



*Queensland Dog Sports Committee*

**Regulations for the Track and Search Judges  
Training and Assessment Scheme  
(based on the ANKC regulations, part 3E(b))**

**August 2024**

## **1. OVERVIEW**

- 1.1 Dogs Queensland is responsible for the Training, Testing, Assessment and Maintenance of Judging licences.
- 1.2 Dogs Queensland may assess Track and Search Judges sequentially or concurrently for each of the following:
  - 1. Track and Search Dog
  - 2. Track and Search Dog Excellent
  - 3. Track and Search Dog Champion
  - 4. Track and Search Grand Champion
- 1.3 If Dogs Queensland requires a higher standard than the ANKC Ltd Minimum Standards, the Dogs Queensland Regulation/s will take precedence over the ANKC Ltd Minimum Standard/s.

## **2. APPLICATION**

- 2.1 All applications for Track and Search Judges Courses must be made on the required application form by the date specified by Dogs Queensland. All requirements for specific classes must be fulfilled prior to the trainee undertaking Oral or Written examinations and practical assessment. Dogs Queensland has the right to seek verification of any information provided by the applicant.

## **3. ELIGIBILITY**

- 3.1 The Applicant must:
  - 3.1.1 Be a member of Dogs Queensland for at least 3 years prior to the application and be a current financial member of Dogs Queensland.
  - 3.1.2 Be over eighteen (18) years of age.
  - 3.1.3 Reside in the State or Territory of application for the licence.
  - 3.1.4 Have an active and ongoing participation in the sport of Track and Search or conducting Track and Search Trials (verified by a letter from an Affiliated Club, Trial Secretary or Judge).
- 3.2 To judge to the level of Track and Search Excellent, the applicant must have personally trained and trialled a dog to a Track and Search Dog title and stewarded at a minimum of two sanctioned Track and Search Dog trials within the last 12 months (including a night test).
- 3.3 To judge to the level of Track and Search Champion or Track and Search Grand Champion, the applicant must have
  - 3.3.1 EITHER trained and trialled a dog to a Track and Search Champion title,
  - 3.3.2 OR have judged to the level of Track and Search Dog Excellent and stewarded at Track and Search Champion or Track and Search Grand Champion level at a minimum of two sanctioned Track and Search Dog trials within the last 12 months.

- 3.4 Trainees are expected to attend all lectures and practical training sessions (including trials) unless otherwise approved by Dogs Queensland. Trainees will also be required to educate themselves by studying the Rules for the Conduct of Track and Search Trials and achieving the learning objectives listed in section 14.
- 3.5 Dogs Queensland may approve applications received from members who do not meet the above criteria providing that they are permanent residents of Australia and can effectively demonstrate and produce documentation verifying their experience and qualifications to meet the above standards gained in a previous country of residence.
- 3.6 Subject to the agreement of both the trainee and Dogs Queensland, a person may be approved to enrol in a Track and Search Judges Training Scheme conducted in a more convenient geographic location to that person.

#### **4. METHOD OF EDUCATION (SELF EDUCATION)**

- 4.1 Trainees will be required to educate themselves by being conversant with the Dogs Queensland Rules and Regulations relevant to Track and Search trialling and updates to the ANKC Rules for the Conduct of Track and Search Trials. Trainees are to attend all lectures and practical training sessions unless otherwise approved by Dogs Queensland.
- 4.2 Trainees will also be required to educate themselves by studying the Rules for the Conduct of Track and Search Trials, learn about how dogs track in varying conditions, and other aspects of judging listed in the learning objectives (section 14).
- 4.3 Trainees will maintain a logbook documenting their learning including details of their roles at trials and each of the tracks they have set and/or stewarded and/or shadow judged on. The logbook will include check sheets of the requirements necessary to apply for elevation.
- 4.4 Trainees will arrange for Judges to observe their work at the relevant level to assess their performance and sign their logbook. A copy of the completed logbook is to be forwarded to the Chair of the Tracking and Track and Search Subcommittee Committee prior to the date set by Dogs Queensland

#### **5. PRACTICAL TRAINING SESSIONS**

- 5.1 Trainees are expected to gain practical experience on as many tracks, with as many different judges and locations as possible to see how different breeds and types of dog work and to consider all types of weather and other tracking conditions, including night tracks.
- 5.2 Practical training will take place at track and search trials and other events.
- 5.3 The trainee judge should contact the Trial Manager in advance of the trial and negotiate roles to progress their training.

- 5.4 All Track and Search Judges licensed to judge Track and Search Grand Champions will comprise the Judges Training Panel.
- 5.5 The Judges must:
  - 5.5.1 Supervise the trainee's stewarding and judging tracks at different levels.
  - 5.5.2 Advise the trainee of ways in which they feel the trainee's judging could be improved.
  - 5.5.3 Sign the trainee's logbook after completing details of suggested judging modification or reinforcement of the trainee's judging.
- 5.6 These logbooks are to be retained by the Trainee and forwarded to the Chair of the Tracking and Track and Search Subcommittee by the date set by Dogs Queensland. Copies may be retained by the trainee.

## **6. APPLICATION FOR ASSESSMENT**

- 6.1 A Trainee may apply to be assessed for elevation to being a licensed Judge when they have met the following training requirements.
  - 6.1.1 Conducted at least two group sessions of practical training helping other people in track and search.
  - 6.1.2 For elevation to judge at TSDX level, stewarded 12 tracks, ideally in at least two locations, working with at least three different judges. These should include tracks at TSD, TSDX, Track and Search Champion and Track and Search Grand Champion levels. Stewarding will include designing and mapping the tracks and organizing the track layers, safety stewards, diversion layers and competitors.
  - 6.1.3 For elevation to judge at the Track and Search Champion and Track and Search Grand Champion level, the trainee must steward at least 3 tracks at each level.
  - 6.1.4 Manage a Track and Search Trial for a Dogs Queensland Affiliated Club, including contracting judges, submitting a schedule to Dogs Queensland, preparing a run sheet for the trial, organizing tracks, preparing and submitting the Trial Manager's report and other required documents to Dogs Queensland at the end of the trial.
  - 6.1.5 For elevation to judge at Track and Search Dog Excellent level, shadow judge 3 dogs for TSDX title tests, including night tracks, under the supervision of the judge. This will include designing, mapping, organising and stewarding the tracks and making the presentation at the end.
  - 6.1.6 For elevation to judge at Track and Search Champion and Track and Search Grand Champion level shadow judge 3 dogs for Track and Search Champion and Track and Search Grand Champion tests, including at least one night track at each level, under the supervision of the judge. This will include designing, mapping, organising and stewarding the tracks and making the presentation at the end.
  - 6.1.7 Successfully completed assignments/mock examinations prepared by the Tracking and Track and Search Subcommittee covering Dogs Queensland and ANKC Inc rules and regulations, tracking scenarios, ethics of tracking and judging, and other relevant topics.

- 6.2 Assessment will be carried out in the following sequential order;
1. Oral or Written
  2. Practical

## **7. ORAL OR WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

- 7.1 Examinations will be closed book and supervised.
- 7.2 The pass mark for this examination is a minimum of 80%.
- 7.3 The marking is to be undertaken by judges appointed by the Tracking and Track and Search Subcommittee who will mark examination papers independently. The trainee must receive a pass mark by the majority of the markers in order to achieve a pass.
- 7.4 The examination papers must be marked by at least two and if necessary three examiners.
- 7.5 The trainee must pass the theory exam in order to undertake the practical exam.
- 7.6 Examination papers will comprise questions set by Dogs Queensland on any aspect of judging for the relevant tests.
- 7.7 Trainees who have failed an Oral or Written examination may make a written request within 14 days of the advice of the results for their paper to be reviewed. A different panel of three markers appointed by the Tracking and Track and Search Subcommittee will, without conferring, separately re-mark the papers.
- 7.8 All questions with incorrect answers will be supplied to the trainee with the correct answers.

## **8. PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1 The trainee must pass the Oral or Written exam in order to undertake the practical assessment.
- 8.2 The following are the requirements for a pass in the Track and Search Judges Trial Scheme practical examination.
- 8.2.1 To be eligible to judge TSD and TSDX levels, trainees are required to judge a minimum of 2 dogs, one (1) will be a TSD 1-4 level test (i.e., in parks).
  - 8.2.2 To be eligible to judge Track and Search Champion and Track and Search Grand Champion levels, trainees are required to judge a minimum of one dog at Track and Search Champion level (i.e., TSD 7 or TSD 8) and one dog at Track and Search Grand Champion level (i.e. TSD 9 or TSD 10) level, including at least one night track.
  - 8.2.3 At the assessor's discretion, the trainee may be asked to judge additional dog/s.
  - 8.2.4 At least three assessors must assess each trainee.
  - 8.2.5 Each assessor will individually make a recommendation as to whether the trainee has passed or failed.

8.2.6 A majority of assessors' recommendations is required to pass.

8.3 Assessment sheets will be completed and submitted to Dogs Queensland for written notification to the trainee of their results.

## **9. RE – ASSESSMENT**

9.1 Trainees who fail the practical assessment may apply for re-assessment. Dogs Queensland is not obligated to automatically agree to a re-assessment and each case should be reviewed on its merits. A reassessment should not be granted earlier than three months or later than 6 months following the original assessment at a mutually agreed time. The Tracking and Track and Search Subcommittee must take into account the need for further practical training of the trainee and the availability of suitable handlers/dogs and facilities.

## **10. DRESS CODE**

10.1 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 judging at 'non sanctioned trials'. However, the Practical examination is a formal occasion and must be treated in the same manner as a sanctioned Track and Search Trial. As such, the trainees must display an appropriate form of dress befitting an official at such an event and they will be marked accordingly.

## **11. FITNESS TO JUDGE**

11.1 ANKC Ltd Regulations Part 2, Point 1.4 states;

11.1.1 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 if required I am prepared to undergo a medical fitness test and/or vision test at the discretion of the Member Body of ANKC Ltd. I further accept that my Member Body may at its absolute discretion 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 to be granted.” **(05/93, 7.2.1) (Amended 10/13 – 5.6.4) (Amended 10/14, 7.5.12) (Amended 08/15, EM#117) (Amended 10/15, 7.5.1.1)**

11.2 Should Dogs Queensland consider that either the applicant or a licensed judge is unable to meet 11.1.1, Dogs Queensland has the right to;

11.2.1 Refuse the application.

11.2.2 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; or

11.2.3 Direct any judge to undergo a medical “Fitness to Judge” examination by a nominated medical office; or

11.2.4 Grant in part only an application for renewal of the licence.

## **12. MAINTENANCE OF SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE**

- 12.1 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.
- 12.2 In the event that a Judge fails to fulfil this responsibility or to follow directions issued by Dogs Queensland
  - 12.2.1 Dogs Queensland may refuse to grant any renewal of licence or may cancel or suspend for any period or variation in any way, any licence already granted.
  - 12.2.2 Dogs Queensland may direct any Judge within its jurisdiction to undergo additional training or counselling by the Judges licenced to judge at Track and Search Grand Champion level.

## **13. JUDGES' CODE OF PRACTICE (from CCCQ Ltd, also known as Dogs Queensland)**

A Judge accepted to membership of the CCCQ Ltd shall, in addition to agreeing to be bound by the Constitution and Rules of the CCCQ Ltd, be also bound by the Code of Ethics of the CCCQ Ltd and the Judges Code of Practice as detailed herein.

- 13.1 A Judge shall act with professional decorum at all times.
- 13.2 A Judge shall give every exhibit and exhibitor fair and equal opportunity in each and every class.
- 13.3 A Judge shall act in a polite manner whilst carrying out each judging assignment.
- 13.4 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.
- 13.5 A Judge is required to be punctual with their arrival to fulfil their judging assignment.
- 13.6 Should a Judge be approached to favour or disfavour a particular exhibit the matter is to be reported to the Administrator of the Dogs Australia Member Body.
- 13.7 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 Dogs Australia Member Body.
- 13.8 A Judge shall not solicit a judging appointment.
- 13.9 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.

- 13.10 A Judge shall honour each contract and will not be free to accept an alternative contract that will affect his or her availability to fulfil the original contract except with the written dispensation of the contracting Club.
- 13.11 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.
- 13.12 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.
- 13.13 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.

#### **14. LEARNING OBJECTIVES FOR TRACK AND SEARCH JUDGE TRAINEES**

The following objectives are intended to guide the trainee's learning. Assignments and mock exams will be provided by the Tracking and Track and Search Subcommittee to help the trainee.

To be ready to apply for elevation the trainee should be able to:

- 14.1 For trainees who do not hold a current judge's licence, recall the relevant rules and regulations of Dogs Queensland relating to judges' conduct and obligations.
- 14.2 Recall the Dogs Queensland rules and regulations for Track and Search Trials.
- 14.3 Explain the roles and responsibilities of a Track and Search Judge in promoting the sport.
- 14.4 Explain how dogs are able to scent and track and how scent may behave under different conditions.
- 14.5 Perform the role of Trial Manager for a Dogs Queensland Affiliated Club, including contracting judges, submitting a schedule to Dogs Queensland, preparing a run sheet for the trial, preparing and submitting the Trial Manager's report and other required documents to Dogs Queensland at the end of the trial.
- 14.6 Design, plan, map and set out tracks, for each of the following levels: TSD, TSDX, Track and Search Champion and Track and Search Grand Champion (depending on the level of elevation sought) including directions on access to and from the tracks.
- 14.7 Steward tracks at all levels assisting the judge as required; organise competitors, track layers and diversion track layers so that a test runs smoothly; and noting how dogs manage the conditions of each track.
- 14.8 Shadow judging (often while stewarding), discussing the dog's performance and grade with the judge, and making the presentation.