

# **PHILOSOPHY, PRINCIPLES AND PROGRAMME FOR THE SELECTION, TRAINING AND PROMOTION OF JUDGES**

## **1. THE SYSTEM**

- (a) The system for the appointment of Judges will be open and fair to all who participate and operate within identified procedures.
- (b) It shall clearly define requirements of applicants and provide them with guidance and assessment of progress.
- (c) The system shall be administered by the Judges' Panel.
- (d) The system will provide the 'core' constitution and rules of procedure by which the system operates.
- (e) It must be understood that entry into and progression through the scheme does not guarantee that a candidate will eventually be promoted to Full Judge of the chosen breed.

## **2. THE JUDGES' PANEL**

- (a) Five Judges are elected by Council to the Panel at the Annual General Meeting for a period of Two Years. All GCCFI and GCCF Judges, permanently resident in Ireland, should be eligible for election to the Judges' Panel. GCCF Judges should, however, have judged at two Championship shows held under GCCFI rules.
- (b) The Panel is to operate under the Philosophy and Principles of the GCCFI Judge Appointment Scheme and Rules of Procedure for the selection of Judges.
- (c) The Panel will nominate persons who have proved their suitability to the Council for appointment as Probationer or Full Judge.
- (d) The Panel will maintain contact with Judges on the Breed Lists and will keep them aware of any objectives in the development of the breed(s) and any amendments to the Standard of Points.
- (e) The Panel will monitor the show reports, ability and progress of Stewards and Probationer Judges and provide advice, training and tuition as required.
- (f) The Panel will discuss and make proposals to the GCCFI Executive Committee on matters relating to Registration policies, advancement of status and applications for new breeds.

## **3. THE APPOINTMENT OF JUDGES**

The appointment and dismissal of Judges are the prerogative of Council. Council will only consider applications for the appointment and removal of Judges on a Judge list from the Judges' Panel.

Any Judge who does not wish, or is unable, to undertake any further engagements at any time may request that their name be placed on the Retired List for any or all of the Breed lists of which they are Full Judges, whilst retaining their existing status on other Breed Lists. Such a change of status shall be permanent. A Judge may apply to be placed on the Emeritus List of any or all Breed Lists of which they are a Full Judge. This shall be taken as an indication that, although not generally available to judge that Breed List, they may accept engagements for occasional shows, or that they are unable to accept engagements in the immediate future.

#### 4. THE TRAINING SCHEME

Candidates who wish to join the stewarding scheme should apply to the Secretary of Judge's Panel for an application form. This form will require the applicant to be proposed and seconded by a member of the affiliated Club and voted by the members by secret ballot, with the signature of the Chair (or delegated person) of the affiliated Club confirming the person as suitable to join the scheme. The completed form is to be returned to the Secretary of the Judges' Panel with the fee of €50.00. The Secretary of the Judges' Panel will then send the candidate the necessary forms. The Judges' Panel should be the sole administrator of the scheme. When a candidate has completed the scheme the Judges' Panel will recommend to the Executive that the person be appointed (or not) to be a Full Judge. The Executive will then recommend to Council that the person be admitted as a Full Judge. The Judges' Panel reserve the right not to progress the person on the scheme if there has been a flagrant breach of the rules. Disputes can be submitted to the Executive of GCCFI for arbitration.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to purchase the Standard of Points and the Guide of Defects from the GCCF on promotion to Probationary Judge.

There are 4 distinct stages – as follows:-

- 1      **TRAINEE**    When a candidate is accepted onto the scheme he/she will be termed a Trainee.
- 2      **PROBATIONER**   When a Trainee has satisfied the requirements for promotion to Probationer Judge, he/she will be termed a Probationer Judge
- 3      **JUDGE**        When a Probationer has satisfied the requirements for promotion to Full Judge he/she will be termed a Judge
- 4      **SENIOR JUDGE**   After a period of at least three years a Judge will be promoted to Senior Judge, provided he/she has judged at three Championship shows, one of which must be under GCCFI rules

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#### BEFORE BEING ACCEPTED AS A TRAINEE AN APPLICANT MUST

- 1      Be an experienced steward with a minimum of five stewarding engagements all of which must be attested by the Judge with whom the prospective Trainee worked. At least three should be attained at GCCFI shows. Two Stewarding engagements attested at GCCF shows are acceptable in this total.
- 2      Be a permanent resident of the Republic of Ireland
- 3      Be an adult member of a GCCFI affiliated Cat Club for at least two years, be proposed and seconded by club members.
- 4      Own (or have owned), bred and exhibited the breed(s) being studied for at least two years. An applicant who does not fulfil all of these conditions may apply to the Executive of GCCFI for consideration.
- 5      Own a Prefix recognised by GCCFI for two or more years
- 6      Forward to the Secretary of the Judges' Panel his/her application, duly proposed, seconded and endorsed by the Club Committee. A copy of this application must also be sent to each member of the Judges' Panel.

**AN APPLICANT WILL BE INFORMED BY THE JUDGES' PANEL OF THE GCCFI WHETHER OR NOT HE/SHE HAS BEEN ACCEPTED AS A TRAINEE.**

A TRAINEE MUST FULFIL THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS BEFORE BECOMING A PROBATIONER JUDGE:

- 7 The Trainee must study all aspect of showing including:
    - (a) Table work at shows which will be an important element of training. Two reports to the Judges' Panel will be required from the person in charge of table work at two Championship shows stating that the Trainee has a comprehensive knowledge of this work. (Certificates will be supplied by the Secretary of the the Judges' Panel).
    - (b) Steward at the vetting-in table at least once with a view to learning about the listed veterinary defects. This engagement must be confirmed by the Veterinary Surgeon appointed for the show. (Certificates will be supplied by the Secretary of the the Judges' Panel).
  - 8 The Trainee will arrange to steward for the breed being studied, at a minimum of six Championship shows. Only two stewarding engagements at GCCF shows will be counted. The other four (or all six) must be at GCCFI Championship shows. Stewarding cards, (supplied by Secretary of the the Judges' Panel), must be presented to the Judge at the start of the day. These certificates, duly completed will be sent by the judge to the Secretary of the the Judges' Panel. Trainees who also steward under GCCF rules are required to present stewarding certificates for both Councils if they wish the engagement to count for both Councils.
  - 9 When at least six stewarding engagements involving the breed being studied have been completed, three of which may be completed at GCCF championship or breed shows, the Trainee will be required to do practical tests at two GCCFI Championship shows, which will be assessed by a Senior Judge of the breed in question. The Trainee must judge, place and write up two classes, each class having a minimum of two cats/kittens of the breed being studied. The decision on which classes are to be judged lies with any member of the Judges' Panel. The Trainee will have the assistance of one steward who is approved by any member of the Judges' Panel, and who **MUST NOT** offer any opinions or advice. A Senior Judge for the breed in question will then check the placements and write-ups and send an assessment of the Trainee's performance to the Secretary of the Judges' Panel who will distribute it to the Panel members. The Panel will then decide if the Trainee should be made a Probationer Judge.
  - 10 If a Trainee is on a stewarding scheme with both Councils and is promoted to Probationer Judge by the GCCF, then GCCFI may consider promoting that candidate without the need for further assessments, provided four stewarding engagements at GCCFI Championship shows have been completed since becoming a Trainee.
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## **5. APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION FROM PROBATIONER TO FULL JUDGE:**

11 The Probationer must judge *and have tutorials for Open Kitten Classes of the breed being studied at least six times at championship shows. If no kittens are present the probationer judge can, with the agreement of the full judge, judge and place the adults and neuters (after they have been judged in their Open Classes) and discuss the placings with the attesting judge.* Various side classes should also be judged. Written reports on all these classes must be sent to the Secretary of the Judges' Panel within thirty days of the show.

12 An oral examination by a Veterinary Surgeon and attested by him/her, on the listed veterinary defects as defined by the GCCFI must be undertaken at the show.

13 During the probationary period assessments will be arranged with Senior Judges of the breed at Championship shows on cards will be supplied by the Secretary of the the Judges' Panel.

14 At the end of this period the assessments will be considered by the Judge's Panel and a decision made whether or not to promote the Probationer to Full Judge.

15 If a candidate is a Probationer Judge with GCCF at the same time as GCCFI and is promoted firstly to Full Judge by GCCF, then the Judges Panel of GCCFI may consider promoting the Probationer to Full Judge.

## **6. APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION AS A PROBATIONER JUDGE FROM A FULL JUDGE OF ANOTHER BREED LIST.**

(a) The Judges' panel may recommend that a Senior Judge be appointed as a probationer for other breeds as appropriate. He/she must not be assessed as if they were applying to be Full Judges of the new list. The Probationer Full Judge should complete reports on five different cats/kittens (not necessarily at the same show) and submit them to the Judges' Panel who will then request a Full Judge of that breed to complete an assessment of the candidate.

(b) When new breeds come in at Preliminary level GCCFI Judges who have two years standing on another list should be invited to go on the Judges' list for these breeds.

(c) Judges from another jurisdiction who now live in the Republic of Ireland (e.g. GCCF/CFA/Tica) should have judged at least twice at Championship shows held under GCCFI rules before being considered for election to the Judges' Panel.

## **7. APPLICATION FOR NOMINATION AS A PROBATIONER JUDGE FROM A FULL JUDGE OF ANOTHER ORGANISATION**

(a) A candidate who is a Full Judge of another bona fide organisation may apply for consideration for nomination as a Probationer Judge. The person must be resident in the Republic of Ireland.

(b) The applicant must first register with the Judges' Panel and provide evidence that she/he is a Full Judge of the relevant breeds of another bona fide organisation.

(c) The candidate must not be assessed as if they were applying to be Full Judges of the new list. The Probationer Full Judge should complete reports on five different

cats/kittens (not necessarily at the same show) and submit them to the Judges' Panel who will then request a Full Judge of that breed to complete an assessment of the candidate.

## **7. COMPLAINTS**

Any candidate who believes the Judges' Panel has failed to give clear reasons for deferment or rejection should write to the Secretary of Judges' Panel to request clarification of the reasons. If no satisfactory clarification is received the candidate should request the Executive Committee of GCCFI to arbitrate.

If the Judges Panel believes that a candidate has acted in a manner which is or may be discreditable or prejudicial to the GCCFI Judge Appointment Scheme the Secretary may direct a complaint in writing to the Executive of GCCFI.

Revised 20 March, 2010