DOGS VICTORIA

REG. NO. A0023882W

REGULATIONS

PART 7- CONFORMATION

Last update: 15 December 2026

To be read in conjunction with DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations, Codes & Policies

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7 – CONFORMATION

7.1 ELIGIBILITY FOR EXHIBITION

7.1.1 The Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria shall apply to all exhibitions approved by Management Committee.

7.1.2 Unless otherwise determined by Management Committee, all conformation fixtures will be held at the Bulla Exhibition Centre or KCC Park Skye, however this Regulation will not apply where an Affiliate name is identifiable with an area outside 50 km radius of the GPO Melbourne, in which case fixtures will be held in the area so identifiable, except where centralised or regional centres are being utilised. Where special circumstances exist and following approval from Management Committee regional clubs may choose the venue for their shows to be either KCC Park or Bulla Exhibition Centre. (15/07/16)

7.1.3 It is a prerequisite for group clubs and semi-specialist clubs and optional for breed clubs and all breeds clubs to conduct an Open Show each year. Where an all-breeds club elects to hold an Open Show, the Open Show must be held in conjunction with one of that club's Championship Shows or on a date when no all-breeds show is being conducted in Victoria.

7.1.4 An Affiliate must evidence an entry of at least 250 exhibits before a two-day Show is approved, except where an Affiliate is granted a "National" in which case exemption may be given, upon application.

7.2 CONFORMATION CLASSES FOR EXHIBITS

7.2.1 Refer DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations Part 5, Section 1

7.2.2 BRACE for two exhibits six months of age or over and of the same breed, each of which has competed in at least one ordinary class at the same exhibition, is the property of the same owner and is handled in the judging ring by the same person.

7.2.3 TEAM - for three or more exhibits six months of age or over and of the same breed, each of which has competed in at least one ordinary class at the same exhibition, is the property of the same owner and is handled in the judging ring by the same person.

7.2.4 INTERSTATE CLASS - for exhibits owned by a non-Victorian resident.

7.2.5 LOCAL CLASSES AT OPEN SHOWS AND PARADES - are for exhibits six months of age or over owned by exhibitors residing within a specified radius of the exhibition. The body holding the exhibition shall have the power to specify any radius up to 50 km. If the radius is not specified it shall be taken to be 50 km.

Local classes at Open Shows or Parades may not be offered within a 50 km radius of the Melbourne GPO nor may exhibits owned within that area compete in local classes. Wins in local classes shall count against the eligibility of an exhibit only for restricted local classes.

7.2.6 (deleted 15/04/25)

7.2.7 HANDLERS CLASSES - Adult and Junior Handlers Classes for purebred and/or de-sexed pure breed dogs, unless otherwise stipulated by conditions of entry.

7.2.8 NEUTERED EXHIBITS CLASS - For neutered pure breed dogs of breeds recognised by DOGS AUSTRALIA. This class cannot compete for Best Dog/Bitch or Challenge Certificate.

7.2.9 Class 21 and 21A

Champion Class - for exhibits which have qualified as Champions.

This class is for both dog and bitch for each breed at Open Shows and Competitions. The winners of these classes are not eligible to compete for Best Dog, Best Bitch, or Best of Breed therefore they cannot compete for any Group award other than Best Champion in Group or any In Show award other than Best Champion in Show. The above class shall be judged as the first class of each breed.

Where class 21 and 21A are not offered at Open Shows Champions shall compete in ordinary classes.

FCI CACIB Shows (15/08/25)

The Champion Class is compulsory and to enter the Class, the title must have been confirmed by the issue of a Registered Pedigree Certificate with the title added by the day of the official closing date of entries.

A Champion is eligible to be awarded the CACIB if it has attained 15 months of age.

7.2.10 SWEEPSTAKES CLASSES

7.2.10.1 Baby Puppy Sweepstakes

7.2.10.2 Minor Puppy Sweepstakes etc.

7.2.11 Numbering of Classes (Amended 15/08/25)

Class .1 Baby Puppy
.2 Minor Puppy
.3 Puppy
.4 Junior
.5 Intermediate
.6 Novice
.7 Graduate
.8 Limit
.9 State Bred
.10 Australian Bred
.11 Open
.12 Veteran (7 years and over)
.13 Veteran (10 years and over)
.14 Bred by Exhibitor
.15 Puppy Neuter
.16 Junior Neuter
.17 Intermediate Neuter
.18 Open Neuter
.19 Interstate
.20 Handlers
.21 Champion
.22 Sweepstakes
.1 Baby Puppy
.2 Minor Puppy etc.
.23 Brace
.24 Local

Bitch classes to be numbered: 1a, 2a, 3a, 4a, etc.

Where only one Veteran class is offered, it is to be Class 12.

7.2.12 OPEN CLASS - not more than one Open Class may be offered for each sex of any one breed. In the total of the classes offered for any particular breed an "Open Dog" and "Open Bitch" must be provided.

7.2.13 (deleted 15/04/25)

7.2.14 BABY PUPPY CLASSES - Baby Puppy Classes are 'optional' at the sole discretion of Dogs Victoria Affiliates at Championship Shows conducted in Victoria.

7.2.15 Affiliates may only conduct fixtures for the breed(s) specified in the Affiliate's Statement of Purposes/Constitution.

7.2.16 The following classes are compulsory:

At Championship Shows: Minor Puppy, Puppy, Junior, Intermediate, Open.
At Parades and Open Shows: Baby Puppy, Puppy, Junior, Open.

7.2.17 Baby Puppies are not eligible to compete outside of Baby Puppy Class except for applicable Special Classes. Applicable Special Classes excludes Brace, Team, Handlers, Neuter and progeny classes, however described. (15/06/26)

7.2.18 The term "SPECIAL CLASSES" applies to Local, Brace, Team, Interstate, Handlers, Progeny, Sweepstakes and any other class approved by Dogs Victoria as a Special Class. (Amended 15/11/26)

7.2.19 VETERAN CLASS – Veteran Class as per DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations Part 5, Clause 1.5 may be a parade of Veterans or a Veteran Class whereby the winner may complete for the Challenge. Where the Veteran Class winner is to compete for the Challenge only entire dogs or bitches are eligible for the class. (15/11/09)

7.2.20 An exhibit entered in Sweepstakes at an event must also be entered in at least one ordinary class for which it is eligible, where such an ordinary class is offered at the event. For Veterans this Regulation only applies when an ordinary Veteran Class is offered. (Amended 15/11/26) (15/09/26)

7.3 SCHEDULES AND CATALOGUES

7.3.1 All Rules, Regulations, definitions or instructions in the nature of Rules and Regulations printed in the schedule shall be deemed to be Regulations of the Show or other exhibitions and shall have the same effect as if they formed part of these Regulations, provided they are not inconsistent with these Regulations.

7.3.2 The conformation Schedule shall contain:

7.3.2.1 the date on which the entries close as the first item appearing on the first page of the prize schedule.

7.3.2.2 notification to the effect that the body is affiliated with Dogs Victoria and that the exhibition is held under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria and that a copy of them may be perused at the office of the Secretary of the Exhibition.

7.3.2.3 the name of the Affiliate conducting the exhibition.

7.3.2.4 the correct status of the exhibition, whether Championship Show, Open Show, Parade etc.

7.3.2.5 the name and address of the venue at which the exhibition is to be held.

7.3.2.6 the date on which the exhibition is to be held.

7.3.2.7 the address to which the entries are to be sent and the telephone number of the Club or Show Secretary. Entries shall not be accepted by a person residing at the same address or using the same postal address as an appointed Judge for the relevant fixture.

7.3.2.8 the name of each Judge including initials, title and the Judges State, together with the Group, or breeds and/or specials allocated to that Judge.

7.3.2.9 the order of judging of breeds where a Judge judges part of two or more groups but not Group Specials.

7.3.2.10 the name of the Judge judging General Specials.

7.3.2.11 the names of any Judges judging any Sweepstakes or Special Classes (if any).

7.3.2.12 the sequence of breed judging. If not otherwise stated alphabetical order applies.

7.3.2.13 the price of catalogues.

7.3.2.14 (15/02/12) entry fees per class. Where there is a variation in the fees charged for different classes or between members and non-members, the fees for each category must be shown (e.g. classes $5, or members $5, non-members $7 etc.). Entries will not be accepted without breed fees.

7.3.2.15 the name of any breed(s) for which Challenge Certificates and Best of Breed Certificates will not be available.

7.3.2.16 notification of requirement to pay ground levy (if applicable).

7.3.2.17 cost of admission of non-exhibitors to fixture and car parking fee (if applicable).

7.3.2.18 time that judging will commence and notification of the judging times for special classes.

7.3.2.19 As from 1 July 2016 the conformation schedule for all, all breeds shows must provide for the option of online entries. (15/02/12) (15/05/16)

7.3.2.20 notification that a stamped self-addressed envelope must be included with entries and in the case of multiple exhibitors, one envelope for each exhibitor. Where the affiliate has determined that entry numbers are to be collected on the day at the show this notification shall not apply. (15/02/16)

7.3.2.21 advice as to the availability of catering for exhibitors.

7.3.2.22 list of the classes available for dogs and bitches and any special classes to be judged.

7.3.2.23 list of the trophies and sashes to be awarded, list of the breeds for which the Show has been designated a points score show and any trophies or sashes donated as specific awards.

7.3.2.24 advice as to what arrangements will apply should the extreme weather conditions policy be enacted.

7.3.3 Fees or any other specified charges shall not be increased above the prices shown in the schedule without the written permission of Dogs Victoria.

7.3.4 Where no challenge certificates are to be offered at a conformation Show a notification to that effect must be printed in all schedules and catalogues.

7.3.5 The Affiliate conducting the conformation show shall:

7.3.5.1 Stamp each exhibit number on the front with the name of the Affiliate conducting the exhibition.

7.3.5.2 Prior to the day of the event, the affiliate shall ensure the online entry provider will make available to each exhibitor electronically, their exhibit numbers and publish breed and group numbers. On the day and prior to the commencement of judging the club conducting the event must provide access to the catalogue and blank exhibit cards to enable exhibitors to prepare their own exhibit numbers. (Amended 15/03/23, 15/04/16) (15/02/16)

7.3.5.3 Deleted (15/03/23) (15/02/16)

7.3.6 Schedules, deleted (duplication) refer to 3.4.12 (15/01/26)

7.3.7 The conditions and particulars set out in the approved draft of the prize schedule must be adhered to in the published Schedule and catalogue and shall not be altered without approval by Dogs Victoria President or the Office Operations Manager. Where alterations are approved, exhibitors shall be given the option of withdrawing their exhibits and shall be entitled to a refund of entry fees. (Amended 15/08/25, 15/08/24)

7.3.8 The conformation catalogue shall contain:

7.3.8.1 the name of the Affiliate conducting the fixture.

7.3.8.2 the correct status of the fixture.

7.3.8.3 a notification to the effect that the body is affiliated with Dogs Victoria and that the fixture is held under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria and that a copy may be perused at the office of the Secretary of the fixture.

7.3.8.4 the name and address of the venue at which the fixture is being held.

7.3.8.5 the date/s on which the fixture is being held.

7.3.8.6 must include the name of the show manager, list of office bearers and committee of the affiliate conducting the fixture. (15/07/18)

7.3.8.7 list of Judges showing their judging commitments as per the prize schedule.

7.3.8.8 time at which breed judging and special classes judging will commence.

7.3.8.9 notification of any alterations to the prize schedule.

7.3.8.10 names of Dogs Victoria representative. (15/07/18)

7.3.8.11 list of trophies, sashes and awards including any special breed sashes or trophies and a list of breeds for which the show has been designated a points score show.

7.3.8.12 catalogues to be prepared in group order in accordance with the schedule and to provide listings for group and in show awards.

7.3.8.13 Other special classes to be listed after the breed classes.

7.3.8.14 each entry to show the name of the exhibitor, the name of the exhibit, the exhibits registration number, the date of birth of the exhibit, the name of the breeder, and in the case of Championship Shows the name of the sire and dam of the exhibit. (Amended 15/04/25)

7.3.9 An official of any affiliated body shall not disclose information as to the entries or entrants for a fixture prior to the commencement of the fixture other than in accordance with Regulations. This Regulation shall not apply to the Melbourne Royal (RAS) where the catalogue may be published online not before the day preceding the commencement of the Show. (15/05/15)

7.3.10 (15/11/11) Separate catalogues shall be issued for each show, except that where consecutive shows are conducted on the same day, utilising the same judges, the club may issue one catalogue for both shows.

7.4 CLOSING DATE OF SHOW ENTRIES

7.4.1 At conformation shows the closing date for entries shall be at the discretion of the organising club or committee. Publication of the schedule in the Gazette shall be a minimum of two months prior to the month in which the show is conducted. (Amended 15/03/23, 15/04/16)

7.5 PROCEDURES AT EXHIBITIONS

7.5.1 No member of a Judge's immediate family or household, including a person who resides at the same address, or a Judge's partner, shall exhibit or handle any dog at any fixture at which the Judge officiates as a judge. This regulation does not apply to a Trainee Judge judging a sweepstakes class where the class is judged before breed classes. (Amended 15/04/25)

7.5.2 At an exhibition a Ring Steward will not exhibit or handle any exhibit under a Judge for whom they have stewarded at that exhibition.

7.5.3 No person shall enter any exhibit or handle in any Show or other exhibition under any Judge who has, or has had, a proprietary interest in a dog or dogs whether solely or in partnership with such person, within a period of twelve months prior to such Show or exhibition.

7.5.4 No person shall exhibit or handle under a Judge, if that Judge has handled any dog owned or part owned, leased or part leased by such person within a period of 12 months prior to such event or exhibition. This Regulation applies to approved and sanctioned events, with the exception of members competitions and dog matches, and does not apply where an exhibitor assists another exhibitor who, due to a judging decision on the day, is required to compete with two or more exhibits at the same time in the same ring. (15/04/16)

7.5.5 No person shall exhibit or handle under a Judge, if that person has handled any dog owned or part owned, leased or part leased by such Judge within a period of 12 months prior to such event or exhibition. This regulation applies to all approved and sanctioned events, with the exception of members competitions and dog matches, and does not apply where an exhibitor assists another exhibitor who, due to a judging decision on the day, is required to compete with two or more exhibits at the same time in the same ring. (15/04/16)

A Judge will excuse from the ring, any dog exhibited or handled by any person who has handled, or assisted as a 'runner', any dog owned or part owned, leased or part leased by that judge within a period of 12 months. This regulation applied to all approved and sanctioned events, with the exception of member's competitions and dog matches, and does not apply where an exhibitor assists another exhibitor who, due to a judging decision on the day, is required to compete with two or more exhibits at the same time in the same ring. (15/04/16)

7.5.6 No person shall exhibit or handle under a Judge if that person has accommodated that Judge or been accommodated by that Judge in the period of 12 months prior to a show at which that Judge is officiating or intends to accommodate the Judge within 24 hours after the Show. (15/04/16)

7.5.7 A Judge who has trained or groomed for reward, gift or favour a dog, must not adjudicate upon or judge that dog at an exhibition within a period of 12 months. No person shall enter, handle or exhibit any dog at an exhibition where a judge who may be involved in the judging of that dog during the exhibition has trained or groomed for reward, gift or favour that dog within a period of 12 months. (15/04/16)

Training included physically handling the dog or giving instruction for reward, gift or favour but excludes professional veterinary care and attention. (15/04/16)

This regulation does not apply to:

7.5.7.1 Elimination awards where due to a Judge's decision on the day an exhibitor assists another exhibitor by handling a dog for an award such as the challenge award or a best of breed or class in breed award where the owner has two or more dogs to be judged for that award. (15/04/16)

7.5.7.2 The exhibitor assisting another person by holding dogs in an assembly area for that person who is showing two or more dogs at the same time. (15/04/16)

7.5.8 No judge including licenced, trainee and aspiring judges shall handle any dog at any exhibition for financial gain or reward. (15/04/16)

7.5.9 At all conformation amenities shows including Classic Dog Show, KCC Park Show, Bulla Extravaganza, Summer Spectacular and New Year's Shows no official including secretary, chairperson, committee member or show manager shall exhibit or handle any dog nor enter any co-owned by them. (Amended 15/04/16) (15/03/16)

7.5.10 Tents, grooming tables and carrying boxes and other obstructions other than seating are not permitted to be positioned in the aisles nor within three metres of any judging ring or assembly area. (15/03/16)

Where benches are provided and used at fixtures exhibits must be benched with chains of metal and suitable collars or be crated. (Amended 15/04/16) (15/03/16)

7.5.11 Indoor footwear restrictions moved to 3.5.11.4. (Amended (15/04/25, 15/04/16,15/03/16)

7.5.12 At all times an exhibitor shall be responsible for cleaning up and the removal of droppings left by their exhibit. This includes any grooming waste within the environs of the event, including vehicle and camping areas. (Amended 15/07/24) (15/04/16)

7.5.13 Powdering of dogs and use of high velocity dryer's/blowers not permitted indoors moved to 3.5.11.5. (Amended 15/04/25)

7.5.14 The conformation judging ring shape and size should be proportionate to the size of dogs and entry for class, but must be a minimum of 10 metres x 10 metres in area. (15/07/18)

7.5.15 Deleted. (Amended 15/03/23)

7.5.16 A conformation show may not be postponed for more than one month unless approved by Management Committee. If after the closing date for entry a conformation show is postponed for not more than one month, the age of the exhibits entered shall be computed to the original date of the exhibition as advertised in the Schedule.

7.5.17 Reserved (15/06/12)

7.5.18 Where the Judge announced in a Schedule is changed, other than to the advertised emergency or reserve judge, an exhibit affected by the change of Judge may be withdrawn prior to or on the day by the owner after giving notice in writing of such intention to the Committee of the exhibition. Upon written request lodged before commencement of the show the exhibitor shall be entitled to a refund of entry fees.

7.5.19 Where the venue for an affiliated Club's show(s), as published in the Schedule, is changed, then exhibitors may withdraw their exhibits by the giving of notice in writing of such intention to the Committee of the exhibition. Upon written request prior to the date of the show the exhibitor shall be entitled to a refund of entry fees except where Regulations specify otherwise.

7.5.20 If an exhibitor reports before the judging of an ordinary class or classes that they have entered a dog in a class for which it is ineligible, the Show Secretary is to transfer such dog to its appropriate class as determined by age (or to the Open Class).

7.5.21 An Affiliate may include an exhibition class at fixtures. This class is not judged. An entry fee may be charged.

7.5.22 <u>Opposite Sex Awards</u>

Opposite Sex awards may only be awarded at Breed Specialist Shows in accordance with the following procedure:

7.5.22.1 If the runner up to Best in Show is of the opposite sex to the Best in Show, that exhibit is automatically awarded Opposite Sex in Show with all other eliminations proceeding as normal.

7.5.22.2 If the Runner Up to Best in Show is not of the opposite sex to the Best in Show and the Club is a single variety Breed Specialist Club then the opposite Challenge winner to the Best in Show is awarded Opposite Sex in Show with all other eliminations proceeding as normal.

7.5.22.3 If the Runner Up to Best in Show is not of the opposite sex to the Best in Show and the Club is a multi-variety Breed Specialist Club then after judging Runner Up to the Best in Show all the Challenge winners that are of the opposite sex to the Best in Show are considered for the award of Opposite Sex in Show with all other eliminations proceeding as normal.

7.5.22.4 The Opposite Sex of Class in Show is awarded to the same age class winner which is the opposite sex to the Best of Class in Show winner. In multi variety Breed Specialist Clubs the Opposite Sex of Class in Show is selected from the same age class winners which are the opposite sex to the Best of Class in Show winner.

7.5.23 The conformation Show Secretary shall, within seven (7) days of the closing date of the show furnish to Management Committee, in writing, full particulars of all exhibits found to be suffering from any diseases or defects referred to under these Regulations or have been prepared for exhibition in contravention or otherwise than in accordance with the Regulations and also particulars of any exhibit over six months of age and considered by a Judge not to be entire.

7.5.24 All dogs entered for exhibition shall be allotted an exhibit number and the person handling such exhibit shall display such number clearly either on the left arm or the left side of the chest whilst the dog is being exhibited.

7.5.25 No handler or exhibit shall enter the judging ring wearing or bearing any item which identifies by name, prefix, position or distinctive style an exhibit, exhibitor, breeder, sponsor or award; exhibit numbers excepted.

7.5.26 Sweepstakes Classes are to be held prior to Breed Classes with no luncheon break. Junior Handler Classes where conducted are to be held prior to General Specials.

7.5.27 Use of a Runner by a Person with a Disability (15/11/26)

7.5.27.1 A handler who is physically or medically unable to gait an exhibit may utilise a member, as defined in Regulation 3.3.1, as a runner for the purpose of gaiting an exhibit, providing:

(a) Notification of the exhibit number requiring a runner is given to the Ring Steward as early as possible and no later than the commencement of judging of the applicable breed.

(b) The allocated exhibit number is worn by both handler and runner whilst in the judging ring.

(c) If a handler requires the assistance of a runner, the exhibit must be handled with a runner at all levels of competition at the event.

(d) If a handler requires the assistance of a runner, all exhibits of the same breed handled by that handler must be exhibited with a runner at the event.

7.5.27.2 In an emergency where a handler becomes unexpectedly injured on the day of the show, a runner may be used with permission of the Steward who will then advise the Judge. (15/11/26)

7.5.28 Use of a Runner – Conditions (15/11/26)

(a) Only when the exhibit is required to be gaited will the handler relinquish control of the exhibit to the runner with no communication other than to confirm that the runner has control of the exhibit.

(b) Once the runner has control, the handler will move out of the judging ring to the assembly area. All precautions must be taken to avoid interfering with the other exhibitors in the judging ring and assembly area.

(c) Neither the handler nor exhibitor are permitted to gesture to the exhibit or runner in any way.

(d) The handler must resume control for the physical examination with the runner standing aside and to the rear of the handler.

(e) Once the physical examination has concluded, the handler may relinquish control of the exhibit to the runner as described in (a) and (b) above if the Judge requires the exhibit to be gaited.

7.6 RULES RELATING TO JUDGING AT EXHIBITIONS

7.6.1 Disqualifications

No cutting, piercing, breaking by force or any kind of operation or act of a like kind which alters the natural formation of the dog is permitted except as provided for in the Breed Standard.

7.6.2 The natural colour or shade of natural colour or the natural markings of a dog shall not be altered or changed.

7.6.2.1 Reserved (15/12/18)

7.6.2.2 Where Management Committee directs that coat testing be carried out, Management Committee shall determine liability for the costs incurred.

7.6.3 No substance, preparation, powder or fluid shall be applied to and remain on the dog during exhibition to such an extent as to deceive or to be likely to deceive a Judge.

7.6.4 Judges Contracts

An Affiliate shall not appoint a Judge to judge any event or competition unless that Judge is on an approved Dogs Victoria Judges List or is otherwise approved by Management Committee.

7.6.4.1 Affiliates are to enter into the DOGS AUSTRALIA Judges Contract with Judges for all judging engagements.

7.6.4.2 Where a contract is not honoured by either the Judge or the Affiliate, the aggrieved party is to notify Dogs Victoria in writing.

7.6.4.3 A contract may be dissolved by mutual consent, in writing from both parties, excepting where the Schedule has been published and/or circulated.

7.6.5 <u>General</u>

Clubs must appoint a minimum of three Trainee Judges to judge an All Breeds, Open Show or Parade within an 80 km radius of Melbourne.

7.6.6 Reserved.

7.6.7 Reserved.

7.6.8 Extreme Weather – Conformation (Amended 15/12/25, 15/08/24, 15/06/24, 15/03/21)

7.6.8.1 DEFINITIONS

For definitions refer to Regulation 3.2

7.6.8.2 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

For member responsibilities refer to Regulation 3.5.20.3

7.6.8.3 AFFILIATE RESPONSIBILITIES

For affiliate responsibilities refer to Regulation 3.5.20.4

7.6.8.4 MANDATORY CANCELLATION OF EVENTS

Refer to Regulations 3.5.20.4 and 3.5.20.5

7.6.8.5 OPTIONAL CANCELLATION OF EVENTS

An event may be cancelled if the forecast temperature for the location at which the event is to be held is between 36 degrees Celsius and 39 degrees Celsius

7.6.8.6 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING TO BE SUSPENDED

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.6

7.6.8.7 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING MAY CONTINUE

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.7

7.6.8.8 POSTPONEMENT, RELOCATION (INCLUDES MOVE INDOORS) OR CHANGE TO COMMENCEMENT TIME

An event may be postponed to the following day, relocated, rescheduled to commence at an earlier time or at 8pm if the forecast temperature for the location at which the event is to be held is between 36 degrees Celsius and 39 degrees Celsius. Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.8 for conditions.

7.6.8.9 LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.9.

7.6.8.10 CLUSTER SHOWS

Where multiple shows are scheduled over a day or a number of days, then a case-by-case (show-by-show) decision shall be made.

7.6.8.11 REFUNDS OF ENTRY FEES FOR EVENTS CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.10

7.6.8.12 STATUS OF AWARDS WHERE SHOW IS CANCELLED

Where a show has commenced but is cancelled due to extreme weather all awards made will stand.

7.6.9 The Judge appointed for Group Specials will judge all awards above Challenge, Best of Breed and best of classes in breed for that Group.

7.6.10 The Judge appointed for General Specials at Specialist or Semi Specialist Club Shows shall judge Best Exhibit in Show, Runner Up in Show (opposite sex if applicable) and class winners from Baby Puppy to Open of class.

7.6.11 Prior to the date of a conformation show the Show Secretary is to notify all contracted Judges in writing of the number of each breed that Judge is to judge. (Amended 15/09/24)

7.6.12 <u>Embargos</u>

An embargo placed on any Championship or Trainee Judge for breeds within a Group shall not apply to group Specials or General Specials or to any special class for which an entry is charged. The maximum embargo permitted on a Trainee Judge is three (3) months.

7.6.13 Conformation Show Judging Limitations

7.6.13.1 Unless Management Committee approves otherwise, at All Breeds Championship Shows held over a period of three (3) consecutive days or less a Judge shall not adjudicate on more than the following maximum entries, and the maximum entries shall include Breed Classes, Sweepstakes Classes and Special Classes for which an entry fee is charged.

7.6.13.1.1 Where a Judge is contracted to judge one (1) Group or part thereof on any one day the maximum number of entries shall be 250.

7.6.13.1.2 Where a Judge is contracted to judge two (2) Groups on any one day at the same show the maximum number of entries shall be 225.

7.6.13.1.3 Where a Judge is contracted to judge three (3) or more Groups on any one day at the same show the maximum number of entries shall be 200.

7.6.13.1.4 Where Championship shows are being held on the same date and venue as “back to back” fixtures no judge shall judge a catalogue entry of more than 225 dogs including breed classes, sweepstakes classes and special classes for which an entry fee is charged. (Amended15/10/15) (15/05/15)

7.6.13.2 Unless Management Committee approves otherwise, at All Breeds Open Shows and Parades a Judge shall not adjudicate on more than the following entries in breed classes on any one day:

7.6.13.2.1 Where the fixture commences prior to 12 noon – 150 entries;

7.6.13.2.2 Where the fixture commences after 12 noon – 125 entries;

7.6.13.2.3 Where the fixture commences after 4 pm – 100 entries.

7.6.13.3 where Open Shows or Parades are being held on the same date and venue as "back to back" consecutive fixtures, a Judge shall not adjudicate on more than 125 entries in breed classes, however a Club may engage a second Judge if the Group entry exceeds 100 entries provided that the excess removed leaves the Group entry as close to the permitted limit as possible.

7.6.13.4 Where two Open Shows or Parades are being held on the same date and venue, no meal break will be taken during the judging at either fixture.

7.6.13.5 Where two Open Shows or Parades are being held on the same date and venue and Sweepstakes classes are offered at each fixture, the initial Club's Sweepstakes Classes must be judged at the conclusion of the fixture, with the second Club's Sweepstakes being the first class judged.

7.6.14 Split Groups

7.6.14.1 Where a conformation Judge has an entry of more than the permitted limit of entries on one day, the Committee conducting the Show shall transfer the excess entries to another Judge provided that the excess removed leaves the Group entry as close to the permitted limit as possible.

7.6.14.2 In the instance of transfer of exhibits to a Judge already on the Judges Panel that breed or those breeds will be judged first.

7.6.14.3 Whilst a breed or breeds may be transferred in accordance with these Regulations the advertised date for breed judging must not be changed.

7.6.14.4 The prize Schedule of an exhibition where the judging of breeds in a Group(s) is split by dates shall clearly show the earliest time for the judging of the appropriate Group(s) and General Specials.

7.6.15 The organising club or committee conducting a conformation show where a transfer of excess entries to another Judge has been made, shall notify exhibitors within 24 hours of that transfer. (Amended 15/03/23)

7.6.16 At any Dogs Australia all-breeds championship, multi-group or group championship show, FCI shows excluded, a dog shall not be exhibited in an ordinary class or group specials, under a judge who has awarded that dog a best exhibit in group award during the period of six months prior to the date of the aforementioned show. In any case where an entry has been lodged prior to such award having been made, it is the responsibility of the exhibitor/owner of that dog to advise the club concerned and the entry is to be cancelled, and the entry fee refunded. (Amended 15/07/26) (15/06/25)

7.6.17 No exhibits shall be transferred from one Judge to another prior to a Championship Show unless the entry exceeds the maximum number permitted per Judge or unless a scheduled Judge is unavailable.

7.6.18 Reserved.

7.6.19 Where, because of illness or for other reasons, a Judge is not able to complete the allotted judging within the schedule time, the Committee conducting a conformation show, after consultation with Dogs Victoria Representative, may direct that a breed, or a number of breeds, be transferred to another Judge. Where there has been such a change of Judge, any exhibitor may withdraw their exhibit but shall not be entitled to a refund of entry fees.

The Judge from whom the exhibits were transferred and the Committee who directed the transfer shall submit a report to Dogs Victoria within seven days after the date of the fixture stating the number of exhibits transferred, the time the decision to transfer the exhibits was made, the actual time the fixture finished and the reason for the transfer.

7.6.20 At a conformation show, after the Ring Steward has given word to the Judge to proceed with the judging of a class no other exhibit shall be allowed to enter the judging ring until that class or competition has been judged other than to allow exhibits in the following class to be assembled. In the case of Group or General Specials the Judge may direct the eligible exhibits to be brought into the judging ring singly or collectively.

7.6.21 A person other than the handler or Judge shall not attract the attention of exhibits in the judging ring by verbalising or making signals or using any device. In the event of such an occurrence, the Steward in charge of the judging ring shall be empowered, if the offender persists after having been warned, to suspend judging and order the removal from the exhibition of the offender. This Regulation applies to all fixtures unless dispensation is provided to an Affiliate conducting the exhibition by the Management Committee on an annual basis.

7.6.22 At any conformation Show conducted on the one (1) day, no person shall judge the Group Specials unless that person has officiated as Judge to some of the breed classes in that Group at that Show.

7.6.23 Where a contracted Judge does not attend within 30 minutes of the scheduled start time for that judge, the organising affiliate is to appoint a suitably qualified replacement judge.

7.6.24 Judges Non-Attendance

7.6.24.1 When a contracted Judge does not attend a Championship Show and is contracted for General Specials, or any judging at an Open Show, Parade or Competition and there is no qualified Judge in attendance, the organising Affiliate is to select the most qualified available person to substitute for that Judge, provided no championship points are awarded by the non-qualified person.

7.6.24.2 When a contracted Judge does not attend a Championship Show and would have awarded championship points, the replacement judge must be Licensed/qualified for that group and/or breeds.

7.6.24.3 In any case where a judge does not attend as contracted, the organising Affiliate is to provide a written report to Dogs Victoria Office within seven (7) days, providing all known details to the reason for the nonattendance of the contracted Judge and the reason for selecting the substitute Judge.

7.6.25 Judging to be Continuous

7.6.25.1 A Judge shall not re-judge any conformation class, competition or event.

7.6.25.2 A Judge shall judge his/her assignment in a continuous manner except for scheduled meal or refreshment breaks or necessarily unscheduled genuine comfort breaks.

7.6.25.3 No person shall prevail upon a Steward or Judge to artificially alter the rate of judging of a Judge, or delay it improperly by any other means, in order to give an unfair advantage to an exhibit or exhibitors not present at ringside ready for the judging of their exhibit or exhibits in the normal course of judging.

7.6.26 A properly compiled and separate judging book or cards must be provided for each Judge. Such book or cards must be signed by the Judge and retained by the Secretary of the exhibition for at least three months from the last day of the fixture. Judges must sign or initial each page of awards or cards.

7.6.27 At all Championship Shows the official measuring stick shall be provided by the Club or body conducting the fixture.

7.6.28 No person other than the Judge, Stewards and exhibitors shall be allowed in the judging ring whilst judging is in progress, except that this restriction may not apply for shows participating in the Judges Training Program. One film/video person may operate from a specifically designated vantage point or area in the judging ring, provided there is no interference with the exhibition of any exhibit and the fixture Committee and Judge agree. (15/12/10).

7.7 CARDS, CERTIFICATES AND PRIZES

7.7.1 At all Championship Shows prize cards and/or ribbons must be offered as prizes for the first, second and third place awards in each class, and sashes must be offered for all In Group and In Show awards. At all Open Shows sashes must be offered for all in Group and In Show awards. The award of any other prizes at Shows is optional.

7.7.2 At all Championship Shows, Challenge and Best of Breed ribbons must be offered. (Amended 15/03/23)

7.7.3 Unless Management Committee directs otherwise no affiliated body shall be granted permission to award Challenge Certificates at more than one Show in any one year.

7.7.4 Sashes for Challenge winners and Best of Breed winners shall be presented by the Judge, however in the case of Class ribbons the Judge may decide to have these presented by the Ring Steward.

7.7.5 Where certificates are awarded at Championship Shows, the name of the exhibition and date of fixture, the name of the exhibitor and exhibit, the breed or variety of breed and exhibit number of the winning exhibit must be shown thereon, together with the name or description of the award.

7.7.6 All Challenge and Best of Breed Certificates must contain the name of the judge, the name and date of the show, the exhibit number, the points awarded and the breed for which the certificate is offered. (Amended 15/08/24, 15/03/23, 15/10/19)

7.7.7 Duplicate award cards or ribbons, if available, may be issued if the identifiable remains of the originals are produced or a statutory declaration certifying that they have been destroyed or lost or not received by the owner is produced and approved by the Committee of the exhibition.

7.7.8 Challenge and Best of Breed Certificates must not be issued until the completion of all competition for which the exhibit is eligible. Where the exhibitor of the Challenge or Best of Breed winner elects not to compete at Group level and advises the Steward and Ticket Writer, the Certificate may be issued as soon as practical after notification. If an exhibit competes at Group level and fails to continue to compete further when it is eligible to do so, the Challenge or Best of Breed Certificate must be forfeited. This shall not apply to any Special Class for which an entry fee is charged.

7.7.9 At a Championship Show held under the Regulations (15/01/26):

a) Challenge, Best of Breed and Neuter (where offered) Certificates shall be available and may be issued at the discretion of the Judge unless their issue is not permitted by another Dogs Victoria or Dogs Australia Regulation.

b) Where entries have been received by an online provider, Challenge, Best of Breed, Neuter and all other Certificates, shall ordinarily be issued electronically to the account used for that entry in the show, and shall be issued only on the prescribed template approved by Dogs Victoria. (Amended 15/12/26)

c) An Affiliate conducting a show may, prior to the commencement of the show, determine that certificates, or specified categories of certificates, will be issued in paper form as well as electronically. Where the Affiliate has made such a determination, the relevant certificates

shall be provided in paper form in accordance with any requirements prescribed by Dogs Victoria. (15/12/26)

d) Where certificates are to be issued electronically in accordance with paragraph (b), the Affiliate is not required to provide a paper copy of a certificate to an exhibitor at any show held on or after 30 December 2026. (15/12/26)

e) Nothing in this Regulation prevents an Affiliate from providing a paper copy of an electronically issued certificate where the Affiliate considers it appropriate to do so. (15/12/26)

7.7.10 Where an objection has been lodged against an award the prizes awarded to exhibits objected to must not be delivered until the objection has been finally determined.

7.7.11 The awarding of prize money shall be optional and where prize money is awarded it must be paid and special prizes presented prior to close of the fixture.

7.7.12 Each affiliated body shall be deemed responsible for all prizes or the monetary value thereof offered for competition at its exhibitions.

7.7.13 At All Breeds Shows Class in Group/In Show prizes awarded automatically to the Best in Group and Best in Show winners, and if applicable to the Runner Up in Group/Runner UP in Show winners, are to be presented at the same time as the Best in Group/Best in Show, and if applicable the Runner Up in Group/Runner Up in Show prizes are presented.

7.7.14 Except as provided for in regulation 7.7.8, any exhibit which fails to compete in all ordinary classes in which it is correctly entered and fails to continue to compete until eliminated from breed, Group or Show Specials shall be disqualified from winning and the exhibitor from retaining any prize awarded at that exhibition.

7.7.15 If a prize winner is disqualified, the dogs next in consecutive order of merit, but not lower than the emergency award, shall be moved into the higher places in the prize list, except where a Challenge or Best of Breed is withheld for non-appearance after Group Specials.

7.7.16 Except as provided for in regulations, an exhibit shall continue to compete as follows: (15/11/11)

7.7.16.1 The second in class to the exhibit selected for CC shall return to compete for Reserve CC;

7.7.16.2 The Reserve CC to the exhibit awarded BOB shall return to compete for RUBOB;

7.7.16.3 Exhibits awarded an In Group award shall continue to compete for awards for which they are eligible.

7.7.17 Where an exhibit competes in and is judged in a class for which it is ineligible, that exhibit is disqualified and cannot compete in a further class, and if it has competed in a further class it is also disqualified from that class. Regardless of when the ineligibility is detected, all prizes won by that exhibit are forfeited.

7.7.18 Sashes offered at Shows must be endorsed with the following:

7.7.18.1 name of the Affiliate conducting the fixture.

7.7.18.2 Year of the fixture for best in show, runner-up in show, best in group and runner-up in group at championship shows. (15/01/16) Be relaxed for the duration of Covid. (Amended 15/11/21)

7.7.18.3 The words "Open Show", "Parade", "Championship Show" etc.

7.7.18.4 Details of the award e.g. Best Puppy in Show etc.

7.7.18.5 If donated for a specific breed, the name of the breed.

7.7.18.6 The name of the donor where acknowledgment is required.

Endorsements on sashes for "Challenge" or "Best of Breed" may be limited to the name of the Club and the word(s) "Challenge" or "Best of Breed" only.

7.7.19 When a Specialist Breed Club or Semi-Specialist (variety breed) Club is conducting its annual Championship Show, Challenge and Best of Breed certificates shall be restricted (not be offered) for that breed at any other Championship Show conducted on that day in Victoria. At that other Championship Show:

7.7.19.1 the scheduled classes for the breed to which the restriction refers may be conducted,

7.7.19.2 the "restricted" winners of these classes may compete for special prizes such as "Best of Class in Group" and "Best of Class in Show".

7.7.19.3 The "restricted" winner may not compete for "Best of Breed", "Best in Group" or Best in Show" or any other competition which is available to challenge or best of breed winners only. Where permission has been granted for a Breed Club or variety Breed Club Championship Show to be conducted in conjunction with, and on the same grounds as the Championship Show of its Group Club or an All Breeds Championship Show, this Regulation shall not apply.

7.7.19.4 For any breed or variety breed club show run in conjunction with an all breeds championship show on the same day and the same venue, and already approved on Dogs Victoria Events Calendar will automatically gain permission to award challenge certificates for that breed/s. (15/09/17)

7.7.20 Value of Prizes

At "All Breeds" Championship Shows, Open Shows or Parades, the total value of prizes as a percentage of the entry fees after Dogs Victoria levy is deducted, is a minimum of 30% for Championship Shows and 20% for Open Shows and Parades. (Amended 15/12/24, 15/03/23)

7.7.20.1 There shall be at least one prize for each Best in Show/Parade and Runner up Best in Show/Parade award, and for each Best of Class in Show/Parade award.

7.7.20.2 There shall be at least one prize for each Best in Group and Runner up Best in Group award, and for each Best of Class in Group award.

7.7.21 At "Specialty" Championship Shows, Open Shows or Parades, the total value of prizes as a percentage of the entry fees, after Dogs Victoria levy is deducted, is a minimum of 20% for Championship Shows and 15% for Open Shows and Parades. (Amended 15/03/23)

7.7.21.1 There shall be at least one prize for each Best in Show/Parade and Runner up Best in Show/Parade award, and for each Best of Class in Show/Parade award.

7.7.21.2 There shall be at least one prize for each Best in Group and Runner up Best in Group award, and for each Best of Class in Group award.

7.7.22 The value of prizes from commercial sponsorship, where offered at all breeds championship shows, open shows and parades, where the entry exceeds 350 entries must not be calculated as part of the dollar value of the prizes for that fixture. All sponsorship or donated prizes shall be appropriate to ALL members aged 7 years and above. (Amended 15/03/23, 15/11/22)

7.7.23 Sweepstakes – Value of Cash Prizes (15/03/23)

An Affiliate that conducts sweepstakes classes at any fixture may retain up to 40% of the sweepstakes entry fees as a contribution to costs other than prizes. A minimum of 60% of the sweepstakes entry fees must be paid to competitors as cash prizes comprising minimum of 30%, 20% and 10% for first, second and third places respectively. Any donated or sponsorship prizes shall be additional to the specified cash prizes. All sponsorship or donated prizes shall be appropriate to ALL members aged 7 years and above.

7.8 Reserved.

7.9 CONFORMATION COMPETITIONS AND SANCTIONED FIXTURES

7.9.1 Affiliates are not required to apply for permission to conduct Competitions. The standard Judges Contract is to be used. If publication in Gazette is required, a copy of the Schedule and Judges Contract is to be forwarded to Dogs Victoria Office in accordance with the required time frame.

7.9.2 Entries are accepted on the day.

7.9.3 No dog which has gained sufficient points to qualify for the title Champion shall be eligible to compete except in Champions or Veteran class, if offered at the competition.

7.9.4 Reserved

7.9.5 All Rules, Regulations and Resolutions of Dogs Victoria as applicable and including those dealing with ineligible persons and dogs shall be observed but a catalogue shall not be issued.

7.9.6

7.9.6.1 Only persons who are listed in the official Dogs Victoria Open Show/Parade Judges Listing are eligible to officiate as a Judge. Special permission of Dogs Victoria must be obtained for any other person to judge a competition. The Judge appointed for General Specials at "All Breeds" competitions must have a Championship Show licence for at least one group.

7.9.6.2 Notwithstanding Reg 7.9.6.1 a member with fifteen (15) years experience as a breeder is permitted to judge their breed at a Competition.

7.9.7 Puppy Competitions

Regulations for puppy classes are as for Competitions

7.9.8 Sanctioned Dog Competitions

Sanctioned Dog Competitions are limited to one per week within the metropolitan area (40 km radius, Melbourne GPO) and when sanction is granted the body concerned must take in Dogs Victoria Gazette an advertisement of a minimum size of 2.5 cm.

7.9.9 Reserved (15/06/12)

7.10 FIXTURE MANAGEMENT

7.10.1 Eligibility to Steward

A person appointed to steward at an approved fixture must be eligible in accordance with these Regulations.

7.10.2 Reports

A Steward is to report to the Show Secretary before the closure of the fixture any breaches of Rules, Regulations or Codes witnessed by the steward.

7.10.3 Assembly

A Steward is to assemble the exhibits for a class by calling the exhibit number in such a manner that the handler ought to have reasonably heard the call. A minimum of three calls is deemed to be sufficient notice. The onus is on the exhibitor to be present at the ring when required, and to wear the exhibit number applicable to the exhibit being handled.

7.10.4 Exhibit Absent

An exhibit will be declared absent by the Ring Steward if its number has not been acknowledged and the exhibit is not present in the ring at the time when the Ring Steward consigns the class to the Judge for the commencement of judging of that class.

7.10.5 Judges Book

At the completion of judging the Ring Steward is to ensure that the Judge's Book is handed to the Show Secretary before the closure of the fixture.

7.10.6 Placings

The Ring Steward is to ensure that exhibits are placed on the markers in the ring in the order of merit as decided by the Judge and that the corresponding ribbons, awards and/or trophies are received by the respective handlers.

7.10.7 Unless previously dismissed or excused by the Judge, no exhibit shall be taken from the ring until the Ring Steward has given permission for the class to leave the ring.

7.10.8 Consecutive All Breeds Conformation Fixtures

Where two consecutive all breeds conformation fixtures are conducted at the same venue on the same day the following applies:

7.10.8.1 Where two Open Shows, or one Open Show and one Parade, or two Parades are conducted at the same venue on the same day the available judging time is to be evenly divided between the two fixtures, taking into consideration the facilities available and the prevailing weather conditions.

7.10.8.2 Where a Championship Show and an Open Show or Parade are conducted at the same venue on the same day, the available judging time is to be divided proportionally between the fixtures, taking into account the facilities available; the prevailing weather conditions; the average judging speed of Championship Show Judges (approximately 40 per hour) and Trainee Judges (approximately 30 exhibits per hour); and time for Group and General Specials (approximately 2½ hours).

7.10.8.3 The start and finish times for each fixture are to be published in the schedules of both fixtures.

7.10.8.4 The start time of the second fixture is to be calculated to leave the least possible time gap between the two fixtures. There is to be no lunch break and judging is to be continuous.

7.10.8.5 The second fixture is to start at the scheduled start time unless the General Specials of the first fixture are still being judged at the scheduled start time in which case the start of the second fixture may be delayed but must not be delayed for more than one (1) hour past the scheduled start time.

7.10.8.6 Penalties may be applied by Management Committee where fixtures continue past the scheduled finish time. Where fines are applied the fine will be based on $50 for each 15 minutes or part thereof that the fixture runs past the scheduled finish time.

7.10.9 All members entering property owned or controlled by Dogs Victoria shall comply with traffic management signage within those grounds, and the directions of the affiliate conducting the fixture.

7.11 CONFORMATION JUDGES

7.11.1 No person may judge at a Championship Show which is held under the Regulations of Dogs Victoria unless:

7.11.1.1 if a resident of Victoria - is a member and is licensed by DOGS AUSTRALIA

7.11.1.2 if a resident of another State or Territory of Australia - that person holds qualifications recognised by Dogs Victoria

7.11.1.3 if an overseas resident – is approved by DOGS AUSTRALIA.

7.11.2 Judges Licensed for a breed or breeds by the Management Committee of Dogs Victoria Inc may judge that breed or those breeds, at Championship Shows in Victoria and elsewhere but may not judge that breed or those breeds, at any fixture other than a Championship Show, excepting Members Puppy Competitions, Sanctioned Agricultural Shows and as provided for in the Open Show Judges List.

Notwithstanding the aforesaid, a Judge Licensed for a breed or breeds in a Group may judge those breeds at a fixture other than a Championship Show in conjunction with other breeds in that Group and Group Specials.

7.11.3 The selection of Judges at Open Shows, Parades and Competitions in Victoria is confined to persons listed on the DOGS AUSTRALIA Member Body Open Show Judges List. With the permission of Dogs Victoria Inc., a Judge on the Open Show, Parades and Competition list may judge breeds additional to those listed at Country fixtures other than Championship Shows.

7.11.3.1 A Trainee Judge may judge General Specials at an All Breeds Open Show, Parade or Sweepstakes if that Trainee Judge has qualified to judge at least four (4) Group approvals, of which at least

two (2) of them are Championship Show Group approvals. Breed/s or Group Show sweepstakes judge/s must be Championship or Open Show licenced for that particular group or breed/s. (Amended 15/03/23)

7.11.3.2 This regulation may be amended by Dogs Victoria for Trainee Judges officiating in "remote" areas of the State or Territory in which the fixture is being conducted.

7.11.3.3 No person shall be eligible to judge a Group at Competitions, Parades or Open Shows for which he or she is not a Trainee Judge, without the approval of Dogs Victoria

7.11.3.4 Trainee Judges appointed for General Specials at All Breeds Competitions must have a Championship Show licence for at least one Group.

7.11.4 No person under the age of eighteen (18) shall be permitted to Judge other than handling classes.

7.11.5 Reserved.

7.11.6 A Judge shall report to the Secretary of the fixture details of any exhibit over six months of age which the Judge considers is not entire, and any exhibit which the Judge considers has been prepared for exhibition in contravention or otherwise than in accordance with the Regulations.

7.11.7 Where a Judge is adjudicating on an exhibit for the first time at an exhibition, the Judge must physically examine the exhibit in the conventional manner, by physically handling and moving the exhibit to check its conformation and temperament. If a Judge defaults in complying with these Regulations the Ring Steward is to inform the Judge of the Regulation. If a Judge refuses again to comply with these Regulations the Steward is to call for judging to cease and bring the matter to the attention of the Club Committee and Dogs Victoria Representative who are to resolve the situation with the Judge. The Club Committee has the power to substitute the Judge and must report the matter to Management Committee if the Judge refuses to comply with this Regulation.

7.11.8 A Judge's decision on the exhibits shall be final unless Management Committee determines otherwise.

7.11.9 Judges shall be empowered and instructed not to award any Prize, Special Prize or Challenge Certificate to any exhibit which they consider is not of sufficient merit. When such award is withheld the exhibitor must be so advised by the Judge at the time the award is withheld.

7.11.10 Where in any class or competition a first place is not awarded by the Judge there shall be no second or third placing awarded.

7.11.11 In breed classes the Judge may award an emergency exhibit next in merit beyond those to which prizes are awarded. The emergency exhibit shall not attract any prize or other award, is not for publication and shall not be announced.

7.11.12 Reserved.

7.11.13 All entries in the Judges Book must be initialled by the Judge and all alterations to the book or certificates must be initialled individually.

7.11.14 A Judge shall not place two or more separate exhibits equal for any award.

7.11.15 A Judge may order from the judging ring or debar from further competition any exhibit and its handler, if the Judge is of the opinion that the exhibit or the handler is acting or behaving in a manner detrimental to the proper running of the Show, exhibition or event.

7.11.16 Reserved.

7.11.17 Critiques, either verbal or written, may not be prepared until the appointed Judge has completed the judging assignment for the day, (Specialist and Semi Specialist fixtures excepted) under no circumstances will a Judge suspend or delay judging at other fixtures by taking notes or recording place getters or exhibits.

7.11.18 It is the Judges responsibility, where the Ring Steward marks the Judges Book, to check the awards marked, to verify if they are correct and to initial each page and any alterations made in the book.

7.11.19 No person shall solicit any appointment to judge at any fixture conducted or to be conducted under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria. The application or the effect of this Regulation is not intended to and shall not limit in any way the proper nomination and selection of Judges by Committees or members of Clubs. Any person, whether a licensed Judge or not, committing a breach of this Regulation shall be liable to be dealt with under Regulations.

7.11.20 A Judge shall not enter, exhibit or handle any dog at any Show or other exhibition where that Judge is appointed to judge. Two or more Shows conducted at the same venue on the same day by the same or different clubs, are identified as separate Shows and therefore this regulation only applies to each Show.

7.11.20.1 Where there is a cluster of all breeds championship shows using a core panel of judges at the same or at different venues, a judge who is officiating at any of the shows may not exhibit or handle at any of the other shows. (Amended 15/07/26) (15/03/21)

This regulation does not apply to a Trainee Judge judging a sweepstakes class where the class is judged before breed classes.

7.11.21 Where a Judge is unable to fulfil the conditions of a judging contract that judge is to immediately notify the Club by telephone and the Club and Dogs Victoria Chief Executive in writing. Under no circumstance is the Judge to arrange a replacement Judge.

7.11.22 Any person officiating as Judge at any Show or fixture shall not suspend judging for any reason other than in accordance with Dogs Victoria Rules or Regulations, nor handle an exhibit at any Show or fixture being conducted at the same time as the Show or fixture at which the person is appointed to judge.

7.11.23 At all conformation fixtures the Judge must at all times indicate to both the exhibitors and the public all awards they make, this includes Group and General Specials and all Top Dog and special events.

7.11.24 Reserved

7.11.25 Reserved.

7.12 JUDGES LICENCES

7.12.1 No person shall be approved to judge at a Championship Show unless the applicant has fulfilled the eligibility test requirements of the Judges Training Scheme as published from time to time and is approved by Management Committee.

7.12.2 The onus of proving a person's eligibility for licence shall rest with that person.

7.12.3 Deleted (Amended 15/04/25)

7.12.4 Where a licensed, approved or trainee judge fails to comply with regulations or codes to judging, without reasonable cause or arrangement, the Management Committee may refuse any application for licence or renewal of licence, or for licence test, and may cancel any licence or may suspend for any period or vary in anyway any licence already approved or may approve in part only any application for licence.

Penalties:

For first offence – at discretion of Management Committee

For second offence – suspension of licences for one year

For third offence – suspension of licences for five years

For subsequent offences – at discretion of Management Committee

7.12.5 Application for licence must be made on such form and in such manner as may be prescribed from time to time by Management Committee.

7.13 JUDGES TRAINING SCHEME (Amended 15/11/25, 15/09/25, 15/08/18)

7.13.1 In order to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to dog showing, all current trainee judges in the Conformation Judges Training Program will be required to either:

7.13.1 a) Be on the committee of an all breeds or group club; or

7.13.1 b) Complete six ring stewarding appointments at championship shows; or

7.13.1 c) Be an active member of Dogs Victoria Management Committee or a Dogs Victoria Subcommittee (15/11/20)

7.13.2 Dogs Victoria will enrol each Trainee Judge in one group only for any training cycle. (15/10/26)

7.14 PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE (15/11/22)

Judge a minimum of 50 dogs and complete a minimum 15 dogs intensive critique from the relevant group. A maximum of one intensive critique per breed within the relevant group can be submitted.

7.14.1 Intensive Critiques

(a) All intensive critiques require the physical examination by the trainee in the presence of a licenced DOGS AUSTRALIA Accredited Assessor judge, who is not a trainee judge currently enrolled in the scheme. The Conformation Judges Committee may approve mentors additional to DOGS AUSTRALIA Accredited Assessors to sign intensive critiques forms.

(b) The intensive critique form MUST be completed, discussed, and countersigned by the trainee and licenced DOGS AUSTRALIA Accredited Assessor judge on the day.

(c) A minimum of five licenced DOGS AUSTRALIA Accredited Assessors must sign the required 15 dogs intensive critiques and a maximum of three intensive critiques per Accredited Assessor. (15/01/23)

(d) Approved Distance Trainees must complete the minimum 15 dogs intensive critiques.

7.14.2 Intensive Critiques Speciality

(a) Trainee judges are to attend a minimum of one breed, multi breed or group specialty show, for their group within the duration of the scheme.

(b) Complete a minimum of one written intensive critique at such “specialty show” as a part of the required 15 dogs intensive critiques (7.14).

7.14.3 Dogs Judged

Judge a minimum of 50 dogs (7.13.2). This must include the hands-on experience of the physical examination, gaiting and the (physical or written) placing of dogs at: open shows, sweepstakes, members competitions, mini group/breed classes or field days. The Trainee Judging Record Form on the day must be completed and signed.

7.14.4 Practical Exam Resit

Should a trainee not achieve a pass result in a practical examination, then to qualify to take a further group practical examination a trainee judge must judge an additional 25 dogs and examine and critique an additional seven dogs intensive critiques, in accordance with 7.14, submit the approved enrolment form accompanied by the requirements of this clause. They may then attempt the next available annual practical examination.

7.14.5 Previous Schemes

A trainee enrolled in the 2022 or previous schemes may complete the 7.14 requirements or the pre 2023 scheme requirements.

7.15 RESERVED

7.16 USE OF DOGS AT LECTURES

7.16.1 Where an Affiliate or member requests permission to bring dogs for use in the conduct of breed lectures the following conditions will apply:

7.16.1.1 permission must be obtained from Dogs Victoria Group Leader before bringing the exhibit to the venue.

7.16.1.2 the exhibit remains in the lecture room during the period it is required for lecture purposes only.

7.16.1.3 the Club conducting the lecture is responsible to clean up any mess made by the exhibits during the period they are at the venue.

7.16.1.4 If demonstrated on the lawn area or within the Pavilion(s) judging area, the lights are turned off immediately the demonstration is completed.