

AKC EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS POLICY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

As an additional step in creating a safe and respectful sport environment for all, the AKC Board of Directors approved the following educational requirements policy and recommendations.

Effective April 10, 2024:

- AKC Board of Directors, Inspectors, Field Staff across all sports, AKC Registered Handlers, and additional AKC Staff that regularly attend events, will be required to successfully complete the *Stewards of Children®* training from the non-profit organization Darkness to Light.
- All current and future Junior Showmanship judges will be required to successfully complete the *Stewards of Children®* training. The initial course will be offered by AKC on a complimentary basis. All current Junior Showmanship judges must fulfill this requirement in 2024.
- All current and future Club Junior Coordinators will be required to successfully complete the *Stewards of Children®* training. The initial course will be offered by AKC on a complimentary basis.
- Junior participants and their parents will be recommended to take the following complementary courses as applicable from SafeSport:
 - SafeSport® for Youth Athletes (ages 13-17)
 - SafeSport® for Kids (5-12)
 - SafeSport® Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sports Core.
- All Superintendents, AKC approved Show Secretaries, and AKC approved Agility Trial Secretaries will be strongly advised to take the *Stewards of Children®* course.
- All current and future Judges across all sports are required to complete the *Stewards of Children® training*. The initial training will be provided on a complimentary basis by AKC; this requirement will be phased in.