



## **PROTECTION SPORTS ASSOCIATION**

### **Official Judge Appointment & Credential Verification Letter**

230 W. Seawell Street, Sanford, NC 27330, United States  
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August 24, 2026

To Whom It May Concern:

**Re: Clay Smith - Certified PSA Judge / Specialist Event Official**

Maple Leaf Working Dog Club PSA Trial

October 9-11, 2026 - Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

The Protection Sports Association (PSA) confirms that Clay Smith, of Conway, Arkansas, United States, is a certified PSA Judge in good standing and has been selected and appointed to serve as the presiding judge and specialist event official at the Maple Leaf Working Dog Club PSA Trial being held October 9-11, 2026 at Heritage Canine Sports Complex, 1250 Regional Road 20, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

#### **Protection Sports Association**

The Protection Sports Association is an established international amateur canine sporting organization that has sanctioned competitive canine protection-sport events for 25 years. PSA has affiliated clubs and sanctioned competitions in multiple countries, including Canada and the United States, and sanctions hundreds of licensed trials and events annually.

PSA establishes the competition rules, certification standards, judging requirements, officiating requirements, and performance standards governing sanctioned PSA competitions.

PSA judges are certified officials entrusted with interpreting and applying PSA competition rules, directing the conduct of competitive exercises, evaluating the performance of competing dog-and-handler teams, assigning scores, and determining competitive results in accordance with PSA rules and judging standards.

#### **Judge Certification and Appointment**

Clay Smith is a certified PSA Judge in good standing and is qualified by the Protection Sports Association to officiate sanctioned PSA competitions. PSA judges must satisfy PSA qualification, training, experience, and certification requirements before being authorized to officiate sanctioned competitions.

Mr. Smith has been selected and appointed to this event because his PSA certification, qualifications, and experience authorize him to perform the prescribed judging and officiating responsibilities required for this sanctioned competition.

#### **Role as a Certified PSA Judge**

Within a sanctioned PSA competition, the presiding judge is an official responsible for the fair, safe, consistent, and impartial conduct and evaluation of the competition. The judge interprets and applies PSA rules and judging standards, directs the conduct of competitive exercises, provides instructions to certified decoys and competition personnel, observes and evaluates competing dog-and-handler teams, assigns scores, and determines official competition results.

Mr. Smith is not traveling to Canada to provide general dog-training services, private instruction, commercial demonstrations, or other services to the Canadian host club or its members. His appointment is specifically limited to serving as a certified PSA Judge at this sanctioned PSA competition.

#### **Volunteer Status**

Mr. Smith will serve as an unpaid volunteer sporting official. He will receive no salary, wage, professional fee, honorarium, or other compensation for judging this event.

The Canadian host club may provide or reimburse reasonable expenses associated with his attendance, including transportation, lodging, meals, and local transportation. These arrangements are intended solely to facilitate his attendance as an unpaid volunteer official. Mr. Smith is not an employee of the Canadian host club and has no ongoing employment relationship with the Canadian host organization.

### **International Amateur Sporting Competition**

This competition is sanctioned and organized under the rules and authority of the Protection Sports Association (PSA), an international amateur sporting association with affiliated clubs and sanctioned competitions in Canada, the United States, and other countries. Maple Leaf Working Dog Club is a Canadian PSA-affiliated organization and is the Canadian organization hosting this sanctioned PSA competition. The individuals participating as competitors in this amateur sporting competition are not paid to compete.

In accordance with R186(m) of the Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations and IRCC's published guidance concerning judges, referees, and similar officials at international amateur sports competitions, Mr. Smith's purpose for entering Canada is to serve as a certified PSA Judge and specialist event official at an international amateur sporting competition organized under the authority of an international amateur sporting association and hosted by a Canadian organization.

Mr. Smith's function as a certified PSA Judge is a prescribed competition-officiating function necessary to the conduct of the sanctioned event and is distinct from general dog training, private instruction, or employment by the Canadian host club.

PSA recognizes that the final determination regarding entry into Canada and the application of Canadian immigration requirements rests with the examining Canada Border Services Agency officer at the port of entry.

The Canadian host club has been instructed to register its applicable event(s) through the Canada Border Services Agency International Events and Convention Services Program and to provide Mr. Smith with the applicable CBSA Letter of Recognition when issued.

### **Verification**

- Clay Smith is a certified PSA Judge in good standing.
- He has been selected and appointed to serve as the presiding judge and specialist event official at the Maple Leaf Working Dog Club PSA Trial.
- His judging duties are prescribed by PSA competition rules and judging standards.
- He is serving in an unpaid volunteer capacity.
- He is not an employee of the Canadian host club.
- He is not traveling to Canada to provide general dog-training or private instructional services.
- His purpose in Canada is limited to performing his assigned judging and officiating duties at this sanctioned international amateur sporting competition.

Should a Canada Border Services Agency or Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada officer require verification of Mr. Smith's PSA certification, appointment, judging authority, official duties, or the nature of this sanctioned competition, please contact the Protection Sports Association.

Respectfully,

**Katrina Williams**

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