CONFORMATION JUDGES TRAINING RULES AND REGULATIONS

Regulations for Conformation Judges Training 2027 Self-Funded Adult Education Program

General

1. The Rules and Regulations of the Dogs Queensland Conformation Judges Training Program (CJTP) are amended from time to time; such amendments are published by Dogs Queensland. These Dogs Queensland Regulations also accommodate necessities required by the diverse nature of metropolitan and regional Queensland – these regulations are effective immediately.

2. An application to enter into the CJTP confers no automatic right to become a Judge. Dogs Queensland will consider the suitability and behaviour of all applicants entering the CJTP. Becoming a Judge requires successful completion of the syllabus following which the aspiring Judge must earn the privilege to be registered and acknowledged as a Judge. This privilege may be withdrawn should circumstances warrant and after all facts have been considered.

3. An essential requirement of acceptance and continued progression in the CJTP (including applications for both theory and practical examinations) is a demonstrated significant and continued participation in the management or operation of an affiliated Dogs Queensland Club or Committee. Trainees must complete the "Club Activity" form each year. This documentation MUST accompany ALL applications; including first time applicants, theory examinations and practical examinations, irrespective of the number of Championship Show groups a Judge may hold. Applications which do not include this mandatory documentation will be rejected unless appropriately documented reasons for extenuating circumstances are approved by the Conformation Judges Committee (CJC).

4. The Dogs Queensland CJTP is available for eligible members of Dogs Queensland who are residents of Queensland. Queensland residents who were previously members of other ANKC Affiliates and were previously in an equivalent ANKC recognised training program, will be recognised under a reciprocal agreement, provided all requirements are fulfilled.

5. Any persons who were previously resident in another State or Territory (and members of that State or Territory), and were not in the Judges Training Program, and who are now bona-fide residents of Queensland, may apply to enter the CJTP upon providing a letter from their previous controlling body showing they comply with the entry requirements for Aspiring Judges.

6. The CJTP is a continuous program. Persons who are unable to continue in the system due to illness, injury or issues of a personal nature, should apply in writing to the CJC for a leave of absence for a suitable period.

7. Members are not permitted to accept judging appointments or sign contracts to judge, until official written notification from Dogs Queensland, advising their judging status, has been received by them.

8. A member who has previously held Championship Show status may apply for reinstatement. Where a period of absence has occurred from the Judges List, reinstatement will be considered only after the member concerned has passed 90% of an Open Book examination on a number of the major breeds in the Group(s), plus those breeds which have been introduced by the ANKC during their absence. In some instances, particularly

for longer periods of absence, the CJC may require a practical assessment which would be conducted using similar procedures to the Practical Examination as described in Regulation 38, and at a date to be determined by the CJC. Should the candidate fail the assessment, they would be added to the Open Show Panel and be required to fulfil the requirements as set out in Regulations 16-20.

9. Any Trainee Judge or Aspiring Judge who is found to have engaged in unsportsmanlike or unprofessional behaviour or has breached the Dogs Queensland Rules or the Dogs Queensland Code of Ethics or the Board of Dogs Queensland Judges Code of Ethics, or is not fulfilling training regulations, will be held accountable and may be suspended or removed from the CJTP and / or the Judges Panel.

10. The CJC, in determining whether to remove or suspend, will consider all the facts and will provide their recommendation to the Board of Dogs Queensland.

11. A right of appeal is available, and an appeal may be made to the Board of Dogs Queensland in writing.

Definitions

12. Terms used in these Regulations are defined below:

    a. Championship Show Judge: A person who is qualified to judge individual breeds, or one or more Groups at Championship Show level.

    b. CJC: Conformation Judges Committee.

    c. DQ: Dogs Queensland.

    d. First Time Applicant (Aspiring Judge): A person accepted into the Judges Training Program as a First Time Applicant.

    e. CJTP: Conformation Judges Training Program.

    f. Primary Group: The Group in which the candidate first bred / exhibited dogs.

    g. Single Breed Judge (SBJ): A person who is qualified as a Breed Specialist, to judge a single breed at Championship Show level.

    h. S.E. Queensland: The training region covered by Brisbane and surrounding areas (for Durack attendees) at the discretion of the CJC.

    i. Trainee (Judge): A person who is qualified to judge one or more breed(s) or Group(s) at Open Show level.

    j. Accredited Assessor – A judge who has held Championship status in that Group for five (5) years or more.

    k. Specialty Show – limited to a single breed (or a single breed with multiple varieties).

    l. Multi Breed Show – includes multiple breeds across a single or multiple groups.

    m. Group Show – Limited to all breeds within a single group.

Stewarding/Writing Requirements for All Judges in the JTP

13. Starting 1st January and terminating 31st December each year, a Trainee Judge must fulfil the following requirements:

    All Trainee judges must complete a minimum of Ten (10) Stewarding appointments in Queensland at any Dogs Queensland Affiliated Show. Five (5) of these appointments must be at Championship Shows. The other Five (5) can be made up of either Show Managing, writing or assembly stewarding at Championship Shows or stewarding at Open Shows.

- Note: Ring Stewarding for Two (2) or more Groups at the same Show on the same day is classified as One (1) appointment.

a. The Ring Stewarding requirements ensure that candidates provide valuable assistance with the operation of Shows, and enable them to observe the judging of breeds.

- As this is a self funded program Clubs are not obligated to reimburse Trainee Judges who are stewarding to fulfill the requirements outlined in these rules.

b. A maximum of five (5) stewarding appointments are able to be counted at the Brisbane Royal Show. This can be made up of five (5) ring stewarding appointments or five (5) assembly stewarding appointments. At all times, the 'Steward's card' must be signed by the Show Manager, indicating whether the appointment is for ring stewarding or assembly stewarding.

c. All Judges in the CJTP must maintain and produce, upon request, a completed Dogs Queensland Steward's Card.

d. Stewarding requirements apply every year regardless of your intention to elevate to Championship Show level or to add an additional Open Show group. Failure to complete this requirement each year may impact on your application in future years.

Entry Requirements for First Time Applicants

14. Criteria for Eligibility for acceptance as an Aspirant

a. Have held financial membership of Dogs Queensland or another ANKC Affiliate for a minimum of eight (8) consecutive years or be the son / daughter of a financial member, who has been a financial member for not less than eight (8) consecutive years.

b. Have been active in canine affairs (see Regulation 3).

c. Be a minimum of 18 years of age.

d. Have bred at least three litters under their own or shared prefix.

e. Have bred or exhibited to their title at least two champions.

f. Where Dogs Queensland, in its sole and unfettered discretion, considers that exceptional circumstances exist, it may grant dispensation to a candidate from compliance with regulations 14 (d) and/or 14(e).

g. Have become an Accredited Conformation Ring Steward by attending the training provided by the Event Managers & Stewards Committee. Complete all the relevant requirements within the twelve (12) months prior to submitting the application to join the Conformation Judges Training Program. A copy of the applicant's official completed and signed Steward's Card must accompany the Application Form.

Judges Training Program

15. Introduction to Judging Program

a. Applications from First Time Applicants (Aspirants) wishing to enter the JTP must be submitted by no later than 31st May each year. Applications must be made on the prescribed form (available on the Dogs Queensland website) and all details on that form are to be completed.

b. Once accepted by the CJC, Aspirants will enter the four (4) month Introduction to Judging Program which will be held between July and

October of each year. Dates are to be advised and confirmed by the CJC on a yearly basis and published prior to the commencement of the Program.

c. Aspirants who fulfil the requirements in Regulation 14, and who wish to enter the JTP, must achieve a 75% pass in examinations on the areas of:
   i. Dogs Queensland Rules,
   ii. Skeletal & Topographical,
   iii. Anatomy & Movement,
   iv. Dentition; and
   v. Canine Glossary of Terms.

d. The examination date for the Introduction to Judging Program, will take place on 17th November 2027. This will be conducted at Durack for metropolitan candidates and either by Zoom or with the Regional Coordinators for remote candidates.

e. Aspirants, who are unable to attend the examination on the 17th November 2027 may apply to the CJC for dispensation for a deferred examination within 48 hours of the exam and must supply supporting for the claim. If successful upon application, the CJC will nominate a secondary date for Aspirants to sit the deferred examination.

f. Upon passing the Introduction to Judging Program examination, Aspirants must then apply to the CJC for their Primary Group as a Trainee Judge.

g. Aspirants who do not pass examinations in the Introduction to Judging Program, may re-apply the following year.

Group Training

16. Applications to commence Group Training, are to be submitted to Dogs Queensland before 31st October using the prescribed form available from the Dogs Queensland website.

17. Trainees may apply for one (1) group per year (February to November). Split groups are not allowed. Trainees are unable to be sitting theory exams for two (2) groups at the one time.

18. Once a Trainee Judge has applied for a new Group, they must complete the following:

Recorded Breed Lectures

a. All pre-recorded breed lectures will be viewable on the CJC Portal.

b. Trainees must watch all breed lectures in their nominated Group, starting in February of each year.

c. Each breed lecture will be made available two weeks prior to the listed breed lecture date in the November edition of the Dog World magazine.

d. Trainees are required to watch each breed lecture in the two weeks prior to, or the week following, the listed breed lecture date in the November edition of the Dog World magazine.

e. For any breed that does not have an officially recorded lecture uploaded to the CJC portal, Trainees must provide their Practical Group Trainers with a copy of a 1 x A4 page assignment, containing:
   - A photo of what they consider to be a correct representative of the breed;
   - The history of the breed;
   - The purpose and function of the breed;
   - 5 dot point characteristics of the breed (based on the ANKC breed standard).

f. Practical Group Trainers may arrange for their Trainees to attend (with advanced notice) an online or in person lecture at any time throughout the program, if a guest presenter is available. Attendance at these lectures is encouraged, but not mandatory.

g. A mandatory zoom session is to be conducted at the completion of each sub group to discuss the breeds covered within that sub group. This will occur prior to each sub group theory exam.

h. A mandatory field night will be conducted at the completion of each sub group. Practical Trainers are to liaise with Breed Clubs regarding dogs for the field nights. The date will be advised in the list of lecture dates.

Theory Examinations

i. Groups will be divided into four (4) sub-groups: A, B, C and D.

j. Trainees must pass each theory sub-group examination with a minimum mark of 75%.

k. Examinations will be based on the ANKC breed standards.

l. For metropolitan candidates, theory exams will be conducted at the Durack Showgrounds at the end of each sub-group.

m. For Distance Trainees, theory exams will be conducted via Zoom or supervised by a Regional Coordinator at the end of each sub-group.

n. Sub-group examination dates will be published by Dogs Queensland in the November edition of the Dog World magazine, in line with the scheduled breed lecture dates.

Candidates must be aware that if they fail any sub-group Examination (ie. they do not achieve the required pass mark of 75% in Parts A B C or D), they will be required to rewatch the breed lectures in that sub group and complete theory exams in that sub group in the following calendar year.

Deferred Examinations

o. A Trainee who is unable to attend an examination due to exceptional circumstances, may apply to the CJC for a deferred examination. Applications must be submitted within 48 hours of the original exam and must include supporting documentation.

p. If the application is successful, the CJC will nominate a secondary date for the deferred examination.

Open Show Panel

q. Once all sub-group theory exams have been successfully completed, the candidate will be listed on the Open Show Panel.

Open Show – Requirements

19. Once a candidate has successfully completed the theory examinations and are placed onto the Open Show Panel, the Trainee must then judge:

- A minimum of two (2) singularly assessed, full group appointments.
- A minimum of one (1) mentored appointment. Note: a maximum of sixty (60) dogs will be counted towards the one hundred (100) dog requirement at mentored appointments.
- One (1) three person assessment at a full group appointment and be assessed by three (3) Accredited Assessors. The Trainee Judge must receive a 'competent' grading at this assessment to be able to apply for their Practical Examination.

If a 'competent' grading is not received they must be assessed again by three (3) Accredited Assessors at their next Open Show appointment and receive a 'competent' grading before applying for elevation.

- A minimum of one hundred (100) dogs at Open Show level.
- Specialty Show and Multi Breed Show numbers will also count towards the one hundred (100) dog requirement.

a. As part of the training process, a Trainee Judge may be scheduled a mentor show. These Shows will be organized by the CJC or by an All Breeds Club in conjunction with the CJC. This appointment will be assessed.

- A candidate must also complete a maximum of five (5) critiques at this appointment (see: Clause 20 (c).

b. At each Open Show appointment, the Trainee Judge must be assessed by an Accredited Assessor. The Trainee Judge must notify the CJC of this, a minimum of 14 days prior to the show so that an Accredited Assessor can be appointed. Please note : this rule will be strictly enforced and no dispensation to this rule will be given.

c. A further two (2) assessments at an Open Show or a Mentored Show will be required if the Trainee Judge does not receive a 'competent' grading at one of the single Open Show assessments.

Practical Training – Requirements

20. As part of the Practical Group Training, all Trainee Judges must complete the following whilst supervised by a Practical Group Trainer:

a. Attend the entire group judging of at least three (3) All Breeds Championship Shows or Group only Shows. The trainee must have their purple mentoring card signed.
Note: Trainee Judges must attend this in full and not be showing nor stewarding.

b. Attend a minimum of one (1) Breed Club Specialty Championship Show and complete five critiques.
Note: Trainee Judges must attend this in full and not be showing nor stewarding.

c. Complete twenty-five (25) critiques at any Show listed in Clause 20 (a) or (b) or as part of the training process outlined in Clause 19 (a).

d. With the exception of Clause 19 (a), the critiques are to be supervised by and discussed with a Practical Group Trainer and signed off by them on the day.

- Critiques are not to be completed at any other time, unless approved by the CJC.
- A maximum of five (5) critiques can be completed on any one day.
- No more than five (5) critiques may be completed on the same breed. Breeds with different varieties are counted as one breed. Example: Poodles.
- No more than fifteen (15) critiques are able to be supervised by the same Practical Group Trainer.
- Distance Trainees can complete 10 of their critiques from photos. The photos and critiques must be forwarded to the Practical Group Trainer or the Regional Coordinator. Distance trainees must attend a minimum of one Breed Club Specialty Show where they must complete five (5) critiques.

21. When a Judge obtains Championship status in a Group, they may only apply for

a further Open Show Group to bring them up to a maximum of two (2) Open Show Groups.

22. All Trainee Judges and Aspiring Judges are required to support all Judge's Training activities. This includes mentoring, supplying dogs for Practical Examinations and providing entries at Open Shows.

23. All Trainee Judges who are considered by the CJC to reside a distance from the Durack Showgrounds (and would pose a travelling risk), are to study through 'Distance Education' and be in consultation with their Practical Group Trainers and the CJC, regarding the requirements.

24. Where a Trainee fails to comply with the Judges' Training Rules and Regulations, the CJC may recommend to the Board of Dogs Queensland that the person be removed from the Judges Panel.

25. The CJC, in considering whether to remove a person from the Judges Panel, will consider all the facts and will provide their recommendation to the Board of Dogs Queensland. A right of appeal is available, and an appeal may be made to the Board of Dogs Queensland in writing within 14 days of the official notification of the removal.

26. If through sickness, injury or other involuntary circumstances, a Trainee Judge cannot fully satisfy any requirement of the JTP, upon application, the CJC will consider each request for dispensation on its individual merit.

27. Applications for such leave of absence must be submitted in writing to the CJC immediately the pertinent circumstances arise.

28. All Theory Examinations, once passed, are valid for a period of five (5) years. If a candidate has not attempted to advance to Championship Show level within this time, the candidate will be removed from the Open Show panel for that group and the theory examination must be re-sat to ensure continued competency. This will commence from 1st January 2027.

29. Once a candidate is successful in passing the final Theory exam for a Group, for their first three (3) Groups they are unable to apply for elevation for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of passing the final Theory Exam.

Practical Examination (Hands-On Exam)

30. Application for the Practical Examination must be made on the prescribed form (available from the Dogs Queensland website) and all details on this form are to be completed. This form must be received NO LATER THAN 15th JULY in any year.

31. Applications may be submitted, subject to successful completion of all requirements in the JTP.

32. Only one (1) application may be submitted per year.

33. All candidates and assessors will sign a confidentiality agreement to ensure the secrecy of all decisions; and refrain from any communication outside of this agreement.

34. An explanation of the examination procedure will be given to the candidate prior to the examination day. Any candidate, who is unsure of the procedure on the day, has the right to ask for clarification from any member of the CJC.

35. Each candidate and assessor will receive a score sheet. Candidates are to make no markings on these score sheets until the examination commences.

36. The Hands-On examination will consist of

two (2) breed classes and one (1) mixed breed class. Each breed class will be comprised of a different breed and consist of five (5) or six (6) dogs of either sex in that breed. The mixed breed class will consist of five (5) or six (6) dogs of different breeds and of either sex (excluding the two (2) breeds previously used in the two (2) breed classes, unless exceptional circumstances require the re-judging of either breed as part of the mixed class). In all classes, dogs must be over the age of six (6) months.

37. The examination will be conducted by three (3) accredited assessors appointed by the CJC. A fourth person, also appointed by the CJC, will act as the Coordinator for the ring.

38. The procedure for the Practical Examination is as follows:

a. The 3 assessors will examine the dogs independent of the candidates.

b. The 3 assessors may briefly confer to discuss the exhibits and the overall quality of the class.

c. Independently, each assessor will then record their own placings on the score sheet provided from first to last.

d. The candidates will then be brought to the ring and examine the dogs.

e. As per normal judging procedure, candidates will have approximately 2 minutes to examine each exhibit.

f. Each candidate will record their placings from 1st to last on the score sheet provided, without communicating their decisions to any other candidate and hand the score sheet to the assessors.

g. Each candidate will then be examined by all assessors together.

h. All questions pertaining to the breeds are expected to be answered.

i. The candidate will only be examined on the exhibits in the respective class and questions asked during the Practical Examination, may only be taken from current ANKC Breed Standards.

j. Assessors will record on each score sheet, comments relating to each candidate. This must be completed without exception.

k. Assessors will then independently complete the assessment form, awarding a pass or fail grade to each candidate on the two (2) breed classes and one (1) mixed breed class. Valid written reasons must always be provided.

l. At NO time should either an examiner or candidate discuss any aspect of the Practical Examination outside of the official examination procedure. To do so is a breach of the confidentiality requirements relating to each candidate. All papers remain confidential and the property of Dogs Queensland.

m. A shortfall in the number of exhibits will not automatically invalidate an examination. Provided that the candidate agrees that the examination continue, the examination will not be declared null and void. No objections or protests because of these discrepancies will be considered thereafter.

n. Should the candidate elect not to proceed with the examination, NO special examination will be arranged.

39. In order to be successful at the Practical Examination, a candidate must receive a PASS grade by at least two (2) of the three (3) assessors for EACH of the three (3) classes.

a. Once a candidate receives formal written notification of passing the Practical Examination, they may accept and sign contracts for any sanctioned ANKC Show in that Group and judge immediately.

b. Any candidate who fails a Practical Examination must judge a further 50 dogs at a minimum of two full group Open Show appointments (as outlined in Clause 19). The candidate must complete a single person assessment at both appointments by an accredited assessor appointed by the CJC and receive a competent result at each assessment, before re-applying for a Practical Examination. See Rule 19 (b).

40. If a candidate fails the Practical Examination in the same Group, for a third time, they will be ineligible to re-sit that Group for a period of three (3) years before reapplying. Candidates must elevate in their Primary Group before applying to elevate in any other Group.

41. Where deemed necessary by the CJC, the CJC reserves the right to elect additional Practical Examination dates.

Eligibility for a Single Breed Championship License

42. For a GSD Specialty license, see Dogs Queensland website for details.

43. Members may apply for elevation to Championship Show Status as a Single Breed Judge (SBJ). The following criteria must be satisfied by the applicant:

a. Provide evidence of eight (8) years continuous financial membership, activity and experience as a breeder and exhibitor.

b. Have titled or bred a minimum of two (2) Champions in the breed in which the candidate is applying to become a SBJ.

c. Bred at least three (3) litters under their own, or shared prefix in the breed in which the candidate is applying to become a SBJ.

d. Attend lectures run by the Event Managers & Stewards Committee and become an accredited Ring Steward.

e. Have completed all their relevant requirements within the 12 months prior to submitting the application to become a SBJ. A copy of the applicant's official completed and signed Dogs Queensland Steward's Card must accompany the Application Form.

f. Complete the requirements of the Introduction to Judging Program under Regulation 15. Rule 14 (f) does not apply to a Single Breed Championship license.

g. Complete an appropriate breed lecture night.

h. Complete appropriate practical training.

i. Complete the written examination for the breed and receive a 75% pass.

j. Once all requirements have been satisfied, the candidate will sit a Hands-on Examination on a date to be determined by the CJC.

44. A Practical Examination for a Single Breed License will consist of one class of five (5) or six (6) dogs and one (1) class of five (5) or six (6) bitches. In all classes, dogs must be over the age of six (6) months. In breeds with more than one (1) variety, this rule may be modified to accommodate different varieties of the breed.

45. Where an applicant fails a Single Breed

Examination, they will be required to obtain relevant additional experience/ knowledge to be eligible to apply for another examination in the following year, providing he/she applies by the specified time and providing it is the same breed.