and their fellow exhibitors. Juniors are expected to handle their dogs without distracting the dogs of other competitors, and a Junior who crowds or disturbs other dogs should be faulted. A principle of Junior Showmanship is to afford the opportunity to learn the spirit of competition. Winning is important but is secondary to development of sportsmanship in competition. Judges who reward unsportsmanlike conduct or actions, regardless of a handler's other capabilities, compromise the very premise of Junior Showmanship.

Juniors should be alert to the needs of their dogs, realizing that the welfare of their dogs is important. Juniors are responsible for the control of their dogs at all times. However, Juniors who exhibit impatience or heavy-handedness with their dogs should be penalized.

**Section 9. The Judges Book.** After the final placings have been made in each class, judges must mark their books indicating their placements. After all classes have been judged and all placements marked, including absentees and excusals, the book must be signed and returned to the Superintendent or Show Secretary. The judge has the sole responsibility for his book, for its correctness and for its safekeeping. They should take proper care in the recording of armband numbers of their winners, seeing they are in the right place and clearly legible. The safekeeping of the book should be entrusted to no one except him/herself.

## **A Guide To Junior Showmanship Competition For Juniors**

**Section 1. Amateur Class.** An individual listed as an agent is not eligible to compete in Juniors, nor any person who distributes rate cards or otherwise advertises themselves as handling dogs for pay in the show ring, or accepts payment for handling dogs.

*“Participation in Junior Showmanship is intended to encourage Juniors to learn how to care for and present different breeds. Part of the educational process could include apprenticeship or assisting professional handlers. Junior may take their employers’ dogs into the ring while still retaining amateur status.”*

**Section 2.** Juniors are important to the sport of dogs. Juniors who learn about good sportsmanship, dogs, handling and dog shows will be valuable to the sport in the future. Junior Showmanship classes are offered at most dog shows. These classes are held so that young people can:

- Experience winning and losing among those who are similar in age.
- Learn the correct way to handle the breed they own.

- Practice handling skills in competition.
- Improve the way they handle their own dog.
- Prepare for handling dogs in the regular classes.

**Section 3.** Junior Showmanship classes are judged on the ability of the Junior to handle his or her dog. The quality of the dog is not judged. Juniors will be asked to demonstrate:

- Moving the dog with the rest of the class.
- Presenting the dog in the standing position proper to its breed (including the use of an examining table for those breeds normally judged on a table or ramp at the discretion of the judge, for breeds eligible to be examined on the ramp).
- Moving the dog individually in a regular pattern.

**Section 4.** Juniors are expected to know basic ring routines. They should be able to follow directions, use space wisely, and be familiar with gaiting patterns. Juniors should appear “ring wise,” alert to what is going on in the ring, and should be prepared for changes in the routine of judging.

**JUNIORS MUST BE ABLE TO CONTROL THEIR DOGS AT ALL TIMES.** Any Junior who cannot control his or her dog will be excused by the judge.

**Section 5. Appearance and Conduct.** Juniors should be clean, neat, and well-groomed. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to handle in and appropriate for dog shows. Clothing should not distract, limit or hinder the judge’s view of the dog.

Dogs should be groomed and trimmed as they would be for the breed ring. Judges will not evaluate the quality of the grooming and trimming, but Juniors should make an effort to prepare their dogs properly. Unnecessary grooming of the dog in the ring to gain attention is not proper conduct.

Juniors should appear confident, prepared, business-like and attentive. They should be courteous to both the judge and other Juniors. Juniors are expected to handle their dogs without disturbing the dogs of the other Juniors. Juniors should not crowd and they should not distract others by continued use of toys and bait. Juniors should be alert to the needs of their dogs. They should use firm but thoughtful hands in controlling and handling their dogs. Juniors should not be impatient or heavy-handed.

**Section 6. Conflicts.** Juniors may have a conflict between the Judging of their Junior Showmanship class and conformation judging or another event. Once Junior Showmanship Judging has begun, the Junior will have to make a decision as to where they will compete. A Junior may enter the Junior Showmanship class up until the

time every Junior in the class has been examined and gaited. If a Junior starts to compete in the Junior class and requests to be excused to go exhibit in conformation or another event, he or she is permanently excused.

**Section 7.** Juniors will be judged on their ability to present their dogs in the same way the dog is properly handled in the breed ring. Juniors will also be judged on their ability to make their individual dog look its best in both pose and motion. During all parts of the competition Juniors should handle their dogs in a quiet, smooth, efficient manner. Juniors should strive to make the DOG stand out as the most important part of the team effort.

**Section 8.** Junior handlers should:

- Keep their dog's attention without using dramatic or unnecessary movements.
- Gait their dogs in a controlled trot without distracting or interfering with the judge's view of the dog. Be aware of what is going on in the ring.
- Concentrate on their dog and not the judge.
- Junior handlers who use exaggerated posture, motions or gestures in any part of the competition will be faulted.

**Section 9.** There are many ways Juniors can find help in learning about Junior Showmanship and handling their own dogs. In addition to the help of parents, Juniors may seek the advice of experienced breeder-exhibitors, professional handlers, handling instructors, and former Juniors. They may also learn from the AKC breed resources, books on handling, books on individual breeds, and by observing breed and group judging at dog shows.

**Section 10.** Substitution. Juniors are limited to the substitution of one dog per show. Such substitutions must be accompanied by an official AKC entry form. Substitutions must be made with the Superintendent or Show Secretary prior to the judging of the class at the show and may require payment of an additional entry fee.

## **A Guide To Performance and Companion Events Competition for Juniors**

**Section 1. Eligibility as a Junior.** Any Junior who is under 18 years old on the day of the show is eligible to compete as a Junior in Performance and Companion Events. The Junior must obtain a Junior Number prior to the day of the event. The ownership requirement is the same as for participating in Conformation Junior Showmanship: the dog must be owned or co-owned by the Junior Handler or the Junior Handler's father, mother, brother, sister, uncle, aunt, grandfather, or



grandmother, including corresponding adopted, step and half relations, or by a permanent member of the Junior Handler's household.


**Section 2. Classes.** The Junior will enter the dog in the class in which it would normally compete for the event with the exception of the Retriever Hunting Tests, Pointing Breed Hunting Tests, Spaniel Hunting Tests, and Herding Tests, in which the dog may be entered at a lower level.

In each of these events the dogs are scored individually on their performance.

**Section 3. Records.** The dog's score in these events will be linked to the Junior Handler's number through the use of the Junior Certification Form. This form can be obtained from the Show Secretary, Superintendent or Field Representative, or by contacting the American Kennel Club. (See the end of this section for a sample.) It is the responsibility of the Junior to have the Junior Certification Form filled out and signed by the judge, field rep, trial secretary on the day of the event for any qualifying score. The judge will retain one copy to be mailed in with his/her judge's book to the American Kennel Club while returning the other to the Junior.

**Section 4. Awards.** The American Kennel Club will acknowledge any Junior who successfully completes a title. The Junior must have been the handler of record for all qualifying scores leading to the title in that event.

## Junior Handler Certification Form (Sample)



**AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB®**

### JUNIOR HANDLER CERTIFICATION

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Junior \_\_\_\_\_ Junior Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Registered Dog Name \_\_\_\_\_

If Dog Not Owned by Junior,  
Relationship of Dog Owner to Junior \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. # \_\_\_\_\_

Breed \_\_\_\_\_

**TYPE OF EVENT**

<input type="checkbox"/> Obedience	<input type="checkbox"/> Tracking	<input type="checkbox"/> Rally	<input type="checkbox"/> Hunt Test
<input type="checkbox"/> Lure Coursing	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Trial	<input type="checkbox"/> Agility	<input type="checkbox"/> Coursing Ability Test
<input type="checkbox"/> Coonhound	<input type="checkbox"/> Herding	<input type="checkbox"/> Earthdog	<input type="checkbox"/> Scentwork
			<input type="checkbox"/> Fast Cat

Class/Stake \_\_\_\_\_ Score/Placement \_\_\_\_\_ Jump Height \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that the above named Junior Handler did compete in the above-referenced class/stake and received the score and/or placement indicated.

Printed Name of Judge, Trial Secretary or AKC® Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Judge, Trial Secretary or AKC Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

8051 Arco Corporate Drive • Raleigh, NC 27617-3390  
For a Junior Handler number, please call (919) 233-9767 or email juniors@akc.org.

CEJRH1 (5/18)

Top Copy to Junior / Bottom Copy to AKC w/Judge's Book

## Junior Organization Award Pin



## AKC Code of Sportsmanship

*PREFACE: The sport of purebred dog competitive events dates prior to 1884, the year of AKC's birth. Shared values of those involved in the sport include principles of sportsmanship. They are practiced in all sectors of our sport: conformation, performance and companion. Many believe that these principles of sportsmanship are the prime reason why our sport has thrived for over one hundred years. With the belief that it is useful to periodically articulate the fundamentals of our sport, this code is presented.*

- Sportsmen respect the history, traditions and integrity of the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen commit themselves to values of fair play, honesty, courtesy, and vigorous competition, as well as winning and losing with grace.
- Sportsmen refuse to compromise their commitment and obligation to the sport of purebred dogs by injecting personal advantage or consideration into their decisions or behavior.
- The sportsman judge judges only on the merits of the dogs and considers no other factors.
- The sportsman judge or exhibitor accepts constructive criticism.
- The sportsman exhibitor declines to enter or exhibit under a judge where it might reasonably appear that the judge's placements could be based on something other than the merits of the dogs.
- The sportsman exhibitor refuses to compromise the impartiality of a judge.
- The sportsman respects the AKC bylaws, rules, regulations and policies governing the sport of purebred dogs.
- Sportsmen find that vigorous competition and civility are not inconsistent and are able to appreciate the merit of their competition and the effort of competitors.
- Sportsmen welcome, encourage and support newcomers to the sport.
- Sportsmen will deal fairly with all those who trade with them.
- Sportsmen are willing to share honest and open appraisals of both the strengths and weaknesses of their breeding stock.
- Sportsmen spurn any opportunity to take personal advantage of positions offered or bestowed upon them.
- Sportsmen always consider as paramount the welfare of their dog.
- Sportsmen refuse to embarrass the sport, the American Kennel Club, or themselves while taking part in the sport.

Complete text of booklet available at: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

The American Kennel Club  
8051 Arco Corporate Drive  
Suite 100  
Raleigh, NC 27617-3390  
e-mail: [info@akc.org](mailto:info@akc.org)

To place a credit card order by telephone call:  
(919) 233-9767.

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**REJRSH (9/20)**