

THE SINGAPORE KENNEL CLUB

170 Upper Bukit Timah Road #12-02 Singapore 588179

www.skc.org.sg



RULES GOVERNING GROOMING EXAMINATIONS (CERTIFICATION) AND GROOMING COMPETITIONS

w.e.f January 2nd, 2026

1. PREFACE

The purpose of these rules is to encourage groomers to further develop and extend their skills by participating in The Singapore Kennel Club (SKC) grooming certifications/competitions to further develop and extend their skills with the aim of promoting and protecting the welfare of healthy dogs.

This regulation serves as the primary guideline for organizing SKC certifications/competitions conducted.

2. OBJECTIVES OF GROOMING

The objectives of grooming are:

- to maintain a dog's health and cleanliness;
- to prevent illness by maintaining the healthy condition of skin and coat;
- to enhance the structural and anatomical strength of the dog;
- to respect the image of each breed according to its standard and maintain the correct techniques to perform each grooming task.

3. WELFARE AND HEALTH OF DOGS

The welfare and health of dogs must be of utmost importance and priority at all grooming competitions. Consequently, the organizers must provide a physically and mentally beneficial environment for dogs (for example, ensuring water is always available, dog not to be standing for too long, etc.)

4. SKC GROOMING GENERAL RULES

4.1 Classification of Categories

Five (5) categories are offered in the competition. There are three (3) levels offered within each category.

Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
Hand-stripping	Spaniels and Setters	Poodles	Other Pedigree Dogs Scissoring	Grooming for another pedigree dogs
Level A - Advanced				
Level B - Intermediate				
Level C – Beginner				

4.1.1 FCI Recognised Breeds, admitted to compete

Category 1

Small Breeds

- Affenpinscher (186)
- Australian Terrier (8)
- Cairn Terrier (4)
- Border Terrier (10)
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier (168)
- Griffon Belge (81)
- Griffon Bruxellois (80)
- Jack Russell Terrier (345)
- Norfolk Terrier (272)
- Norwich Terrier (72)
- Parson Russell Terrier (339)
- Scottish Terrier (73)
- Sealyham Terrier (74)
- West Highland White Terrier (85)
- Wirehaired Dachshund, all sizes (148)
- Zwergschnauzer (183)

Medium Breeds

- Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen (33)
- Irish Glen of Imaal Terrier (302)
- Irish Terrier (139)
- Lakeland Terrier (70)
- Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen (67)
- Schnauzer (182)
- Welsh Terrier (78)
- Wire Fox Terrier (169)

Large Breeds

- Airedale Terrier (7)
- Deerhound (164)
- Drótzörü Magyar Vizsla (239)
- Deutsch Drahthaar (98)
- Grand Griffon Vendéen (282)
- Griffon a Poil Dur Korthals (107)
- Irish Wolfhound (160)
- Riesenschnauzer (181)
- Spinone Italiano (165)
- Other wirehaired breeds of FCI Group 7

Category 2

- American Cocker Spaniel (167)
- English Cocker Spaniel (5)
- English Springer Spaniel (125)
- Irish Setter (120)
- English Setter (2)
- Gordon Setter (6)

Category 3

- Poodle (172)

Large Size

- Standard Poodle

Medium Size

- Medium Poodle

Small Size

- Toy Miniature Poodle
- Toy Poodle

Category 4

- Barbet (105)
- Bedlington Terrier (9)
- Bichon Frisé (215)
- Black Russian Terrier (327)
- Bouvier des Flandres (191)
- Cão de Água Português (37)
- Cesky Terrier (246)
- Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier (40)
- Irish Water Spaniel (124)
- Kerry Blue Terrier (3)
- Lagotto Romagnolo (298)

Category 5

For all FCI-recognised breeds that are to be groomed. In this category, the participant may enter with breeds that usually require stripping or scissoring. Salon-clip styling is very much dependent on the creativity of the contestant. There are no restrictive styles. Colouring is not allowed. Artistic clips amplifying the beauty of the dog forms the basis of judging. If accessories are being used, they must not harm the dog's health and they cannot be permanent.

4.2 Classification of levels

The participant must compete in a certificate level for a period of 12 months and are encouraged to compete for at least 2 championship levels in their home country or internationally before moving to a follow level.

Countries that have just started with organizing grooming competitions are allowed to admit groomers with more than two years of proven experience in dog grooming, to compete directly in the Intermediate Level in any of the categories. Experience in dog shows may also be considered.

4.2.1 Level C – Beginner

Beginner refers to participants who have less than one year experience. Dog show experience can also be taken into consideration. The participant will be allowed to compete in this level for the whole year both in his/her home country and internationally.

Participants who qualify for Level B (Intermediate) by achieving a score of above 80 are exempted from the required time frame to compete at the next level and may make the decision to move to the Intermediate Level before the end of the year.

Clippers (**apart from the usual clipped areas as determined by the breed trim**) are allowed to be used for Category 5 only.

4.2.2 Level B – Intermediate

Intermediate Level is for those participants who have achieved a qualification at Level C. Participants for Level B must have achieved a classification in Level C 12 months prior.

The clips attempted must be show clips or clips that are required as stipulated in the FCI breed standards.

Participants who qualify for Level A (Advanced) by achieving a score of above 80 are exempted from the required time frame to compete at the next level and may make the decision to move to the Advanced Level before the end of the year.

Clippers may only be used in the usual clipped areas as determined by the breed trim.

4.2.3 Level A – Advanced

Advanced Level is for those participants who have achieved a qualification at Level B. Participants for Level A must have achieved a classification in Level B 12 months prior.

Participants are also encouraged to have attended at least 3 seminars organized by their own National Canine Organization (NCO) or any other FCI Member/Contract Partner.

Clippers may only be used in the usual clipped areas as determined by the breed trim.

4.2.4 SKC Master Groomer Classification

For SKC Master Groomer titles, the competitors must have achieved a score of 75 and above in Level A in 3 categories. The participant will then get the title of “SKC Silver Master Groomer”.

Participants who have achieved a score of 75 and above in Level A in 4 categories will get the title of “SKC Gold Master Groomer”.

Participants who have achieved a score of 75 and above in Level A in all 5 categories will get the ultimate title of “SKC Platinum Master Groomer”.

4.3 Awards

In principle, the following awards shall be given to winners of each Grooming Certification/Competition organized by The Singapore Kennel Club. The number of winners of each class shall be determined according to the scores and number of candidates.

4.3.1 Out of a maximum of 100 points, the passing score for Level C, B and A is 70.

4.3.2 The number of winners in the SKC Grooming Certification/Competition organized will be based on the number of participants and shall be as follows: -

- 1-3 candidates / participants 1 winner
- 4-5 candidates / participants 2 winners
- 6-7 candidates / participants 3 winners
- 8-10 candidates / participants 4 winners
- 11-15 candidates / participants 5 winners
- 16-20 candidates / participants 6 winners
- 21-25 candidates / participants 7 winners
- 26-30 candidates / participants 8 winners

4.4 Seminars

SKC Grooming Judges and Appointed Grooming Establishments are encouraged to conduct seminars/workshops in all categories. The purpose of the seminars is to allow continual education of the participants in the most popular breeds, offering preparation and grooming guidelines as a simulation of a competition.

5. EXAMINER'S GUIDE

5.1 Score Sheet

A minimum of one and up to four judges will make up the judges panel depending on each NCO.

Aspects that the judges must consider as they judge:

Respect for the current breed standard
The quality of scissoring, clipping and/or hand stripping, and the groomer's attention to detail
Balance, symmetry and smoothness of the groom
The ability to camouflage defects and bring out the beauty of the dog
The suitability of the chosen style for the dog
The degree of difficulty the groom
Up to date with today's modern grooming styles
Presentation of the dog to the judge

5.2 Notes for Participants about Score Sheets

Respect for the current breed standard Breed standards changes and several changes have been made taking into account the health and the welfare of the dog as utmost importance. Groomers need to know the breed characteristics of the breed that they are grooming and are expected to amplify them.
The quality of scissoring, clipping and/or hand stripping, and the groomer's attention to detail. Judge the skills and technique in handling scissors, clippers or blades and the results of such skills and the use of these tools. The more detailed the workmanship observed, the bigger impact it will have on the judging.
Balance, symmetry, and smoothness of the groom For example, length of legs should be balanced with the depth of the body, length of body should be balanced with the height in according with the breed standard.
The ability to camouflage defects and bring out the beauty of the dog For example, if an unwanted sloping topline is observed on the dog but the groomer can camouflage the defect this will be assessed positively.
The suitability of the chosen style for the dog Dependent on the balance of the dog, the chosen style should cover up the flaws and emphasize the positive features of the dog.
The degree of difficulty the groom If a groomer can make a big change between before and after, or to handle a coat of poor quality by improving it in relation to the breed standard this will be rated positively.
Up to date with today's modern grooming styles For example, the style for grooming Miniature Schnauzers differs from those of 10 years ago as dogs improve in conformation. This allows for more volume of hair on the leg, two eyebrows and the beard become triangular instead of round.
Presentation of the dog to the judge The health of the dog, muscle condition, condition of the coat, whiteness, etc., and at the end of the competition during the judge's examination, the correct posing of the dog will be looked favorably for the judging.

5.3 Tied Mark

In the situation of a tied score the judges will confer and decide who the winner should be.

In case the judges are unable to come to an agreement, then the Club President will determine the winner.

5.4 General Guide for each Level of Category 5

For Level C, the Beginner class, the qualification criteria should consider the lack of the participants' experience. Normally there is a lack of time to finish the work and may be inexperienced execution of the techniques. It is therefore to be valued that they finish the work in the time given and that they comply with the breed standard.

For Level B, the Intermediate class, knowledge of the breed standard and good execution of the techniques should be expected from the participant. Lack of time, experience in correcting morphological faults and being up to date with the latest cutting techniques should not be a priority when judging.

For Level A, the Advanced Class, excellence in all points of judging should be expected.

5.5 The organizing NCO may also choose to offer prizes for the top participants across each level and then across each category as follows:

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5
Level A	1 st Place				
	2 nd Place				
	3 rd Place				
Level B	1 st Place				
	2 nd Place				
	3 rd Place				
Level C	1 st Place				
	2 nd Place				
	3 rd Place				

The judge has the right to withhold prizes at his/her discretion and judge's decision shall be deemed final.

6. ORGANISATION OF SKC CERTIFICATIONS/COMPETITIONS

The Governing Council of The Singapore Kennel Club is the only body that can organize the Grooming Certification and grant approval for organization of a Grooming Competition of an Appointed Grooming Establishment.

6.1 Notice of organizing a Grooming Competition

At least 2 working months' notice must be given to candidates by The Singapore Kennel Club for the Grooming Competition. Appointed Grooming establishments are also required to give at least 2 working months' notice for any Competition organized. The notice details should include the name of the competition, date, time, venue, registration details and registration deadline.

6.2 Entries

All participants must fill out the relevant entry forms and pay the required fee directly to The Singapore Kennel Club.

6.3 “Best in Level” and “Best Groomer in Show” Competitions

The organising NCO may also choose to offer prizes to the top participants across each Level and then across each category as follows:

	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4	Category 5	Overall Best In Level	
Level A	1 st Place	1st Place	BEST GROOMER IN SHOW				
Level B	1 st Place	1st Place					
Level C	1 st Place	1st Place					

- 6.4** During the competitions, only the appointed judges will be able to judge and any decision they make either at the levels or in the finals cannot be changed.
- 6.5** After the finals, the competitors will have a short period of time in which they can ask to the judges for a brief critique of the work they presented, so that they know which aspects they can correct in the future.
- 6.6** Each judge should evaluate a maximum of 60 dogs. Only one judge will be appointed to judge Best in Show (BIS) prior to the event and the Judge must be made known to all participants.

7. GENERAL INFORMATION

Any competitor under the age of 18 years old must have parental consent.

In principle, the use of hairspray is not allowed. However, in the country where the use of hairspray is customarily allowed, its minimal use will not be penalized.

The use of powder/chalk and volumizer is breed-specific and is allowed as long as it does not come off on the judge' hands. Use of those items should be done before the start of the competition.

Any products that change the colour, nature and texture of the coat will not be allowed.

Dog models must not be groomed for 60 days or more prior to the date of the competition except for the flatwork areas of stripping breeds which may be groomed up to 30 days prior the competition.

There will be a compulsory 10-minute break for dogs and contestants to rest in the middle of the competition.

The competitors must provide their own dog models and their own grooming tools. The competitors must ensure that their dogs are duly vaccinated and provide proof of vaccination if required by the organiser.

A grooming arm is allowed in countries where the law permits it. However, the safety and welfare of dogs is of utmost importance. If a dog is found to be short of breath on the table due to the use of a grooming arm or any aggressive attitude on the part of the groomer towards the dog, the groomer will be automatically disqualified.

The groomer must take care of his working equipment or could be penalized.

Contestants need to be in the ring 30 minutes before the start of the competition for prejudging.

Model (Dummy) dogs are permitted in Level C only if the organizing NCO allows it.

8. TIMING

Category 1	Small <i>Breeds</i>	Medium <i>Breeds</i>	Large <i>Breeds</i>
Hand-stripping	2 hrs	2 hrs 30 min	3 hrs

Category 2		
All Setters and Spaniels		2 hrs 30 min

Category 3	Small <i>Size</i>	Medium <i>Size</i>	Large <i>Size</i>
	2 hrs	2 hrs 30 min	3 hrs

Pre-shave of poodle feet, face & tail is not allowed.

Paw pad and sanitary areas (butthole, pee area & belly) can be pre-shaved.

**Above does not applies to participants using dummy dogs*

Category 4		
Bichon Frisé, Bedlington and Cesky Terrier		2 hrs
Kerry Blue Terrier, Irish Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, Black Russian Terrier, Bouvier des Flandres, Barbet, Cão de Água Português, Irish Water Spaniel, Lagotto Romagnolo		2 hrs 30 min

Category 5	All Breeds and sizes	2 hrs

Candidates unsure which size category their dogs fall under must clarify this before the start of the competition and be certified by the chairman of the jury or grooming official.

9. MISCELLANEOUS

From time to time, some changes to these rules may be necessary. Amendments of these Rules and Regulations shall be decided solely by the Governing Council of SKC as and when deemed necessary.