



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

REGULATIONS

PART 3N

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF SCENT WORK TRIALS JUDGES TRAINING SCHEME

Effective from 1st July 2024

Amended
April 2024
June 2021
April 2024

REGULATIONS FOR THE CONDUCT OF SCENT WORK TRIALS

JUDGES TRAINING SCHEME

1 OVERVIEW

- 1.1 Responsibility for the accreditation of Scent Work Judges rests with the relevant Dogs Australia Member Body through its Scent Work Sub-Committee.
- 1.2 Trainee Judges will be assessed for the following Classes:
 - a. Novice and Advanced
 - b. Excellent and Master
 - c. Ultimate.

Current Judges holding a Scent Work Master Judge's licence will be eligible to seek elevation to judge the new Ultimate Class when the revised Scent Work Rules come into effect on 1 July 2024.

The Approval Authority will approve this elevation subject to the Judge satisfying Member Body requirements for displaying an appropriate level of knowledge, understanding and experience to judge the Ultimate Class.

2 DEFINITIONS

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

"Accreditation": All processes associated with the application for acceptance as a trainee Scent Work judge including training, testing and assessment of trainee Judges, and approval of their elevation as a Dogs Australia accredited Scent Work Judge.

"Applicant": A person who has applied for admission to undertake Scent Work Judges Training.

"Approval Authority": The relevant Member Body.

"Coordinator": The Scent Work Judge appointed by the Judges Training Panel to undertake and/or supervise training of a trainee(s).

"Dogs Australia Ltd Member Body" or "Member Body": The Dogs Australia Member Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

"Judges Training Panel" and "Panel": A panel of at least three Scent Work Judges appointed by the Approval Authority.

"Judges Training Scheme" and "Scheme": The program of training and assessment for accreditation of Scent Work Judges.

"Trainee": A person who has been accepted to undertake Scent Work Judges Training.

3 APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION AS A TRAINEE

- 3.1 Applications for admission as a trainee Judge shall be made to the Approval Authority.
- 3.2 An application for admission as a trainee must be made on the required application form by the date specified by the Approval Authority. An Approval Authority has the right to seek verification of any information provided by the applicant.

4 ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Scent Work Judge

An applicant must:

- (a) have been a member of a Member Body for at least three (3) years prior to the application and be a current member of the relevant Member Body
- (b) be over eighteen (18) years of age by the closing date for applications
- (c) reside in the State or Territory of application for admission to the Scheme
- (d) have trained and competed with a dog to the Scent Work Excellent Class, and
- (e) have experience in related Affiliate or training activities, whether in Scent Work or another Dogs Australia discipline.

4.4 The Approval Authority 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.

4.5 Subject to the agreement of both the applicant and the Approval Authority, a person may be approved for admission to a Scent Work Judges Training Scheme conducted in a geographic location more convenient to the applicant.

5 TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

5.1 At the discretion of the relevant Approval Authority, 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 Scent Work Trials prior to commencing or while undertaking the Judges Training Scheme.

Trainees will be required to:

- (a) educate themselves. This includes being conversant with the latest Dogs Australia and Member Body Rules and Regulations relevant to Scent Work trials and through attendance at lectures and/or self education
- (b) attend at least 80% of lectures and practical training sessions conducted as part of the Scent Work Judges Training Scheme, unless otherwise approved by the relevant Approval Authority
- (c) practice judging in the relevant Class(es) under the supervision of an approved Coordinator. A copy of the completed Judge's Sheets from the practice judging sessions must be forwarded to the Coordinator in accordance with the timeframes specified by the Coordinator on behalf of the Member Body
- (d) undertake stewarding or time keeping responsibilities at a minimum of three (3) sanctioned Scent Work trials.

5.2 A Coordinator must:

- (a) supervise trainees in all required aspects of performance in Scent Work trials. Sessions may include judging from DVDs or other electronic resources and/or live searches
- (b) provide feedback to trainees and answer any questions from trainees

- (c) sign trainees' Practical Training Forms, including any comments or feedback. These forms are to be retained by the Coordinator. Copies may also be retained by the trainees.

5.3 Trainees must provide documentation of attendance at all Judges Training sessions which they have attended and all stewarding/time-keeping appointments.

6 APPLICATION FOR ELEVATION AS A SCENT WORK JUDGE

6.1 A trainee who has completed the requirements of Section 5 may apply to undertake the prescribed theory and practical examinations for elevation as a Scent Work Judge.

6.2 Assessment will be carried out in both:

- (a) written or oral theory examination, and
- (b) practical examination.

6.3 The Coordinator will provide feedback to the trainee on all examinations.

7.4 The Coordinator will notify the Approval Authority of the results of all examinations and applications for elevation as a Scent Work Judge.

7 THEORY EXAMINATION

7.1 All theory examination papers will be set by the Approval Authority and will consist of a minimum of 25 and a maximum of 50 questions.

7.2 The theory examination may be in either written or oral format as prescribed by the Coordinator. It is to be marked independently by a minimum of three members of the Judges Training Panel and/or Scent Work Judges appointed by the Panel as examiners to mark examination papers.

8.3 To pass the theory examination a trainee must achieve a minimum of 80%.

8.4 A trainee who has failed a theory examination may submit a written request to the Approval Authority within fourteen (14) days of the advice of the theory examination results, for their paper to be reviewed. A panel of three (3) different markers appointed by the Judges Training Panel will independently remark the theory paper.

8 PRACTICAL EXAMINATION

8.1 The practical examination will be assessed by at least three (3) assessors appointed by the Panel to independently assess a trainee Judge's practical examination.

8.2 The following are the requirements for a pass in the practical examination:

- (a) a trainee must judge a minimum of four (4) searching teams in three (3) Elements in the Classes being assessed in the Odour Search Division
- (b) at the assessors' discretion, a trainee may be asked to judge additional dog(s) or to judge from electronic resources if there are no dogs available for a particular Class
- (c) each assessor will individually make a recommendation as to whether the trainee has passed or failed
- (d) for the trainee to pass the practical examination, a positive recommendation from the majority of assessors is required.

8.3 Assessment sheets will be completed and submitted to the Coordinator.

9 RE-ASSESSMENT

9.1 A trainee who fails the practical examination may apply to the Approval Authority for re-examination. The Approval Authority is not obliged to agree to a further examination and each case should be reviewed on its merits.

9.2 Where a re-examination is approved, it should be conducted no earlier than three (3) months and no later than six (6) months following the original practical examination. It should be undertaken at a time mutually agreed by the Coordinator 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.

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 (that is, neat, sensible clothes, appropriate footwear, no open-toed sandals, thongs etc) when undertaking practice judging.

10.2 However, the practical examination is a formal occasion and must be treated in the same manner as a sanctioned Scent Work trial. As such, trainees must display an appropriate form of dress befitting a Dogs Australia official at such an event and they will be marked accordingly.

11 FITNESS TO JUDGE

11.1 Dogs Australia Regulations Part 2, Clause 1.3 states:

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 Approval Authority. I further accept the Approval Authority 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."

11.2 Should the Approval Authority consider that either an applicant or a licensed Judge is unable to satisfy the requirements of Section 11.1, the Approval Authority 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, and/or
- (d) grant in part only an application for renewal of a 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 determined by Dogs Australia and the relevant Member Body.
- 12.2 In order to maintain their Scent Work Judges licence, licensed Judges must annually:
- (a) judge at a minimum of one (1) trial and have attended at least two (2) professional development sessions. In exceptional circumstances, the Coordinator may approve substitution of two (2) judging appointments or attendance at two (2) professional development sessions for the above
 - (b) pay the Member Body's annual judge's licence fee.
- 12.3 The Approval Authority, upon written request, may for cause shown, grant a licensed Judge leave of absence from judging/training requirements.
- 12.4 In the event a Judge fails to fulfil these responsibilities or to follow directions issued by the relevant Approval Authority, the Approval Authority 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.

13 ANNUAL REPORT

The Coordinator will report to Dogs Australia and to their Member Body as required.