

ABGA Judge Background Check Policy

Purpose

The American Boer Goat Association (ABGA) is committed to maintaining the integrity and professionalism of its certified judges while exercising responsible stewardship of Association resources. This policy establishes the requirements for criminal background checks for individuals who have passed the ABGA Judge Certification.

Initial Background Check

All applicants who successfully complete the requirements for ABGA Judge Certification shall successfully pass a criminal background check before being added to the official list of ABGA Certified Judges.

The cost of the initial background check shall be covered by the Association.

Annual Renewal Certification

As part of the annual judge renewal process, each certified judge shall declare that since their last renewal they:

- Have not been charged with or convicted of a felony;
- Have not been charged with or convicted of a crime involving fraud, theft, violence, animal cruelty, or a sexual offense;
- Have disclosed to the Association any criminal charges required under this policy.

Providing false or misleading information during the renewal process may result in disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from the certified judges list.

Subsequent Background Checks

Certified judges shall not be required to complete annual background checks.

The Board of Directors may require a certified judge to complete a new criminal background check at any time upon a majority vote of the Board of Directors when it determines that such action is in the best interest of the Association. Failure to comply with a Board-directed background check within the specified timeframe will result in suspension or removal from the certified judges list until the requirement is satisfied.

Duty to Report

Certified judges are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the ABGA Code of Ethics and Judge Standards.

A judge shall notify the Executive Director within ten (10) business days if they:

- Are charged with, or convicted of, a felony;
- Are charged with, or convicted of, a crime involving fraud, theft, violence, animal cruelty, or a sexual offense;
- Become subject to legal restrictions that would materially impair their ability to perform judging responsibilities.

Notification under this section does not, by itself, constitute grounds for discipline or removal. The Executive Director shall promptly notify the Board of Directors, which may review the matter and determine whether any interim or permanent action is appropriate under the ABGA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Code of Ethics, or other applicable Association policies.

Failure to provide the required notification may be considered grounds for disciplinary action, including suspension or removal from the certified judges list.

Board Authority

Nothing in this policy limits the authority of the ABGA Board of Directors to investigate complaints, suspend, remove, or otherwise discipline a certified judge in accordance with the ABGA Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, Code of Ethics, or other applicable Association policies.

Effective Date

This policy supersedes all previous background check requirements for certified judges and shall become effective upon approval by the ABGA Board of Directors.