

Judges and Representatives Handbook

Bull Breed Coalition Registry (BBCR)



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Chapter 1: Preparing for the Show

On Ethics, Honesty and Common Sense

You were chosen to represent the BBCR as a judge because we believe you are the best of the best. We are confident you exemplify the characteristics needed to carry out your duties in the most effective and fair manner possible.

It is of the utmost importance that your decisions are based solely on the merits of the dogs presented to you on the day of the show. No prior opinion, affiliation, or media presentation of any sort should be considered when rendering your decisions.

All judges should possess, and commit to displaying, impartiality in judging; integrity both in and out of the ring; and ethical behavior when breeding, commenting on public forums, and attending industry events.

The following situations should be avoided at all costs:

- Petitioning or soliciting assignments.
- Allowing friends, family, or associated owners to show under you.
- Accepting gifts, money or accolades for personal sales, services, training and/or future or past judgments at any time during an event.
- Expressing opinions about dogs or owners to other contestants.
- Speaking poorly of other judges, representatives, hosts, staff or BBCR events.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list. There are many other situations that could arise, so use discretion in all your professional actions.

Conflicts of Interest

When a judge is influenced by any relationship or factor other than the merit of the dogs exhibited, this constitutes a conflict of interest. There are several possible situations that fall into “grey areas” or clearly qualify as violations.

Common conflicts of interest include:

- Allowing people you co-own dogs with to show under you.
- Allowing anyone with whom you are currently engaged in a breeding or sale to show under you.
- Allowing any family member, friend or group partner to show under you.

It is also unacceptable for yourself, partners and family members to exhibit at an event you are contracted to work.

Show Ring Attire

As an official judge or representative, we want you to represent yourself, as well as the organization, in a manner that demonstrates pride and professionalism. Therefore, the dress code at BBCR sanctioned events is business casual.

Tops

All judges and representatives will wear official BBCR shirts. Each person will be provided two shirts, free of charge, annually. You are also welcome to purchase additional BBCR apparel.

Contact the office for more details on available styles and colors.

For indoor events, you will wear a button-down or polo shirt style if the venue dictates a more relaxed style. Ties are encouraged, but not required.

Bottoms

Slacks or khakis are acceptable. Shorts or capris are acceptable in venues with extremely warm climates.

Footwear

Dark-colored closed toe shoes that are professional are required.

Accessories

Be mindful that jewelry and other accessories could become a distraction to the dogs you are judging or even worse, a tug toy!

BBCR Badge

You will also be provided a BBCR certification badge that you will wear at all events you officiate. No personal information beyond your name will be included. Your badge can be worn on a lanyard, ID badge clip, or any other method that makes it comfortable and visible.

Chapter 2: The Day of the Show

Checklists

Without you, there can be no show. Your performance sets the tone and fosters a good experience for all. Effective communication between the host and your BCCR Representative eliminates confusion and conflict. Both judges and representatives should notify the show host upon arrival.

Judges

- Arrive no later than one hour prior to posted start time of the event.
- Check your ring, meet your ring steward, confirm your paperwork is ready, and ensure that any other special needs for your breeds are met.

Representatives

- Arrive no later than 30 minutes prior to the posted start time of the event.
- Peruse the venue to get a feel for the layout and show ring. You also want to confirm that the holding, staging, registration and dog relief areas are in compliance with the BCCR standards for sanctioned events.
- Familiarize yourself with the primary points of contact should any questions or issues arise during the show that you are unable to resolve.

Rules of the Ring

1. As a judge, you are in control of all aspects of the show ring. From the moment an exhibitor steps into the ring, they are looking to you for clear and concise instructions. Be consistent from dog to dog and class to class. Keep your manner of judging the same throughout the show. Remember: you are the professional and they are looking to you to learn. Treat each contestant with respect and you will receive the same.
2. Check your ring. Before starting your classes, you should have checked out your ring. Have a plan on how you will use it during judging and request any changes that that will enhance the presentation and ability of the contestants.
3. Check with your assigned ring steward and communicate how you want your ring managed. If they know what to expect, the show will flow much more smoothly.
4. Pay attention to the flooring surface and how it might affect the dog's movement. If you are assigned a small breed, check that the examination table is not only secure and stable, but placed where you want it in the ring.
5. If your event is outdoors, take into consideration the temperature and time of day. Also, ensure that the ring utilizes shade and shelter to make the dogs as comfortable as possible.
6. Make any necessary changes.
7. You should instruct the ring steward to assemble your first class to enter the ring no more than fifteen minutes past the posted start time. This pattern should continue for the remainder of the event.

8. No class should be held or delayed for tardy contestants. It is your choice if they may enter the ring after your inspection of that class has begun.
9. All dogs should be presented with their left profile facing you.
10. When judging larger classes, it's at the judge's discretion to make a first cut and evaluate a smaller group for placement or to run the class split into smaller groups. However you choose to manage this, be sure that everyone in the class understands and is comfortable with the procedure you choose.
11. The BBCR takes the evaluation of a judge very seriously. We want to know that dogs making the level of Champion or above deserve it. Go over each dog in each class thoroughly. Know your standards and judge each dog as it is presented to you that day.
12. When handing out awards, start with 3rd place and end by giving out your highest place ribbon.
13. As the judge, it is at your discretion if you do not believe any dog presented in a class fits the standard to a measure that it should move forward in the show. You may choose to withhold the award of first place and award only a second and third. Know this will raise many questions, and it may be best to address your class briefly at the time of award to help minimize confusion. We support your decision and believe you will make this choice only after honest examination.
14. Dismiss your class graciously and if there are contestants with very brief questions, you may provide an answer. Otherwise, tell them you will be available after the event for questions and suggestions.

15. Overall, enjoy your day. Be true to your decisions! We are proud to have you on our team!

Who's Allowed In the Ring?

We recommend that the ring be kept clear of others not showing during the class. Photos may be allowed for a very brief period following the distribution of awards, but additional photos should be taken in the area established by the show host for photographs and interviews. (You should also be available for photos and interviews following the completion of your show.)

On occasion, there may be an apprentice in the ring with you. Work together to establish a plan of action before the show begins.

Dismissals

Although we hope there is no reason to have a contestant leave the show ring prior to judging, it may happen. Clearly communicate your stance in the most professional manner possible to the contestant. Also, be sure to document the incident in your judge's book.

Below is a list of some of the more common reasons contestants are asked to leave the ring:

- Aggression
- Threatening behavior to humans or other dogs
- Lameness
- Injury
- Clear and evident fear or overly shy temperament

- Inappropriate equipment
- Smoking, eating or drinking
- Obvious signs of extreme stress
- Abusive behavior by handler to own dog
- Abusive behavior of handler to others
- Abusive behavior of handler to other dogs
- Any behavior of handler that interferes in any way with others
- Any handler who cannot control their dog
- Reasons for disqualification from placement but not removal from ring
- Color out of standard
- Clear manipulation of the physical appearance
- Slight lameness
- Slight shyness
- Failure to complete the actions necessary to judge movement or appearance
- Poor handling and presentations
- Lack of cooperation of handler or dog
- Failure to move in a way that judge is able to evaluate gait
- Fouling the ring at each judge's discretion

Chapter 3: The Judge's Book

An Overview

At show time, you will be assigned a ring steward who will keep record of winners, check in contestants, and provide additional assistance as needed. However, you are ultimately responsible for the accuracy of the judge's book, as it is the official and final record of the show.

Some judges choose to examine each page as the class ends to ensure accuracy of reporting.

Others will review it after the event has concluded. Regardless of your approach, it is up to you to ensure it is correct.

Before leaving the venue, you need to sign your book to confirm the accuracy of the contents.

Also, initial any changes or corrections, explain any dismissals or withheld placements, and note any events or questions that may have been raised by host, staff, or competitors during the show.

Your book should be submitted to the designated BCCR representative.