

Regulations on Association Judgeship

New revision by the 2005 General Meeting
Revised by the 2012 General Meeting
Amended and revised by the 2013 General Meeting

The merit of Association tests stands in direct relationship to the capability, knowledge and objectivity of the Association Judges. For this reason, reputation and prestige of the German versatile hunting dog movement are inevitably connected to appropriately managing the judgeship issue. Any handler of a versatile hunting dog will gladly accept and place confidence in an Association Judge with character and discernment.

For just this reason, it is an urgent necessity to provide a pool of discerning, objective and responsible future judges, and to ensure the continuing education of appointed Association Judges.

Training and development of Apprentice Judges (*RA.*), and the continuing education of appointed Association Judges (*VR*) are governed by the following Regulations on Association Judgeship.

§ 1

Authorization to Train Apprentice Judges

- (1) Every JGHV member club under the definition of § 3(1)1.a-d of the JGHV By-laws is entitled to nominate Apprentice Judges and apply for their registration, and train them to become Association Judges.
- (2) Every member club which desires to train Apprentice Judges must designate an **experienced** Association Judge as the specialist for judges and judge candidates. This specialist must have the ability to assess whether an Apprentice Judge is suitable for the position and possesses the principal character qualities described above. In this capacity, he guides and supervises the training of the Apprentice Judge. He further maintains a list of appointed Association Judges in his member club.
- (3) During the entire course of his training, the Apprentice Judge shall be sponsored by the nominating member club. Only in the event of a legitimate reason (e.g. change in physical address) may the Apprentice Judge transfer from his sponsoring club to another club. Such transfer must be requested in advance by the first sponsoring club on behalf of the Apprentice Judge from the JGHV Office.

§ 2

Admission Guidelines

Anyone may be registered as Apprentice Judge who

(1)

- a) Has been a member of the nominating member club for a minimum of three (3) years; exceptions subject to approval by the Executive Committee;
- b) Is in possession of at least three (3) consecutive annual hunting licenses (36 months); a youth hunting license qualifies;
- c) Has successfully handled one or more pointing dog(s), which he himself trained, at one or more each spring natural ability test(s) (*VJP*), or *Derby* test, and fall natural ability test(s) (*HZP*), or *Solms* test, as well as one Association Utility Test (*VGP*).

If the dog was handled at a *Derby* test, it must have been tested in tracking and achieved a tracking score of at least "sufficient" one time, either at the Derby test or at a fall natural ability test (*HZP* or *Solms*).

- d) For the registration in the specialty subject Water, the applicant's dog(s) must have passed in the subject "Search behind Live Duck in Dense Cover."
 - e) A dog shall not be considered trained by the applicant when the dog was handled successfully at a test by a different handler.
 - f) Subscribes to the Association Publication, "*Der Jagdgebrauchshund*;" and
 - g) Has attended within the last three (3) years a judges seminar on „Introduction to Performance Testing, Judging and Versatile Hunting Dog Movement,“ presented according to JGHV guidelines; attendance must be documented on Formblatt 62;
 - h) Special breed clubs have the right to take into account those elements that are specific to their breed. The JGHV Office must be notified in advance of such specifics.
- (2) The respective member clubs may only nominate Apprentice Judges who are likely capable of reaching and supporting a factually correct and objective judgment without regard of the person's status. Apprentice Judges must be practicing hunters with a dog.

§ 3 Registration

- (1) Formblatt 51 must be used for the registration application and submitted to the JGHV Office together with the required documents stated therein.
- (2) Following registration, the Apprentice Judge card and the JGHV By-laws, and Regulations on Association Judgeship are returned to the respective member club which will then issue the card and documents to the Apprentice Judge. No credit will be given for any Apprentice Judge activity prior to the successful registration (see paragraph 3 below) by the JGHV Office.
- (3) The name of each newly registered Apprentice Judge must be published in the Association publication, "*Der Jagdgebrauchshund*." Registration is deemed preliminary and will not become effective until it has been determined that no objections against the registration have been filed within 4 weeks after publication.
- (4) In the event that registration is denied, the nominating member club may file a written protest with the JGHV Office within two (2) weeks. The Executive Committee makes the final decision on the protest.

§ 4 Training

(1) General Guidelines

- a) The Apprentice Judge must be in possession of the Test Regulations that pertain to his training, and of the most recent version of the General Guidelines. He must be familiar with the contents.
- b) The Apprentice Judge must subscribe to the Association Publication, "*Der Jagdgebrauchshund*," and study its contents.
- c) The training of the Apprentice Judge is guided by the special subjects in which he successfully handled his dog(s), and by those for which he has been registered.

- The Apprentice Judge must practice, each time under different senior judges, in all specialty judging teams in which he will judge in the future, as a minimum at two each of these types of tests, *VJP*, *HZP* and *VGP*. The same applies to special breed clubs.
- d) He must practice at least at one of each of these tests in a different test- or breed club.
Special breed clubs have the right to take into account those elements that are specific to their breed. The JGHV Office must be notified in advance of such specifics.
 - e) In lieu of a *VJP*, the Apprentice Judge may practice at a *Derby*, and respectively, at a *Solms* in lieu of an *HZP*.
 - f) He must be included at least once in the preparations and execution of one natural ability test and one performance test; these activities must be documented.

(2) Training Practice

- a) A maximum of TWO (2) Apprentice Judges may be assigned to each judging team. The Apprentice Judge is provided a judge's book at each test practice. The Apprentice Judge must keep these books until his appointment.
- b) He must at a minimum evaluate two (2) dogs during the entire test and write reports on these dogs. Limiting his assignment to certain specialty judging teams must be avoided.
- c) The acting senior judge (*RO*) must stay in close contact with the Apprentice Judge during the entire test. They must, in particular, discuss relevant Test Regulations, bases for judgments as well as test technicalities and, foremost, the natural abilities and performance demonstrated by the dogs under judgment.
- d) As soon as one test subject has been completed, the Apprentice Judge must, upon request by the senior judge, be **the first** to report his observations to the judging team, including a judgment on the performance and the reasons for the judgement.
- e) As part of the open judging, the Apprentice Judge must, on at least one occasion at each test, describe to the handlers his evaluation and judgment of a dog. The same applies to his evaluation of unusual behavior and physical deficiencies.

(3) Written Report by Apprentice Judge and Documentation on Card

- a) Following the test, the Apprentice Judge must prepare his written report on each dog in his group. The Apprentice Judge must describe the dogs' performances in each test subject. The judgment must present itself as the logical conclusion from the described performance whereby the reason for the judgment must be explicitly laid out. The Apprentice Judge must report on at least six (6) dogs per special judging team at all test levels at different tests.
Special breed clubs have the right to take into account those elements that are specific to their breed. The JGHV Office must be notified in advance of such specifics.
- b) Within two (2) weeks from the test, a duplicate test report is to be completed by the Apprentice Judge and submitted, with the Apprentice Judge card, to the senior judge, or respectively, to the senior judges of each specialty judging team and the test director. The senior judge must critique the report and return this copy to the Apprentice Judge.
- c) Documentation on the Apprentice Judge card by the senior judge, or respectively by the test director in tests where judging is done by specialty judging teams, must be withheld until the Apprentice Judge report has been received. In the event that the report is delayed without prior notice to the senior judge, the confirmation of the test

attendance may be declined. Confirmation on an Apprentice Judge card that is not registered with the JGHV Office is prohibited.

- d) The senior judge (or respectively, the senior judges of specialty judging teams) must, without delay, review the report and use Formblatt 54 to write comments. The report and the evaluation must thereafter be sent to the appropriate party (Director of Judge Development) of the club, and the card and the copy of the report with comments sent to the Apprentice Judge.
“The Apprentice Judge is responsible for providing envelope and postage.”

(4) Required Attendance of Continuing Education Seminar for Judges and Additional Requirements for the Apprentice Judge

- a) Following his registration, the Apprentice Judge must attend at least two (2) continuing education seminars with topics that reflect the Apprentice Judge’s specialty subjects. These seminars must be qualified as such under JGHV guidelines. His attendance at each of these seminars must be documented on the card.
- b) The member club that plans on organizing a seminar or judges’ continuing education event must notify the JGHV Office of the planned event in advance, i.e. at least two (2) months before the next annual quarter begins. Notification must be made using Formblatt 61 for Seminars and Formblatt 63 for Continuing Education for Association Judges. The event is deemed approved as a continuing education event when it is published in the official Association publication. The organizing club must document attendance for each attendee. The attendance by an Apprentice Judge must be documented on his card; Formblatt 65 may be used for all other attendees.
- c) The sponsoring club or the JGHV Executive Committee may request additional training not mentioned herein.

(5) Responsibilities of Director of Judge Development During Apprenticeship:

- a) The Director of Judge Development must ensure that the application for registration as Apprentice Judge is correctly completed and submitted to the JGHV Office with all required documents attached.
- b) He must review, after each practice activity by the Apprentice Judge, the report for proper and plausible completion, and must, where indicated, initiate suitable action in coordination with the senior judge and the Apprentice Judge. He must review the report for style and contents. Any negative comments regarding the activities or the demeanor of the Apprentice Judge, or any disagreements over the comments by the senior judge must be forwarded by the Director of Judge Development to the respective parties in a timely manner. Where indicated, the communication must be in writing.
- c) The application for the Association Judge Appointment must be submitted on Formblatt 55, with the required documents attached, to the JGHV Office not later than 48 months following registration. The JGHV Executive Committee makes the final decision on early applications for appointment.

The following documents must be attached to the appointment application:

1. Card;
2. Reports;
3. Evaluations by senior judges;
4. Documented attendance of at least two (2) qualifying Continuing Education Seminars (see § 4(4a) above);
5. The sponsoring member club must submit a definitive evaluation of the Apprentice Judge on Formblatt 55 when the training has been completed.

- d) In the event that the appointment is declined, or if the sponsoring club refuses to submit the appointment application, the Apprentice Judge must be so informed in writing with the reasons thereto as soon as possible.

§ 5 Written Test

- (1) After the application for VR appointment has been received (by 1st of June or 1st of December, respectively, of each calendar year), the Apprentice Judge is admitted to take a written test demonstrating his factual knowledge. The Apprentice Judge is admitted to this test after the deadline for objections (see § 6[5]) has passed. After the Apprentice Judge has successfully passed this test, he is immediately appointed Association Judge (VR).
- (2) All tests are conducted on the same two days to be determined and announced by the JGHV Office. The number of test locations depends on the demand. The tests must be held after the deadlines for appointment applications have expired. The test days and locations must be announced in volumes 02 and 08 of each calendar year in the official Association publication, *“Der Jagdgebrauchshund.”*
- (3) The clubs submit to the JGHV Office the names of their respective candidates for the written test on Formblatt 57. The Formblatt must be submitted to the JGHV Office not later than the 1st business day of the month following the publication of test dates and locations. The test entry fee of Euro 50.00 must be paid when the names of the candidates are submitted.
- (4) The Director of Testing designates three (3) judges for each test to constitute a test committee; he also designates one of the judges to be chairman.
- (5) Test Details

The Director of Testing coordinates a catalog of questions with the breed and test member clubs. From this catalog, the Director of Testing selects a list of 100 questions for each test which are then bundled into a questionnaire. Special breed clubs and, where applicable, their groups (such as flushing breeds, Dachshund breeds, hound dogs) submit to the Director of Testing a catalog of questions which takes into account the elements specific to their breed.

The chairman of the test committee requests from the Director of Testing the test questionnaire that will be used for the test date on which his committee will conduct the test. The questionnaire will then be mailed to him in a closed and sealed envelope. The envelope may not be opened until the test is about to begin. Any test candidate must be allowed the opportunity to verify that the seal of the envelope is intact.

All tests commence at the same hour and are concluded after a maximum of 3 hours. Questions are answered by using multiple choice method (1 of 3). The completed questionnaire of each test candidate must be reviewed immediately using the correct answer sheet provided with the sealed test package. The test is passed when the candidate has correctly answered 60% of the questions. The candidates must be informed of their individual test result after the review. If a candidate has passed the test, it must be so noted on Formblatt 58.

If the candidate failed the test, he may do one repeat test.

Test Reporting

The test committee must compose a brief report on the test, containing the following details:

- Test date and location;
- Names and Judge numbers of judges in test committee;
- Test results;
- Number of passed/failed candidates;
- List of passed candidates.

The test report must be signed by all judges in the test committee and submitted, with the used and unused questionnaires, to the JGHV within one (1) week.

Special breed clubs have the right to additional test requirements and/or different test details. These have to be coordinated in advance with the JGHV Office.

§ 6

Association Judge (VR) Appointment

- (1) Apprentice Judges are eligible for appointment as Association Judges by the JGHV Executive Committee in accordance with § 4(5) c) after their sponsoring member club has applied for the appointment, and after the Apprentice has passed the written test (§§ 4 and 5). In their capacity as Association Judges, they are authorized to judge any test subject matter for which they have received the appointment. See § 6(4).
- (2) Natural ability tests may only be judged by Association Judges who are authorized to judge the entire test spectrum.
- (3) At performance tests, the Association Judge may only judge the subjects for which he is authorized to judge. One specialty breed judge per judging team, however, must be permitted. The reverse applies to specialty breed clubs.
- (4) The application for the Association Judge Appointment must be submitted on Formblatt 55, with the required documents attached, to the JGHV Office where it must be received by June 1st, or December 1st respectively, of each calendar year.
- (5) The appointment of a new Association Judge will become effective when four (4) weeks after the publication in the „*Der Jagdgebrauchshund*“ no objections to the appointment have been received. The new Association Judge's name is then be added to the list of Association Judges, and the Judge card will be issued to the new Judge. The JGHV Executive Committee has the final decision on any objections to the appointment.
- (6) Additional test categories may be approved for judging under the guidelines of these Regulations, in accordance with §§ 1 through 4, and 6. It will be required that the Association Judge has successfully handled a hunting dog during the last four (4) years in those test categories for which he seeks judging qualification. To qualify for judging the test subjects Field Work 1 and 2, the VR must have handled a pointing dog as specified in § 2(1)c). If these requirements are met, the sponsoring member club may apply for Apprentice Judge registration for the additional subjects. Formblatt 52 must be used for the application and submitted to the JGHV Office.
For the additional categories, the Apprentice Judge must practice under the supervision of different senior judges at a minimum of two (2) different tests. He must report on a total of at least six (6) dogs. He must also attend at least one (1) continuing education

seminar with a focus on the speciality category/categories for which he seeks the appointment. The Apprentice Judge reports and their evaluations, and proof of the continuing education seminar must be submitted to the JGHV Office within four (4) years of the initial registration for the additional category/categories. Apprentice Judges who seek appointment for additional categories do not need to take a written test.

§ 7

Association Blood Tracking Judges

- (1) Only Association Blood Tracking Judges may judge at Association Blood Tracking Tests (*VSwP*) or Association Tracking Shoe Tests (*VFSP*). Such judges are noted on the judges' list with the affix Sw.
- (2) Requirements for Registration as Apprentice Judge Sw:
 - a) Appointed Association Judge;
 - b) Successful handling at a *VSwP* or *VFSP* of a dog trained by him (does not apply to accredited judges of the breeds *Hann. Schweisshunde*, *Bay. Gebirgsschweisshunde*, *Alpenländische Dachsbracken* and *Bracken* of the German Bloodhound Club - *DBV*);
 - c) Application for registration as Apprentice Judge Sw by the sponsoring member club. Application must be submitted by the sponsoring member club to JGHV Office using Formblatt 53.
- (3) Association Judge Sw Training
 - a) The Apprentice Judge Sw must practice at a minimum of two (2) *VSwP* tests and/or *VFSP* tests, including the preparation of and participation in the creation of the blood track by either drip/dab or shoe method. At least one of these tests must be with another breed club/group.
 - b) The Apprentice Judge must complete the report (in accordance with § 4(3a)/duplicate) within two (2) weeks and send it to the senior judge for evaluation. The senior judge uses Formblatt 54 for his comments which, after completion, he sends to the Director of Judge Development of the sponsoring member club. An envelope with postage must be included. The Apprentice Judge Sw receives a copy of his report with the comments.
 - c) The Apprentice Judge must report on a minimum of six (6) dogs. He must always report on every dog in his judging group.
- (4) Appointment
 - a) Applications for Association Judge Sw must be submitted by the sponsoring member club to the JGHV Office not later than four (4) years after the initial registration. Formblatt 56 must be used for the application with the required documents attached. Further attachments are the Apprentice Judge card, the reports including their evaluations by the senior judges. The sponsoring member club must submit a definitive evaluation of the Apprentice Judge when the training has been completed.
 - b) The names of each newly appointed Association Judge Sw (*VR Sw*) will be published in the official Association publication, "*Der Jagdgebrauchshund*."

§ 8 Engagements by Association Judges

- (1) Only Association Judges whose names appear in the current JGHV Judges List may engage in judging activities as Association Judges.

At an international test which is organized according to JGHV Test Regulations, an accredited performance judge with equivalent judging experience in another country, who is not a VR registered with JGHV, may judge in a judging team with 2 official VR's. He may not act as senior judge. Performance judges from other countries may only judge if they have been designated by their national breed club association to judge at this event. Performance judges from other countries must be listed together with the regular VR's on Formblatt 2; the reason for the judging engagement of the foreign judge(s) must be indicated.

Further requirements for Association Judges:

- a) Individual membership in a JGHV member club, as defined by § 3(1)a-d of the JGHV By-laws;
 - b) Possession of a valid hunting license in his name;
 - c) Beginning on January 1st, 2012, must subscribe to the official Association publication, "*Der Jagdgebrauchshund.*"
- (2) The duties of an Association Judge are inherent to his special position. In particular, he is expected to
- Comply in every aspect with the Test Rules and Regulations;
 - Conduct himself in an exemplary manner as both a hunter and dog handler;
 - Attend at least one (1) qualifying (see § 4) continuing education seminar for judges in a 4-year period. The organizing member club must issue written documentation of the attendance – Formblatt 65 may be used;
 - Train and successfully handle a dog within a 4-year period through the test categories for which he has been appointed, in lieu of the continuing education seminar.

In each member club, the Director of Judge Development is responsible for monitoring that above requirements are met by their respective Association Judges. The names of Association Judges who have attended a continuing education seminar for judges must be submitted to the JGHV Office using Formblatt 64. Proof of the training and successful handling of a dog must be submitted only if so requested by the JGHV Office.

- (3) Association Judges may judge only at tests that are organized by JGHV member clubs; included herein are official utility tests organized by the individual (German) states. The rules for judging engagements in other countries are established by the individual member club. The Association Judge shall consider his acceptance of a judging invitation a binding commitment and consequently report to the test location to judge dogs that are recognized as eligible entries by JGHV or by the individual (German) state's Test Regulations for Utility Tests. Violations may be penalized under § 4 of the JGHV Disciplinary Rules.

- (4) An Association Judge / Emergency Judge may not judge a dog that he owns, trained or bred. The same rule applies to first generation offspring of such dogs, and to offspring by a stud dog (first generation). Special breed clubs have the right to take into account their breed specific needs. The JGHV Office must be notified in advance of such needs. The Association Judge may also not judge dogs of handlers, breeders, stud dog owners or owners to whom he is related either by blood or marriage (past and present; and/or as remote as three times removed) or to whom he is or was married, or with whom he lives in a domestic partnership.
- (5) (3) and (4) above also apply to Apprentice Judges.
- (6) Test Directors and/or Association Judges may not handle dogs at tests where they engage in test director or judging activities.
- (7) The Association Judge capacity is suspended in these cases:
- a) The Association Judge's hunting license is legally revoked; or
 - b) The Association Judge fails to meet the requirements of § 8 (1b). In cases where the revocation of the hunting license is suspected, the respective Association Judge is under obligation to prove towards the JGHV Office that he is in possession of a valid hunting license. In the event that he fails to do so, it is assumed that his hunting license has been revoked.
 - c) The Association Judge capacity/Apprentice Judgeship is suspended as long as the Association Judge/Apprentice Judge does not follow his obligations to cooperate in a Disciplinary Proceeding (§ 5 (3)), or the Association Judge/Apprentice Judge does not obey the summons of the Disciplinary Committee as a witness (§ 10 (1) Disciplinary Regulations). The suspension of the Association Judge/Apprentice Judge can be cancelled by order of the Panel Chairman.
 - d) Association Judge capacity is suspended for as long as an Association Judge fails to fulfill his duties and obligations towards the Association, or fails to attend a qualifying continuing education seminar within the time period mentioned in § 4.
 - e) If it is determined that an Association Judge committed a violation against the Test Regulations or has insufficient knowledge of the Test Regulations, the Stud Book Commission has the right to require that the Judge attend a continuing education seminar for judges with an emphasis on his specialty. This seminar will not be considered as credit towards the continuing education seminar for judges as required under § 8 (2).
- (8) In the event that an Association Judge fails to meet one of the above requirements in (1) a) or b) or c), or if he is unable to document the attendance of a continuing education seminar, judgeship is suspended and will terminate after three (3) years. Suspension and reinstatement shall be published in the official Association publication.
- (9) The Association Judge capacity expires when one of the following conditions occur:
- a) Resignation
 - b) Revocation
 - c) After the capacity as Association Judge has been suspended for a period of three (3) years.
- The expiration of the Association Judge capacity must be published in the official Association publication, "*Der Jagdgebrauchshund*".
- (10) Judgments by Association Judges become final after the Judges' Conference and after the deadline for protests. An Association Judge/Apprentice Judge may not protest the judgment of another Association Judge after the fact, or challenge a judge's objectivity.

This also applies in cases where the Association Judge acted at the test in a different function.

§ 9 Legal Recourse

- (1) In the event that the sponsoring member club refuses to submit the application for the appointment, the Apprentice Judge may address the JGHV Executive Committee which renders a decision after hearing the parties (including written statements by way of correspondence).
- (2) In the event that the JGHV Executive Committee declines the appointment, the sponsoring member club and the declined Apprentice Judge must be notified by registered mail of the Executive Committee's negative decision with the reasons for the decision.

The sponsoring member club or the Apprentice Judge may appeal the decision. Such appeal must be filed with the JGHV Office within two (2) weeks of the receipt of the decision.

The JGHV Court makes the final decision on the appeal (see § 2(4) b of the Association Court Regulations).

§ 10 Coming into Force and Transitional Clauses

- (1) JGHV adopted these Regulations at its General Meeting on March 19th, 1995, revised at the 2005 General Meeting, and most recently revised at the General Meeting on March 24th, 2013; they will be published and come into force on September 1st., 2013.
- (2) Apprentice Judges who were already registered RA before these revised Regulations come into force will continue their apprenticeship under the previous Regulations.

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