



G.31 APPROVAL OF JUDGE

a. Show Societies must apply to the Board for approval of Championship Class C judges for Championship Obedience Shows, at least nine months before the date of the Show, on the form provided. Approval for all first time appointments must be applied for a minimum of eighteen months before the date of the show, on the form provided. Prior to being granted Board approval, judges must have been assessed by a Kennel Club approved assessor.

b. On a person's first appointment to judge Championship Class C the minimum conditions which apply are - judges must have at least eight years judging experience which must include 30 Championship and/or Premier and/or Open Show appointments of which at least 15 must be Open Class C and two each of Beginners, Novice, Class A and Class B.

c. At the time of judging a first Championship appointment the Judge must have ~~attended a Kennel Club Obedience Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination.~~ **completed and passed an Obedience Regulations and Judging Procedure examination on the Kennel Club Academy prior to attending a Kennel Club Obedience Test Design and Practice of Judging seminar, and have attended a Kennel Club Obedience Test Design and Practice of Judging seminar, and passed the assessment.**

c. *Qualifications for judges at Premier and Open Shows and for the non-certificate classes at Championship Shows*

On first appointment judges must satisfy the Show Committee that they:

(1) have judged a minimum of four appointments within at least two years at a lower level including Limited/Companion Obedience Shows and matches/club or fun competitions.

(2) have won out of Beginners at a Licensed Championship, Premier or Open Obedience Show as a handler, and have acted as a Caller, Scribe or Marker Steward on six occasions at Licensed Shows; and

(3) have ~~attended a Kennel Club Obedience Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination.~~ **completed and passed an Obedience Regulations and Judging Procedure examination on the Kennel Club Academy prior to attending a Kennel Club Obedience Test Design and Practice of Judging seminar.**

(4) have ~~attended an Obedience Test Design and the Practice of Judging Seminar.~~ **a Kennel Club Obedience Test Design and Practice of Judging seminar and passed the assessment.**

~~Deletions struck through~~, insertions in **bold**

Rationale

From the KC Accredited Judges Trainers

It seems to us that the more we can use technology as a resource in the education of our judges, the more attractive such a thing may be for those thinking about taking up judging, and the easier it makes our job as Accredited Judges Trainers.

Since the introduction of the Judges Seminars and Examination in 2004 there have been well over 1,000 people successfully completing the examination and very few (In our experience) failures. Whilst this is clearly a good result there is also evidence that this is a possible inefficient use of resources, and so maybe it is time for a rethink.

Some activities have moved, or are intending to move, their judge's exam online with people able to take the test in the comfort of their own armchair. Maybe the first reaction to this will be "surely that means they can sit there with a rule book looking up all the answers!!". The answer to that is, yes of course they can but that means they still have to study the rules to find the

answers. It also would mean that the cost to each candidate would be reduced to the Academy enrolment fee, which is currently £10, a lot less than the cost of driving to/attending a seminar.

We would therefore like to suggest a change in the format of our seminars and the requirements to qualify as an Obedience judge.

The Judges Exam

Various items of required reading would be placed on the KC Academy which each candidate must signify they have read or viewed. These would include:

- Watch the "Requirements of an Obedience Judge" film on the academy
- Read the Kennel Club Obedience Regulations (G)
- Read the Guide for Obedience Judges & Stewards
- Read the Guidelines for Owners and Handlers with Dogs Taking Part in Canine Activities
- Read the Kennel Club Code of Conduct Once the candidate confirms that each of the above has been viewed/read they are ready to take the online exam, and it would be made available on their account

The format of the exam will be similar to the current one. The paper must be completed within 40 minutes and a pass mark of 80% achieved. If they fail to achieve the required pass mark they may re-take the exam after a seven day break. They will be allowed three attempts and should they fail on those three occasions then they must be referred to the office for the matter to be reviewed.

Not completing the paper in 40 minutes would constitute a failure.

Seminar & Assessments

Once they have successfully passed the online examination, they will be eligible to attend the Practical Seminar and Judging Assessment, conducted by a Kennel Club Accredited Judges Trainer.

This seminar will consist of two days:

Day 1

The first day would take a similar form to the present Test Design and Practice of Judging Seminar in that it will consist of a precis of the important subjects covered in the exam, with particular emphasis on the sections relating to actual time spent judging the teams.

Following time spent designing tests and presenting them in groups these tests will be worked by handlers and dogs with interactive comment and discussion taking place as a learning tool.

Subject to the availability of internet connection at the venue it may also be useful to show the "Points of the Dog" and "Conformation and Movement" films from the KC Academy.

Day 2

At the close of Day 1 each candidate will be set a task for the following day. This will entail designing a test (Class level to be decided, but not higher than Novice). A running order of candidates will also be drawn for the second day.

Following the running order decided the previous day, each candidate will then be assessed by three experienced judges as they judge their test. These experienced judges will be the Accredited Judges Trainer along with two invited current Championship C judges. (If two Accredited Judges Trainers are presenting the seminar there need be only one other invited judge).

At the end of Day 2 the Accredited Judges Trainer, having taken all opinions into account will then decide to either pass or not pass each candidate.