

# **AWPGA Judges Education Guidelines, Updated May 1, 2014**

## **Judges Education Presenter**

In an effort to make judges education presentations uniform as pertains to the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon standard, a set of guidelines have been adopted by the board effective May 1, 2014.

Current mentors and presenters are strongly urged to attend the judges education seminar at the AWPGA national specialty each year.

For AWPGA members who would like to become a judges' education presenter, beginning in 2015, a ***Judges Education Apprentice Program*** will be held every year at the national specialty. Apprentices will see the Judges Education Presentation that is presented to judges. Time will be provided for questions, comments, and to go over dogs moving and standing. An apprentice should be very familiar with the anatomy of the dog and the standard of the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon.

To qualify as a judges education Presenter you must:

- ❖ Beginning in 2015, participate in the ***Judges Education Apprentice Program***. Approved Presenters as of May 1, 2014 are exempt.
- ❖ Be an AWPGA member in good standing.
- ❖ Have at least 5 years membership in the AWPGA.
- ❖ Attend at least two AWPGA approved Judges Education seminar held in their region and one National Specialty JE seminar when held in their region.
- ❖ Use only the board approved judges education materials.
- ❖ It is no longer required that you have bred one or more litters.

Once a member has fulfilled the above requirements, they will assist an approved Presenter with a JE Presentation in their area. Based on the recommendation of the Presenter conducting the seminar, the Board will approve the member as a new AWPGA JE Presenter. If you are interested in becoming a Presenter, contact the Judges Education Chairperson.

## **Judges Education Mentor**

All Mentors are Approved Presenters.

AWPGA established its own requirement, aside from the AKC Ringside Observations Criterion, for length of time in the breed required to qualify to be a mentor. For a copy of the AKC Ringside Observations Criterion, go to [http://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/Mentoring\\_Tutoring.pdf](http://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/Mentoring_Tutoring.pdf).

To qualify as an AWPGA Mentor, the AWPGA member in good standing must have at least 8 years in the breed instead of the normal 12 suggested by AKC.

Only AWPGA approved Mentors sit with judges during the mentoring process.

Members who violate this guideline are subject to censorship by the AWPGA.

Final approval of Mentor and Presenter is made by the AWPGA Board of Directors.

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Judging Operations Department  
PO Box 900062  
Raleigh, NC 27675  
919-816-3589  
[judgingops@akc.org](mailto:judgingops@akc.org)  
[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

## **Ringside Observations Criterion**

Ringside mentoring has been going on since the implementation of the January 2000 Approval Policy. It has been highly successful and controversy free. Ringside mentoring is the most frequently used aspect of mentoring as it encourages dialogue with multiple breed experts.

A mentor is an individual with whom a prospective judge has established a long term, ongoing relationship. He or she may or may not mentor ringside.

A ringside observation may be experienced with an applicant's long term mentor or a designated ringside mentor. The ringside mentor may become a long term mentor or not.

Host clubs are not obliged to provide space or resources.

- ❖ **Observer must be approved to judge at least one breed; this experience is only a consideration on Additional Breed applications.** (New Breed Provisional Judges may observe ringside, however)
- ❖ **Formal observations (Ringside Observation Form) will be allowed with parent club approved mentors at National or Regional Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club.** (Mentors will be permitted to participate on days they are exhibiting up to the class in which they have an entry. They will be allowed to participate thereafter as this has always been at National or Regional Specialties where formal ringside mentoring is organized by the host club. Mentors will be asked to document their own experience on the Observation Form when they sign it.)
- ❖ Individuals engaged in Parent Club mentoring **may not** exhibit to the judge/applicant for a period of **four months** after and the mentor **may not** show to the judge following approval of the breeds for **four months** after.
- ❖ **Observer experience permitted (Mentor/Tutor form) at specialties with parent club approved mentors or individuals meeting the current AKC mentor guidelines.** (Individuals who are not parent club approved mentors must have a minimum of 12 years experience exhibiting or 12 years experience judging in that breed in regular status to meet AKC's mentor guidelines.)
- ❖ **There must be adequate entries for the breeds observed. Smaller entries may require more observations.** (Two entries of 50 plus dogs observed may satisfy this requirement; whereas three observations of seven or eight dogs meet the requirement but do not accomplish the greater objective.)
- ❖ **Observer and mentor must properly complete an Observation Form which must be submitted with the application for that breed.** NOTE: Forms will **not be accepted** without comments. Comments are **MANDATORY**.
- ❖ **Judges may observe at shows where they are judging. Judges should not observe at shows in which they are judging Best in Show.**
- ❖ **Judges may mentor at shows where they are judging at the completion of their assignment.** (Keep in mind that walking out of the ring and discussing the breed(s) they have judged should be conducted in a manner that would not be offensive to an exhibitor.)
- ❖ **Ringside mentoring experience is defined as observing and discussing entries and classes at the time of judging with the mentor.**