



Australian National Kennel Council Ltd ABN 77 151 544 679 trading as Dogs Australia

# **REGULATIONS**

## **PART 3H**

# **REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITION JUDGES TRAINING SCHEME**

**(Effective from 1st January, 2024)**

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the  
Australian National Kennel Council Limited 2013**

Amended  
August 2015  
October 2015  
July 2018  
October 2023

## **1. OVERVIEW**

- 1.1. Australian National Kennel Council (ANKC Ltd) Member Bodies will be responsible for the training, testing and assessment of trainee Judges and approval and maintenance of Dances with Dogs Judging licences.
- 1.2. ANKC Ltd Member Bodies will assess Judges in the following classes for Freestyle and Heelwork to Music simultaneously:
  - 1.2.1 Starter
  - 1.2.2 Novice
  - 1.2.3 Intermediate
  - 1.2.4 Advanced.
- 1.3. A Dances With Dogs Judging licence may be approved to judge class levels up to and including Starter and Novice in Freestyle and Heelwork to Music prior to training, testing and assessment for a Dances With Dogs Judging licence to judge all class levels in Freestyle and Heelwork to Music.
- 1.4. If an ANKC Ltd Member Body requires a higher standard than the ANKC Ltd minimum standards set out in these Regulations, the ANKC Ltd Member Body's Regulation/s will take precedence over the ANKC Ltd minimum standard/s.

## **2. DEFINITIONS**

- 2.1 The following words and expressions have the following meanings in these Regulations and related documents.
  - 2.1.1 "ANKC Ltd Member Body" or "Member Body"; the ANKC Ltd Member Body in each State or Territory of Australia.
  - 2.1.2 "Judges Training Scheme" and "Scheme": The program of training and assessment for qualification of Dances with Dogs Judges.
  - 2.1.3 "Judges Training Panel" and "Panel": A panel of at least three Dances with Dogs Judges appointed by the relevant Member Body to organise and conduct the Dances with Dogs Judges Training Scheme in the relevant State/Territory.
  - 2.1.4 "Convenor of the Judges Training Panel" and "Convenor": A member of the Panel designated by the relevant Member Body 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.
  - 2.1.5 "Applicant": A person who has applied for admission to undertake the Dances with Dogs Judges Training Scheme.
  - 2.1.6 "Trainee": A person who has been accepted to undertake the Dances with Dogs Judges Training Scheme.
  - 2.1.7 "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**

- 3.1 An application for admission as a trainee must be made on the required application form by the date specified by the Member Body. A Member Body has the right to seek verification of any information provided by the applicant.

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY**

- 4.1 An applicant must:
  - 4.1.1 have been a member of a Member Body for at least three (3) years prior to the application and be a current financial member of a Member Body;
  - 4.1.2 be over eighteen (18) years of age by the closing date for applications;
  - 4.1.3 reside in the State or Territory of application for admission to the Scheme;
  - 4.1.4 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; and
  - 4.1.5 have experience in related Club or training activities, whether in DWD or another ANKC discipline.
- 4.2 A Member Body may approve an application 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 the relevant Member Body, 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 the relevant Member Body, trainees may be required to pass a preliminary theory examination based on Member Body 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:
  - 5.2.1 educate themselves by being conversant with the Member Body 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;
  - 5.2.2 unless otherwise approved by the relevant Member Body, attend at least 80% of lectures and practical training sessions conducted as part of the Dances with Dogs Judges Training Scheme;
  - 5.2.3 undertake practice judging at the relevant level under the supervision of an approved Trainer; a copy of the Judges Sheets completed during such practice judging must be forwarded to the Scheme Convener in accordance with the timelines specified by the Convener on behalf of the Member Body;
  - 5.2.4 undertake stewarding responsibilities at a minimum of three sanctioned Dances with Dogs competitions.

#### **6. PRACTICAL TRAINING SESSIONS**

- 6.1 Normally, at least three practical training sessions, each of at least three hours duration, will be conducted in each calendar year.
- 6.2 The Convener or Trainer will notify trainees of training times and venues at least ten 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:

- 6.3.1 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;
  - 6.3.2 provide feedback to trainees and be open to questions from trainees;
  - 6.3.3 sign trainees' Practical Training Form, including any comments or feedback. These forms are to be retained by the Scheme Convenor. Copies may be retained by the trainees.
- 6.4 Trainees must provide documentation of attendance at all Judges Training sessions which they have attended and all stewarding appointments.

## **7. APPLICATION FOR ELEVATION AS A DANCES WITH DOGS JUDGE**

- 7.1 A trainee who has completed the requirements of Section 6 may apply to undertake the prescribed theory and practical examinations for elevation as a Dances with Dogs Judge.
- 7.2 Assessment will be carried out in the following sequential order:
  - 7.2.1 written or oral theory examination;
  - 7.2.2 practical examination.

## **8. THEORY EXAMINATION**

- 8.1 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.
- 8.2 The examination will consist of a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 50 questions set by the Convenor.
- 8.3 To pass the theory examination a trainee must achieve minimum of 80% from the majority of the markers.
- 8.4 The Convenor or Trainer will provide feedback to the trainee on all examinations.
- 8.5 A trainee who has failed a theory examination may make a written request, addressed to the Convenor, within 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.

## **9. PRACTICAL EXAMINATION**

- 9.1 The practical examination will be assessed by at least three assessors appointed by the Panel to assess trainee Judges' practical examinations independently.
- 9.2 A trainee must have passed the theory examination before undertaking the practical examination.
- 9.3 The following are the requirements for a pass in the practical examination:
  - 9.3.1 A trainee must judge a minimum of 4 routines covering at least three class levels and both Freestyle and Heelwork to Music Divisions.

- 9.3.2 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.
- 9.3.3 Each assessor will individually make a recommendation as to whether the trainee has passed or failed.
- 9.3.4 A recommendation by the majority of assessors is required in order for the trainee to pass the practical assessment.
- 9.4 Assessment sheets will be completed and submitted to the Convenor on behalf of the relevant Member Body for written notification to the trainee of their results.

## **10. RE-ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 A trainee who fails the practical examination may apply for re-examination. The Member Body is not obligated to agree to a further examination and each case should be reviewed on its merits. Where a re-examination is approved, it should be conducted no earlier than three months or later than 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**

- 11.1 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 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 ANKC Ltd Regulations Part 2, Point 1.3 states:
  - 12.1.1 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 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 the Member Body. I further accept the Member Body 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.”
  - 12.1.2 Should a Member Body consider that either an applicant or a licensed Judge is unable to satisfy the requirements of Section 12.1.1, the Member Body has the right to:
    - 12.1.2.1 refuse the application;
    - 12.1.2.2 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;
    - 12.1.2.3 direct any Judge to undergo a medical “Fitness to Judge” examination by a nominated medical office; or
    - 12.1.2.4 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 the relevant Member Body.
- 13.2 The Convenor will organise and/or conduct at least two Judges Training sessions in each calendar year and give all licensed judges in the State/Territory prior notice of such sessions. Those training sessions should address theory as well as practical judging exercises.
- 13.3 In order to maintain their DWD judges licence, licensed Judges must, in one calendar year, have:
  - 13.3.1 judged at least one competition and have attended at least two Judges Training session, in exceptional circumstances, the Coordinator may approve substitution of two judging appointments or attendance at two Judges Training sessions for the above;
  - 13.3.2 paid the relevant annual Judge's licence fee.
- 13.4 The Member Body, upon written request, may, for cause shown, grant a licensed Judge leave of absence from judging/training requirements.
- 13.5 In the event that a Judge fails to fulfil this responsibility or to follow directions issued by the relevant Member Body, that Member Body may:
  - 13.5.1 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;
  - 13.5.2 direct any Judge within its jurisdiction to undergo additional training or counselling by the Judges Training Panel.

### **14. ANNUAL REPORT**

The Convenor will report to the relevant Member Body and/or to the Chair of the National Committee as required.