

USRC Working Judge Program

The intention of the USRC Working Judge Program is to prepare Judges to the standards of the VDH and beyond. The criteria by which we select our judges are critical to the recognition of USRC titles by international organizations. All applicants are evaluated by what they have contributed to the USRC in addition to the knowledge, experience and communication skills necessary to fulfill the responsibilities of judging. This knowledge and experience must include the Rottweiler.

A. Qualifications for Apprenticeship

1. The candidate must be a USRC member in good standing for at least 5 years and maintain their membership throughout their judging career.
2. The candidate must have trained and handled a Rottweiler from BH to SchH3, and at least one other Rottweiler to a SchH1. In addition they must have achieved an FH, AD and additional BH.
3. The candidate must have competed in twelve Schutzhund trials, including at least one National championship.
4. The candidate must have considerable experience in training and handling Rottweilers in the sport of Schutzhund (i.e. involvement at local club level).
5. USRC Working Judge candidates must be between the ages of 25 and 60 years old.

B. Application Process

1. Application to the Apprentice Working Judge program must be accompanied by the candidate's resume and supporting documentation as required in Qualifications for Apprenticeship.
2. The Judge's Committee will verify the application and all accompanying material and perform a standard background check.
3. Upon acceptance of the application, the candidate's name will be listed on the USRC Website for 30 days.
4. Any challenges or objections regarding the candidate should be sent to the Judge's Committee in writing during this period. Unsigned letters will be disregarded. All letters received will be sent to the candidate without signatures.
5. The candidate will participate in a trial as a walk through under a judge approved by the Judge's Committee.
6. After completion of the walk through, the presiding judge will submit a statement regarding the candidate's participation and potential as a USRC Apprentice Working Judge to the Judge's Committee.
7. After full review, recommendation by the walk through trial judge and acceptance by the Judge's Committee, the candidate will be placed on the USRC Apprentice Working Judge list and is qualified to begin their apprenticeship.

C. Apprentice Procedure

1. The Apprentice Working Judge will send a written request for permission to the Judge's Committee and host club's Trial Secretary. This request must be done no less than 14 days prior to the trial.
2. The Apprentice must complete a minimum of 8 apprenticeship trials.
3. The Apprentice must attend two USRC approved judging seminars. Substitution of additional apprenticeship trials is possible with Judge's Committee approval.
4. All apprenticeship trials will be done under USRC recognized judges with approval from the Judge's Committee.
5. The final apprenticeship will be done at a Regional or National Championship.
6. The Apprentice will be required to judge a minimum of 50 dogs as follows:
 - Five Begleithunde (BH)
 - Two Ausauerprufung (AD)
 - Five Farthenhund (FH)
 - Ten Schutzhund 1s
 - Five Schutzhund 2s
 - Twenty-three Schutzhund 3s
7. At completion of all apprenticeship requirements, the Judge's Committee will administer a final written exam.
8. The Apprenticeship shall last no longer than three years to remain in the Working Judge program.
9. After successful completion of the Working Judge Program and approval by the Judge's Committee, a temporary Working Judge License will be issued for a period of two years.

10. During these two years, a minimum of one trial per year must be completed. On recommendation of the Judge's Committee this Temporary License may be revoked or extended by a vote of the Board.
11. All titles awarded by the Temporary Licensee during these two years are fully recognized by USRC. Provided the temporary licensed judge becomes fully licensed, the initial two years will be included in the total years an individual has been judging.

D. Apprentice Paperwork Requirements

1. Apprentice Judges must request written permission from the Judge's Committee and hosting club's Trial Secretary prior to accepting ANY judging assignment.
2. The official USRC Judge Authorization Form must be used for authorization of all judging assignments.
3. At the conclusion of each apprenticeship, two copies of the Apprentice Trial Report will be given to the judge.
4. Within 14 days of the conclusion of each apprenticeship, one copy of the Apprentice Trial Report will be sent to the Judge's Committee. This copy will include a cover letter evaluating the Apprentice's work by the presiding trial judge. The Trial Secretary will send submission of this report to the Judge's Committee.
5. The presiding trial judge will present the Apprentice one copy of the report with corrections and remarks.
6. Only after receipt of all copies of the previous Apprentice Trial Report will the Judge's Committee grant permission for another apprenticeship.
7. A copy of the previous Apprentice Trial Report must be presented to the next presiding trial judge prior to subsequent apprenticeship. This will allow the presiding trial judge the opportunity to evaluate the Apprentice's progress.

E. USRC Working Judge's Conduct

1. A Judge is a representative of USRC on and off the field at all times and will be dressed appropriately. This means slacks and sports shirt (shirt with collar) during stadium work. T-shirts, and warm up suits are not proper attire for judging stadium work.
2. A Judge will always be fair and unbiased in their work.
3. A Judge will always conduct his/herself in a sportsmanlike manner.
4. A Judge will abide by the rules accepted and followed by the USRC.
5. A Judge will at all times be concerned with the welfare of our dogs, the spectators and the safe conduct of the trial and all concerned.
6. A Judge may not judge their local club event or members of their household.
7. A Judge may not judge consecutive trials at any club, with the exception of a Regional or National Championship that the club is hosting.
8. A Judge may judge a maximum of twenty-five trials per year. This does not include endurance tests, BH trials or B & C tournaments.
9. A Judge must keep expanding their knowledge by attending Working Judge seminars.
10. A Judge must remain actively involved in the training and trialing of Schutzhund dogs.
11. A Judge is required to preside over a minimum of one trial annually.

F. USRC Working Judge Fees

1. For travel, the mileage reimbursement will follow US Federal guidelines for any and all travel to and from the trial by personal vehicle.
2. Round trip airfare when required and all attendant charges such as parking, etc.
3. Any meals taken while in transit to and from the trial.
4. Lodging and all meals during the course of the event.
5. Judge's fees of \$75.00 per day including one travel day.

G. Removal of USRC Working Judges

1. Termination of USRC membership for any reason.
2. Voluntary request for removal.
3. Any Judge who does not judge one trial annually without sufficient cause will be placed on suspension until good reason is supplied to the Judge's Committee. If good reason is not supplied, the judge will be required to perform one apprenticeship within one year of being placed on suspension to reinstate their license.
4. A Judge may be removed as a result of Executive Board decision and after an impartial hearing based on:
 - a. Failure to abide by the rules and regulations of the USRC
 - b. Failure to abide by the USRC Working Judge's Conduct, rules and regulations and requirements as specified in the USRC Working Judge Program or the Judge's Committee.
5. A Judge may request inactive status for personal reasons. If the Judge in question remains inactive for more than eighteen months, they must perform one apprenticeship to be re-instated as a fully licensed USRC Working Judge.
6. The retirement age for a USRC Working Judge shall be 70 years old.

H. Request for Judging Assignments

1. USRC Licensed and Apprentice Judges must request written permission from the Chairperson of the Judge's Committee prior to accepting ANY judging assignment.
2. Non-USRC judging assignments must be further approved by the President.
3. The official USRC Judge Authorization Form must be used for authorization of all judging assignments.

I. Requirements for Judging National and International Events

1. Must have been a licensed Judge for at least five years.