

CHAPTER 2 - LICENSING OF JUDGES

UBT judges: are knowledgeable about the UBT testing rules and procedures; are experienced and skilled in evaluating dogs under the UBT testing rules and procedures; may conduct non-event (Group and Individual) UBT tracking tests without prior authorization; are current UBT members and will maintain their membership as a requirement to continue judging, and must judge a UBT tracking test or attend a judge's seminar every 3 years to maintain their license to judge. Judges will automatically be suspended for failure to maintain their qualifications to judge.

BECOMING A UBT JUDGE

Participation in the UBT Apprenticeship Program is not required, however, it is the most likely path to becoming a UBT judge. Individuals seeking to become a UBT Judge without participating in the Apprenticeship Program will have similar qualifications. Participation in the Apprenticeship Program is limited to 3 years. Extensions may be granted upon written request and approval by the Director of Testing. Judges must be approved by the Board of Directors. Completion of the minimum requirements of the Apprenticeship Program, or having similar qualifications, will not guarantee approval to become a judge.

Note: UBT judges may not become American Blood Tracking Association (ABTA) judges, nor will they administer ABTA tests as UBT judges. UBT judges that are found to have administered ABTA tests will have their UBT judging license suspended.

The Apprenticeship Program

Prior to requesting entrance into the Apprenticeship Program, the individual will:

- A. be at least 18 years of age,
- B. train and handle at least one tracking dog for real world recovery of wounded deer, and
- C. train and handle a dog to a passing performance of a UBT 1.

Next, the individual will:

- A. Request participation in the Apprenticeship Program from the Director of Testing in writing. A detailed resume of general dog experience, hunting background and specific blood tracking history must be included with the request for participation in the Apprenticeship Program.
- B. Maintain a record of the dates, events, activities and names of judges worked with to document their Apprenticeship Program qualifications. UBT will not be responsible for documenting qualifications. The UBT Apprenticeship Program Qualifications form MUST be used.

Then, accomplish the following:

- A. Assist with testing at a minimum of four different events.
- B. Assist at least five different judges (may assist with more than one judge at an event).
- C. Independently lay a minimum of ten tracking test lines – at least five UBT 1’s and at least five UBT 2’s, and serve as the line expert for those lines. Independently laying lines would normally occur after assisting on other lines.
- D. After conferring with the judge for a tracking test, give the critique to the handler for at least five tests.
- E. Conduct whole test for at least three UBT 1’s and three UBT 2’s under the oversight of an approved judge (the judge must approve and sign the tracking test results). At least one tracking test “judged” must be a failed test.
- F. Train and handle a dog to a passing performance of a UBT 2. This may have occurred prior to entering the Apprenticeship Program, but if not, must occur before requesting approval to judge.

(See **Additional Information About Apprentices (D)** for definitions apprentice activity definitions).

Last, the individual will:

- A. Submit a letter to the Director of Testing requesting approval to judge. The Apprentice Program Activity Record documenting their experiences must be included.
- B. Request three judges to submit letters of recommendation to the Director of Testing.
- C. Requests that do not include all of the following will not be considered:
 - a. Letter requesting approval, and
 - b. Apprentice Program Activity Record.
 - c. Names of three judges who have been requested by the apprentice to send letter of recommendation.

The Director of Testing will forward the individual’s information to the Board of Directors for consideration.

The Board of Directors may consider other combinations of knowledge, skills and abilities other than those listed above when reviewing the individual’s qualifications.

Approval Without Apprenticeship

An individual that is seeking approval independent of the apprenticeship program:

- A. Must be at least 18 years of age, and

- B. must have extensive experience training and handling tracking dogs for real world recovery of wounded big game, and
- C. must have trained and handled at least one dog to one or more passing performance(s) of tracking test(s) conducted by an organization acceptable to UBT (for example, a blood tracking test conducted by an established international organization), and
- D. will have judging experience with an organization with standards and criteria acceptable to UBT (for example, Deutsche Teckelklub (DTK) or Jagdgebrauchshundverband (JGHV)).

The individual will submit to the Director of Testing:

- A. A request, in writing, for consideration to be approved to judge UBT tracking tests, and
- B. a detailed resume of dog experience, hunting background and specific blood tracking history.

The individual must demonstrate their knowledge of UBT testing rules and procedures to the satisfaction of the Director of Testing. If the Director of Testing is satisfied that the individual possesses the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities to be considered, they will forward the information to the Board of Directors for consideration.

Additional Requirements for Approval to Judge UBT OL and/or UBT 3

Prior to requesting approval to judge UBT OL and/or UBT 3, a judge will have:

- A. a minimum of one year of experience since approval to judge, and
- B. tested at least 20 dogs at the UBT 1 and/or 2 level, and
- C. for **UBT OL** – will list the dates and judges assisted for the laying of at least three UBT OL tracking test lines and include it with a letter to the Director of Testing detailing their knowledge and experience with off lead tracking and the use of GPS applications and devices.
for **UBT 3** – will list the dates and judges assisted for the laying of at least four UBT 3 tracking test lines and include it with a letter to the Director of Testing. A judge may substitute training and handling a dog to a passing performance of a UBT 3 tracking test for assisting on one UBT tracking test line.

The Director of Testing will forward the individual's information to the Board of Directors for consideration.

APPRENTICE TRAINING GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

A judge must have a minimum of 1 year of experience and must have tested at least 20 dogs after having been approved to judge before they may be assigned an apprentice for training. A judge will not accept an apprentice being assigned to them if they do not meet these requirements. A judge may also decline having an apprentice assigned to them if they have a good and sufficient reason.

- A. Every tracking test an apprentice participates on must be supervised by an approved judge. Apprentices may never conduct a tracking test without the presence of an approved judge.
- B. Judges should determine the apprentice's level of competence in advance of a tracking test and assign the apprentice an appropriate degree of responsibility.
- C. Should the apprentice say or do anything that the judge deems incorrect or incomplete along the way, the judge should immediately correct the situation while it is occurring or supplement with input or further explanation to the tracking team.
- D. Judges should ensure that apprentices learn how to use a GPS or field markers when laying lines and know how to use them during the tracking test.
- E. Conversations during the tracking test between the judge and the apprentice should be discreet and not disturb the tracking team. When speaking with the apprentice, the judge should be open, honest and observant of the apprentice's contributions and comprehension of the situation.
- F. At the end of a tracking test, before the judge or apprentice give a critique to the handler, the judge and apprentice should confer privately. The judge should ask the apprentice if they would pass or fail the team. The judge and apprentice should further discuss what will be said to the handler. After that private conference, if appropriate to the apprentice's level of development, the apprentice may be allowed to give the handler the critique. The judge should supplement the critique in any way that would be helpful to the team.
- G. After a tracking test is complete and the handler has been critiqued, a judge should engage in a formal discussion with the apprentice regarding each test performed. The discussion should include both positive and negative feedback to the apprentice, including suggestions for future improvement.
- H. Judges are responsible for teaching apprentices how to process paperwork after the tracking test. At Event or Group tests, this may be a matter of verifying the information is complete on the UBT Entry Form and Scoresheet, completing the tracking test result information and signing the form. For Individual tests, the apprentice should understand the process of entering the information on the UBT website.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT APPRENTICES

The Coordinating Judge at an Event (**See CHAPTER 1 – Event Testing**) is responsible for assigning apprentices to judges. The Coordinating Judge may only assign apprentices to qualified judges (**See Apprentice Training Guidelines for Judges**). Coordinating Judges should be aware of an apprentice's experience level and assign the apprentice where they can be helpful.

- A. Only one person may accompany the judge laying a tracking test line. If this person is an apprentice, no other person may accompany the judge.
- B. Only one apprentice may get credit for the activities of Line Expert, Critique, and Conducted Whole Test on the Apprentice Program Activity Record for each tracking test at an event. More than one apprentice may have Assisted on a tracking test.
- C. An apprentice may not be assigned an apprentice.
- D. Apprentice activity categories are Assisted, Line Expert, Critique, and Conducted Whole Test.
 - a. **Assisted.** The apprentice will follow along with the judge when the tracking test line is being judged. The apprentice may ask questions or receive information from the judge about the tracking test line before, during or after the test. The apprentice may be present to hear the critique given to the tracking team. An apprentice that assisted on a line does not serve as the line expert or give the critique. There may be more than one apprentice that assisted on a tracking test line.
 - b. **Line Expert.** The apprentice will independently lay the tracking test line under the supervision of a judge that may or may not accompany the apprentice in laying the line. The apprentice will utilize a GPS and/or field markers to map the tracking test line. During the tracking test, the apprentice that laid the line must serve as Line Expert and is responsible for knowing where the line is and being able to return to that line when requested by the judge during the tracking test. There may only be one apprentice that serves as Line Expert during a tracking test.
 - c. **Critique.** After privately conferring with the judge to discuss what will be said to the handler, the apprentice will give the critique to the handler. The critique must include both positive and negative comments, and any advice that may be appropriate. The judge may or may not supplement the critique to the handler. Only one apprentice may give the critique with the judge to the handler, although other apprentices who have assisted on the tracking test line may be present to hear the critique.
 - d. **Conducted Whole Test.** Under the supervision of the judge, the apprentice will independently plot where the tracking test line should be placed within the assigned area, map and/or mark the line when putting down the blood or shoe tracking test line, give the handler orientation at the beginning of the tracking test, as well as any instructions to the handler during the test (including call backs). The apprentice will serve as their own line expert when conducting the tracking test and give the critique at the end of the test. The judge will make the final determination of pass or fail of the handling team after conferring with the apprentice and must sign the paperwork submitted to the Director of Testing. An apprentice who has Conducted Whole

Test will sign and print their name under the presiding judge's name on the Scoresheet submitted to the Director of Testing. Only one apprentice may have "conducted whole test".

JUDGE INTEGRITY, COMPETENCE AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The character and capability of UBT licensed judges reflects on the nature of UBT and our sport. UBT is proud of its judges, their reputations, and the contributions they make. Judges should also be aware of situations that cause conflicts of interest. As such, UBT has adopted the following requirements that judges must adhere to.

Integrity

- A. Judges will commit themselves to the values of honesty, courtesy, and respect. They will be fair and consistent in their judging decisions.
- B. Judges are a public representative of UBT and will maintain the highest standard of conduct at all times, knowing that an individual judge's actions reflect directly on the organization.
- C. Judges are in a position to become the subject of criticism by UBT members and the public. Therefore, always keep in mind that perfectly innocent actions or statements can be misconstrued. This includes conduct in public forums and social media. Actions that bring embarrassment to the UBT could be subject to disciplinary action that affect one's judging privileges. There will always be "gray areas" that may be confusing. When faced with such a dilemma, ask yourself whether the situation, however innocent, projects an outward appearance of impropriety. If you have concerns about whether something is inappropriate, you should avoid the situation.
- D. Judges will refrain from speaking negatively about UBT members, other UBT judges, event hosts, and the UBT organization as a whole.
- E. Judges may not be under the influence of recreational drugs or alcohol while judging.
- F. Judges will always dress appropriately while judging.
- G. Judges will strive to convey as much positive feedback as possible during the tracking test critique. Negative comments will be offered respectfully, and with advice on how to improve the team's performance.

Competence/Fitness to Judge It is essential that a judge be physically and mentally capable of performing the functions necessary to properly administer a tracking test. They must have:

- A. The maneuverability to negotiate outdoors, with or without mechanical assistance, (e.g., crutches or a cane),
- B. The dexterity to move at a sufficient speed to adhere to the schedule of the event-giving organization and to UBT rules for tracking tests.
- C. The capability to remain focused on details and control the tracking test(s). the judge is responsible for judging for the duration of the assignment.

- D. Normal vision (may be corrected by eyeglasses or contact lenses).
- E. The capability of doing all the necessary paperwork.

Illness: Judges are expected to be physically fit and capable of completing their agreed upon assignment. If you learn that you will not be able to fulfill an assignment because of illness or other serious occurrence, immediately notify:

- A. The Event Chairperson AND the Coordinating Judge for Event Testing;
- B. The Group Coordinator or Other judge for Group Testing; or
- C. The Individual you agreed to test for Individual Testing.

If you become ill while judging, and it becomes necessary to find a replacement, you should not attempt to continue your assignment later in the day.

Conflicts of Interest. A conflict of interest exists when a judge is influenced by any relationship or factor other than the performance of the tracking team.

- A. A judge may not judge a dog that they are the breeder of record of or have ever owned.
- B. A judge may not judge a dog that they have ever boarded, trained or handled for financial consideration.
- C. A judge may judge a dog and/or handler that they have trained as part of an event that was open to the public, even if the handler may have paid a registration fee to attend the event, as long as no personal financial consideration was paid to the individual judge.
- D. A judge may judge a dog and/or handler that they have trained privately, as long as there has been no financial consideration to the judge for their assistance in training the dog.
- E. A judge may not judge themselves as part of a tracking team.

“Financial consideration”, as it pertains to these rules will be defined to include, but not be limited to, monetary payment, trading of goods or services or promises of future compensation, including monetary payment, goods or services, compensation from a third party or other benefits, such as judging assignments, speaking engagements, etc.

Note: In order to maintain clarity in the tracking dog community, ensure organizational independence, minimize competition and to avoid financial and liability conflicts of interest between the two organizations, UBT Judges may not participate as a judge, speaker or trainer in any ABTA test or activity. Further, UBT Judges are prohibited from taking an ABTA test with a dog. UBT Judges are not prohibited from attending an ABTA test or activity as a spectator with no official duties. A UBT Judge that engages in a prohibited activity will have their UBT license to judge suspended.