

AKC Conformation Judging Eligibility

*Approved includes both permit and full status judges. **"Exhibit" refers to any dog personally handled by the individual OR any dog owned or co-owned by the individual. Restrictions apply to all members of the same household.

COMPETITION	CAN I JUDGE?	CAN I SHOW?
AKC Conformation events (all-breed, limited breed and independent specialty shows)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be included on AKC's list of eligible judges and approved to judge the applicable breeds, groups and/or Best in Show. Current list may be accessed via AKC's online judges directory. Approved judges must be assigned to competitions such as stud dog and brood bitch. Foreign Judges may be assigned breeds/groups they are approved by their home registry. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not exhibit the day he/she judges, three days prior and three days following at any AKC Conformation event within 200 miles of the assignment(s). May not exhibit in any competition (agility, obedience, rally, etc.) the same day he/she judges.
AKC 4–6-month puppy competitions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be approved by the AKC to judge at least one breed or has applied and been approved as an Open Show Judge. Eligible individuals may be assigned any breed/competition at the event. Judges approved for Junior Showmanship ONLY may not judge the 4-6 competition. Entries count toward the daily 175 limit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May exhibit the same day he/she judges. Judge and members of the same household should refrain from competing in the 4-6 month puppy competition.
AKC National Owner Handled Series (NOHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be AKC approved Conformation breed judge or eligible Foreign Judge. To be assigned NOHS group - Must be approved for at least one breed within that group or any one complete group. To be assigned NOHS BIS - Must be eligible to judge any NOHS group. MAY NOT be assigned the same regular and NOHS group/BIS at same event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Judge only assigned NOHS group and/or BIS may exhibit in the regular competition on the day(s) they judge but may not compete in NOHS at the same show, circuit, cluster, or weekend of shows they judge.
Special attractions (excluding NOHS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be in good standing with the AKC to judge special attraction group/BIS competitions (i.e., Best Puppy, Best Bred By Exhibitor, Best Veteran) at AKC Conformation events. Judge may not be assigned regular group/BIS and special attraction groups/BIS (excluding NOHS) at same event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May exhibit the same day he/she judges. Judge and members of the same household should refrain from competing in the special attraction which he/she is judging.
Sweepstakes/Futurities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be in good standing with the AKC to judge sweepstakes and/or futurities. May not judge a sweepstakes/futurity prior to assignment in regular classes of same breed on same weekend/cluster. Entries count toward the daily 175 limit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not exhibit the same breed they judge in conformation on the same day within 200 miles of assignment. May exhibit same breed on the days before and after they judge. If part of a multi-day show, the restriction runs the entire length of the event. (cluster IS NOT a multi-day show)
AKC FSS Open Shows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Must be approved by the AKC to judge at least one breed or has applied and been approved as an Open Show Judge. Eligible individuals may be assigned any breed/competition at the event. Judges approved for Junior Showmanship ONLY may not judge Open Shows. Entries count toward the daily 175 limit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> May not exhibit on the day he/she judges at any event within 200 miles.