

THE KENNEL UNION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE FEDERAL COUNCIL
held on
MONDAY, 8 DECEMBER 2025
at 17h30 on MS Teams

In terms of Article 16.1 of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa, notice has been duly given of a Special Meeting of the Federal Council to be held at 17h30 on Monday, 8 December 2025, on MS Teams.

Item	Sub-Item	Sub-Item	MINUTES
1			<p>Opening and Welcome</p> <p>The Chairman opened the Special Meeting of the Federal Council, welcoming all present.</p> <p>At the request of the Chairman, the Notice convening the Special Meeting was read by the KUSA Secretary:</p> <p>As unanimously requisitioned by the Federal Council, in terms of Article 16.1 of the KUSA Constitution, at the Fedco Discussion Forum (FDF) Session 4, held on 9 October 2025, Notice has been appropriately given by the KUSA Secretary on Monday, 20 October 2025, followed by a date typo-correction by the Chairman on Monday, 27 October 2025.</p>
2			<p>Attendance & Apologies</p> <p>To record attendance and any apologies.</p> <p>Attendance of Members of the Federal Council: Cllr JM Hubbard (Chairman of the Federal Council) – JH Cllr M Alberts (Chairman – Exco) – MA Cllr C Chelchinsky (Vice-Chairman – DOGSPC) – CC Cllr L Coetsee (Chairman – NAPC) – LC Cllr RD Juckes (Chairman – FS&NCPC) – RJ Cllr N Redtenbacher (Vice-Chairman of the Federal Council & Chairman – DOGSPC) – NR Cllr DC Sparg (Chairman – EC&BPC) – DS Cllr LC Thornhill (Chairman – WCPC) – LT Cllr MW Vorster (Chairman – KZNPC) – MV</p> <p>Attendance of Members of the KUSA Staff: Mrs PLE Midgley (KUSA General Manager) – PM Mr BG Robinson (KUSA Secretary) – GR</p> <p>Apologies: None</p>
3			<p>Matters to be discussed</p> <p>Procedural matters proposed by the Chairman of the Federal Council, and <i>unanimously sanctioned</i> by the members of the Federal Council at the Fedco Discussion Forum (FDF) Session 4, held on 9 October 2025, to be placed on the Agenda for this Special Meeting:</p>
	3.1		<p>Proposed restructuring of the KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme (KBJLP) (Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting Items 3.1 & 3.5)</p> <p>The Minutes of Fedco 08-2025 – Special Meeting – reflect, <i>inter alia</i>, the following:</p> <p>[Extract from the Minutes Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting – Item 3.1] <i>Proposed by the Judges Education Council (JEC) The Chairman invited the Chairman of the JEC, MV, to introduce this item and to motivate it to the Federal Council, which he undertook to do:</i></p>

		<p><i>Motivation: It has become apparent over time that the KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme (KBJLP) needed to be brought in closer alignment with the system under which Judges gain their qualifications in FCI member countries. It was important for KUSA, as an FCI NCO, to train its Judges to be effective and adequately prepared for the international arena. The introduction of the 'Qualification Path' as set out in Annexure 'A' of Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Group Course – is one way of ensuring that the KBJLP is in step with the requirements of the FCI. This various Paths of Qualification would also deter Learner Judges from “rushing through the Programme”, without taking sufficient time to immerse themselves in the intricacies of the various Breed Standards and acquainting themselves with breed-specific learning materials. Closer FCI alignment would also assist the KUSA Judges' Department in its submission of the applications on behalf of South African Judges to gain recognition of their South African qualifications by the FCI.</i></p> <p><i>Since gatherings were prohibited during COVID-19, the focus of Judges' education shifted to online educational webinars. These webinars, although introduced as an emergency measure to continue educating Judges, remain an invaluable tool to give South African Judges the opportunity to be exposed to the knowledge of breed specialists from around the globe. Over time, the webinars have, however, laid bare the critical need for practical, hands-on learning to be incorporated into the KBJLP. The changes to the KBJLP now proposed should ensure that our Learner Judges gain in depth knowledge and practical experience as they progress to the next level. The introduction of Module 7: Practical Hands-on Judging Assessment, is one example of how the proposed restructuring would provide the Learner Judge with practical assessment skills. Another example is the introduction of the compulsory Critique-writing Workshop. This will be of great benefit to our Learner Judges, assisting them to become proficient in producing coherent and effective critiques under pressure.</i></p> <p><i>The reasoning behind requiring Learner Judges to write the exams on the relevant Breed Standards prior to accepting judging appointments is to ensure that they have a thorough knowledge of the breeds before stepping into the ring. Another innovation is the provision of pre-prepared, succinct Hallmark Cards to Learner Judges to keep to hand in the ring, from which to identify breeds' hallmarks and important characteristics swiftly and correctly. These are some examples of how the restructured KBJLP is envisaged to improve and enhance the educational experience for Learner Judges. It should be noted that the proposed changes have been carefully considered with a twofold purpose: one, structuring the KBJLP to better accord with the FCI's ten-group qualification system, thereby easing the progression of South African Learner Judges towards FCI International All-breeds status and, two, augmenting the quality and the value of the education offered to South African Learner Judges. Rollout of the updated KBJLP was envisaged for 1 January 2026, which would require the proposed modifications to be completed by Fedco 12-2025.</i></p> <p><i>The Schedules: The Chairman thanked MV for his introduction and the motivation for the proposed amendments to the various Schedules 10. For ease of reference, the Chairman had pasted marked-up copies of the following Schedules into the Agenda for presentation to the Federal Council:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Schedule 10 – Regulations for the KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme</i> <i>• Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Regulations for the Group Course</i> <i>• Schedule 10 Appendix 2 – Regulations for the Junior Showmanship Course</i> <i>• Schedule 10 Appendix 3 – Regulations for the Breed Specialisation Course</i> <p><i>The Chairman informed the meeting that, during the course of the day, NR had reverted with comments and questions on the Schedules and expressed her thanks to NR for having meticulously scrutinised the marked-up Schedules submitted to the Federal Council in advance of the meeting and for her useful comments appended throughout the documents. She assured NR that her input was sincerely appreciated by the JEC and that every oversight identified, typo corrected, or comment made, would be taken into consideration by the JEC when preparing the final marked-up versions of the Schedules. Before the meeting, the Chairman had been able to annotate three of the Schedules destined to be tabled with NR's comments – Schedule 10, Schedule 10 Appendix 2 and Schedule 10 Appendix 3 – but had unfortunately run out of time before she was able to annotate Schedule 10 Appendix 1 as well.</i></p>
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	3.1.1	<p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 – Regulations for KUSA Breed Judges’ Learning Programme (KBJLP) (Item 3.1.1 Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting)</p> <p>Proposed by the Judges Education Council (JEC).</p> <p>It was noted that the JEC had taken due cognisance of the typographical and grammatical errors, as well as the omissions, inconsistencies and anomalies, identified by the members of the Federal Council at Fedco 08-2025. The JEC had also taken full account of the comments and suggestions subsequently received from the KUSA Office on the various Schedules 10.</p> <p>Based on the feedback received, the JEC revised the redrafts of all four “JEC Schedules” and thereafter subjected them to a second round of scrutiny by the members of the Federal Council, with a request to provide comment on these Schedules by no later than Friday, 21 November 2025 – later extended to Tuesday, 25 November 2025. The valued responses received by the latter date had been accommodated in the preparation of the final drafts of the revised Schedules 10 tabled for approval at this Special Meeting.</p> <p>The Chairman extended a special word of thanks to NR for her meticulous assessment of the Schedules during the two-stage Fedco perusal process. She assured NR that her attentiveness to detail had been of tremendous assistance during the re-drafting of the Schedules.</p> <p>MV explained that this was the first major revision of the KBJLP and none of the Regulations introduced were set in concrete. With the progression of the rollout, some areas requisite of finetuning might well emerge. Should the need arise to make adjustments to the Programme, the JEC was obviously prepared to act swiftly to mitigate any impediment to the smooth rollout and, ultimately, seamless operability of the Programme.</p> <p>Amendments to Schedule 10 – Regulations for the KUSA Breed Judges’ Learning Programme:</p> <p>Clean copy of Schedule 10 attached.</p> <p>On a proposal from MV, seconded by RJ, the revised Schedule 10 was approved, unanimously.</p> <p>[Note: For the Effective Date and the Implementation Date, refer to Item 5.]</p>
	3.1.2	<p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Group Course (Item 3.1.2 Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting)</p> <p>Proposed by the Judges Education Council (JEC).</p> <p>The introduction to Item 3.1.1 applies to this Item 3.1.2 <i>mutatis mutandis</i>.</p> <p>Amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Group Course:</p>

			<p>Clean copy of Schedule 10 Appendix 1 attached.</p> <p>On a proposal from JH, seconded by LT, the revised Schedule 10 Appendix 1 was approved, unanimously.</p> <p>[Note: For the Effective Date and the Implementation Date, refer to Item 5.]</p>
		3.1.3	<p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 2 – Junior Showmanship Course (Item 3.1.3 Fedco 08.2025 Special Meeting)</p> <p>Proposed by the Judges Education Council (JEC).</p> <p>The introduction to Item 3.1.1 applies to this Item 3.1.3 <i>mutatis mutandis</i>.</p> <p>Amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 2 – Junior Showmanship Course:</p> <p>Clean copy of Schedule 10 Appendix 2 attached.</p> <p>On a proposal from MV, seconded by RJ, the revised Schedule 10 Appendix 2 was approved, unanimously.</p> <p>[Note: For the Effective Date and the Implementation Date, refer to Item 5.]</p>
		3.1.4	<p>Proposed amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 3 – Breed Specialisation Course (Item 3.1.4 Fedco 08.2025 Special Meeting)</p> <p>Proposed by the Judges Education Council (JEC).</p> <p>The introduction to Item 3.1.1 applies to this Item 3.1.4 <i>mutatis mutandis</i>.</p> <p>Amendments to Schedule 10 Appendix 3 – Breed Specialisation Course:</p> <p>Clean copy of Schedule 10 Appendix 3 attached.</p> <p>On a proposal from MV, seconded by LT, the revised Schedule 10 Appendix 3 was approved, unanimously.</p> <p>[Note: For the Effective Date and the Implementation Date, refer to Item 5.]</p>
		3.1.5	<p>Proposed Conversion Period (Fedco 08-2025 Item 3.1.5)</p> <p>[Extract from the Minutes Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting – Item 3.1.5] <i>MV briefly explained how the conversion from the previous KBJLP to the updated Programme was envisaged to be achieved: Judges working through the current KBJLP, would be credited for the level of study already accomplished and would be advised of the remaining criteria that still needed to be met in order to progress further. The KUSA Judges' Department keeps accurate records of all Learner Judges' progress, and these records would be used to track the levels of progression each Learner Judge had achieved. Learner Judges would be individually informed of the outstanding requirements and the recommended process they would need to follow to meet them. It was envisaged by the JEC to host an online webinar for all the Learner Judges currently enrolled in the KBJLP to explain the changes to the Programme and to ensure that the revised requirements are understood by everybody. This initiative would also give the attendees the chance to pose their questions about the revised Programme, hopefully to receive satisfactory answers and clear explanations from the JEC Officers present.</i></p> <p>Document attached.</p> <p>MV referred the Federal Council to the document entitled KUSA Breed Judges' Learning Programme – Conversion Information, which had been distributed as part of the meeting documentation.</p>

		<p>MV explained that, in a nutshell, Judges who are working their way through any Group Course of the current KBJLP would be permitted to continue on the current Programme until the completion of the Group(s) they are currently studying, provided they had completed the first “step” (Breed Tests), or any subsequent steps, in the particular Group Course. For any Groups thereafter, the Learner Judge would be obliged to switch to the revised KBJLP, but Learner Judges would also be at liberty to switch to the revised KBJLP at any time with full credit for modules completed, judging appointments fulfilled, and with prospective judging commitments in 2026 honoured. A special form has been designed for completion by Learner Judges who do not wish to delay their transition to the revised Programme.</p> <p>MV assured Fedco that the conversion process would be extensively discussed in the webinar scheduled for 16 December 2025 and in subsequent webinars planned for early 2026. The webinar on 16 December would be recorded for the benefit of those unable to attend on the day.</p> <p>A draft Notice of the webinar scheduled for 16 December 2025 was shared with the Federal Council, as well as a schedule of targeted webinars planned for 6 & 20 January and 3 February 2026, all covering different aspects of the revised KBJLP as it is rolled out in early 2026.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
	3.2	<p>Updates to various KUSA Official Forms</p> <p><i>[Extract from the Minutes Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting – Item 3.2]</i> <i>JH informed Fedco that the JEC Team had compiled a comprehensive spreadsheet on which all JEC Forms and other educational resources have been listed. Those forms and materials destined to be changed as a result of the upgrade of the KBJLP have been identified and are summarised under the Items 3.2.1 – 3.2.5 of the Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting Agenda and Minutes.</i></p> <p>Progress report.</p> <p>MV reported that the new forms were in an advanced stage of development, involving the consolidation and simplification of some forms. The revision of the forms was being handled by Audrey Hauptfleisch and Djaki Kern under the vigilant guidance of Louis Kruger and the new forms should soon be available on the KUSA website.</p>
	3.3	<p>Updates to various Study Guides and educational material</p>
	3.3.1	<p>Study Guides – How to work through Level 1 & 2 (Fedco 08-2025 Item 3.3.1)</p> <p><i>[Extract from the Minutes Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting – Item 3.3.1]</i> <i>These Guides are based on the current requirements of the KBJLP and is, therefore, due for a complete update, should the proposed restructuring of the KBJLP be approved. Apart from that, it was also felt that the manner in which some of the content is presented in the Guides had become outdated and was in serious need of being contemporised for a new generation of Learners.</i></p> <p>Progress report.</p> <p>MV informed Fedco that the revisions of the two Study Guides were on the verge of completion and would be accessible to the Learner Judges by the time of the presentation of the webinars early in 2026. The Chairman mentioned that bespoke PowerPoint presentations were in preparation for all the scheduled webinars.</p> <p>Noted.</p>
	3.4	<p>New documents & forms</p>
	3.4.1	<p>Annexure “A” to Schedule 10 Appendix 1 – Group Course (Fedco 08-2025 Item 3.4.1)</p> <p><i>[Extract from the Minutes Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting – Item 3.4.1]</i></p>

		<p>JH screen-shared the above Annexure “A”, a document based on the FCI Regulations for Show Judges, but customised to fulfil the requirements of the JEC in having to deal with the seven-Group judging system prevalent in South Africa. In its Regulations, the FCI provides for the following Judges’ qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FCI Breed Judge (Breed Specialisation) • FCI Group Judge • FCI All-breeds International Judge • FCI All-breeds National Judge <p>(The FCI Regulations for Show Judges do not provide for Junior Showmanship Judges.)</p> <p>The Annexure contextualises the FCI Regulations for the four categories of Judges within the JEC structure, taking into account South Africa’s seven-Group judging system. The document proposes possible “Qualification Pathways”, set out in table-format, for South African Judges to achieve FCI International All-breeds status within the FCI-designated timeframe of twelve (12) years. JH explained that, although the Pathways in the Annexure were the recommended means to an end, candidates were at liberty to vary the sequence of their Groups, as long as they adhered to the FCI’s requirements for Show Judges, i.e. essentially complying with the Regulation that at least two (2) of a Judge’s five (5) Groups must be FCI KEY GROUPS, i.e. Groups 1, 2, 3, 5, and 9.</p> <p>Depending on the Group a Learner Judge starts with, the JEC can do its best to persuade the candidate to follow the recommended Pathway for subsequent Groups, but it can obviously not force any candidate to keep on this preferred course. JH mentioned that, when she spoke to the FCI’s Executive Director, Mr Yves De Clercq, at the FCI General Assembly in Helsinki, he expressed great interest in the solution the JEC had crafted to navigate between the seven-Group and ten-Group systems and urged her to send him a copy of the JEC’s document for scrutiny, once completed.</p> <p>To further guide and aid Learner Judges, Annexure “A” also contains a colour-coded table setting out the FCI’s breed “nomenclature” across its ten Groups, with the different classification of KUSA breeds identified by a colour linked to their KUSA Groups.</p> <p>The Chairman reminded the Federal Council that Annexure “A” to Schedule 10 Appendix 1 was extensively discussed at the Special Meeting of the Federal Council on 25 August 2025, together with its colour-coded companion document which sought to align FCI Nomenclature (grouping of breed names) under the 10-Group system with KUSA’s breed-classification under the 7-Group system. Annexure “A” navigated the recommended “Qualification Pathways” for Learner Judges intent on ultimately achieving FCI International All-breeds status on qualifications earned on KUSA’s 7-Group judging system and also clarified the rationale for structuring the most advantageous means to an end.</p> <p>MV stressed that the recommended “Qualification Pathways” were exactly that – recommended routes which Judges would be advised to follow should they aspire to attain FCI International All-breeds status within a minimum period of 12 years from starting the accumulation of judging qualifications. Should Judges be content with confining their qualifications to KUSA’s national shows, they would be at liberty to do so and be expected to sign a declaration to that effect.</p>
	3.4.2	<p>Practical Hands-on Judging Assessment.</p> <p>Nil.</p>
	3.4.3	<p>FCI Single Group Course (Fedco 08-2025 Item 3.4.3)</p> <p>[Extract from the Minutes Fedco 08-2025 Special Meeting – Item 3.4.3] JH mentioned that the two forms involved had been sent to her, which she would provide as soon as she had completed the procedures for the KUSA Office.</p> <p>There was nothing further to discuss under this topic.</p>
	3.5	<p>Other Schedules affected by proposed changes</p> <p>No changes were advised.</p>

4		<p>Questions on the Revised KBJLP</p> <p>The Chairman opened the floor for questions from the members of the Federal Council.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NR mentioned that, despite sensing that the JEC was in favour of 1 January 2026 as the implementation date of the revised KBJLP, she was still of the opinion that 1 July 2026 would be a more suitable date in order to allow Learner Judges sufficient time to become fully <i>au fait</i> with the new Regulations. <p>In response to the concerns expressed by NR about the 1 January 2026 implementation date, MV explained that the JEC had admitted eight Candidate Judges to the KBJLP and that it was imperative to start them off on the revised Programme. Moreover, there was no mandatory date for Judges to convert to the revised Programme; they were free to choose when they wished to convert, in other words, they were entitled to decide for themselves when the timing was opportune and the circumstances propitious to embrace the new KBJLP.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NR enquired whether, if the implementation date were to be set at 1 January 2026 in line with the JEC's advocacy, the Breed Hallmarks due to be provided to each Learner Judge per Group would be ready for distribution on that date. <p>The Chairman assured NR that the Breed Hallmarks of the various breeds had been prepared and would be subjected to the final scrutiny of the All-breeds Judges serving on the JEC over the Festive Season. The Breed Hallmarks would therefore be ready for distribution on 1 January 2026 to those who require them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NR followed up with a question on whether the Breed Hallmarks would be published on the KUSA website under the Members' Portal, or only be made available to Learner Judges on registration for their particular Groups. <p>The Chairman responded, confirmed by MV, that, initially at least, the Breed Hallmarks would only be made available to the individual Learner Judges on demand. This might change in the future, if the JEC should decide that making the Breed Hallmarks available on the Members' Portal would be a more effective way of distributing them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RJ enquired whether Judges who had initially decided not to pursue FCI International All-breeds status would be permitted to change their aspirations during the course of their studies. <p>MV responded that such cases would be handled at the discretion of the JEC and assessed on a case-by-case basis, essentially to decide how the particular Judge's accumulated qualifications could be accommodated for purposes of conversion.</p> <p>There were no further questions, or comments.</p>
5		<p>Implementation</p> <p>Further discussion on the implementation of the revised KBJLP ensued and, given the JEC's need to commence rollout without delay, it was decided, unanimously, that the following would apply to all four the "JEC Schedules", i.e. Schedule 10 (KUSA Breed Judges Learning Programme), Schedule 10 Appendix 1 (Group Course), Schedule 10 Appendix 2 (Junior Showmanship Course) and Schedule 10 Appendix 3 (Breed Specialisation Course).</p> <p>Effective 01.03.2026, but may be implemented upon publication of these Minutes.</p>
6		<p>Close of meeting</p> <p>With no further business to discuss, the Chairman closed the meeting at 19.00.</p>