

# **HANDBOOK FOR CKC CONFORMATION JUDGES**

**Effective January 1, 2024**



CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB®

CLUB CANIN CANADIEN<sup>MD</sup>

---

## **PURPOSE**

---

Judging is a very important part of the sport of purebred dogs, and this booklet has been prepared for the use of judges.

It is readily agreed that judging is subjective and judges may hold differing opinions, but, as your awards can have an influence on breeding plans and on the continuance and development of a breed, the act of judging carries much responsibility to the exhibitor, to the show giving club, to the spectators, and, of utmost importance, to the breed itself. Judging, therefore, is not to be entered into lightly as the responsibility goes far beyond placing dogs in order and handing out ribbons.

As the future of any activity is determined by the number of newcomers, so also is the future of the purebred dog and dog shows. Impolite judges can easily deter novices. Judges should accord the same courtesy to all exhibitors, examining all dogs in a thorough, competent, and systematic manner. Judging should be based on the dog as it appears before the judge and on how it relates to its Breed Standard. The judge should discard any knowledge of the dog's background and also eliminate any association with the exhibitor. The moment a favour is given to one exhibitor, a corresponding disfavour is given to all others.

This booklet has been compiled for those interested in being a successful judge – one who earns and maintains respect.

---

---

---

---

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

## Code of Ethics

<b>1</b>	<b>INTERPRETATIONS</b> .....	<b>1</b>
1.1	Definitions .....	1
<b>2</b>	<b>CONFORMATION SHOW RULES</b> .....	<b>3</b>
3	Selection of Judges .....	3
4	Judges .....	4
5	Officials & Ring Stewards.....	10
9	Exhibitors & Their Dogs .....	11
13	Altered Dog Class .....	11
14	Disqualifying or Excusing Dogs .....	11
<b>3</b>	<b>GUIDELINES</b> .....	<b>14</b>
1	General .....	14
2	Conduct .....	15
3	Assignment .....	16
4	Ring Control.....	16
5	Judging the dogs.....	17
6	Placements .....	18
7	Winners and Reserve Winners.....	18
8	Weighing and Measuring.....	18
9	Judge's Book.....	18
<b>4</b>	<b>HOW TO MEASURE</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>GUIDELINES FOR VISITING</b> <i>(18-12-19)</i>	
	<b>CONFORMATION JUDGES</b> .....	<b>23</b>
5.1	Ring Procedures.....	23
5.2	Examination.....	24
5.3	Rules.....	25

---

---

---

# **I INTERPRETATIONS**

---

## **1.1 Definitions**

For the purpose of this booklet, the following interpretations shall apply:

**“agent”** refers to a person who is authorized to act for or in place of another

**“Board”** means the Board of Directors of the Canadian Kennel Club.

**“breed”** includes a breed that is accepted by a CKC-recognized foreign stud book or by an association incorporated under the Animal Pedigree Act other than the CKC

**“breeder”** means the person owning or leasing the dam at the time of breeding

**“CKC”** means the Canadian Kennel Club

**“Club”** means the Canadian Kennel Club

**“club”** means a club or association officially recognized by the Canadian Kennel Club

**“companion show”** means a series of accompanying shows, all breed or specialty, being held consecutively by the same or different club on the same venue/grounds

**“complainant”** means any person who has laid a charge or complaint against another person, partnership, company, or organization relative to the contravention of these rules, regulations, procedures and policies of the Canadian Kennel Club

**“conformation”** means the form and structure, make and shape; arrangement of the parts in conformance with breed standard demands

**“conformation show”** means a competitive exhibition of dogs at which the dogs are judged in accordance with an established standard of perfection for each breed

**“C.S.R.”** means the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations

**“debar”** means to prohibit a person from participating in any competition or other activities directed, sanctioned, sponsored or authorized by

---

the Canadian Kennel Club held under its auspices or under any of its rules and regulations

**“defendant”** means any person, partnership, company or organization against whom a charge or complaint has been laid, relative to the contravention of these rules, regulations, procedures, and policies of the Canadian Kennel Club

**“deprive of privileges”** means to deprive a non-member of all privileges accorded to non-members of the Canadian Kennel Club, including the use of the Head Office

**“dog”** means a purebred dog of either sex

**“exhibitor”** means the owner or handler who enters a dog at a show

**“expel”** means to terminate membership in the Canadian Kennel Club and depriving the person so expelled from all privileges of the Canadian Kennel Club

**“handler”** means the person who handles a dog in the conformation show ring

**“Head Office”** means the office at which the business of the Canadian Kennel Club is carried out on a regular ongoing basis

**“immediate family”** as used in these rules means spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandparents, stepchildren and significant other

**“owner”** means the owner or owners as stated on the registration certificate of the dog

**“show”** or **“shows”** when used in these rules means any of the shows defined in these rules

**“suspend”** means to deprive a member, for the period ordered, of all of the privileges of the Canadian Kennel Club

This booklet shall be read with all applicable changes in gender so that the masculine shall include the feminine, and vice versa and the singular shall include the plural if applicable.

---

## **2 CONFORMATION SHOW RULES**

---

The following sections pertaining to judges are taken from the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations, and those rules that are of particular relevance for conformation judges are repeated herein. For ease of cross-referencing, the sections are numbered as they would appear in the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations rulebook.

Any violation of these rules or the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations will be referred to the Canadian Kennel Club for Disciplinary action.

Any discrepancy between this handbook and the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations, the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations shall take precedence.

### **3 SELECTION OF JUDGES**

#### **3.1 Contract Between a Judge and a Club**

3.1.1 A verbal or written approach to a judge regarding a specific event must be confirmed in writing by the show-giving club by mail or email within 30 days of the inquiry, or the assignment will be considered null and void, and the judge is thereby free to accept other assignments.

3.1.2 A judge must confirm in writing by mail or email his acceptance of the assignment with a club within 30 days after receipt of confirmation by a club that the services of the judge will be required. If such confirmation is not received by the club within 30 days, the agreement will be considered null and void and a club is free to seek the services of another judge.

#### **3.2 Making Application**

3.2.3 Any judge hired to judge official classes at a show shall not judge sweepstakes at that show or any show held in the same venue, i.e. two-day, or three-day day duration.

3.2.6 The club shall not add nor subtract from the number of breeds that a judge has agreed to judge without first obtaining consent from the judge to the proposed change. The judge may disallow any changes to the original assignment.



- 
- 3.2.7 Once a panel of judges for a show has been approved by the CKC, no change will be permitted except when necessary (i.e., due to death or illness) and in an overload situation.

### **3.4 Rate of Judging**

- 3.4.1 A judge must maintain an average judging rate of not less than 20 dogs nor more than 25 dogs per hour at the breed level.
- 3.4.2 A judge shall not judge more than 175 dogs at the breed level in a single day, including dogs entered in non-regular classes and specialty shows held on the same day. Where a judge is engaged to judge more than one (1) show on the same date in the same venue, it is the joint responsibility of the clubs to ensure this rule is enforced.
- 3.4.3 A judge must be provided with a meal period of not less than 30 minutes.
- 3.4.4 When a judge is scheduled to judge conformation and obedience on the same day, the combined total of the breed and obedience classes shall not exceed 420 minutes. The following must be used to determine whether total entries for the judge would exceed the time limitation:
- |               |                        |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Conformation  | 2 1/2 minutes per dog; |
| Novice class  | 7 1/2 minutes per dog; |
| Open Class    | 8 1/2 minutes per dog; |
| Utility Class | 10 minutes per dog.    |
- 3.4.5 When the total exceeds the 420-minute limit, sufficient entries to reduce the time must be transferred to another judge.

## **4 JUDGES**

### **4.1 General**

- 4.1.1 A judge officiating at a show must report to the Show Secretary at least 15 minutes before the scheduled starting time for the assignment.
- 4.1.2 In the event of any discrepancy between the Handbook for Conformation Judges and the Conformation Show Rules & Regulations, the Conformation Show Rules & Regulations shall take precedence.

- 
- 4.1.3 Should a judge be unable to fulfill his assignment due to illness or to any other circumstances beyond his control, the judge shall immediately notify the club; conversation with written confirmation (letter, fax, email) sent to the club, and the CKC of his inability to officiate.
- 4.1.4 Solicitation
- (a) A judge shall not communicate directly or indirectly with any club, or member of a club for the purpose of soliciting a judging assignment.
  - (b) For greater certainty, listing in canine publications, and the use of business cards shall not constitute solicitation on the part of the judge.
- 4.1.5 No person may approach a judge either directly *(34-09-20)* or otherwise, orally, in writing or electronically, to favour his entry. Disciplinary action will be taken against any person who violates this rule, or against a judge who fails to report any contravention of this rule to the CKC within 14 days of the action.
- 4.1.6 No person shall enter or exhibit a dog under a judge *(12-12-19)* where that judge has owned, conditioned, trained, (including handling/presentation classes), bred to, sold, handled, held under lease, boarded or held in residency within six (6) months prior to the date of the show at which he officiates as a judge. This rule shall apply regardless of whether the judge benefited in any way from any of the aforementioned activities. It is the responsibility of the owner to see that this rule is not violated.
- 4.1.7 In cases where a judge, or any member of a judge's immediate family, employs the services of an agent, said agent shall not handle any dog under this judge during, and for a period of four (4) months following termination of such employment.
- 4.1.8 A judge shall excuse a dog from the ring if he is aware of a violation of these rules and regulations
- 4.1.9 A judge is not allowed to consume alcoholic beverages or smoke at the venue until the completion of the assignment.
- 4.1.10 It shall be considered a serious offense for a judge who is officiating at a show to knowingly travel to or from a show in the company of an exhibitor, handler or dogs participating in that show, or to share accommodation with such persons.
- 4.1.11 Judges Ring Stewarding – see Officials, Section 5.
-

---

## 4.2 Conflicts

- 4.2.1 A judge shall not accept a judging assignment for more than one (1) show on the same date except in the case of combined shows being held at the same venue on the same date.
- 4.2.2 *(19-12-23)* A judge must not accept an assignment to judge the same breeds, groups or general specials at shows that are held less than 90 days apart if the distance between the shows is within 350 road miles (562 km). Disciplinary action may be taken against repeat offenders.
- 4.2.3 *(19-12-23)* Assignments with non-CKC clubs within Canada will be subject to section 4.2.2.
- 4.2.4 The time and mileage restriction will be waived for an emergency substitute judge who is required to replace the published judge at the last minute (due to illness, etc.).
- 4.2.5 Sweepstakes judges are exempt from these restrictions.

## 4.3 Judges Entering or Handling Dogs

- 4.3.1 *(13-12-21)* A judge (licensed or permit) officiating at a show held at the same venue (i.e., two- or three-day duration) or any member of the judge's immediate family or household, shall not enter or handle any dog at any contiguous show being held at the same venue, regardless of the number of shows or the club.
- 4.3.2 A person who has established eligibility to judge one or more breeds at shows held under these rules may, while such eligibility remains in effect, only handle dogs that are wholly owned or co-owned by the judge or a member of his immediate family.
- 4.3.3 *(17-06-22)* Any person who judges a sweepstakes or a baby puppy event at a specialty show shall not enter or handle a dog at the associated specialty show.
- 4.3.4 *(17-06-22)* Any person who judges a sweepstakes or a baby puppy event at an all-breed show shall not enter or handle a dog at the all-breed show or any specialty show held at the same venue on that day.
- 4.3.5 *(17-06-22)* Any person who judges a sweepstakes or a baby puppy event at a specialty show held in conjunction with an all-breed Show shall not enter or handle a dog at the all breed show on that day.

- 
- 4.3.6 Any person who judges sweepstakes at a specialty show shall not enter or handle a dog in any other specialty show or sweepstakes being held at the same venue on that day.  
(12-12-22)

## **4.4 Judging the Dogs**

- 4.4.1 If the dentition of the dog under examination is not automatically shown by the exhibitor, the judge will be permitted to open the dog's mouth.
- 4.4.2 While judging, a judge may not discuss the merits of the dogs with the stewards, attendants, exhibitors or spectators.
- 4.4.3 Where a dog's eligibility for a class is determined by age, judges must direct inquiries about the dog's age to the ring steward who will consult the official catalogue.  
(44-09-23)
- 4.4.4 If an interpreter is required in the judging ring, this person shall not be associated in any way with the breeds under judgment.
- 4.4.5 Under normal circumstances, the judging schedule should not be altered; however, special circumstances should allow the judge some discretion.
- 4.4.6 The judge is in charge of the ring in which he is judging, and shall maintain proper control while using established judging procedures, as defined in the Judges Guidelines. In exercising their authority, judges shall be considerate to both exhibitors and their dogs. All exhibitors, handlers, dogs and ring stewards within the ring, are subject to his instructions. Unless requested by the judge to do so, no official or other person shall seek to direct or advise an officiating judge within his ring except on official show business. Under no circumstances shall any person seek to influence a judge with regards to the merits of any dog in the ring. A judge is, however, free to ask the Show Superintendent to deal with any situation where he feels such action is advisable.
- 4.4.7 A judge's decision shall be final in all cases affecting the merits of the dogs. Full discretionary power is given to the judge to withhold any awards or prizes for want of merit. The awarding of a first prize in any class shall not obligate the judge to award Winner or higher awards if he feels that such an award should be withheld. Where a judge has withheld a first place or higher award in any class, the dogs in that class immediately become ineligible for further awards at that show.

- 
- 4.4.8 Awards may be withheld at any level of competition. The reason for such action must be stated in the judge's book and initialed by the judge who will then clearly and diplomatically explain his decision to the handler involved.
- 4.4.9 When a first-place award is withheld, all further (13-09-23) awards in that class are automatically withheld.
- 4.4.10 After a class has been judged in accordance with these rules, it shall not be rejudged. A class is considered judged when the judge has indicated his placements.
- 4.4.11 Only the judge is allowed to mark his book. The book cannot be changed by him after the closing of the show; however, a clerical error in the judge's book may be corrected by the CKC after consultation with the judge.
- 4.4.12 At the end of his assignment, the judge should ensure that his book is properly completed by checking the following:
- (a) that the book is properly signed
  - (b) that any changes are initialed
  - (c) that the starting and finishing times of the assignment are clearly indicated
  - (d) that all dogs absent are so marked
- 4.4.13 Judges must place the dogs at the appropriate placard before marking the judge's book and awarding the ribbons.
- 4.4.14 The judge in the ring will then:
- (a) check the armband numbers
  - (b) mark the judge's book, indicating placements and absentees
  - (c) hand out ribbons and/or prizes
- 4.4.15 When awarding the Best of Breed, the judge shall announce the winners in the following order:
- (a) Best of Breed
  - (b) Best of Opposite Sex
  - (c) Best of Winners
  - (d) Select Dog
  - (e) Select Bitch
- 4.4.16 Judges officiating at shows held under these rules shall be governed by the standards of the breeds as adopted by the CKC.
-

- 
- 4.4.17 When judging at the group level, the judge must examine all dogs that have not been previously examined by them in that event.
  - 4.4.18 When judging general Specials, the judge must individually examine all dogs.

## **4.5 Tables & Ramps**

- 4.5.1 When examining breeds that are customarily examined on the table (see Appendix G - List of Breeds that must be Judged on the Table), the judge may place a maximum of two (2) dogs on the table at the same time. In the case of re-examination, a dog that was previously examined on the table must be re-examined on the table. This applies to all levels of competition.  
*(30-06-17)*
- 4.5.2 When examining breeds that must be judged on a ramp (see Appendix H - List of Breeds that Must be Judged on a Ramp), in the case of re-examination, a dog that was previously examined on a ramp must be re-examined on a ramp. This applies to all levels of competition.
- 4.5.3 At the discretion of the judge, designated ramp breeds (see Appendix I - List of Breeds that May be Judged on a Ramp-CSR) may be examined on the ground or on a ramp. The entire entry in a breed is to be examined in the same manner on the ramp or on the ground.
- 4.5.4 Breeds not designated as either table or ramp breeds are customarily examined on the ground. At the discretion of the judge, ramps may be used to judge any breed.

The entire entry in a breed is to be examined in the same manner.

## **4.6 Weighing & Measuring of Dogs**

- 4.6.1 A judge shall have the right to measure in the ring and weigh or have weighed by the superintendent, any dog whose breed standard lists height or weight as a disqualification. The decision of the Show Superintendent reported to the judge shall be final in the determination of the weight. The decision of the judge shall be final in the determination of all disqualifications.

---

## **4.7 Indignities to a Judge**

- 4.7.1 A judge officiating at a show held under these rules shall not be subjected to indignities of any kind during the progress of the show. It shall be the duty and obligation of the club holding the show to see that this rule is effectively carried out.

## **4.8 Judge's Conduct**

- 4.8.1 A judge must conduct himself in a manner that is fair, and not prejudicial to the sport.

## **5 OFFICIALS & RING STEWARDS**

### **5.1 Show Officials**

- 5.1.7 No person shall act as a show official (Show Superintendent, Show Secretary, chief ring Steward, ring steward) while he or any member of his immediate family is acting as an officiating judge at the same show. Upon completion of the total judging assignment (for the entire event), a judge or any member of his immediate family may be allowed to ring steward. This does not apply to sweepstakes judges.

### **5.3 Persons with Disabilities**

- 5.3.1 A handler with a disability may compete using a cane, crutch, walker, wheelchair or electric wheelchair.
- 5.3.2 When gaiting the dogs, a handler with disabilities may request the use of a runner.
- 5.3.3 *(11-12-19)* Handlers with disabilities may have a second person assist them in individual and group gaiting of the dogs. If the ring surface or terrain makes it difficult for the assisted handler to gait the dog at a normal speed, the judge may adjust where the dog is placed in line to give all handlers an equal opportunity to show their dogs. Handlers with disabilities may have the second person assist in placing table dogs onto tables and verify weight and measurements that may be required under the breed standard. The primary function of exhibiting the dog is the responsibility of the handler and not the second person in the ring.

---

## **9 EXHIBITORS & THEIR DOGS**

- 9.5 Any person, either within or outside the judging ring, who does anything calculated to attract, distract or otherwise interfere in any way with the attention or deportment of a dog under judgment may be disciplined by the Discipline Committee in whatever way it considers in the best interests of the club, or the judge may take any of the following summary action:
- (a) announce to ringside that double handling will not be tolerated;
  - (b) request the assistance of the Show Superintendent in monitoring ringside;
  - (c) at the judge's discretion, excuse the dog(s) for the day.
- 9.6 The handler of a dog in the ring may be changed only with the permission of the officiating judge.

## **13 ALTERED DOG CLASS**

### **13.3 Judging of Altered Classes**

- 13.3.1 The breed standards for each breed shall be followed except as defined in this section.
- 13.3.2 All disqualifications shall apply except for those that disallow sexually altered dogs from regular conformation competition.
- 13.3.3 Judges shall judge this class as if judging regular conformation classes. Withholding of awards for lack of merit is encouraged.

### **13.5 Disqualification**

- 13.5.1 Judges shall disqualify any dog showing evidence of the presence of testicles or any bitch showing evidence of estrus.

## **14 DISQUALIFYING or EXCUSING DOGS**

### **14.1 Disqualifications**

- 14.1.1 A judge shall disqualify a dog if, in his opinion, it is blind (in one or both eyes), deaf, castrated, spayed, or its appearance is changed by artificial or surgical means other than those recognized by the standard



---

for its breed or has a fault listed as a disqualification in its breed standard.

#### 14.1.2 Disqualifying or Excusing

- (11-12-23) (a) The judge shall have the authority to excuse, disqualify or permanently disqualify a dog that menaces, threatens or attempts to bite the judge, another person or any dog in the ring. If a dog is twice excused for any combination of these actions, it shall have the status of a disqualified dog. The judge shall also have the authority to disqualify or excuse a dog that attempts to bite, or bites in response to an attack from another dog.
- (b) The judge shall disqualify or permanently disqualify a dog that bites the judge, another person or any dog in the ring. Dogs permanently disqualified under this provision will not be eligible for reinstatement. The decision to permanently disqualify a dog must be clearly indicated on the judge's disqualification form.

14.1.3 When a judge withholds an award for lack of merit, (23-12-23) or disqualifies or excuses a dog, the reason must be recorded in the judge's book. The judge must also fill out the appropriate form. The owner or handler of the dog must be advised of said reason before leaving the ring and must be provided with the yellow copy of the form. A dog that has been disqualified shall not receive any ribbon, prize or award. In such cases, the CKC may order that any previous awards be cancelled and all ribbons and/or prizes be returned.

14.1.4 Once a dog has been disqualified for any reason at a conformation show, it may not be entered or shown at another show until the dog has been reinstated by the CKC. All awards earned by a dog shown in violation of this section will be cancelled by the CKC and the owner of the dog is subject to disciplinary action. A dog disqualified under section 14.1.2 (b) is not eligible for reinstatement.

14.1.5 Any dog that is disqualified under section 14.1.2 shall automatically be disqualified from entering in any CKC event in any other discipline until such time as the dog is officially reinstated, if the dog is eligible for reinstatement.

---

## 14.2 Excusing

14.2.1 A judge shall excuse a dog if, in his opinion, any of the following conditions are present:

- (a) Two testicles are not located in the scrotum. If a dog is excused at three (3) shows for this condition, the dog has the same status as a disqualified dog;
- (b) Lameness. If a dog is excused for lameness at three (3) conformation shows within a 60-day period, the dog has the same status as a disqualified dog;
- (c) The normal colour of a dog's coat or skin has been changed by the use of dye, chalk or other substance;
- (d) If a foreign substance is present in the coat or if a spray or other substance is applied to the dog's coat while in the ring;
- (e) If the dog is under the influence of a drug or other substance.
- (f) A dog entered in Specials Only shall be identified by gender in the judges book and if incorrectly entered and the error substantiated by the Show Secretary or Show Superintendent, shall be excused from the ring by the judge.
- (g) If a dog is unable to be examined. If a dog is excused three (3) times for not being able to be examined, it shall have the same status as a disqualified dog;
- (10-09-19) (h) Baby puppies should not be excused for lack of testicles, not meeting minimum height or not having full dentition. All other show rules apply.

14.2.4 When a dog has been excused or given permission to be removed by the Show Superintendent, a notation shall be made in the judge's book stating "excused" and the reason for same. This shall be initialed by the judge.

14.2.6 At the discretion of the judge, exhibitors are permitted to use water, ice, etc. within reason, to keep the dogs cool in cases of extremely high temperatures.

---

## **3 GUIDELINES**

---

The following sections contain Guidelines to assist the judge in the successful completion of his assignment. While the individuality of each judge is recognized, standardization in behaviour, expectations, and procedures will provide judge, exhibitor, and show giving club a level of consistency, familiarity and comfort.

Contravention of these Guidelines may be referred to the Head Office of the Canadian Kennel Club. Frequent and severe contraventions of these Guidelines will be referred to the Event Officiating Committee for appropriate action.

### **1 GENERAL**

- 1.1 The judge must be physically and mentally capable of performing the functions necessary for the judging of dogs in accordance with the CKC rules.
- 1.2 A judge is expected to maintain an up-to-date knowledge of the Conformation Show Rules and Regulations, all other pertinent CKC rules, regulations, policy and procedures, with particular emphasis being placed on Conformation Show Rules and Regulations and CKC Breed Standards.
- 1.3 In cases where a judge, or any member of a judge's immediate family, employs the services of an agent, said agent shall not handle any dog under this judge during, and for a period of four (4) months following termination of, such employment.
- 1.4 These Guidelines are subject to amendment by the Board.
- 1.5 Amendments to the rules may be proposed by a person, association, club, representative group or body by presenting such proposal to the Board for its consideration. In such circumstances, the Board will forward the proposal to the Event Officiating Committee for its consideration and input, prior to the Board making its final decision.

---

## 2 CONDUCT

- 2.1 Since most judges entered the fancy as breeders and exhibitors, it is natural that they would wish to continue these activities after they have been licensed to judge. Therefore; while the CKC recognizes that breeding, exhibiting, and judging are not mutually exclusive activities they wish to remind judges that they must not only do what is right and proper but they must be seen as doing what is right and proper. Any action or behaviour, as an official, exhibitor, or spectator, which leaves the impression of a judge's conduct being compromised, must therefore be avoided.
- 2.2 The general conduct of a judge on the show site both in and out of the ring must be beyond reproach. Inappropriate remarks or actions should be avoided at all times.
- 2.3 It is important to maintain proper appearance. Clothing should be appropriate both to the task and the weather conditions. Any item of apparel which dangles or makes noise should be avoided as either can be distracting or dangerous. Tee shirts and jeans are not suitable for a judge of either sex. Comfortable, yet professional, clothing will enable a judge to concentrate on the task at hand.
- 2.4 Prior to a judge having completed his assignment, he must not act as a spectator at breed level for any breed that he will be judging at the all breed show or at a specialty show held in conjunction with a companion show at the same venue.
- 2.5 When officiating at a show, a judge must not:
- (a) Visit the grooming or exercise area until after the completion of the entire assignment for that club;
  - (b) Be in possession of a catalogue until the completion of the assignment;
  - (c) Discuss the merits of the dogs with the stewards, attendants, or spectators.
- (43-09-23) (d) Converse at length with those who may be exhibiting under them;
- (e) Address handlers in the ring by name;
  - (f) Act in any other official capacity on any day at the venue where and when he will be officiating; upon completion of his total assignment, a judge may be allowed to ring steward;

---

(g) Have control of, or groom a dog anywhere in the venue.

2.6 Discussion with exhibitors or handlers should be limited to necessary instructions, explanations for withholding, excusing or disqualifying.  
(43-09-23)

2.7 Where a dog's eligibility for a class is determined by age, judges must direct inquiries about the dog's age to the ring steward who will consult the official catalogue. The Event Secretary is required to provide each ring with a printed copy of the show catalogue for the use of the Ring Steward.

2.8 At no time may the steward show any information in the catalogue to the judge. The catalogue must be retained by the ring steward at all times.

2.9 A CKC licensed judge shall not represent themselves as being licensed to judge by any foreign judge licensing body unless the judge does so with the express authorization of that foreign licensing body.

### **3 ASSIGNMENTS**

#### **3.1 Commitment**

Upon accepting an assignment, a judge is committing himself to the show-giving club for the entire day and should not expect the club to accommodate travel plans involving late arrival or early departure.

### **4 RING CONTROL**

#### **4.1 Checking Armbands**

A judge must determine if all dogs are present in every class by comparing the armband numbers with the numbers indicated in the judge's book. This should be done for all levels of competition.

#### **4.2 Split Classes**

To accommodate proper examination and gaiting of large entries in small rings, a judge may split the classes.

---

### **4.3 Late Arrivals**

(20-12-23) Acceptance of late arrivals is at the discretion of the judge; however, no late arrivals will be permitted to enter the class once the judge has indicated his placements.

## **5 JUDGING THE DOGS**

5.1 All dogs are to be individually examined in the same systematic manner, appropriate for the breed.

- (a) Judges should approach all dogs calmly, with gentleness, and make no sudden or surprising gestures
- (b) Teeth and testicles must be part of the examination in all classes including specials only;
- (c) For the judge's protection when examining a dog, a judge must not kneel or crouch in front of or behind the dog.
- (d) A dog should not be approached from the rear for the initial examination.
- (e) A judge may use a ramp, where available, for the examination of appropriate breeds. (Sussex Spaniel, Basset Hound, Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen, Staffordshire Bull Terrier, Bulldog)

### **5.2 Gaiting**

In all classes, the judge must gait the dogs individually and collectively in a consistent pattern, being sure to check for lameness. Matting when available should be utilized for all gaiting.

- (a) At winners/reserve, re-gaiting is optional at the judge's discretion.
- (b) At breed level, all dogs are individually and collectively gaited.
- (c) At group level, all dogs are individually and collectively gaited.
- (d) At general specials, all dogs are individually and collectively gaited.

### **5.3 Group or Class**

When eliminating dogs from further competition, a judge should retain a minimum of 6 dogs for future consideration.

---

## **6 PLACEMENTS**

At all levels of competition, the judge must clearly indicate his placements in the following manner:

(a) **When Dogs Are Moving**

Placements are not to be indicated while the dogs are moving unless the dogs have been put in placement order.

(b) **When Dogs Are Standing Still**

It is not necessary to align the dogs in placement order when the dogs are standing still.

## **7 WINNERS AND RESERVE WINNERS**

7.1 The winners and reserve winners are 2 separate classes, unless the winner comes from a class of one.

7.2 Re-gaiting in these classes should be kept to a minimum and limited to the dogs that are in contention.

7.3 The judge's book is to be marked and the ribbons and/or prizes awarded to the winner prior to judging the reserve winner unless reserve is automatic.

## **8 WEIGHING AND MEASURING**

8.1 A dog whose breed standard does not call for a weight or height disqualification can not be measured or weighed.

## **9 JUDGE'S BOOK**

9.1 In the regular classes, the placements are to be marked 1, 2, 3, and 4 opposite the armband number in the judge's book.

9.2 In recording the Winners, Reserve Winners, Best of Breed, Best of Opposite Sex, Best of Winners, Select Dog, Select Bitch and Best Puppy, the armband numbers of the winning dogs should be written in the appropriate place.

9.3 The judge is responsible to ensure that the judge's book is properly and correctly marked prior to submitting it to the Show Secretary. Errors and omissions on the part of the judge may only be corrected by the judge and must be so initialed.

9.4 Any errors or omissions on the part of the Show Secretary must be corrected by the Show Secretary and initialed by the Show Secretary.

- 
- 9.5 Only the Show Secretary and Superintendent may make further notations in the judge's book.
- 

## **4 HOW TO MEASURE**

---

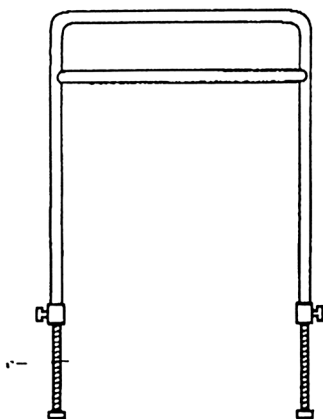
### **1 Official Measuring of Dogs**

#### **1.1 Breeds Which May Be Officially Measured**

Official measuring of a dog at a championship show held under Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) rules is restricted to those breeds whose CKC standards prescribe a disqualification on the grounds that a dog in that breed is over the maximum or under the minimum height described in the breed standard. Official measuring for judging purposes is not permitted in other breeds.

#### **1.2 Official Measuring Standard**

The only measuring standard which may be employed to officially measure dogs at a championship show held under CKC rules is the measuring standard approved by the Board of Directors of The Canadian Kennel Club. The measuring standard resembles a croquet hoop or wicket (see figure 1).





---

Figure 1. Official Measuring Standard (wicket)

The principle is that the legs of a wicket set at a prescribed height will either touch or not touch the floor or table when placed on the highest point over a dog's shoulder blades. This enables the judge to determine whether a dog's height is acceptable or not acceptable according to the breed standard (see figures 2 and 3).

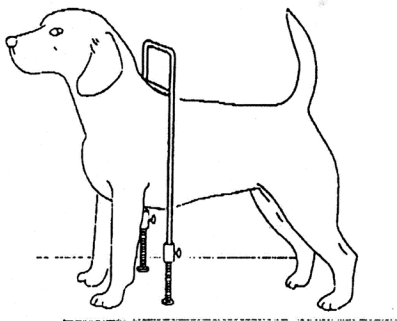


Figure 2. Wicket is on the ground (measuring surface) indicating the dog is the prescribed height or less

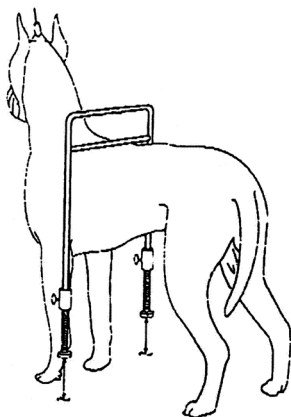


Figure 3. Wicket is off the ground indicating the dog is over the prescribed height

---

### 1.3 Setting The Standard To Measure A Dog

The adjustable wicket is made of stainless steel tubing in the shape of an inverted “U”. There is a solid extension leg that slides in and out of each of the two (2) hollow legs of the wicket.

The extension legs are calibrated at every half-inch. A set of screws at the base of each leg is tightened to lock the extension legs at the desired height. Each leg of the wicket is set separately, and the height is read separately on each leg.

Before loosening the set screws, the measurer should turn the wicket so the legs do not drop completely out of the hollow legs of the wicket. Once the legs have been set at the desired height, the wicket is ready to be used. A metal measuring tape should be used to verify the setting of the wicket once it is set by the judge.

Care should be taken to note whether a dog’s height is over or under the height fixed on the wicket.

### 1.4 Using The Measuring Standard

The handler positions the dog at the judge’s direction and the dog should be stacked in a normal show position. The dog should be in a naturally alert position with the head up but not stretched upward, and with its feet well under it and its fore-legs vertical. On a heavily coated breed, such as the Poodle, the handler shall part the hair over the shoulders (see figure 4).

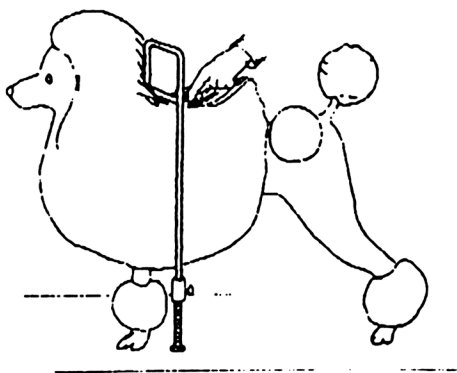


Figure 4. Hair parted under wicket

---

After the wicket has been set at the prescribed height, the handler may be shown the setting. Once the dog is posed, the judge approaches the dog with the wicket at his side. The highest point over the shoulder blade is determined by placing the hands on the dog's shoulders. It is not possible by simply looking at the dog. Once the judge has found where the highest point is, he brings the wicket up quickly from behind the dog, over the dog's back, and lowers it so that the crosspiece comes down directly over the shoulder blades.

## 1.5 Where To Measure

Measuring may be done directly on the floor, if the floor is level and flat and not slippery. Otherwise, it is to be done on a flat, level board with a non-slippery surface, except in the case of breeds that are customarily judged on the table. The height eligibility of such breeds may be determined on a judging table, assuming the table is flat and level and has a suitable non-slippery surface.

## 1.6 How To Determine Whether A Dog Is Measured "In" Or "Out"

- (a) Where the breed standard prescribes a maximum height:

If, after the judge has placed the measuring standard over the highest point of the shoulder blades, he finds that both legs of the wicket touch the floor or the table, the dog will be considered to be measured "In" (figure 2). If it is found that both legs do not touch the floor or table (figure 3) the dog will be considered to be measured "Out" and the dog will be disqualified.

*Note:* In any breed where the breed standard provides for a disqualification if a dog is, for example, 30 cm (12 in) or over, the dog will be considered "In" if both legs of the wicket touch the floor or the table when the measuring standard is set, in this case, at 30 cm (12 in).

- (18-12-19) (b) Where the breed standard prescribes a minimum height:

If, after the judge has placed the measuring standard over the highest point of the shoulder blades, it is found that both legs of the wicket do not touch the floor or the table, the dog will

---

be considered to be measured “In” (figure 3). If both legs of the wicket touch the floor or table (figure 2) the dog will be considered to be measured “Out” and the dog will be disqualified.

*Note:* In any breed where the breed standard provides for a disqualification if a dog is, for example, 30 cm (12 in) or under, the dog will be considered measured “In” if either or both legs of the measuring standard is off the floor or the table when the measuring standard is set, in this case, at 30 cm (12 in).

## **DISQUALIFYING THE DOG: IMPLEMENTATION DATE JANUARY 1,1994**

If after the official measuring, the dog is found not to be within the limits as laid down in the breed standard the dog is to be disqualified.

The judge is to indicate in the Judge’s book the number of the dog and the reason for the disqualification.

If after the official measuring, the dog is found to be within the limits of the breed standard, the judge will then continue the judging.

---

## **5 GUIDELINES FOR VISITING CONFORMATION JUDGES** (18-12-19)

---

### **5.1 Ring Procedures**

- 5.1.1 You must mark all awards in your judges book yourself.
  - 5.1.2 You must check all armband numbers and record absentees. You may accept a late arrival at your discretion up to the point where you have examined all dogs and have made an indication of your placements.
  - 5.1.3 The order of final awards is BB, BOS, BW, Select Male, Select Female
  - 5.1.4 Dogs must be placed in front of the award markers and the book marked BEFORE the ribbons are awarded.
-

- 
- 5.1.5 Awards are made in the order 1, 2, 3, 4 - NOT the reverse.
- 5.1.6 SELECT awards are at the judge's discretion and may be withheld by the judge.
- 5.1.7 You are expected to judge 20-25 dogs per hour, and respect the times as published in the judging schedule.
- 5.1.8 At Group level, ALL dogs must be gaited. Any dog not previously judged at that event must be examined.
- 5.1.9 At Best in Show level, ALL dogs must be examined and gaited.
- 5.1.10 You must NOT kneel down in front of or beside a dog.
- 5.1.11 You may not use a measure or calipers in the ring when you are judging. The official CKC measure only may be used for a height or weight disqualification.
- 5.1.12 A class is considered judged when placements are indicated and the book is marked. You may not re-judge a class.
- 5.1.13 A judge may not discuss the merits of the dogs with the stewards, exhibitors or spectators.
- 5.2 **Examination** (18-12-19)
- 5.2.1 All dogs MUST be examined individually as appropriate for that breed, including the use of table or ramp, which for some breeds is mandatory use.
- 5.2.2 All dogs MUST be gaited individually and as a group in the class.
- 5.2.3 If re-examination of a table or ramp breed is wanted, it must be done on the table or ramp. Do not re-examine a table or ramp breed on the ground.
- 5.2.4 The bite may be shown by the exhibitor but if the judge is not satisfied with the examination, it is permitted for the judge to examine the mouth.
- 5.2.5 Be aware that not all breeds require full dentition. There is an Oral Examination document available that summarizes the required examinations for each breed according to the standard.
-

---

### 5.3 **Rules**

- 5.3.1 There are certain conditions for which a judge **MUST** excuse or disqualify a dog.
- 5.3.2 A form must be filled out if excusing or disqualifying a dog. The form will be provided by the show secretary or by the ring steward and must be completed before the dog leaves the ring. One copy of the form goes to the exhibitor.
- 5.3.3 There are exemptions on breed disqualifications and excusals for entries in the Baby Puppy class. (teeth, testicles, size)
- 5.3.4 Any questions on rules & procedures should be referred to the Show Superintendent for an answer or explanation.
- 5.3.5 The CKC requires a judge's observation programme and a visiting judge may, at the request of the CKC, be observed by a trained Observer. This  
(18-12-19) Observer is required to introduce themselves to the judge prior to the start of judging and will meet with the visiting judge following the assignment to review the observation document.
- 5.3.6 The Observer is there to assist the judge in having a positive judging experience.





The background of the page is a solid light blue color. It features several faint, overlapping logos of the Canadian Kennel Club (CKC). The logos are circular and contain the letters 'CKC' in a stylized font, with the words 'INCORPORATED' and 'FOUNDED 1888 FONDE' around the perimeter. There are also large, stylized maple leaves scattered across the background.

## **THE CANADIAN KENNEL CLUB**

5397 Eglinton Ave W, Suite 101

Etobicoke, Ontario

M9C 5K6

Telephone (416) 675-5511

E-mail: [information@ckc.ca](mailto:information@ckc.ca)

Web Site: [www.ckc.ca](http://www.ckc.ca)