Dog Showing - Judges and Judging - Regulation Amendments for 2027

Amendments to reflect the Judges Education Programme (JEP), implementation of improvements arising from the adoption of the JEP Review report and general updates.

F.9.Documentation

a. ~~A copy of~~ **Access to** current Royal Kennel Club Rules and relevant show Regulations.

b. ~~A copy of~~ **Access to** current Royal Kennel Club breed standards for all breeds scheduled at the show.

c. ~~A copy of~~ **Access to** the schedule and catalogue for the show, where applicable.

(Insertion in bold)
(Deletion struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

F.10.Judges, responsibilities

a.Judges at Royal Kennel Club licensed shows must;

(4)To accept appointments and to judge ~~breed classes~~ at Royal Kennel Club licensed championship, open and limited shows **UK resident** judges must be ~~listed on the relevant breed club judging list or~~ **eligible and listed** at the appropriate Judges Education Programme Level. **Non-UK resident judges must be eligible to judge in accordance with requirements as published from time to time.**

(5) Judges must maintain accurate records of educational evidence and ~~confirmed~~ judging appointments.

(6)Where required, be licensed in accordance with conditions as published from time to time.

b. **The Judges Committee acting on behalf of** ~~T~~**t**he Board shall have the power to grant, withhold, amend, suspend or cancel the status of a judge**, approval of a judge or their licence.**

~~c. The committee shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel the approval of any judge, referee, judge of group competitions or judge for Best in Show.~~

(Insertion in bold)
(Deletion struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

F(1)2 Sponsorship and donations

a.No offer of sponsorship or donation may be made on condition that a specified person is appointed to judge except that a registered breed society may offer sponsorship or donation subject to ~~either of~~ the following conditions:-

~~(1) That the judge is on the registered breed society's list of judges.~~

(Deletion struck through)
(Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

F(1)5.b.

~~b.*Supported entry open shows.* A breed club must select and promote at least 2 supported entry open shows for its breed at general or group open show each year. A formal written agreement to be reached with the licensed show societies. The judges of such classes must be selected by the licensed show society from a list of at least two names proposed by the breed club and will be at either Judges Education Programme Level 2 or Level 3 (or B list or A3 list).~~

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(Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

F(1)20. Judges and judging.

a.*General canine society affiliated societies and breed club championship, open and limited shows.*

(1) *Championship Shows* For non Challenge Certificate breeds at championship shows the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society,

(a) ~~have previously been approved to award Challenge Certificates or~~ be **eligible and** listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the relevant breed ~~and not have been declared ineligible to do so by the time of carrying out the appointment .~~

(2) *Open and Limited Shows*

(a) For open and limited shows scheduling more than ~~three~~ **four** breed classes ~~(four if including a Puppy class)~~ for a particular breed the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society,

(i) ~~have previously been approved to award Challenge Certificates or~~ be **eligible and** listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the relevant breed.

(b) For open and limited shows scheduling up to ~~three~~ **four** classes ~~(four if scheduling a Puppy class)~~ for a particular breed, the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society, be **eligible and** listed at Judges Education Programme Level 1 **or above**.

Except:-

(i) Judges resident in Northern Ireland. Persons who are approved to award Green Stars under Irish Kennel Club Rules and are resident in Northern Ireland are permitted to judge up to ~~three~~ **four** classes ~~(four if scheduling a Puppy class)~~ for the relevant breed at open or limited shows held in Northern Ireland.

(ii) ~~Overseas~~ **Non-UK resident** judges. For non Challenge Certificate breeds at championship shows and for open and limited shows scheduling more than ~~three~~ **four** classes ~~(four if scheduling a Puppy class)~~ for a particular breed the organising club/society must ensure that any ~~overseas~~ **such** judge appointed to judge has been:

(a) Approved to judge the breed concerned at championship level in the country in which they are **primarily resident** ~~domiciled~~, or

(b) **Be eligible and** ~~L~~**l**isted at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the breed concerned.

(3) General canine society open shows and affiliated organisation open shows only. Persons appointed to judge Best in Show, Best in Group, Best Puppy in Group and/or Variety Classes must be **eligible and** listed at Judges Education Programme Level 4 ~~or have previously been approved to award and have awarded Challenge Certificates to~~ **for** at least one breed~~, and be currently eligible to do so~~. Classes for varieties of a breed and handling classes are exempt from this Regulation.

(4) General canine society limited shows and affiliated organisation limited shows only. Persons appointed to judge Best in Show, Best in Group, Best Puppy in Group and/or Variety Classes must be **eligible and** listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above ~~or be on a breed club/council B list or above~~. Classes for varieties of a breed and handling classes are exempt from this Regulation.

(5) General and Group Championship shows. Persons appointed to judge AV classes, stakes classes, puppy group, junior group, veteran group, or special beginners group must be eligible and listed at Judges Education Programme Level 5 or above; or eligible and listed at Level 4 for at least one breed and have passed the Eye For A Dog assessment.

b.The selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society be eligible in accordance with the criteria set out in these Regulations and will not have been declared ineligible to do so by the time of carrying out the appointment.

c. On accepting an appointment the selected **UK resident** judge must ensure that their name is included at the appropriate level of the Judges Education Programme. **Non-UK resident judges are encouraged to register at the appropriate level of the Judges Education Programme based on the required conditions as published from time to time.**

d. All judges' at championship shows and open shows must produce ~~a~~ **an original** written critique for the first two placings in each Breed class, and ~~will dispatch these to the weekly United Kingdom canine journal or~~ upload **the critiques** ~~on~~to the Royal Kennel Club Judges Critique Website **within six weeks of the date of their judging appointment**.

(Insertion in bold)
(Deletion struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

F(1)21.c.

All judging contracts are subject to cancellation at the discretion of the Royal Kennel Club in the event of the judge being subject to relevant disciplinary **or competence or licensing** action.
(Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

F(1)22.a.

Those judges invited to judge must be selected in accordance with the rules of the Show Society and the Royal Kennel Club **and** Code of Best Practice for Judges as published from time to time and if required evidence of this must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club.
(Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

F(1)22.b.

Judges so selected must at the time of accepting the invitation and at the time of the appointment be eligible**, and where required listed at the appropriate level of the Judges Education Programme,** to judge in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Regulations.
(Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

F(1)22.g.

Should any judge named in the schedule be unable to fulfil the specified appointment, another judge must be appointed who is eligible**, and where required listed at the appropriate level of the Judges Education Programme,** to do so. Where Challenge Certificates are available another judge must be appointed who has previously awarded Challenge Certificates in the breed/or is listed at the appropriate Judges Education Programme Level. There must be an interval of not less than 18 calendar months between this appointment and a subsequent appointment to award Challenge Certificates to the same sex of the same breed. The show committee may similarly substitute a Judge for a Group or Best in Show at Championship Show provided that the substitute Judge has been previously approved for, and judged, the same Group or Best in Show or is listed at the appropriate Judges Education Programme Level but who has not accepted an invitation to judge the same Group or Best in Show within the 9 calendar months following the show in question. The circumstances of any such substitution must be reported to the Royal Kennel Club without delay. This appointment must not

conflict with the conditions in the contract of a future judging appointment. Such judges must be submitted to the Board for approval. The alteration should be notified to exhibitors if possible.
(Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

F(1)34.Penalties

The Board shall have power to impose any of the following penalties upon any person for any breach of Royal Kennel Club Regulations subject to a right of appeal, notice of intention of which must be lodged within 14 days from the date on which the decision is given and subject to the prescribed appeals process as shall be determined by the Board from time to time;

a. Warn

b. Censure/reprimand

c. Apology directive (Conduct Regulation or the Control of Dog Regulation)

d. Fine

e. Award disqualified.

In addition, the Board may make the following directives;

f. A dog's registration record may be marked 'incident recorded'

g. A dog's registration record may be endorsed 'not eligible for entry in any event held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, nor any unlicensed event recognised by the Royal Kennel Club.'

h. For complaints of conduct whether at a licensed event or on social media, in addition to a warning issued - a short term fixed period of refusal of entry/attendance at Royal Kennel Club licensed events may also be imposed in accordance with procedures

i. To remove permanently or temporarily a judge's licence or level(s) of judging under the Judges Education Programme.
(Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2027)

C4. Maintenance of Title and Annual Returns

a. Registered societies

(1) Breed, general, training and agility societies

(b) ~~(vi) Breed societies only – Breed club judges list: Registered breed societies (with the exception of provisional breed societies) must produce a list of judges each year which must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club as part of the societies' annual returns.~~

~~The purpose of breed club judges' lists is to indicate to interested parties those persons a breed club would support at differing levels of judging. Societies must clearly indicate the method by~~

which persons may be nominated for inclusion on the list and indicate the judging experience required for inclusion of a person's name on each of the five lists. Membership of the club must not be a prerequisite for inclusion on the lists.

Judges lists should be divided into five parts, namely A1, A2, A3, B and V and must be compiled annually stating the date on which they expire.

A1 List. Judges who have previously been approved to award CCs in a given breed and have carried out the appointment.

A2 List. Judges who, if invited to judge by a society, would in principle be approved by The Royal Kennel Club to award CCs in a given breed or that occasion. A council/club must apply to The Royal Kennel Club for approval to promote a judge from its A3 list to its A2 list.

A3 List. Judges who are recommended by a breed council or breed society as being suitable to award CCs in the breed, but not yet approved by The Royal Kennel Club for inclusion on an A2 list.

B List. Judges who are recommended by a breed councils/societies to judge at shows without CCs or open shows.

C List. Any C List drawn up by a breed council or breed society should compromise aspirant judges who do not fall into any of the above categories.

It is recommended that such lists be prepared by secret ballot of the society's committee and societies must clearly state to members the method by which persons may be nominated for inclusion in the ballot and indicate the judging experience for inclusion of a person's name in the five lists.

d. Breed councils

(v) A copy of the breed council judges list:-

Breed councils must produce a list of judges each year which must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club as part of the societies' annual returns.

The purpose of breed council judges' lists is to indicate to interested parties those persons a breed club would support at differing levels of judging. Councils must clearly indicate the method by which persons may be nominated for inclusion on the list and indicate the judging experience required for inclusion of a person's name on each of the five lists. Membership of constituent societies of the council must not be a prerequisite for inclusion on the lists. Judges lists should be divided into five parts, namely A1, A2, A3, B and V and must be compiled annually stating the date on which they expire.

A1 List. Judges who have previously been approved to award CCs in a given breed and have carried out the appointment.

A2 List. Judges who, if invited to judge by a society, would in principle be approved by The Royal Kennel Club to award CCs in a given breed or that occasion. A council/club must apply to The Royal Kennel Club for approval to promote a judge from its A3 list to its A2 list.

~~A3 List. Judges who are recommended by a breed council or breed society as being suitable to award CCs in the breed, but not yet approved by The Royal Kennel Club for inclusion on an A2 list.~~
~~B List. Judges who are recommended by a breed councils/societies to judge at shows without CCs or open shows.~~
~~C List. Any C List drawn up by a breed council or breed society should compromise aspirant judges who do not fall into any of the above categories.~~
~~It is recommended that such lists be prepared by secret ballot of the society's committee and societies must clearly state to members the method by which persons may be nominated for inclusion in the ballot and indicate the judging experience for inclusion of a person's name in the five lists.~~
(Deletions struck through)
(effective from 1 January 2027)