



Show Handbook

ABNA Sanctioned Rules and Guidelines

The American Bulldog National Alliance offers the following rules and guidelines in an effort to help you with the setting up and running of an ABNA sanctioned conformation/working event.

“Show Host” as used in this handbook can refer to an individual, club or Show Secretary, interchangeably.

The American Bulldog National Alliance has within the organization many qualified people who can assist you with all aspects of your show. For assistance in or questions on any items in these guidelines, please contact the Show Committee Chairperson via the ABNA’s website at www.abna-info.com

Sanctioning

To ensure sanctioning an event with the ABNA, please follow the proper procedures. First, the prospective show host must contact the ABNA Show Committee Chairperson and request a Host Application form. Please fill out this form with as much detail as you have available as it will assist the Show Committee in granting your request. New clubs or individuals may also want to provide a short bio about themselves and include why you would like to host an ABNA show. When naming your event, please refrain from using personal or kennel names. (i.e. Joe Smith's Dog Show is not appropriate.)

Some criteria that are used in evaluating a sanctioning request include:

Show Host experience – Have you held a dog show in the past? Have you held an ABNA event? Repeat show hosts will be considered above new show hosts, when all else is equal, especially in instances with competing dates or locations.

Individual vs. Club Host – Individuals may host ABNA shows; however, please realize that the time required in doing so is immense. It is much easier to host a show with a club and spread the work load around.

Show Calendar – The ABNA recommend a Minimum 4 weeks between Sanctioning of ABNA Shows when the show is in the same Country / State, however, the ABNA will consider all sanctioning requests that are received under this minimum, and not requested for the same weekend as another ABNA show in the same Country / State.

For example: the ABNA will not sanction a show when the date submitted by a show host is the same weekend as a date already submitted & sanctioned by an ABNA show host in the same Country / State, when compared to the ABNA Show Calendar

Working events – What events will be held concurrently with the conformation show?

Any additional information that you provide about the show will prove beneficial in the sanctioning process. This information could include: site, location, facilities, shelters, major roads, hotels, access to water, bathrooms & parking, space for conformation rings, working events, spectators & vendors, health & safety considerations and concentration of American Bulldogs in the area.

The ABNA does not dual sanction any conformation shows. A dual sanctioned show is defined as two or more registry/sanctioning organizations hosting American Bulldog conformation shows in the same location and during the same time frame. This does not include working events held concurrently with a conformation show. This also does not include a conformation show open to breeds other than the American Bulldog.

The ABNA will maintain a list of all Clubs/individuals who have held or requested sanctioning of an ABNA show. All feedback forms and complaints received will also be kept in this file to use as a reference when analyzing future show sanctioning requests; however, malicious feedback that is personal in nature and has not been formally received and/or investigated with proper procedure will not be included in this file.

The Show Committee may ask for additional information and will answer your request within a reasonable time frame. All Show Hosts are asked to refrain from advertising or promoting their event until sanctioning is finalized and approved.

Forms

The ABNA requires the use of all official forms at our shows. Changing or altering of these forms, other than pricing and working event listings, can only be done with approval of the Show Committee a minimum of one week prior to your event.

The ABNA forms include:

ABNA Show Host Sanctioning Application Form
ABNA Official Conformation Registration Form
ABNA Official Event Registration Form
ABNA Official Conformation Ring Judging Form
ABNA Official Show Report

ABNA Official Feedback Form
ABNA Official Complaint Form

Copies of the ABNA Parental Control Policy and Aggressive Dog Policy need to be included and acknowledged on the Competitor Registration form.

You will receive the above mentioned forms and policies in your Official Show Packet; make additional copies as necessary.

They are also available on the ABNA website at: www.abna-info.com

The Show Host is required to have ABNA information on hand and available during the show at the registration desk. This includes copies of this handbook, the current ABNA Standard, and all needed forms.

All Original Copies of Competitor Conformation Registration Forms, the Official Conformation Show Report, all Official Ring Judging Forms, and all Feedback or Complaint Forms must be given to the Show Superintendent (see below) at the conclusion of the event or sent to the Show Committee Chairperson or ABNA Secretary **no later than two weeks** following the show's conclusion. This will allow the ABNA to enter the show report into the Points Listing on our website in a timely manner. Failure to submit the reports in a timely manner will negatively affect future sanctioning of ABNA shows.

All show results are considered unofficial until verified by a representative of the ABNA. Once the ABNA Points List has been updated on our website, a show is considered final. Show hosts may want to announce the results on their own website or on a public message board; however, please carry a disclaimer that they are unofficial results.

Conduct at ABNA Shows

The ABNA is a volunteer non-profit organization made up of like-minded individuals (a Board of Representatives) who care about the American Bulldog breed and promote the breed through sanctioning of conformation shows. Since we have no registry affiliation or monetary income, we rely solely on our individual efforts to give credence to the organization.

Further, it is expected that everyone involved in an ABNA show (show hosts, judges, representatives, etc.) behaves with exemplary conduct, as it will reflect upon the ABNA as a whole.

One of the core values of this organization is that the ABNA does not discriminate between the major registries; all dogs from these major registries are invited to compete equally in conformation regardless of where said dog is registered. Therefore, all show hosts, judges and reps should refrain from promoting one registry over another at ABNA sanctioned shows. (See section on vendors.)

Show Superintendent

The ABNA Show Committee will appoint a Show Superintendent for all sanctioned shows. The Show Superintendent will be an active member of the ABNA Board of Representatives. It will be the responsibility of the Show Superintendent to keep a "watchful eye" on the grounds and rings in order to identify potential problems and to maintain a good order of discipline among all dogs, handlers and owners. Further responsibility includes enforcement of judges, decisions in regard to the Aggressive Dog Policy and enforcement of other ABNA policies and procedures governing an event and to aid in the reporting of infractions of these to the ABNA. In all cases the decision of the Show Superintendent will take precedence over those decisions of others attending the show. The Show Superintendent may also be a competitor, judge or show host and does not need to be compensated in any way by you, the Show Host.

Judges and Judging

Judges need to be chosen from the official ABNA certified judges list. It is imperative to notify and schedule your judges as soon as possible. The show host takes responsibility for any form of compensation which the judges may request. Typically at a minimum, a judge will be compensated for travel costs. Please notify the ABNA immediately should a change in judges arise.

Judging at all ABNA sanctioned shows shall be based on the judge's application of the written conformation standard. Judges shall not use written evaluation forms for judging dogs unless such forms are formally approved by the ABNA when the show host application is filed, processed and approved.

Conformation

Any entity hosting an ABNA sanctioned show, will be required to host two full conformation shows during the course of the event, unless the ABNA gives formal approval to the contrary when the show host application is filed, processed and approved.

Show hosts may offer pre-registration as well as day of event registration. Pre-registration typically allows the competitor reduced fees. All fees and charges should be clearly stated on promotional material for the event. Please price your event carefully; unnecessarily high or surprise fees charged at one event could have the potential to reflect on the perception of all ABNA shows and events.

Registration must be run in a timely fashion. Show hosts are urged to set a designated time for the opening and closing of registration. Conformation must begin on time so as not to delay future show activities. All forms should be available at the registration desk and a secure area/return box should be designated for collecting all Feedback and/or Complaint Forms. The Show Host is also responsible for providing armband numbers and rubber bands or pins.

The Show Host or Administration Desk/Secretary is charged with examining each registration form to ensure that said form is filled out correctly. Further, it is important for this person to also examine the dog's registration paperwork and check that the registry and number are recorded properly. It is acceptable for a competitor to enter a puppy with temporary or pending registration numbers; however, the show points earned can be considered null and void if the owner does not supply the full registry information within a reasonable time frame.

Dogs will be entered into the appropriate classes based on their age, sex and type – Bully or Standard.

Best of Breed, Champion of Champions and Working Conformation classes should be shown together and not split according to type. Each dog will be judged against its own standard for type. A dog cannot compete in the Champion of Champions class until all results have been verified by the ABNA. (i.e. Dog can't "earn" a CH on Day 1 of a show and compete in the CH class on Day 2 of a show.)

Class Order

Classes should be held in the same order at all shows. You may choose to have all Bully classes first, followed by all Standard classes. Or, two separate rings may run concurrently for the Bully and Standard Classes.

The class order is as follows:

3-6 month, Novice Puppy Male

6-9 month, Junior Puppy Male

9-12 month, Senior Puppy Male

Best Male Puppy

3-6 month, Novice Puppy Female

6-9 month, Junior Puppy Female

9-12 month, Senior Puppy Female

Best Female Puppy
 Best in Show Puppy
 Best of Breed Puppy
 1-2 year, Junior Male
 2-4 year, Senior Male
 4+ year, Veteran Male
 Best Male
 1-2 year, Junior Female
 2-4 year, Senior Female
 4+ year, Veteran Female
 Best Female
 Best in Show
 Best of Breed Adult
 Champion of Champions
 Working Conformation

Awards

The ABNA awards 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in class wins; ribbons are usually offered for these placements. Best of Sex, Best in Show, Best of Breed, Champion of Champions and Working Conformation classes are also held. Rosettes, trophies or medallions are awarded for these events; higher level wins such as Best of Breed generally receive larger awards.

The last show of the year held in the United States is typically termed the "ABNA Nationals." It is expected that the awards for this show would be of the highest caliber.

For each conformation show you will hold, please be expected to award the following awards:

Bully Class Awards

1st 2nd 3rd Novice Puppy Male & Female
 1st 2nd 3rd Junior Puppy Male & Female
 1st 2nd 3rd Senior Puppy Male & Female

 1st 2nd 3rd Junior Adult Male & Female
 1st 2nd 3rd Senior Adult Male & Female
 1st 2nd 3rd Veteran Adult Male & Female

Best of Sex Awards

Best Male Puppy & Best Female Puppy
 Best Male & Best Female Adult

Best in Show Awards

Best in Show Puppy
 Best in Show

Standard Class Awards

1st 2nd 3rd Novice Puppy Male & Female
 1st 2nd 3rd Junior Puppy Male & Female
 1st 2nd 3rd Senior Puppy Male & Female

 1st 2nd 3rd Junior Adult Male & Female
 1st 2nd 3rd Senior Adult Male & Female
 1st 2nd 3rd Veteran Adult Male & Female

Best of Sex Awards

Best Male Puppy & Best Female Puppy
 Best Male & Best Female Adult

Best in Show Awards

Best in Show Puppy
 Best in Show

Joint Awards

Best of Breed Puppy
 Best of Breed Adult
 Champion of Champions
 Working Conformation Degree Class

Working Conformation Degree Class

All dogs entering this class must have written documentation stating that said dog is free of hip dysplasia through evaluations performed at a minimum of one year of age (OFA Borderline or better, free of DJD or PennHIP median score or better, free of DJD) and must hold at least one working/sporting title from the ABNA, WABA, NAPD, Schutzhund, Ring Sport, PSA, IWPA, UCDA, APA, UPF, Irondog and/or any other organization recognized by the ABNA. Written documentation must be provided to the Show Host before entry into this class. The ABNA encourages all Show Hosts to offer this class as a "free" event to encourage more participation in this important class;

TABNhe ABNA is one of the few American Bulldog organizations that places such high regard on the working ability of the breed.

Conformation Rings

Ring sizes should be spacious. Approximate ring size should be no less than 40' x 40' or larger depending on the projected number of participants. Ring surfaces should be as flat as possible and free of any obstacles such as stones that may impair the movement of the animals or cause harm in any way. Rings should be clearly designated. Entrances and exits of conformation rings must be kept clear of waiting dogs so movement to and from is void of any altercations.

The Show Host should ensure that there are adequate volunteers at the conformation ring(s). At a minimum, there should be one Ring Steward per conformation ring as well as one Steward for each working event that is held concurrently. The Show Host may also want to appoint a "Floater" to travel between the rings and events.

Class Sponsorship

Show hosts can and often do offer sponsorship to the general public. As an example, an individual may sponsor an award for a certain class by donating the cost of that specific award to the show host. In return, the show host may offer a free ad in the show event booklet and/or offer to have the sponsoring party's "kennel" name placed directly on the award.

Vendors

Vendors who supply dog related items are always welcome at ABNA sanctioned shows. Leather goods, dog food and/or dog related health related items and hand crafted novelties are just a few of the possible vendors you could schedule to attend your show. Renting of space is entirely up to the show host. Cost of renting space should be maintained at a reasonable rate.

The ABNA is not affiliated with any registries. Dogs from all major registries are invited to compete equally. Therefore, we ask that you treat vendor requests from registries equally as well. Further, Show Hosts, Judges and Reps who are representing the show and the ABNA's interests at the show, should refrain from promoting one registry over another.

Raffles

Show hosts often conduct raffles. A few examples: a 50/50 cash raffle, bulldog item raffle, or raffles where proceeds for to special rescue groups. Raffles are a fun addition to a show and can help offset club expenses for hosting the show.

Concessions

Concessions are a must! Food and drink should be made available at most any time throughout the course of the actual event activities. Some Show Hosts will provide (cook) concessions themselves, while others will contract out or use the facility services. Should you choose to offer concessions yourself, please be sure to recruit many volunteers to help run

this service. Fresh water must be made available to the bulldogs. Restroom facilities should be adequate and accessible to the show grounds.

Accommodations

Show hosts should contact local hotels and motels as early as possible in an effort to provide dog friendly accommodations for your show participants. It is imperative to arrange these accommodations well in advance of your upcoming show and advertise accordingly.

Advertising

The ABNA will assist in the advertising of your show by placing all pertinent information on the official website, as well as posting the information on the various available public venues. There is a direct correlation between the amount of advertising and the success of your show. Some possible ways to advertise include: providing a show website which outlines all details of the show, posting on American Bulldog message boards, handing out flyers at earlier shows, and local advertising at pet stores and newspapers.

Costs for all events should be clearly stated on your advertising materials. These include conformation, working events and public fees such as spectator entrance fees or parking. Your advertising should be concise and include all pertinent information such as dates, costs, location, hotels, judges, contact details, etc.

Temperament Testing

The ABNA standard clearly states that the American Bulldog should be temperamentally sound and that its judges are charged with evaluating a dog's temperament. The Show Committee encourages all Show Hosts to have temperament testing available during their events. Some possible organizations to use are the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) program or the American Temperament Test Society (ATTS).

Working Events

Show hosts are free to use any individual or group to run and sanction any legal working event at an ABNA sanctioned conformation show as long as such working event is open to both Bully and Standard dogs, is open to and does not discriminate against dogs registered with any of the registries recognized by the ABNA and does not require any participant in such working events to register their dog with a particular registry in order to compete or to receive prizes, awards or certificates. Some organizations used in the past include: WABA, NAPD, Schutzhund, Ring Sport, PSA, IWPA, UCDA, APA, UPF, and Irondog.

Because of the legal issues regarding hog hunting, the ABNA does not allow any hunting activities to be held in conjunction with the conformation shows. Nor should any hog hunting activities be advertised at an ABNA event.

The show host needs to schedule and coordinate their working events as early as possible. Several of the working groups have strict rules pertaining to scheduling of events.

Show hosts are encouraged to use judges/decoys/helpers that are certified by a recognized organization. Should you need to use other local individuals for working events, please contact the Show Committee for review and/or recommendation.

*Please check the ABNA Website www.abna-info.com regularly for the most up to date version of; The show handbook, other official forms, policies / rules, breed standard point system, ect,
~ Thankyou ~*