**A simplified guide to the KC Judges Education Programme Levels 1 – 4**

*For everyone who wants to start a judging career, please be aware that you are not eligible to accept any invitation to judge until you have reached Level 1*

*The Kennel Club recommends that all judges keep complete records of their education and training, seminars attended, mentoring sessions etc. In due course, you will be able to upload all the information and copies of certificates etc to the KC website, but for now, you should record all your progress, as well as the numbers of dogs you have judged*

**Level 1 requirements**

1. You must have a minimum of five years’ interest in pedigree dogs
   * *This can include owning, showing or breeding pedigree dogs, attending breed club shows, attending general Canine Society shows*
2. You must attend a “Requirements of a Dog Show Judge” seminar and pass the associated exam

* *These seminars are held across the UK, hosted by Canine Societies, training clubs and breed clubs. They are advertised in the canine press, on the KC’s website and in the monthly online KC journal, and on social media. You will receive a Certificate of Attendance*
* *If you wish, you can take the exam. If you pass, you will receive a Pass Certificate*

1. You must attend a “Conformation and Movement” seminar
   * *Advertised as above. There is no exam with this seminar, and you will receive a Certificate of Attendance*
2. You must complete a minimum of two full days’ stewarding appointments at shows
   * *Most societies (including Championship Show societies) are always looking for stewards for their shows, and ask for help on social media or in their schedules. You will usually be put in a ring with an experienced steward. Full details of the duties and responsibilities of stewards can be found in the KC booklet “Show Regulations” available from the KC publications dept.*
3. Pass the “Points of a Dog” assessment
   * *This is another KC seminar, organised by canine societies and breed clubs (see 2)*

Once you have met all the above requirements, you will be eligible to judge up to three classes (or four classes if one is a Puppy class) for any breed at Limited or Open shows. You are not eligible to judge “Any Variety” classes, groups or BIS.

**Level 2 requirements (for the first breed you wish to judge)**

1. Attend a “Breed Appreciation Day” (BAD) and pass a Multiple Choice Exam
   * *These are organised and hosted by the breed clubs, under the KC’s Code of Best Practice. Breed Clubs are only required to run a BAD once every two years, so if you wish to progress in your judging career, it’s best to attend one as soon as you have reached Level 1, or you may find your progress is delayed. You are not eligible to take the MCE until you have reached Level 1.*
2. View the online Ring Stewarding seminar (on the KC website) and complete the online quiz
3. Complete the Critique Writing online seminar (KC website) and take the online quiz

Critique writing and Ring Stewarding online seminars can be undertaken at any time, judges do not need to wait until Level 1 criteria is met, and are recommended to view prior to stewarding or judging.

**For subsequent breeds, you will need to attend a BAD for each of those breeds, and pass a Multiple Choice Exam for each breed.**

***Please note, this is not mandatory for Group Judges, for breeds in the groups in which they do not award CCs, but it is strongly recommended***

Once you have met all the above requirements, you will be eligible to judge an unlimited number of classes for the respective breed, at Limited, Open, and Championship Shows without CCs. You will also be eligible to judge AV classes, groups and BIS at Limited Shows

**Level 3 requirements**

1. You must undergo a minimum of three mentoring sessions, with a minimum of twelve months before the first and third session
   * *You must contact the Breed Education Co-ordinator (BEC) for the respective breed(s) who will arrange a mentoring session for you. Mentoring can be:*
     1. *A group mentoring session, usually arranged by a breed club in conjunction with their BADs*
     2. *A one-to-one ringside mentoring session at a show where there is likely to be a significant number of dogs entered*
     3. *Mentoring whilst you are judging “Special Award” classes at a breed club show*
     4. *Mentoring whilst you are acting as a Student Judge*

*NB The Kennel Club suggests that a Group Mentoring session is the preferred option for your first mentoring session*

1. Be observed judging a breed club show, breed supported entry show or a championship show without CCs
2. Have achieved the relevant hands-on experience in line with the stated requirements for the relevant Stud Book band
   * *This is the total number of dogs present and judged. You may not include dogs you have had ‘hands-on’ at BAD group mentoring*
   * *Band A- 15 dogs / Band A 20 dogs / Band B 35 dogs/Band C 60 dogs/ Band D 90 dogs/ Band E 125 dogs*
3. Complete the remaining 10 full-day stewarding appointments
   * *This is a one-time requirement. You do not need to repeat this for subsequent breeds*
4. Have owned/bred a minimum of three dogs when they obtained their first entry into the KC Stud Book (save for exceptional circumstances)
   * *This is a one-time qualification which applies to the first breed in which a judge awards CCs*

Once you have met all the requirements for this level, you will be eligible to judge an unlimited number of classes for the respective breed at Limited, Open and Championship Show without CCs. You will also be eligible to judge AV classes, groups and BIS at Limited Shows

**Level 4 requirements (CC judge)**

1. You must attend and pass a Breed Specific Assessment for the relevant breed, run by the Kennel Club

* *The KC will work with the BEC and breed cubs to source breed specialist assessors, and the BEC will assist the KC in sourcing suitable dogs for the assessment*

Once you have completed this requirement, you will be eligible to award CCs in the respective breed and to judge AV classes, groups and BIS at Open and Limited shows.

**Viv Rainsbury**

**Breed Education Co-ordinator, Bedlington Terriers**

**(amendments to level 1 and 2 by Kelsey Jones)**