



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

REGULATIONS

FOR TRAINING OF BALE SEEK JUDGES

Effective
1 January 2026

1. GENERAL

- 1.1 These regulations are produced in accordance with appropriate Dogs Australia Directives and the Rules of the Member Body and will be amended from time to time.
- 1.2 Members are reminded that membership confers no automatic “right” to become a Judge; appointment as a Judge is a privilege to be earned.
- 1.3 Members are not permitted to accept judging appointments or sign contracts to judge until receipt of an official notification of appointment or elevation, as the case may be.
- 1.4 Applications from persons wishing to become a Bale Seek Judge or seeking elevation in such status are to be made on the prescribed form and submitted to the State Controlling Body. The form to be fully completed.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 Terms used in these Regulations are defined below:
 - 2.1.1 **Aspiring Judge** – A person who has submitted an application to enter the Training Scheme for Bale Seek Judges.
 - 2.1.2 **Trainee Judge** – A person who has been approved by the Controlling Body to be on the training scheme for Bale Seek Judges.
 - 2.1.3 **Bale Seek Judge** – A person who is qualified to judge Bale Seek Trials at Instinct, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Master Levels.
 - 2.1.4 **Member Body** – the Dogs Australia Member Body in each State and Territory of Australia.
 - 2.1.5 **Coordinator** – the Bale Seek Judge appointed by the Member Body Judges Training Panel to undertake and/or supervise training of Bale Seek Judges.

3. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR ASPIRING TRAINEE BALE SEEK JUDGES

- 3.1 Applicants for entry to the training programme for Bale Seek Judges must meet the following requirements:
 - 3.1.1 Applications for admission as an Aspiring Bale Seek Judge shall be made to the Member Body.
 - 3.1.2 Be a current financial Ordinary Member of a Dogs Australia Member Body with a minimum of one (1) year membership prior to the application.
 - 3.1.3 Reside in the State or Territory of application for admission to the scheme.
 - 3.1.4 The applicant must be twenty one years of age at the time of making application to become a Trainee Bale Seek Judge.
 - 3.1.5 The applicant must have gained a Bale Seek Novice or higher title on at least one dog owned and trained by them in Bale Seek Tests, prior to submitting the application.

4. TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAINEE BALE SEEK JUDGES

- 4.1 The Trainee Bale Seek judge must complete the following training before being able to apply to sit the written examination or do a practical exam.
 - 4.1.1 Attend a Bale Seek Workshop.
 - 4.1.2 Judge at least twenty (20) dogs across two (2) Fun Trials or Training days in at least the Instinct and Novice levels.

- 4.1.3 Apprentice twice with a Bale Seek Judge at two (2) Fun Trials or official trials that include at least one Advanced level class.
- 4.1.4 Act as a Tube Mover for two (2) hours minimum through at least two (2) different Bale Seek levels at Intermediate or above of which one needs to be at the Advanced level at Fun Trial days or official trials.
- 4.1.5 Assist in Building courses through to the Advanced level at a minimum of two (2) Fun Trials or official trials.
- 4.1.6 Upon completion of training requirements for Trainee Bale Seek Judges, the Trainee Judge may make application to their Member Body to sit the written exam and do a practical examination.

5. **WRITTEN EXAMINATION**

- 5.1 All examination papers will be set by the Dogs Australia National Bale Seek Committee and shall be uniform across Australia.
- 5.2 The minimum pass for such examination shall be eighty percent (80%).
- 5.3 The Trainee will sit a written, open-book test on the Bale Seek rules which consists of multiple-choice questions. There will be a minimum of 80 questions, and a maximum of 100 questions.
- 5.3 The results of all examinations and applications will be advised through the Office of the Member Body.
- 5.4 A trainee who has failed a theory examination may submit a written request to their Member Body within fourteen (14) days of the advice of the theory examination results, for their paper to be reviewed. A panel of two (2) different markers appointed by the Judges Training Panel will independently remark the theory paper.
- 5.5 A trainee may resit the theory exam a minimum of 14 days after a failed exam.

6. **PRACTICAL EXAMINATION**

- 6.1 The Trainee will be assessed at a Practical Exam on the levels applied for.
 - 6.1.1 The practical examination will be assessed by at least two (2) assessors appointed to assess a trainee Judges' practical examination, with each assessor individually making a recommendation of a pass or fail.
 - 6.1.2 Assessment sheets must be completed and submitted to the Coordinator.
 - 6.1.3 For the practical exam the Trainee will need to have their own prepared course maps and guide the bale course builders to set up the course configurations as per the levels being tested and explain why the bales are set in certain ways.
 - 6.1.4 During the Practical Exam the Trainee will be assessed on judging a minimum of two (2) dogs per the levels applied for.
 - 6.1.5 Candidates will qualify in a two-tiered process.
 - 6.1.5.1 The first tier will approve judging the levels of Instinct, Novice, Intermediate, and Veteran.
 - 6.1.5.2 The second tier will approve judging the levels of Advanced, Master, and Super Seven Snuffle provided the Judge Candidate is observed judging a minimum of ten (10) dogs in the Advanced level, ten (10) dogs at the Master level, and five (5) dogs in the Super Seven Snuffle class at one or

more Trials. Once those assignments are completed the Judge Candidate can apply for elevation to a fully approved Bale Seek Judge.

- 6.1.6 To gain elevation to the final two (2) class levels as a **full panel Bale Seek Judge** requires:
 - 6.1.6.1 a minimum of two (2) appointments at Bale Seek Trials as a first tier Judge.
 - 6.1.6.2 be observed (by a full panel Bale Seek Judge or other Performance Judge who has attended a Bale Seek workshop) supervising your own course maps being used to build the Advanced and Master levels at one or more Bale Seek Trials.
 - 6.1.6.3 be observed judging (by a full panel Bale Seek Judge or other Performance Judge who has attended a Bale Seek workshop) a minimum of ten (10) dogs in the Advanced level, ten (10) dogs in the Master level, and five (5) dogs in Super Seven Snuffle class at one or more Bale Seek Trials.
 - 6.1.6.4 have owned, trained and titled a dog to a minimum of Bale Seek Intermediate (BHI) title.
- 6.1.7 The results of all examinations and applications will be advised through the Office of the Member Body.

7. FOUNDATION JUDGES

- 7.1 As a new discipline, it is proposed that Foundation Judges be established in participating Member Bodies.
- 7.2 The number of Foundation Judges be limited to a maximum of six (6) in a Member body.
- 7.3 Once there are six (6) qualified Bale Seek Judges in a Member Body, Section 7 Foundation Judges in these Regulations will cease to apply.
- 7.4 Priority will be given to current Performance Judges, such as those who judge Scent Work, Earthdog, Agility, Trick Dog and Obedience.
- 7.5 Must have owned and/or handled and trained at least one dog to a title in any performance discipline.
- 7.6 Applicants for a Foundation Judge to become an Aspiring Bale Seek Judge must meet the requirements in Section 3 with the exception of 3.1.5.
- 7.7 Trainee Bale Seek Foundation Judges follow all training Regulations with the exception of 4.1.3.