



DOGS QUEENSLAND

DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITION JUDGES TRAINING SCHEME

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1. In accordance with the Australian National Kennel Council Regulations for the Conduct of Dances with Dogs Competition Judges Training Scheme, Dogs Queensland has responsibility for the training, testing and assessment of trainee Judges and approval and maintenance of Dances with Dogs Judging licences.
- 1.2. Dogs Queensland will assess Judges in the following classes for Freestyle and Heelwork to Music simultaneously:
 - (a) Starter
 - (b) Novice
 - (c) Intermediate
 - (d) Advanced.

2. DEFINITIONS

The following words and expressions have the following meanings in these Regulations and related documents.

“Judges Training Scheme” and “Scheme”: The program of training and assessment for qualification of Dances with Dogs Judges.

“Judges Training Panel” and “Panel”: A panel of at least three Dances with Dogs Judges appointed by Dogs Queensland to organise and conduct the Dances with Dogs Judges Training Scheme in Queensland.

“Convenor of the Judges Training Panel” and “Convenor”: A member of the Panel designated by Dogs Queensland as Convenor. The Convenor will have responsibility for leading and organising the work of the Panel including the review of applications for admission as trainee Dances with Dogs Judges and the conduct of relevant training for and assessment of trainees.

“Applicant”: A person who has applied for admission to undertake the Dances with Dogs Judges Training Scheme.

“Trainee”: A person who has been accepted to undertake the Dances with Dogs Judges Training Scheme.

“Trainer”: A Dances with Dogs Judge appointed by the Judges Training Panel to undertake and/or supervise training of a trainee/s.

3. APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AS A TRAINEE

An application for admission as a trainee must be made on the required application form by the date specified by Dogs Queensland in the relevant year. Dogs Queensland has the right to seek verification of any information provided by the applicant.

4. ELIGIBILITY

4.1. An applicant must:

- (a) have been a member of Dogs Queensland for at least three (3) years prior to the application and be a current financial member of Dogs Queensland;
- (b) be over eighteen (18) years of age by the closing date for applications;
- (c) reside in Queensland;
- (d) have personally trained, competed with and achieved a minimum of two qualifying certificates for a dog in Novice class in either Freestyle or Heelwork to Music;
- (e) have contributed to related Club or training activities, whether in DWD or another ANKC discipline for a period of at least two (2) years; and
- (f) upon request from Dogs Queensland present him/herself for an interview with the Judges Training Panel.

4.2. Dogs Queensland may approve applications received from applicants who do not meet the above criteria provided that they are permanent residents of Australia and can effectively demonstrate and produce documentation verifying their experience and qualifications to meet the above eligibility criteria gained in a previous country of residence.

4.3. Subject to the agreement of both the applicant and Dogs Queensland, a person may be approved for admission to a Dances with Dogs Judges Training Scheme conducted in a geographic location more convenient to that person.

5. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

5.1. At the discretion of Dogs Queensland, trainees may be required to pass a preliminary theory examination based on Dogs Queensland Rules and Regulations and general requirements of the Rules for the Conduct of Dances with Dogs Competitions prior to commencing or while undertaking the Judges Training Scheme.

5.2. Trainees will be required to:

- (a) educate themselves by being conversant with Dogs Queensland Rules and Regulations relevant to Dances with Dogs Competitions and updates to those Rules and Regulations; this may be through attendance at lectures and/or self-education;
- (b) unless otherwise approved by Dogs Queensland, attend at least eighty percent (80%) of lectures and practical training sessions conducted as part of the Dances with Dogs Judges Training Scheme;
- (c) undertake practice judging at the relevant level under the supervision of an approved Trainer;
- (d) undertake stewarding responsibilities at a minimum of three sanctioned Dances with Dogs competitions; and
- (e) collate, in their Judges Training Logbook, a signed record of all Judges Training sessions attended and stewarding appointments undertaken, and provide such Logbook to the Convenor on request and before undertaking any examination for elevation.

5.3. It is anticipated that the time required to complete the training to qualify as a Dances with Dogs Judge will be not less than one (1) year. There will be an initial probationary period of six (6) months. The criteria for confirmation of a probationary as a trainee will be:

- (a) attendance at a minimum of eighty percent (80%) of lectures and practical training sessions conducted during that period of six (6) months;

- (b) undertaking stewarding responsibilities at a minimum of one sanctioned Dances with Dogs competition;
 - (c) undertaking any practice judging prescribed by the relevant Trainer;
 - (d) maintenance of their Judges Training Logbook;
 - (e) undertaking and achieving a minimum of eighty-five percent (85%) on any interim theory examination conducted in that period;
 - (f) undertaking and achieving a satisfactory assessment on any interim practical examination conducted in that period.
- 5.4 A trainee who resides in excess of one-hundred (100) kilometres from the Brisbane GPO may apply to undertake distance lectures. Where such an application is approved, the trainee will undertake such training and comply with such directions as the Convenor or Judges Training Panel may issue in relation to training and examination.
- 5.5 All costs incurred will be the responsibility of the applicant.

6. PRACTICAL TRAINING SESSIONS

- 6.1 Normally, at least six practical training sessions, each of at least three (3) hours duration, will be conducted in each calendar year.
- 6.2 The Convenor or Trainer will notify trainees of training times and venues at least ten (10) working days in advance of each training session. Such notification will normally be provided by email message to the email address provided by the trainee.
- 6.3 A Trainer must:
- (a) across the duration of Judges training, supervise trainees in all required aspects of performance in both Freestyle and Heelwork to Music. Sessions may include judging from DVDs and/or live routines;
 - (b) provide feedback to trainees and be open to questions from trainees;
 - (c) sign trainees' Judges Training Log Books, including any comments or feedback.

7. INTERIM EXAMINATIONS

Interim examinations will be held progressively during the training program and normally practice theory and practical examinations will be conducted at least twice each year, at mid-year and the end of the year.

8. APPLICATION FOR ELEVATION AS A DANCES WITH DOGS JUDGE

- 8.1 A trainee who has completed the requirements of Section 5.2 may apply to undertake the prescribed theory and practical examinations for elevation as a Dances with Dogs Judge.
- 8.2 Assessment will be carried out in the following sequential order:
- (a) written or oral theory examination;
 - (b) practical examination.

9. THEORY EXAMINATION

- 9.1 The theory examination may be in either written or oral format as prescribed by the Convenor and is to be marked by a minimum of three members of the Judges Training Panel and/or Dances with Dogs Judges appointed by the Panel as examiners to mark examination papers independently.

- 9.2 The examination will consist of a minimum of twenty-five (25) and a maximum of fifty (50) questions set by the Convenor.
- 9.3 To pass the theory examination a trainee must achieve minimum of eighty-five percent (85%) from the majority of the markers.
- 9.4 The Convenor or Trainer will provide feedback to the trainee on all examinations.
- 9.5 A trainee who has failed a theory examination may make a written request, addressed to the Convenor, within fourteen (14) days of the advice of the results for their paper to be reviewed. A different panel of three markers appointed by the Judges Training Panel will, without conferring, separately remark the papers.

10. PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

- 10.1 The practical examination will be assessed by at least three assessors appointed by the Panel to assess trainee Judges' practical examinations independently.
- 10.2 A trainee must have passed the theory examination before undertaking the practical examination.
- 10.3 The following are the requirements for a pass in the practical examination:
- (a) A trainee must judge a minimum of six (6) routines covering at least three (3) class levels and both Freestyle and Heelwork to Music Divisions.
 - (b) At the assessors' discretion, a trainee may be asked to judge additional dog/s or to judge from DVDs if there are no dogs available for a particular class or Division.
 - (c) Each assessor will individually make a recommendation as to whether the trainee has passed or failed.
 - (d) A recommendation by the majority of assessors is required in order for the trainee to pass the practical assessment.
- 10.4 Assessment sheets will be completed and submitted to the Convenor on behalf of Dogs Queensland for written notification to the trainee of their results.
- 10.5 A trainee who fails the practical examination may apply for re-examination. Dogs Queensland is not obligated to agree to a further examination and each case shall be reviewed on its merits. Where a re-examination is approved, it shall be conducted no earlier than three (3) months or later than six (6) months following the original examination and should be undertaken at a time mutually agreed by the Convenor and the trainee. The Judges Training Panel must take into account the need for further practical training of the trainee and the availability of suitable handlers/dogs and facilities.

11. DRESS CODE

While trainees need not comply strictly with a Dress Code at all their practical training sessions leading up to their examination, they should meet generally acceptable standards (i.e. neat, sensible clothes, appropriate footwear, no open-toed sandals, thongs etc.) when undertaking practice judging. However, the practical examination is a formal occasion and must be treated in the same manner as a sanctioned Dances with Dogs competition. As such, trainees must display an appropriate form of dress befitting an official at such an event and they will be marked accordingly.

12. FITNESS TO JUDGE

- 12.1 All Judges Application Forms, both new and renewal, shall contain the following declaration to be signed by the applicant:

“I declare that I am physically fit and capable of judging in accordance with the Rules and in the normal accepted manner, and if required I am prepared to undergo a medical fitness test and/or vision test at the discretion of Dogs Queensland. I further accept that Dogs Queensland may refuse to grant any renewal of licence and may cancel or suspend for any period or vary in any way any licence already granted or may grant, in part, only an application for renewal of licence.”

- 12.2 Should Dogs Queensland consider that either an applicant or a licensed Judge is unable to satisfy the requirements of Section 12.1, Dogs Queensland has the right to:
- (a) refuse the application;
 - (b) refuse to grant any renewal of the licence to any person and may cancel or suspend for any period or vary in any way any licence already granted;
 - (c) direct any Judge to undergo a medical “Fitness to Judge” examination by a nominated medical office; or
 - (d) grant in part only an application for renewal of a licence.

13. MAINTENANCE OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE

- 13.1 All Judges are expected to actively maintain their knowledge and understanding of the Rules and their interpretations as deemed by the ANKC Ltd and Dogs Queensland.
- 13.2 In order to maintain their DWD judges licence, licensed Judges must, in one (1) calendar year, have:
- (a) judged at least one (1) competition or have attended at least two (2) Judges Training sessions, or a combination of both; and
 - (b) paid the relevant annual Judge’s licence fee.
- 13.3 In the event that a Judge fails to fulfil this responsibility or to follow directions issued by Dogs Queensland, Dogs Queensland may:
- (a) refuse to grant any renewal of the licence to any person or may cancel or suspend for any period or vary in any way, any licence already granted;
 - (b) direct any Judge within its jurisdiction to undergo additional training or counselling by the Judges Training Panel.