



## Ring-Stewarding at Conformation Dog Shows Webinar: Questions and Answers

- 1. As an experienced Steward, we just held a large specialty two weeks ago. Due to COVID, we laid all armbands on a table and taped catalog pages on the wall above the table so Exhibitors could look up their number and pick up their own armbands. This worked so much better than we expected and both exhibitors and ring steward thought it was better. Are there any AKC rules that will prevent this from continuing in the future?**

There is no rule or policy that would prohibit this process in the future. As things relax/return to normal it will be interesting to see if self-service armbands would work as well as individuals are likely not to be as careful and the chance of incorrect armbands being picked up would be magnified. This would also seem to lend itself better to a single breed specialty.

- 2. Thirty plus years ago, I attended a seminar on how to steward. They included catalog marking with a system of symbols and markings so if another steward took over, it was clear to everyone. Is there a universal system that is taught somewhere? I've wondered if Stewarding Associations do this training.**

There is no universal system. Some stewarding groups may teach a preferred method to its members, but that would be best answered by them.

- 3. How do you suggest changing your book to reflect armband picked up, but dog did not enter the ring for the class?**

You would simply line out the check and/or mark an ab for absent

- 4. What does stewarding for a Group look like? Or BIS?**

Stewarding for a group is much simpler as armbands do not need to be checked in. Some may choose to verify armband numbers as the group is being judged, as long as they do not interfere with the judging. The primary duties are to call in the group, move the table/ramp in and out as needed, and tend to any requests such as handler changes.

- 5. What is the reason the winners class called back in reverse order?**

Historically it has always been arranged with the last class first. I would assume this is due to the fact it places the puppies at the end.

**6. Some judges seem confused with NOHS procedure and do not call eligible dogs back in the ring. Do you just let it go?**

No, you should assist by calling or advising that there are eligible dogs to be called in, but ultimately it is the judge's ring. If you feel they are not doing it properly, you should advise the Field Representative in attendance.

**7. Does the bred by exhibitor class winner have to be shown by a bred by exhibitor in winner's class?**

No - the requirement to be shown by a breeder/owner of record is specific for that class. Once it advances beyond that class, it can be shown by anyone.

**8. If the club doesn't have specific Covid-19 requirements and you as the steward are uncomfortable with the lack of those requirements, can the steward request (for example) that exhibitors put on masks when they approach the stewards' table?**

The reality is that under current circumstances, there will be some level of requirements, even if the club does not have defined COVID guidelines, whatever is in place by the facility, local or state governments would supersede. On the rare chance that there are no requirements at any level, there is nothing that would prevent you from asking, but you could not require. Ultimately, if this scenario should exist, your best bet would be to confirm with the show chair/chief steward if they would have any concerns with you making such a request.

**9. Are double entries an entry error by entrant?**

Possibly - normally they are a result of one not fully understanding the rules, or coming from a horse background where double entries are more frequent and there is an advantage to them. Some may purposely double enter - this will normally occur at specialties where one may enter their older dog in veterans and BOB for example.

**10. Are you saying that in best Bred By, that I should not ask if the exhibitor is the owner/breeder? Suppose I know that he/she is NOT.**

What I was stating is that eligibility can only be confirmed or addressed administratively by the AKC. The example I used was the BBE class, where one come to the ring claiming ineligibility for an entrant. You cannot tell the judge if the person showing the dog is listed in the catalog as the breeder/owner. 1st and foremost the catalog could be incorrect and that would be providing information from the catalog. Speaking in reference to NOHS - it is acceptable to ask that all eligible entries remain in the ring - or the judge can ask if the person showing is an eligible owner/handler of the dog - but you cannot provide to the judge any information concerning you is listed as the owner. If one feels an ineligible individual exhibited, that can be reported to the Field Representative on site or reported to the Show Results area of the AKC Events Department.