

Discussion Item outlining suggested changes to Judging Progression to support the implementation of the new framework.

The following changes are proposed for judging progression to support both new judges and ones progressing to judge new levels by focusing on practical education. More experience will be required both to start judging and progress. In addition to this new judges will start their judging journey at Level 2 with more experienced competitors. The proposed changes also clarify that these requirements need to be met before accepting an appointment.

Suggested Progression for Rally Judges within the new framework.

Please note that this approach, of moving the rules and regulations online and splitting the Practical seminar into two assessed days, was favourably received by the RWP, RLC and AJSG . It aims to extend the practical experience of new and existing judges to drive up judging standards.

Existing Judges – would retain their existing Judging qualifications but would need to meet the new criteria if they wished to progress to judge a higher level.

New Judges - would need to demonstrate a higher level of experience within Rally .

New Judges	Current:	Change to:
Competitive Experience	Level 1 or 2 title	Level 3 title OR Level 2 title with a qualifier in an off-lead standard class
Seminar & Exam requirements	Attend In-Person Rules & Regs Pass Rules & Regs Exam Attend Practical Judging	Watch Academy Film ¹ Pass online Rules & Regs Exam Pass Practical Judging L1-3
Scribing requirements	Scribed twice	Scribed twice – at least 1 off lead standard class and 1 on lead standard class
Initial Appointments	3 at Levels 1 or 2	1 at Level 2

AIM – judges would start their judging journey with competitors who were more experienced but not beyond the level they had themselves titled at. All new judges will have experience of working a dog both on and off lead and will have scribed both an on lead and off lead standard class.

Progression

¹ It is anticipated that an Academy Film for Rally will be available before the new framework is introduced

Stage 1 - Levels 1 & 3 - once judges have completed their initial appointment at Level 2 they may choose to extend their judging experience and progress to judge Levels 1 and/or 3. They would need to have scribed the Level they wished to judge so would need to have scribed Level 1 before accepting an appointment to judge Level 1 and the same for Level 3.

AIM – judges would build experience at the lower levels and amass more experience before progressing to the higher levels

Stage 2 – Progressing to Foundation, Level 4 & Veteran - once a judge has judged a minimum of 6 times at Levels 1, 2 and 3, including at least once at Level 1, twice at Level 2 and at least once at Level 3, they may choose to further extend their judging experience and progress to judge Foundation, Level 4 and Veteran. They would need to have scribed the level they wish to judge and pass the higher level Practical assessment

AIM – provide additional guidance and support for judges wishing to progress to judge the higher levels. The current Practical seminar only gives practical experience at Levels 1 & 2.

Stage 3 – Progressing to judge Levels 5 and above - Judges wishing to progress to judge a higher level² would have to have previously passed the higher level Practical and scribed at the level they wish to judge at least once.

AIM – by asking current judges to pass the higher level Practical assessment it will provide up to date guidance and support for the higher levels. Although judges will not have to take this assessment to continue judging their existing levels Rally judges have historically embraced education and many will attend even though it is not a specific requirement.

The criteria for a Championship Rally Judge - this will need to be defined prior to Championship status but is better deferred until this time when there will be a clearer picture of the standard required.

Notes:

1. Guidance for the Foundation class should be covered in the Level 1-3 practical seminar as, although this class is for more experienced judges, new judges will need to know the criteria for the Foundation exercises.
2. The Guide for Judges to be updated to support the new framework and judging criteria.
3. This assumes that existing Level 4 and above judges will need to pass the new Level 4 plus Practical Seminar before they progress to judge further levels.
4. A move towards more online presentations to promote consistency of approach across the UK.

² Scribing requirements will have to be relaxed for the first year that the Foundation and Level 7 class are introduced.

Required S Regulations changes:

20. Judging.

- a. Judges are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice as published from time to time.
- b. ~~Before judging a Level 1 or Level 2 class~~ **accepting their first judging appointment** at an Open Rally competition a judge must have:
 - (1) ~~handled a dog and achieved a Level 1 or 2~~ **Level 3 Excellent Title or achieved a Level 2 or Level 2 Excellent title and at least one qualifying score in a standard off lead class.**
 - (2) must have acted as a scribe ~~steward~~ for a complete standard Rally class on at least two occasions with two different judges **not in their immediate family or household. At least one scribing appointment must be for a on-lead standard class and one for an off-lead standard class.**
 - (3) Have completed a Royal Kennel Club Rally Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination.
 - (4) Have ~~attended~~ **passed** a Royal Kennel Club Rally Practical Judging Seminar.
 - (5) A judge's first ~~three~~ appointments must be ~~restricted to Level 1 or~~ **at Level 2.**
- c. The next ~~two~~ **five** appointments may also be at Level **1 or 3, a judge must have scribed for that level at least once before accepting an appointment to judge at either level .** ~~Before judging Level 4 a judge must have undertaken two appointments at Level 3.~~
- d. **Before accepting a judging appointment for Level 4, Veteran or the Foundation Level a judge must have:**
 - (1) **scribed a complete class at that level at least once**
 - (2) **judged Level 1, 2 or 3 a minimum of five times including at least one time at Level 1, twice at Level 2 and at least 1 time at Level 3.**
 - (3) **have passed a Royal Kennel Club Rally Advanced Practical Judging Seminar.**
- e. **Before accepting a judging appointment to judge Levels 5, 6, or 7 for the first time a judge must have passed a Royal Kennel Club Rally Advanced Practical Judging Seminar.**
- f. ~~Before a judge can judge~~ **accepting a judging appointment for Level 5, they must have undertaken two appointments at Level 4 and scribed a complete class at Level 5 at least once**
- g. ~~Before a judge can judge~~ **accepting a judging appointment for Level 6, they must have undertaken two appointments at Level 5 and scribed a complete class at Level 6 at least once**

- h. **Before accepting a judging appointment for Level 7, they must have undertaken two four appointments at Level 6 and scribed a complete class at Level 7 at least twice**
- i. Before judging a Special class, a judge must be qualified to judge at least Level 1.
- ~~h. Judges must ensure that they have scribed at every level they intend to judge.~~
- j. From 1 January 2022 all judges must have passed a Rally Regulations and Judging Procedure examination, every five years since passing the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination.
- k. **For {insert implementation year}³ only the scribing requirement to judge Foundation Level or Level 7 for the first time is relaxed.**
- l. Before judging at a Limited Rally competition a judge must have:
 - (1) handled a dog and achieved a Qualifying Score whilst competing at an Open Rally competition.
 - (2) attended a Royal Kennel Club Rally Regulations and Judging Procedure Seminar and passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination
 - (3) attended a Royal Kennel Club Rally Practical Judging Seminar
 - (4) OR be an existing Royal Kennel Club Rally qualified judge
- m. A judge may not judge more than 50 dogs per day. If the entry received exceeds 40, the class may be equally divided (to within one dog) by a draw and the class split into equal parts.
- n. Judges at a Rally competition must not enter for competition a dog which is recorded in their sole ownership, or handle a dog, at the competition at which they are judging. A dog recorded in part ownership with the judge may be entered for competition in any part of a class other than the part which the judge is judging.
- o. Judges must submit course plans to the Secretary and/or the Chief Steward no later than 10 days prior to the competition date.
- p. Judges accepting regular appointments are encouraged to source their own judging equipment.

³ This will be changed to the implementation date for new framework