



Kennel Union of Southern Africa

## SCHEDULE 10: APPENDIX 3

### BREED SPECIALISATION COURSE KUSA BREED JUDGES' LEARNING PROGRAMME

(Effective 01-05-2026)

The Breed Specialisation Course is a Level 2 course that specialises in a single Breed, as determined and made available by the Kennel Union Judges' Education Council. (Note: The Applicant should contact the KUSA Office to establish which Breed Specialisation Courses are offered).

#### 1. QUALIFYING CRITERIA

- 1.1. An Applicant wishing to apply to join the KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme (KBJLP) must meet the following criteria:
  - 1.1.1.1. be at least 18 years of age
  - 1.1.1.2. be a permanent resident of South Africa or Namibia
  - 1.1.1.3. be a member in good standing of KUSA for a continuous period of five (5) years as at date of application
  - 1.1.1.4. have a minimum of seven (7) years' demonstrated involvement which must include experience in as many of the following as possible:
    - a) ownership of a KUSA-registered dog
    - b) exhibition of a KUSA-registered dog to Breed Championship status
    - c) recorded as the breeder of a KUSA-registered litter
    - d) Ring Stewardship at Championship and/or Non-championship Shows
    - e) Club administration, committee work, show organisation or any other KUSA-approved canine activity
- 1.2. a Licensed, or Senior Judge may study the Breed Specialisation Course simultaneously with the Junior Showmanship Course or another Breed Specialisation Course if he meets any additional qualifying criteria according to the relevant Breed Club(s)/Council (if applicable).

#### 2. APPLICATION

- 2.1. A Candidate, Learner, Licensed or Senior Judge [henceforth referred to "Learner Judge" wishing to apply to follow the Breed Specialisation Course must submit the required application form to the KUSA Office.

#### 3. SUPPORT MATERIAL

- 3.1. The Learner Judge will be granted access to a comprehensive Study Guide outlining details of the requirements of the relevant Breed Specialisation Course and how to approach each module.
- 3.2. The recommended and compulsory reading includes:
  - 3.2.1. the current, relevant Breed Standard on the KUSA website,
  - 3.2.2. any number of other reliable sources,
  - 3.2.3. reading material recommended by the relevant Breed Club(s) or Council(s).
- 3.3. In all written assignments, the Learner Judge must supply a full bibliography of all resources used as follows:
  - 3.3.1. Books: Author. Title. Edition. Location. Publisher. Year (e.g. Beauchamp, Richard G. *Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type*. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. New Jersey, USA. Kennel Club Books. 2008)

- 3.3.2. Articles: Author. Title. Publication. Year (e.g. Orlandi, Claudia Waller. *Practical Canine Anatomy & Movement*. Breed University Course. 2006)
- 3.3.3. Internet: Author. Title. URL (e.g. Bull, Tom. *How Bullies Fly*. [www.bulliearticles.com/bulliesfly.html](http://www.bulliearticles.com/bulliesfly.html))

#### **4. MENTORSHIP AND ASSESSMENT**

- 4.1. The JEC Assessment Officer will assign to the Learner Judge, a qualified Breed Specialist Mentor, who will mentor and assess the Learner Judge's performance for the duration of the course.
- 4.2. The assigned Breed Specialist Mentor will be required to attend and observe the judging of at least one of the Learner Judge's judging appointments at Non-Championship Shows within South Africa and provide feedback on the Learner Judge's judging technique, ring management and judging decisions - encouraging and advising best practices where applicable. The Mentor will make a formative assessment of the Learner Judge's judging skills and ring management on the official Judging Skills Assessment form immediately on completion of the judging appointment. Senior Judges may be exempted by the JEC from this requirement.
- 4.3. The Learner Judge will be required to liaise with the assigned Breed Specialist Mentor, on a suitable occasion to conduct the observation and assessment.

#### **5. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- 5.1. The Learner Judge is encouraged to consult with his assigned Breed Specialist Mentor for guidance and support, for the duration of the entire course.
- 5.2. The order of progression through the Breed Specialisation Course is prescribed as follows:
- 5.2.1. Module 1: Examination
- 5.2.2. Module 2: Breed Hallmarks Assignment
- 5.2.3. Module 3: Judging Appointments.
- 5.2.4. At any time during the course of study but only after having completed Module 2 (Breed Hallmarks Assignment), the Learner Judge may:
- 5.2.4.1. complete Module 4: Shadow Judging;
- 5.2.4.2. research and complete Module 5: Breed Assignment
- 5.2.4.3. complete Module 6: Ring Stewardship
- 5.2.4.4. complete Module 7: accumulate the required number of Breed Seminars
- 5.2.4.5. complete Module 8: Practical Hands-On Judging Assessment
- 5.2.5. Portfolio submission.
- 5.3. Assessment will be conducted for each module, either during, or after, completion as advised.
- 5.4. Eligibility for progression to Level 3 for any course depends on the approval of the Portfolio, which serves as proof of successful completion of all modules.

#### **6. MODULES**

- 6.1. MODULE 1: EXAMINATION
- 6.1.1. On the successful application a Learner Judge may apply to write the Examination, without reference books or material, held quarterly. A Learner Judge may write the exam once per quarter.
- 6.1.2. Registrations for any examination shall close no less than 30 (thirty) days prior to any examination date announced by JEC. No late registrations will be accepted and the date on the Proof of Payment accompanying the Examination Registration Form will serve as the Learner Judge's Registration Date.
- 6.1.3. The Exam Paper shall comprise of 3 (three) sections:
- 6.1.3.1. Canine Physiology [Study Guides] (100 marks)
- 6.1.3.2. KUSA Regulations & Procedures (50 marks), which will include:
- 6.1.3.2.1 The Articles (content applicable to Members & Judges);
- 6.1.3.2.2 Schedule 01 – Disciplinary Rules (content specifically applicable to Judges);
- 6.1.3.2.3 Schedule 03 – Regulations for Championship Shows;
- 6.1.3.2.4 Schedule 04 – Regulations for Non-Championship Shows
- 6.1.3.2.5 Schedule 09 – KUSA Code of Ethics applicable to KUSA Members in general
- 6.1.3.2.6 Schedule 09 Appendix B – Code of Conduct and Practice applicable to Judge
- 6.1.3.2.7 Temporary Exclusion Order (TEO) Manual
- 6.1.3.2.8 The FCI Show Judges Regulations

- 6.1.3.3 KUSA Breed Standard for the breed being studied (50 marks)
- 6.1.4. The Exam Paper will carry 200 marks with a minimum pass requirement of 80%.
- 6.1.5. The duration of the examination shall be no longer than three (3) hours.
- 6.1.6. Examination paper will be marked by either the online examination platform or the JEC Examination Officer and thereafter be moderated by at least one qualified Moderator before results are confirmed.
- 6.1.7. Learner Judges will be formally notified by the KUSA Office of their success or failure in the examination together with the percentage achieved.
- 6.1.8. No correspondence will be entered into following the examination.
- 6.1.9. If the Learner Judge is unsuccessful, he may register to rewrite the examination at any future examination opportunity.
- 6.1.10. If the Learner Judge is successful in passing the Exam, he may progress to Module 2: Breed Hallmarks Assignment.

## 6.2. **MODULE 2: BREED HALLMARK ASSIGNMENT**

The rationale for this module is to encourage the Learner Judge to understand and be able to identify the most important Breed Hallmarks and/or specific characteristics of the relevant breed and to present these in a format most useful for the Learner Judge's individual style of learning and for practical use during judging.

- 6.2.1. The Learner Judge will be provided with a non-exhaustive list of Breed Hallmarks and/or specific characteristics that succinctly encapsulate the essence of the relevant breed.
- 6.2.2. The Learner Judge must compile a graphic presentation of the Breed Hallmarks and/or specific characteristics. The Learner Judge is advised to consult his assigned Breed Specialist Mentor plus any of the support material available to guide the successful completion of this Module.
- 6.2.3. The Learner Judge will be expected to prepare this assignment in a format of his own choice in order to facilitate his own particular learning style and practical application.
- 6.2.4. The Learner Judge must submit the completed Breed Hallmarks Assignment to his assigned Breed Specialist Mentor for assessment.
- 6.2.5. If initially unsuccessful, the Learner Judge will have the opportunity to revise or redo the assignment until the appropriate Breed Hallmarks and specific characteristics have been satisfactorily presented.
- 6.2.6. Once approved by the assigned Breed Specialist Mentor, the Breed Hallmarks Assignment must be stored in the Portfolio, but the Learner Judge must have them to hand at any future judging appointments where he would be encouraged to refer to them.
- 6.2.7. The assigned Breed Specialist Mentor will notify the JEC Assessment Officer of the successful completion of the Breed Hallmarks Assignment, who will record the Learner's credits and progress in collaboration with the KUSA Judges' Department.

## 6.3. **MODULE 3: JUDGING APPOINTMENTS**

The rationale for this module is to gain practical experience in the multi-skilled task of judging at Conformation Shows. The writing of brief critiques encourages the finding of sound reasons for judging decisions and promotes a culture of positive judging.

- 6.3.1. The Learner Judge may accept and will be cleared for judging appointments on the successful completion of the Breed Hallmarks Assignment (*See Reg 6.2. above*). The acceptance of judging appointments when ineligible to do so on account of non-compliance with the Regulations shall be deemed as wilful misrepresentation of judging qualifications and be subject to disciplinary action.
- 6.3.2. The Learner Judge will need to judge:
  - 6.3.2.1. at least forty (40) exhibits of the relevant breed, on which brief critiques are written; and
  - 6.3.2.2. at a minimum of two (2) Non-Championship Shows of which at least one (1) must be a Specialty Show, subject to Regulations 6.3.3 and 6.3.7 below.
- 6.3.3. At least one (1) of the judging appointments must be in a different geographical Centre from the one in which the Learner Judge resides; more are encouraged.
- 6.3.4. Where it has been brought to the attention of the JEC that there is insufficient Non-Championship Shows in South Africa for a Learner Judge to satisfy the judging quota requirements under Reg.6.3.2 above, a Level 4 Group Judge following the Specialisation Course may apply to the JEC to accept a quota of dogs to be judged during a foreign appointment (refer to Schedule 10 KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme – Reg. 5 Foreign Judging Appointments). Each application shall be assessed on a case-by-case basis on its own merits and the parameters for the

- permissible quota of foreign dogs and the quantum of required critiquing within that quota shall be set by the JEC.
- 6.3.5. The Learner Judge must complete the standardised critique form during his judging, in which details and numbers of the exhibits judged are entered, as well as a brief critique on each exhibit judged.
  - 6.3.6. On completion of the judging appointment, the Learner Judge must request the Show Secretary to endorse the critique forms. The Show Secretary will acknowledge having signed off on said critique forms in the normal Return of Show Levies form, which is required to be forwarded to the KUSA Office as per normal procedure.
  - 6.3.7. Should the Learner Judge have been granted a concession by the JEC under Regulation 6.3.4 to include a quota of foreign dogs judged at a foreign appointment and to submit brief critiques on all or certain of the foreign dogs, the brief critiques must be submitted to the Breed Specialist Mentor and the JEC Admin Officer and not as directed in Regulation 6.3.6 above.
  - 6.3.8. On receipt of the Return of Show Levies form from the Show Secretary, or on receipt from the Learner Judge of the brief critiques on dogs judged at a foreign appointment, the KUSA Office will record and update the Learner Judge's progress and grant clearance for future judging appointments. No clearance for future judging appointments shall be granted without this procedure having been completed correctly.
  - 6.3.9. At least one (1) judging appointment must be observed by the assigned Breed Specialist Mentor (see 4.2.), provided a licensed Breed Specialist Judge is available or alternatively a licensed Breed Specialist Judge or the JEC Examinations Officer.
  - 6.3.10. The assigned Breed Specialist Mentor may provide verbal feedback and guidance on the Learner Judge's performance and endorse the completed critiques immediately on completion of the judging assignment.
  - 6.3.11. The Learner Judge must store all his critiques in his Portfolio
  - 6.3.12. If the minimum approval is not achieved in all sections of the Judging Skills Assessment Form, the Learner Judge will be required to undergo one or more subsequent Judging Skills Assessments until a successful rating is achieved.
  - 6.3.13. The Learner Judge must make and forward a copy of the signed and completed Judging Skills Assessment form to the Assessment Officer. The original Judging Skills Assessment form, and any subsequent original Judging Skills Assessment form(s) (if applicable), must be stored in the Portfolio.
  - 6.3.14. On the successful completion of all requirements outlined in Reg 6.3., the Learner Judge may continue to judge at Non-championship Shows in any geographical Centre without observation(s) or writing of critiques.

#### 6.4. **MODULE 4: SHADOW JUDGING**

The rationale for this module is to grant the Learner Judge an opportunity to experience some of the typical challenges and situations within the ring at Championship Show level by closely observing the techniques and decisions of an experienced Judge, together with the opportunity to participate and practice with feedback and professional guidance.

- 6.4.1. The Learner Judge selects to shadow a Licensed Judge in the relevant breed, and any size or coat varieties thereof, licensed at that level for at least five (5) years or an International Judge, at a Specialist Championship Show.
- 6.4.2. The Learner Judge must apply in writing – at least two (2) weeks before the event – to the Show Secretary who must obtain permission from the Officiating Judge on the Learner Judge's behalf.
- 6.4.3. Learner Judges who fail to follow the procedure in Reg. 6.4.2. will not be accommodated.
- 6.4.4. The Learner Judge must be present in good time before judging commences and must remain until the conclusion of the judging in order to participate in the Officiating Judge's feedback and guidance.
- 6.4.5. The Learner Judge accompanies and observes the Officiating Judge's technique as closely as possible in the ring without excessive intrusion. The Learner Judge is not permitted to spend the duration of the Shadow Judging session seated at the judge's table under the gazebo.
- 6.4.6. Following the award of Best of Breed (Best in Specialty Show) and Best Puppy of Breed (Best Puppy in Specialty Show) by the Officiating Judge, the Learner Judge will be granted an opportunity to examine and move the Best in Specialty Show and Best Puppy in Specialty Show exhibits. The Learner Judge makes notes on the conformation and movement of the exhibits. The Learner Judge may request to examine, move and make notes on any additional Best Class in Specialty Show (Best Junior, Best Veteran, Best Baby Puppy, etc. in Specialty Show) winners.

- 6.4.7. Interactive involvement between the Learner Judge and Officiating Judge is to be encouraged in terms of judging and observation techniques (particularly with regard to the meaningful placement of hands and methods of measuring), but no public or overheard criticism of particular exhibits will be permitted.
- 6.4.8. A feedback session between the Learner Judge and Officiating Judge is advised in private after the assignment.
- 6.4.9. Proof of all Shadow Judging Assignments must be endorsed by the Officiating Judge on the official form and stored in the Portfolio.
- 6.4.10. The Learner Judge completes a Learner's Shadow Judging Report following the Shadow Judging session, which must be stored in the Portfolio.

## 6.5. **MODULE 5: BREED ASSIGNMENT**

The rationale for this module is to encourage the Learner Judge to involve himself in an in-depth study of the relevant breed in order to gain better understanding of all aspects of the breed over and above the Breed Standard, then to summarise and present this collected information into written format.

- 6.5.1. The Learner Judge prepares three (3) or four (4) essays (dependent on the content of the relevant Breed Specialisation Course) of approximately 300 - 500 words (half to one A4 typed page) on each of the prescribed topics.
- 6.5.2. The Learner Judge must consult the relevant Study Guide(s) in the restricted area of the KUSA website, accessed through the Judges' Membership Portal, for details on the Breed Assignment topics and advice on how to complete the assignment effectively.
- 6.5.3. The Learner Judge must research and write the required essays, which may be illustrated. Full bibliographic details must be provided (*See 3.3. above*). It is recommended that the Learner Judge allows sufficient time to devote his full attention to this Assignment.
- 6.5.4. It is recommended that the Learner Judge should approach the assigned Breed Specialist Mentor for guidance, but under no circumstances may the Breed Assignment be presented in any form other than the Learner Judge's own wording throughout.
- 6.5.5. Procedure for submission of Breed Assignment (Essay Topics) –
  - 6.5.5.1. The Learner Judge must submit the completed Assignment to the Breed Specialist Mentor.
  - 6.5.5.2. Upon completion of the assessment, the Breed Specialist Mentor will forward the Breed Assignment to a second Breed Specialist Judge for further assessment.
  - 6.5.5.3. The Breed Specialist Mentor and the second Breed Specialist Judge must agree on the result of the assessment prior to returning the Breed Assignment to the Learner Judge. Should the said Mentor and second Breed Specialist Judge not agree on the result of the assessment, the Examination Officer will have the final decision.
  - 6.5.5.4. Should the Breed Specialist Mentor and/or JEC Examination Officer not approve of the Breed Assignment, feedback will be given to the Learner Judge on the areas requiring attention.

## 6.6. **MODULE 6: RING STEWARDSHIP**

The rationale for this module is to increase opportunity for the Learner Judge to become fully familiar with procedures and KUSA Regulations within the ring. Working in the breed ring being studied also allows considerable indirect learning in between ring stewarding duties.

- 6.6.1. The Learner Judge is required to attend and complete a Ring Stewardship Workshop or Seminar. Proof of attendance will be required if a Ring Stewardship Workshop or Seminar was attended prior to registering for the Breed Specialisation Course, in which case, credit will be given and compulsory attendance will not be necessary provided such Workshop or Seminar was not held more than two (2) years prior to the Learner Judge being eligible to complete this Module.
- 6.6.2. The Learner Judge is required to serve as a Ring Steward at a minimum of one (1) Non-championship Show and one (1) Championship Specialty Show in the breed ring the Learner Judge is studying.
  - 6.6.2.1. The Learner Judge may complete the one (1) Non-championship Show Ring Stewardship appointment either at a Specialist Club Non-championship Show or the breed at a Group or All-breeds Non-championship Show.
  - 6.6.2.2. The Learner Judge must complete the one (1) Championship Show Ring Stewardship appointment at a Specialist Club Championship Show.

- 6.6.3. The Ring Stewardship appointments may be completed in any order and not necessarily before the first judging appointment, although this is strongly advised. The Learner Judge may serve additional appointments as a Ring Steward in the breed ring he is studying or any other breed/Group, but these appointments will not be credited towards this Module requirement.
- 6.6.4. Ring Stewardship experience gained before enrolment in the Breed Specialisation Course does not count towards this Module requirement.
- 6.6.5. Proof of Ring Stewardship must be endorsed by the Show Secretary and stored in the Portfolio.

#### 6.7. **MODULE 7: BREED SEMINARS**

- 6.7.1. The Learner Judge must attend or participate in a minimum of three (3) Breed Seminars/Workshops/Webinars, of which:
- 6.7.1.1. at least 1 (one) Breed Seminar/Workshop/Webinar must be arranged, endorsed or supported by JEC; and
- 6.7.1.2. The balance of at least two (2) Breed Seminars/Workshops/Webinars may be arranged, endorsed or supported by another FCI NCO, Kennel Club or Breed Club; it being specifically recorded that such Breed Seminars/Workshops/Webinars are based on the Breed Standards applied in South Africa for the respective breeds specialised in.
- 6.7.2. The Learner Judge must record full details of place, presenter, date, references and proof of attendance on standardised forms which are to be stored in the Portfolio.
- 6.7.3. Credit will be given for previously attended Seminars covering the Breed being studied, providing proof of attendance is provided.

#### 6.8. **MODULE 8: PRACTICAL HANDS-ON JUDGING ASSESSMENT**

This module can only be completed if Modules 1 to 7 have been completed and signed off by the Breed Specialist Mentor.

- 6.8.1. Under the supervision of a Licensed Breed Specialist Judge with a minimum of five (5) years' experience in the relevant Breed together with a JEC-appointed Official, the Licensed Judge will undergo a Hands-on Practical Test on a minimum of six (6) exhibits, fulfilling the following requirements:
- A verbal commentary or feedback on the examination of each exhibit
  - Placement of the exhibits in the breed as if Championship Show regulations were applicable;
- 6.8.2. It is the responsibility of the Learner Judge to notify the KUSA Judges' Department when ready to undertake the Hands-on Practical Test as specified in 6.8.1 above. The KUSA Judges' Department will liaise with the JEC Assessment Officer and JEC Examination Officer, who will coordinate the setting up of this Practical Hands-on Judging Assessment.
- 6.8.3. The JEC will take all steps reasonably necessary to facilitate the Practical Hands-On Judging Assessment in all major metropolises, but this would always be dependent on the number of Learner Judges, availability of suitably qualified Licensed Judges and a sufficient number of dogs necessary to comply with Regulation 6.8.1. Learner Judges may be required, at their own cost, to travel to another Province or City to complete this assessment.

#### 6.9. **PORTFOLIO**

- 6.9.1. The Learner Judge keeps a Portfolio to record successful completion of all learning Modules 1 to 8.
- 6.9.2. Once the Learner Judge has completed all the requirements of the course, the Portfolio is submitted to the KUSA Judges' Department for final review. Once approved, the KUSA Judges' Department must notify the Learner Judge of such successful completion.
- 6.9.3. If certain requirements are incomplete or of insufficient standard, the KUSA Judges' Department, or Examination Officer (as may be required), will advise the Learner Judge and guide remedial procedures in order to facilitate successful completion.

### 7. **LICENSED JUDGES**

- 7.1. On the successful submission of the Portfolio (Reg 6.9), the Learner Judges will be entitled to accept appointments at Non-championship or Qualifying Shows and may award Challenge Certificates (CCs) at Championship Shows in the Breed for which he has met all the requirements set out in Reg 5.2 above, subject to required time restrictions (*See Schedule 10, Reg. 3*).
- 7.2. The Learner Breed Specialist Judge will be required to judge at least one (1) Championship Specialty Show appointment, and such additional Championship Specialty Show appointments as may be set for

the individual Breeds for which Breed Specialisation Courses are offered under KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme.

- 7.3. On the successful completion of the judging appointment/s referred to in Reg. 7.2 above, the KUSA Office will acknowledge the Learner Breed Specialist Judge as a Licensed Breed Specialist Judge



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