

RULES EVALUATION COMMITTEE
Rules Change Proposals for the 2014 ACoD

The following Rule Change Proposals will be submitted for approval to the 2014 Annual Convention of Delegates. New wording is underlined; deleted wording is ~~struck out~~. Explanations for the proposal are included, along with REC recommendations. THESE ARE PROPOSALS ONLY; those that receive a favorable vote will be considered a change in the *Running Rules and Field Procedures for Lure Field Trials*. Such proposals will be published on the ASFA website after the 2014 ACoD, and will go into effect on January 1, 2015.
---Russ Jacobs, Chair, REC

All Proposals referred from the ASFA Board of Directors

(1) Chapter XI Section 2. General Requirements

(a) All of the following requirements must be met either prior to, or within 30 days following the first apprentice judging assignment that is to be counted toward the pre-licensing requirements of Section 3, below. When these initial requirements are met, the Judges Licensing Chair will publish the applicant's name on the ASFA website or any other method of publication as approved by the Board of Directors, as may be appropriate:

1. must file appropriate application for apprentice judging;
2. must pay applicable fees;
- ~~3. must have a general knowledge of the coursing abilities of purebred sighthound breeds recognized by the ASFA.~~
- ~~4. will receive a free current copy of the ASFA's Running Rules and Field Procedures for Lure Field Trials along with a free current copy of the ASFA's Judges Handbook.~~

Effect: To end the practice of providing judges with free copies of the Rulebook and the Judges Handbook, and to match language originally proposed by the Judges Committee on eligibility for provisional judging.

Reason: For conformity, and to save the ASFA money.

The REC recommends that this proposal be REJECTED. The Committee believes that judge applicants should have the specified general knowledge, and that it is useful to specifically require it; and we believe that the Judges Handbook should continue to be circulated.

THUS: *if proposal (1) is rejected as we recommend, we propose as a substitute:*

(1a) Chapter XI Section 2. General Requirements

(a) All of the following requirements must be met either prior to, or within 30 days following the first apprentice judging assignment that is to be counted toward the pre-licensing requirements of Section 3, below. When these initial requirements are met, the Judges Licensing Chair will publish the applicant's name on the ASFA website or any other method of publication as approved by the Board of Directors, as may be appropriate:

1. must file appropriate application for apprentice judging;
2. must pay applicable fees;
3. must have a general knowledge of the coursing abilities of purebred sighthound breeds recognized by the ASFA.
4. will receive a free current copy of the ASFA's Running Rules and Field Procedures for Lure Field Trials along with a free current copy of the ASFA's Judges Handbook.

Effect: To end the practice of providing judges with free copies of the Rulebook, which is now available in the official version online.

Reason: This will save the ASFA money.

(2) Ch. I. Section 6. The following clubs shall be considered national clubs: the ASFA, parent clubs as defined by AKC, the American Saluki Association (ASA) and the International Silken Windhound Society (ISWS).

Effect: To recognize the ISWS as a national club.

Reason: Since the ISWS is not an AKC parent club, it must be listed specifically in order to be treated as a national club.

The REC recommends that this proposal be ACCEPTED.

(3) New Ch. V. Sec. 12 (e):

~~(e) No ASFA championship points will be awarded; however,~~ The hound that wins Best in Field will be credited with a first placement in a stake. Additional ASFA championship points will be awarded to the hound winning Best in Field. The hound winning Best in Field shall win points equal to the greatest number of points earned by any dog competing in Best in Field that day. If the hound winning the BIF was from the breed that won the greatest number of points available that day, then that hound will earn an additional 10 beyond those it already earned. In order for a hound to be credited with a first placement and any additional championship points, there shall be at least two eligible hounds in BIF competition.

Effect: To award championship points for BIF wins.

Reason: Some dogs that run very well do not have strong competition in breed, and they must run much longer before they earn a title than do dogs of others breeds.

The REC recommends that this proposal be REJECTED. We believe that this proposal would put far too much weight on a single run, leading some owners to be pressured (both by the points and by other owners) to run a hound when it is not fit. It would also make it possible for a hound to finish a FCh in one weekend; and to finish that title without ever running against another hound of its own breed. And since points and placements would now be available through BIF, many clubs who do not offer it will be pressured to do so, incurring additional expense for a BIF rosette. Eventually, ASFA will probably have to require BIF. This rule would have the general effect of cheapening ASFA titles. It will also make it more difficult for owners to keep adequate records of their hound's points, making it more likely that they will enter in the wrong stake. It could also pose additional headaches for FTSs and the Records Coordinator. The rule, as written, also fails to anticipate problems and questions that will arise after the rule is in effect. (See below as an example.)

THUS, we propose that, if (3) above IS approved, the following language be approved in a separate action, and added to the end of new Sec. 12 (e):

(3b) In the event of a two-day Best in Event (BIE) for a Regional or an International Invitational, the hound winning Best in Event (BIE) will only be awarded the points for the highest scoring hound who competed on the second day of the Best in Event (BIE) run and also competed in the Best in Event competition.

Effect: to clarify how points will be awarded for BIF wins in cases where BIF is a multi-day Best in Event.

Reason: To make it easier for owners and the Records Coordinator to calculate BIF points.

(4) CH. V. Sec. 5(c): VETERAN STAKE: For any individual hounds whose age is at least six years, except Irish Wolfhounds who age shall be at least five years, and Afghan Hounds, Whippets, ~~and~~ Rhodesian Ridgebacks and Salukis, whose age shall be at least seven years.

Effect: To raise the age of Veteran competition for Salukis to 7 years.

Reason: Requested by the Saluki Club of America.

The REC recommends that this proposal be ACCEPTED.