**WHAT IT TAKES 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 recommended that individuals have been successfully competing at the Elite level for several 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 several 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 and receive courses and communications via email. A Judge should purchase the Clean Run Course Design 4 program, to be able to view and design courses. It’s available at CleanRun.com.

Individuals must complete an Application to Become a NADAC Judge form.  This form can be filled out online at the NADAC web site, printed, then scanned and emailed to the NADAC office via [support@nadac.com](mailto:support@nadac.com) . Or the form can be requested via the NADAC Office via [support@nadac.com](mailto:support@nadac.com) Once you have applied to become a NADAC judge, the office will email you instructional documents to help you design NADAC style courses.

Applicants must have a “sponsor” who will validate that the applicant has sufficient course building skills and knowledge of NADAC philosophy to become a NADAC judge. The sponsor must be a NADAC judge, who is not under supervision.  Applicants, with approval from the office, must attend a NADAC judging clinic and may attend Fun-raisers for evaluation. Applicants must be able to demonstrate their knowledge of all aspects of the sport of agility. They must show their abilities to time accurately, scribe efficiently, record scores correctly, and manage dogs and handlers as a gate steward during a trial. Applicants must also show their abilities to correctly set courses, calculate accurate course distances, and evaluate and set safe start/finish areas. Judging applicants must effectively demonstrate the ability to make correct judging calls, establish correct judging positions, and demonstrate the ability to efficiently manage a class while judging. Judging applicants must show that they have adequate people skills to take on the responsibilities of interacting with show committee members, exhibitors, and other individuals, and remain professional and above reproach, regardless of the circumstances.

By applying to become a judge, an individual has determined that 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 a one to three day trial.