



**JUNIOR
PROGRAM
COMPANION**

USASA Junior Program Companion

The USASA junior Program Companion is a reference guide, meant to be used in addition to the AKC Junior Showmanship Regulation booklet. Please refer to the AKC published booklet for actual rules and regulations, as this material is only for guidance purposes.

Original Companion created by Nikki Marenbech Hengy – April 2004
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USASA JUNIOR PROGRAM MISSION

USASA Juniors are our vision and hope for the future of the Australian Shepherd and our handlers of tomorrow. The values, attitudes and responsibility learned through junior handling will serve our youth throughout their lives. The mission of the USASA Junior program is to promote and encourage responsible ownership, education, training and handling techniques for our youth, as well as becoming active in USASA. This program is designed to offer nationwide interaction, education and the measurement of achievement. The vision of the program is to develop the knowledge of today's Juniors, to enable them to be rewarding exhibitors & breeders of tomorrow.

GETTING STARTED IN JUNIOR HANDLING

Junior Showmanship shall be judged solely on the ability and skill of the juniors in handling their dogs as in the breed ring. The show qualities of the dogs shall not be considered. Junior handling encourages Juniors to experience competition with their peers, while learning the responsibilities of dog care and training skills. *Good sportsmanship* is emphasized among Juniors at all levels. Professional handlers at the Junior age level are not eligible for competition.

Juniors who are at least 9 years of age and are not over 18 years of age on the day of the show may compete in Junior Handling.

Juniors must apply for an AKC Junior Handler Number prior to entering any event. You need only apply once. Numbers are easily obtained by calling, emailing, or by going online:

AKC Junior Handler Number Request

Phone: 919-233-9767

Email: juniors@akc.org

Website: <http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/>

Once a junior has obtained their AKC Junior Handler Number, they can register to be a USASA Junior Member by registering with the United States Australian Shepherd Association (USASA) by contacting the current USASA Membership Chair, or via the online registration form at:

USASA Junior Handler Registration Membership Chair

Website: <http://www.australianshepherds.org/about-usasa/board-of-directors-and-committees>

Website Junior Handler Application: <http://www.australianshepherds.org/about-usasa/membership/online-membership-application1>

Dogs being exhibited in any junior handling event must be AKC registered, although they may be neutered or spayed. Bitches in season are **NOT** eligible to show. The dog must be owned or co-owned by the Junior or the Junior's parents, siblings, uncles, aunts, grandparents, including any step or half relations, as well as any permanent resident of the Junior's household, as recorded with the AKC at the time entries close; or an application for transfer of ownership must be sent to the AKC by the new junior owner within **SEVEN DAYS after the last day of the show**. A Junior Handler Signature Form can be found in the Junior Section on AKC's website. When adding a junior handler as a co-owner of an AKC dog, be sure to include the original dog's registration with this form and contact AKC for the appropriate registration fee to include with the form.

Entering an AKC dog show requires that the Entry Forms be submitted at a time prior to the start of the actual event, usually two to three weeks in advance. This is called the **CLOSING DATE**. Forms may be handwritten or typed and mailed in or completed online, as long as they are received prior to the Closing Date. The dog's registration number and the Junior's AKC Junior Handling number must be on the Entry Form. There are also internet services that will charge a small fee to electronically enter events. The most common AKC entry website is www.infodog.com.

If the junior has never shown before, it is recommended that they attend at least one dog show and observe the Junior Handling classes. All AKC sanctioned dog shows will have a Superintendent present, where general information on AKC and sanctioned events may be available.

THE AWARDS PROGRAM

The USASA Junior Awards Program exists to recognize the achievements of individuals for their Handling efforts and Performance scores through training and exhibiting AKC registered Australian Shepherds at AKC sanctioned Junior Handling shows, and performance events.

A Junior **MUST** be an USASA Junior Member for the award year, in order to accumulate points and to be eligible for awards. Points begin to accumulate on the date you become a member. Once you have become an USASA Junior Member, you will remain a member until you age out of the AKC Junior Program. The Annual Year will run from January 1st to December 31st, inclusive. Other awards require membership as of January 1 of the award year, including Optimum Club, Top Overall, and Division Winners.

JUNIOR HANDLING

The Awards Program standings are tabulated by using a point system, whereas one point shall be awarded for each exhibitor that the youth places over in their entered class. In example, the first place Junior in a class of 5 would receive 4 points; the fourth place Junior would receive 1 point. Any Junior who is awarded a Best Junior Handler win, will be given 1 point for each exhibitor the youth places over in all the classes. Best Junior wins supersede class points. Competition need not be present in the class for points to be awarded for Best Junior Handler wins. In example, a total entry of 30 juniors – 15 Open Juniors, 5 Open Intermediate, 1 Open Senior, 9 Master Class – the Open Senior wins Best Junior. Although there were no other juniors in their age division class, the Best Junior Handler win will earn a total of 29 points. Shows offering Reserve Best Junior Handler awards will be calculated in the same manner as Best Junior points, whereas Reserve Best Junior wins will supersede class points. Point calculations will be 2 less than the total junior entry (subtract yourself and the Best Junior). In the above example, the Reserve Best junior would earn 28 points. Placements and/or Best/Reserve Best Junior Handler wins from the Master Class will be calculated in the same manner as above, however the junior's status will remain in their Open Division class for year-end awards.

Juniors **must** receive a **minimum of TEN (10) points** during the Annual Year to be eligible for any of the Awards available.

Juniors will carry their points with them for the Annual Year, regardless if they change from Novice to Open, or age up into another Class. When a change in class occurs, the Junior will not be placed into the new class **until** they have competed in that particular class.

Junior Class

At least 9 years old and under 12 years old on the day of the show

Intermediate Class

At least 12 years old and under 15 years old on the day of the show

Senior Class

At least 15 years old and under 18 years old on the day of the show

Master Class

At least 9 years old and under 18 years on the day of the show, who have won 10 Best Junior Handler wins with competition. The calendar for this class will be consistent with the eligibility dates for the AKC National Championship

Novice Classes

Juniors who, at the time entries close, have not won three (3) first place wins in a Novice Class, with competition. A first place in Novice without competition leading to a Best Junior award where there IS competition counts as one of the needed three (3) wins. Upon completion of three (3) first place and/or Best Junior wins, the Junior is required to transfer all other entries (including closed entries) to the Open classes. If the junior should happen to be at a show when the transfer from Novice to Open happens, they must notify the Superintendent or Show Secretary **at least one-half hour prior** to the scheduled start of Junior Showmanship judging at the show.

Open Classes

Juniors who have won three (3) first place wins in a Novice Class, with competition.

It is the responsibility of each USASA Junior to maintain their own records and not rely solely on the USASA Junior Committee to do this for you. AKC has conveniently added a FREE way to track and double check your wins by visiting their website at www.akc.org. Juniors can follow up on their Showmanship points, ownership of dogs, and their Performance legs and titles by viewing/printing off their FREE Junior Showmanship/Performance Report within their My AKC Account. The report can be accessed from the AKC website by requesting a **Junior Handler Access Code** from the following link:

https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/kids_juniors/jrauth_request.cfm

Access codes are available to all registered junior handlers.

JUNIOR HANDLING YEAR END AWARDS

TOP TEN: There will be an annual Award given to each of the top 10 Juniors in the 3 age classes (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior), the Novice & Open classes will be combined.

TOP DIVISION WINNER: There will be an annual Award given to the top first place Open Junior Handler in the 3 age classes (Junior, Intermediate, and Senior).

TOP JUNIOR HANDLER OF THE YEAR: There will be an annual Award given to the top overall Junior Handler from all classes, whoever has the highest amount of points.

SPECIAL AWARDS: If a current USASA Junior and their Aussie have a special accomplishment at an AKC event, which is above and beyond the awards we offer within the Junior Program, a special Above and Beyond Award may be given. Please submit pertinent information to the USASA Junior Committee Chair for review and consideration.

Some examples of Above and Beyond Awards:

Best/Reserve Junior Handler at Invitationals (i.e.: AKC National Championship/Westminster/),
Top AKC Herding Junior, etc.

In all Awards categories, in the case of a tie both Juniors will win.

The USASA Juniors Committee will obtain showmanship statistics from the American Kennel Club. All records furnished by the American Kennel Club are considered final.

THE AWARDS PROGRAM

PERFORMANCE

The USASA Junior Committee Offers a Performance Program for USASA Junior Members. All tabulations are required to be from AKC sanctioned events, from the following competitive areas:

Agility
Herding
Obedience
Rally
Tracking
Coursing Ability

It is the juniors responsibility to submit required documentation (Junior Handler Certification Form for each leg of a title earned, OR Junior Handler Certificate of Achievement for each title earned) to the USASA Junior Committee Chair **no later than March 1th** of the calendar year (Ben Swanson, wbentons@umich.edu). All email submission will receive a confirmation.

JUNIOR PERFORMANCE YEAR END AWARDS

TOP TEN: There will be an annual Award given to the top 10 Juniors in the 5 separate divisions: (Agility, Obedience, Herding, Rally, and Tracking).

TOP DIVISION WINNER: There will be an annual Award given to the top first place Junior in each of the 5 separate divisions: (Agility, Obedience, Herding, Rally, and Tracking).

TOP PERFORMANCE JUNIOR OF THE YEAR: There will be an annual Award given to the Top Overall Performance Junior of all divisions, whoever has the highest amount of points.

SPECIAL AWARDS: If a current USASA Junior and their Aussie have a special accomplishment at an AKC event, which is above and beyond the awards we offer within the Junior Program, a special Above and Beyond Award may be given. Please submit pertinent information to the USASA Junior Committee Chair for review and consideration. (Some examples of Above and Beyond Awards: Obtaining VCD1 or MACH titles, etc.)

PERFORMANCE TOP TEN AND DIVISION JUNIOR

For each of the five competitive divisions, the Top Ten Juniors and a single Top Junior will be recognized within the Junior Program Year, January 1st through December 31st, inclusive

Awards will be given for:

- Top Agility Junior
- Top Herding Junior
- Top Obedience junior
- Top Rally Junior
- Top Tracking Junior
- Top Coursing Ability Test (CAT) Junior
- Top Fast CAT Junior

Agility, Herding, Obedience, Rally, and Fast CAT

The Junior who receives the highest point sum of scores shall be the winner.

A junior does not need to earn all legs for a title within that given Junior Year.

Tracking and Coursing Ability Test

AKC only awards a “Pass/Fail” score for this area of competition. The Junior who receives the highest amount of Junior Title Earner Points shall be the winner.

For all divisions of competition, in the event of a tie, both Juniors shall win.

*****FOR ALL DIVISIONS OF COMPETITION*****

PERFORMANCE JUNIOR OF THE YEAR

The USASA Junior Committee will recognize the Performance Junior of the Year.

To qualify and be eligible for the Performance Junior of the Year, the Junior must complete at least one title in two separate divisions of competition within that Junior Year.

Note: This does not mean that all of the qualifying scores/passing legs for that title must be completed in that given Junior Year, only that the title is awarded by AKC in that given Junior Year.

Because different areas of competition have different qualifying systems, the USASA Junior Committee has assigned a point value to be given to each possible performance title earned. The point value will be referred to as the Junior Title Earner Points.

The Junior with the highest number of accumulated Junior Title Earner Points will be the winner.

In the event of a tie, both Juniors shall win.

Awards points will be calculated as follows:

	2	5	10	15	25	40	
Agility	ACT-level titles	Novice-level titles	Open-level titles	Excellent-level titles	Masters-level titles; Triple Q titles; Premier titles; T2B titles	Championship titles; Century titles	
Herding	PT	Started-level titles	Intermediate-level titles	Advanced-level titles; HX		HC/HCH	
Obedience	BN	CD, GN	CDX, GO	UD, VER	UDX	OTCH, OM, OGM	
Rally	RN	RI	RA	RE	RM, RAE	RACH	
Tracking	TD, TDU	TDX	VST	CT			
CAT	CA	CAA	CAX				
Fast CAT	BCAT	DCAT	FCAT				

Other (2pts each; max 10pts): Any CGC title (i.e. CGC, CGCA), any Therapy Dog title (i.e. THDN, THD), any Trick Dog title (i.e. TKN, TKI).

*additional titles earned of the same level (i.e. MACH2, RM2) will count for additional points at the same value as the original title.

*preferred titles (i.e. NJP in agility, PCD in obedience) will count for the same point value as their standard counterparts.

THE AWARDS PROGRAM

COMBINED OVERALL

COMBINED OVERALL JUNIOR OF THE YEAR

The USASA Junior Committee will also recognize the Overall Junior of the Year.

To qualify and be eligible for the Combined Overall Junior of the Year, the Junior must be awarded Junior Title Earner Points in **at least two** divisions of performance competition, as well as earn a minimum of 50 points from Junior Handling.

The Junior with the highest accumulated Junior Title Earner Points, and who has the highest accumulated Junior Handling points, is the winner.

In the event of a tie, both Juniors shall win.



THE AWARDS PROGRAM

OPTIMUM CLUB

HANDLING

Awards will be given to Juniors who receive a minimum of 100 Junior Handling points during the Annual Year, and who also provide grade reports which reflect at least a B/3.000 average or higher for **each** grading period of the Junior year. The grade reports for the FOUR most recent Quarters **MUST** be sent in order to qualify. Juniors are responsible for mailing all grade reports (photocopies accepted) to the USASA Junior Committee Chair **no later than March 1th** of the calendar year (Ben Swanson, wbentons@umich.edu). All email submission will receive a confirmation.

PERFORMANCE

Awards will be given to the Juniors who receive a minimum of 10 Junior Title Performance Points during the Annual Year, and who also provide grade reports which reflect at least a B/3.000 average or higher for **each** grading period of the Junior Year. The grade reports for the Four most recent Quarters **MUST** be sent in order to qualify. Juniors are responsible for mailing all grade reports (photocopies accepted) to the USASA Junior Committee Chair **no later than March 1th** of the calendar year (Ben Swanson, wbentons@umich.edu). All email submission will receive a confirmation

ALL Awards will be given out at the USASA Nationals during the Awards Presentations. We encourage all USASA Juniors to attend, as this is the once a-year showcase and recognition for our Juniors and their accomplishments. If you are not able to attend the Awards presentation, we ask that you please make arrangements for someone to pick up your awards during the presentation. It is the Junior's responsibility to coordinate with the USASA Junior Committee as to who will be picking up their awards. If nobody is available to pick up your awards for you, please contact the USASA Junior Committee to make arrangements to receive your Awards. Again, it is the responsibility of the Junior to make these arrangements. The juniors committee is not responsible for lost or damaged awards after the awards ceremony at the National Specialty.

All year-end Award Winners will be published in the Australian Shepherd Journal. If you have any questions on your points, please contact either the USASA Junior Committee Co-Chair or the Performance Coordinator.

AKC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP INVITATIONAL QUALIFIERS

Any junior who qualifies for the AKC National Championship Invitational in conformation or performance events has an opportunity to earn funds to help with his or her expenses to attend the show.

Juniors who qualify must submit a one page essay on an assigned topic to the juniors committee. The committee will read the essays and vote on the winners based on the quality of the written essay. Essay topics will change from year to year.

If a junior qualifies for both conformation and performance, he or she may only write one essay and apply to win \$200 for one event. We will award \$200 each to one individual for conformation and one individual for performance. Performance events are all inclusive (agility, fly ball, herding, obedience, rally) and cannot be applied for individually. In other words, a junior cannot win more than one award per year.

ESSAY TOPIC: To be announced one month prior to due date on the USASA website and/or on the USASA Juniors Facebook page.

Essays Due: **NOVEMBER 15th**

The essays will be judged on the following criteria:

- focus on the assigned topic
- proper essay format (Introduction, Body, Conclusion)
- proper use of grammar, spelling, punctuation
- clarity and precision
- preferably typed
- must include junior's name and qualifying event (conformation or performance)

Essays are to be emailed/mailed to the current USASA Junior Committee Chair whose information can be found on the USASA site at:

<http://www.australianshepherds.org/about-usasa/board-of-directors-and-committees>

USASA NATIONALS BEST JUNIOR HANDLER SCHOLARSHIP

In order to support the future education of the Junior Handlers who are participating in the Sport of Dogs, a \$500.00 Scholarship will be offered by the United States Australian Shepherd Association (USASA) Juniors Committee to the Best Junior handler at the annual National Specialty held annually at the Purina Farms Event Center, Gray Summit, Missouri.

Scholarship winners must be a current USASA Junior Member. Juniors must be a member prior to the date of Junior Showmanship competition at the National Specialty. Should the winner of the Best Junior Award not be a current USASA Junior Member, the Scholarship will not be awarded that year.

These Scholarship Certificates may be redeemed to attend an accredited, approved, post-secondary educational institution or vocational program.

Attendance at an accredited, approved, post-secondary educational institution:

Upon appropriate notification including a copy of a document of registration and a point of contact at the post-secondary educational institution, the USASA Juniors Committee will disperse the scholarship money directly to the recipient's institution of choice OR with appropriate receipts the \$500.00 may be dispersed to the student directly for books, academic supplies and/or materials at the discretion of the USASA Juniors Committee.

Definitions and Limitations:

1. The recipient must redeem the Scholarship by age 21 or the monies will be forfeited and placed back into the USASA Juniors Committee.
2. If for any reason the Junior Handler is disqualified from their win, the Scholarship will be considered void.
3. An "accredited, approved, post-secondary educational institution" is generally considered to constitute a college or university of higher education. Each institution must be approved by the USASA Juniors Committee. Other Technical or trade schools may be considered, evaluated and approved by the USASA Juniors Committee on a case-by-case basis.
4. Scholarships must be kept responsibly in a safe place and not lost. They are considered by the USASA Juniors Committee to have value to the person it is issued to (only) and it must be physically redeemed by the specific individual it is issued to in order to be used.

OTHER SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

AKC

THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB IS PROUD TO OFFER A JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. THE CRITERIA FOR AWARDING THE SCHOLARSHIPS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

1. applicant's need;
2. applicant's academic achievement; and
3. applicant's involvement in the fancy.

Each applicant is required to submit current school transcripts, as well as an essay including a description of his or her experiences and interests in purebred dogs, including an explanation of how the individual perceives his or her future role in the fancy. Application can be found at following link:

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/scholarship-recipients/>

The deadline for this Scholarship will be on the Application.

USASA FOUNDATION JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The primary goal of the program is to promote and encourage juniors to participate in the sport of American Kennel Club purebred dog events with Australian Shepherds, as well as to become active in the United States Australian Shepherd Association, and to promote a continuing interest and plans for future involvement with the Australian Shepherd breed. **The deadline for this Scholarship is January 1, of the current year.** If you go to the website and the date on the form is not updated, please fill out the form that is on the site and mail it in to the address provided on the form.

The Application for this scholarship can be found on the USASA Foundation website at the following link:

<http://www.usasfoundation.org/newsite/jrs.html>

COMMITTEE MEMBER CONTACTS

For general USASA Junior Committee questions/suggestions:

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springfeveraussies@me.com

Amanda Swanson
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aswanson146@gmail.com

HELPFUL RESOURCES

To order the Junior Handler Certification form CEJRH1 contact:

AKC Junior Committee

(919) 233-9767

email: juniors@akc.org

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/>

USASA Website:

<http://www.australianshepherds.org/>

United States Australian Shepherd Foundation:

<http://www.usasfoundation.org/newsite/>

MB-F website for all AKC events:

<http://infodog.com/>

AKC's Website:

<http://www.akc.org/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/> (for Agility, Rally, Obedience, etc.)

<http://www.akc.org/events/titles/> (AKC Titles, Abbreviates, and their descriptions)

USASA Juniors (Facebook Page):

https://www.facebook.com/USASA-Juniors-130040467181311/timeline/?ref=br_tf

AKC Juniors (Facebook Page):

https://www.facebook.com/groups/188199447905978/?ref=br_tf

AKC Canine Good Citizen Information:

<http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/canine-good-citizen/title/>

AKC Therapy Dog Information:

<http://www.akc.org/dog-owners/training/akc-therapy-dog-program/>

AKC Junior Achievement Pins and Title Bars:

https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/kids_juniors/jr_pin_titleBars.cfm

AKC Junior Handler Access Code Request (For FREE Junior Showmanship/Performance Report):

https://www.apps.akc.org/apps/kids_juniors/jrauth_request.cfm