

DOGS TASMANIA
SCENT WORK
JUDGES TRAINING SCHEME

DRAFT

1. OVERVIEW

- 1.1. From 1st July 2021, Australian National Kennel Council Ltd (ANKC) Member Bodies have been responsible for the Training, Testing, Assessment and Maintenance of Scent Work Judging licences.
- 1.2. Dogs Tasmania will assess Judges in the following sequential order:
 1. Novice and Advanced
 2. Excellent and Master
 3. Ultimate Level.
- 1.3. No more than two Scent Work licences may be applied for in the same year.
- 1.4. Trainees are required to pass a written/oral examination prior to attempting a practical assessment. The written/oral examination is based on ANKC Rules pertaining to the classes being trained for, as well as Dogs Tasmania Regulations and general requirements of the Rule Book for the Conduct of Scent Work Trials.
- 1.5. If an ANKC Member Body requires a higher standard than the ANKC Minimum Standards, the ANKC Member Body's Regulation/s will take precedence over the ANKC Minimum Standard/s.

2. APPLICATION

- 2.1 Application for admission to the Scent Work Judges Training Scheme as a trainee judge must be made to Dogs Tasmania by 31 December for the following year.
- 2.2 Applications should include evidence that the relevant training, stewarding, and for applicants for Excellent and Masters and Ultimate, judging requirements have been fulfilled.

3. ELIGIBILITY

- 3.1 The Applicant must:
 - 3.1.1 Be a member of an ANKC Member Body for a period of not less than three (3) years prior to the application
 - 3.1.2 Be a current financial member of Dogs Tasmania;
 - 3.1.3 Be over eighteen (18) years of age; and
 - 3.1.4 Reside in the State of Tasmania
- 3.2 Trainees are expected to attend all lectures and practical training sessions as approved by Dogs Tasmania. Trainees will also be required to educate themselves by studying the Rules for the Conduct of Scent Work Trials.
- 3.3 To be eligible to apply for the:

3.3.1 NOVICE and ADVANCED LEVEL JUDGING LICENCES

- The applicant must have personally trained and trialed a dog to a Scent Work Advanced Title.
- The applicant must have at least 3 years experience in scent work training/education/coaching with a wide range of dogs of different breed/type and size., and
- The applicant must have stewarded at a minimum of 2 Scent Work trials.

3.3.2 EXCELLENT and MASTER LEVEL JUDGING LICENCES

- The applicant must have personally trained and trialed a dog to a Scent Work Excellent level;
- The applicant must have stewarded at least three Excellent and three Masters elements at a minimum of 2 Scent Work trials
- The applicant must have judged at least two Novice and two Advanced classes at a minimum of two Scent Work trials.

3.3.3 ULTIMATE LEVEL JUDGING LICENCE

- The applicant must have personally trained and trialed a dog to a Scent Work Masters eligibility level:
- The applicant must have stewarded in Ultimate level in at least one Scent Work trial.
- The applicant must have judged at least three Excellent and three Masters elements at a minimum of 2 Scent Work Trials.

3.3.4 The requirements listed above should generally have been completed prior to commencing the program, however consideration may be given if some of the requirements will be completed during the year of the program.

3.3.5 Licences must be applied for sequentially i.e. Novice/Advanced, Excellent/Master and Ultimate in that order. Each licence will be granted when judging appointments for that licence are completed.

4. METHOD OF EDUCATION (SELF EDUCATION)

- 4.1 Trainees must be conversant with the ANKC Member Body Rules and Regulations relevant to Scent Work trialling and the Rules for the Conduct of Scent Work Trials.
- 4.2 Trainees must attend all lectures and practical training sessions.
- 4.3 The trainee will arrange for a Trainer/s (mentor) to observe their judging and assess their performance at practical training sessions at the relevant levels.

5. PRACTICAL TRAINING SESSIONS

- 5.1 Training/mentors will be appointed by the Scent Work Committee to the Judges Training and Assessment Panel.
- 5.2 To maximise the desired educational experience, practical training sessions should be done over a period of time. During the training period, all elements and classes in the relevant level should be judged at least once. At least three dogs shall be judged at any individual training session, and across the practical sessions a range of different dog/handler teams should be judged.

- 5.3 The trainee must complete a *Search Evaluation* form for every search judged in the Practical Training session and forward it to the Trainer/Mentor for feedback within 72 hours of the session.
- 5.4 The Trainer/mentor must;
- 5.4.1 Supervise the trainees in all the required aspects of performance in Scent Work trials.
 - 5.4.2 Provide feedback to trainees and be open to questions from trainees
 - 5.4.3 Review the Trainee's *Search Evaluations* and complete the *Supervisor Report – Practical Assessment* form.
- 5.5 A copy of the completed Search Evaluations, Judges Sheet and Supervisors Report is to be forwarded to the Judges Training Co-ordinator within seven (7) days of each practical training session.
- 5.6 The Trainee should maintain a logbook to record achievement of goals including:
- attendance at lectures,
 - details of relevant practical training, including search evaluations and supervisor reports, signed by the trainers/mentors
 - details of stewarding appointments, including sign-off by the supervising judge on the day
 - written assessment results
 - practical assessment results.
- 5.7 In addition to completing required practical assessments, trainees working towards a Novice/Advanced level licence must shadow an experienced judge for a full day's judging at an official trial.

6. APPLICATION FOR ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Applicants may apply for a combination of Novice and Advanced in the same year, and the Excellent and Master levels may be completed no earlier than one year later.

They shall provide a minimum of:

6.2 Novice and Advanced Classes

- 6.2.1 Documentation of at least 3 Practical Judges Training sessions under at least two different mentors.
- 6.2.2 Details, including Affiliate and date, of two Novice and Advanced stewarding appointments at sanctioned Scent Work trials.
- 6.2.3 Details, including Affiliate, Judge and Date, of a full day spent shadowing an experienced judge at a sanctioned Scent Work trial.

6.3 Excellent and Master Classes

- 6.3.1 Documentation of at least 3 Practical Judges Training sessions under at least two different mentors.

- 6.3.2 Details, including Affiliate and date, of 2 Novice and Advanced Judging appointments
- 6.3.3 Details of 2 Excellent or Masters stewarding appointments at sanctioned Scent Work trials.
- 6.4 **Ultimate Class**
 - 6.4.1 Documentation of at least one Practical Judges Training Session with two mentors present.
 - 6.4.2 Details, including Affiliate and date, of two Excellent or Masters judging appointments at Scent Work trials.

7. THEORY EXAMINATION

- 7.1 The theory examination will be in written format and is marked by three members of the Training and Assessment Panel. In special circumstances, an oral exam may be approved.
- 7.2 the Scent Work theory examination shall comprise two sections;
 - 7.2.1 Questions as set by the ANKC Member Body for the relevant class and relevant Dogs Tasmania Regulations. (Part A)
 - 7.2.2 Principal features of Scent Work (Part B)
- 7.3 To pass the theory examination a trainee must achieve a minimum of 80%
- 7.4 A Trainee who has failed a theory examination may make a written request to the Scent Work Committee, within 14 days of the advice of the results, for their paper to be reviewed. A panel of examiners from another State will be requested to conduct the review.

8. PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT

- 8.1 The Trainee must pass the written examination and satisfactorily complete all practical training sessions in order to undertake the Practical Assessment.
- 8.2 The following are the requirements for a pass in the Practical Assessment:
 - 8.2.1 Trainees must judge a minimum of three (3) dog/handler teams in each of the four (4) elements across the relevant class levels
 - 8.2.2 At the assessor's discretion, the trainee may be asked to judge additional dogs;
 - 8.2.3 At least three assessors from the Training and Assessment Panel will assess each trainee;
 - 8.2.4 Each assessor will individually make a recommendation as to whether the trainee has passed or failed;
 - 8.2.5 A recommendation by the majority of assessors is required to pass the practical assessment.
- 8.3 Assessment sheets will be completed and submitted to Dogs Tasmania for written notification to the trainee of their results.

9. RE – ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 Trainees who do not pass the practical assessment may apply for re-assessment. Dogs Tasmania is not obliged to automatically agree to a re-assessment and each case will be reviewed on its merits.
- 9.2 Where re-examination is approved, it should be conducted no earlier than three months or later than six months following the original assessment. The Training and Assessment 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 assessment, they should meet generally acceptable standards (i.e. neat, sensible clothes, appropriate footwear etc.) when undertaking practice judging. However, the Practical Assessment is a formal occasion and must be treated in the same manner as a sanctioned Scent Work 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 Regulations Part 2, Point 1.3 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 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 Dogs Tasmania. I further accept that Dogs Tasmania 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 Dogs Tasmania consider that either an applicant or a licensed judge is unable to meet 11.1.1, Dogs Tasmania 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 officer; 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 and Dogs Tasmania.
- 12.2 In order to maintain their Scent Work Judges license, judges must, in each calendar year, have:
 - 12.2.1 Judged at least one trial and have attended at least one relevant professional development session. In exceptional circumstances, the Scent Work Committee may approve substitution of two judging appointments or attendance at two relevant training and development sessions for the above.
 - 12.2.2 Paid the relevant annual judge's licence fee.
- 12.3 In the event that a judge fails to fulfil this responsibility or to follow directions issued by Dogs Tasmania:
 - 12.3.1 Dogs Tasmania may refuse to grant any renewal of licence or may cancel or suspend for any period or vary in any way, any licence already granted.
 - 12.3.2 Dogs Tasmania may direct any Judge within its jurisdiction to undergo additional training or counselling by the Judges Training Panel

Scent Work Training and Assessment Panel - 2025

Trish Brown	0456 729 593
Emily Drysdale	0404 886 043
Pat Hallam (Assessor)	0429 420 358

Judges Training Coordinator

Trish Brown	0456 729 593
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Practical Training Mentors

Vicki Cleaver	0400 089 867
Emma Smyth	0408 520 654
Trish Brown	0456 729 593
Emily Drysdale	0404 886 043
Lisa Farrall	0450 603 695

Mentors must be chosen in consultation with the Judges Training Coordinator, the mentors and the trainee.

At least two different mentors must supervise practical training sessions during the training period.