



**CONFORMATION
JUDGES TRAINING
REGULATIONS
&
EXAMINATION
PROGRAM**

1st January – 31st December 2026

Judges' Code of Practice and Conduct

**Amended
February
2020**

1. A Judge shall act with professional decorum at all times.
2. A Judge shall give every exhibit and exhibitor fair and equal opportunity in each and every class.
3. A Judge shall act in a polite manner whilst carrying out each judging assignment.
4. A Judge shall present himself/herself in attire that is acceptable, appropriate and comfortable for each judging assignment. Footwear appropriate to the discipline shall be worn. **(10/18)**
5. A Judge is required to be punctual in availability to fulfil their judging assignment.
6. If in the judging procedures an exhibit displays an obvious physical impediment or is unable to be handled or can be regarded as savage or vicious the exhibit should be excused from the competition, in accordance with the Dogs Australia Member Body rules/regulations.
7. A Judge shall not enter or exhibit any dog at any Conformation Show at which he or she is appointed to judge.
8. Should an exhibitor offer information to the Judge that may be regarded as designed to influence the Judge, the Judge shall excuse the exhibitor and their exhibit from competition and report the incident in accordance with the Dogs Australia Member Body rules/regulations.
9. Should a Judge be approached to favour or disfavour a particular exhibit the matter is to be reported to the Administrator of the Dogs Australia Member Body.
10. Should a Judge be approached with an inducement and/or bribe to advantage or disadvantage an exhibit the Judge is to report the matter in writing to the Administrator of the Dogs Australia Member Body.
11. A Judge shall not solicit a judging appointment.
12. A Judge shall not solicit or seek entry of any particular dog or dogs.

13. A Judge shall not allow entries for a Conformation Show at which that person is judging to be received at the Judge's address.
14. A Judge shall complete all the requirements of the judging contract promptly. Any verbal acceptance of an assignment by a Judge shall be subject to the receipt of the contract within fourteen (14) days.
15. At the time of completing a contract the Judge shall inform the inviting body of any disability or limitation that could restrict carrying out in full the reasonable handling of all exhibits to be judged.
16. A Judge must not duplicate assignments in the same breeds and or group within a minimum of 3 months of each other and within a minimum of 200 kilometers at Championship Shows. **(10/97), (02/15), (10/15)**. Note: This will not apply to Neuter only shows. **(Note added 02/20)**
17. A Judge shall honour each contract and will not be free to accept an alternative contract that will effect his or her availability to fulfil the original contract except with the written dispensation of the contracting Club. **(05/98)**
18. Accommodation provided to the Judge to fulfil an assignment is for the Judge only except where prior mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body for variation.
19. A Judge shall be responsible for the cost of all personal telephone calls, alcoholic beverages and any personal laundering except where mutual agreement has been reached with the sponsoring body at the time the contract is accepted.
20. A Judge who withdraws from any contracted appointment for any reason shall not be permitted to judge at any other canine event wherever held on any date that would prevent him/her from attending the originally contracted event, unless dispensation has been granted in accordance with Clause 17. **(05/98)**
21. Judges must not smoke nor drink alcohol in the ring.
22. Judges shall not criticise by act or word the work of other judges, nor offer criticism of any previously judged dog(s) to anyone including other officiating judges during the course of the show. Except for authorised ringside mentoring.
- 23. All judges must judge exhibits in accordance with their relevant Dogs Australia breed standard. (10/16)**

Conformation Judges Training Scheme

CALENDAR

12 Dec 2025	Closing date for application to join the Conformation Judges Training Scheme for the 2025 training year.
08 Jan 2026	Group Theory Open Show Examinations issued for Trainee Judges Open Book (pass mark is 90%).
15 Jan 2026	Open Show examinations to be returned completed
4 Mar 2026	All requirements to sit for Sub Group 1 Theory Exam to be submitted and approved by Co-Ordinator
18 Mar 2026	Sub-Group 1 Theory Exam
27 Mar 2026	Last day to lodge objection to assessor (10.10)
23 May 2026	Closing date for applications to Join the Conformation Judges Training Scheme 2026 for first time Candidates
Jun – Oct 2026	First time candidate induction course
6 May 2026	All requirements to sit for Sub Group 2 Theory Exam to be submitted and approved by Co-Ordinator
20 May 2026	Sub-Group 2 Theory Exam
8 July 2026	All requirements to sit for Sub Group 3 Theory Exam to be submitted and approved by Co-Ordinator
22 July 2026	Sub-Group 3 Theory Exam
2 Sept 2026	All requirements to sit for Sub Group 4 Theory Exam to be submitted and approved by Co-Ordinator
16 Sept 2026	Sub-Group 4 Theory Exam
21 Oct 2026	2025 Entrance Theory Examinations (pass mark 75%) (First time Candidates)
14 Nov 2026	All requirements to sit for the Practical Examination must be completed and approved by the Co-ordinator
14 Nov 2026	Last day to handle/examine dogs.
28 & 29 Nov 2026	Practical Examination
30 Nov 2026	noon Closure for appeal re practical examination (12.2)
11 Dec 2026	Applications close for 2027 Training Year

The qualifying requirements for each examination are set out in this Manual.

Trainees shall submit their records electronically to the Group Co-ordinator with a copy being sent to the Tas Dogs Office (e-mail admin@tasdogs.com). The group Co-ordinator will advise the candidate electronically whether the assignment etc is satisfactory with a copy of that advice being sent to the Tas Dogs Office.

Candidates are reminded that all fees due must be paid prior to sitting any examination.

The fees for 2026 are:

Entrance fee for theory content of \$412.00 with a \$50.00 discount if the account is paid by 01 March 2026. Payments can also be made in instalments of \$103.00 01 March, 01 April, 01 May and 01 June 2026. Candidates who default on a payment will be excluded from of the scheme. Candidates who have previously failed the practical examination are liable to pay the full entrance fee to rejoin the training scheme. Instalments must be finalised by 1 Apr 2026.

The practical examination fee of \$230.00 for those eligible to sit the practical examination must be paid by 3 Nov 2026

Theory Examination Dates:

Trainee Judges must familiarise themselves with the theory Sub Group Examination dates.

Practical Examinations:

Trainee judges must familiarise themselves with the Practical Examination dates. If a candidate is unable to attend the Practical Examination at the time and place designated by the TCA Inc, the candidate should not make application to enter the CJTS. (*Normally exemptions will not be granted for the Practical Examination, however depending upon the circumstances, an alternative arrangement may be considered by the Conformation Judges Training Committee subject to TCA Inc Council ratification*).

Trainee Judges Records:

Each Trainee must keep an authorised record of the number of dogs they have judged and stewarding hours they have completed; the CJTS Committee must verify these items before the Trainee Judge can sit Examinations. These records should be maintained in a manner so that all similar criteria are grouped together. (All stewarding together etc.)

This Manual is to be read in conjunction with the TCA Inc Regulations.

The TCA Inc Council in consultation with the Chairman of the Conformation Judges Training Committee will determine any issue not covered in this manual.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LIMITED CONFORMATION JUDGES TRAINING PROGRAM

This Program is designed to assist members of Dogs Tasmania to become Championship Show Judges by graduating through specific stages of training applicable to levels known as Aspiring Judge and Trainee Judge.

1. Terminology

1.1 Dogs Tasmania the relevant authority in Tasmania

1.2 ANKC Australian National Kennel Council Ltd

1.3 CJTC Dogs Tasmania's Conformation Judges Training Committee

1.4 Judges Education Program

A Training Program for Conformation Judges conducted by Dogs Tasmania in accordance with the current ANKC Regulations and Dogs Tasmania's Supplementary Regulations at the time of the commencement of the Program. **(Added 10/11)**

1.5 Enrolment Form A form approved by Dogs Tasmania to be completed by the Aspiring and/or Trainee Judge which clearly indicates the date and time that the enrolment form is to be in the hands of Dogs Tasmania as well as the applicable enrolment fee.

1.6 Aspiring Judge A person accepted into the Judges Education Program, for their 1st Group or single breed, but not yet qualified to judge the relevant Breeds or Groups at any fixture.

1.7 Trainee Judge A person having fulfilled the Aspiring Judge's syllabus and passed the relevant examinations is qualified to enter the Trainee Judge's phase of the Education Program and must demonstrate a history of ongoing commitment to dog showing through serving on the Committee of an affiliate. This commitment is to continue for the whole of each training year.

1.8 ANKC Championship Show Judge

A person who has successfully completed the required Trainee Judge Theory and Practical Examinations and, is qualified to apply to be elevated to ANKC status whereby they may then judge individual breeds and/or one or more Groups for which they are qualified at Championship Shows conducted anywhere in Australia and Overseas. **(Amended 10/12 - 7.4.1)**

1.9.1 Accredited Assessor A person licensed as a Judge by ANKC who complies with Section 8 of these Regulations.

1.9.2 Group Co-ordinator must be must be an accredited assessor for that Group. The Group Co-ordinator shall provide a structured program for each sub-group for the whole training year by 1st February each year.

1.10 Mentor An ANKC Championship Show Judge who has completed the ANKC Assessor Accreditation Program as outlined in Section 8.1 of these regulations.

1.11 Learning modules Refer 6.1.1, 6.1.2, 6.1.3 6.1.4 and 6.1.5

1.12 Clerk of Examinations A person approved by Dogs Tasmania to oversee all aspects of the Theory and/or Practical Examinations and any other matters pertaining to examinations as determined by the TCA Inc. Council. **(Amended 10/09, 7.1)**

1.13 Eligibility to Judge No person can judge a Group or breed at any TCA Inc sanctioned fixture for which they are not a Trainee Judge without the approval of the TCA Inc Council.

1.14 Judging Outside Tasmania Trainee Judges invited to judge at Open Shows, Parades, Sweepstakes or any other competition they are licensed to judge by an affiliate, of an ANKC Member Body or an ANKC recognised overseas body, must obtain approval from the TCA Inc Council.

1.15 Judging Panels Championship Panel consists of all Championship Show Judges.

Trainee Judges Panel consists of all Trainee Judges who have been approved to Judge Groups or Breeds at sanctioned fixtures.

1.16 Sanctioned Fixtures are as described below.

1.16.1 Competitions

Fixtures that may only be judged by Trainee Judges but are not classed as either a Parade or an Open Show.

1.16.2 Parades

Fixtures at which no Challenge Points are awarded, where Champions are not permitted to compete and may only be judged by Trainee Judges. But may be judged by Championship Show judges where no trainees are available.

1.16.3 Open Shows

Fixtures at which no Challenge Points are awarded, but Champions may be exhibited, and may only be judged by Trainee Judges. But may be judged by Championship Show judges where no trainees are available.

1.16.4A Mock Practical Examination

An event organised by the Conformation Judges Training Committee where Groups or Breeds of dogs will be assessed under Examination conditions, the numbers assessed will count towards the Trainee's numbers.

At least one ANKC Accredited Assessor (A minimum of 2 assessors is suggested) with a Championship Show Licence for the Group will discuss confidentially the merits of the dogs in the ring with the Trainee following the same format as the Practical Examination.

The number of dogs judged will count towards the Trainee Judges numbers. Candidates will judge 4-5 dogs being of a single breed or mixed breeds from that Group There will be **one compulsory mock practical exam during the training year for candidates aspiring to their first Championship Show Group Licence to be completed by the date shown in the Calendar included in this Manual.**

Candidates with the approval of their Co-ordinator may arrange further mock practical exams.

1.16.4B Mock Theory Examination

Group Co-ordinations shall endeavour to arrange a Mock Theory examination for each sub group for candidates in that sub group in a format which resembles the proposed format of the actual examination.

1.16.5 Field Day/Kennel Visits

A sanctioned fixture organised by the Conformation Judges Training Scheme and approved by the Group Co-ordinator where Groups or Breeds of dogs are assessed to enhance the Trainee Judges knowledge of a Group or breeds of dogs, can include Kennel Visits with ten (10) dogs per visit to a maximum of twenty five (25) dogs to count towards a Trainee Judge's numbers. A licensed Judge for the Group must be in attendance and certify the number of dogs which have been examined.

1.16.6 Group/Breed Assessment

A sanctioned fixture conducted in conjunction with a Championship Show that may be judged by any Trainee Judge licensed for that Group. The number of dogs judged will count towards the Trainee Judges numbers.

The CJTC can stage a Group/Breed Assessment in conjunction with any Championship Show after obtaining permission from the club (prior to the day of the fixture) and providing the event does not interfere with the normal conduct of the show.

1.17 Distance Trainee

Trainee Judges who are considered by the CJTC to reside a distance from the normal venue for lectures and theory examinations, that would pose a travelling risk, may apply to study through Distance Training before the commencement of lectures. **Trainees must make application to be approved by the CJTC as a distance trainee.**

2. Method of Education

2.1 Self-Education: Trainee Judges will be required to educate themselves to examination standards by studying Breed Standards, ANKC approved Breed Standard Extensions where available, the ANKC Glossary of Canine Terms and other appropriate material, researching breeds and presenting their findings, attending appropriate Lectures, Seminars and Field Events as arranged by Dogs Tasmania CJTC or a Group Co-ordinators, writing critiques, visiting kennels, discussing breeds with breeders and exhibitors, attending Group and Breed Championship Shows and Stewarding, thereby acquiring as wide and as sound a knowledge as possible of the breed or breeds in the relevant Group. Education and Examinations will incorporate the principles of Competency Based Training and the use of Mentors or Accredited Assessors.

(a) The competencies, which Trainees will be expected to achieve through the program are:

- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the Breed Standards.
- Ability to identify characteristics in relation to the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Ability to recognise soundness in relation to the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Ability to use Breed specific language and apply it correctly in their description of the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Ability to approach and examine the exhibits correctly and appropriately for the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Ability to place the better dogs at the front of the class in the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Demonstrate control, organisation and effective use of the judging ring.
- Demonstrate an ability to make decisions in an effective way and in an efficient time frame.
- Demonstrate a practical knowledge of stewarding.
- Demonstrate an ability to understand and apply the Regulations relevant to dog judging. **(Amended 10/09 - 7.2)**

2.2 Dogs Tasmania Contribution. Dogs Tasmania shall assist by providing Lectures, Field Events, equipment, teaching aids and examinations. Forms should be downloaded electronically and maintained in book form (ring binder)

2.3 Record Keeping. Trainee Judges shall maintain their own records and submit signed originals of the applicable records when applying for an Examination. Any handwriting must be legible and records of separate criteria should be grouped together each on a separate page.

3. Teaching Aids and Materials

3.1 Regulations. As authorised by the ANKC Regulations and the Dogs Tasmania Regulations.

3.2 Anatomy. The Glossary of Terms as published by the ANKC shall be the references for Anatomy. Any examination questions will be based on this text.

3.3 Canine Terms. The Glossary of Terms as published by the ANKC. Any examination questions will be based on this text.

3.4 Breed Standards as approved by the ANKC. Any new breeds recognised by ANKC after the commencement of the training year will not be included in either the theory or practical examinations.

3.5 Extensions to Breed Standards as approved by the ANKC, where available must form the basis of all lectures, but must not be used as the basis in Theory examinations, excepting for a Single Breed theory examination.

3.6 Any other material as authorised by the ANKC from time to time.

3.7 There are many other reputable references available but candidates should note that all examinations will be based on the items mentioned in Part 3 – teaching Aids

4.1 Aspiring Judge Entrance Program (1st Group or Single Breed)

4.1.1 To enrol in the Program as an Aspiring Judge, a member must fulfil the following criteria:

4.1.1.1 be 18 years of age or over;

4.1.1.2 Have been a member of Dogs Tasmania for a minimum of eight (8) years during the ten (10) years immediately prior to the date of the application.

4.1.1.3 Have bred at least three (3) litters under their own or shared Prefix.

4.1.1.4 Have bred at least two (2) champions under their own or shared Prefix.

4.1.1.5 the application shall be for the Group or Breed in which the requirements of 4.1.1.3 and 4.1.1.4 above have been met or partially met. **(Amended 10/12 - 7.4.1)**

4.1.1.6 A Member must successfully complete training to become a steward in the two (2) years prior to applying to become an Aspiring Judge and have Stewarded for a minimum of twenty (20) hours in the twelve months prior to making application.

4.1.1.7 In the two years prior to enrolling, have successfully completed and have demonstrated a history of ongoing commitment to dog showing through the various aspect of the sport such as Show Management and other aspects of Affiliate and Show Administration. This commitment is to continue while ever a person is enrolled in the Judges Training Scheme.

4.1.1.8 Complete and submit the approved enrolment form which must include evidence of the criteria of 4.1.1.1 – 4.1.1.7 above and be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

4.2 Aspiring Judge Entrance Program (German Shepherd Dog as approved by GSDCA) Note: Dogs Tasmania is not in a position to offer a GSD Single Breed Program in 2026.

4.2.1 To enrol in the Program as an Aspiring Judge for the Single Breed of German Shepherd Dog, a member must fulfil the following criteria:

4.2.1.1 be 18 years of age or over;

4.2.1.2 Have been a member of Dogs Tasmania for a minimum of eight (8) years during the ten (10) years immediately prior to the date of the application.

4.2.1.3 Have bred at least five (5) litters under their own or shared Prefix.

4.2.1.4 Have bred at least five (5) animals under their own or shared Prefix that have received the GSDCA grading of Excellent in the conformation ring.

4.2.1.5 Have acted as a Steward on at least three (3) occasions at GSDCA Specialist judged events.

4.2.1.6 Have acted as a Steward on at least three (3) occasions at "All Breeds" or "Group 5" Shows.

4.2.1.7 In the previous two years prior to enrolling, have successfully completed and have demonstrated a history of ongoing commitment to dog showing through the various aspect of the sport such as Show Management and other aspects of Affiliate and Show Administration. This commitment is to continue for the duration of training.

4.2.1.8 Complete and submit the approved enrolment form which must include evidence of the criteria of 4.2.1.1 – 4.2.1.7 above and be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

5. Aspiring Judge Training Program

5.1 Once accepted into the Program, the applicant must attend all lectures and pass the Theory Examination on Regulations, Anatomy, Glossary of Terms, Judging Procedure and Show Management.

5.2 Successful completion of the training will qualify the Aspiring Judge to complete and submit the approved enrolment form, with the appropriate fee, for the Group Entrance Theory Examination on Breeds in the Group for which they are training.

There shall be no more than one (1) Group Entrance Examination per calendar year for Aspiring Judges.

5.3 A pass in the Entrance Theory Examination and the Group Open Show Examination will enable the Aspiring Judge to enter the Trainee Judge Program

6. Trainee Judge Program (1st and Subsequent Groups)

6.1 A Trainee Judge acknowledges, upon submitting a signed enrolment form to Dogs Tasmania to enrol into a new Judges Education Program, that upon approval of their application by Dogs Tasmania they are governed by the current ANKC Ltd Regulations and Dogs Tasmania's Supplementary Regulations operational at the time of their enrolment.

(Amended 10/11)

(a) To qualify for a Group Theory Examination in their first and subsequent Groups, the Trainee Judge must have passed the Group Open Show Examination and completed and met all of the requirements of Module 1 below and have submitted an enrolment form. **(Amended 10/10)**

(b) To qualify for a Group Practical Examination in their first and subsequent Groups, the Trainee Judge must have attained a pass in **all 4 parts of the** Group Theory Examination, completed the following Modules 2 and 3 and have submitted an enrolment form. **(Amended 10/10)**

(c) A Trainee Judge can only train for one (1) group initially. After passing their Initial group, a Trainee judge can train for no more than three (3) groups at any one time but may only undertake one (1) practical examination per year.

(d) A Trainee shall not be permitted to attempt more than (1) Theory Examination per Group in any Judges Education Program. **(Added 10/13 – 5.6.4)**

(e) A Trainee judge excluded from a group for 2 years in accordance with Section 9.4, may enrol for the theory component of another group. The trainee however may not attempt the practical examination for this group until they have successfully completed the practical examination of the group from which they were suspended.

6.1.1 Module 1. Breed Lectures / Field Events / Seminars

With the exception of Distance Trainee Judges, Trainee Judges must attend a lecture on every breed in the Group at least once within the previous 2 years before applying for a Theory Examination. Trainee Judges are encouraged to attend any other Field Days and Seminars arranged by Dogs Tasmania. **(Amended EAP 05/10, 10/10)**

The breed lecture series is to be run by the controlling body over a **minimum** 12 months period with a lecture for every breed in the group to be presented over that time. The breed lecture shall be conducted by a person/s considered suitable for that breed by group co-ordinator

(a) A Trainee Judge must be present for and participate in the entire lecture in order to be credited with attendance.

- (b) Should a Trainee judge miss any Breed Lecture, they must within 14 days, of the lecture, submit to Dogs Tasmania, a minimum one thousand (1,000) word essay on the Breeds dealt with in the missed lectures. Essays on a maximum of 25% of the breeds within the Group may be submitted over the period of the lecture series for missed lectures. **(Amended 10/10)**
- (c) In the event that a lecture for a particular breed is not offered, a written essay of a minimum one thousand word (1,000) word essay (as outlined in 6.1.5 [b]) on that breed will be required by the end of the Lecture Series. **(Amended 10/10)**
- (e) Failure to submit the essays, in accordance with 6.1.1 (b), (c) and (d), will render the Trainee ineligible to sit the Group Theory Examination in the current Training Program. **(Amended 10/10)**
- (f) The group co-ordinator will assess each assignment to ensure that it reaches a satisfactory standard. Where the co-ordinator assesses an assignment as unsatisfactory it shall be redone by the candidate so that it reaches a satisfactory standard. Failure to do so within the timetable framework will mean that the assignment will not be counted towards the candidates requirements.

6.1.2 Module 2. Practical Experience

Judge a minimum of fifty (50) dogs and additionally examine and critique a minimum fifty dogs (50) from the relevant Group. The breeds covered must be from, as wide a range as possible, but will include at least five (5) critiques from each of the five (5) Major Breeds as determined by the Member Body CJTC. This may be achieved by attending Field days or shows. All critiques to be countersigned on the day by a licensed judge for that breed who is not a Trainee Judge currently enrolled in the scheme and is, preferably, an Accredited Assessor, and who themselves examined the dogs critiqued. Critiques are only valid for 2 years.

Candidates are to submit 12-14 critiques which may include a maximum of five (5) full body photographs (per sub group) Group co-ordinators may nominate the photographs which are to be critiqued.

Judging may be in the form of hands on experience by placing dogs at open shows, sweepstakes or field days, but not at breed lectures. When a trainee judge judges an open show, parade or sweepstakes for the group to which they are aspiring, they shall complete critiques in the case of open shows and parades, the BIG, RUBIG, Puppy in Group and Baby Puppy in Group. In the case of sweepstakes, critiques for the first 4 placegetters shall be completed. These critiques must be submitted within fourteen (14) days of the event occurring. **(Amended 10/13 – 5.6.4) (Amended 10/14, 7.4.2)**

Approved Distance Trainees may complete the critiques by downloading photos of dogs approved by the co-ordinator. (Amended 10/10)

All critiques are to contain at least forty (40) words any may include a maximum of five (5)(per sub group) full body photographs.

6.1.3 Module 3 Breed/Group Specialty Show

Trainee Judges are to attend a minimum of one (1) Breed/Group Specialty Show for the Group or another show as set by Dogs Tasmania in each current training year. Trainees should not accept any stewarding appointments at shows they are attending to satisfy this requirement. A written critique on five (5) dogs examined at each event is to be submitted to Dogs Tasmania within fourteen (14) days of the event. The critique is to be countersigned by

a licensed judge(not a current trainee) for that Group present on the day and contain at least forty (40) words. Trainees in remote areas are to submit to Dogs Tasmania photos of five (5) dogs of five (5) specified breeds in the Group accompanied by critiques on each of the dogs. These may be obtained from the Internet These photos must be approved by the Group Co-ordinator. Mentors will be appointed (where possible) to countersign the critiques for the Trainees. **(Amended EM#076 - 02/14)**

6.1.4 Failure to complete any components of Modules 2 & 3, i.e. judge fifty (50) dogs and submission of the required number of critiques dated during the program for which the Trainee is enrolled will render the Trainee ineligible for a Practical examination. **(Amended 10/10, 10/12 - 7.4.1)**

6.1.5 Trainee Judges who are considered by Dogs Tasmania CJTC to reside a distance from the normal venue for lectures and theory examinations, that would pose a travelling risk, may apply to study through "Distance Training". This would involve a minimum 1,000 word essay, as set out in 6.1.1, as a substitute for any lecture not attended, and completion of Modules 2 and 3. As lectures may be held anywhere within the State all candidates who live more than 100k from the site of the lecture may elect to submit an essay in lieu of attending the lecture. This does not include electronic lectures.

In addition, to obtain hands on experience Distant Trainee Judges must attend, each year, at least one (1) Field Day organised by the Group Leaders or judge two (2) Open Shows

(b) Essays, consisting of 1000 words, are to contain

1. History of the breed.

2. Purpose for which the breed was bred.

Example: The Brittany Spaniel was developed for hunting small birds in the region of Brittany in France where the terrain was rocky and well covered with dense bushes and scrubs - this explains why the breed has less angulation and a smaller head etc than other hunting, pointing or retrieving dogs.

3. Hallmarks of the breed

4. Explanations of how these hallmarks relate to the purpose for which the breed was developed. (Refer Item 2)

5. A list of any serious faults in the breed which may influence the awarding of a challenge

Example: In Staffordshire Bull Terriers, black and tan or liver colour is highly undesirable

6. A list of books and/or websites which have been found useful.

7. Write a short critique on your ideal example of the breed as pictured in your mind.

Failure to submit the essays, in accordance with 6.1.5, will render the Trainee ineligible to sit the Group Theory Examination in the current Training Program.

6.1.6 Only members who have applied to the TCA Inc by the required date for inclusion in the current year's Training Program and who fulfil all requirements for admission to the scheme to the satisfaction of TCA Inc will be permitted to sit for the scheduled Examinations. After obtaining the first Group **Championship Show Licence**, Trainee Judges may apply for two (2) Open Show Licences each year and must nominate which Group they intend following through to Championship level. A maximum of three (3) open show groups may be held at any one time. See 6.1 [c]

6.1.7 A Trainee must apply to sit for and pay the prescribed fee before undertaking any Examination.

6.1.8 The Training Scheme is composed of lectures, Sub Group Theory Exams, Parades, Open Shows, competitions, field days, and Stewarding and Practical Examinations.

6.1.9 Training scheme requirements must be completed to the satisfaction of the TCA Inc CJTC and the TCA Inc Council.

6.1.10 Stewarding: Prior to attempting any Practical Examination Trainee Judges must be approved members of the TCA Inc Stewards Panel and must undertake a minimum of fifteen (15) hours Stewarding at Championship Shows including Stewarding for at least five (5) complete Groups in the current training year, the hours must be completed by **14 November 2026** This requirement is in addition to the twenty (20) hours of Stewarding prior to making application to join the Conformation Judges Training Scheme and must be fulfilled in Tasmania unless the Trainee Judge has transferred from another Member Body. Stewarding hours will not be counted unless the candidate has a signed stewarding contract completed before the show attached to the stewarding hours form.

6.1.11 Number of Dogs Judged (Championship Practical Examinations only): Refer **6.1.2** Stewarding hours and dog numbers must be submitted by the Trainees.

6.1.12 Practical Examination: The Practical Examinations for Championship Show Licences will be held in November/December each year.

6.1.13 Candidates must not conduct any kennel visits or examine any dogs in Tasmania during the 14 days immediately prior to the first day of the practical examination. A breach of this requirement will result in the candidate being ineligible to sit for the practical exam and if the examination has already been completed will result in the examination being failed. This does not prevent the candidate contacting their co-ordinator or a person nominated by their co-ordinator to discuss any matters relating to the training program.

7. Single Breed Training Program Note: Dogs Tasmania is not in a position to offer any single breed training program. Any potential single breed candidate must seek the permission of Dogs Tas.

7.1. To enrol in the Single Breed Training Program an Aspiring Judge must:

7.1.1 Comply with Regulation 4.1.1.

7.1.2 Submit a minimum of a one thousand (1,000) word illustrated essay on the relevant breed which is to contain a history and description of the breed, its purpose and all relevant requirements contained in the Breed Standard and attend the breed lecture offered in the Training Program at the time of applying for the Theory Examination.

The essay is subject to approval of the CJTC as conforming with the conditions of this clause and achieving the required level of competency. **(Amended 10/10)**

Where conducted, attend, (at the discretion of Dogs Tasmania) the breed club's Open and Championship Show, the Group club's Open and Championship Show and the breed judging at an approved major Show. i.e.: Royal Show or the major Non Royal Show in each State.

7.1.3 To qualify for a Single Breed Theory Examination the Trainee Judge must have completed and met the requirements of 7.1.2 above and have submitted an enrolment form.

7.1.4 To qualify for a Single Breed Practical Examination the Trainee Judge must have attained a pass in the Single Breed Theory Examination and have submitted an enrolment form.

7.2 Unless otherwise determined, at the discretion of Dogs Tasmania, a practical examination for a single breed license shall consist of one (1) class of a minimum of five (5) dogs over the age of six (6) months, and one (1) class of a minimum of five (5) bitches over the age of six (6) months, and the Trainee Judge will be required to place the classes and select a Best of Breed and a Runner Up to Best of Breed. The Trainee must not be examined on dogs they own or co-own. **In instances where there are fewer than ten dogs available or suitable of a**

particular breed within Tasmania, dogs that are owned or co-owned by the candidate may be used at the discretion of the Council of Dogs Tas.

7.3 Upon passing the Single Breed Practical Examination, the Trainee Judge shall be listed as an ANKC Championship Show Judge for that breed.

7.4 Where a Trainee Judge fails a Single Breed Practical Examination, that person shall not be required to obtain additional practical experience to be eligible for another examination the following year, providing he/she submits an enrolment form and the examination is for the breed on which the applicant previously failed.

7.5 A Trainee Judge may only undertake one (1) Single Breed Practical Examination per calendar year.

8. Appointment of Assessors.

The CJTC shall supply a list of proposed assessors each Training Year. If the requisite number of assessors cannot be engaged from that list, the CJTC shall be requested to provide a further list. An Assessor must not be a Trainee Judge in the current Judges Training Program and must;

8.1 Hold a Certificate of Approval issued under the ANKC Accreditation Program stating that the Assessor has completed the competency training.

8.2 Have held an ANKC Breed or Group Licence for a minimum of five (5) years for the Group or Breed being used in the examination.

8.3 Have judged the Group or Breed being used in the examination on at least three (3) occasions.

9. Theory Examinations

9.1 The Group Theory Examination will be divided into four parts. The breeds in each Group will be divided into four Sub-groups and each part of the theory examination will relate to a Sub-group. In order to pass the theory examination, a candidate must achieve a mark of 75% in each part of the examination. Trainees are strongly encouraged to sit for all four sub group theory examinations. A candidate may not sit for a Practical Examination in a Group until such time as the Theory Examination has been passed. Candidates will be advised of their result in each examination as soon as practicable after the exam. If all parts are not passed, any parts passed in a training year may be carried forward into future training years until such time as they pass the practical examination or are excluded from the Scheme as per clause 9.4.

9.2 A Trainee Judge who has failed a theory examination may request a remark of their paper at a charge to be determined by TCA Inc. . Such requests are to be in writing within 14 days of advice of the result of the paper. Any candidate who achieves 73-74 % will receive an automatic remark at no charge. Any candidate who is entitled to an automatic remark shall be advised that the remark is being undertaken at the same time as other candidates are advised of their result but should not be advised of their actual mark. Two (2) Examiners will be appointed by the Clerk of Examinations to separately remark the paper. The Examiners shall not be the original markers of the paper concerned.

9.3 Should a Trainee Judge not attain a pass in the Group Theory Examination, to progress, they will be required to enrol in the next available or other future Judges Education Program.

9.4 (a) Trainee Judges must undertake the Theory Examination for a Group within 3 years of enrolling for that Group. They must also pass within five (5) attempts. If either of the previous criteria is not met then they may not re-sit that examination for a period of two (2) years.

(Amended 10/12 - 7.4.10)

(b) If a candidate has not passed the practical examination for a group within 5 years of passing the theory section for that group the pass in the theory section lapses and the candidate must successfully pass the theory sections again before they can sit for the practical exam. This applies from 1 January 2027.

9.5 Theory Examinations are only to be set by an accredited Assessor nominated by the Dogs Tasmania CJTC or alternatively theory examinations prepared by other ANKC jurisdictions may be used. The format of theory exams will generally follow the format of the breed standards.

9.6 Should a Candidate provide proof, to the satisfaction of the Clerk of Examinations that they will be overseas or were incapacitated on the date of a scheduled Theory Examination they may be permitted to apply for and complete one of the following: that is a Pre or Post Examination. **(Amended 10/10, 10/12 –7.4.11)**

9.7 Should a Trainee provide proof, to the satisfaction of Dogs Tasmania that they will be Interstate on the date of the theory examination they be permitted to sit the theory examination in that State on the same date and time as the scheduled theory examination. This is to be organised between the relevant State Member Bodies with the initial request being from the Trainee's State Member Body.

10. Practical Examinations

10.1 Practical Examinations must be undertaken at a venue nominated by the Dogs Tasmania CJTC and be supervised by the Clerk of Examinations.

10.2 There shall be no more than one (1) Practical Examination per Group per training year apart from any new examination conducted as a consequence of 10.9(b) or other relevant Member Body Regulation. Trainees may not undertake a Practical Examination for more than one (1) Group per training year. Notwithstanding the foregoing, there is no obligation on a Member Body to conduct a Practical Examination for any Group in every calendar year.

(Amended 10/09 - 7.4) (Amended 10/14, 7.4.3)

10.3 The examination shall be conducted on two (2) classes, each class of a different breed and consisting of five (5) dogs over the age of six (6) months, and a third mixed class of five (5) different breeds over the age of six (6) months, excluding the two (2) breeds previously used.

10.4 A dog owned or co-owned by a member of an Examination Panel shall not be used in an examination class in which that Examiner is participating.

10.5 Three (3) Assessors shall be appointed as a Panel for each class in a Practical Examinations. They must not be a Trainee Judge in the current training scheme. After the commencement of the Examination they shall not confer, on the merits or otherwise, of the dogs presented for examination Assessors are required to mark the placings of all dogs in a class from first to last on the prescribed form. Trainee Judges are to be encouraged not to spend more than two (2) minutes on each dog.

10.6 The Trainee Judge shall place the exhibits in order of merit, record the placings and will be required to answer questions from the assessors on the class. The candidate will talk to each assessor separately.

10.7 To gain a pass in a class, the Trainee Judge must be passed by at least two of the Assessors. It is not necessary for the Trainee Judge's and Assessors' placings to be the same, but Assessors must consider all aspects of the Trainee Judge's reasons for the placings, and whether the Trainee Judge has the better dogs at the front of the class and the poorer at the back. The Examiner must make his/her own independent assessment of Pass or Fail.

10.7 (a) In respect of Candidates attempting their first group or breed, the Assessors shall separately assess the candidate on:

- Appropriateness of attire
- Ability to approach and examine the exhibits correctly and appropriately for the Breeds for the Group in which they are a Trainee.
- Demonstrate control, organisation and effective use of the judging ring.
- Demonstrate an ability to make decisions in an effective way and in an efficient time frame.

(b) The assessors will assess whether the candidate passes or fails these criteria. To gain a pass the Trainee Judge must be passed by at least two of the Assessors.

10.8 To be granted an overall pass, the Trainee Judge must pass the two (2) Breed Classes, the one (1) Group Class and the ringcraft assessment (if applicable in accordance with 10.7).

10.9 The results of Practical Examinations shall be collated by the Clerk of Examinations. Trainee Judges will be notified of their results by the Executive Officer of Dogs Tasmania as soon as possible after the expiration of the appeal period. Examiners shall not divulge their individual assessment of a Trainee Judge prior to the results being distributed. Results shall not be given at the time of the Practical Examination. **(Amended 10/12 - 7.4.1)**

(a) Should the Clerk of Examinations have any concerns in regard to the inappropriateness of the conduct of the Practical Examination, the concerns will be reported to the Executive Officer no later than 10am on the first working day after the practical examination. Should any candidate at a practical examination have any concerns that the examination was not held in accordance with these regulations, an appeal must be lodged to the TCA Office no later than 10am on the first working day after the practical exam.

(b) Should Dogs Tasmania's Council concur with the Clerk of Examinations concerns a new Practical Examination will be conducted for the relevant Trainee Judge. **(Amended 10/10)**

10.10 Where a Trainee Judge believes they have a legitimate reason for not wishing to be examined by particular Assessor/s, they may submit a maximum of (2) two names to Dogs Tasmania of those they do not wish to be examined by in writing prior to 31 March in each year. They must set out the reasons for such request. Dogs Tasmania will retain the right to refuse any such request. Any additional costs incurred by Dogs Tasmania are to be at the expense of the Trainee Judge.

10.11 Dogs Tasmania, when approaching an Assessor to examine Trainee Judges at a practical examination, shall advise the Assessor of the names of the potential Trainee Judges and the Assessor shall advise Dogs Tasmania, as soon as practicable, if there are any Trainee Judges they do not wish to examine or for whom it would be inappropriate for them to examine due to any contractual or ethical reason.

10.12 No person shall make any photographic or video record of any part of a Practical Examination except with the prior permission of Dogs Tasmania.

10.13 Should a Trainee not achieve a pass result in a Practical Examination, then to qualify to take a further Group Practical Examination a Trainee judge must:

- 1 submit a breed comparison on two (2) breeds from each of the four (4) sub-groups as advised by their group co-ordinator (preferably from dogs being exhibited at a show. The group co-ordinator must nominate the breeds to be compared; and
- 2 candidates must judge twenty five (25) dogs of at least 5 different breeds; and
- 3 critique and examine a further twenty five (25) dogs submitting at least 6 -7 critiques per sub group of at least forty (40) words.
- 4 candidates must also adhere to Regulations 6.1.3 and 6.1.10; and
- 5 submit the approved enrolment form accompanied by the requirements of this clause.

They may then attempt the next practical examination.

11. General

11.1 Dogs Tasmania may consider an application from a person transferring from another State or Territory of Australia or overseas, who can provide evidence of their eligibility.

11.2 Dogs Tasmania may consider for approval an application from an applicant over the age of eighteen (18) years, who otherwise would not qualify under Regulations 4.1 or 7.1, provided such applicant demonstrates an active involvement in canine activity for the minimum period/or as a handler for parents and others in ordinary classes and supply such other evidence of experience as Dogs Tasmania may require.

11.3 Subject to the approval of Dogs Tasmania in the State of the applicant's residence, that applicant may be approved to enrol in a Judges Education Program of another State or Territory where it is established that the Program is more convenient.

11.4 Dogs Tasmania may recognise an occasional attendance by a Trainee Judge at a lecture, Field Day or other training instruction conducted by another Member Body and if so recognized, the member shall receive a credit from their member Body for that attendance.

11.5 A Trainee Judge shall not undertake a concurrent Judges Education Program in another State or Territory.

11.6.1 Members of a Trainee's household (i.e. a person who resides at the same address) or members of the Trainee's immediate family (i.e. mother, father, sibling or spouse) are ineligible to countersign the said Trainee's critiques or be mentors, assessors or examiners at exams (Practical or Theory) being taken by the trainee. [NOTE: Clause 11.6 is effective from 1 January 2015.] **(Added 09/14 EAP)**

11.6.2 (a) A dog owned by the assessor or a member of the assessor's household or of the assessor's immediate family may not be included in the classes of dogs on which the trainee is examined.

11.6.2 (b) A dog which has in the past been handled by the assessor may not be included in the classes of dogs on which the trainee is examined.

11.6.2 (c) A dog, on which the trainee is examined, may not be handled by a member of the assessor's household or of the assessor's immediate family.

11.7 Judges may accept appointments as soon as the Council of Dogs Tasmania has confirmed the results of the practical examination.

12. Appeals

12.1 Appeals against the decisions of the Examination Panel will not be permitted. **(Amended 10/07, 7.1)**

13. Program Fees

13.1 The fee structure for all phases of the ANKC Conformation Judges Education Program will be as determined by Dogs Tasmania.

14. Fitness to Judge

In the initial application for inclusion in the Judges Training Program, all applicants must certify that they are capable of judging in accordance with the Regulations and in the normally accepted manner. Thereafter the certification becomes part of the annual renewal application for Judges Licences.

The TCA Inc Council may refuse to grant any renewal of Licence to any person, and may cancel or may suspend for any period or vary in any way any Licence already granted, or may

direct any judge to undergo a medical 'Fitness to Judge' Examination by the TCA Inc Council nominated Medical Officer or may grant in part only an application for the renewal of the Licence. The application must include evidence of the criteria and be accompanied by the prescribed fee.

15. Changing Groups once in the Scheme

Once a Trainee Judge has nominated for a Championship Show Group they may not change that Group to aspire for another, both the Written and Practical tests of the Championship Show Examinations in the originally nominated Group must be passed before the Trainee can attempt any part of a Championship Practical Examination in another Group.

16. Conformation Judges Training Scheme Committee

16.1.1 A TCA Inc. Councillor or an All Breeds Championship Show Judge will chair the Committee and up to seven Group co-ordinators will make up the balance of the Committee. The Chairman must be an ANKC Accredited Examiner/Assessor and shall not be a group co-ordinator.

16.1.2 Persons enrolled in the training scheme shall not be co-ordinators or members of the Committee.

16.1.3 The Group Co-ordinators must hold a Championship Licence for the Group, which they are coordinating.

16.1.4 Assistant Group Co-ordinators for each Group will normally not be members of the CJTSC but must hold a Championship Show licence for the Group concerned.

17 Dispute Resolution Process

17.1 If there is any matter that a candidate wishes to dispute, the candidate shall take the matter up in the following order:-

1. With their co-ordinator
2. With the Chair of the Conformation Judges Training Committee
3. With the Conformation Judges Training Committee
4. With the TCA Inc. Council