

# GCCF Judge Training Accelerated Scheme: Judge's Notes

## Notes for Judges working through the Accelerated Scheme

The Judge Training Group would like to thank the judges involved for all their input and assistance in enabling the GCCF to move forward and be proactive in increasing the number of judges available.

Judges able to join are those who are able to award Grand or Imperial certificates but are not breed judges and cannot currently award CC/PC's.

The accelerated scheme has been passed now by Council and will look to address the short fall in judges in the short term by increasing the number of breed judges from our current experienced judges as we have anomalies in the current system whereby higher certificates are awarded by judges who cannot award CC/PCs as they are not breed judges.

This is a time limited scheme for 3 years and later we will be proposing an improved training programme to encourage new judges.

The 3 years starts from the time the judge starts each breed.

You are already judging the breed at a higher certificate level and thus this is an opportunity for the BAC to guide you to improve your in-depth knowledge and understanding of their own particular breed. This is their role.

### **The Process:**

**Please see attached scheme, flow chart and tutorial and application forms.**

As can be seen from the AS Tutorial Form, the ethos is on **Self-Learning and Reflection**. This in turn will increase your confidence in judging and placing cats in the Breed Class.

The role of the BAC will be to help in this period of education with positive and supportive advice as appropriate.

Good communication between the FJ(P) and the BAC is naturally very important. The FJ(P) needs to communicate to the BAC that they are developing their knowledge, competence and confidence and the BAC needs to communicate back if they agree with the FJ(P)'s understanding of where they are in the process.

Conflict can often arise where good communication has broken down. Feedback should always be constructive and balanced and BACs have received guidance notes to help them.

We have asked them to consider discussion electronically among BAC members between BAC meetings so that feedback can be communicated quickly to the candidates either from the BAC secretary or mentor if applicable.

**The onus has moved towards self-directed learning with you identifying the areas of learning you need to be able to judge the breed well.**

This is reflected in the tutorial forms submitted where you will identify which areas you have made progress and those you feel will need to make more progress. As your knowledge levels increase then your confidence in placing in Breed classes should follow. You also need to identify how you are going to increase your knowledge and confidence in certain areas and how you are going to know when they have achieved your aims.

One of the ways a candidate will know if they have achieved an aim is for the BAC to confirm that they also share your view. And they will also be able to identify areas you need to improve and which will thus become one of your learning needs.

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The minimum requirements to apply for promotion are:

1. 3 certificate classes (Imperial/Grand/Breed) containing examples of the breed.
2. 3 tutorials on the classes. (More tutorials can be done to achieve the learning needs.)
3. Submit to BAC critiques on all exhibits judged in title and breed classes.  
(Miscellaneous critiques only with minority breeds)
4. All above submitted within 4 weeks of the show.
5. Minority breeds can be used for tutorials if present at a show even if not in the judges book- BUT joint tutorials with other candidates encouraged as avoiding over handling has to be a welfare priority.
6. If a new breed to you as a result of inheriting a new grand or imperial group then you need to do a minimum of 6 tutorials and one year before applying for promotion. This applies to imperial judges in sections 2/4/5 who do not do all the grand groups. This will be specified in your accompanying letter after opt in.

Please see the attached model tutorial form filled into assist you.

The tutorial form is designed to be typed and then submitted by email. Please make sure you enter your name into the header.

## **Guidance Notes:**

A growing number of BACs are producing **judge guidance notes** on the nuances of their breed to be used alongside the standard of points. We are encouraging all BACs to try and produce such a document and indeed the future judge training scheme will need such a document from each BAC

## **Feedback Letters:**

We hope that the BAC follows the style of the AC tutorial form by summarising the judges Self-Reflection, Learning Points and Confidence Levels. The BAC then has the opportunity to either say the BAC feels the learning Points were appropriate and helpful or suggest more appropriate ones. The letter should acknowledge the Confidence level felt by the FJ and either agree or not with the judge. The letter should offer aid to help the judge develop better understanding/confidence in a particular aspect of the breed with practical suggestions. Please read the attached BAC guidance notes for what to expect. Educate not remonstrate should be the guiding motto! If criticism is given, it should be in a constructive and encouraging manner with positive advice and suggestions to assist in moving forward.

## **Promotion:**

There is no minimum time frame before applying.

Apply on the attached form.

Votes are anonymised but do not have to be done face to face if the BAC chairperson can arrange.

If promoted this is immediate and does not wait for council or 4 weeks.

If deferred the bac must identify clear areas that they feel the judge needs to develop more confidence and a further 3 tutorials to be done with judges from the BAC preferred list.

After these are done and the judge feels they have achieved the standard in the area/s of learning need then they apply again. No time stipulated between applications. Numbers of reapplications is limited by the length of the scheme only.

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If the judge feels that the BAC has been incorrect in its deferment then they have the right to appeal. The appeal is to a judge's panel set up from volunteers by the board.

### Appeals procedure

See attached description in AS scheme description.

Administrator will be a member of GCCF office staff.