



Judge-Exhibitor Eligibility and Conflicts of Interest:

Webinar Resources

- Rules Applying to Dog Shows

<http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RREGS3.pdf>

- Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges

<http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/REJ999.pdf>

- Who Can Judge (pdf in presentation)

https://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/Who_Can_Judge.pdf

Judge-Exhibitor Eligibility & Conflicts of Interest

October 16, 2018 webinar



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References:

For Conformation Dog Shows, exhibiting conflicts are addressed in:

The Rules Applying to Dog Shows

The Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges

Not all conflicts are specifically defined, some are pure common sense



Judges based on judging assignments

Exhibitors based on familial relationship to judge

Exhibitor based on current or previous co-ownership w/judge

Judge-handler

Judges who teach handling classes

Exhibiting Conflicts





Exhibiting Conflicts

For all exhibiting restrictions: Exhibit refers to personally handling a dog or any dog owned or co-owned regardless of who handles the dog and where the dog resides.

Exhibitor restrictions apply to all members of the same household.

Rules Applying to Dog Shows

Amended to June 12, 2018
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CH 11 Section 13 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*

- No judge or any person residing in the same household with a judge shall exhibit or act as agent or handler at a show at which he is officiating as judge and dogs owned wholly or in part by such judge or any member of his household shall be ineligible to be entered at such show





Judges exhibiting

- Conformation judges cannot exhibit from three days before through three days after their assignment
 - *Rules, Policies & Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges*
 - Sweepstakes/Futurity judges cannot exhibit the day they judge
 - Extends to the entire length of the event when part of a multi-day specialty
 - Events within 200 miles
- *Rules CH 7 Sect. 14*
 - Cannot exhibit in other sports the same day





Judges exhibiting

- Judges assigned to NOHS groups/BIS may not exhibit on the same day
 - AKC FSS Open Shows
- No exhibiting restriction for:
 - Judges assigned only Junior Showmanship
 - Individuals assigned to special attraction groups/BIS (i.e. Veteran, BBE, Puppy groups)
 - Judges for the 4-6 month puppy competition
- Dogs co-owned by judge on panel may be exhibited in Junior Showmanship only



Question????

If a judge judges at a series of dog shows; a Working Group Show and two All-Breed Club shows on a weekend, Friday Sept 6th - Sunday Sept 8th; can that judge have a dog compete in a National Specialty that is in the same town which starts on Wednesday Sept 11th ?

Judge will not be showing the dog's breeder will.



AKC Conformation Judging Eligibility

*Approved includes both permit and full status judges. ***"Exhibit" refers to any dog personally handled by the individual OR any dog owned or co-owned by the individual. Restrictions apply to all members of the same household.



COMPETITION	CAN I JUDGE?	CAN I SHOW?
AKC Conformation events (all-breed, limited breed and independent specialty shows)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be approved by the AKC to judge the applicable breeds, groups and/or Best in Show. • Must be included on AKC's list of eligible judges. • Current list may be accessed via AKC's online judges directory. • Approved judges must be assigned to competitions such as stud dog and brood bitch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not exhibit the day he/she judges, three days prior and three days following at any AKC Conformation event within 200 miles of the assignment(s). • May not exhibit in any competition (agility, obedience, rally, etc.) the same day he/she judges.
AKC 4-6 month puppy competitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have an AKC Conformation number. • Includes any individuals currently approved by the AKC to judge at least one breed or has applied and been approved as an Open Show Judge. • Eligible individuals may be assigned any breed/competition at the event. • Judges approved for Junior Showmanship ONLY may not judge the 4-6 competition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May exhibit the same day he/she judges. • Judge and members of the same household should refrain from competing in the 4-6 month puppy competition.
AKC National Owner Handled Series (NOHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be AKC approved Conformation breed judge or eligible Visiting judge. • To be assigned NOHS group - Must be approved for at least one breed within that group or any one complete group. • To be assigned NOHS BIS - Must be eligible to judge any NOHS group. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not exhibit the same day he/she judges at any event within 200 miles.
Special attractions (excluding NOHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be in good standing with the AKC to judge special attraction group/BIS competitions (i.e. Best Puppy, Best Bred By Exhibitor, Best Veteran) at AKC Conformation events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May exhibit the same day he/she judges. • Judge and members of the same household should refrain from competing in the special attraction which he/she is judging.
Sweepstakes/Futurities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be in good standing with the AKC to be assigned sweepstakes and/or futurities. • Must be submitted to AKC Event Plans for approval. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not exhibit in any competition the same day he/she judges. • May exhibit on the days before and after they judge. • When part of a multi-day specialty, the restriction runs the entire length of the event.
AKC FSS Open Shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have an AKC Conformation number. • Includes any individuals currently approved to judge at least one breed and or has applied and been approved as an Open Show Judge. • Eligible individuals may be assigned any breed/competition at the event. • Judges approved for Junior Showmanship ONLY may not judge Open Shows. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May not exhibit on the day he/she judges at any event within 200 miles.

May 22, 2018

- Quick reference sheet for judging and exhibiting eligibility
- Provides a summary of:
 - Who may judge different competition types
 - Any exhibiting restrictions that apply
- Available on the AKC website

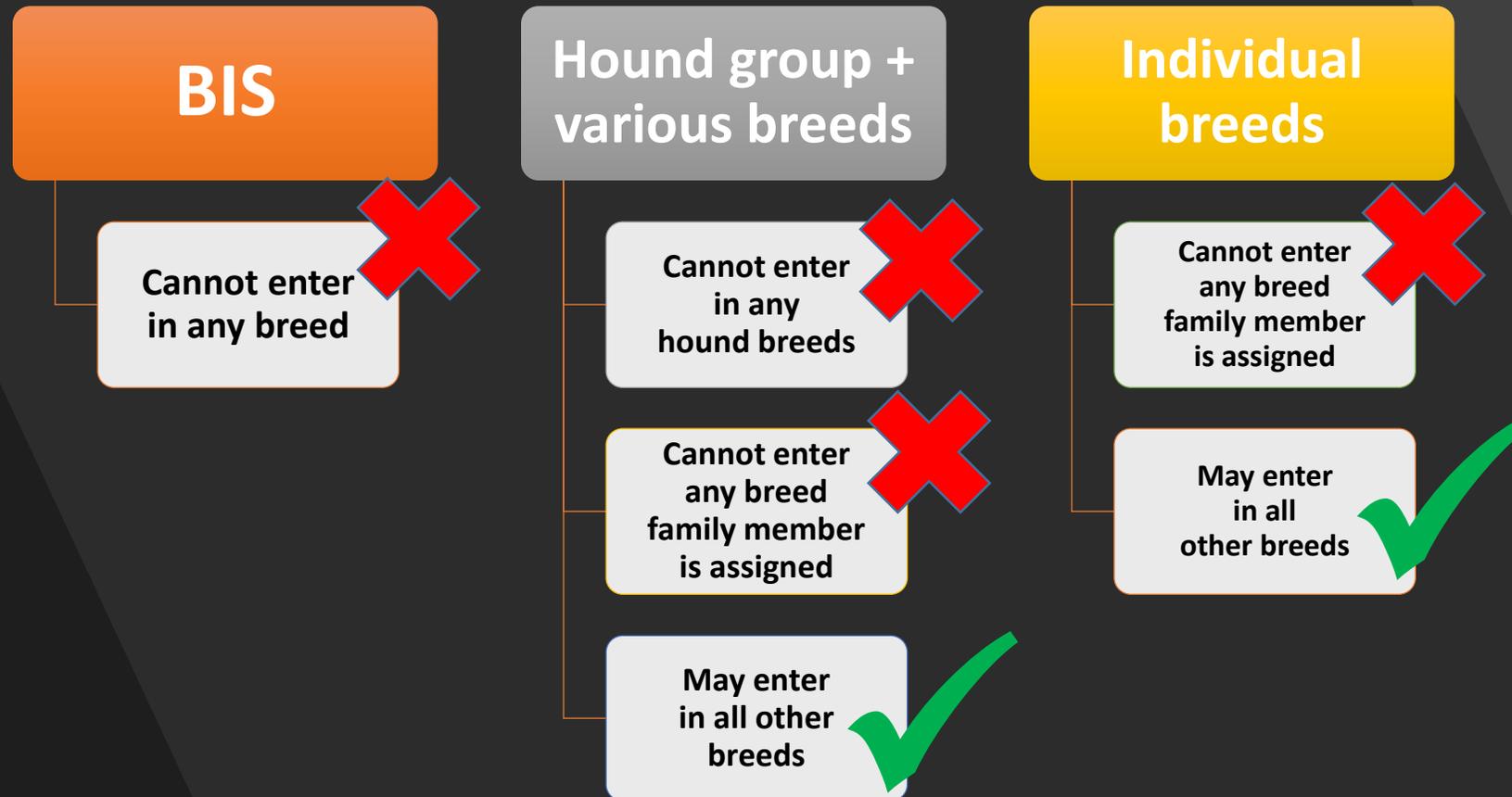
CH 11 Section 13 of the *Rules*



- Members of a judge's immediate family who no longer reside in the same household may enter or handle a dog at a show if the judge is not officiating over any competition which the dog is entered or may become eligible
 - Immediate family defined as one's spouse, domestic partner, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, daughters-in-law, and sons-in-law
 - Includes adopted, half, and step members
- Conflict "runs downhill"



Family member is judging:



CH 11 Section 13 of the *Rules*



- No entry shall be made at any show under a judge of any dog which said judge or any member of his immediate household or immediate family has been known to have owned, handled in the ring more than twice, sold, held under lease or boarded within one year prior to the date of the show
 - Rule is specific to the dog
 - No rule or policy defines period of ineligibility for former co-owners



One year exhibiting restriction

Dogs or individuals who:

- Attend training classes presented by a judge
- Are clients of grooming shop owners or employee who is a judge
- Are clients of kennel owners or kennel employee who is a judge
- Are clients of a Veterinarian who is a judge

Per AKC Rules & the Occupational Eligibility Addendum





Judges who use the services of an agent

- Judges may not use the services of an agent to handle dog(s) if the agent has exhibited under them in the preceding four months (*the before*)
- Agent in the employ of a judge may not exhibit dogs under the judge and for at least four months after (*the after*)
- Applies to any member of the agent's household, or any handling associate of the agent
- Conflict cannot be circumvented by passing the dog off to an otherwise eligible individual for the class
- *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges p. 4*



*Between the black & white can be
a large and vast sea of gray...*

**Rules, Policies
and Guidelines
for Conformation
Dog Show Judges**

Amended to August 2017
Published by the American Kennel Club®



Gray Areas

- It is impossible to define every situation which creates a conflict
- It is not proper to transfer ownership for the sole purpose of permitting the dog to be exhibited at shows where judging
- Exhibitors should not enter under judges where their presence or the presence of their dogs might give the impression of unfair advantage
 - Current/recent co-owners
 - Someone you travel to shows with
 - Business relationship



**Rules, Policies
and Guidelines
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Gray Areas

- Responsibility for entering dogs that are ineligible or that create a conflict of interest is with the exhibitor
- Judges may excuse any exhibitor or dog from the ring for conflict of interest even if the reason is only known to them
- It is the responsibility of the AKC to interpret its Rules, Regulations and Policies; scenarios not specifically defined may be determined to be a conflict of interest and result in the cancellation of awards



**Eligibility is
administratively
determined by
the AKC**

**Assertions of ineligibility should be
forwarded to the Events and/or Judging
Operations Department**

**May also bring to the attention of the EFR in
attendance**

Entry into the ring cannot be denied

**If ineligibility confirmed – awards are
cancelled**



**It all
comes
down to
common
sense**

If you have to ask the question... you probably already know the answer

Put yourself in the other person's shoes, would you think it was ok?

“I know someone else who did the same thing”, is not justification



Do you ask your
butcher for tax
advice?





Questions?



Thank you!



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- **Tim Thomas, VP of Dog Show Judges**
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 - 919-816-3639
- **The next webinar in the AKC Education Webinar Series is:**
 - “The Evolution of Dog Sports”
 - Monday, October 29th at 8:00pm EDT