



How to Become a NADAC Judge

Before an individual applies to become a NADAC approved Judge, they should have extensive experience in the sport of agility. It is required that individuals have successfully completed a NATCH and have trialed with NADAC within the last 2 years, prior to applying to become a Judge. It is felt that several years of competition at all levels of agility will give individuals the experience and knowledge necessary to meet the requirements and skills to perform the duties of judging. Individuals should have experience setting courses at classes, and/or fun matches, and served as a chief course builder at, at least, 5 sanctioned trials.

Before applying to become a judge, an individual must become a NADAC Associate and remain in good standing during their term as a NADAC Judge. Persons applying to become a Judge should have computer access and adequate software knowledge to be able to send/receive courses and communicate via email. An individual applying to become a Judge should purchase the *Hup and Running Course Design 4* program (formerly Clean Run Course Designer or CRCD), to view and design courses.

Before applying, individuals must obtain two (2) Letters of Recommendation to be submitted at the time of application. The LOR's must be from a current NADAC judge, who is not under supervision. The LOR's will validate that the applicant has sufficient course building skills and knowledge of NADAC philosophy to get started in the NADAC Judging Program.

Individuals must then complete an ***Application to Become a NADAC Judge*** form. This form can be found on the NADAC website.

After an application has been submitted, the NADAC Office will review the application and email back a decision as soon as possible. A packet containing guidelines, info, and the current year's Judge's Clinic schedule will accompany this email, if approved.

If approved, the next step is to attend a NADAC Judge's Clinic **and** the NADAC Hosted Trial that follows. Prior to the Clinic, you will be required to submit a "set" of courses for evaluation at the clinic. This course set is not required to feature every NADAC class but, it is recommended to do as much as you can.

Note: *We understand these will have errors and we anticipate that. These are simply meant as an evaluation of your knowledge on safety, flow, and NADAC philosophy.*

During the Judge's Clinic, NADAC Staff will be evaluating the overall skills and demeanor of each applicant before they can be officially added to the NADAC Judge's List. While it is not assumed that every applicant will be well versed in all aspects of being a NADAC Judge, we do ask them to demonstrate their knowledge of these key jobs that a NADAC Judge will be responsible for overseeing and/or performing:

- Ability to time accurately, scribe efficiently, record scores correctly, and manage dogs and handlers as a gate steward during a trial.
- Ability to correctly set courses and calculate accurate course distances.
- Ability to make correct judging calls, establish correct judging positions, and demonstrate the ability to efficiently manage a class while judging.

In addition, applicants must show that they have adequate people skills to take on the responsibilities of interacting with show committee members, exhibitors, and other individuals while remaining professional and above reproach, regardless of the circumstances.

Note: *By applying to become a Judge, it is assumed that an individual has determined they have the physical and mental stamina to perform judging duties during the entire duration of a trial. A judge must be physically fit enough to easily maneuver themselves from one judging position to another for an entire day; the flexibility to bend for a period of time to measure dogs; and the stamina to stay alert from the first course building session in the morning until the last dogs crosses the finish line at the end of, up to, a 4 day trial.*

Upon successfully passing their evaluations and being added to the Judge's List, the new Under Supervision Judge (SP) shall remain under supervision for at least one (1) year, or six (6) judging assignments, whichever is longer. It is possible to remain under supervision for a longer period of time if there are any judging areas that Supervisors, or NADAC, determine are in need of more supervision. At the completion of, at least, three (3) assignments the SP-2 may apply for a "Move Up" to SP-1 by contacting the NADAC Office. If approved, at least three (3) additional assignments must be completed as an SP-1 before requesting a change in status to official "Judge". This request can only be approved after a NADAC Hosted Trial or judging assignment where NADAC Staff is present to evaluate.