

GCCF Accelerated Judge Training Scheme:

BAC and Judges Guidance Notes.

This guidance is not a replacement or rewording of the Accelerated Judges Scheme (AJS) document but notes, based around frequently asked questions directed to the JASRG, to reiterate the intention behind the scheme, highlight any recent changes to the AJS as agreed by Council and to promote a better understanding within BACs and Judges (full and FJ(P)) on guiding and training FJ(P)s of the breed as an FJ(P) progresses through the Accelerated Judges Scheme.

The AJS has been in place for approximately 18 months, pandemic aside, and it is a time limited scheme running for a period of three years from the date at which an FJ(P) registers with a specific BAC.

The scheme is proving to be successful in that there is an increasing number of judges available to undertake breed classes. It is acknowledged that this scheme does not mitigate the lack of, nor the need for new judges, and it will eventually run its course and end naturally

Judges eligible for acceptance in this scheme are those who are either currently qualified or gain the ability to award Grand or Imperial certificates but, as they are not "Breed" judges, cannot award CC/PC's. Due to the recent changes for qualification to judge Grand classes there will be a number of full judges eligible to apply for FJ(P) status so it is more than possible that a BAC will gain further FJ(P)s for their breed.

Any eligible Full Judge has the choice as to whether or not to follow the FJ(P) route, those who have or do agree will be given provisional Full Judge status - FJ(P) – for those breeds. This will give them the right to accept the relevant Breed classes. It is incumbent on the full judge to request acknowledgment of their FJ(P) status from the BAC which is, in its turn, responsible for ensuring that the judges FJ(P) status is posted on the website.

Candidates cannot be held back because of numerically small breeds - **if there are insufficient examples of a breed exhibited then the onus is on the BAC to organise a seminar, (Face to Face or Virtual) other exhibition or opportunity for discussing and handling examples of the breed.** Such training sessions will be accredited as a tutorial. Should this not have been done by the end of the FJ(P)s 3 years on the scheme then full judge status will be confirmed.

However, it is incumbent on BACs to keep in mind at all times that such judges have a significant influence on such breeds, and in most cases, have done so for a considerable number of years. Any judge, whether or not they take the option to become an FJ(P) or not, in such a position should always strive to understand and judge such breeds to the best of their ability.

If a judge, as a result of gaining the ability to judge a new Grand or Imperial group containing a breed or breeds new to them, and they apply for FJ(P) status they will need to do a minimum of 3(6) tutorials and wait one year before applying for promotion.

The whole ethos of the AJS is that, under the aegis of a BAC, FJ(P)s will be guided through education and learning to increase their knowledge and confidence to correctly place exhibits when judging. The BAC must recognise and remember that these judges are already awarding higher certificates which shows a soundly based overall knowledge of the breed. They have the ability to call on this and, with the guidance from the BAC, should be encouraged to enhance their knowledge and thereby feel able to award all levels of certificate with greater assurance.

The role of the BAC is recognised as being important in all judges training. The BAC should keep this in mind at all times when considering any advice given FJ(P)s, who on the whole, will already possess considerable knowledge and experience of these breeds. Advice should be both educative, positive while being supportive and be sensitive to the level of experience previously shown by an FJ(P).

Good communication between the FJ(P) and the BAC is naturally very important. FJ(P)s must recognise that all BACs are passionate about their breeds progress and well-being and it is beholden on them to ensure they have a full appreciation of any assistance offered by a BAC to enrich their understand and assessment of the BACs breed. Fully completed reports and accompanying paperwork will enhance this process for all parties.

The role of the BAC is to help with the education of the FJ(P) by giving supportive and positive advice as and when appropriate within the laid down time frames. To reiterate, clear communication between the BAC and FJ(P) is essential as this allows the BAC to monitor the development of a candidate's knowledge and confidence and therefore enables them to guide the FJ(P) appropriately.

FJ(P)s must submit their reports and tutorial forms within four weeks of the show. These forms need to show that they are developing their knowledge, competence and confidence to the BAC by identifying areas of learning needed to be able to judge the breed more effectively. This should be reflected in the tutorial forms submitted wherein identification of aspects in which progress has felt to have been made and those wherein further progress is required. It is expected that as levels of knowledge and confidence increases recording of specific learning needs will decrease. It is essential that an FJ(P) records and identifies all possible ways to increase their knowledge and confidence, both in general terms and in specific aspects of a breed. An FJ(P) should also recognise and acknowledge when this has been achieved and should be noted when appropriate. It is highly recommended that an FJ(P) retains their own record of reports and tutorials submitted to a BAC.

The BAC must respond to the FJ(P)s reports and tutorials with appropriate advice and/or comments within four weeks of receipt. Feedback should always be constructive and balanced and will be communicated to the candidates via the BAC secretary. It is beholden on the BAC to develop appropriate means to ensure that they comply with this requirement.

The Accelerated Scheme Document clearly sets out the expectations on both the candidate and the BAC. It must be remembered at all times that this document stands alone from the Judge Appointment Scheme documentation that governs the expectations for PJs and BACs, the two documents are not interconnected. There are no areas within the AJS in which additional conditions may be imposed.

FJ(P)s are not PJ's and must not be thought of nor dealt with as such and BACs must keep this in mind at all times. However, FJ(P)s must also appreciate that this is an opportunity for them to be guided into enhancing their knowledge and understanding of the finer points of a breed under BAC guidance.

Many BACs have developed guidance notes on the nuances of the breed to aid judging and they should provide a copy alongside the list of preferred judges to the FJ(P) as soon as they are eligible to become an FJ(P) of the breed.

It is the responsibility of the BAC to ensure ways of exposing a candidate to examples of their breed especially if they are a minority breed (as determined by the AJS document).

Any Full Judge of the BACs breed may undertake tutorials. If a BAC supplies a list of “preferred” judges then it would be in the interests of the FJ(P) to gain a tutorial from them, if they are available.

If a judge’s provisional status has been recently removed, it is advised that they are not approached to undertake a tutorial with.

It is only if a FJ(P) has been notified that they are in danger of being deferred or have been deferred that a preferred judge must be used for tutorials.

The BAC may also suggest an FJ(P) would benefit from a personal “mentor” and should supply a list of preferred judges to act as such by aiding and supporting them during their enhanced training to a better understanding of the breed however, the choice of mentor is up to the FJ(P) nor is it mandatory to have one.

The tutorial form has been devised in such a way as to inform the BAC on how the FJ(P) feels their knowledge and confidence is progressing and highlight any learning gained during the tutorial as well as indicating any further learning needs which can/may be determined by the FJ(P) or BAC. It must be recognised by BACs that some FJ(P)s will have more experience of a breed than others and as such, individual learning trajectories will differ, so any expectations and advice given by them should acknowledge this.

Should the BAC have concerns around an FJ(P)s overall understanding of the breed then they must notify the FJ(P) as soon as concerns are raised and help given to avoid deferment upon application for the removal of provisional status.

FJ(P)s must submit their reports and any tutorials within 4 weeks and BAC feedback must be given within 4 weeks of receiving the FJ(P)s paperwork. Ideally any feedback given should, if appropriate, contain both positive/negative comments, highlight any misunderstandings and/or applications of the SOP. It should also, if appropriate, outline further learning points that will help the judge to develop a better understanding of the breed or a particular aspect of it. FJ(P)s risk losing their provisional status if they are found to be judging breed classes and consistently failing to comply with the expectations of the AJS scheme.

The tutorial form is designed to be typed and then submitted via email by the FJ(P). The specified number of points recorded as evidence of learning etc is now open-ended as it has become evident that the degree of learning points required can differ according to an FJ(P)s level of experience however comment/s must still be recorded within all areas of the tutorial form. N.B. A commonly occurring issue is, not lack of content, but lack of identification as the sender fails to record their name in the document’s header. It is not the responsibility of the BAC secretary to track the sender down. It is highly recommended that an FJ(P) retains their own record of reports and tutorials submitted to a BAC in case of any dispute arising from such a situation.

BACs are encouraged to follow the style of the AJS tutorial form and comment on how it feels an FJ(P) is improving their knowledge and confidence and provide advice to enhance a candidates learning. Feedback should appreciate any learning and confidence a candidate does or does not appear to show and respond with appropriate comments. Feedback should offer practical suggestions to help the judge develop better understanding/confidence in any particular aspect of

the breed rather than dwell on the negative. If criticism is given, it must be in a constructive and encouraging manner with positive advice and suggestions to assist in moving forward.

It is strongly advised that an FJ(P) should undertake any discussion and/or tutorial with a full judge, if available, of the breed before submitting their results for either BOB only and/or the breed class.

Please consult the AJS rules for a full explanation of the processes and procedures to be complied with, by both parties, prior to an FJ(P) applying to have Provisional status removed.

There is no minimum time frame before applying but they must have met all the relevant criteria and then a candidate may apply for promotion when they feel they are ready.

When considering an application for promotion a BAC should remember that any judge who can award a Grand or Imperial certificate, albeit they are or are not a breed judge of all said breeds eligible for such a class, has and will continue to have a very significant influence on those breeds.

The BACs should use electronic means to vote but the vote must be anonymised and preferably undertaken within four weeks of receiving the application, and should not wait for a BAC meeting.

When promotion is agreed it is with immediate effect and does not wait for council or 4 weeks however the BAC secretary must notify the office so that the candidates record is up dated and recorded on the Judges Appointment page

If an FJ(P) is deferred the BAC must identify clear areas that they feel the candidate needs to develop more confidence and knowledge in. A further 2 tutorials must be undertaken 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 specified then they may apply again. There are no time stipulations between applications nor on the number of reapplications.

If the judge feels that the BAC has been incorrect in its deferment then they have the right to appeal.