



Thank you for your interest in becoming a judge for Performance Scent Dogs! In order to become certified, a candidate must demonstrate knowledge in:

- How to create and store a scent kit and various scent containers
- Keeping trial areas free from scent contamination and how to minimize lingering odor
- How odor is affected by air currents, weather, and in different kinds of containers
- Placing hides appropriate for the level and purpose of the class
- Understanding how height, multiple hides, converging odors, threshold hides, varying amounts of odor, blank areas, distractions and inaccessible hides can be used to test handler and dog
- Dealing with unpredictable outcomes during a search
- The dog in need of space
- Managing time constraints
- Performance Scent Dog Rulebook

PSD hosts weekend seminars that touch on all of the above. Attending a seminar, or two, is a great way to learn about PSD and the collaborative atmosphere we strive to create. The most important experience is watching dogs work scent. Please describe your experience either teaching classes (how long, areas of speciality) or working your own dogs.

Candidates must have prior experience competing in any dog sport. Fancy titles aren't a necessity. Rather, the ability to know what it feels like to be in a competitor's shoes and be half of a canine team is important.

List dog sport experience.

Candidates should have the ability to manage a wide range of people, work cheerfully under a deadline, and be skilled in conflict resolution. Competitors, trial hosts, spectators, and volunteers see a judge as the face of PSD. The ability to project a professional attitude, both in the search area and outside of it, at all times during a trial is vital. A sense of humor and delight in dogs always helps. Any disputes or criticisms with PSD or any other organization is able to be appropriately handled internally and privately.

Briefly describe your strengths and weaknesses in this area:

Judges must be able to handle the physical and mental demands of travel, long days standing and walking in all kinds of weather while remaining upbeat with competitors. Self-confidence and creativity are a must.

Certain applicants with relevant judging or scent work experience may qualify to be immediately moved to Approved Judge status. Others with limited experience are required to submit videos of placing hides and judging dogs.

- Four search classes are required-Novice Speed, Novice Distance, Advanced Containers and Advanced Buildings.
- For each search, please spend one to two minutes showing various possible hide placements and explain your decision.
- Submit at least two videos of a blind search for each class.
- The handler must not know the location of the hides unless they ask to turn the run into an FEO during the search.
- Include at least two non-qualifying searches. It is important to see how a judge handles saying “No” in the ring.

We are looking for your thinking behind the placement, comments to the competitor and reasons for scoring. Searches do not all have to occur on the same day. Video may be from a class you are teaching. Video may be from a handheld device like a phone or GoPro.

Judging Status Levels: Provisional, Approved and Lead Judge

PSD will grant Provisional Judge status to qualified candidates after satisfactorily completing the above videos and/or determination by a Lead Judge.

- Provisional Judges may judge Novice and Advanced classes with supervision from an Approved Judge. After satisfactorily judging three trials and all classes offered at the Novice and Advanced levels, Provisional Judges may apply to become an Approved Judge.
- Approved Judges may judge any Novice or Advanced class without supervision. Approved Judges may judge Excellent classes with supervision from a Lead Judge.
- After satisfactorily judging four trials, including all classes in Excellent, Approved Judges may apply to be a Lead Judge.
- Lead Judges can judge all levels, without supervision.