

Dogs A.C.T.

A.C.T Canine Association inc.

Dogs A.C.T Regulations - Part 9 - Judges.

Amended in it entirety – 1 January 2010
Amended in line with ANKC regulation Part 2- July 2011

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9.1 General:

- a) Unless otherwise stated all approved events in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) are run under the rules and regulations of the ACT Canine Association (Dogs A.C.T) in conjunction with the regulations of the ANKC.
- b) Only judges on the official Dogs ACT Panel or a controlling body in another State or Territory of Australia or New Zealand may be appointed to Judge at Championship Shows, Trials, or at Parades.
- c) Judges approved by the ANKC are not authorised to officiate at manifestations organised by dissent associations and that before accepting an invitation the judge must make all the necessary enquiries to ascertain that the show organisation comes under the jurisdiction of the FCI.
- d) Judges Licences are issued after approval by the Dogs ACT Council, only after all requirements are met for that licence under the ANKC Judges Training Scheme and Dogs A.C.T's Judges Training Scheme.
- e) Or being a person who has been recognised by another State Controlling Body as a Judge or Trainee Judge (or the equivalent thereof) and in the opinion of the Council is sufficiently well qualified to be licensed as a Judge or Trainee Judge.
- f) Dogs A.C.T shall maintain a register of Judges, Aspirant Judges or Trainee Judges who are a permanent resident of the ACT or other place on approval of a written application to Council; and is a current financial member of Dogs A.C.T.
- g) All appointments to the Panel of licensed Judges shall take effect immediately following Council's approval and shall remain in force until the 30th June following the date on which the license was granted.
- h) A licensed judge may apply to renew their license and where a licence is granted it is subject to payment of an annual licence fee as prescribed by Council, and the license shall continue in force for a further period of twelve months.
- i) A judges qualifications must be linked to a (continuous financial) membership and any period on non-membership must be paid in full before the Judges qualifications are renewed/restored following that period of unfinancial membership.
- j) Every application to renew shall be lodged with the Administrative Officer prior to the date stipulated by Council for the lodgement of such applications.

- k) The Council may for any reasonable cause -
 - 1. Refuse any application for a licence;
 - 2. Cancel any licence;
 - 3. Suspend any licence for such a period as it thinks fit; or
 - 4. Vary the terms and conditions upon which any licence is granted;

9.2 Conduct of Judges:

- a) No Judge shall adjudicate upon or judge any dog within a period of twelve calendar months after;
 - 1. That Judge or any family member of that Judge has owned or leased the dog concerned (either solely or in conjunction with any other person)
 - 2. That judge used the dog at stud or the dog is a result of the use of a judge's dog at stud;
 - 3. That Judge has boarded the dog concerned either privately or in any boarding kennel in which that Judge has an interest or is employed.
 - 4. That Judge has trained or handled the dog concerned in any activity in conformation classes.

This does not apply to-

- 5. Excludes veterinary care or attention;
 - 6. Affiliate member activities such as any Dogs A.C.T judges training scheme;
 - 7. Where a dog is judged in breed by another judge and that dog progresses (such as General specials) to be judged by that judge.
 - 8. Elimination awards where due to a Judges decision on the day an exhibitor assists another exhibitor by handling a dog for an award where the owner has two or more dogs to be judged for that award;
 - 9. People holding dogs in an assembly area assisting a person who is showing two or more dogs at the time;
 - 10. Or in emergency circumstances.
- b) No member of a judge's family or household shall exhibit or handle a dog at any conformation event at which the judge officiates or in the same ring or test at an obedience trial, retrieving trial, endurance tests, tracking, field, herding or/and agility activity.
 - c) No Judge shall handle any dog at any Exhibition for fee or reward; shall not act as a Handler at or enter or exhibit a dog in a Conformation Exhibition at which he is appointed to judge; shall not act as a Handler in an Exhibition for Obedience, Agility, Tracking, Field, Herding or Endurance Tests at which they are appointed to judge.
 - d) A judge shall avoid duplicating assignments in the same breed within a minimum of 3 months of each other and within a minimum of a 200-kilometre radius of Championship Shows, Open Shows and Parades.
 - e) Any Judge invited to judge at an Exhibition shall reply to that invitation within fourteen days of the date of receipt of same.
 - f) Substitute or emergency judges shall be designated as a Judge for that exhibition.
 - g) A Judge shall not re-judge any competition because of the absence from the Judging Precinct of any Exhibit at the time of judging that competition.
 - h) No Judge shall adjudicate upon or judge any dog outside the confines of the judging precinct. The assembly area is to be used for the assembly of dogs and only in exceptional circumstances is it to be used as a judging precinct.

9.3 Misconduct.

- a) No person shall act in a manner for either himself or for any other person; in soliciting an appointment to Judge or solicit or seek the entry of any particular dog or dogs at any fixture conducted or to be conducted under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs A.C.T or any another Controlling Body.
- b) A Judge shall not act or comment on an exhibit or exhibitor in a manner, which is disrespectful or abusive, an inquiry may be conducted into the allegations and a report forwarded to the Council, who shall deal with the Judge, if any discipline is necessary.
- c) Where a Member is suspended in any State or Territory and if they are a Judge they will be unable to fulfil any judging contracts in their home State or any other State or Territory in Australia, or any overseas country.
- d) If a judge is accused of misbehaviour, outside his/her State or Territory, an inquiry shall be conducted into the allegations and a report forwarded to the home body, who shall deal with the Judge, if any discipline is necessary.

9.4 Cancellation of Appointment to Judge.

- a) Any Judge having accepted an appointment as a Judge at any approved Event who fails, without just cause, to attend and judge at an approved Event at the appointed time (or within reasonable time from the start of the event) shall be guilty of a breach of these Rules.
- b) Where a Judge is unable to meet the requirements of his agreement, he shall within seven days of the date of the appointment, advise the Dogs A.C.T Administrative Officer in writing of the circumstances.
- c) Where any person cancels an agreement to judge at any fixture conducted in Australia, the affiliate conducting the fixture shall be required to submit full details of the reason for the cancellation to their Controlling Body in the State or Territory in which the fixture is to be conducted, within seven days of receipt of the notice of cancellation.
- d) The Controlling Body on receipt of the notice of cancellation shall forward a copy to the Control in the State or Territory in which the invited judge resides, who shall be required to investigate the reason for cancellation and if necessary take appropriate action.
- e) A Judge who withdraws from a contracted appointment, for any reason, shall not be permitted to judge at any other canine event wherever held on any date that would prevent him/her from attending the original contracted event.
- f) Where a judge is contracted in the situation of 9.2_d) “duplicate appointment”, the judge has no choice to which appointment they take but is obligated to the appointment they were first contracted to (earliest signed contract not the date of the show).

9.5 Judging requirements.

- a) All judges are required to report any incidents of dogs showing aggressive tendencies in accordance to Dogs A.C.T Regulations - Part 17 – Aggressive Dogs.
- b) All conformation judges are required to report any incidents of dogs from six months of age suspected of not being entire.
- c) Best of Breed must be judged by a person judging those breed classes.
- d) Only All Breeds Judges shall judge General Specials.
- e) The maximum number of entries to be catalogued for a single conformation judge on any one day shall not exceed 225 excluding sweepstakes entries.
- f) An Endurance Test Judge shall not judge more than 20 dogs per test”.
- g) The number of dogs to be judged by a judge at Obedience trials shall not be expected to exceed 6 for Novice, 5 for Open, 4 for Utility and UDX, per hour and an Obedience judge shall not be required to judge for more than 7 hours.

- h) The maximum number of dogs to be judged by a judge at a Tracking Trial on any one day will be 10 x TD or 7 x TDX or 7 by CH.
- i) A combination of TD, TDX and/or CH Tracks must not exceed 27 points for any judge on one day. Judges may specify on their contracts how many points they are willing to judge.

9.6 Overseas Conformation Judges.

- a) The Judge may be approved to judge in Australia where-
 - 1) The person must be approved and have awarded in his/her country of residence Challenge Certificates or the equivalent to 70% of the breeds in a Group, but must have awarded Challenge Certificates or their equivalent in their Country of Residence to 100% of the major breeds in the group.
 - 2) The overseas judge must have completed the appropriate ANKC form which must have the state qualifications authenticated by the relevant controlling body Major breeds in a group be defined as follows: Any breed where the number of registrations in the previous year was greater than 60 be considered a major breed.
- b) Any person who is not approved to judge dogs in their country of residence, or by the FCI, shall not be approved to judge dogs in Australia.
- c) Where an overseas judge defaults, full details of the incident shall be advised to other Member Bodies to enable a National decision to be made regarding future appointments in this country.
- d) A non-resident Judge on his/her first appointment may not judge more than four shows in any one State or Territory.
- e) Overseas persons judging in Australia shall be committed to judge in accordance with Australian standards and recognised principals and procedures.
- f) Judges approved to judge Best in Show in their own country shall be permitted to judge the same awards in Australia.
- g) New Zealand Judges and any overseas Judge holding an Australian Permanent Resident Visa shall be exempt from completing the approved Overseas Judges Application Form. (Amended 07/11)
- h) All overseas Judges, other than those to which Section 9.6.g relates, shall be required to complete an official ANKC Ltd Overseas Judges Contract. (Amended 07/11).
- i) Subject to above hereof, following approval by the ANKC Ltd of an official Overseas Judges Contract, the overseas Judge is entitled to accept further appointments by way of sub-contract in accordance with that approval during the period one calendar month before and one calendar month after the date of the approved appointment. (Added 07/11).
- j) Overseas Judges holding an Australian Permanent Resident Visa shall be entitled to complete the "Permanent Resident Overseas Judge Registration Form" in July of each year in respect of the following calendar year or relevant part thereof and pay such registration fee as is determined by the ANKC Ltd. (Added 07/11).
- k) New Zealand Judges and registered Permanent Resident Overseas Judges are entitled to contract their services by completion of the standard ANKC Ltd Judges Contracts. (Added 07/11)

9.7 Verification of Australian Judges wishing to judge Overseas.

- a) A member of an ANKC Member Body who receives an invitation to judge overseas (except New Zealand) must obtain verification in writing of their current judging status, from their ANKC Member Body, prior to the formal acceptance of the appointment. The ANKC Member Body is to send the verification to the ANKC Administrator, with a cc to the requesting judge.
- b) The ANKC shall provide an official letter together with the verification to the Overseas Controlling Body stating exactly the person's current ANKC judging qualifications. If the overseas Controlling Body wishes the person to judge breed/s or Specials outside the person's ANKC qualification the ANKC will not forbid the person accepting the appointment.

- c) Approved ANKC Championship Judges may judge Open Shows in New Zealand.

9.8 Conformation Judges:

- a) Members of Dogs A.C.T who aspire to become breed judges must at the time of application, meet the following requirements-
1. Have been a member of an Australian controlling body or an overseas controlling body for a period of eight (8) consecutive years, and currently be an ACT resident and a member of Dogs A.C.T;
 2. Be at least 18 years of age;
 3. Have bred at least three (3) litters under their own or shared prefix, and must have.
 4. Made up or bred at least two (2) champions under their own or shared prefix.
 5. Have a minimum of eight (8) years experience in exhibiting, handling, owning and breeding registered pure bred dog
 6. The first group undertaken must be the group in which the aspirant has had the required eight (8) years experience;
 7. Have taken part in the administration of an affiliated club;
 8. Be a member of Dogs A.C.T official ring stewards panel and have stewarded satisfactorily at championship shows during the preceding year;
 9. Be a person approved by Dogs A.C.T council;
 10. Dogs A.C.T council may consider for approval an application from a person over 18 years who otherwise would not qualify under the above criteria, but can demonstrate active involvement in canine activity for a minimum of 8 years as a handler for parents and others in ordinary classes and can supply;
 11. Evidence of ring stewarding qualifications and such other evidence of experience as Dogs A.C.T Council may require;
 12. To be admitted to the final examinations the Trainee must have attended all the lectures and training exercises conducted during the course for the Group which he/she is undertaking except where a valid excuse for non-attendance is submitted in writing and is approved by Council.
- b) A person cannot judge a Property Class outside of his/her State or Territory unless they are an approved ANKC judge.
- c) Open Show Judges may judge in other States and Territories.

9.9 Agility and Jumping Trial Judges:

- a) Members of Dogs A.C.T who aspire to become Agility and or Jumping Trial judges must, at the time of application, meet the following requirements;
1. Have been a member of either Dogs ACT (DOGS A.C.T) or another controlling body for at least five (5) years and be a current Dogs ACT member;
 2. Be at least 21 years of age;
 3. Be resident in the ACT;
 4. Have trained and titled a dog to a minimum standard of Agility Dog;
 5. Have been an active instructor in the sport of Agility for a minimum period of two (2) years.
 6. Recognition of equivalent experience and/or qualifications as approved by Council on recommendation of the Agility Sub Committee.

- b) Revalidation of Agility/Jumping Judges Licences.
 - 1. All Agility and Jumping Judges Licences are required to be revalidated each 5 years to coincide with the introduction of new rule books or the like.
 - 2. Revalidation procedures will be determined by Council.

9.10 Endurance Judges:

- a) For members of Dogs A.C.T who aspire to become Endurance judges they must, at the time of application, meet the following requirements:
 - 1. Have been a member of either the Dogs ACT (DOGS A.C.T) or another Controlling body for at least five (5) years and be a current DOGS A.C.T member.
 - 2. Be at least 21 years of age.
 - 3. Be resident in the ACT.
 - 4. Has been an active obedience/agility instructor for the period of the previous 2 years.
 - 5. Be medically fit and capable of undertaking the judging.
 - 6. In addition, the following specific qualifications are required.
 - 7. Has trained for and Trialled a dog in an Endurance Trial.

9.11 Field & Retrieving Judges.

Members of Dogs A.C.T who aspire to become Field Trial, or Pointer and Setter Field Trial, Retrieving Trial judges must, at the time of application, meet the following requirements:

- a) **Field Trial Judges.**
 - 1. Must have been a member of the Dogs ACT or other State or Territory canine control body for at least five years, and been actively involved in field trials at club level for at least three years - "actively involved" being defined as stewarding at trials, managing trials and organising the use of trial grounds with land owners.
 - 2. An applicant must be endorsed in writing by his or her club;
 - 3. Have trained a dog and completed regularly in Open All Age or Championship Stakes for at least three years – "regularly" being defined as being a minimum of ten Open, All Age or Championship Stakes during that three year period.
 - 4. Dogs A.C.T has the right to approve other people who do not fit these criteria. In such case the onus for proving eligibility rests with the applicant.
- b) **Pointer and Setter Field Trial Judges:**
 - 1. Be over 21 years;
 - 2. Be a resident of the ACT;
 - 3. Be a financial member of Dogs A.C.T;
 - 4. Be a member of Dogs A.C.T Field Trial Steward Panel; and
 - 5. Have other such qualifications as may be determined by Council.
- c) **Retrieving Trial Judges:**
 - 1. Have been a financial member of Dogs A.C.T or another State or Territory canine control body for a period of at least five years, and been actively involved in retrieving trials at club level for at least two years.

2. An applicant must be endorsed in writing by his or her club;
3. Have trained a dog and competed regularly in All Age Stakes for a period of at least three years - “regularly: being defined as being a minimum of ten All Age or Championship Stakes during that three year period.
4. Dogs A.C.T has the right to approve other people who do not fit these criteria. In such case the onus for proving eligibility rests with the applicant.

9.12 Flyball Judges.

- a) For members of Dogs A.C.T who aspire to become Flyball judges they must, at the time of application, meet the following requirements:
 1. Have been a member of either the Dogs ACT (DOGS A.C.T) or
 2. Another Controlling body for at least five (5) years and be a current DOGS A.C.T member,
 3. Be at least 21 years of age,
 4. Be resident in the ACT,
 5. Has been an active participating in Flyball for the period of the previous 2 years.
 6. In addition, the following specific qualifications are required: has trained for and titled a dog to Flyball Dog.

9.13 Obedience Judges.

- a) Members of Dogs A.C.T who aspire to become obedience judges must, at the time of application, meet the following requirements:
 1. Have been a member of either Dogs ACT (DOGS A.C.T) or another Controlling body for at least five (5) years and be a current Dogs ACT member,
 2. Be at least 21 years of age,
 3. Be resident in the ACT,
 4. Be on the Dogs ACT Obedience Stewards Panel (or on other equivalent Controlling Body Panel),
 5. Successfully complete the entrance examination.
 6. In addition, the following specific qualifications are required:
- b) **Novice** - Aspirant to have personally trained and trialed a dog to its Novice or higher title; Aspirants wishing to apply for the Novice Obedience Course for the first time will be required to undertake an Entrance theory exam based on the general section of the Rule Book”.
- c) **Open** - Aspirant to hold an ANKC Novice Judge’s licence and to have personally trained and trialed a dog to its OPEN or higher title;
- d) **Utility** - Aspirant to hold and ANKC Open Judge’s licence and has personally trained a dog to UD level and to have personally trained & trialed a dog in the UD ring on at least three (3) occasions.
- e) **Utility Dog Excellent**- Aspirant to hold and ANKC Open Judge’s licence and has personally trained a dog to UDX level and to have personally trained & trialed a dog in the UDX ring on at least three (3) occasions.
- f) For aspirant Obedience Judges at Mock Trials, the following conditions have been determined for aspirant judges judging at competition days or mock trials under supervision:
The supervisor must:
 1. Be a qualified ANKC Obedience Judge at Utility level;
 2. Supervise the aspirant’s judging of at least three (3) dogs or bitches, and inform the aspirant of ways in which they feel the aspirant’s judging could be improved;

3. Certify by completing and signing two (2) Aspirant Judges Practical Assessment Forms that the above has been carried out. These forms are to be submitted to the Course Convenor by the specified date in the Syllabus and copies may be retained by the aspirants.
- g) The aspirant judge will make arrangements for a supervisor (as described above) to observe the aspirant's judging at a local Competition/Assessment Day at the relevant level and to assess the aspirant's performance. A copy of the completed Judges Sheet is to be forwarded to the Course Convenor prior to the date of the Theory Examination.

9.14 Tracking Judges.

- a) Members of the Dogs ACT who aspire to become tracking judges must, at the time of application, meet the following requirements:
 1. Have been a member of either the Dogs ACT (DOGS A.C.T) or another Controlling body for at least five (5) years and be a current DOGS A.C.T member,
 2. Be at least 21 years of age, Be resident in the ACT,
 3. Be on Dogs A.C.T Obedience Stewards Panel (or on other equivalent Controlling Body Panel).
 4. In addition, the following specific qualifications are required to have trained and trialed a dog to its TD Title have stewarded at Tracking Trials on at least three occasions over the preceding three years.

9.15 Specialist Breed Judges.

A specialist license cannot be obtained where a trainee already holds a license for the group, e.g. A group five Judge cannot become a specialist for German Shepherd Dogs.

9.16 Junior Handler Judges.

- a) That no person under the age of eighteen years of age shall be permitted to officiate as judge at Junior Handler Classes.
- b) Junior Handler judges shall be eligible to enrol in a Junior Handler Judges Training Scheme whilst they are 17 years of age.
- c) The Junior Handler judge shall require the dog to be paraded and moved around the ring in the same manner or pattern as that required in ordinary show competition. The normal triangular course of movement is recommended. Unorthodox movements or attempts to confuse or trick the handler must be discouraged.

9.17 Documentation.

- a) Conformation Judges must receive a statement indicating the breeds entered and for which they are to adjudicate, by number (i.e. total per breed).
- b) The conformation Judge's declaration on the Challenge Certificate shall read: "I am clearly of the opinion that this exhibit is of such outstanding merit as to be worthy to qualify for the title 'Australian Champion'".
- c) Each Judge will be issued with Judges Sheets at each Exhibition. The Judges Sheets shall be in a form prescribed by Council. The Judge shall sign each sheet and complete in full as required by their discipline.
- d) The judge may decide to have the judge's Book marked by the Ring Steward.
- e) A Judge may not place two or more separate exhibits as equal for any award.
- f) A Judge may rectify a bona fide mistake, or correct an error, provided such mistake or error is discovered before the completion of the judging of the class in question.
- g) Any alterations made in the Judge's Sheets must be initialled by the Judge (except Conformation).
- h) Unless such decision is contrary to the Rules, a Judge's decision on the merits of an exhibit shall be final.

- i) Where any person considers the decision of a Judge to be contrary to the Rules he may notify the Administrative Officer in writing within seven days of the date of the Exhibition and Council shall enquire into the matter.