



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

SCHEDULE 10: KUSA REGULATIONS KUSA BREED JUDGES' LEARNING PROGRAMME

(Effective 01-10-2026)

These Regulations shall be read in conjunction with:

Schedule 03 (*Regulations for Championship Shows*),
Schedule 03A (*Regulations for International Dog Shows*),
Schedule 04 (*Regulations for Non-championship Shows*),
Schedule 04A (*Regulations for Qualifying Shows*),
Schedule 05K (*Regulations for Handler Classes*) and
Schedule 09 (*Code of Ethics*).

Accompanying these KUSA Regulations, are the following Appendices:

1. **APPENDIX 1 – GROUP COURSE:** Before embarking on the KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme (KBJLP), interested persons may apply to the KUSA Office to receive the free booklet: *"How to apply to become a Breed Judge"*, which contains detailed guidelines regarding the qualifying criteria, the application process and relevant information.
2. **APPENDIX 2 – JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP COURSE:** Any KUSA member in good standing who has a genuine interest in nurturing and guiding tomorrow's Handlers through the activity of judging Junior Showmanship must meet the qualifying criteria.
3. **APPENDIX 3 – BREED SPECIALISATION COURSE:** On the successful completion of Level 1, a Learner Judge may register to study a single breed at Specialist Level if he meets any additional qualifying criteria according to the relevant Breed Council or Breed Club(s). (*Note: The applicant must contact the KUSA Judges' Department to establish which Specialist Learning Programmes are offered.*)

THE 10 NUMERICAL GROUPS OF THE FÉDÉRATION CYNOLOGIQUE INTERNATIONALE (FCI) DEFINED

FCI Group 1	–	Sheepdogs and Cattle dogs (except Swiss Cattle dogs) – FCI Key Group
FCI Group 2	–	Pinscher and Schnauzer – Molosoid and Swiss Mountain and Cattle dogs – FCI Key Group
FCI Group 3	–	Terriers – FCI Key Group
FCI Group 4	–	Dachshunds
FCI Group 5	–	Spitz and primitive types – FCI Key Group
FCI Group 6	–	Scent hounds and related breeds
FCI Group 7	–	Pointing Dogs
FCI Group 8	–	Retrievers – Flushing Dogs – Water Dogs
FCI Group 9	–	Companion and Toy Dogs – FCI Key Group
FCI Group 10	–	Sighthounds

THE 7-GROUP CLASSIFICATION UNDER KUSA AND THE ELEMENTS FROM THE FCI GROUPS WHICH CONTRIBUTE TO THE RESPECTIVE KUSA GROUPS

Gundog Group	–	FCI Groups 7 & 8
Herding Group	–	FCI Key Group 1 + Breeds from FCI Key Group 5
Hound Group	–	FCI Groups 4, 6 & 10 + Breeds from FCI Key Group 5
Terrier Group	–	FCI Key Group 3
Toy Group	–	FCI Key Group 9 + Breeds from FCI Key Group 5
Utility Group	–	FCI Key Group 9 + Breeds from FCI Key Group 5 + FCI Key Group 2
Working Group	–	FCI Key Group 2 + Breeds from FCI Key Group 5 + FCI Key Group 1

1. **BREED JUDGING QUALIFICATION AND LICENSING**

- 1.1. The KUSA Office will only list a person on the Register of Breed Judges for a Specialist Breed, a Group or Junior Showmanship, when a Judge has fulfilled the requirements as outlined in Appendices 1, 2 or 3.
- 1.2. There shall be no other qualification programme running parallel with this version of the KBJLP. Judges working on any previous qualification programme will be awarded credit for the level of study already accomplished on a previous system and will be advised on any remaining criteria that will need to be met in order to progress further.

2. **LEVELS OF PROGRESSION**

There are five (5) levels of progression in the KBJLP.

2.1. **LEVEL 1: CANDIDATE JUDGE**

- 2.1.1. A person who wishes to join the KBJLP must meet the required criteria and apply for registration according to the requirements outlined in Appendix 1.
- 2.1.2. If the Applicant meets the qualifying criteria, he will follow Level 1 of the Learning Programme and sit the Level 1 Examination, which comprises Paper 1 and Paper 2.

2.2. **LEVEL 2: LEARNER JUDGE**

- 2.2.1. Adherence to Qualification Path: A Learner Judge must select a Qualification Path when he initially applies to join the KBJLP and follow that Qualification Path.
- 2.2.2. A Learner Judge may take on the Junior Showmanship Course, to supplement his chosen Qualification Path towards qualification, provided that the Group(s) which he is studying is not regulated by the FCI as one of the Key Groups.

2.3. **LEVEL 3: LICENSED JUDGE**

- 2.3.1. On the successful completion of the requirements of Level 2, the KUSA Office will acknowledge the Learner Judge as a Licensed Judge.
- 2.3.2. A Licensed Judge is permitted to judge at Non-championship or Qualifying Shows and may award Challenge Certificates (CCs) at Championship Shows in the Group(s) or Specialist Breed for which he has gained licence(s), subject to required time restrictions (See Reg. 3).
- 2.3.3. Licensed Judges are requested to volunteer their services, whenever possible, to serve in various capacities at Non-championship Shows to assist Club Organisers and also to keep in good practice.
- 2.3.4. A Licensed Judge may accept appointments outside of South Africa and Namibia.
- 2.3.5. A Licensed Judge is qualified to award the FCI '*Certificat d'aptitude au Championnat International de Beauté*' (FCI-C.A.C.I.B.®) to breeds within the qualified Group(s) at South African-hosted FCI International Shows only, until a period of two (2) years has passed from the date of the qualifying examination.
 - 2.3.5.1. During this two (2) year period, a KUSA Licensed Judge who has opted to do *one* Group Course only, will be allowed to apply through the KUSA Office, to embark on further educational studies to become compliant with the FCI Regulations for those breeds which form part of the FCI Group, but do *not* form part of the KUSA Group as per Schedule 02 Appendix "A1" and Appendix "A2". Having successfully applied and

completed the educational studies as referred to under Regulations 6 of Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Group Course, the Licensed Judge may accept invitations to award FCI-C.A.C.I.B.®s to breeds within the qualified Group(s) at FCI International Shows outside of South Africa.

- 2.3.6. If the Licensed Judge has an interest in guiding future Judges, he may complete the JEC Mentors' Course to allow him to serve as a Mentor for the Group/s for which he is Licensed.

2.4. **LEVEL 4: SENIOR JUDGE**

- 2.4.1. The KUSA Office will acknowledge the Licensed Judge as a Senior Judge as soon as he has gained licences for four (4) Groups.
- 2.4.2. A Senior Judge is permitted to judge at Non-championship or Qualifying Shows and may award Challenge Certificates (CCs) at Championship Shows in the four (4) Groups for which he has gained licence(s), subject to required time restrictions (*See Reg. 3*).
- 2.4.3. A Senior Judge is qualified to judge Best in Show and Best Puppy in Show at All-breeds Championship Shows.
- 2.4.4. Senior Judges are requested to volunteer their services, whenever possible, at Non-championship Shows in order to assist Club Organisers in the filling of roles and also to keep in good practice.
- 2.4.5. A Senior Judge may accept appointments outside of South Africa and Namibia.
- 2.4.6. A Senior Judge is qualified to award the FCI '*Certificat d'aptitude au Championnat International de Beauté*' (FCI-C.A.C.I.B.®) to breeds within the qualified Group(s) at South African-hosted FCI International Shows only, until a period of two (2) years has passed from the date of completion of Level 2, whereafter a Licensed Judge may accept invitations to award FCI-C.A.C.I.B.®s to breeds within the qualified Group(s) at FCI International Shows outside of South Africa. The JEC may waive this requirement at its sole discretion, provided that such waiver will not be contrary to the FCI Show Judges Regulations (as amended from time to time).
- 2.4.7. If the Senior Judge has an interest in guiding future Judges, he may complete the JEC Mentors' Course to allow him to serve as a Mentor for the Groups for which he is Licensed.

2.5. **LEVEL 5: ALL-BREEDS JUDGE**

- 2.5.1. The KUSA Office will acknowledge the Senior Judge as an All-Breeds Judge as soon as he has gained licences for all seven (7) Groups.
- 2.5.2. An All-Breeds Judge is permitted to judge at Non-championship or Qualifying Shows, and may award Challenge Certificates (CCs) at Championship Shows in all seven (7) Groups, subject to required time restrictions (*See Reg. 3*).
- 2.5.3. An All-Breeds Judge is qualified to judge Best in Show and Best Puppy in Show at All-Breeds Championship Shows.
- 2.5.4. All-Breeds Judges are requested to volunteer their services, whenever possible, at Non-championship Shows in order to assist Club Organisers in the filling of roles and also to keep in good practice.
- 2.5.5. An All-Breeds Judge may accept appointments outside of South Africa and Namibia.
- 2.5.6. An All-Breeds Judge is qualified to award the FCI '*Certificat d'aptitude au Championnat International de Beauté*' (FCI-C.A.C.I.B.®) to breeds within the qualified Group(s) at South African-hosted FCI International Shows only, until a period of two (2) years has passed from the date of completion of Level 2, whereafter a Licensed Judge may accept invitations to award FCI-C.A.C.I.B.®s to breeds within the qualified Group(s) at FCI International Shows outside of South Africa. The JEC may waive this requirement at its sole discretion, provided that such waiver will not be contrary to the FCI Show Judges Regulations (as amended from time to time).
- 2.5.7. A KUSA-qualified All-Breeds Judge will only be recognised as an FCI All-Breed International Judge after the completion of twelve (12) years since passing the qualifying examination for his first Group, provided the Qualification Path towards such status was adhered to as set out in Annexure "A".
- 2.5.8. If the All-Breeds Judge has an interest in guiding future Judges, he may complete the JEC Mentors' Course to allow him to serve as a Group Mentor for all Groups.

2.6. **ADDITIONAL BREEDS – FCI GROUP ALIGNMENT**

- 2.6.1. A Licensed Judge who has opted to do a *single Group Course* only or has completed certain KUSA Groups, will be allowed to apply to embark on further educational studies to become

compliant with the FCI Regulations for those breeds which form part of the FCI Group, but do *not* form part of the KUSA Group, for which he is already a Licensed Judge. Having successfully applied and completed the educational studies set out in Regulation 6 of Appendix 1 to Schedule 10, the Judge may accept invitations to award FCI-C.A.C.I.B.®s to breeds within the qualified Group(s) at FCI International Shows outside of South Africa.

3. JUDGING RESTRICTIONS

The following time restrictions apply to Judges at all levels:

- 3.1 **Between two Non-championship Shows in the same province:** a period of 3 months must pass between judging the same Breed, Group or Group Final.
- 3.2 **Between two Non-championship Shows in different provinces:** there is no time restriction.
- 3.3 **Between a Non-championship Show and a Championship or Qualifying Show in the same province:** a period of 3 months must pass between judging the same Breed, Group or Group Final.
- 3.4 **Between a Non-championship Show and a Championship or Qualifying Show in different provinces:** there is no time restriction.
- 3.5 **Between two Championship and Qualifying Shows in any province:** a period of 3 months must pass between judging the same Breed, Group or Group Final.
- 3.6 **Between Best in Show/Best Puppy in Show at Non-championship All-Breeds Shows in different provinces:** there is no time restriction.
- 3.7 **Between Best in Show/Best Puppy in Show at Non-championship All-Breeds Shows in the same province:** a period of 3 months must pass.
- 3.8 **Between Best in Show/Best Puppy in Show at Qualifying and/or Championship All-Breeds Shows in any province:** a period of 3 months must pass.
- 3.9 **Between any other Best Class in Show Finals at All-Breeds Shows in any province:** there is no time restriction.
- 3.10 All scheduled Breed events held under 05E are excluded from judging restrictions described in Sub-Regulations 3.1 to 3.7.
- 3.11 Judging in Namibia is excluded from judging restrictions described in Sub-Regulations 3.1 to 3.7 (Note: Judging clearance areas are as defined by the Kennel Union, namely: *Eastern Cape & Border, Free State & Northern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape & Boland. Clubs under the control of DOGSPC and NAPC are regarded as falling in one province for the purposes of clearing judges*).

4. MENTORSHIP, ASSESSMENT AND MODERATION

4.1 GROUP MENTORS

- 4.1.1 The role of a Group Mentor is to offer guidance and support to a Learner Judge on an individual basis, as needed.
- 4.1.2 Mentors will be assigned to observe and assess Learner Judges' judging appointments at Non-championship Shows and provide feedback on the Learner Judges' judging technique, ring management and judging decisions - encouraging and advising best practices, where applicable.
- 4.1.3 Mentors must be prepared to devote time to the Learner Judge(s) in their charge; offer guidance, positive reinforcement, and motivation during the Learner Judges' progress through the modules.
- 4.1.4 Mentors will be assigned to assess, approve, and record certain modules to be completed by the Learner Judge and offer feedback.

4.2 MODERATOR

- 4.2.1 The role of the Moderator is to review and moderate examination questions, scripts and scores for accuracy and best practices.
- 4.2.2 The Moderator is an All-breeds Judge.

4.3 PORTFOLIOS

- 4.3.1 In consultation with the JEC Fedco Representatives and, subject to the approval of the Federal Council, the KUSA Judges' Department shall procure the services, whether by contract or freelance commission, of a suitably experienced person to check the skills assessments of

Learners and, upon confirmation that a Learner Judge's Portfolio is comprised of all its elements and meets all requirements, sign off the portfolio.

4.3.2 The Learner Judge must submit his Portfolio by the closing date for Portfolio submissions set by the KUSA Judges' Department.

4.3.3 The Learner Judge must be notified of any omission or other deficiency preventing the sign-off of his Portfolio as soon as possible after submission and be urged to remedy such impediment forthwith, and in any event no later than one (1) week from the notice to remedy any omissions or deficiencies.

4.4. ELIGIBILITY AND QUALIFICATION

4.4.1. Experienced Licensed, Specialist, Senior, and All-breeds Judges with an interest in nurturing, guiding and advising future Judges may be invited or may volunteer to serve as Mentors.

4.4.2. To be approved as a Mentor, the Applicant must be registered as a Licensed Judge for at least one Group or Breed Specialisation and must complete the KUSA-approved Mentor's Course successfully.

4.4.3. From time to time, Mentors will be required to undergo refresher courses and will be required to engage in discussions with each other and the JEC to maintain a universal level of assessment and mentoring.

4.4.4. Once registered as a Mentor, the KUSA Office will add Groups and/or breeds and Junior Showmanship judging as and when new qualifications are acquired by the Mentor.

5. FOREIGN JUDGING APPOINTMENTS

5.1 In every instance a KUSA-licensed Judge is invited to judge in a foreign country, the Judge is obliged to inform the KUSA Judges' Department in writing of the foreign invitation and request a 'Clearance to Judge' letter from the KUSA Judges' Department

5.2 Once the invited Judge's qualifications and eligibility status have been verified by the KUSA Judges' Department, a 'Clearance to Judge' letter will be sent from the KUSA Office to the foreign NCO directly, copied to the invited Judge.

5.3 It should be noted that foreign judging appointments will not count towards KUSA judging qualifications, with the exception of Breed Specialisation concessions as specifically provided for in Schedule 10 Appendix 3 Reg.6.3.4

6 FOREIGN JUDGES IMMIGRATING TO SOUTH AFRICA AND KUSA-LICENSED JUDGES WHO HAVE EMIGRATED TO OTHER COUNTRIES

6.1 Foreign judges coming to reside in the Kennel Union area of jurisdiction will be approved as follows:

6.1.1 He will be required to pass the Kennel Union examination on KUSA Regulations.

6.1.2 CCs (Challenge Certificates), (CACs) or FCI-C.A.C.I.B.®s that have been awarded for breeds or Groups in their previous country of residence will automatically be accepted in South Africa.

6.1.3 He will be required to register for the Learning Programme for any other breeds or Groups not covered by 6.1.2. above.

6.2 KUSA-licensed Judges who have emigrated to another country who, for whatever reason, are obliged to obtain clearance from KUSA to judge at Championship Shows in other countries, if their KUSA membership had lapsed after emigrating, shall be required to re-join KUSA as a member before such clearance may be granted. Membership Fees on re-joining KUSA shall comprise the current (at the time of application) Election Fee and the 12-month Subscription Fee applicable to judges during their first five (5) years of membership, as per Schedule 07 – Subscription and Fees. Unbroken membership of KUSA shall thereafter be maintained for as long as the Judge remains obligated to secure KUSA-clearance for foreign judging assignments.

7 SPECIAL-NEEDS JUDGES

7.1 A Learner Judge who provides a doctor's certificate on application to join the KBJLP, showing that he has a specific disability such as ADHD/ADD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder/Attention Deficit

Disorder), or Dyslexia, would be permitted to register for the Programme and reasonable provision will be made to accommodate him.

- 7.2 During the online examinations, a scribe may be provided and, together with the Learner Judge in a separate room, will record the Learner Judge's chosen responses to examination questions after reading the questions and answer options to him.
- 7.3 Assignments and Portfolio: As far as possible, the Learner Judge should attempt to meet normal requirements, making use of any form of recording technology best suited to the Learner Judge's needs. Assistance and advice may be called upon from his assigned Group Mentor.

8 JUDGING REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATIONS

- 8.1 All dogs exhibited shall be judged in suitable rings and all judging shall take place in public.
- 8.2 The Show Committee shall provide each Judge with Judge's Sheets in which only the breed, class and exhibits' numbers are entered.
- 8.3 Any alteration made and initialled by the Judge in the judge's sheets shall be carried on to the show office together with other copies of the judge's sheets.
- 8.4 Judges shall judge the class in each breed in the order in which the breeds are entered in the Judge's Sheets and, in the case of Qualifying or Championship Shows, in the Show Catalogue. The Open Class is the final class prior to awarding the Challenge Certificate (CC).
- 8.5 Equal awards shall be prohibited.
- 8.6 A Judge may not award a second place to a single exhibit in the class, even if he is of the opinion the exhibit lacks sufficient merit to earn a first place.
- 8.7 A Judge shall be entitled to withhold any award if, in his opinion, there is a lack of sufficient merit or if, in his opinion, the attention of the exhibit has been improperly attracted during judging in spite of the handler having been warned against such practice. Whenever any award has been withheld, the Judge shall endorse the Judge's Sheets accordingly.
- 8.8 Whenever, in the Judge's opinion, any exhibit has been improperly tampered with, is blind, deaf, or suffering from contagious or infectious disease, the Judge shall make a report to the Show Secretary immediately upon conclusion of judging the class. Upon receipt of such report, the Show Secretary shall cause such exhibit to be examined by the Veterinary Surgeon and submit the facts of the case to the Show Committee, which shall then act in terms of Schedule 03, Reg. 31.
- 8.9 The Judge shall make his awards sequentially in order of merit 1 to 4 and the exhibits shall be placed in such order at the place markers in the ring before the results are noted and announced by the Ring Steward. The results may be announced in reverse order.
- 8.10 A Judge's awards shall be final when any class has been judged and the awards recorded in the Judge's Sheets.

9 JUDGING PROCEDURES

9.1 CHALLENGE AND RESERVE CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES

- 9.1.1 On completion of the judging of all classes up to and including the Open Class, which shall be the final class to be judged for purposes of awarding the Challenge Certificate (CC), and which shall be judged before the Champions Class, all unbeaten class winners of either sex, with the exception of the winners of the Baby Puppy Class, Neuter Dog Class, and Champions Class, shall compete for the Challenge Certificate (CC).
- 9.1.2 Winners in one class, but beaten in another, shall be deemed to be beaten dogs and ineligible to compete for the Challenge Certificate (CC).
- 9.1.3 Once the Challenge Certificate has been awarded, the remaining exhibits shall compete against the runner(s)-up to the CC winner for the Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC).
- 9.1.4 The awarding of the Challenge Certificate (CC) and Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC) shall be at the discretion of the Judge and, if no Challenge Certificate (CC) is awarded, no Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC) shall be awarded.
- 9.1.5 Challenge Certificates (CCs) digitally signed by the Judge and Club Secretary shall be available to exhibitors within thirty (30) days of the date of award. Reserve Challenge Certificates (RCC) digitally signed by the Judge and Club Secretary shall only be issued on request of exhibitors and shall be available to them as soon as convenient after award.

- 9.1.6 Every Challenge Certificate (CC) and every Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC) issued by the Kennel Union shall bear the following declaration: "I am clearly of the opinion that this exhibit is of such outstanding merit as to be worthy of qualifying for the title of Champion."
- 9.1.7 Challenge Certificates (CCs), where appropriate, shall bear a printed endorsement reading "2 points".
- 9.1.8 Challenge Certificate (CCs), where appropriate, shall bear a printed endorsement reading "1 point".
- 9.1.9 Whenever ten (10) or more dogs of one sex in a breed are exhibited, not necessarily in the same class, and all such dogs are eligible to compete for the Challenge Certificate and a Challenge Certificate is awarded, it shall be a "2 point" Certificate. In all other cases a "1 point" Certificate shall be awarded to the winner of the Challenge Certificate. In this context "exhibited" shall mean entry of the dog into the ring with the intention of being exhibited, irrespective of subsequent exclusion by the Judge, or withdrawal by the exhibitor, for any reason whatsoever.
- 9.1.10 Whenever twenty (20) or more dogs of one sex in a breed are exhibited, not necessarily in the same Class, and all such dogs are eligible to compete for the Challenge Certificate and a Reserve Challenge Certificate is awarded, the Reserve Challenge Certificate shall be a "1-point" Certificate; in all other cases, the Reserve Challenge Certificate shall not carry any point value. In this context "exhibited" shall mean entry of the dog into the ring with the intention of being exhibited, irrespective of subsequent exclusion by the Judge, or withdrawal by the exhibitor, for any reason whatsoever.

9.2 **BEST OF BREED, RESERVE BEST OF BREED, BEST PUPPY OF BREED, AND OTHER BEST CLASS OF BREED AWARDS**

- 9.2.1 On completion of judging of all breed classes excluding Baby Puppy and Neuter Dog classes, Best of Breed will be judged.
- 9.2.2 **Best of Breed and Reserve Best of Breed**
 - 9.2.2.1 Those exhibits eligible for the award of Best of Breed and Reserve Best of Breed, are both Challenge Certificate (CC) winners (provided they are unbeaten) and winners of the Champions Class (provided they are unbeaten).
 - 9.2.2.2 Whenever a Challenge Certificate (CC) is awarded, the Judge shall award the Best of Breed to the best exhibit of that breed.
 - 9.2.2.3 In the event of both Challenge Certificates (CCs) being withheld by a Judge, the Best of Breed and Reserve Best of Breed shall not be awarded unless the Judge considers that either or both of the winners of the Champions Class merit these awards.
 - 9.2.2.4 Once the Best of Breed has been awarded, the remaining exhibits compete against the class runner-up to the Best of Breed exhibit (i.e. the relevant Reserve Challenge Certificate winner or the runner-up in the relevant Champions Class) for Reserve Best of Breed. The Reserve Best of Breed shall be awarded to the dog placed second to the Best of Breed, which shall progress no further.
- 9.2.3 **Best Puppy of Breed**
 - 9.2.3.1 On completion of Best of Breed judging, and provided that the Best of Breed and Reserve Best of Breed winners were not entered in the Minor Puppy or Puppy Classes, Best Puppy of Breed will be judged.
 - 9.2.3.2 In the event of the Best of Breed or Reserve Best of Breed winners being entered in the Minor Puppy or Puppy Classes, that exhibit shall automatically be awarded Best Puppy of Breed.
 - 9.2.3.3 The exhibits eligible to compete for Best Puppy of Breed shall be the winners of the Minor Puppy and Puppy Classes of either sex, provided they have not been beaten by another Puppy Class winner for the Challenge Certificate (CC) or Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC).
 - 9.2.3.4 If the Judge is not of the opinion that the puppy selected is worthy of the award of Best Puppy of Breed, he may withhold it.
- 9.2.4 **Other Best Class of Breed awards**
 - 9.2.4.1 Once Best Puppy of Breed has been awarded, the remaining Best Class of Breed awards scheduled by the Club, excluding Baby Puppy and Neuter Dog Classes, will be judged in the same order as the breed classes.

- 9.2.4.2 On completion of the Best Class in Breed awards, the Baby Puppy Dog and Baby Puppy Bitch Classes, if scheduled, shall be judged, followed by Best Baby Puppy of Breed.
- 9.2.4.3 On completion of the Baby Puppy of Breed awards, the Neuter Dog Class, if scheduled, shall be judged.
- 9.2.4.4 If the Judge is of the opinion that none of the exhibits eligible for any Best Class in Breed award is worthy of the award, he may withhold it.

9.3 **ORDER OF MERIT ON DISQUALIFICATION OF PRIZE WINNER**

- 9.3.1 Subject to the provisions of Reg.9.3.3. (*below*), in the event of a prize-winner being disqualified in terms of the Kennel Union's Regulations, the succeeding prize-winning dogs in consecutive order of merit shall be advanced to the next highest placing, which shall thereupon become the awards.
- 9.3.2 In the event of the winner being so disqualified, the winner of the Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC) shall be advanced and it shall be awarded the Challenge Certificate (CC).
- 9.3.3 No prize-winning exhibit which was not awarded the Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC) shall be awarded a Challenge Certificate (CC) or Reserve Challenge Certificate (RCC) under this Regulation.

9.4 **COMPETITION FOR GROUP WINNERS, BEST IN SHOW, AND BEST CLASS IN SHOW WINNERS**

9.4.1 **Group Challenge:**

- 9.4.1.1 At every Championship Show where dogs of more than one Group are scheduled, dogs awarded Best of Breed and Best Puppy of Breed shall be eligible for free entry into their respective Group Challenges.
- 9.4.1.2 The first four (4) exhibits in the Group and Puppy Group Challenges shall be placed 1 to 4 in order of merit and may be announced in reverse order.
- 9.4.1.3 Clubs may also schedule Group Challenges for any other breed classes offered at the show. The number of exhibits to be awarded and placed shall be determined by the Club and placed in order of merit (if more than one (1) placing) and may be announced in reverse order.
- 9.4.1.4 Details of the order of judging of the various Group Challenges and the order of judging of the various Best in Show Challenges on offer, shall be published in the Show Schedule and in the Show Catalogue.

9.4.2 **Group Shows:**

- 9.4.2.1 At every Championship Show where dogs of more than one breed, but confined to one Group only, are scheduled (commonly known as Group Shows), dogs awarded Best of Breed and Best Puppy of Breed plus any other Best of Class in Breed, as determined by the Club, shall be eligible for free entry into their respective Best in Show Challenges.
- 9.4.2.2 The first four (4) exhibits in the Group and Puppy Group Challenges shall be placed 1 to 4 in order of merit and may be announced in reverse order.
- 9.4.2.3 Clubs may also schedule Best in Show Challenges for any other breed classes offered at the show. The number of exhibits to be awarded and placed shall be determined by the Club and placed in order of merit (if more than one (1) placing) and may be announced in reverse order.
- 9.4.2.4 Details of the various Best in Show Challenges, and the order of judging thereof, shall be published in the Show Schedule and in the Show Catalogue.

9.4.3 **Best in Show and Best in Class Challenges:**

- 9.4.3.1 The winners of the Group and Puppy Group, plus any other Best Class in Group, as determined by the Club, shall be eligible for free entry into their respective Best in Show Challenges.
- 9.4.3.2 At every Championship Show where dogs of more than one Group are scheduled, two (2) exhibits shall be placed in all Best in Show Challenges. Whilst exhibits must be placed in order of merit, the results may be announced in reverse order.
- 9.4.3.3 Details of the various Best in Show Challenges, and the order of judging thereof, shall be published in the Show Schedule and in the Show Catalogue.

9.4.4 **Best in Specialty Show:**

- 9.4.4.1 At every Championship Show where dogs of one breed only are scheduled, the exhibits to compete free of entry fees for Best in Specialty Show are Challenge Certificate (CC) winners and the dog and/or bitch winner(s) of the Champions Classes.
- 9.4.4.2 The exhibits eligible to compete free of entry fees for Best Puppy in Specialty Show are all the Minor Puppy and Puppy Class winners.
- 9.4.4.3 Clubs may also schedule Best in Specialty Show Challenges for any other breed classes offered at the show.

9.4.5 **Best in Specialist Multi-breed Club Championship Show:**

- 9.4.5.1 At every Specialist Multi-breed Championship Show where two or more breeds confined to a single Group is scheduled, once the Judge has made his choice for Best in Show, the remaining exhibit(s) shall await the recall of the runner-up to the Best in Show in the Breed Challenge, i.e. the Reserve Best of Breed exhibit, to challenge for Reserve Best in Show. All other best Class of Breed awards shall be made on an interbreed basis.
- 9.4.5.2 Clubs may also schedule Best in Specialty Show Challenges for any other breed classes offered at the show.

10 **HEIGHT AND WEIGHT CLASSES**

- 10.1 Whenever competition is subject to compliance with a height limit, the Show Committee shall provide a properly constructed measuring stick or alternative measuring device. Whenever a Judge calls for a measurement to be taken, the exhibit shall be measured by the Judge while it is standing on a firm, level surface within the show ring. If the exhibit fails to comply with the height limitation to which it is subject, the Judge shall mark his judging sheets accordingly and, taking into consideration the requirements of the Breed Standard, make such award as he thinks proper. Failure to comply with the height limit shall not disqualify a dog nor render it ineligible for further competition, except where specified in the Breed Standard. In the case of dispute, the decision of the Judge shall be final.
- 10.2 Whenever competition is subject to a desired weight limit, the Show Committee shall provide a weighing instrument and weights (if not electronic), for which a valid certificate of assize is available, for recommended use by the Judge. At the discretion of the Judge, before the commencement of judging of each class, the dogs entered in that class shall be weighed by the Judge on a firm, level surface within the show ring. If any exhibit fails to comply with the desired weight limitation required by the Breed Standard, the Judge shall mark his judging sheets accordingly, and, taking into consideration the requirements of the Breed Standard, make such awards as he deems appropriate. In making his awards, the Judge shall have the utmost regard for the preservation of breed type of breed varieties separated by desired weight limitations and take into account factors like conformation to the Breed Standard, general physical condition and marginality of weight deviation.

11 **ENTRY FOR EXHIBITION**

- 11.1 A Judge may only enter and/or handle a dog in accordance with the Regulations below. If transgressed, automatic disqualification of the dog(s) will apply, and the Judge may be liable for disciplinary action under Schedule 01.
 - 11.1.1 Breed Judges – A Judge may not enter a dog registered in his ownership in the same discipline at the same Championship Show, under the same licence, as he is officiating. For the avoidance of doubt, an officiating Judge may enter the same discipline, at Championship Shows, at the same venue on the same day held under a separate licence.
 - 11.1.2 Dogsport Judges – A Judge may not enter a dog registered in his ownership in the same discipline at the same Championship Show, under the same licence, as he is officiating, unless specifically permitted by the relevant Dogsport Schedule
 - 11.2.1 Breed Judges – A Judge may not handle a dog registered in his ownership in the same discipline at the same Championship Show, under the same licence, as he is officiating. For the avoidance of doubt, an officiating Judge may handle a dog registered in his ownership in the same

discipline, at Championship Shows, at the same venue on the same day held under a separate licence.

- 11.2.2 Dogsport Judges – A Judge may not handle a dog registered in his ownership in the same discipline at the same Championship Show, under the same licence, as he is officiating, unless specifically permitted by the relevant Dogsport Schedule.
- 11.3 A Judge, appointed to judge Junior Showmanship only, may enter a dog registered in his ownership in Breed and Dogsport, and may handle any dog in Breed and Dogsport, on the same day at the same venue, under the same or different licence, as he is officiating.
- 11.4 No Ring Steward may handle a dog on the same day as he is officiating before a Judge for whom he was stewarding unless requested by the Judge to exhibit the entry. Automatic disqualification of the dog(s) will apply and the ring Steward will be liable for disciplinary action under Schedule 01.
- 11.5 Any dog which has been exhibited contrary to these Regulations shall be liable to disqualification and cancellation of any awards gained, whether or not an objection has been lodged under Schedule 03 Reg. 31.



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Fedco 05-2012/NP/Updated 27.09.2012.
Fedco 06-2014/NP/ Updated 09.07.2014.
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Fedco 12-2018 AB/ Updated 24.01.2019.
Fedco 12-2019 YW/ Updated 15.01.2020/AB Amended 18.06.2020.
Fedco 06-2020 AB/Updated 27.08.2020.
Fedco 12-2020 AB/Updated 18.12.2020.
Fedco 12-2022 NS/Updated 04.01.2023/ PM updated 20.01.2023 (Reg 5.5)
Fedco 12-2023 PM/ updated 24.01.2024
Fedco 12-2024 CPA/ updated 17.12.2024
Fedco 06-2025 AH/updated 29.07.2025
Fedco 12-2025 JEC DK/updated 10.12.2025
Fedco 06-2026 CPA updated 03.07.2026

The most recent changes to this Schedule have an effective date of 01.10.2026