





















Step-Through Process for progression from 2026

- For applications for promotion in 2027.
- Qualifying criteria is for the period 1/1/26 – 31/12/26.
- Applications close 31/1/27.
- Application forms will be updated in 2026.













1. Ribbon Parade Panel

-  Already on the **Aspiring Judges List**.
 -  Next: Be **actively involved in a Club** (All Breeds, Group, or Specialist Breed) as an Executive/Committee member.
 -  Attend **4 Branch/Discussion Group meetings**
 -  Complete **mandatory activities** (get confirmation from Branch Secretary).
 -  Complete **2 stewarding appointments**.
 -  Apply to the **Board** → must approve.
 -  Application goes to **Executive Council** → must approve.
 -  Once approved, you are on the **Ribbon Parade Judges Panel**.
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2. Open Show Panel

-  Already on **Ribbon Parade Judges Panel** (or Specialist Breed Championship Panel).
-  Continue **active Club involvement** (Executive/Committee).
-  Attend **4 Branch/Discussion Group meetings**
-  Complete **mandatory activities**
-  Complete **2 stewarding appointments within the past 12 months**.
-  Judge **at least 2 Ribbon Parades** and a total of **50 dogs**
 - (or **20 dogs at Specialist Breed Championship Shows** if only licensed at specialist level).
-  Earn **50 Credit Points** (See Appendix II).
-  Pass **online theory exams on:**
 - Dogs NZ Rules & Regs
 - NZDJA Regulations
 - Anatomy
 - Glossary of Terms
-  Complete **2 Judging Observation Assessments** with different observers (40 dogs total, min 20 dogs per observation).
-  Apply to **Board** → approval.
-  Application goes to **Executive Council** → approval.
-  Once approved, you are on the **Open Show Judges Panel**.

3. First Group Panel

-  Already on **Open Show Judges Panel**.
-  Judge a further **200 dogs** at Open Show/Ribbon Parade level.
-  Complete **2 stewarding appointments within the last 12 months**.
-  Do **2 more Judging Observation Assessments** (2 observers, 40 dogs, minimum 20 dogs per observation).
-  Attend **4 Branch/Discussion Group meetings**
-  Complete **mandatory activities**
-  Earn **50 Credit Points**.
-  Continue **active Club involvement**.
-  Write **10 critiques** on dogs from the group you're applying for:
 - Max 2 critiques per breed/variety.
 - Done with NZDJA observer + signed off.
 - Max 5 critiques per observer.
-  Apply to sit **theory exam**. If passed → apply for **practical exam**.
-  Pass **practical exam** → Board recommends to Executive Council.
-  Once approved, you are on the **First Group Panel**.

4. Additional Group Panels (Second → Seventh)

(Process repeats with increasing dog numbers, critiques, exams, and stewarding requirements.)

Second Group Panel

- Judge **first group** at Championship Show at least once.
- Have Judged **350 dogs at any level** since promotion to the Ribbon Parade panel.
- 2 stewarding appointments within the last 12 months.
- 4 meetings + mandatory activities.
- 50 Credit Points.
- Club involvement.
- 10 critiques (signed off).
- Sit theory exam → pass → sit practical → pass → Board & EC approval.

Third Group Panel

- Judge **second group** at Championship Show at least once.
- Have Judged **500 dogs at any level** since promotion to the Ribbon Parade panel.
- Repeat stewarding, meetings, credits, club involvement, critiques, exams, approvals.

Fourth Group Panel

- Judge **third group** at Championship Show at least twice.
- Have Judged at least **700 dogs at championship show level**.
- Repeat stewarding, meetings, credits, club involvement, critiques, exams, approvals.

Fifth Group Panel

- Judge **fourth group** at Championship Show at least twice.
- Have Judged at least **1200 dogs at championship show level**.
- Repeat stewarding, meetings, credits, club involvement, critiques, exams, approvals.

Sixth Group Panel

- Judge **fifth group** at Championship Show at least twice.
- Have Judged at least **1800 dogs at championship show level**.
- Repeat stewarding, meetings, credits, club involvement, critiques, exams, approvals.

Seventh Group Panel

- Judge **sixth group** at Championship Show at least twice.
- Have Judged at least **2600 dogs at championship show level**.
- Repeat stewarding, meetings, credits, club involvement, critiques, exams, approvals.

In addition to the above, the Board of NZDJA and Dogs NZ Executive Council will take into consideration the points outlined in Section III: General Conditions when assessing applications for promotion.

For further information refer to the NZDJA regulations which are on the website <https://nzdogjudge.com/regulations/>.