

Dogs Queensland
Agility Sub-Committee

Agility Judges Training Program

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How to become an Agility Judge

1. How to become an Agility Trial Judge

Note: Agility refers to Agility, Jumping and Games

1.1. Application Procedure

All applications for Agility must be made on the required application form, available from the Queensland ANKC agility judges Training Panel (AJTP) prior to 31st May each year.

1.1.1. To be eligible to enter the Agility Judges Training Program the applicant must:

- 1.1.1.1. Be a current member of Dogs Queensland and a current member of an ANKC affiliate club that conducts agility trials.
- 1.1.1.2. Have demonstrated capacity (as assessed by the Agility Judges Training Panel (AJTP) and the Dogs Queensland Dog Sports Committee) to uphold and abide by the values outlined in the section for Judge's Code of Practice in this Scheme, and the Code of Conduct (Appendix 4, Rules 2017).
- 1.1.1.3. Be over eighteen (18) years of age.
- 1.1.1.4. To the satisfaction of the AJTP, applicants must have trained and handled a dog to an Excellent Agility title and have competed in Masters level for agility, or in an agility level in Agility Dog Association of Australia trials deemed equivalent by the AJTP.
- 1.1.1.5. If already licensed to judge overseas, be eligible under the ANKC Agility Overseas Judges rules (see ANKC Procedures).

1.2. General Conditions Applicable to all Applicants

- 1.2.1. All applicants are to fulfill the requirements of the Agility Judge's Training Program as determined by the Queensland ANKC Agility Judges Training Panel (AJTP).
- 1.2.2. A stop-go review will be done by the AJTP for all judge trainees 2-3 months after starting the training program. If the AJTP concludes there is not sufficient engagement in the program by a trainee, the AJTP can ask for a justification of why the trainee should continue. If a justification is not forthcoming, or insufficient, they will be removed from the program and asked to reapply again in the future.
- 1.2.3. With the exception of point 1.7 below, the training program is anticipated to be not less than 12 months and all curriculum modules are completed, after which a Jumpers License can be applied for. However, this training period will cover training for Jumpers and Agility (all classes). After being licenced to judge Jumpers and after six Jumpers appointments, the trainee may apply for examination for an Agility License. Further training for the Agility License will be provided during this period.
- 1.2.4. Games training will be available after attaining both Jumpers and Agility licences and completing six Agility judging appointments.
- 1.2.5. There will be an initial mandatory mentoring period of six appointments for each judging license (i.e. six Jumpers appointments after attaining Jumpers licence and same for Agility and Games licence). During this period, all courses must be reviewed and accepted by a designated mentor from the AJTP. This period should be an opportunity for new judges to seek advice from their mentor and learn from their initial appointments. While not required, mentoring is encouraged beyond this period with the mutual agreement of mentor and mentee.
- 1.2.6. Eligibility requirements for Stewarding / Judging must be completed prior to the date set for the Written Assessment.
- 1.2.7. Non attendance at required lectures will preclude application for a license, unless a written apology acceptable to the chair of the AJTP is received within seven days of the relevant lecture.

- 1.2.8. With the exception of training and handling a dog, all prerequisites must be completed within twelve months prior to the Written Examination. However, documented stewarding requirements will be considered from up to three years prior to the written examination.
- 1.2.9. The prerequisites for training and handling a dog have no specific time limitations.
- 1.2.10. Elevation examination will be available upon application and at the discretion and invitation of the Dogs Queensland AJTP.
- 1.2.11. The Applicant must provide evidence of having fulfilled the necessary criteria.
- 1.2.12. Any applicant with previous reports of breaching Rules may write a letter to Dogs Queensland requesting a waiver.
- 1.2.13. All applicants must be approved by Dogs Queensland.

1.3. Jumping Licence

Holders of a Jumping Judges Licence will be licensed to judge all Jumping classes (Novice, Excellent, Masters, Elite, Open). Training and assessment for the Jumping Licence will include the relevant ANKC and Dogs Queensland Rules and Regulations and Code of Ethics, rules specific to Jumping classes and general rules for Agility.

To be eligible to apply for a Jumping Judges Licence the applicant must have:

- 1.3.1. Acted as a Steward in Queensland for at least six Jumping classes. This must include at least one class each of Excellent, Masters and Open and at least one class each acting as Ring, Assembly or Scribe Steward. Must be with at least three different approved Judges.
- 1.3.2. Assisted designated Judges approved by the AJTP in setting up at least three Jumpers courses.
- 1.3.3. Completed theory training for all Jumping classes within the designated time prior to the written exam.
- 1.3.4. Completed designated assignments within the set time frame. A series of assignments will be provided and assessed on roughly a monthly basis during the training program.
- 1.3.5. Completed Practical Training for all Jumping classes within the designated time prior to the Written Examination.
- 1.3.6. Passed the Written Examination for the Dogs Queensland "Rules and Regulations".
- 1.3.7. Passed the Written Examination for all Jumping classes.
- 1.3.8. Passed the Practical Assessment for all Jumping classes.
- 1.3.9. Written confirmation of approval from Dogs Queensland.

1.4. Agility Licence

Holders of an Agility Judges Licence will be licensed to judge all classes of Agility. Training and assessment for the Agility Licence will include the rules and exercises for rules specific to Agility and the general Agility rules.

To be eligible to apply for an Agility Judges Licence the applicant must have:

- 1.4.1. A current license to judge all classes of ANKC Jumpers.
- 1.4.2. Acted as a Steward in Queensland for at least six Agility classes. This must include at least one class each of Excellent, Masters and Open and at least one class each acting as Ring, Assembly and Scribe Steward. Must be with at least three different approved Judges.
- 1.4.3. Assisted designated Judges approved by the AJTP in setting up at least three Agility courses.
- 1.4.4. Completed theory training for all Agility classes within the designated time prior to the written exam.
- 1.4.5. Completed designated assignments within the set time frame. A series of assignments will be provided and assessed on roughly a monthly basis during the training program.
- 1.4.6. Completed a minimum of six ANKC Jumping appointments.
- 1.4.7. Completed Practical Training for all Agility classes within the designated time prior to the Written Examination.
- 1.4.8. Passed the Written Examination for all Agility classes.
- 1.4.9. Passed the Practical Assessment for all Agility classes.
- 1.4.10. Written confirmation of approval from Dogs Queensland.

1.5. Games Licence

To be eligible to apply for an Agility Games Judges Licence the applicant must have:

- 1.5.1. A current license to judge all classes of Agility and Jumping.
- 1.5.2. Judged a minimum of six Master Agility classes at approved trials.
- 1.5.3. Acted as Ring, Assembly or Scribe Steward in Queensland for at least six Agility Games classes (including at least one Scribe Steward role in Gamblers).
- 1.5.4. Completed the Practical Training for all Games Classes within the designated time given before the Written Examination.
- 1.5.5. Passed the Written Examination for Agility Games Classes.
- 1.5.6. Passed the Practical Assessment for Agility Games Classes.

1.5.7. Written confirmation of approval from Dogs Queensland.

1.6. Written Examination and Practical Assessments.

- 1.6.1. A minimum pass mark of 80% is required for Dogs Queensland Rules and Regulations (Rules 2005 Revised 2017) and 90% for all Agility and Games rules.
- 1.6.2. A pass in a Written Examination will remain valid until the adoption of the next ANKC Agility Rule change at which time an updated assessment may be required for new parts of revised Rules.
- 1.6.3. A person failing a Written Examination or Practical Assessment may request a review. Such request must be received in writing by the Agility Judges Training Panel within fourteen (14) days of notification of the result.
- 1.6.4. The Practical Assessment panel will consist of at least three (3) qualified Judges appointed by the AJTP.
- 1.6.5. A majority decision and endorsement by Dogs Queensland Board is required for a license to be granted.
- 1.6.6. Professionalism, dress and demeanor will be taken into consideration during Practical Training and during Practical Assessment (Refer ANKC Judges Dress Code).
- 1.6.7. Successful Applicants will be formally recommended to Dogs Queensland Board for approval and their names will be included on the relevant Judges listings.

1.7. Recognition of prior learning and judging experience

- 1.7.1. Where an applicant can demonstrate prior learning and judging experience from overseas or from a similar dog agility organisation (e.g. ADAA), this will be considered by the AJTP for potential fast tracking of the training program.
- 1.7.2. If accepted for a fast track training program, trainees will be required to do, or have done the following:
 - 1.7.2.1. Provide a summary of their judging experience and a portfolio of example courses from at least five separate trials each for jumping and agility classes
 - 1.7.2.2. Pass mark in written exams described in points 1.3.6, 1.3.7 and 1.4.8.
 - 1.7.2.3. Pass mark in practical exam described in point 1.4.9.
 - 1.7.2.4. Acted as a Steward in Queensland for at least six Agility classes. This must include at least one class each of Excellent, Masters and Open and at least one class each acting as Ring, Assembly and Scribe Steward.
 - 1.7.2.5. Following assessment of the above points 1.7.2.1 to 1.7.2.4 by the AJTP and with their endorsement, the applicant may seek written approval from Dogs Queensland for Jumpers and Agility licences. The newly licensed judge will be allocated a mentor by the AJTP and complete the mandatory mentoring period described in point 1.2.5. with the exception that they may do jumping and agility appointments concurrently if they have been licensed for jumping and agility..

1.8. Remote Training and Evaluation

- 1.8.1. All applications for Agility Judges Training must be made on the required application form, available on Dogs Queensland website, prior to 31st May each year with the scheduled fee.
- 1.8.2. The Distance Applicant must reside in Queensland in areas other than the South East Queensland area.
- 1.8.3. Approvals will be subject to the availability of the Coordinator(s) of the particular area.
- 1.8.4. If the AJTP grants this approval, the applicant(s) will be responsible for attending the venue(s) for the dates offered.
- 1.8.5. All Distant Applicants are required to apply for and complete assessment at the direction of the Agility Judges Training Panel. The assessment examination will be at a specified venue giving special consideration to availability of relevant dogs and handlers on the scheduled date for elevation. All costs incurred will be the responsibility of the applicant.

1.9. Judges Dress Code

Neat attire is required when judging. The following are not acceptable – thongs, bare feet (Refer

ANKC Judges Dress Code).

1.10. Rule Changes / Maintenance

Judges residing in Queensland must attend any mandatory training sessions offered each year as advertised by the AJTP. Written assessments to test and update judges' knowledge may also be set by the AJTP. Following any Rule changes by the ANKC, all Judges must complete any requirements of the Member Body. Noncompliance may result in suspensions of license until this requirement has been met.

Current DOGS Queensland Judges Regulations may be reviewed annually to reflect changes to the ANKC Regulations and Rules for the conduct of Agility Trials and Agility Games.

The Dogs Queensland Regulations are available on the Dogs Queensland website, or from the Dogs Queensland office on request. It is the candidate's responsibility to ensure that they are aware of the current Dogs Queensland regulations relating to their area of interest.

Procedure for Agility Judges Training Program

Agility Judges Training Panel

The Agility Judges Training Panel (AJTP) will comprise of 2 to 4 members. The term of membership on the AJTP is three years before a serving member must nominate again and be endorsed by the agility sub-committee. Following an expression of interest from registered QLD ANKC judges, the AJTP members should be selected by the Agility Sub-Committee by vote. If any AJTP nominees are also current members of the Agility Sub-Committee, they must abstain from a vote for themselves. The AJTP may seek external input also from people such as experienced professional trainers who may not be judges. The AJTP should meet twice a year (by online meeting or in person) to discuss trainee intake, progress, ideas and concerns. The AJTP may seek advice from the Agility Sub-Committee and / or the DQ Dog Sports Committee for specific topics.

Mentors

Each trainee may have a mentor from the AJTP chosen by mutual agreement. With approval from the AJTP, the trainee may nominate a mentor outside of the with the approval of the AJTP. That mentor will be expected to take a special interest in that trainee, and take a major role in developing their skills. Mentors should be available for their trainees to offer advice and training. It is suggested that mentors provide trainees with a list of dates where they are contracted to judge and a list of dates where they will be available for training sessions. Trainees are in turn encouraged to make every attempt to attend trials where their mentor is judging so they can observe and ask questions as required. The mentor and members of the AJTP should be the main source for advice.

Agility Judges Training Program Curriculum

The curriculum for the trainee judges will comprise of a combination of the following:

- There will be a meeting at the beginning of the training program for all accepted applicants. This will cover the training requirements for that year, an overview of the training process and a list of reference material such as the current Rules and Regulations. It will also be an opportunity for each trainee to nominate a mentor.
- Monthly assignments for designing courses which will be followed by review and feedback from mentors. It is encouraged that trainees seek feedback on different assignments from various judges who have been approved for this task by the AJTP. A list of suitable judges will be provided and trainees may also nominate other judges, including those from interstate (these will need to be approved by the AJTP).
- Practical training sessions for course building and judging procedures
- Training modules will be provided to cover all topics related to judging and course design including:
 - Guidelines for use of course design software to get trainees started
 - Concept of risk management, changes in course design trends and standards, and the effects on acceptable risk. Effect of weather conditions.
 - Roles of judges in the sport to monitor and guide trends and drive culture in agility
 - Fundamentals of safe approaches and exits to all obstacles and safe distances
 - Tunnel set up, monitoring, and consistent, safe approaches in courses
 - ANKC Agility Rules. The important ones you need to know and all the others.
 - Skill lists, challenge ratings and appropriate number for each class level.
 - How to judge each obstacle. Lines of sight and judging positions
 - Judging contacts (stopped and running)
 - Understanding dog's lines and impacts on course design
 - Effects of obstacle sequences and suitable distances
 - Course design strategies for flow and suitable challenge levels for each class
 - Ground inspections. Setting a course on the ground, adjusting and measuring.

- Filling in contracts, liaising with clubs to arrange ring / equipment. Measuring dogs.
- Managing the ring and working with stewards and helpers. Managing difficult situations and protocols for aggressive dogs and/ or handlers.
- Putting it all together.
- There will be general lectures for Jumping, Agility and Games. All lectures will be compulsory. Lecturers are nominated by the AJTP on the basis of experience in judging and general involvement in the discipline concerned.

Practical Training Days

Applicants must complete practical training over at least five (5) dogs in each session, which will be spread over the structured and unstructured workshop programs. The purpose of the practical training days and seminars is to provide as wide an experience as possible for the trainees. To ensure that the training is as educationally sound as possible, it is desirable that as many dogs as possible are involved in the training process. This is to allow for advice to be absorbed and suggestions from a variety of sources to be incorporated in future judging procedures.

Structured training

There will be training days provided by the Agility Judges Training Panel. All of these training days must be attended to meet the judges training requirements. For the structured practical training or seminars, these should be overseen by at least two members who are current judges, at least one of which is from the AJTP.

Unstructured training (at trials)

Applicants are to attend training at unstructured workshops when directed. The workshops may be carried out at a time and venue, organised between the training panel / coordinator / mentor and the candidate. If training is conducted within the precincts of a Trial it must not affect the completion of all judging (including the Presentations).

Procedure for all workshops

Agility Judges Training Panel members will brief the trainees on the procedure for the session.

Where the applicant is entering the judging training scheme, trainers may run a dog through the individual exercises demonstrating their own ring procedures and explaining their rationale.

Applicants must complete practical training using as many dogs as possible in a range of heights over the structured or unstructured workshop programs.

The AJTP members will note and comment on the trainees:

- Set out and checking of Ring and equipment
- Instructions to Stewards
- Ring Management, Positioning, Control of Ring
- Challenges in the course
- Observation of faults
- Judging Technique
- Knowledge and Application of ANKC and Agility Rules.
- Manner, Dress, Demeanor

Log books and training records

Assessment sheets will be available to each applicant, and it is their responsibility to supply their Log Books for use at all structured and unstructured workshops.

Procedure for Judge's written examination

- 1) Two Agility Judges Training Panel (AJTP) members will supervise and mark the written examination. If two AJTP members are not available, then at least one member will be present with another nominated judge. At least one AJTP member shall be in attendance at all times.
- 2) Two AJTP members will mark examination papers independently. When marking any papers, no notations (comments, etc) will be made by the marker on the applicant's paper.
- 3) It is preferable that the person who set the paper be one of the markers of that paper.
- 4) A third independent AJTP member may be required to mark an examination paper that has a divided decision.
- 5) Other than is necessary to answer the questions, examination papers must not be marked in any other way (comments, ticks, crosses, etc) by the applicant.
- 6) When notified of their results, applicants will receive copies of their incorrect answers accompanied by the correct answers.
- 7) If the written examination needs clarification, oral questions may be used at the AJTP's discretion.
- 8) Unsuccessful candidates may request a review of their written examination, subject to meeting the published criteria. AJTP members should be available to attend review interviews on an "as required" basis. Outside of the interview process, the assessments and their results must not be discussed.

Procedure for Judge's practical examination

The following instructions are provided for the information of Trainees, Stewards and Assessment Panel members. It is intended that all officials and candidates be provided with a copy of these instructions prior to the day of the Assessment.

The successful conduct and outcome of this assessment is largely dependent on compliance with the following:-

- It will be the responsibility of the appointed Agility Judges Training Panel (AJTP) Coordinator to arrange the venue and stationary.
- It will be the responsibility of the applicant (with support from the AJTP) to supply at least five (5) appropriate dogs and handlers for assessment. Suitably qualified dogs are necessary to enable all candidates to be properly and fairly assessed.
- There needs to be at least three assessment panel members and will comprise members of the AJTP and may include other licensed judges appointed by the panel.
- The members of each panel, together with the stewards will be arranged by the Coordinator.
- The same panel will assess all candidates aspiring for a particular licence. The members of the assessment panel will be solely responsible for assessments.
- While the necessity of brief discussion between the panel members for the purpose of clarification is understood, there must be no collaboration or unnecessary discussion between the panel prior to their scores being recorded.
- Each panel member's score must be entered on an Assessment Sheet prior to interviewing the candidate. Should an alteration to the panel member's score be necessary because of circumstances unknown at the time of its recording, the amended score is to be initialed and the reasons for the alteration stated in the comments column.
- The candidate will record his/her points on suitable Agility score sheet, which must be signed.
- At the completion of the assessments, the panel members shall not confer. Each panel member will individually make a recommendation as to whether the candidate has passed or failed. The Assessment Sheet is then completed and handed to the convenor.
- The Coordinator is responsible to notify the Member Body of the results and the panel's recommendations.
- The Member Body will promptly advise the candidates and all results must remain confidential until such time as all candidates have been notified.
- The necessity to question candidates with regard to the awarded score is appreciated.
- Stress on the candidate must be minimised and the dog and handler should be able to complete the exercises without unnecessary delay.

Unsuccessful candidates may request a review of their practical assessment. Panel members should be available to attend review interviews on an "as required" basis. Outside of the interview process, the assessments and their results must not be discussed by the Panel Members.

Appendix

Judges Code of Practice

Amended
October 2018

1. A Judge shall act with professional decorum at all times.
2. A Judge shall give every exhibit and exhibitor fair and equal opportunity in each and every class.
3. A Judge shall act in a polite manner whilst carrying out each judging assignment.
4. A Judge shall present himself/herself in attire that is acceptable, appropriate and comfortable for each judging assignment. Footwear appropriate to the discipline shall be worn. (10/18)
5. A Judge is required to be punctual in availability to fulfil their judging assignment.
6. If in the judging procedures an exhibit displays an obvious physical impediment or is unable to be handled or can be regarded as savage or vicious the exhibit should be excused from the competition, in accordance with the ANKC Ltd Member Body rules/regulations.
7. N/A
8. Should an exhibitor offer information to the Judge that may be regarded as designed to influence the Judge, the Judge shall excuse the exhibitor and their exhibit from competition and report the incident in accordance with the ANKC Ltd Member Body rules/regulations.
9. Should a Judge be approached to favour or disfavour a particular exhibit the matter is to be reported to the Administrator of the ANKC Ltd Member Body.
10. Should a Judge be approached with an inducement and/or bribe to advantage or disadvantage an exhibit the Judge is to report the matter in writing to the Administrator of the ANKC Ltd Member Body.
11. A Judge shall not solicit a judging appointment.
12. A Judge shall not solicit or seek entry of any particular dog or dogs.
13. A Judge shall not allow entries for a Conformation Show at which that person is judging to be received at the Judge's address.
14. A Judge shall complete all the requirements of the judging contract promptly. Any verbal acceptance of an assignment by a Judge shall be subject to the receipt of the contract within fourteen (14) days.
15. At the time of completing a contract the Judge shall inform the inviting body of any disability or limitation that could restrict carrying out in full the reasonable handling of all exhibits to be judged.
16. A Judge must not duplicate assignments in the same breeds and or group within a minimum of 3 months of each other and within a minimum of 200 kilometers at Championship Shows. **(10/97), (02/15), (10/15)**. Note: This will not apply to Neuter only shows. **(Note added 02/20)**
17. A Judge shall honour each contract and will not be free to accept an alternative contract that will effect his or her availability to fulfil the original contract except with the written dispensation of the contracting Club. **(05/98)**
18. Accommodation provided to the Judge to fulfil an assignment is for the Judge only except where prior mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body for variation.
19. A Judge shall be responsible for the cost of all personal telephone calls, alcoholic beverages and any personal laundering except where mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body at the time the contract is accepted.
20. A Judge who withdraws from any 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 originally contracted event, unless dispensation has been granted in accordance with Clause 17. **(05/98)**
21. Judges must not smoke nor drink alcohol in the ring.
22. Judges shall not criticise by act or word the work of other judges, nor offer criticism of any previously judged dog(s) to anyone including other officiating judges during the course of the show. Except for authorised ringside mentoring.
23. N/A