



QUEENSLAND

CCOIOI TRADING AS DOGS QUEENSLAND

Agility Sub-Committee

Agility Judges Training and Assessment Scheme

2023

Contents

How to become an Agility Trial Judge	2
Judges Code of Practice	5
Competencies for Judges	6
Judges Lectures	6
Criteria for Distance Lectures	6
Procedure for Judges Practical Training	7
Training & Assessment Panel	8
Guidelines for Written Examinations	9
Criteria for Distance Written Examinations	9
Procedure for Written Examination	10
Procedure for Judge's Practical Assessment (Agility)	11
Training, Examination and Assessment Dates	12

Dogs Queensland Judges Regulations **“HOW TO BECOME AN AGILITY TRIAL JUDGE”**

Current DOGS Queensland Judges Regulations are reviewed annually. This means that the Scheme may be amended each year to reflect ANKC Regulations for the Conduct of Agility Trial Judges Training Scheme and DOGS Queensland Rules and Regulations. In all other instances the scheme commences at the completion of the Judges assessments for the previous year.

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 on the Dogs Queensland website, prior to 31st May each year with the scheduled fee.

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

- 1.1.1.1. Be and have been a member of Dogs Queensland or a member of an ANKC Member Body in the State or Territory of prior residence for a continuous period of not less than five (5) years.
- 1.1.1.2. Have held a committee, executive or trial secretary position at an affiliated club or equivalent, that conducts Agility or similar for a period of two years.
- 1.1.1.3. Have demonstrated capacity (as assessed by the Agility Judges Training Panel 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)
- 1.1.1.4. Be over eighteen (18) years of age.
- 1.1.1.5. Be eligible under the ANKC Agility Overseas Judges rules (see ANKC Procedures)
- 1.1.1.6. Have applied for and gained a “Blue Card”

1.2. General Conditions Applicable to all Applicants

- 1.2.1. All applicants are to fulfil the requirements of the Agility Judge's Training Program as determined by the Dogs Queensland Agility Judge's Training Panel.
- 1.2.2. The suggested time required to complete the training is anticipated to be not less than one year for Jumpers (all classes), followed by not less than one year for Agility (all classes). Games training will be available after attaining both Jumpers and Agility licences and completing five Agility judging appointments. There will be an initial probationary period of six appointments for each judging license (i.e. six Jumpers appointments after attaining Jumpers licence and same for Agility and Games licence).
- 1.2.3. All eligibility requirements other than Stewarding / Judging MUST be fulfilled prior to lodging application.
- 1.2.4. Applicants must have trained and handled a dog to an Excellent Agility title and have competed in Master class of both Agility and Jumping
- 1.2.5. Eligibility requirements for Stewarding / Judging must be completed prior to the date set for the Written Assessment.
- 1.2.6. Non attendance at required lectures will preclude application for a licence, unless a written apology acceptable to the General Manager of Dogs Queensland is received within seven (7) days of the relevant lecture.
- 1.2.7. With the exception of training and handling a dog, all prerequisites must be completed within twelve months prior to the Written Examination.
- 1.2.8. The prerequisites for training and handling a dog have no specific time limitations.
- 1.2.9. Elevation examination will be available upon application and at the discretion and invitation of the Dogs Queensland Agility Judges Training Panel.
- 1.2.10. The Applicant MUST provide evidence of having fulfilled the necessary criteria.
- 1.2.11. Any applicant with previous reports of breaching Rules may write a letter to Dogs Queensland requesting a waiver.
- 1.2.12. 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. Trained and handled a dog to at least the Excellent Agility title and competed in Master class for Agility and Jumping.
- 1.3.2. Acted as Ring, Assembly or Scribe Steward in Queensland for at least ten Jumping classes (including at least 2 classes each of Excellent, Masters and Open). Must be with at least three different approved Judges.
- 1.3.3. Assisted designated Judges approved by the Agility Training Panel in setting up courses.
- 1.3.4. Completed theory training for all Jumping classes within the designated time prior to the written exam.
- 1.3.5. Completed assignments within the designated time frame.
- 1.3.6. Completed Practical Training for all Jumping classes within the designated time prior to the Written Examination.
- 1.3.7. Passed the Written Examination for the Dogs Queensland "Rules and Regulations".
- 1.3.8. Passed the Written Examination for all Jumping classes.
- 1.3.9. Passed the Practical Assessment for all Jumping classes.
- 1.3.10. 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. Trained and handled a dog to at least the Excellent Agility title and competed in Master class for Agility and Jumpers.
- 1.4.2. Acted as Ring, Assembly or Scribe Steward in Queensland for at least ten Agility classes (including at least 2 classes each of Excellent, Masters and Open). Must be with at least three different approved judges.
- 1.4.3. Assisted designated Judges approved by the Agility Training Panel in setting up courses.
- 1.4.4. Completed theory training for all Agility classes within the designated time prior to the written exam.
- 1.4.5. Completed course building assignments within the designated time frame.
- 1.4.6. Judged a minimum of 2 Jumping Trials
- 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 the Dogs Queensland "Rules and Regulations".
- 1.4.9. Passed the Written Examination for all Agility classes.
- 1.4.10. Passed the Practical Assessment for all Agility classes.
- 1.4.11. 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 licence to judge all classes of Agility including Jumping.
- 1.5.2. Judged a minimum of five (5) Master Agility classes at approved trials.
- 1.5.3. Acted as Ring, Assembly or Scribe Steward in Queensland for at least six (6) 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.
- 1.6.3. A person failing a Written Examination or Practical Assessment may request a review. Such request must be received in writing by Dogs Queensland 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 Agility Judges Training Panel.
- 1.6.5. A majority decision and endorsement by Dogs Queensland Board is required for a licence to be granted.
- 1.6.6. Professionalism, dress and demeanour 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. Judges Dress Code

Neat coordinated attire is required when judging. The following are not acceptable – jeans, track suits, thongs, bare feet (Refer ANKC Judges Dress Code).

1.8. Rule Changes / Maintenance

Judges residing in Queensland must attend any training sessions offered each year as advertised by the Judges Training Panel. Following any Rule changes by the ANKC, all Judges must complete any requirements of the Member Body. Noncompliance may result in suspensions of licence until this requirement has been met.

Please note that the above regulations may change annually.

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.

PLEASE NOTE:

All Judges MUST be fully aware of the regulations in regard to aggressive dogs.

**Dogs Queensland Agility Sub-Committee
Agility Judges Training and Assessment Scheme**

JUDGE'S 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

Competencies for judges:

- Satisfy the criteria according to guidelines for “How to become an ANKC Judge”
- Knowledge of ANKC rules for each discipline accurately demonstrated.
- Demonstrate knowledge of relevant DOGS Queensland Constitution, Rules, and Regulations.
- Assess the handler and dogs ability to work according to ANKC Rules.

Judges' Lectures

Judges' Lectures are delivered as advertised (on an annual basis) and are a compulsory part of the judges training scheme.

Agility: There will be general lectures for Jumping, Agility and Games. All lectures will be compulsory. Lecturers are nominated by the Agility Judges Training Panel on the basis of experience in judging and general involvement in the discipline concerned.

Lectures are designed to cover:

- Dogs Queensland Regulations relevant to the discipline
- Requirements of the Judges Training Scheme
- ANKC Rules
- Judge's responsibilities
- Planning and setting out of courses
- Instructions to stewards and other relevant people
- Practical judging procedures
- Agility Rules

Lecturers may have prepared notes or handouts or refer to references to guide the aspiring judges. The Dogs Queensland office is able to provide copying facilities.

Criteria for Distance Lectures and Elevation Examinations

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.
2. The Distance Applicant must reside in Queensland in areas other than the South East Queensland area.
3. Approvals will be subject to the availability of the Coordinator(s) of the particular area.
4. If the Agility Judges Training Panel grants this approval, the applicant(s) will be responsible for attending the venue(s) for the dates offered.
5. **All Distant Applicants are required to apply for and complete assessment at the direction of the Agility Judge's 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.**

Training panel

Training panel members will be nominated by Agility Judges Training Panel. For the structured training workshops each panel to be comprised of at least two members, one of which is from the Agility Judges Training Panel.

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.

The Agility Judges Training Panel has instituted Coordinators supported by mentors to assist in the training of Judges for Agility.

Each trainee may have a mentor from the training panel chosen by mutual agreement. 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 the coordinator should be the main source for advice. There has been some confusion at times when trainees have asked many different opinions and received different answers. There is always more than one interpretation to a problem and too many options can cause confusion especially with less experienced trainees. The interpretation must always be according to the rules.

Coordinators have been appointed to take a lead role in each of the Agility classes. The coordinators may prepare written notes for their class and to lead the small group at the lectures, which would be held at the scheduled training periods each year. They are also encouraged to liaise with the mentors within their class to provide continuity of advice and to assist in general training.

For Jumping, there will be an interview at the beginning of training for all applicants. This will cover the training requirements for that year plus the glossary and regulations, which relate to all licenses.

The subsequent lectures will have a general component where the requirements for training will be reviewed, and then trainees will also complete practical training.

Training

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.

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.

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).

The purpose of the workshops 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.

Guidelines for Written Examinations

The written examination for the discipline of Agility will be:

- (a) Rules of Jumping, Agility and Games (whichever is relevant)
- (b) General section.

Each section will require a minimum pass mark of 80%.

Criteria for Distance Written Examination

- 1 Distance Applicants will attend examinations at a nominated time and a nominated venue in consultation with the Agility Judges Training Panel.
- 2 Distance Applicant(s) must reside in Queensland in areas other than the South East Queensland.
- 3 The examination will be administered at an approved location.
- 4 Dogs Queensland must receive confirmation in writing from the coordinator of the trainee before examination papers are supplied
6. Applicant must apply to sit for examination after approval of their coordinator.
7. Any distance examination may be conducted concurrently with written examinations being conducted in Brisbane.
8. Papers will be marked and results collated and disseminated in a similar manner to central system.

PROCEDURE FOR JUDGES' WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

- 1) Two Agility Judges Training Panel members to be allocated to supervise the written examination (they will mark papers with other members). At least one (1) Agility Judges Training Panel member shall be in attendance at all times.
- 2) Two (2) other Agility Judges Training Panel members may mark examination papers.
- 3) Papers will be marked independently and each marker will be unaware of the other results until after the papers are marked. When marking any papers, no notations (comments, etc) will be made by the marker on the applicant's paper.
- 4) It is preferable that the person who set the paper be one (1) of the markers of that paper.
- 5) A third independent Agility Judges Training Panel member may be required to mark an examination paper that has a divided decision.
- 6) 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.
- 7) When notified of their results, applicants will receive copies of their incorrect answers accompanied by the correct answers.
- 8) If the written examination needs clarification, oral questions may be used at the Agility Judges Training Panels discretion.
- 9) Unsuccessful candidates may request a review of their written examination, subject to meeting the published criteria. 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.

PROCEDURE FOR AGILITY JUDGES PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT

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 Judges Training Panel Coordinator to arrange the venue and stationery.
- It will be the responsibility of the applicant 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.
- Each ring will be free standing i.e. there will not be a common rope dividing any two (2) rings where possible.
- Panel members will comprise members of the Agility Judges Training Panel and may include licensed judges appointed by the panel.
- The members of each panel, together with the stewards will be arranged by the Coordinator.
- Panel members will be chosen from the current Judges Training and Assessment Panel.
- The same panel will assess all candidates aspiring for a particular licence.
- Assessment times will be staggered if considered necessary.
- The stewards must be experienced for the class in which they will be required to assist, apart from their nominated duties, stewards must not become involved in the assessment proceedings.
- The assessment panel must not move around unnecessarily and shall be positioned so that they can independently assess each dog.
- 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 immediately the exercise is completed, 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.

Three (3) dogs are usually sufficient for the assessment of each candidate. This does not preclude additional dog(s) being given to a candidate to score should circumstances warrant.

- 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.
- Alterations to assessment sheets must include time, date and signature.
- Candidates will not be advised officially of the outcome of the assessment on the day.
- 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.
- Panel members must understand that prolonged and intimidating questioning and particularly "what if" situations are inappropriate and must not be carried out under any circumstances.
- 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.

TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT DATES

Lectures / Training Days

Practical Training

Agility applicants must complete practical training over the period nominated by the panel or Coordinator.

Structured Workshops for Agility (*must be attended*)

As advised. These dates will be confirmed on acceptance.

Unstructured Workshops

These workshops will be organised by the Training Panel and or Coordinator/Mentor utilising people from the nominated Panel. The workshops may be carried out at a time and venue organised between a training panel member and the applicant. The training may be carried out at an event such as a club competition or club training day. To maximise the desired educational experience, workshops must be done over a period of time. In addition, advice from as many people as possible should be sought. At least two (2) trainers should be involved in the unstructured workshop program, preferably more.

As advised. These dates will be confirmed on acceptance.

Assessment Dates and Venues:

Written Assessments: as advised

Practical Assessment: as advised

Agility Judges Training Panel reserves the right to offer additional dates for workshops and assessments where extenuating circumstances arise.

Coordinators will be appointed for the following classes in:

Jumping, Agliity, Games

Mentors may be chosen from the Agility Judges Training and Assessment Panel in consultation with both the Coordinators and the trainees.