



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

SCHEDULE 10: APPENDIX 3

BREED SPECIALISATION COURSE KUSA BREED JUDGES' LEARNING PROGRAMME

(Effective 01-03-2025)

The Breed Specialisation Course is a Level 2 course that specialises in a single breed, as determined and made available by the Kennel Union Judges' Education Council. (Note: The Applicant should contact the KUSA Office to establish which Breed Specialisation Courses are offered).

1. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- 1.1. If not already successfully completed, the Applicant must follow the requirements of Level 1 and pass the Paper 1 examination before embarking on a Breed Specialisation Course (*See Schedule 10, Appendix 1*).
- 1.2. If, after passing Paper 1, it is the Learner Judge's first entry to Level 2, and the choice has been made to study a Breed Specialisation Course first, no other course may be studied simultaneously.
- 1.3. On the successful completion of Level 1 or further, a Provisional, Licensed, or Senior Judge may study the Breed Specialisation Course simultaneously with one (1) other Level 2 Group Course or the Junior Showmanship Course or another Breed Specialisation Course if he/she meets any additional qualifying criteria according to the relevant Breed Club(s)/Council (if applicable).

2. APPLICATION

- 2.1. A Learner, Provisional, Licensed or Senior Judge wishing to apply to follow the Breed Specialisation Course must submit the required application form to the KUSA Office.

3. SUPPORT MATERIAL

- 3.1. The Learner Judge will be granted access to a comprehensive Study Guide outlining details of the requirements of the relevant Breed Specialisation Course and how to approach each module.
- 3.2. The recommended and compulsory reading includes:
 - 3.2.1. the current, relevant Breed Standard on the KUSA website,
 - 3.2.2. any number of other reliable sources,
 - 3.2.3. reading material recommended by the relevant Breed Club(s) or Council(s).
- 3.3. In all written assignments, the Learner Judge must supply a full bibliography of all resources used as follows:
 - 3.3.1. Books: Author. Title. Edition. Location. Publisher. Year (e.g. Beauchamp, Richard G. *Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type*. 2nd Ed. New Jersey, USA. Kennel Club Books. 2008)
 - 3.3.2. Articles: Author. Title. Publication. Year (e.g. Orlandi, Claudia Waller. *Practical Canine Anatomy & Movement*. Breed University Course. 2006)
 - 3.3.3. Internet: Author. Title. URL (e.g. Bull, Tom. *How Bullies Fly*. www.bulliearticles.com/bulliesfly.html)

4. MENTORSHIP AND ASSESSMENT

- 4.1. The JEC Assessment Officer will assign to the Learner Judge, a qualified Breed Specialist Assessor, who will mentor and assess the Learner Judge's performance for the duration of the course.
- 4.2. The assigned Breed Specialist Assessor will be required to attend and observe the judging of at least one of the Learner Judge's judging appointments at Non-championship Shows within South Africa and provide feedback on the Learner Judge's judging technique, ring management and judging decisions - encouraging and advising best practices where applicable.

4.3. The Learner Judge will be required to liaise with the assigned Breed Specialist Assessor on a suitable occasion to conduct the observation and assessment.

5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- 5.1. The Learner Judge is encouraged to consult with his/her assigned Breed Specialist Assessor for guidance and support, for the duration of the entire course.
- 5.2. The order of progression through the Breed Specialisation Course is prescribed as follows:
 - 5.2.1. Breed Test, to be followed by
 - 5.2.2. the Breed Hallmarks Assignment, whereafter a Learner Judge may be cleared for
 - 5.2.3. judging appointments with critiques.
 - 5.2.4. At any time during the course of study, the Learner Judge may:
 - 5.2.4.1. complete the Shadow Judging Module,
 - 5.2.4.2. complete the Ring Stewardship Module,
 - 5.2.4.3. accumulate the required number of Learning Encounters,
 - 5.2.4.4. research and complete the Breed Assignment.
 - 5.2.5. Portfolio submission.
- 5.3. Assessment will be conducted for each module, either during, or after, completion.
- 5.4. Eligibility for the Paper 2 examination depends on the approval of the Portfolio, which serves as proof of successful completion of all modules.

6. MODULES

6.1. BREED TEST

The rationale for this module is to cultivate familiarity with the location and content of the relevant, current Breed Standard and to ensure a thorough understanding of the breed before entering the ring to judge it.

- 6.1.1. The Learner Judge completes the relevant Breed Test.
- 6.1.2. The JEC Assessment Officer will forward the Breed Test to the Learner Judge. Once completed, the Learner Judge will submit the Breed Test to the assigned Breed Specialist Assessor, who will be responsible for assessing it.
- 6.1.3. The test comprises questions on elements of the relevant Breed Standard. The Learner Judge must consult the current Breed Standard – available on the KUSA website – in order to answer the questions correctly. (www.kusa.co.za/index.php/documents/breed-standards).
- 6.1.4. The pass mark for the Breed Test is 100%.
- 6.1.5. If initially unsuccessful, the Learner Judge will have the opportunity to revise or redo the Breed Test until a successful pass mark is attained.
- 6.1.6. Once approved by the assigned Breed Specialist Assessor, the Breed Test must be stored in the Portfolio.
- 6.1.7. The assigned Breed Specialist Assessor will notify the JEC Assessment Officer of the successful completion of the Breed Test, who will, in turn, co-ordinate the Learner's credits and progress with KUSA Judges' Department.
- 6.1.8. The Learner Judge will not be cleared to progress further until the compulsory Breed Test has been successfully completed.

6.2. BREED HALLMARKS ASSIGNMENT

The rationale for this module is to encourage the Learner Judge to identify the most important Breed Hallmarks and specific characteristics of the relevant breed in order to be completely attuned to them and to present these in a format most useful for the Learner Judge's individual style of learning and for practical use during judging.

- 6.2.1. The Learner Judge prepares a brief list of Breed Hallmarks and specific characteristics that succinctly encapsulate the essence of the relevant breed.
- 6.2.2. The Learner Judge is advised to consult his/her assigned Breed Specialist Assessor plus the support material available to guide the successful completion of this module.
- 6.2.3. The Learner Judge will be expected to prepare this assignment in a format of his/her own choice in order to facilitate his/her own particular learning style and practical application.
- 6.2.4. The Learner Judge submits the completed Breed Hallmarks Assignment to his/her assigned Breed Specialist Assessor for assessment.
- 6.2.5. If initially unsuccessful, the Learner Judge will have the opportunity to revise or redo the assignment until the appropriate Breed Hallmarks and specific characteristics have been successfully identified.

- 6.2.6. Once approved by the assigned Breed Specialist Assessor, the Breed Hallmarks Assignment must be stored in the Portfolio, but the Learner Judge is encouraged to use the list practically during future judging assignments.
- 6.2.7. The assigned Breed Specialist Assessor will notify the JEC Assessment Officer of the successful completion of the Breed Hallmarks Assignment, who will, in turn, co-ordinate the Learner's credits and progress with KUSA Judges' Department.
- 6.2.8. The Learner Judge will not be cleared to progress further until the Breed Hallmarks Assignment has been successfully completed.

6.3. JUDGING APPOINTMENTS

The rationale for this module is to gain practical experience in the multi-skilled task of judging at Conformation Shows. The writing of brief critiques encourages the finding of sound reasons for judging decisions and promotes a culture of positive judging.

- 6.3.1. The Learner Judge may accept and will be cleared for judging appointments on the successful completion of the Breed Test and Breed Hallmarks Assignment (*See Regs. 6.1 and 6.2. above*). The acceptance of judging appointments when ineligible to do so on account of non-compliance with the Regulations shall be deemed as willful misrepresentation of judging qualifications and be subject to an appropriate penalty to be imposed by the Executive Committee.
- 6.3.2. The Learner Judge will need to judge:
 - 6.3.2.1. at least forty (40) exhibits of the relevant breed, on which brief critiques are written
 - 6.3.2.2. at a minimum of two (2) Non-championship Shows of which at least one (1) must be a Specialty Show, subject to Regulations 6.3.3 and 6.3.7 below.
- 6.3.3. At least one (1) of the judging appointments must be in a different geographical Centre from the one in which the Learner Judge is based, more if possible.
- 6.3.4. Where it has been brought to the attention of the JEC that there is insufficient Non-Championship Shows in South Africa for a Learner Judge to satisfy the judging quota requirements under Reg.6.3.2 above, a Level 4 Group Judge following the Specialisation Course may apply to the JEC to accept a quota of dogs to be judged during a foreign appointment (refer to Schedule 10 **KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme- Reg. 5 Foreign Judging Appointments**). Each application shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis on its own merits and the parameters for the permissible quota of foreign dogs and the quantum of required critiquing within that quota shall be set by the JEC.
- 6.3.5. The Learner Judge must complete the standardised critique form during his/her judging, in which details and numbers of the exhibits judged are entered, as well as a brief critique on each exhibit judged.
- 6.3.6. On completion of the judging appointment, the Learner Judge must request the Show Secretary to endorse the critique forms. The Show Secretary will acknowledge having signed off on said critique forms in the normal Return of Show Levies form, which is required to be forwarded to the KUSA Office as per normal procedure.
- 6.3.7. Should the Learner Judge have been granted a concession by the JEC under Regulation 6.3.4 to include a quota of foreign dogs judged at a foreign appointment and to submit brief critiques on all or certain of the foreign dogs, the brief critiques must be submitted to the Breed Specialist Assessor and the JEC Admin Officer and not as directed in Regulation 6.3.6 above.
- 6.3.8. On receipt of the Return of Show Levies form from the Show Secretary, or on receipt from the Learner Judge of the brief critiques on dogs judged at a foreign appointment, the KUSA Office will record and update the Learner Judge's progress and grant clearance for future judging appointments. No clearance for future judging appointments shall be granted without this procedure having been completed correctly.
- 6.3.9. At least one (1) judging appointment must be observed by the assigned Breed Specialist Assessor (*see 4.3.*), which appointment may only take place in the metropolises within Gauteng, Western Cape, or KwaZulu-Natal.
- 6.3.10. The assigned Breed Specialist Assessor will provide verbal feedback and guidance on the Learner Judge's performance and endorse the completed critiques immediately on completion of the judging assignment.
- 6.3.11. The Learner Judge must store all his/her critiques in the Portfolio.
- 6.3.12. At one (1) of the assessed appointments, within South Africa the Assessor will make a formative assessment of the Learner Judge's judging skills and ring management on the official Assessor's Judging Skills Assessment form and provide verbal feedback and guidance immediately on completion of the judging appointment.

- 6.3.12.1. If the minimum approval rate is not achieved in all sections of the Assessor's Judging Skills Assessment, the Learner Judge will be required to undergo one or more subsequent Assessor's Judging Skills Assessments, in the underrated section only, until a successful rating is achieved.
- 6.3.13. The Learner Judge must make and forward a copy of the signed and completed Assessor's Judging Skills Assessment form to the KUSA Judges' Department. The original Judging Skills Assessment form, and any subsequent original Judging Skills Assessment form(s) (if applicable), must be stored in the Portfolio.
- 6.3.14. On completion of all requirements outlined in Reg. 6.3., the Learner Judge may continue to judge at Non-championship Shows in any geographical Centre without assessment or writing of critiques until the Learner Judge feels ready to sit the examination.

6.4. SHADOW JUDGING

The rationale for this module is to grant the Learner Judge an opportunity to experience some of the typical challenges and situations within the ring at Championship Show level by closely observing the techniques and decisions of an experienced Judge, together with the opportunity to participate and practice with feedback and professional guidance.

- 6.4.1. The Learner Judge selects to shadow a Level 4 Licensed Judge in the relevant breed, and any size or coat varieties thereof, licensed at that level for at least 5 years or an International Judge, at a Specialist Championship Show.
- 6.4.2. The Learner Judge must apply in writing – at least 2 weeks before the event – to the Show Secretary to obtain permission from the Officiating Judge on the Learner Judge's behalf.
- 6.4.3. Learner Judges who fail to follow the procedure in Reg. 6.4.2. above may risk forfeiting credit for the relevant Shadow Judging session.
- 6.4.4. The Learner Judge must be present in good time before judging commences and must remain until the end of judging in order to participate in the Officiating Judge's feedback and guidance.
- 6.4.5. The Learner Judge accompanies and observes the Officiating Judge's technique as closely as possible in the ring without excessive intrusion. The Learner Judge is not permitted to spend the duration of the Shadow Judging session seated at the judge's table under the gazebo.
- 6.4.6. Following the award of Best of Breed (Best in Specialty Show) and Best Puppy of Breed (Best Puppy in Specialty Show) by the Officiating Judge, the Learner Judge will be granted an opportunity to examine and move the Best in Specialty Show and Best Puppy in Specialty Show exhibits. The Learner Judge makes notes on the conformation and movement of the exhibits. The Learner Judge may request to examine, move and make notes on any additional Best Class in Specialty Show (Best Junior, Best Veteran, Best Baby Puppy, etc. in Specialty Show) winners.
- 6.4.7. Interactive involvement between the Learner Judge and Officiating Judge is to be encouraged in terms of judging and observation techniques (particularly with regard to the meaningful placement of hands and methods of measuring), but no public or overheard criticism of particular exhibits will be permitted.
- 6.4.8. A feedback session between the Learner Judge and Officiating Judge is advised in private after the assignment.
- 6.4.9. Proof of all Shadow Judging Assignments must be endorsed by the Officiating Judge on the official form and stored in the Portfolio.
- 6.4.10. The Learner Judge completes a Learner's Shadow Judging Report following the Shadow Judging session, which must be stored in the Portfolio.

6.5. BREED ASSIGNMENT

The rationale for this module is to encourage the Learner Judge to involve himself/herself in an in-depth study of the relevant breed in order to gain better understanding of all aspects of the breed over and above the Breed Standard, then to summarise and present this collected information into written format.

- 6.5.1. The Learner Judge prepares three (3) or four (4) essays (dependent on the content of the relevant Breed Specialisation Course) of approximately 300 - 500 words (half to one A4 typed page) on each of the prescribed topics.
- 6.5.2. The Learner Judge must consult the relevant Breed Specialist Study Guide in the restricted area of the KUSA website, accessed through the Judges' Portal, for details on the Breed Assignment topics and advice on how to complete the assignment effectively.
- 6.5.3. The Learner Judge must research and write the required essays, which may be illustrated. Full bibliographic details must be provided (See 3.3. above). It is recommended that the Learner Judge allows sufficient time to devote his/her full attention to this Assignment.

- 6.5.4. It is recommended that the Learner Judge should approach the assigned Breed Specialist Assessor for guidance, but under no circumstances may the Breed Assignment be presented in any form other than the Learner Judge's own wording throughout.
- 6.5.5. Procedure for submission of Breed Assignment (Essay Topics) –
- 6.5.5.1. The Learner Judge must submit the completed Assignment to the Breed Specialist Assessor.
 - 6.5.5.2. Upon completion of the assessment, the Breed Specialist Assessor will forward the Breed Assignment to the JEC Examination Officer for further assessment.
 - 6.5.5.3. The Breed Specialist Assessor and the JEC Examination Officer will concur on the assessment prior to returning the Breed Assignment to the Learner Judge.
 - 6.5.5.4. Should the Breed Specialist Assessor and/or JEC Examination Officer not approve of the Breed Assignment, feedback will be given to the Learner Judge on the areas requiring attention.

6.6. RING STEWARDSHIP

The rationale for this module is to increase opportunity for the Learner Judge to become fully familiar with procedures and KUSA Regulations within the ring. Working in the breed ring being studied also allows considerable indirect learning in between ring stewarding duties.

- 6.6.1. The Learner Judge is required to attend and complete a Ring Stewardship Workshop or Seminar. Proof of attendance will be required if a Ring Stewardship Workshop or Seminar was attended prior to registering for the Breed Specialisation Course, in which case, credit will be given and compulsory attendance will not be necessary.
- 6.6.2. The Learner Judge is required to serve as a Ring Steward at a minimum of one (1) Non-championship Show and one (1) Championship Specialty Show in the breed ring the Learner Judge is studying.
- 6.6.2.1. The Learner Judge may complete the one (1) Non-championship Show Ring Stewardship appointment either at a Specialist Club Non-championship Show or the breed at a Group or All-breeds Non-championship Show.
 - 6.6.2.2. The Learner Judge must complete the one (1) Championship Show Ring Stewardship appointment at a Specialist Club Championship Show.
- 6.6.3. The Ring Stewardship appointments may be completed in any order and not necessarily before the first judging appointment, although this is strongly advised. The Learner Judge may serve additional appointments as a Ring Steward in the breed ring he/she is studying or any other breed/Group, but these appointments will not be counted towards this module requirement.
- 6.6.4. Ring Stewardship experience gained before enrolment in the Breed Specialisation Course does not count towards this module requirement.
- 6.6.5. A Learner Judge may not serve a Ring Stewardship for the relevant breed prior to one month of judging that breed in the same provincial area.
- 6.6.6. Proof of Ring Stewardship must be endorsed by the Show Secretary and stored in the Portfolio.

6.7. LEARNING ENCOUNTERS

The rationale for this module is to open the Learner Judge to a number of different learning opportunities that may offer various views of, and insights into, the breed being studied in order to form a balanced and supplementary knowledge of the breed and also to inculcate a culture of life-long learning.

- 6.7.1. The Learner Judge must attend or participate in a minimum of four (4) Learning Encounters, of which:
- 6.7.1.1. one (1) JEC Breed Seminar/Workshop/Webinar on the relevant breed is compulsory, and
 - 6.7.1.2. the balance of at least three (3) Learning Encounters may comprise any or all of the following:
 - additional breed seminars/workshops/webinars
 - privately viewed breed presentations/webcasts
 - private breed discussions
 - study groups (e.g. several Learner Judges working a study together)
 - grooming workshops/demonstrations
 - Shadow Judging at Non-championship Shows (same procedure as Shadow Judging at Championship shows - refer to *Reg 6.4. above*)
- 6.7.2. The Learner Judge must record full details of place, presenter, date, references and proof of attendance on standardised forms to be stored in the Portfolio.

- 6.7.3. All Learning Encounters – whether private or public – must be summarised and analysed in sufficient detail and with satisfactory insight. Failure to meet sufficient analytical detail may result in a Learning Encounter not being credited.
- 6.7.4. Credit will be given for previously attended Seminars covering the breed being studied, providing proof of attendance is provided.

6.8. **PORTFOLIO**

- 6.8.1. The Learner Judge keeps a Portfolio to record accomplishment of all learning modules (See Reg. 6.7).
- 6.8.2. Once the Learner Judge has completed all the requirements of the course, the Portfolio is submitted to the KUSA Judges' Department for a summative assessment.
- 6.8.3. The closing date for Portfolio submissions for clearance to sit the June examination is 15 April, and the closing date for Portfolio submissions for clearance to sit the November examination, is 1 September. These submission dates are finite in order to allow the KUSA Judges' Department sufficient time for remedial intervention to achieve the desired outcome of a properly collated Portfolio.
- 6.8.4. If found to have met all requirements satisfactorily, the KUSA Judges' Department will approve and sign off the Portfolio and notify the JEC Fedco Representatives of such successful completion.
- 6.8.5. If certain requirements are incomplete or of insufficient standard, the KUSA Judges' Department will advise the Learner Judge and guide remedial procedures in order to facilitate successful completion.

7. **EXAMINATION: BREED SPECIALISATION**

- 7.1. On the successful completion of the whole level of study, the Learner Judge may apply to sit the examination, Breed Specialisation, without reference books or material, held usually in June or November.
- 7.2. Registrations for the June examination close on 15 May and registrations for the November examination close on 1 October. No late registrations will be accepted and the date on the Proof of Payment accompanying the Examination Registration Form will serve as the Learner Judge's Registration Date. Since no late exam registrations will be accepted, a Learner Judge who fails to complete requested revisions to the Portfolio (if applicable) to the satisfaction of the JEC before the closing date for exam registrations, shall have the registration held over till the next examination date.
- 7.3. The format of the examination will be multiple choice, labelling, long questions and an essay.
- 7.4. The content of the examination will cover:
- 7.4.1. KUSA Regulations **and Procedures** (40 marks), for which the following need to be studied:
 - The Articles (content applicable to Members & Judges);
 - Schedule 01-Disciplinary Rules (content specifically applicable to Judges);
 - Schedule 03-Regulations for Championship Shows;
 - Schedule 09-KUSA Code of Ethics applicable to KUSA Members in general
 - Schedule 09 Appendix B – Code of Conduct and Practice applicable to Judges
 - Temporary Exclusion Order (TEO) Manual
 - 7.4.2. Canine Physiology (50 marks)
 - 7.4.3. KUSA Breed Standard & Assignment (See 6.5. above) (160 marks)
- 7.5. Paper 2 will carry 250 marks with a minimum pass requirement of 75% for all three (3) sections individually, i.e. 75% for each section of KUSA Breed Standard & Assignment, KUSA Regulations & Procedures and Canine Physiology.
- 7.6. Failure to achieve the required pass mark of 75% in any one of the three sections as confirmed in Regulation 2.5.5, will result in automatic failure of the Paper 2 for the Breed Specialisation Course in question.
- 7.7. The duration of the examination shall be no longer than 3 hours.
- 7.8. The examination script will be marked by the JEC Examination Officer and moderated by at least one qualified JEC Moderator before results are made known.
- 7.9. The Examination Candidate will be notified by the KUSA Office of his/her success or failure in the examination and a percentage mark shall be given.
- 7.10. No correspondence will be entered into following the examination.
- 7.11. If the Examination Candidate is successful, he/she may register with the KUSA Judges' Department to begin studies for a new course of study, if desired.
- 7.12. If the Examination Candidate is unsuccessful, he/she may register to rewrite the examination at any future examination opportunity.

7.13. A re-marking facility will be available on payment of a fee, as determined by the KUSA Office.

8. **FINAL ASSESSMENT**

- 8.1. On the successful completion of the examination, the KUSA Office will acknowledge the Learner Judge as a Provisional Breed Specialist Judge until the final assessment is successfully completed.
- 8.2. A Provisional Breed Specialist Judge is permitted to judge at Non-championship or Qualifying Shows and may award Challenge Certificates (CCs) at Championship Shows in the breed for which he/she has passed the examination, subject to required time restrictions (*See Schedule 10, Reg. 3*).
- 8.3. The Provisional Breed Specialist Judge will be required to judge at least one (1) Championship Specialty Show appointments and such additional Championship Speciality Show appointments as may be set for the individual breeds for which Breed Specialisation Courses are offered under KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme. The breed(s) for which Provisional Breed Specialisation Judges would be required to fulfil additional (more than one) Championship Speciality Show appointments are:

* Bull Terrier – Two (2) additional Championship Speciality Show appointments

- 8.4. The JEC reserves the right to assign a Breed Specialist Assessor to observe the Provisional Judge's performance and provide feedback on a set of criteria that the Provisional Judge must meet in order to be approved as a Licensed Judge.
- 8.4.1. If the assessment criteria are not met, the Provisional Breed Specialist Judge will need to fill additional Championship Speciality Show appointments with the same assessment criteria as above, until the quota has been satisfied.
- 8.5. On the successful completion of the final assessment, the KUSA Office will acknowledge the Provisional Breed Specialist Judge as a Licensed Breed Specialist Judge.



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Fedco 06-2018 JEC / 19.11.2018
Fedco 06-2019 Updated AB/01.07.2019
Fedco 12-2019 PM Updated 5.03.2020
Fedco 12-2022 NS Updated 04.01.2023/ PM updated 20.01.2023
Fedco 06-2023 CPA Updated 11.07.2023
Fedco 12.2024 AH Updated 11.01.2024
Fedco 04 2024 AH Updated 08.04.2024
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The most recent changes to this Schedule have an effective date of 01.03.2025