



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

SCHEDULE 5E (12) Regulations for Handler of the Year Competition

Effective 01.04.2018

1. LICENSING AND SHOW REGULATIONS

The Regulations relating to licensing and all other matters to do with Schedule 3, Championship Shows, and Schedule 5K, Regulations of Handler Classes, of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA) shall apply to this Competition insofar as they are relevant to Handler of the Year Competitions and insofar as they do not conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule 5E (12).

2. SCOPE OF THE LICENCE

All Breeds clubs which are qualified to hold a Championship Breed Show in the calendar year in which it is intended to hold the Handler of the Year Competitions may hold the initial rounds of the event named in this Schedule in conjunction with such Championship Show, or separate therefrom.

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPETITION

3.1 National Child Handler Class

For persons of eight (8) but under twelve (12) years of age on the day of the National Competition. In the calendar year in which the person turns eleven (11), the person may elect to remain in the Child Handler Class for the remainder of that calendar year or elect to move to the Junior Handler Class. Once moved, he/she may not revert to the Child Handler Class.

3.2 National Junior Handler Class

For persons of eleven (11), but under eighteen (18) years of age. Only open to Handlers whose eighteenth (18th) birthday does not fall on the day upon which this Competition is held.

3.2.1 Qualifications gained as Child Handler are invalid as qualifications for Junior Handler of the Year.

3.2.2 National Junior Handler of the Year shall only be open to winners of Junior Handler Classes.

3.3 National Adult Handler Class

For persons over eighteen (18) years.

4. HOST

Until or unless this Schedule 5E (12) is amended or altered, the Host for the finals of this event shall be KUSA.

5. QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENTRY

5.1 Initial Rounds

Held only under an All Breeds Club Championship Show licence, whether in conjunction therewith or separate thereof, and the conditions of Regulation 3 above apply.

5.2 Finals

Entry to the Child and Junior Handler Finals is limited to those Handlers qualifying in terms of Regulations 3.1 and 3.2.

5.2.1 A Handler will be considered as having qualified if he/she has won first place in his/her relevant class at any All Breeds Championship Show held between the day after the current Competition until the day before the next Competition.

5.2.2 Handlers having qualified in terms of Regulations 3.1 and 3.2 shall be invited to compete in the Finals in whichever Handler Class they fall or elected to fall at the time of winning the prize which qualified them for the Finals, provided that they are South African citizens resident in South Africa.

5.2.3 The winners of the Final in the respective National Handler Classes will be named National Child Handler of the Year, National Junior Handler of the Year and National Adult Handler of the Year.

6. CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

6.1 All qualifiers for the National Child and Junior Handler Competitions must provide written proof (a copy of Qualifying Certificate) of qualification for entry as required in terms of Regulation 5.2.1.

6.2 It is not mandatory for any dog competing in these Competitions to compete in a recognised compulsory breed class at the show at which the Competitions are held.

6.3 All Handlers are required to dress in a manner befitting this competitive event and to display and deport themselves in a courteous and sportsmanlike manner.

6.4 The official KUSA Handler Entry Form shall be used which, for any entrant under eighteen (18) years of age shall be accompanied by proof of age in the form of either a copy of a birth certificate, the first page of an identity document, or passport. All Handler Class entries must be on a separate Handler Entry Form and not combined with the breed entry of an exhibit. Any dog that is to be used for Handling in this competition, including the pool dogs, must be eligible for entry at Championship Shows in accordance with Schedule 3 and must be in the registered ownership of a paid-up member of KUSA.

6.5 It is a condition of entry that Handlers or any dogs handled in the Final may not be used for any advertising purposes without the written permission of any sponsors for this event.

6.6 It is NOT PERMITTED to handle a bitch in season in any Handler Class.

7. PRIZES AND AWARDS

KUSA Floating Trophies for each Handler Class shall be awarded to the winner of each Final.

8. JUDGING

8.1 When judging this class the Judge shall consider, *inter alia*,:

8.1.1 That the exhibit is not "blocked" from the Judge's view at any time, i.e. the Handler should avoid being positioned between the exhibit and the Judge;

8.1.2 Any exaggerated handling;

8.1.3 The ability of the Handler to control the exhibit;

8.1.4 The ability of the Handler to 'set up' the exhibit;

8.1.5 The ability of the Handler to gait the exhibit at a desirable pace for the proper assessment of movement;

8.1.6 The ability of the Handler to present the exhibit to the best advantage; and

8.1.7 The dress, grooming and ring demeanour of the Handler, taking weather conditions into account.

8.2 Only standard Handler ring patterns are allowed. (Addendum available on request from the office).

8.3 The quality of the exhibit shall not be taken into consideration by the judge.

8.4 Under no circumstances should questions be used as a means of testing a Handler's knowledge. A judge should limit conversation with Handlers.

8.5 Handlers who exhibit impatience or heavy-handedness with their exhibits must be penalised.

8.6 Control of Dogs

8.6.1 Should it become apparent that a Handler is unable to control his/her own exhibit, the Judge must excuse the handler and exhibit from the ring.

8.6.2 A Judge may request Handlers to swap exhibits, provided that the Judge is confident that the Handler is capable of controlling/handling his/her new exhibit. Should unruly behaviour occur after swapping, the Judge must instruct the return of the exhibit to the original Handler without penalty.

8.6.3 Swapping of exhibits by Child Handlers is not permitted.

8.6.4 Should an exhibit show any signs of any aggression, the Handler and exhibit shall immediately become liable to be excused from the ring at the Judge's discretion.

8.7 Judging Order of Junior Handler Finals

8.7.1 Handlers will enter the ring in draw order (not catalogue order) initially competing with their own exhibits. The Judges will shortlist four (4) Handlers and the four (4) shortlisted Handlers will be required to return to the ring at a scheduled time for the final round to handle unknown dogs. In the final round, each of the four (4) shortlisted Handlers will be required to handle two (2) exhibits from a pool of dogs provided by the organisers. The organisers will provide the Judge(s) with a list of the breeds of dog in the pool and the Judge(s) will select which two breeds each finalist will handle. Each dog in the pool may not be allocated to more than two (2) Handlers. Handlers will be allowed five (5) minutes with each of their allocated dogs prior to the start of the final round and will enter the ring in draw order.

8.8 Following the round of judging with new exhibits, the winner of the Competition is announced.

9. JUDGES

9.1 A KUSA Judge must be qualified as specified in Schedule 5K & 10. A foreign-domiciled Judge shall either be qualified as a specialist Junior Handler (Junior Showmanship) Judge in his or her own country, or be approved by KUSA to Judge Best in Show in this country.

9.2 The National Junior Handler Competition will be judged by two (2) qualified Judges with a referee in attendance.

10. SPONSORSHIP

The event may be sponsored permanently or on an annual basis by any enterprise acceptable to KUSA. In the years when the event is sponsored, the title may be preceded by the name of the sponsor. Should a sponsor elect to withdraw its sponsorship from the event, it will not prejudice the holding of the event in that year or any succeeding year. To ensure that the event is not jeopardised through withdrawal of sponsorship, KUSA and any sponsor shall enter into an agreement in which the terms and conditions of sponsorship are clearly set out.



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