

AGILITY JUDGES TRAINING SCHEME

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1. PURPOSE

The Singapore Kennel Club (“SKC”) Agility Judges Training Scheme (“AJTS”) establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional judges. All judges enrolled in the AJTS have to make the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the SKC.

2. METHOD OF EDUCATION

2.1 Self Education. Trainee Judges will be required to educate themselves to examination standards by studying the Agility and Jumpers Trial Rules and Regulations (“Rules”), attend appropriate lectures, seminars and/or practice days as arranged by the Dog Sports Committee, and acquiring as wide a knowledge as possible by attending Agility and/or Jumpers trials organized or sanctioned by the SKC (“Trials”), stewarding and obtaining expert opinions.

2.2 SKC's Contribution. SKC shall endeavour to provide lectures, seminars, practice days, equipment and teaching aids.

2.3 Teaching aids/Materials

(i) Trainee Judges shall familiarize themselves with the Rules as at time of application.

(ii) Lectures will be conducted on:

- (a) The Rules;
- (b) Principal features, techniques and ethics of Agility judging;
- (c) Stewarding and ring craft; and
- (d) Any other material as approved by the Dog Sports Committee from time to time.

3. ELIGIBILITY FOR ENTRY INTO THE AJTS

3.1 In order to be eligible for entry into the AJTS as a Trainee Judge, the applicant must:

(i) Be Singaporean, or Singaporean PR. SKC may consider an application from a person transferring from overseas on a case by case basis. In such instance, the applicant will provide to SKC such information and supporting evidence as required by SKC;

(ii) Be a minimum of 25 years of age. SKC may consider for approval an application from an applicant under the age of twenty five (25) years, on a case by case basis. In such instance, the applicant will provide to SKC such information and supporting evidence as required by SKC;

(iii) Be recommended by the SKC Dog Sports Committee, which can confirm the applicant’s credentials and experience;

(iv) Have been a member of the SKC for a minimum period of three (3) years immediately prior to the date of the application; and

(v) Provide sufficient evidence of experience as outlined hereunder:

(vi) To have personally trained a minimum of one (1) dog of their own up to A3 in Agility and J3 in Jumpers in accordance with the Rules; and

(vii) To have obtained a minimum of one (1) placing position (either first, second or third) for the dog in A3 and J3.

4. APPLICATION PROCESS AND FEES

4.1 **Application process.** Applications for admittance to the AJTS as a Trainee Judge must be made on the prescribed form set out in Schedule 1 and submitted to the SKC with the requisite payments. Licence fees will not be pro-rated. Incomplete forms will not be entertained.

4.2 The Dog Sports Committee and SKC Governing Council will review applications to determine those individuals who meet the criteria for Trainee Judge status.

4.3 Falsification of the application will bar the applicant from the AJTS for up to five (5) years and may subject applicant to SKC's regular disciplinary process.

4.4 **AJTS application fees.** An application fee of S\$250 is to be submitted together with the AJTS application form. A full refund will be made in the event the application is rejected.

4.5 Application fees are not inclusive of Agility Judging License fees.

5. QUALIFICATIONS REQUIRED TO BECOME A LICENSED JUDGE

5.1 A Trainee Judge must pass an examination for the following in order to become a Licensed Judge:

- (i) The Rules;
- (ii) Principal features, techniques and ethics of Agility judging;
- (iii) Stewarding and ring craft; and
- (iv) Any other material as approved by the Dog Sports Committee from time to time.

5.2 A Trainee Judge must attend all lectures, seminars or practice days organized for the Trainee Judge at their own cost. The Trainee Judge must be present for and participate in the entire lecture in order to be credited with attendance.

5.3 A Trainee Judge must have achieved the following to be a SKC licenced Judge:

- (a) judged a minimum of five* (5) sessions of SKC Agility Trials and/or unofficial trials (including friendly competitions and events sanctioned by SKC).
- (b) At least two* (2) of these sessions must be overseen by a supervising qualified judge to ascertain the Trainee Judge's scoring technique, ring positioning and ring craft and to provide feedback for the Trainee Judge. The supervising qualified judge will also score the Trainee Judge's judging. However, the supervising judge must not interfere with the judging or make any comment during the Trainee Judge's judging. The average score of two of the highest scoring trials will form part of the scoring for the examination. A 50% pass mark is required for this section.

** Trials judged in the same month will be counted as one (1) session only.*

5.4 A Trainee Judge must also pass a written portion of the examination in order to become a Licensed Judge. All written examination papers shall consist of multiple choice questions and/or short answer questions. All written examinations shall require a 75% pass mark for each part. The Rules and lecture notes shall be the only basis for the written examinations.

5.5 Format and marking. All written papers should initially be marked by two (2) Examiners with a third Examiner used in case of a split decision. A Trainee Judge who has failed a written examination (other than multiple choice questions) may request a remark of their paper. Such request must be made in writing and within fourteen (14) days of advice of the result of the examination. One (1) person shall be appointed by the Dog Sports Committee to separately remark the paper without conferring shall conduct the remarking of the paper. Such person/s shall not be the original markers of the paper concerned.

5.6 A Trainee Judge shall be issued an Agility Judging License on meeting the requirements set out in this Clause 5 and will become a Licensed Judge.

6. APPEALS

6.1 Appeals against the results of examinations shall not be allowed unless it is alleged that the Dog Sports Committee did not conduct the examination in accordance with these Rules and Regulations. Such appeals must be received by the SKC Governing Council prior to the examination results being notified.

6.2 If it is found that the Dog Sports Committee has conducted a Trainee Judge's examination contrary to the AJTS and a Trainee Judge has appealed against a result of the examination, the examination is to be null and void. A new examination is to be scheduled as soon as practicable without the Trainee Judge being required to gain further qualifications.

7. APPOINTED EXAMINER/S

7.1 Examiner/s must not be a Trainee Judge.

7.2 Only Examiners appointed by the Dog Sports Committee may act in that capacity at an examination.

8. NEW/REVISED AGILITY RULES AND REGULATIONS

When revisions in the Rules are approved by the Dog Sports Committee, such revisions shall be notified to all Licensed Judges and Trainee Judges. All licensed Judges and Trainee Judges shall familiarize themselves with the revisions.

9. LIST OF APPROVED OFFICIAL JUDGES

9.1 A listing of all SKC Licensed Judges shall be prepared annually by the Dog Sports Committee.

9.2 Where a Licensed Judge leaves Singapore to reside overseas, such Judge may remain on the SKC Licensed Judges List for a period of five years, provided the person remains a member of the SKC and renewal fees are paid accordingly.

10. JUDGING APPOINTMENTS

10.1 Licensed Judges approved by the SKC are not authorised to officiate at events or assist at events organised by associations not approved by the canine controlling authority of the country or sanctioned/approved by the SKC (“Contracting Body”) and that before accepting an invitation the Judge must make all the necessary enquiries to ascertain that the organisation comes under the jurisdiction of or is sanctioned/approved by the SKC.

10.2 The following guidelines determine the classes of trial a licensed judge can officiate:

<u>Licence Classes</u>	<u>Trials Eligible to Officiate</u>	<u>Prerequisite</u>
Class 1A	SKC Titling Trials - up to A2 & J2 level	Judge who has a minimum of one (1) dog of their own up to A3 in Agility & J3 Jumper and with a minimum of one (1) placing position (either first, second or third) for the dog in A3 and J3.
Class 1B	SKC Titling Trials - All level included Championship	Judge who has a minimum of one (1) dog of their own obtained the National Agility Championship (NACH) title.
Class 2	FCI (Local) - All Level	Judge who has obtained the Judging license for at least 2 years and officiated at least three* (3) sessions SKC A3 trials
Class 3	Oversea Judging	Licensed Judges with a minimum of six* (6) sessions local Trial judged may be approved for overseas judging appointments, restricted to the classes (1A / 1B / 2) he / she eligible to judge.

** Trials judged in the same month will be counted as one (1) session only.*

10.3 Licensed Judges who receive an invitation to judge overseas must obtain verification in writing of their current judging status from SKC, prior to the formal acceptance of the appointment. SKC is to send the verification to the overseas Contracting Body, with a copy to the requesting Judge. SKC shall provide an official letter together with the verification to the overseas Contracting Body stating exactly the Licensed Judge’s current SKC judging qualifications.

10.4 The Licensed Judge shall enter into a judging contract with the Contracting Body for any judging appointment (“Judging Contract”).

10.5 Any Licensed Judge who accepts and completes a judging appointment for which they are not eligible will have his/her licence revoked immediately. He/she can no longer qualify as a Licensed Judge.

10.6 **Cancellation.** Where any Licensed Judge cancels a Judging Contract, the Contracting Body shall be required to submit full details of the reason for the cancellation to SKC, within

fourteen (14) days of receipt of the notice of cancellation. The Governing Council shall be required to investigate the reason for cancellation and if necessary take appropriate action.

10.7 Where any Licensed Judge, due to illness or other serious occurrence prior to the contracted appointment, and he/she knows they cannot fulfil the assignment, they should immediately notify the Dog Sports Committee.

10.8 **Effects of suspension.** Where a Licensed Judge is suspended to judge in any trial in any country, they will be ineligible to fulfil any Judging Contracts in Singapore, or any overseas country until the suspension is lifted.

10.9 If a Judge is accused of misbehaviour outside Singapore, an inquiry shall be conducted by the SKC Governing Council into the allegations and a report forwarded to the home body, who shall deal with the Judge, if any discipline is necessary.

10.10 SKC will publish appropriate disclaimers in all educational materials, in dog show catalogues, and on the invited Judge's application stating that the Licensed Judge has met established criteria for experience as of the specific date of licensing, but that SKC is not responsible in any way for the individual acts of the Licensed Judge. Disputes between Licensed Judge and the Contracting Body will be resolved between the parties and/or dealt with by legal procedures instituted by the parties involved. SKC assumes no liability as a result of the suspension of any individual who commits an offense, regardless of whether that person is a judge or not.

11. DISCIPLINE/COMPLIANCE WITH CODE OF ETHICS

11.1 Each Trainee Judge and Licensed Judge, upon signing the AJTS application form or Renewal of Agility Judging License shall, in addition to agreeing to be bound by the SKC Constitution, Rules and Regulations of the Singapore Kennel Club, and the Rules, be also bound by the Code of Ethics relating to Judges' conduct set under this Clause.

11.2 All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall be subject to discipline by the Governing Council for violation of its Rules and Regulations. The Governing Council will be in charge of investigating complaints on Judges, and it will be the responsibility of the Governing Council Disciplinary Committee to determine the procedures for dealing with violations. Failure by a Trainee or Licensed Judge to comply with the Code of Ethics may result in a loss of or ban in obtaining an Agility Judging Licence as well as possible suspension of SKC privileges if found to be in breach.

11.3 The disciplinary system will be comprised of warnings, ban from obtaining an Agility Judging License, suspension/revocation of Agility Judging Licence and fines.

11.4 Code of Ethics/Behaviour

(a) The SKC expects strict adherence to the Code of Ethics and blatant disregard for the standards set out in such code will not be condoned. All Trainee and Licensed Judges who violate their responsibilities will be removed from the Club to preserve the integrity of the club.

(b) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall act with professional decorum at all times.

(c) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall conduct themselves in good sportsmanlike manner at all times in their relationships with fellow judges, Trainee Judges and handlers, which includes courteous verbal interchanges and a professional appearance, both inside and outside of the ring.

(d) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall give every entry and handler fair and equal opportunity in each and every class.

(e) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall show courtesy whilst carrying out each judging appointment.

(f) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall present himself/herself in attire that is acceptable, appropriate and comfortable for each judging appointment.

(g) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall avail themselves of class/course tests and trial opportunities as may be sanctioned by the SKC.

(h) All Trainee and Licensed Judges are required to be punctual in availability to fulfil their judging appointment.

(i) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall not enter any dog registered under him/her at any Trial at which he/she is appointed to judge.

(j) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall not allow entries for a Trial, at which he/she is judging, to be received at the Trainee or Licensed Judges's address and/or be processed at the Trainee and Licensed Judge's address.

(k) When in competition, all Trainee and Licensed Judges should set a good example to other competitors by their behaviour and sportsmanship.

(l) Should a handler offer information to the Trainee or Licensed Judge that may be regarded as designed to influence the Judge, the Judge shall excuse the handler and their entry from the trial and report the matter in writing to the Dog Sports Committee immediately.

(m) Should a Trainee or Licensed Judges be approached to favour or disfavour a particular entry, the matter is to be reported in writing to the Dog Sports Committee immediately.

(n) Should a Trainee or Licensed Judges be approached with an inducement and/or bribe to advantage or disadvantage a handler, the Judge is to report the matter in writing to the Dog Sports Committee immediately.

(o) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall not solicit a judging appointment.

(p) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall not solicit or seek the entry of any particular dog/s at a Trial at which the Judge is officiating.

(q) All Licensed Judges shall promptly complete all requirements of a judging contract with SKC or any other body, as may be approved by SKC ("Judging Contract"). Any verbal acceptance of an appointment by a Judge shall be subject to the receipt of the Judging Contract.

(r) At the time of accepting a Judging Contract, the Licensed Judge shall inform the contracting body of any disability or limitation that would restrict him or help in carrying out the appointment.

(s) A Judge shall honour each Judging Contract he/she has committed himself to and is not free to accept an alternative contract that will affect his/her availability to fulfil the original Judging Contract, except with the written dispensation of the contracting body.

(t) Accommodation provided to the Licensed Judge to fulfil an appointment is for the Judge only, except where prior mutual agreement has been reached and put in writing with the contracting body for variation.

(u) A Licensed Judge shall be responsible for the cost of all personal expenses, except where mutual agreement has been reached and put in writing with the contracting body at the time the Judging Contract is accepted.

(v) A Licensed Judge who withdraws from a contracted appointment shall not be permitted to judge at any other trial wherever held on a date which would prevent him/her from attending the original contracted event.

(w) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall judge Trials in accordance with the current Rules and Regulations.

(x) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall not openly discuss with any other person the decision of any other judges or any policy and decision made by SKC Governing Council and Dog Sports Committee.

(y) A Licensed Judge shall use his license only for the purpose of Trial judging at official and/or sanctioned events of the Singapore Kennel Club, or for such other events organized by bodies approved by the SKC under a Judging Contract, and not for any other personal and commercial purposes. Any advertisement or profiling (printed or otherwise) used for personal and/or commercial purposes will result in the judging license being revoked immediately and a fine of no less than S\$1,000. No appeals will be entertained.

(z) All Trainee and Licensed Judges shall inform the SKC of any change in home address, telephone number, or other contacts promptly.

12. AGILITY JUDGING LICENCE

12.1 Application to obtain or renew an Agility Judging License shall be made on the prescribed form set out in Schedule 2.

12.2 A fee of S\$100 is payable upon first obtaining the Agility Judging License and upon renewal of the Agility Judging License annually.

12.3 No refunds will be made in the event of a cancellation of application, renewal, suspension and/or revocation of a license.

12.4 Agility Judging Licenses expire on 31st December of each calendar year and Licensed Judges wishing to renew their licenses must do so on the form as prescribed by the SKC from time to time on or before 31st December each calendar year.

12.5 SKC may refuse to grant any renewal of the Agility Judging License of any person, and may cancel or may suspend for any period or vary in any way any license already granted, or may grant in part only an application for the renewal of the license.

**SCHEDULE 1
APPLICATION FORM
AGILITY JUDGES TRAINING SCHEME**

Application as a Trainee Judge

I wish to apply as a Trainee Judge for Agility and Jumper Trials under the Singapore Kennel Club (“SKC”).

DECLARATION

I have read and understood all the regulations and eligibility requirements set forth in the Agility Judges Training Scheme. I submit the following documents for your consideration:

1. Photocopy of my NRIC; and
2. Photocopy of the results page of the Trialler’s Booklet of a dog I personally trained showing that it has met the requirement stated in Clause 10.2.

I enclose a *cheque (no. _____) made payable to the “Singapore Kennel Club” / a printout of the PayPal payment transaction to the SKC for S\$ _____ being the application fee.

I understand that my application for the Judges Training Scheme is subject to the approval of the SKC Governing Council.

In consideration of the SKC accepting me to its Agility Judges Training Scheme, I undertake to comply with the Code of Ethics as set out in the Agility Judges Training Scheme in conjunction with and in addition to, all current SKC Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the SKC. I acknowledge and agree that the decision of the Dog Sports Committee and/or Governing Council on any matter arising from or relating to the Agility Judges Training Scheme is final and binding.

Applicant’s Name (as per NRIC): _____

SKC Membership No.: _____

Address: _____

Contact No.: _____ Email address: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Receipt No. _____ Date received _____

Approved/Not Approved

**Delete where applicable*

SCHEDULE 2
APPLICATION/RENEWAL OF AGILITY JUDGING LICENSE

This is an application/renewal for the Singapore Kennel Club (“SKC”) Agility Judging License.

Judging license will be terminated if renewal fee is not paid after 12 months of expiry date.

DECLARATION

I have read and understood all the regulations and eligibility requirements set forth in the Agility Judges Training Scheme.

I enclose a *cheque (no. _____) made payable to the “Singapore Kennel Club” / a printout of the PayPal payment transaction to the SKC for S\$ _____ being the application/renewal fee.

In consideration of the SKC accepting me as its Licensed Judge and approval of a License renewal from time to time, I undertake to comply with the Code of Ethics as set out in the Agility Judges Training Scheme in conjunction with and in addition to, all current SKC Memorandum and Articles of Association and Rules and Regulations of the SKC. I acknowledge and agree that the decision of the Dog Sports Committee and/or Governing Council on any matter arising from or relating to the Agility Judges Training Scheme is final and binding.

Applicant’s Name (as per NRIC): _____

SKC Membership No.: _____

Agility Judging License No. (if applicable) : _____

Address : _____

Contact No. : _____ Email address: _____

Signature : _____ Date: _____

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Receipt No. _____ Date received _____

Approved/Not Approved

**Delete where applicable*