



RANDOM
LITTLE
TIDBITS (#68)

Below is the next in a series of Random Tidbits of information (from me) in regards to the AKC Obedience Regulations. Knowledge of the Regulations provides you the power for...

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Today's Random Little Tidbit - Changes made in the Judge's Application Process.

You may have heard the saying, "The future of the sport is in the hands of the Novice exhibitor." *It is also in the hands of our experienced exhibitors* who we need as future judges. When one thinks of this on a national level with all the trials taking place and the judges needed to fill the panels, it could become a real concern if we do not have new judges coming along. The Companion Events department has amended the requirements for obedience judging candidates to allow a greater flexibility for today's times.

Serious thought is needed on your part to possibly venture forth in an additional way to give back to our sport. Many of us judges were where you may be now; the thought never passed over our cerebellum for whatever reasons. There are judges now who were encouraged by others to look into becoming a judge. Sometimes that is all it took to start the thinking process. If you have any inclination in starting the process yourself, start by asking a judge if they would sit at ringside and discuss judging. Judges are willing to share their experiences and judging knowledge to help you along the path. Also, keep this in mind if you are a Novice or Open judge advancing to the next level. If you are not seeing yourself as a future judge, maybe you can start to encourage others you feel may have the qualities needed to become a judge. Talk to them! Current judges should be on the lookout for newcomer judges and step forward to encourage and assist them as well.

If you are in the process of now applying (whatever the level), visit the AKC Website to review all of the updated material in its entirety:

<https://www.akc.org/sports/obedience/obedience-judging-information/>

A quick review of a few changes made in the application process:

To qualify as an applicant you must have:

- 1.** Personally owned, trained and titled a dog to an AKC Utility Dog (UD), **or** an AKC **Preferred Utility Dog (PUTD)** title and a second dog to an AKC Companion Dog (CD) **or Preferred Companion Dog (PCD)** title. At least one of the two dogs must have earned an AKC Companion Dog (CD) title.
- 2.** Been active in the sport a minimum of six (6) consecutive years.
- 3.** Acted as a steward in Novice/Open/Utility class (depending upon class applying for) at AKC member or licensed trials a minimum of ten (10) times.
 - a)** Novice applicants – five (5) of the ten stewarding assignments must have been within the last three (3) years.
 - b)** Open applicants – three (3) of the ten stewarding assignments must have been within the last three (3) years.
 - c)** Utility applicants - three (3) of the ten stewarding assignments must have been within the last three (3) years.

4. Have judged the relevant class being applied for at AKC sanctioned obedience A or B matches, or equivalent Wild Card class at an AKC trial a minimum of two (**2, was 5**) times, with a minimum total of twenty (**20, was 50**) dogs judged. Apprentice assignments, beyond the three (3) required, may be used on a one to one basis to replace the above requirements. The match and or Wild Card judging must have been within the last three (3) years.

a) Applying for Novice – Judged Novice classes twice at sanctioned matches, or **two Novice Wild Card classes**; or substitute a Novice apprenticeship assignment (on a one-to-one basis). Novice A and B, Preferred Novice and Beginner Novice A & B numbers may be included.

b) Applying for Open – Judged Open classes twice at sanctioned matches, or **two Open Wild Card classes**; or substitute an Open apprenticeship assignment (on a one-to-one basis). Open A and B, Preferred Open and Graduate Novice numbers may be included.

c) Applying for Utility - Judged Utility classes twice at sanctioned matches, or **two Utility Wild Card classes**; or substitute a Utility apprenticeship assignment (on a one-to-one basis). Utility A and B, Preferred Utility, Graduate Open and Versatility numbers may be included.

5. Apprenticed under at least three (3) different judges with a total minimum of thirty (30) dogs evaluated overall. This will allow you to combine multiple classes to reach thirty. In the past, numbers did not count unless there was a minimum of ten (10) dogs in a class. Apprentice judging forms are available at the following link: http://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/obedience_rally_apprentice.pdf

6. Actively participated as an assistant trainer or as a trainer in a dog training club or similar organization.

7. Attended an AKC Obedience seminar within the last three (3) years

8. When a provisional judge has met the requirements to apply for regular status, they now may apply for provisional status at the next level at the same time. This will be a great time saver to move along in the process.

For complete details:

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/20145218/Obedience-Judges-application-requirements.pdf>

If you have any questions:

Do not hesitate to contact the Companion Events Department at (919) 816-3575. You may also email any questions to obedience@akc.org.

AKC Blog Address: <https://akcobedrlyjudges.wordpress.com/about/> Sign up to receive updates.