

Step-Through Process for progression from 2027

- For applications for promotion in 2028.
- Qualifying criteria is for the period 1/1/27 – 31/12/27.
- Applications close 31/1/28.
- Application forms will be updated in 2027.

1. Ribbon Parade Panel

-  Already on the **Aspiring Judges List**.
 -  Attend **4 Branch/Discussion Group meetings**
 -  Complete **5 mandatory activities**
 -  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).
 -  Attend **4 Branch/Discussion Group meetings**
 -  Complete **5 mandatory activities**
 -  Complete **3 optional activities**
 -  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).
 -  Pass **online Open Show 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**.
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3. First Group Panel

-  Already on **Open Show Judges Panel**.
 -  Judge at **2 Open Shows and a further 2 Ribbon Parades and at least 200 dogs** at Open Show/Ribbon Parade level since promotion to the Open Show panel.
 -  Do **2 more Judging Observation Assessments** (2 observers, 40 dogs, minimum 20 dogs per observation).
 -  Attend **4 Branch/Discussion Group meetings**
 -  Complete **5 mandatory activities**
 -  Complete **3 optional activities**
 -  Write **10 Intensive 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**.
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4. Additional Group Panels (Second → Seventh)

(Process repeats with increasing dog numbers)

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.
- 4 meetings + mandatory + optional activities.
- 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 meetings, mandatory and optional activities, 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 meetings, mandatory and optional activities, 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 meetings, mandatory and optional activities, 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 meetings, mandatory and optional activities, 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 meetings, mandatory and optional activities, critiques, exams, approvals.

Specialist Breed Panel

-  Already on **Open Show Judges Panel**.
-  Judge at **2 Open Shows and a further 2 Ribbon Parades and at least 200 dogs** at Open Show/Ribbon Parade level since promotion to the Open Show panel.
-  Attend **4 Branch/Discussion Group meetings**
-  Complete **5 mandatory activities**
-  Complete **3 optional activities**
-  Complete **3 verbal and 3 written Intensive Critiques** on dogs from the breed you're applying for:
 - Done with NZDJA observer + signed off.
-  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 **Specialist Breed Panel**.

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/>.