

**AKC Judging Sanctions  
Yesterday at 5:08pm**

Well, after several messages back and forth from AKC as I am a dual judge I finally got a definitive reply from Bill Speck, director of Performance Events.

Direct quote in my email, "The fact is per the policy, you would not be able to judge future AKC events if you choose to judge HRC events after Jan. 1, 2007."

I sent messages to 4 other local judges who judge both AKC and HRC and they all will retire from AKC judging. Their loss is HRC's gain. Illogical egocentric policy. There is more than one game in town so they can keep their ball.

**Dave Brannon**

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**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions  
Reply #1 - Yesterday at 5:26pm**

Wow, Dave ... I am really sorry that you, and others in this situation, are being forced to make a decision such as this. It's unnecessary and it's sad for the sport as a whole.

Thanks for your dedication to and being there for us in HRC. I know your efforts will truly be missed by "them" when the year comes to close and new one rolls in. I can only hope someone that can make a difference between now and then will.

**Kev**

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**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions  
Reply #2 - Yesterday at 8:05pm**

It would seem that at a time in retriever sports when the different venues should support each other to make the overall retriever game stronger as a group, that AKC has made a policy decision which serves to splinter retriever enthusiasts as a group. This has to be one of the most assanine decisions AKC has ever made. Someone at AKC must have their head so high in the clouds that the thin air has affected their brain's ability to make rational decisions. This decision is about as smart as putting a screen door on a submarine.

**Steve Hester**

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**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions  
Reply #3 - Today at 6:29am**

Great decision!!! Maybe if enough dual qualified judges make the same one AKC will reconsider. Thanks for supporting HRC. I'm thinking of getting AKC qualified just to do the same thing.

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**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions**  
**Reply #4 - Today at 6:37am**

I certainly appreciate your dedication to HRC as I am sure others reading this post will also. 🙏 Some have already made that decision many years ago. One of our most notorious field reps quit the AKC over 25 years ago and made HRC his life. And I know some folks who breed that won't even sell AKC papers with their dogs. That's how dedicated some are to HRC and am glad to see it.

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**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions**  
**Reply #5 - Today at 8:30am**

I think it is a shame that AKC would put their judges in this situation. In my opinion they are burning their own bridges, who would want to judge for them after that. I appreciate the loyalty of the dual judges that have decided to stay with HRC, and I would not fault a person that decided to stay with AKC (which ever you feel strongest with) but me personally, I would not want to stay with an organization that would put a gun to my head like that. Who knows what they'll do next. That's one of the nice things about HRC, they know we may play the other games, but have enough confidence in our program (and rightfully so) that people will continue to run HRC.

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**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions**  
**Reply #6 - Today at 11:44am**

This is a post I wrote on RTF. I copy it here primarily for the apology I owe to writers on this BB, when they first reacted to this 'policy' announcement.

For those of you that also read RTF threads, read the one I started about this topic. Tommy Mac has some revealing information on there as to how this could have gotten started.

If indeed the entire 'policy' was something to slam a confirmation problem, as earlier stated, maybe saner minds will enter the fracas and narrow their solution so it doesn't involve the field testing programs.

Guess I'm a diehard still hoping for the best. But this post from Gene White pretty much declares the AKC stand concerning what I'm hoping will go away, thus my reply.

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[quote="Gene White"]

The line has been drawn. Looks like the AKC is moving away from the working man's game.

Judges

AKC does not prevent judges from judging anywhere and anything they wish. AKC is simply not willing to support training, testing, evaluating, and keeping records for judges that will use this experience to benefit competing organizations. Judges are free to chose to judge for these organizations if they prefer that organization to AKC.

To my dismay, it would seem you are correct, Gene. It's sounding more and more like this is NOT a group of bench folks that got to painting their problems with too wide of a brush.

It IS beginning to look like some arrogant power hungry folks in leadership positions, just exercising authority with ignorant statements and claims of their importance.

I'm still confounded about their claim of 'training' me to become a judge, and the so called 'support' involved. As stated earlier, my 'training' for judging hunt tests came from a lifetime of hunting, not something they taught me. My 'training' for judging retrievers came from associating with other owner/handlers/pros/knowledgeable amateurs etc.

With the exception of their 'record keeping', the AKC has nothing invested in me, and I'd like to think, they got way more in return than what I've "cost them". I'll be darned if I'm going to get on my knees and beg to continue to serve an organization that flaunts their ignorance in this fashion.

The totally amusing part of this is their thinking they can INCREASE their judging pool by these tactics. It's again obvious to me, they are in a pi\$ing match with other organizations, and think they can win by "taking their ball home with them", so to speak. This may work in the confirmation ring, but if they haven't heard, they may not be the only gorilla in the forrest. Some of the organizations they are out to chagrin by this policy, also have a ball they can put into play without a hiccup.

I apologize to those that had an early read on this, and I was reluctant to be a believer...even to the degree of calling some of you a chicken little. For that I beg your forgiveness. It's just that this is so outrageously egregious it just didn't seem to be anything remotely realistic. It was an illustration of purely shooting yourself in the foot, or worse. But as they say, the difference between genius and idiocy, is that genius has it's limits.

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**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions**  
**Reply #7 - Today at 1:30pm**

**Thank you for taking the time to share your concerns and your input is appreciated. The complete Board Policy is listed on the home page of our web site, [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org) and that is the total amount of information that is available at this time. Per the stated policy, should one choose to judge an HRC event, then they would no longer be eligible to judge an AKC event after Jan. 1, 2007. I would advise you to continue to monitor our web site for possible future updates.**

**William M. Speck**  
**Asst. Vice President - Performance**  
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**[wms@akc.org](mailto:wms@akc.org)**

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**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions**  
**Reply #8 - Yesterday at 7:59pm**

Thanks for your decision to stick with HRC. I know you won't regret it.

Frank

**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions**  
**Reply #9 - Today at 8:04am**

This new possible will hurt everyone. Big D is now a dual club HRC and AKC. Dave B is a member of a dual club as well. This new policy will hurt those clubs. Clubs need their members to judge. I guess it's coming to us against them. Why can't we all just get along?

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**Re: AKC Judging Sanctions**  
**Reply #10 - Today at 8:24am**

The new policy also reads that a licensed AKC judge can not be a club officer of a HRC, NFRA, NAHRA, etc club.