

Scent Work Regulations Survey

In September of 2018, the Scent Work department sent surveys out to assess the opinions of the Scent Work community on possible changes to the Regulations. Three versions of the survey were sent out. They asked the same basic questions, but some had follow-up questions.

Survey Groups:

- AKC Scent Work Judges- those licensed as either “approved” or “provisional” for the sport of Scent Work
- Scent Work Trial Hosts- those who had worked as Trial Secretary or Trial Chair for a SW trial
- SW Title-Earners- owners of dogs who have earned at least 1 SW title

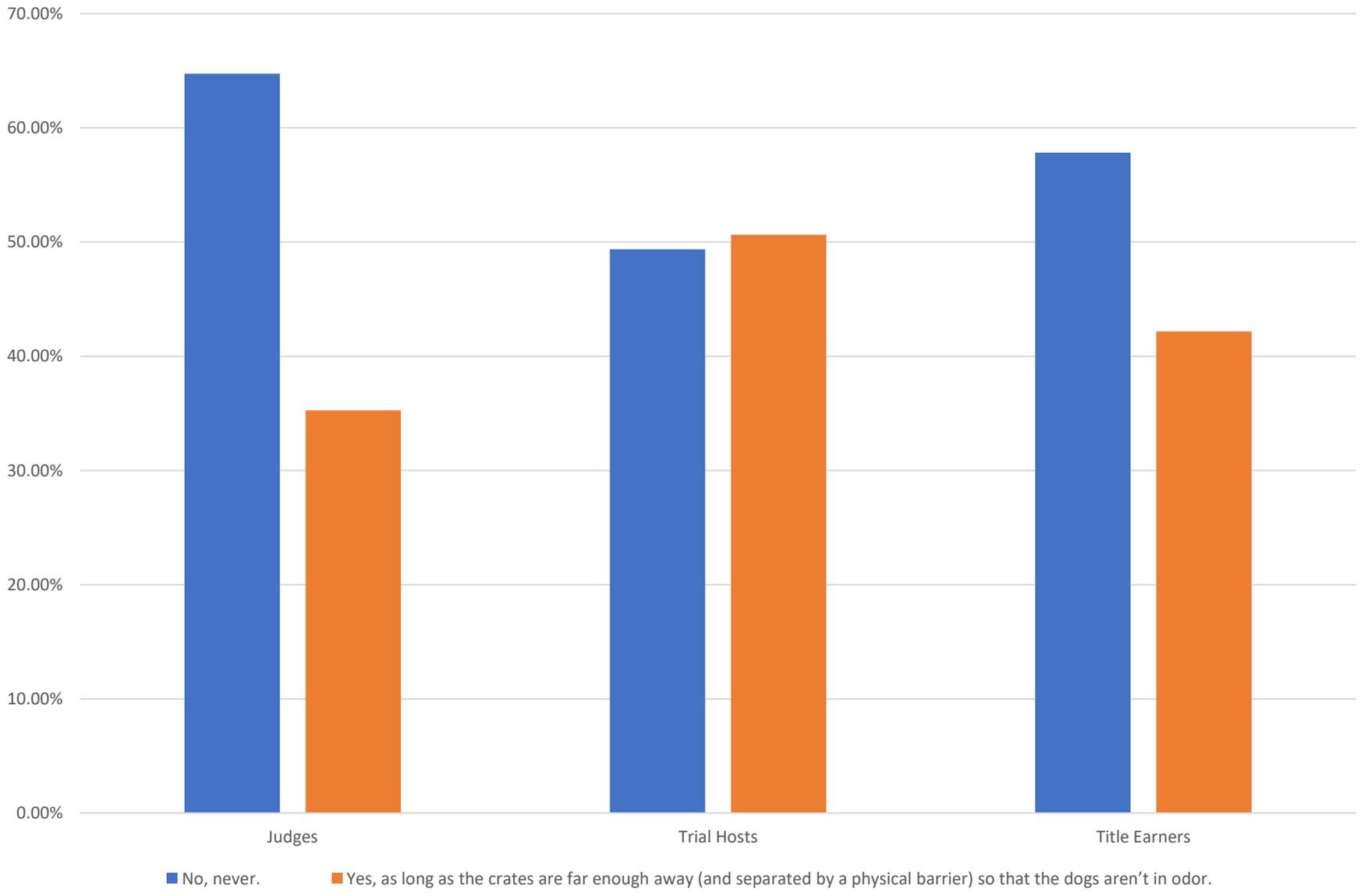
This survey was sent to everyone who fell into one of the above categories at the time of the e-mail. Computer glitches, spam filters, firewalls or other issues may have hindered delivery.

Each person received only 1 copy of the survey—people who fell into multiple categories were prioritized in the following order: 1) Judges (those who were also title-earners or trial hosts only got the Judges survey), 2) Trial hosts (those who were not judges but also title-earners only got the Trial Hosts survey), 3) Title-Earners (those who have earned titles, and who are neither trial hosts or judges, received the Title-Earners survey)

	# Sent	# Completed	% Completing
SW Judges	307	123	40%
SW Trial Hosts	295	81	27%
SW Title-Earners	1367	278	20%

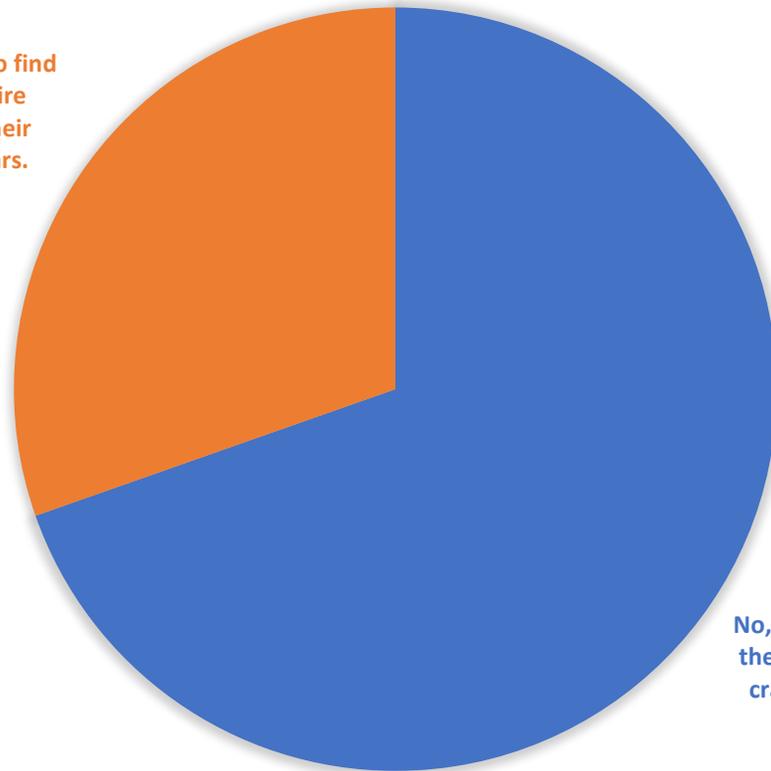
Following are the results of the survey.

Q1: Should clubs be allowed to have crating in the same room as a search?



Q1A*: IF AKC PROHIBITED CRATING AREAS FROM BEING IN THE SAME ROOM AS A SEARCH, WOULD THIS AFFECT TRIALS THAT YOU HOST?

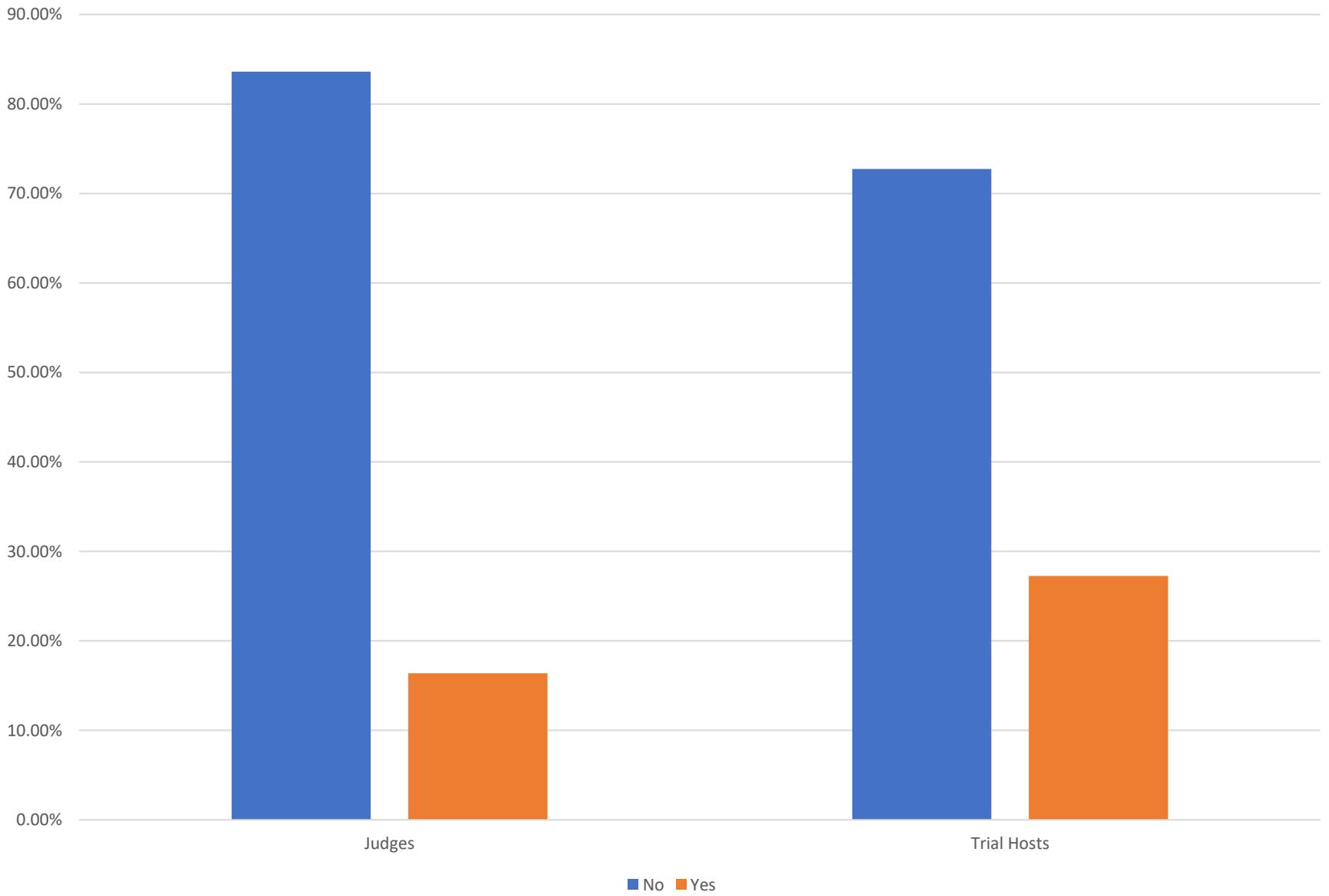
Yes, we would have to find a new site, or require handlers to work their dogs out of their cars.



***This question was addressed to Trial Hosts only**

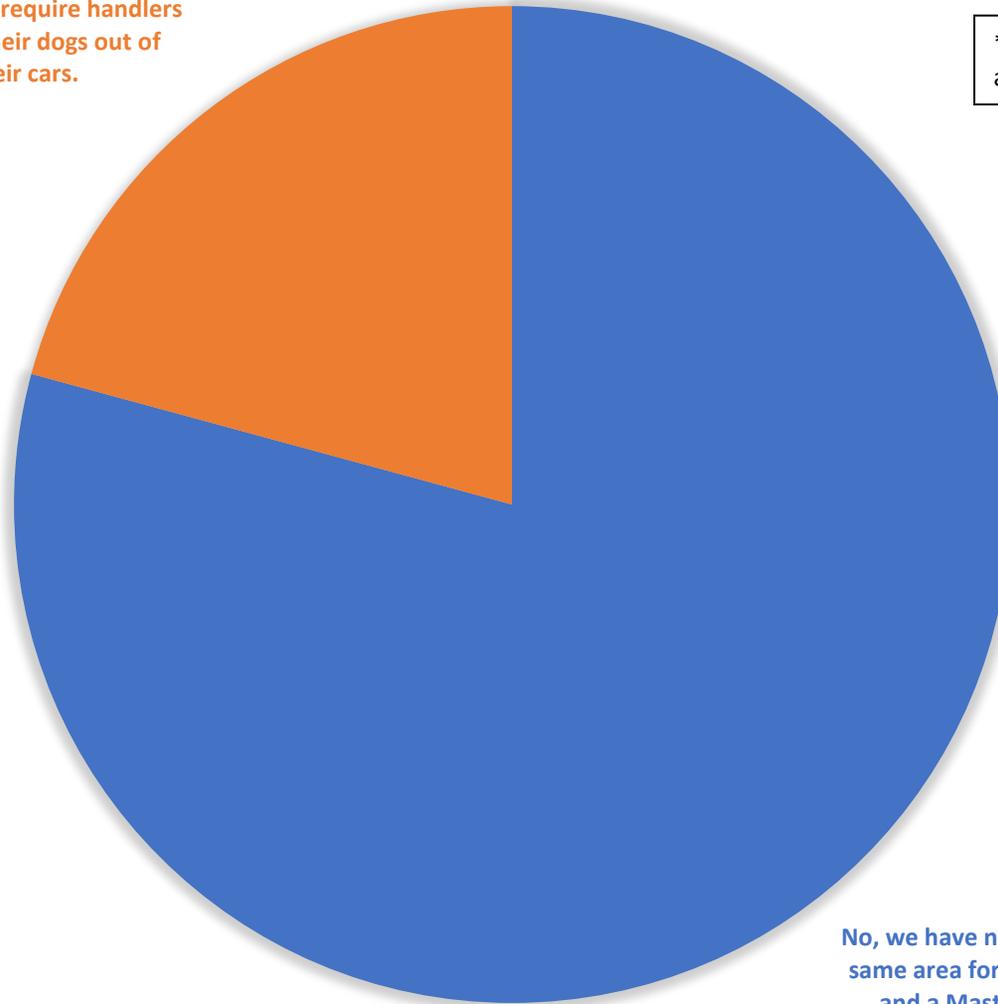
No, we have never used the same area for both crating and searches.

Q2: If crating is allowed in the same room as a search, should that area be allowed to be used for a Master search?



Q2A*: IF AKC PROHIBITED CRATING AREAS FROM BEING IN THE SAME ROOM AS MASTER SEARCHES, WOULD THIS AFFECT TRIALS THAT YOU HOST?

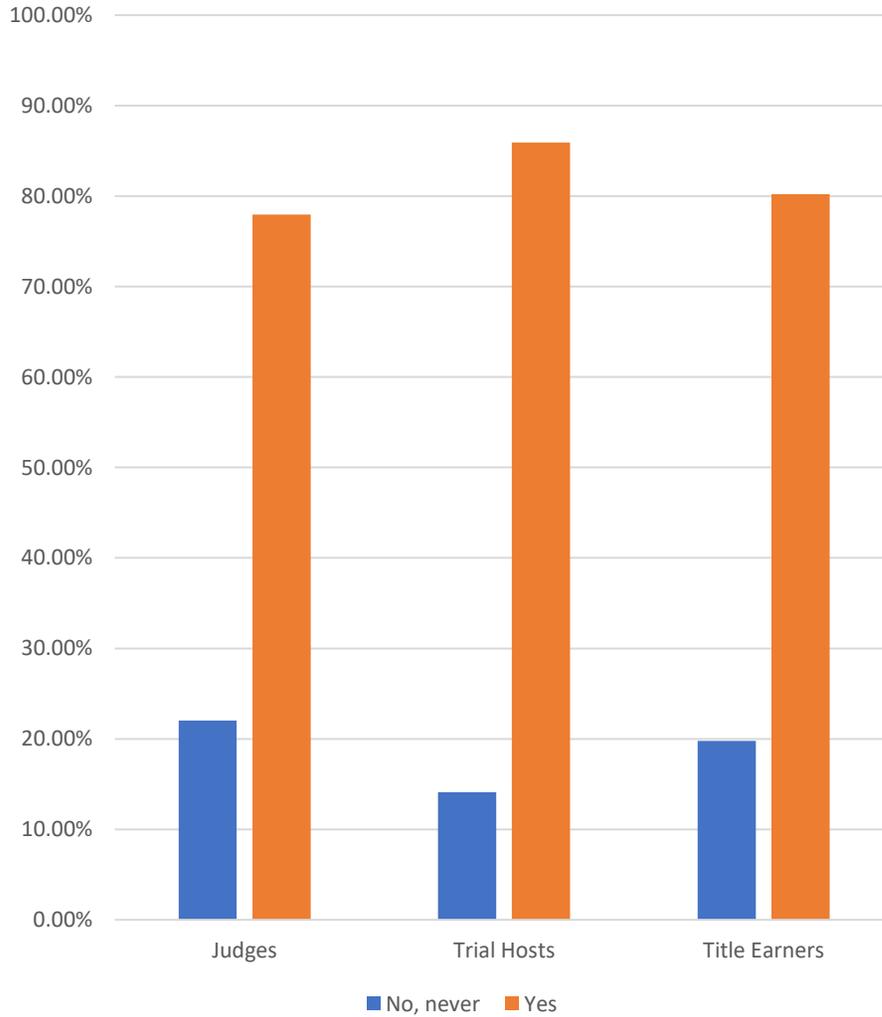
Yes, we would have to find a new site, or require handlers to work their dogs out of their cars.



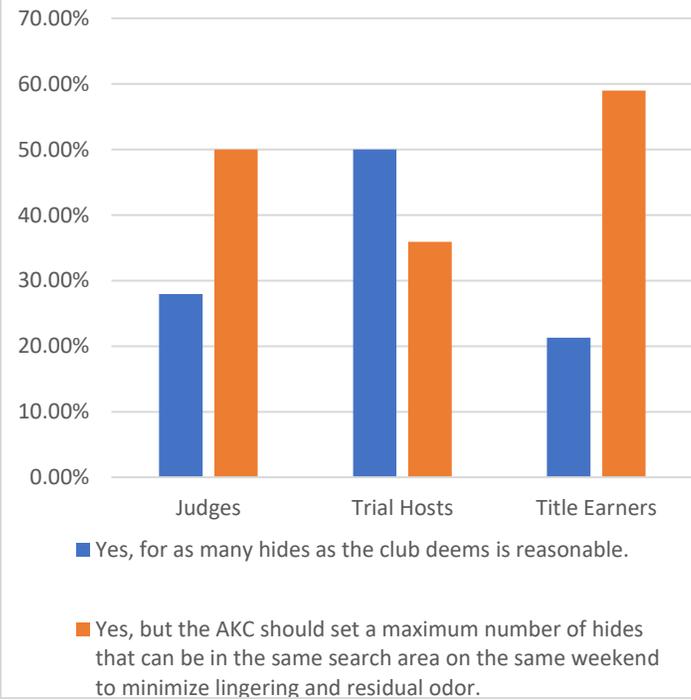
*This question was addressed to Trial Hosts only

No, we have never used the same area for both crating and a Master search.

Q3: Should it be permissible for search areas to be reused (for more than one class) within a trial or trial weekend?

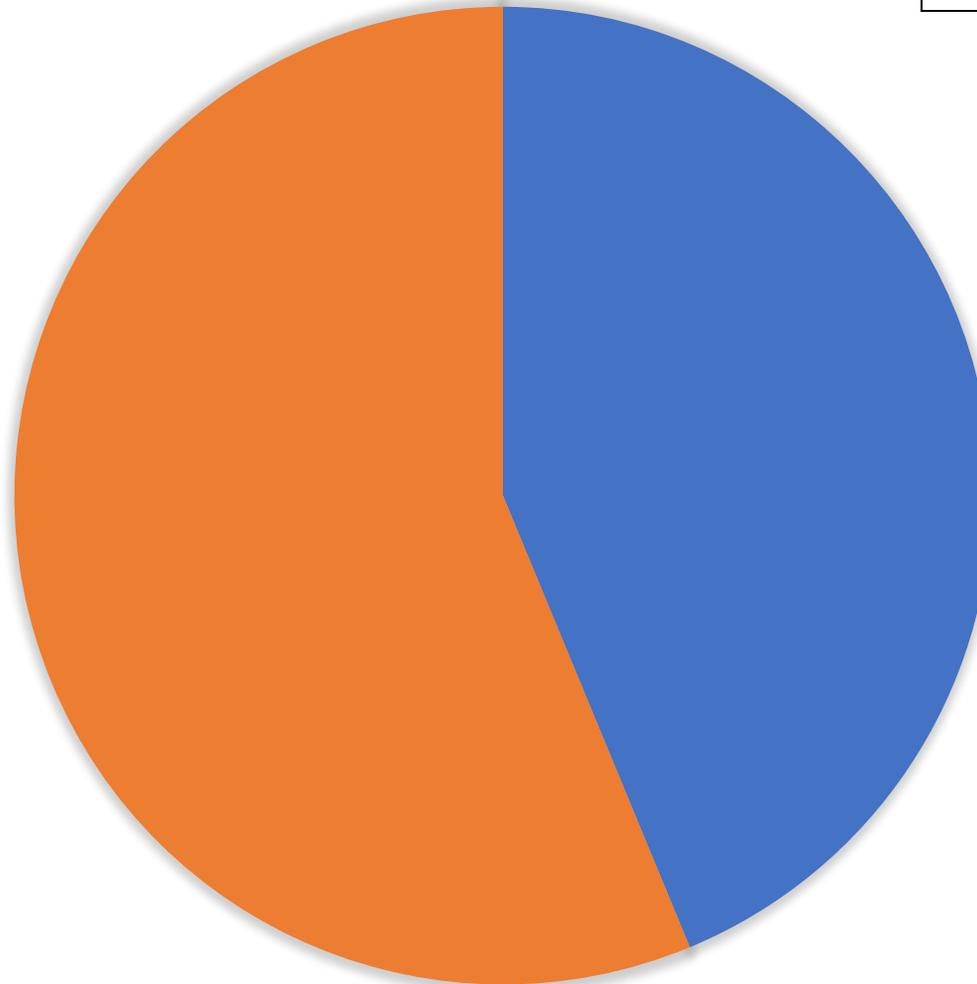


Details of "Yes" Answers



Q3A*:IF AKC LIMITED EACH SEARCH AREA TO NO MORE THAN 7 HIDES PER TRIAL WEEKEND, WOULD THIS AFFECT TRIALS THAT YOU HOST?

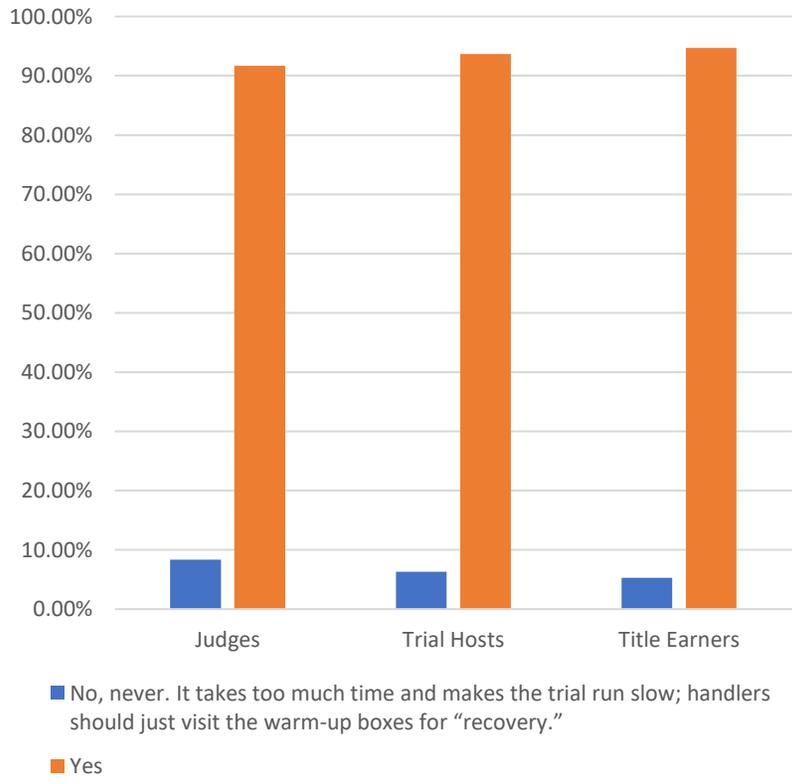
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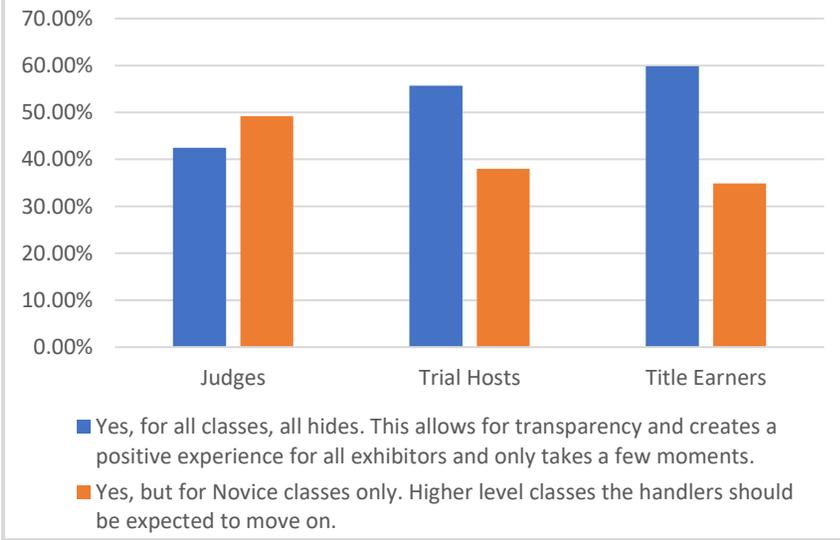
No, our club does not routinely reuse search areas this much, and/or we have other areas available to us at our present sites.

Yes, we would either have to find an alternate site that offers more search locations or we would have to limit the number of classes that we host.

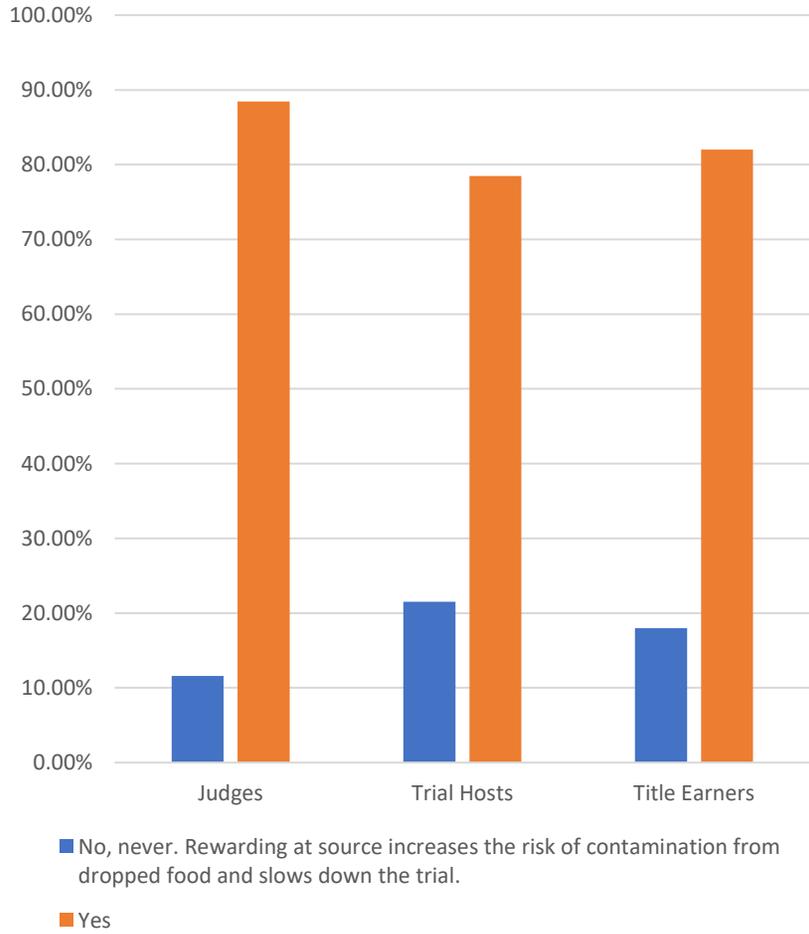
Q4: If the handler calls "Alert" on the incorrect location, do you think they should be informed of the correct hide location(s)?



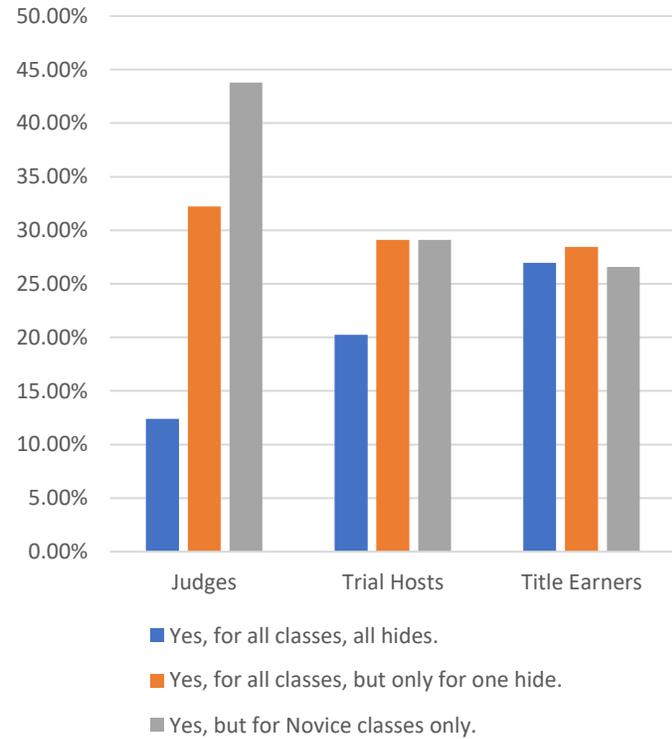
Details of "Yes" Answers



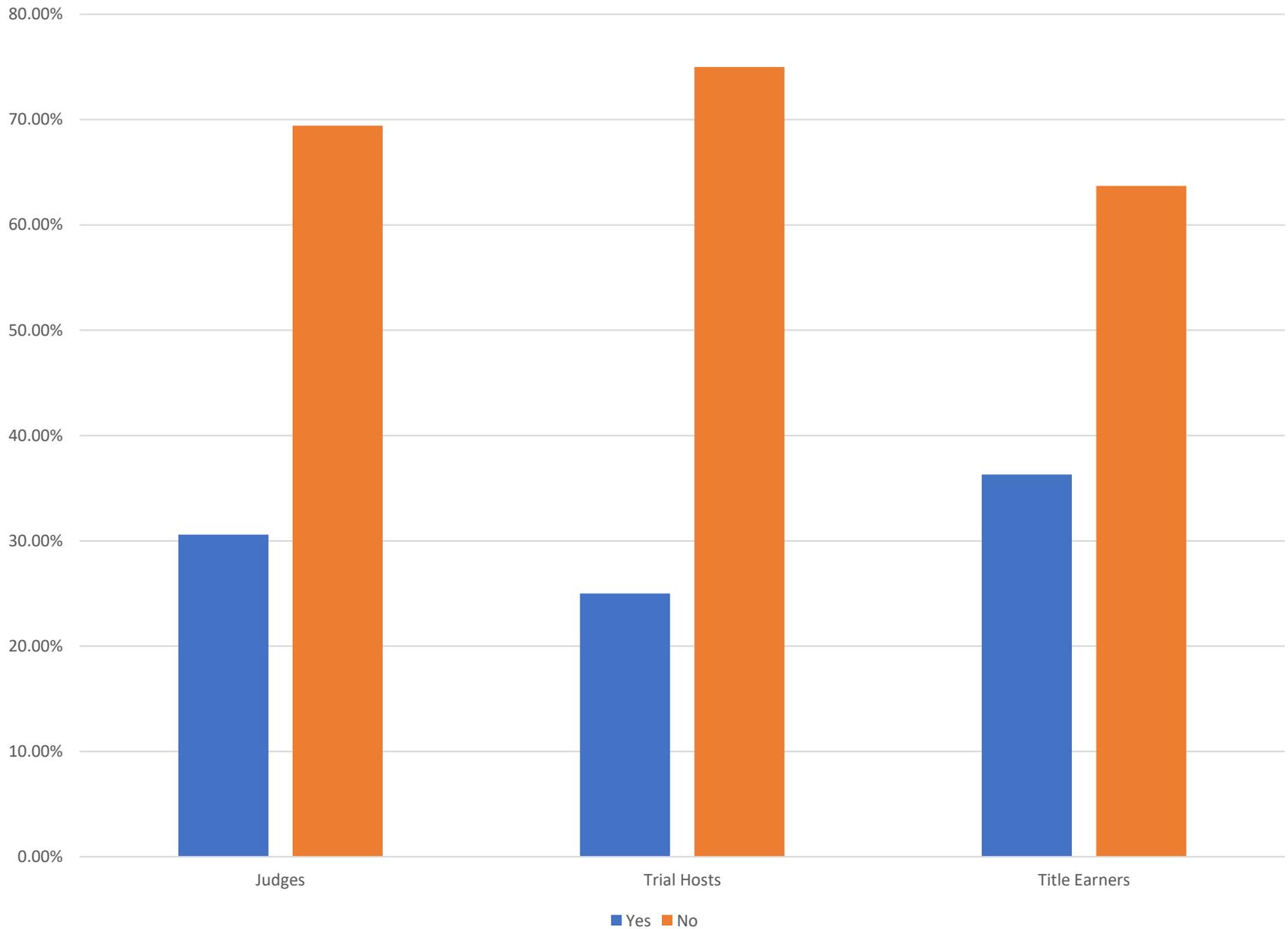
Q5: If informed of the hide location, should exhibitors be allowed to reward at source after an incorrect alert?



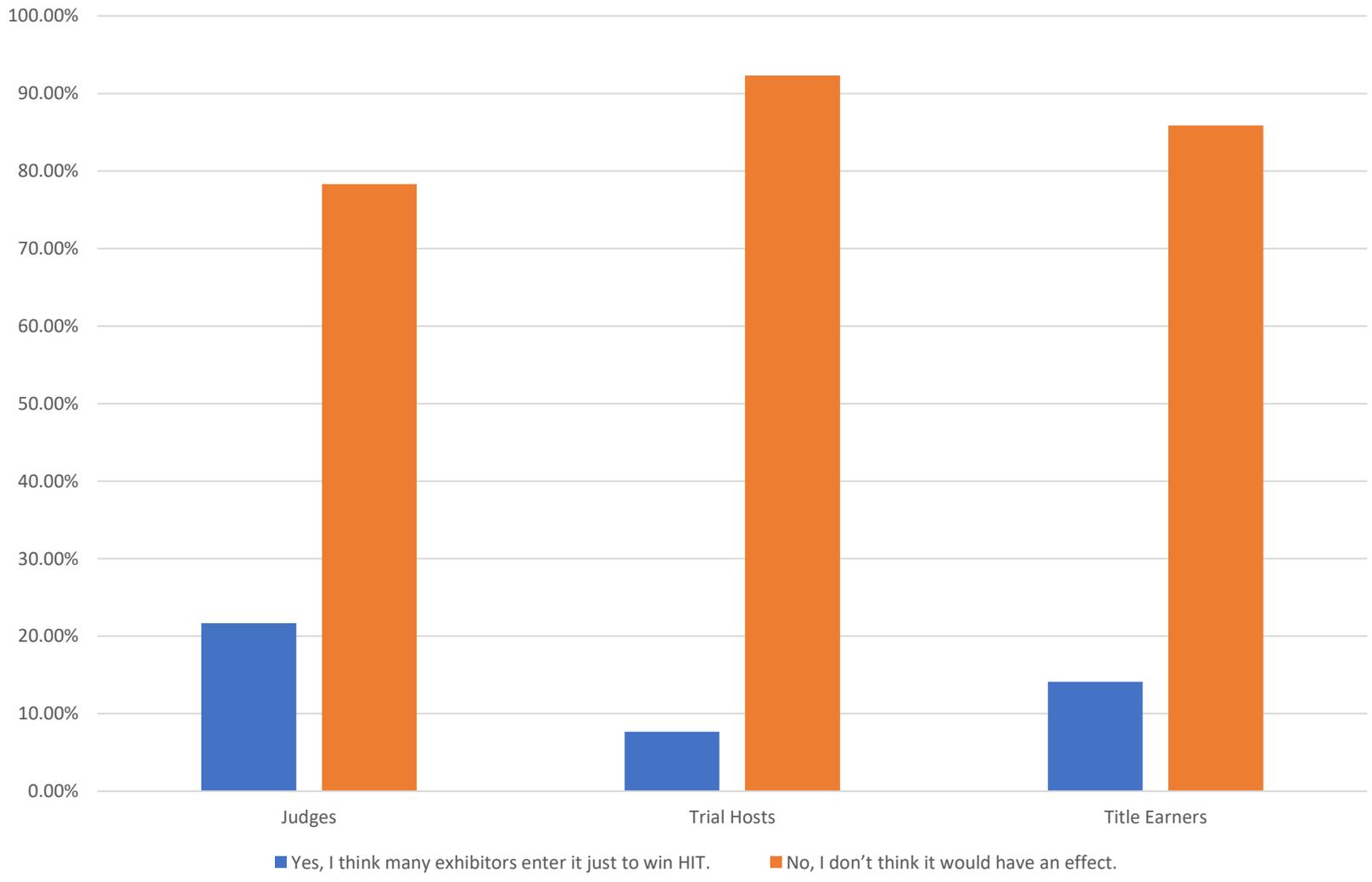
Details of "Yes" Answers



Q6: Should Handler Discrimination be included in the calculation for the High In Trial (HIT) award, if the club offers the award?

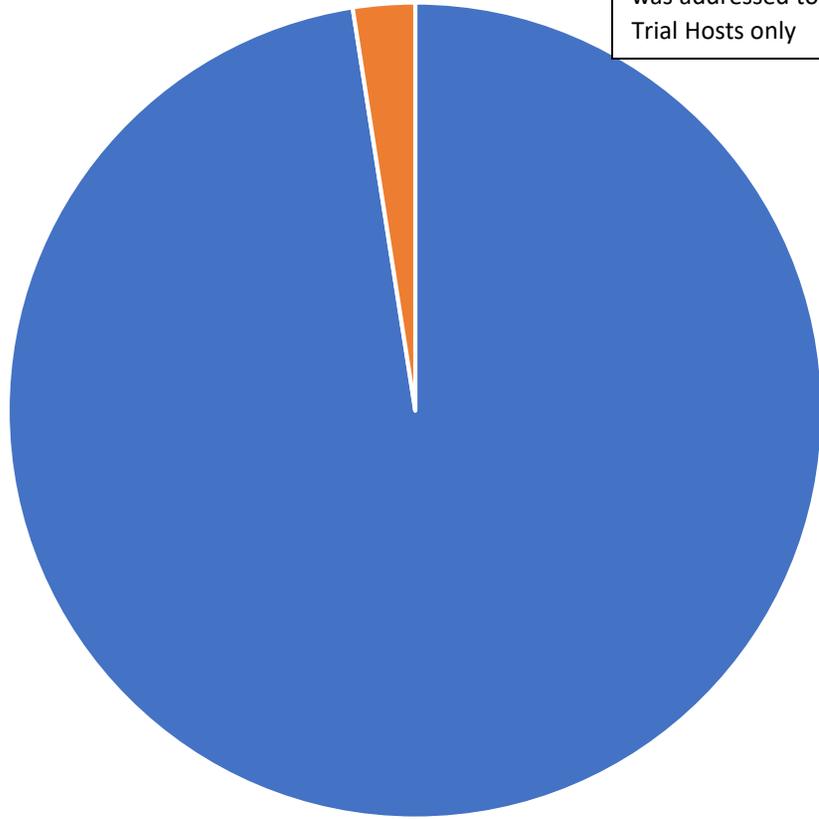


Q7: If Handler Discrimination were removed from High in Trial calculation, do you think fewer exhibitors would enter HD?



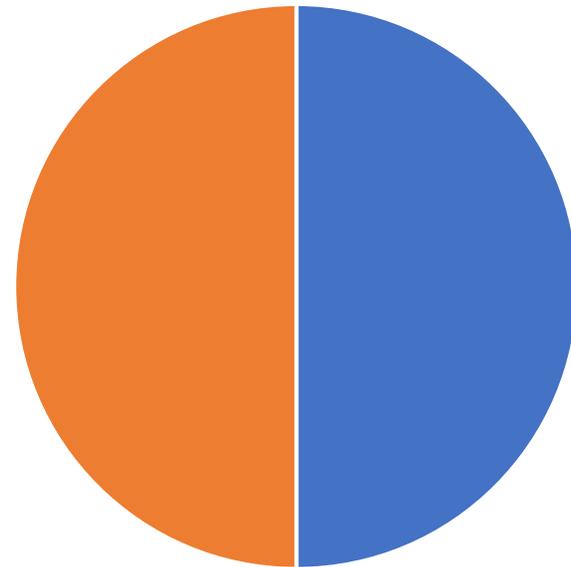
Q7a*: If Handler Discrimination were removed from High in Trial calculation, would it change whether your club chooses to offer the HD class?

*This question was addressed to Trial Hosts only



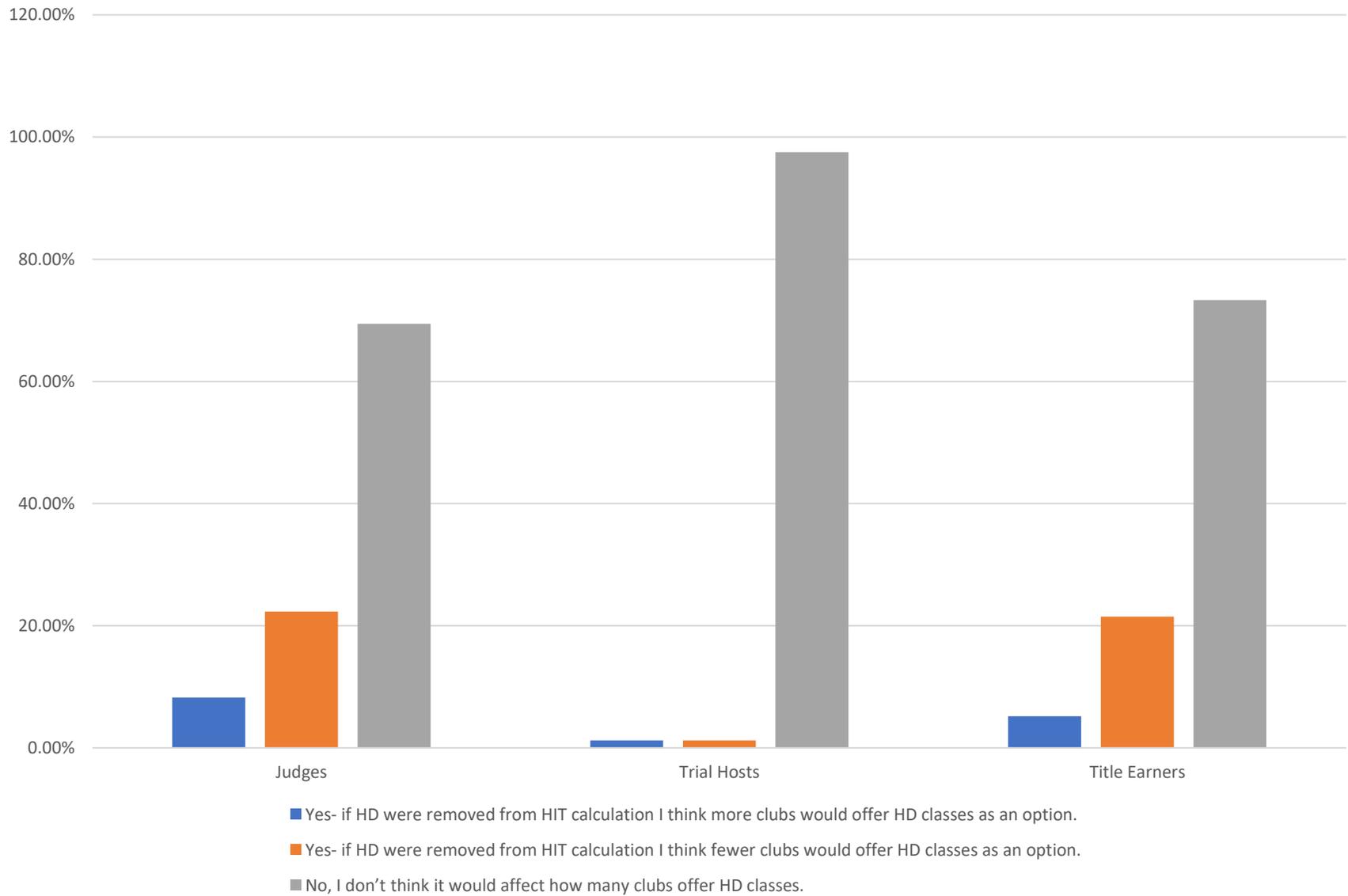
■ No ■ Yes

Details of "Yes" Answers

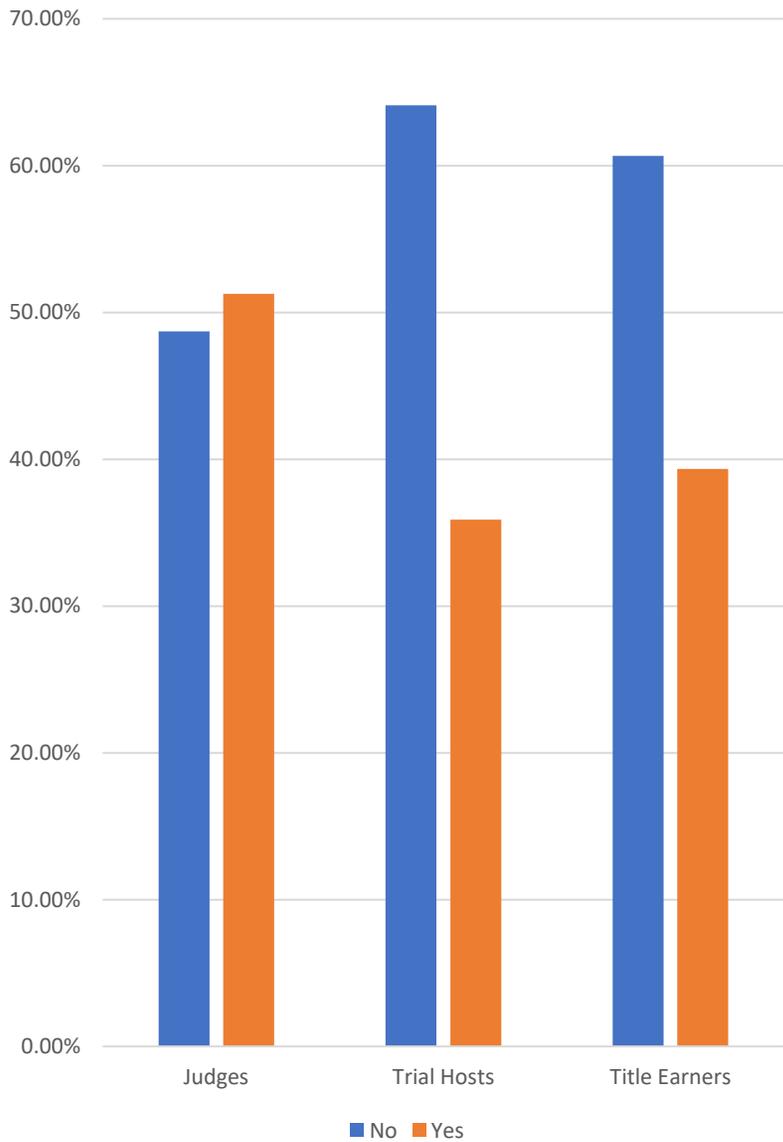


- Yes- we presently offer Handler Discrimination classes but if it were dropped from the HIT calculation we would probably not offer it anymore.
- Yes- we do not presently offer Handler Discrimination classes, but if it were dropped from the HIT calculation we would consider adding it.

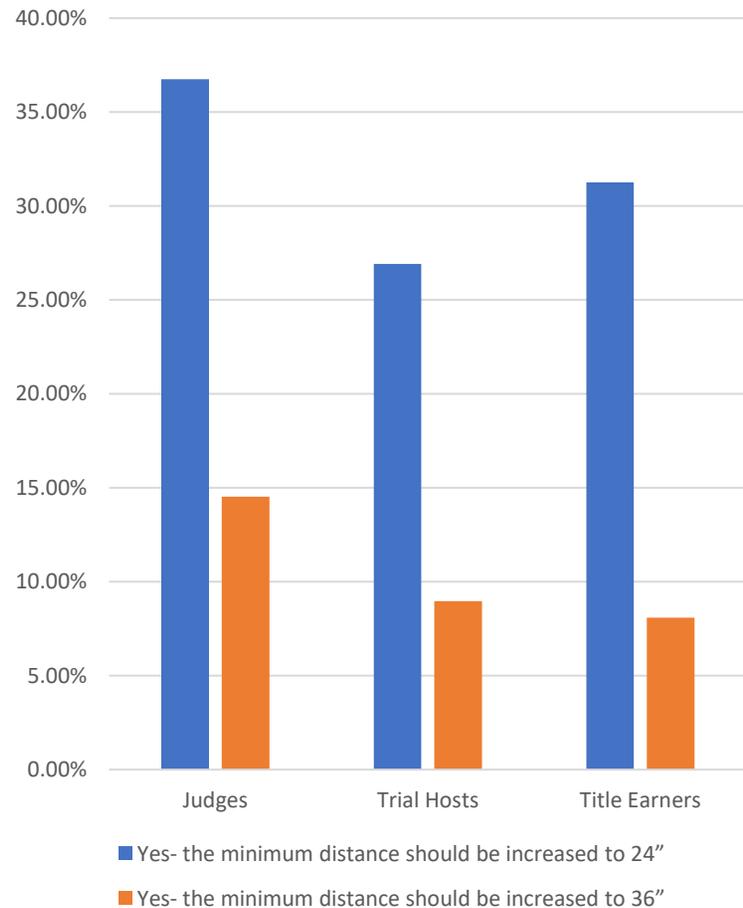
Q8: If Handler Discrimination were removed from High in Trial calculation, do you think it would change how many clubs would offer the HD class?



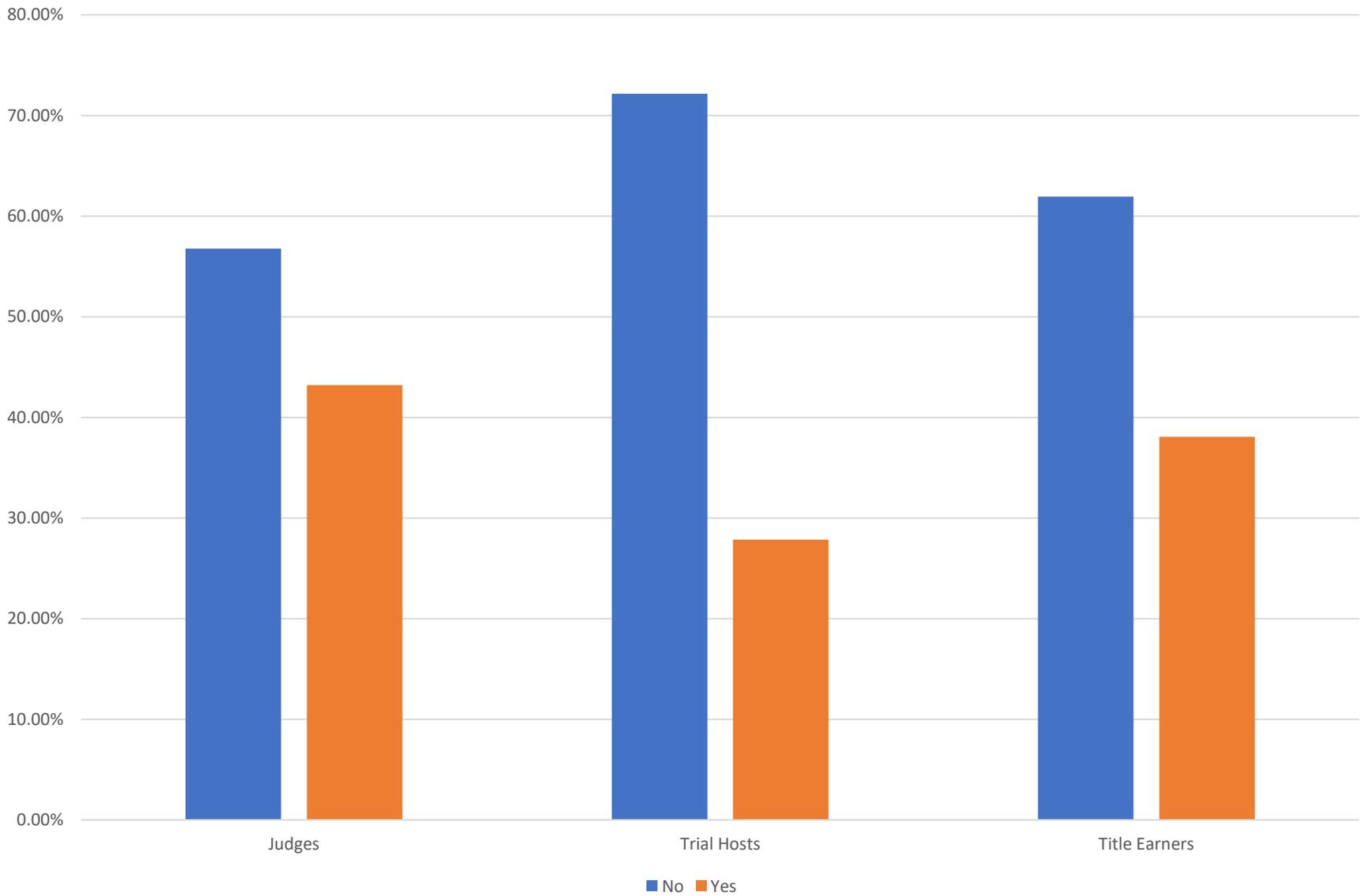
Q9: Do you think the minimum distance between containers should be increased?



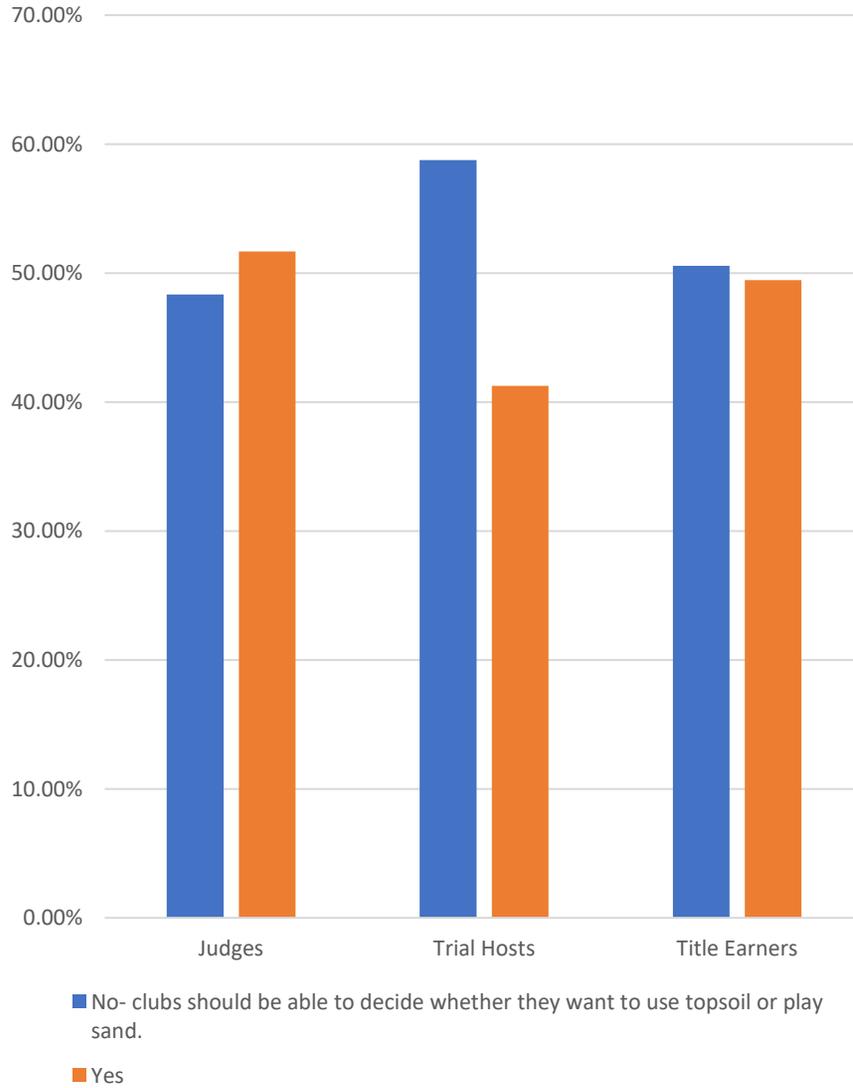
Details of "Yes" Answers



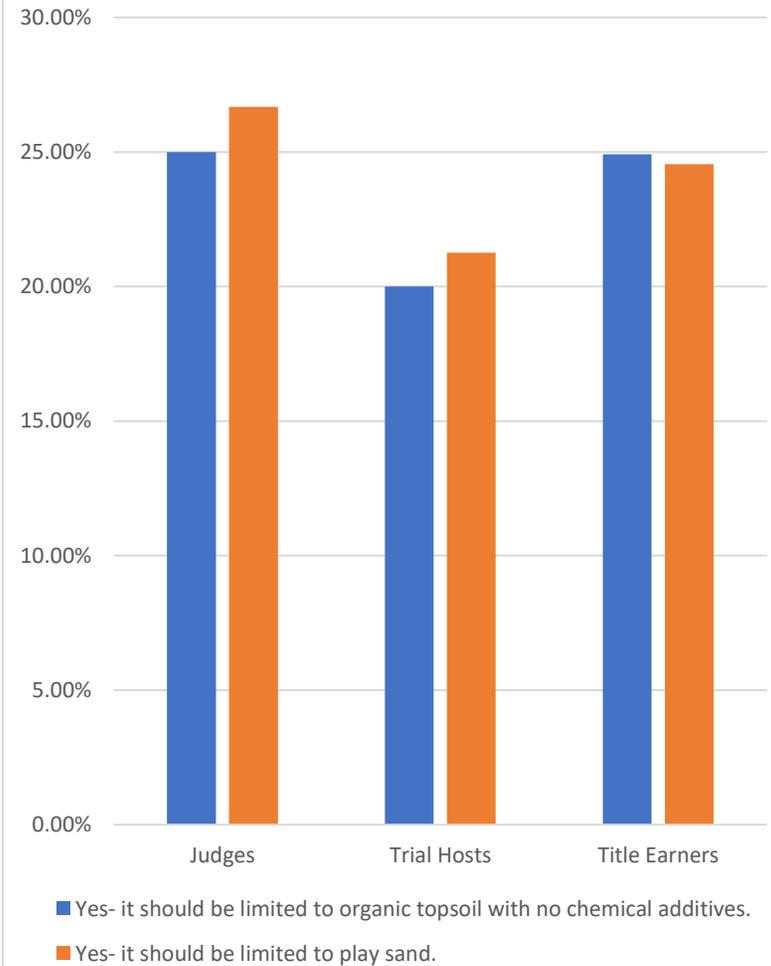
Q10: Should the hide location for Handler Discrimination classes be consistent for every dog?



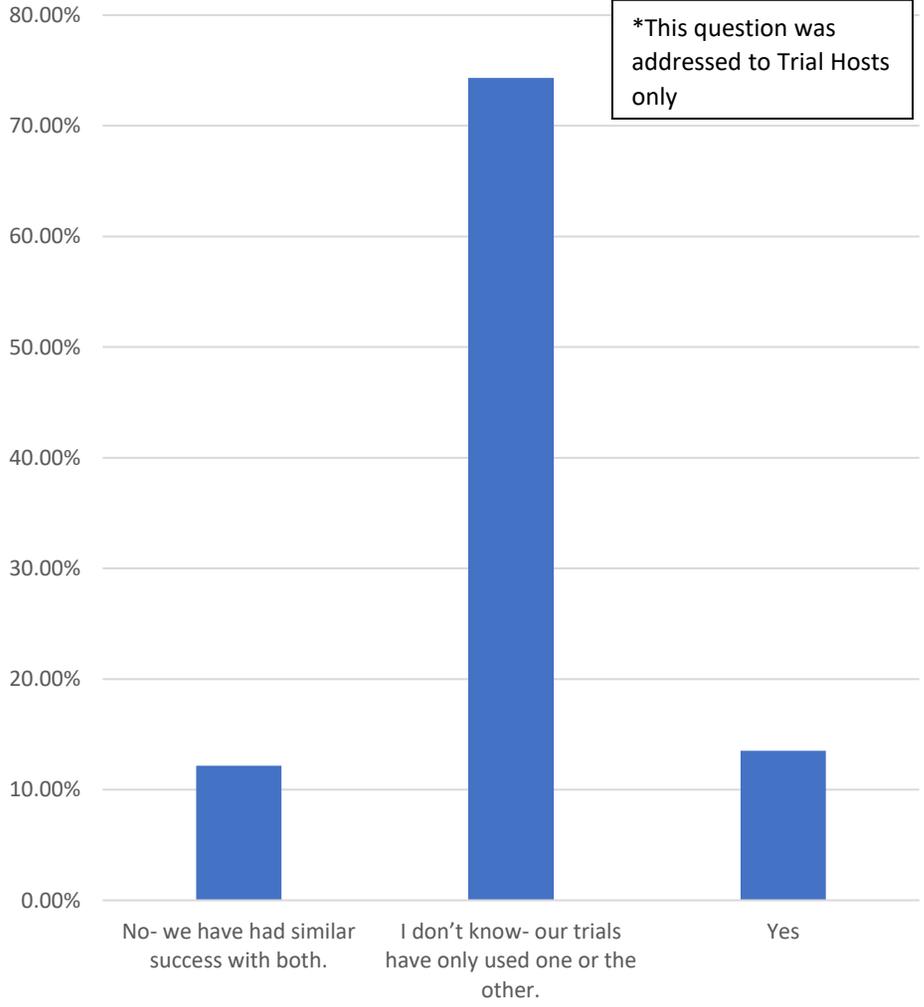
Q11: For Buried Novice and Advanced classes, should AKC limit the soil to one specific type?



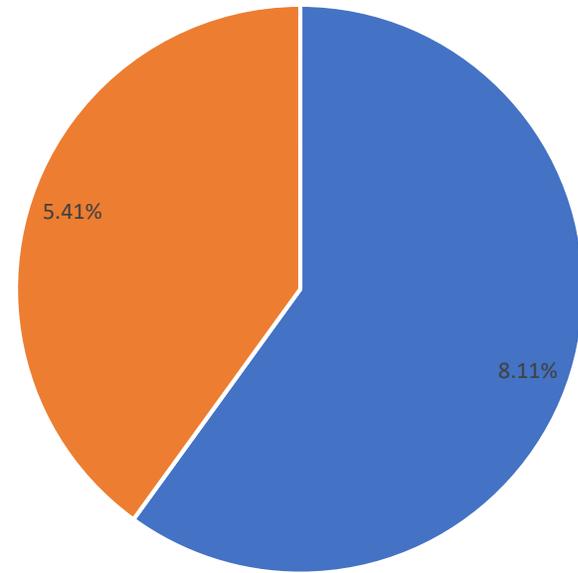
Details of "Yes" Answers



Q11a*: In your experience, does the type of substrate affect the Q rate in Buried Novice and Advanced classes? Trial Hosts



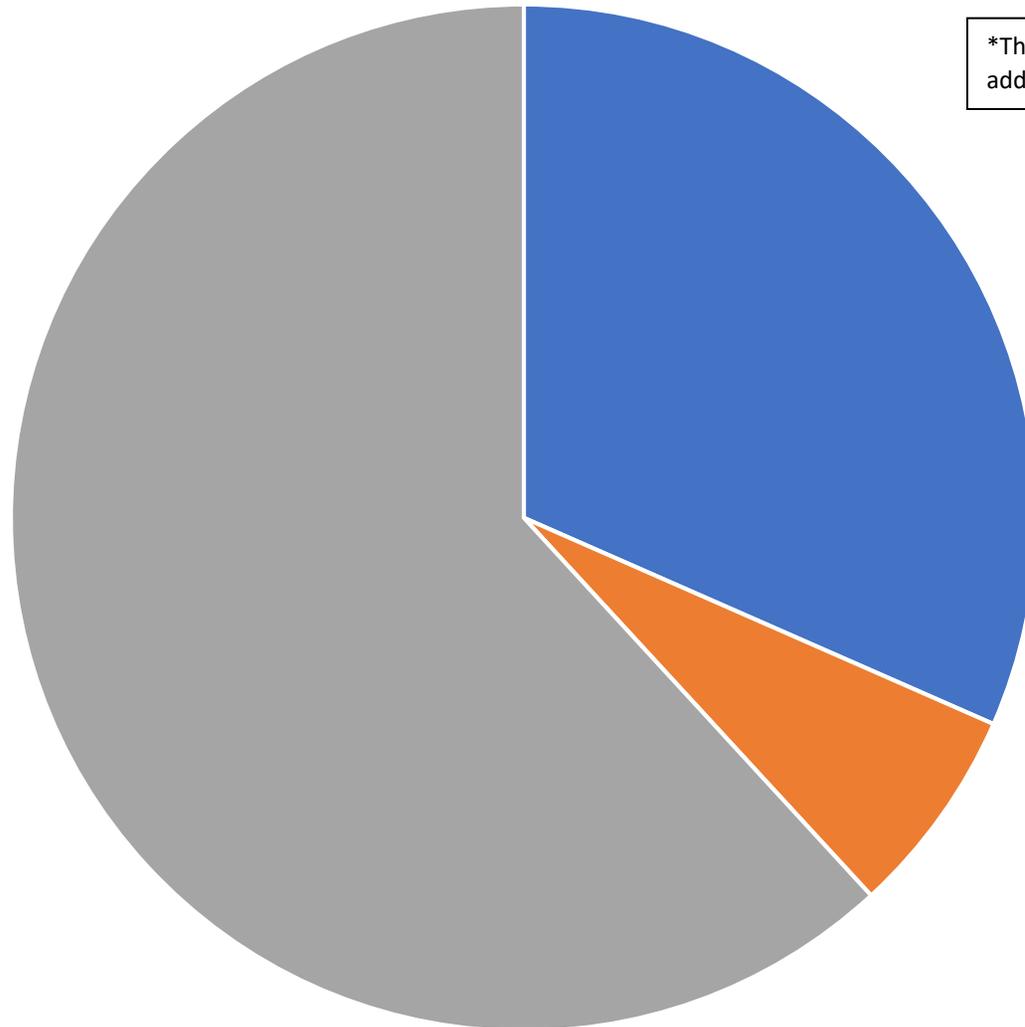
Details of "Yes" Answers



- Yes- topsoil seems to have a higher Q rate.
- Yes- play sand seems to have a higher Q rate.

Q11b*: In your experience, is one type of substrate harder to obtain than another?

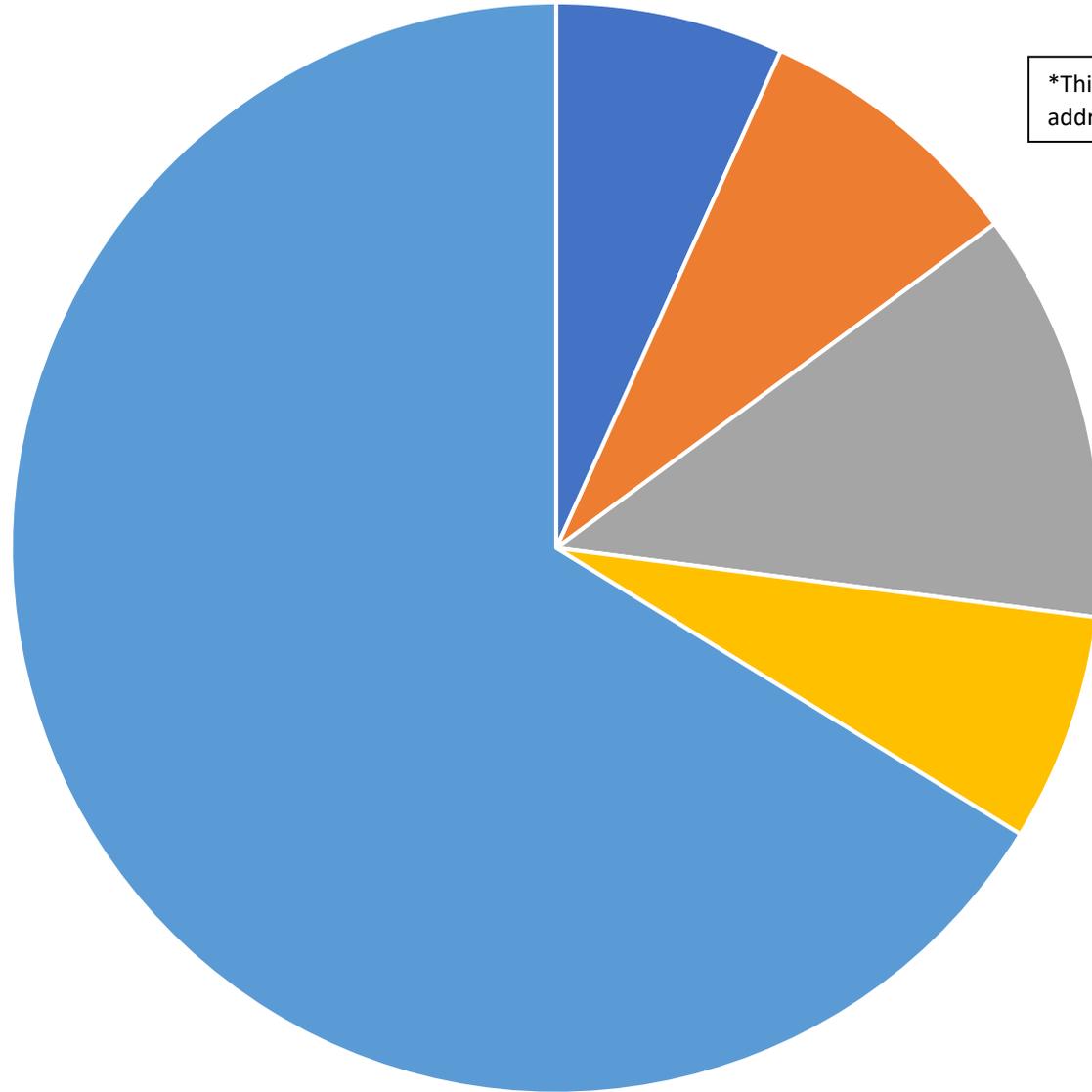
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- Yes- it is harder to find organic topsoil with no chemical additives.
- Yes- it is harder to find play sand.
- No- the difficulty of obtaining either substrate is the same.

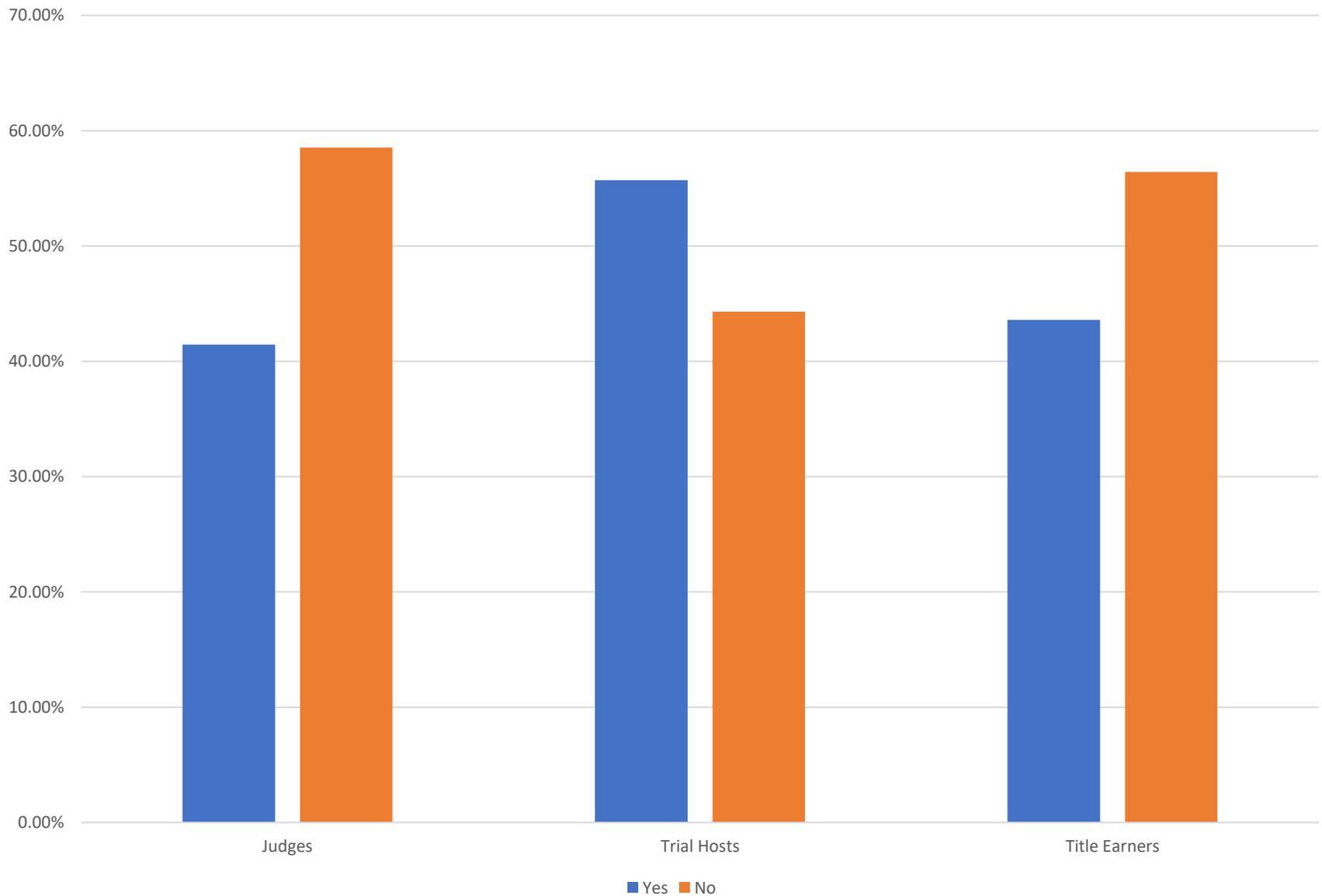
Q11c*: In your opinion, do handlers prefer one substrate over another? Why? Trial Hosts

*This question was addressed to Trial Hosts only



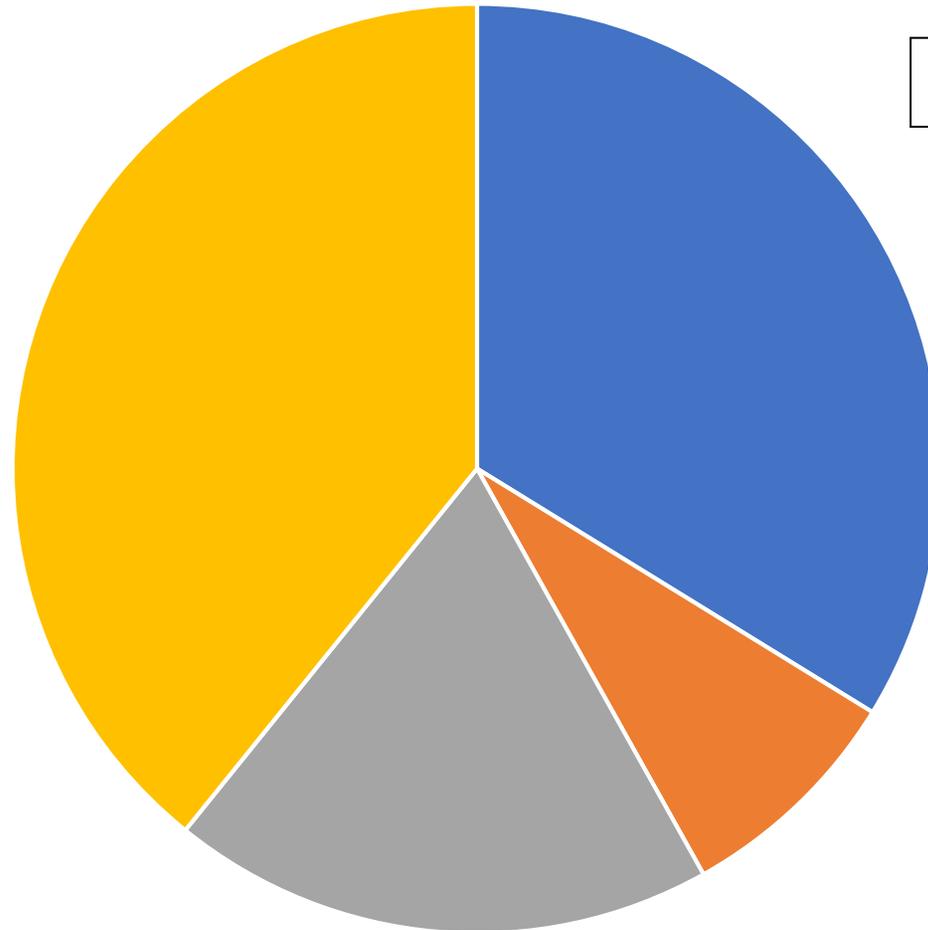
- Prefer Topsoil; Safety concerns about play sand.
- Prefer Topsoil; Easier
- Prefer Play Sand; Safety concerns about Top Soil
- Prefer Play Sand; Easier
- I have not noticed a preference.

Q12: For Buried Novice and Advanced classes, should a screen be required to limit disruption of the soil by dogs?



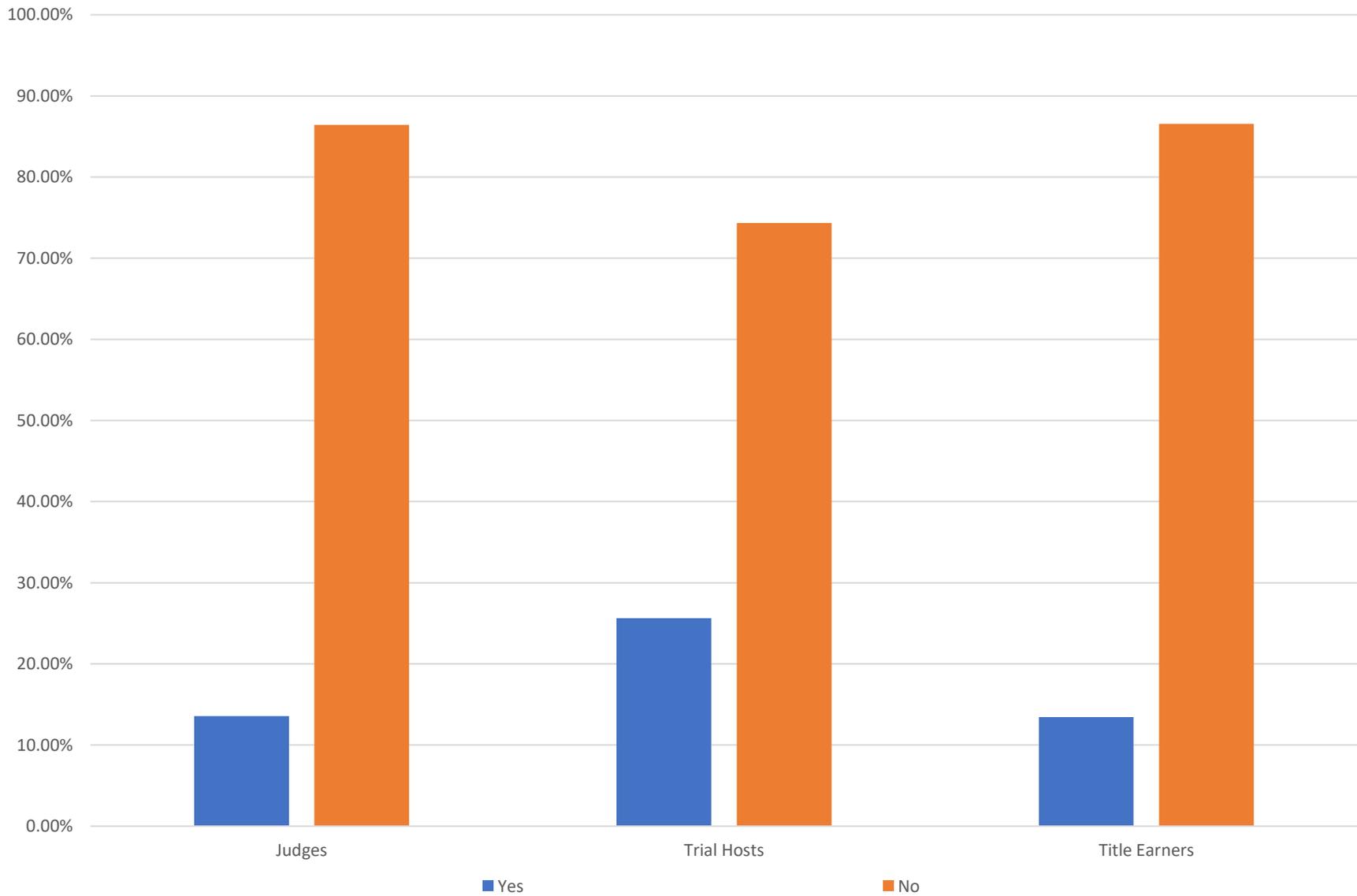
Q12a*: How often do you experience spills or contamination in Buried Novice and Advanced classes?

*This question was addressed to Trial Hosts only



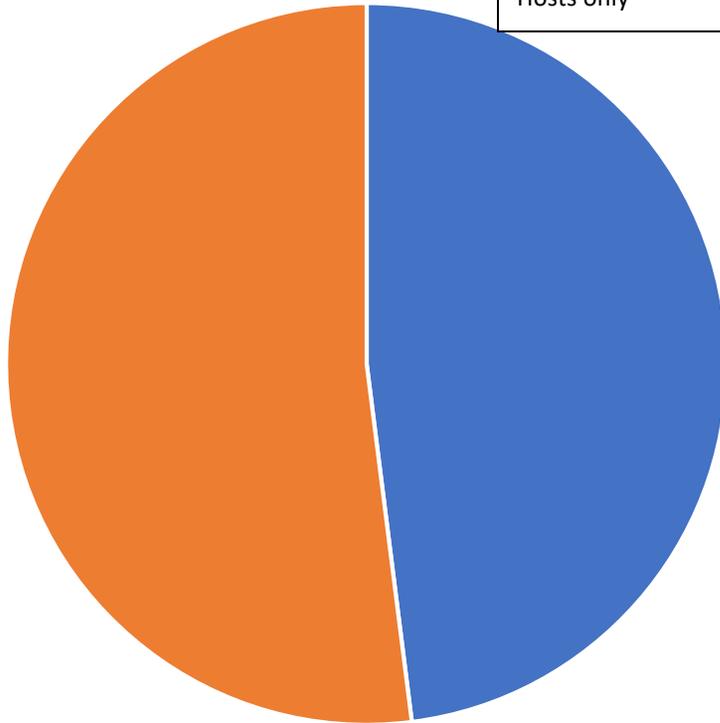
- We do not use a screen and we rarely have an issue with spills or contamination. Very little time per class is spent cleaning up displaced soil.
- We do not use a screen and we often have an issue with spills or contamination. Significant time per class is spent cleaning up displaced soil.
- We use a screen and it completely prevents spills or contamination.
- We use a screen and it mostly prevents spills or contamination.

Q13: Interior Master classes allow for one area to be “blank.” Should an area previously used for another search be able to be used as a blank area?



Q13a*: If the AKC required that Interior Master classes be held in “fresh” areas only (not in reused areas), would this affect trials that you host?

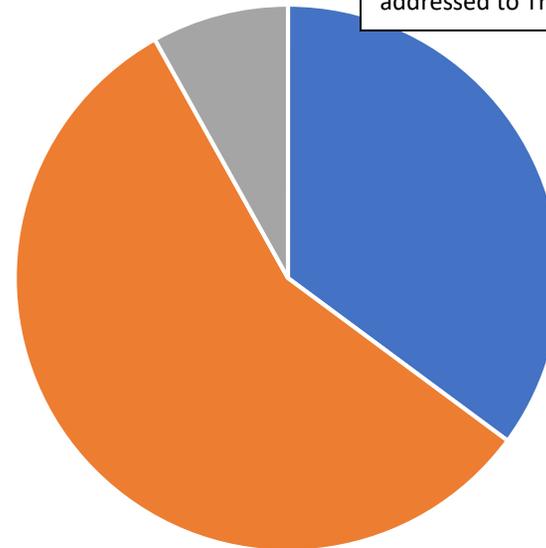
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- Yes, we would have to find an alternate site or we would not be able to host Interior Master in the future.
- No, our club does not routinely set up Interior Master in reused areas, and/or we have other areas available to us at our present sites.

Q13b: If changes were implemented that would affect your current sites would your club...

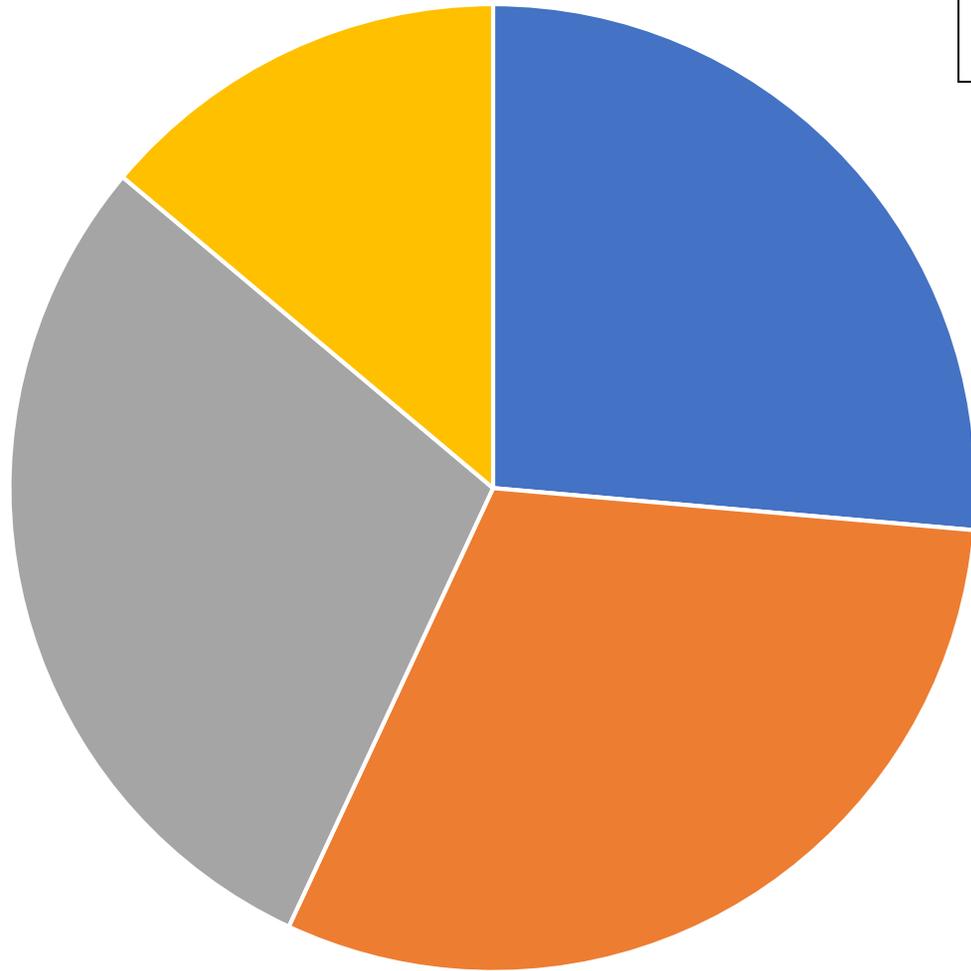
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- Seek an alternate site so that we can continue to offer a full complement of classes.
- Continue to use the present site and limit our course offerings as necessary (exclude higher level classes, for example).
- Cancel one or more trials that we currently host.

Q13c*: If changes were implemented that would affect your current sites and you chose to find alternate sites, how much lead time would you need in order to accommodate these changes?

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- We can arrange an alternate site within six months.
- We would need at least six months' notice to find an alternate site.
- We would need six to nine months to find an alternate site.
- We would need at least a year to find an alternate site.