

AdHoc Committee Report – Separation of NPGA Clinic and Judges Exam from Convention.

April 2019

Introduction

The National Pygmy Goat Association hosts a Judging Clinic (JC) and Judges Exam (JE) yearly at each Convention. People interested in becoming a licensed NPGA judge are required to attend the Judges Clinic that is facilitated by the NPGA Clinician, prior to the participation of the NPGA Judges Exam. Historically the Clinic has been held Saturday and Sunday of the Convention weekend with the Judges Exam (practical testing) offered on Monday and Tuesday. Some concerns have been raised over the past couple of years:

1. Difficulty obtaining enough animals to be used for both the Clinic as well as the Exam
2. Difficulty obtaining enough handlers to run the classes for the JC and JE
3. Timing/Scheduling of the Clinic and the Exam.
 - a. The Clinic is currently held Saturday and Sunday of Convention which prevents the participants, candidates and Clinician and other facilitators, from exhibiting in the sponsors shows.
 - b. The Exam is held on Monday and Tuesday- requiring candidates and Judges Training Committee members to take time off work.

Considerations

To continuously improve the Clinic and Exam, an AdHoc Committee has been formed to review how the NPGA JC and CE is currently hosted and consider alternative scheduling for the Clinic/Exam at a time separate from the NPGA Convention.

The following have been identified as items to consider:

1. Number of days required.
 - a. As it is currently structured the JC/JE requires 4 days.
 - b. Consideration could be made to combine the JC and JE into 2-3 days.
 - a. Option 1: 2 days- ½ day JC and ½ day JE each day. The mornings would be set up as Clinic. Tests classes would be picked while the candidates are in the Clinic. Then in the afternoon testing would commence.
 - b. Option 2: 3 days- 1 ½ days of JC followed by 1 ½ days of JE.

Option 1 allows for the JC/JE to be held over one weekend, minimizing the amount of time people would need to take off work. There would be a time constraint during the testing portion, depending on the number of candidates going through the JE that year. To address this, a limitation of class size may be considered. At this point in the discussion, the class size was fully determined.

Option 2 allows for additional time for the JE, which would accommodate larger class sizes and allow for an additional ½ day Clinic for more thorough review and practical experience. In addition, the format would allow for the entire JC be completed prior to the testing.

2. Location
 - a. The location could be tied to the Convention region, allowing for the JC/JE to continue to rotate regions.
 - b. The location could be separated from the Convention site/region, taking into consideration travel cost to a location as well as the availability of animals/handlers in a region.
 - i. Areas that are have a higher population of active breeders would increase availability of a variety of animals (sexes and ages) to select from.
3. Travel Expenses (airport/hotel)
 - a. Certain areas of the country have airports that may be significantly cheaper to fly into.
 - b. Travel Costs to fly Clinician and JTC members would vary and depends on:
 - i. JC/JE destination
 - ii. Originating city of each committee member
 - iii. Rotation of committee members
 - c. Cost will also impact candidates, auditors and volunteers (handlers etc.)
4. Price of Facility
 - a. This is built into the Convention Contract currently. Separating it from Convention, may increase this fee or keep it the same depending on facility.
 - i. Option 1: Convention Club continues to host JC/JE but separate from the Convention shows.
 - ii. Option 2: Determine a fee charged to the Convention host to cover a facility for JC/JE at a different location/time.
 - iii. Option 3: Allow JC/JE to be bid separate from Convention.
 1. Cost may be a concern for host clubs, but the opportunity to grow the event with educational events and other activity to draw in participants would provide for opportunity to offset expenses.
 2. If there is a demand for additional educational activities and more judges, affiliated clubs should want to participate

Pros of hosting the Clinic at a separate time:

1. Allow all members to participate in the other activities at Convention
2. Allow focus to be on an educational weekend and Clinic/Training
3. Less stress on participants (handlers/exhibitors) and animals

Cons of hosting the Clinic at a separate time:

1. Securing enough goats/handlers – this seems to be one of the recurrent difficulties of the event, regardless of when it is held. The Clinic/Test would still be reliant on people’s participation. It is unclear at this time if there would truly be enough support from members to commit to another weekend to make this event possible.

Ways to attract participants from breeders/handlers

1. Host educational activities
2. Provide free show sanctions for a host club to use on an upcoming show
3. Incentives- Raffle etc. for participants
4. Gift certificates for NPGA merchandise and/or business office.

Financial Implications:

Estimated Expenses:

Judges travel	8 JTC members + Clinician	\$3600 (figured on a \$400 av.)
Stipend	9 x \$150	\$1350
Facility Expenses	Variable	

The travel expenses estimated above, are calculated on a \$400 average per ticket. This price would be variable depending on the location of each judge and the location the JC/JE would be held. Based on NPGA’s 10 year history, the travel expenses have never reach \$3600 (range from \$871-\$3555). Per the current NPGA Rules and Regs, the Stipend can be considered a fixed expense. The facility expense has been absorbed by the NPGA Convention host club. In the scenarios considered here, there are several proposals that would cover the charges so NPGA does not have to absorb the cost.

Income:

Written Test	\$50
Clinic	\$100
Practical Test	\$200

At the current fee schedule, there would need to be 16-17 candidates participating in the JC/JE to cover NPGA’s current cost. If the goal is to cover all cost of the JC/JE some alternatives needs to be considered. Options include: 1) adjust current fee schedule 2) promote Clinic to potential auditors 3) set up different structure to cover more of the expenses.

Conclusion

There are multiple options for NPGA when considering separating JC/JE from Convention, as outlined above. The separation of the JC/JE may address some of the ongoing issues identified in the current setting. However, there is then an additional event to plan for, requiring volunteers etc. By separating the JC/JE from Convention, it would provide NPGA the opportunity to have an event to promote training and education to candidates and all members. Due to the advanced planning associated with Convention and JC/JE and the potential changes to the NPGA Convention contract required, the decision to separate the two events would require some advanced planning. If the organization chooses to proceed, 2021 would be the first year these changes would be possible. An additional JC/JE could be hosted separate from Convention sooner than 2021, but this would increase NPGA's expenses by ~\$5000, so at the current participation rate, the added expense is not justified.

If the board has appetite to pursue, the Clinician and Judges Training Committee and possibly additional committee members should be included to further design and address the details for the separation of JC/JE from Convention.

Prepared by April Seiler and JT Struthers