



Protocols for Observers and Judges Supervision of Intensive Critiques

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Purpose

To provide guidance to Observers to ensure consistency with our Critiquing process.

Contents

- Scope
- Principles
- Objectives
- Protocols
- Review

Scope

This policy applies to the optional observation platform for those members who have been identified to act as an observer for the Association and have undergone previous training by way of practical examinations previously undertaken.

Principles

All members of the NZDJA entrusted with the supervision of Intensive Critiquing 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 with a critiquing training tool to support our vision to produce quality judges.

Protocols

Observers:

- Observers are approved by the Board of NZDJA.
- The Board may approve an Observer 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.
- Observers 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.

Intensive Critique Observations:

- A list of approved Observers is published on the NZDJA website.
- The observation can be done at a Ribbon Parade, Open Show or Championship Show (All breeds, multi breed/group or speciality) or official NZDJA or Branch training event.
- The dogs to be critiqued must come from the group the Trainee is aspiring to.
- The critiques will be done during the 12 months preceding the application for promotion.
- Trainees MUST use the NZDJA Intensive Critique form for ALL critiques (General and Speciality).
- The Trainee may examine and critique as many or as few dogs as they wish per observation however, no more than five critique reports are required to be submitted per observation with a maximum of two dogs per breed or variety (e.g. Poodle, Chihuahua, Dachshund etc).
- Both the Trainee and Observer MUST physically examine and gait the critiqued dogs.
- Both the Intensive Critique Form and Cover sheet can be downloaded from the NZDJA website.
- Guidelines for critiquing can be found on the NZDJA website.
- Completed and signed Cover Sheet and Intensive Critique forms are to be forwarded to the NZDJA Secretary.

Critique Guidelines for Observers

- This process has been introduced to assist NZDJA in producing the highest quality judges. Your commitment to the judge and their judging efforts on the day and providing honest and constructive feedback and guidance is crucial to the success of this process and the future success of the judge being observed.
 - Only accept requests for critique observations that you are committed to completing.
 - Observers should declare conflict of interest if appropriate (for example if acting as an examiner) and decline the observation request.
 - Whilst the Trainee is responsible for liaising with the exhibitor/owner to ensure that the dogs are made available, it is expected that as a senior member of the judges panel, you may need to assist with this.
 - There is no pass/fail with the critiques, but it is expected that you will guide the trainee in the process and discuss their completed critiques with them.
 - You MUST view the Trainee's physical examination of the dog.
 - Once the Trainee has completed the critiques you should comprehensively discuss with them the completed critique based on the dog critiqued.
 - Whilst this exercise is primarily about the critiques, Trainee Judges should demonstrate an understanding of the breed standard using breed specific examination and be able to identify the breed hallmarks using correct terminology and demonstrate an understanding of the breeds form and function relative to its origins and purpose.
 - Hold a conversation allowing the Trainee to 'Talk the dog' critiqued and recognise the dog's virtues and areas they would like to see improved.
 - The discussion with the Trainee is to encourage them to develop a greater understanding of the individual dogs that were critiqued based on the breed standard and to further develop the Trainee's assessment skills and the ability to 'Talk the dog'.
 - It is acceptable for the Trainee to refer to the breed standard prior to the exercise and during any discussion that may follow.
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Instructions to Trainee Judges:

- This process is designed to assist you with your judging journey and help you to become a quality, confident judge and to assist you with preparation for future practical examinations.
- It is your responsibility to liaise with the Observer and arrange dogs to be critiqued.
- Not everyone will happily provide dogs for you for this exercise, and you must respect this, it is their decision.
- Do not identify the dog on the critique form or share your critique with anyone other than the observer and the NZDJA Secretary.
- All critiques submitted must be from the group you are aspiring to. You are welcome to critique breeds from other groups, and it is encouraged, however these will not be counted towards promotion requirements.
- The Observers role is to observe you examining dogs and providing an intensive critique of those dogs.
- The Observer is expected to discuss your critiques with you, your current level of skill in critiquing, identifying breed specific characteristics, use of terminology and form and function and provide guidance and recommendations.

Review

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

Breach of any NZDJA Policy and/or Procedure may result in termination of board membership by majority vote of the Members in accordance with Section 22.1(b) of the Constitution.
