



Protocols for Mock Exam Assessors and Aspiring Judges

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Purpose

To provide guidance to Mock Exam Assessors to ensure consistency with our assessment process.

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Scope

This policy applies to the assessment platform for those judges who are currently on the aspiring panel and seeking promotion to the Open Show panel and those members who have been identified to act as an Assessor for the Association and have undergone previous training by way of practical examinations previously undertaken.

Principles

All members of the NZDJA entrusted with the conduct of assessments for the Association are duty bound under the Constitution of the Association to comply with the provisions of this Protocol and any other direction given by the Board for the management of the Associations promotion process.

Objectives

The purpose behind this scheme is to provide potential promotion candidates currently on the Aspiring Show panel with an assessment tool to support our vision to produce quality judges.

Protocols

Assessors:

- Assessors are approved by the Board of NZDJA.
 - The Board may approve an Assessor who is currently a member of Dogs NZ Executive Council and it is their responsibility to declare conflict of interest when discussing matters relevant to the judges' panel.
 - Assessors will currently be listed on the judges panel and through their experience and demeanour have been considered as suitable to assist NZDJA with the promotion process.
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Assessments:

- All open show candidates are required to be assessed at a mock exam judging at least 10 dogs, by an approved assessor and must receive a favourable report prior to applying for promotion.
- The local branch of NZDJA will make the arrangements for the assessment.
- The Assessor should be stationed at ringside during the judging and within hearing distance of any discussion between the Judge and the steward and the Judge and the exhibitors.
- The assessment is to focus on the Judges' personal grooming, ring craft, manner and attitude and physical examination of exhibits.
- The Judges decisions **may not** form part of the assessment.
- The Assessor may discuss any decisions where exclusion from the ring is warranted, eg aggressive or lame exhibit.
- The Assessor completes the assessment sheet for the judge and forwards this to the NZDJA Secretary at the completion of the event. Where possible a copy is also given to the judge.

Guidelines for Assessors

- Introduce yourself to the Judge and the Branch representative and advise them where you will be stationed.
- Judges should be well presented and suitably attired for the conditions as if it was a real appointment.
- Judges should demonstrate confidence and control of the ring, correct use of tables and ramps, clear and confident communication with their steward and exhibitors and clearly indicate awards.
- Judges should demonstrate that they are confident while handling exhibits and, in particular, breed specific examination e.g. coated breeds.
- The Judges decisions and placements is not included in the assessment however the Assessor may discuss decisions with the judge at the conclusion.
- A favourable assessment would indicate that the Judge is ready to apply for promotion to the Open Show panel. If you are of the opinion that the Judge is not ready for this next step you must indicate on the assessment sheet with **no**.
- Comments on the sheet should support the decision of favourable - **yes or no**.
- Under **no circumstances** should the Assessor make comments to the Judge during the judging or in any way interrupt the judging to give guidance.
- At the conclusion the Assessor shall complete the assessment sheet and provide a copy to the Judge (phone photo is acceptable). The Assessor can, at this time, discuss the assessment with the Judge and provide guidance and any recommendations.

Instructions to Judges:

- This process is designed to assist you with your judging journey and help you to become a quality confident judge. The Assessors role is to assess your current level of skill and provide guidance and recommendations.
- An unfavourable report is an indication that you are not quite ready to progress. Treat it as a learning tool and discuss the assessment sheet with the Assessor.
- This process is also designed to assist you with preparation for future observations and practical examinations.

Review

This policy is reviewed annually or as necessary in response to new regulations, system updates and/or policy changes.
