



Procedure for the training of Show Hunter Judges in New Zealand

Show Hunter now has a system in place for the development of their judges, aimed at improving the support given to entry level judges and allowing the progression through the ranks to be more gradual. The more defined process is designed to help prevent beginner judges becoming overwhelmed at the early Candidate Judge level, and losing interest or confidence. It is also intended to acknowledge the more experienced National Judges with an upgrading opportunity, offering them a recognised support role in the training of others.

The structure is as follows:

- Pre-Candidate Judge
- Candidate Judge
- National Judge
- Clinic Facilitator
- Senior National Judge
- Judges Advisor

All judges must be a current member of ESNZ.

The Pre-Candidate Judge

- Applicants must be age 16 years or over.
- Applicants will receive a Starter Pack containing the relevant literature for judging.
- They will be required to learn the rules of the sport, and sit and pass an exam pertaining to those rules.
- On passing they will be issued with a Judges card (yellow) to record their learning experiences.
- A Pre-Candidate Judge will then sit in with other judges as a learning process. They are not required to take any responsibility for the judging of those classes.
- It is recommended that Pre-Candidate judges sit with National judges to develop a feel for judging before undertaking the assessment required to become a Candidate Judge.

The Candidate Judge

- Pre-Candidate judges must be assessed by a Judges Advisor. This assessment can take place on an individual basis at a show or during a clinic.
- They must sit and pass an exam pertaining to judging criteria.
- On passing they will be issued with a new Judges card (yellow) to record their learning experiences.
- They will show competency using symbols, scoring, determining placing order, and must be capable of recognising basic course design technicalities.
- They will begin to study the fundamentals of equitation.
- A Candidate judge may judge training classes on their own, and co-judge any Recognised class with a National or Senior National judge.
- It is recommended that Candidate judges take as many opportunities as possible to sit with more experienced National Judges.

The National Judge

- Candidate judges must be assessed by a Judges Advisor. This assessment can take place on an individual basis at a show or during a clinic. They should apply to Show Hunter NZ to be assessed for National judge status.
- They must have judged for a minimum of one season with enough classes containing sufficient entries to show competency. They must submit their yellow Judges card for assessment prior to the assessment.
- When an upgrade has been approved they will be issued with a new Judges card (blue).
- A National Judge may judge both Recognised classes and training classes on their own.
- They will be required to judge equitation, once they have been approved by an Advisor and/or attended and passed an equitation clinic.
- National judges are expected to seek opportunities to judge alongside other more experienced National/Senior National judges to ensure they gain a high level of competency, and must judge to a National standard as defined in the Judges manual.

Clinic Facilitator

- These National Judges will be invited to become Clinic Facilitators by the Judges Advisors. A judge may also be recommended by their area or an individual to be considered as a Clinic Facilitator.
- They will be able to run clinics at the request of an area and the approval of executive to deliver the basic fundamentals of the Show Hunter discipline: rules, basic course design, show management, principles of judging.
- They will be required to report back to executive after each course so as to help Show Hunter NZ provide continuity in the deliverance of support into each area.

The Senior National Judge

- These judges have achieved Senior National status by way of invitation by the Judges Advisors. A judge may also be recommended by their area or an individual to be considered for Senior National judge status.
- A copy of their blue Judges card must be submitted with the application. When an upgrade has been approved they will be issued with a new Judges card (blue).
- A Senior National judge will have a high level of competency and considerable experience in both hunter jumping and equitation.
- They will have an in-depth knowledge of the discipline in general.
- A Senior National judge may facilitate a Pre-Candidate judge's clinic.
- They will support Clinic Facilitators where possible.
- They may be asked to judge at HOY or Nationals.

Judges Advisors

Will be responsible for the following:

- Policy making for Show Hunter judges in New Zealand.
- Educating National Senior judges in their role.
- Marking all judges' exam papers.
- Developing resources for clinics.
- Supporting all levels of Show Hunter judges within New Zealand, starting with Senior National judges, filtering downwards whenever required.
- Assessment of all judges seeking advancement in their judging career.
- Seeking support for themselves and New Zealand, e.g. overseas trainers.

To become a Judges Advisor a Senior National judge will be invited by existing Judges Advisors in conjunction with Show Hunter NZ.

Judges card

The Judges card is to be used as a means of recording the work done by a judge. It is their resume of all their Show Hunter related experiences. It will be used as a reference when being considered for an upgrade. The cards will be held and administered by the Judges Officer in conjunction with the Judges Advisors and the Chairperson.

Removal from Judges List

- If a judge wishes to be removed from the judge's list they should contact their local delegate, who in turn will notify the Judge's Co-ordinator.
- The Judge's Co-ordinator will then notify ESNZ and the Show Hunter Chairperson. Removal from the judge's list will be notified in the Bulletin.

A judge can be removed from the list in the following circumstances:-

- If he/she displays inappropriate or unprofessional behaviour/attitude at any time.

- If he/she fails to attend a judge's update within a two year period.
- If he/she has not judged any Show Hunter competitions during a three year period.

Once a judge reaches the age of 70 years, they may be required to undertake an annual reassessment by a Judges Advisor.