



SOUTHERN AFRICA CAT COUNCIL

SHOW RULES

(Last amended November 2025)

1. DEFINITIONS

The following words or terms shall have the following meaning to these Rules:

- (a) THE SOUTH AFRICAN CAT REGISTER (herein known as the S.A.C.R.) is the Register officially appointed by SACC for the purpose of registering all pedigreed cats bred and/or owned by members of the Cat Clubs.
- (b) Club shall mean any approved Cat Club insofar as it is acceptable as a member of SACC.
- (c) A REGISTERED OPEN CLASS is one in which all registered entire and neutered cats of nine months and over, of any breed or variety of breed recognised by the SACR can compete, except Champions, Premiers and higher awards. Every registered breed shall be provided with an Adult class for males, females, neuter males and spayed females, even if there is only one entry in that class.
- (d) AN UNREGISTERED CLASS is one in which all unregistered cats of any breed or variety of breed of four months and over can compete.
- (e) A REGISTERED KITTEN CLASS is one in which all registered kittens of sixteen weeks and over and under nine months on the (first) day of show, dating from and inclusive of the date of his birth, of any one breed or variety of breed recognized by the SACR can compete.
- (f) THE BREEDER is the owner of the cat at the time of kitting.
- (g) THE COMMITTEE shall mean and be the duly elected committee of the relevant club or SACC and shall include (1) a duly appointed sub-committee thereof or any person or persons duly appointed by the committee or sub-committee to carry out any duty or act which the committee or sub-committee is entitled or obliged to carry out (2) the show manager or managers so appointed.
- (h) A CAT SHOW is one in which cats and/or kittens compete publicly for awards.
- (i) A CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW in all major regions (Gauteng, Pretoria and Cape Town) is one in which a minimum of 40 (forty) registered cats are entered and present, excluding domestic pets. A CHAMPIONSHIP SHOW in all minor regions (Eastern Cape, Kimberley and KZN) is one in which a minimum of 30 (thirty) registered cats are entered and present, excluding domestic pets. Fewer than 40 cats in a major region or 30 cats in a minor region would be a match meeting without C.C. status being awarded.

2. RECOGNITION OF AND ALTERATIONS TO RULES

The GC of SACC has jurisdiction to make any further ancillary Show Rules or to amend any Show Rules on condition that such rules or amendments are not contravening any existing Rule, Regulation or Constitution of SACC.

3. COMPLAINTS AGAINST PERSONS

If, in the opinion of the committee of any of the Clubs, any exhibitor, breeder, member or member of the public attending any show be guilty of:

- (a) any breach of these Rules or of the show rules of the Club; or
- (b) making a false declaration or mis-statement in respect of matters mentioned in such rules; or
- (c) any discreditable conduct with regard to a cat or any matter whatsoever connected with or arising from a cat show or any matter relating to the same; or
- (d) shall have been convicted of cruelty to or neglect of any animal in any court of law,

the committee shall, after giving the person against whom such complaint has been lodged, the opportunity of answering the said charge, verbally or in writing, pass and record in its Minutes a resolution of its finding and shall have the following powers, namely:

- i) to suspend the person so guilty from taking part in or having any connection with or entering any show of the said club held under the Show Rules of SACC for such a period as the said club's Committee may, in its absolute discretion, think fit;
 - ii) To forward to the Clubs and to the Secretary of SACC a report of the meeting of the Committee including the name and address of the person concerned in the inquiry, the name of the club to which such a person is a member and the penalty or penalties imposed.
- (e) The person referred to in paragraph 3 above, has the right to refer the matter to the Ethics Committee for review in terms of the Rules of the Ethics Committee.

4. COMPLAINTS AGAINST AWARDS

- (a) An objection to a disqualification may be made by any interested party on one or more of the grounds set out in Rules 21 (2) (a - o) or any other grounds.
- (b) Such objection and the reasons therefore must be in writing and, together with a deposit of R100,00, delivered to the Show Manager within seven days from the date of the show, unless made to the Show Manager whilst the show is in progress. If an objection is made to the Show Manager whilst the cats are still penned at the show, the Show manager and two committee members shall deliberate the objection immediately. Should the objection be deemed to be justified and upheld, the committee may cause the cat(s) or class to be re-judged by a different judge, consultant or referee as the case may merit. The deposit of R100,00 shall be paid to the Show Manager immediately.

- (c) The Show Manager, Show or Club Committee may, mero motu, raise such an objection, in which case written notice giving the reasons therefor shall be sent to the exhibitor concerned and to any interested party within seven days of the date of the show.
- (d) If the objection is made by any other person other than those referred to in sub-paragraph (c) hereof, it shall be accompanied by a deposit of R10,00 which shall be returned to the objector if the objection is sustained and forwarded to the Club if the objection is overruled. A copy of such objection shall be forwarded to the exhibitor and to any other persons concerned by the club secretary, and such exhibitor shall be entitled to reply thereto within seven days of date of receipt of such notice.
- (e) Save as is provided for in sub-paragraph (f) hereof, the issue shall be decided by the committee within seven days after receipt of a reply by the exhibitor concerned, or if no reply is received within ten days from the date of the notice to such exhibitor. The committee may, in its discretion require the parties concerned to appear before it and give viva voce evidence. The decision of the committee shall be posted to the parties concerned in writing within 48 hours, and the committee shall not be obliged, unless it deems fit, to give reasons for such decision.
- (f) Where the objection is raised in terms of sub-paragraph (e) hereof, the issue shall be decided by an independent third party or body, selected by the committee, and the decision of such independent third party or body shall be final and binding. Such third party or body shall have the same powers as are given to the committee in terms of sub-paragraph (e) hereof.
- (g) An appeal shall lie from the decision of the show committee to the committee (if not the same bodies) provided it is lodged in writing with the committee within 14 days from the date of the decision of the show committee.
- (h) The committee shall have the powers and rights on hearing the said appeal as the show committee, and shall post its decision in writing to the parties concerned within 48 hours. The committee shall, unless it deems fit, not be obliged to give reasons for its decision.

5. REGISTRATION

- (a) Every cat or kitten exhibited at a show held under these Rules in any championship classes, premier classes or open or registered classes, must have been registered with the SACR prior to the closing date for entries to the show.
- (b) A kitten entered for show and not yet transferred in the name of a new owner, should be entered as Pending Transfer (PT) from the breeder/ original owner.
- (c) All entire males over the age of 18 months must have a certificate of entirety signed by a qualified veterinary surgeon. A stud number will be issued by the Registrar, and this number must appear after the name of the cat on all documents and in all catalogues.
- (d) Application for and registration of new studs shall take place prior to the closing date for entries to a show.

- (e) Allowable Outcross: Any breed/ cat that may be used in a breeding programme OR listed in a four-generation pedigree of a SACC recognised breed. No cats/kittens may be registered (including imports from other associations) with cats in a 4-generation pedigree that are not listed as an Allowable outcross. It is the responsibility of the importer to evaluate a potential pedigree against this rule.

6. SHOWING DOMESTIC CATS

- 5.1 Domestic cats used in Allowable outcross breeding programs must be duly registered in the Domestic Register.
- 5.2 Entire breeding males over 18 months of age require a Stud Number (See Show Rule 6(g)).
- 5.3 If unavailable, names and breed numbers for the sire and dam of such a cat will not be required.
- 5.4 These cats may be show in the Household Pet section at SACC shows.
- 5.5 The Show Managers may create a "Registered Cat" class for these registered Domestic and other registered pets at their discretion.

7. ENTRY FORMS

- (a) Any cat or kitten exhibited at a show held under these Rules must be the personal property of the exhibitor in whose name it has been entered, and must be so on closing date for entries to a show unless as described in Show Rule 5.
- (b) Each cat or kitten must be clearly identified on the entry form, if registered the particulars to be identical with those given on the cat's Registration Certificate and there must be a declaration signed by the exhibitor that the cat or kittens is entered subject to these Rules.
- (c) If a cat or kitten be owned by more than one person, the names of the owners must be given on the registration form and on the entry form.
- (d) All exhibitors' kittens and cats under the age of 3 years on the day of the show must produce a current inoculation certificate proving initial inoculation. Authenticated photostat copies of such certificates will be accepted. The inoculation must be administered by a registered veterinary surgeon and the certificate signed by him/her.
- (e) If a cat or kitten be entered except as before directed in rules 5 and 6 the exhibitor shall forfeit any prizes that may have been awarded, and if the error is detected in time such cat or kitten shall not be allowed to compete, and the exhibitor shall forfeit all entrance fees, but the committee of the club concerned may, on appeal for good cause shown, remit all or any of the forfeits herein mentioned.
- (f) Registration numbers should be given on each entry form and these numbers shall appear against the exhibits' names in the catalogue with the exception of neutered Domestic cats.
- (g) A stud number must appear after the name of male cats over the age of 18 months on all documents, show entry forms and in all catalogues.

- (h) The breed numbers of the sire and dam must appear after the names in all entries in the show catalogues.
- (i)
 - i) Show schedules and entry forms must be sent out at the discretion of the Show Committee.
 - ii) Show schedules and entry forms must clearly state the number of rings to be held at that particular show, and additional rings may not be added after entry forms have been sent out.
- (j)
 - i) No kitten under the age of 16 (sixteen) weeks of age on the day of the show will be allowed in the hall, whether for competition, exhibition or sale.
 - ii) No cat/kitten will be allowed inside or outside the show venue or anywhere on the premises on which the show is being held, for any other purpose other than to be judged at the show as an exhibit duly entered for that purpose or officially being entered for exhibition. The sole exception may be cats/ kittens (over the age of four months) exhibited / homed / sold by registered Animal welfare organizations. Sale of cats/kittens by any person other than registered Animal Welfare Organizations is strictly prohibited and the Show Manager is entitled to have the person removed
- k) All entry forms must contain a reference to Paragraph 29 of The Constitution of SACC, to inform all participants that by their voluntary participation they submit themselves to SACC's various rules and in particular the Disciplinary sanctions.
- l) It is the responsibility of the EXHIBITOR to ensure that the Show manager has taken into account all previous awards obtained by his or her cat, including awards obtained after closing date of the show. **THIS RULE TO BE PRINTED IN BOLD TYPE ON EVERY ENTRY SHOW.**
- m) All Domestic cats of nine months and older must be neutered or spayed to enter in a Pet Section unless they are Registered in the Domestic Register for use in an outcross program.
- (i) FRACTIOUS CATS
 - 7.1 If, in the opinion of the Show Manager and the judge concerned, a cat cannot be taken out of its pen, it must not be judged. A judge or steward shall report such incidents concerning fractious cats to the show manager immediately. The onus is then on the Show Manager to take the necessary action. If such fractiousness is confirmed after enquiry at the show, such incident shall be reported by inclusion in the list of main awards circulated to all Clubs, the Secretary of SACC and the Registrar within 3 days of such show. After 3 (three) disqualifications for fractiousness or proving unhandleable an exhibit may no longer be shown anywhere.

7.2 If a cat, during judging growls, bites or in any way threatens its handlers, the judge shall cease judging it, mark its award card and/or slip "UTH" (unable to handle), and not place or award it. The show manager shall record such UTH results and report all incidents to the SACR with his major awards list. After three UTH incidents (a show counting as one incident) under three different judges, the cat may no longer be shown at SACC shows. The SACR shall keep the necessary records and inform the owner and all show managers of cats thus not allowed to be shown anymore.

7.3 Fractious Exhibits shall not be considered for nominations for Best in show.

8.

8.1 JUDGING

- (a) Save as is provided for in Rule 10, a judge's decision shall be final and binding on the exhibitors, save in the case of fraud on the part of the judge or any other person in which case the decision shall rest with the committee and no correspondence will be entered into. This rule must be brought to the attention of the exhibitors before a show.
- (b) Save for the provisions made in Rule 8.1 (a), complaints against judges must be directed to and dealt with by the Panel to which the judge belongs. Should that Panel not be able to resolve the issue then it is to be referred to the Council of Cat Judges. Only if Judges Council fails to resolve the matter should it be referred to Governing Council for final resolution. The application of this rule is limited to alleged offences by a judge related to judging.
- (c) A judge may only judge or act as a consultant at a show in any class in which he or she or any member from the same household or any relative of the first degree does not exhibit, or in which no cats bred by him/her are exhibited.
- (d) A judge shall not judge any special awards in which a cat belonging to the judge, any member from the same household or any relative of the first degree is competing, or in which cats bred by him/her are exhibited.
- (e) A judge or probationing judge shall not directly or indirectly take part or be connected with the acceptance of entries or preparation of the catalogue for any show at which the said judge/probationer is judging or probationing.
- (f) A consultant judge shall mean a judge who MAY be called in for consultation on the awarding or withholding of an award by the appointed judge.
- (g) All unofficial awards to be judged according to the Show Manager's directions.
- (h) A judge may in his or her discretion refuse to judge an exhibit if in such judge's opinion there has been any contravention of Rule 21 (2) (a - p) or in connection therewith which comes to his attention before or during judging. In such cases he shall refer the matter to the show manager and two members of the committee for decision, their decision being final and binding. Disqualification of an exhibit due to any fault listed as such in the Standard of Points shall require confirmation by a Consultant Judge and the show manager must be advised (Show Managers are not qualified on such faults).
- (i) Once student judges have passed their written exam, they are required to do practical training/probation in this at section for a period as laid down by the

Judges Council from time to time. It is within the Show Committee's discretion whether or not to allow all requests for probation judging. After this practical training/probationary period has been completed, the practical exam will follow. Once the practical exam has been passed, a newly qualified Judge is eligible to judge across the board in that section without mandatory consultation.

- (j) All judges allocated classes at a show must receive written notice from the Show Manager stating breeds to be judged in each ring prior to the show date.
- (k) Only judges recognised by GC of SACC may officiate at any show held under these rules.
- (l) When a judge not affiliated to SACC is invited to officiate at a SACC show, the attention of the show manager is drawn to Rule 11 in The Rules Governing Judges and Judges' Panels.
- (m) Exhibitors may not choose a specific judge to judge their exhibits but may exercise the right to request a specific judge not to judge an exhibit provided that the reasons are solely show related and do not cast aspersions on the said judge. A written request for a change of judge including reason to be brought to the attention of the Show Manager, who may, at her/his discretion, allocate another judge.
- (n) Judges must sign all relevant award cards at shows.
- (o) All awards given on the day of the show to be binding on the Judge and no alterations to awards to be made after the day of the show, except as allowed for in rule 9 (c).
- (p) The handler of a cat during judging may not initiate communication with the judge whilst the judge is judging the cat or make any comments to the judge or any exhibit until such time as the award slip has been signed by the judge and submitted to the show manager.
- (q) Except for the Judge who is judging a cat, the handler of the cat and a show official, no other person shall be allowed at the judges table/judges trolley. All other people shall remain within the dedicated public areas, from where they can view the judging process or at a distance from the judge. Exception may be made, at the discretion and prior approval of the show manager, for purposes of training SACC student and probationer judges.
- (r) A Judge cannot be allocated to judge the same cat more than once in the same class at the same show, with the exception of cats that are already Supreme Champions or Supreme Premiers. This is limited to twice per exhibit.
- (s) That there be at least 50% of SACC judges officiating at any SACC show.

8.2 RULE 8.2

In the event of a two day show:

8.2.1 Entry form should clearly indicate that the Show will be a 2 day show as well as the number of rings to be held on each day.

8.2.2 A two day show is at the absolute discretion of the Show Committee.

9. AWARDS

- (a) The Show Managers shall fax or e-mail the judges allocation for a show within 48 hours of posting same in terms of Rule 26, and the results (main award list) of the show within 48 hours to the Registrar and Show Managers of those shows which are scheduled for the following 7 days. The Registrar shall notify all Clubs of official show results and status changes by fax and/or post and/or email within 4 days after a show. If any club does not supply a fax number, the list shall be mailed and be available for collection within 4 days of the show.
- (b) The names of all exhibitors who have had cats disqualified or barred from a show by a veterinary surgeon, shall be forwarded to the Registrar with 9(a). Any cat so disqualified shall not be shown within a period of 30 days unless accompanied by a veterinary clearance certificate.
- (c) If a cat has been entered, judged and awarded in the incorrect class, and this is only noticed by the SACR after the show, the award/s may be changed from a Supreme Challenge/Premier certificate to a Grand Challenge/Premier certificate, or from a Grand Challenge/Premier certificate to a Challenge/Premier certificate, on condition that:
 - i) There were **no cats entered**, and present at the show, in the relevant Grand/Open class, as the results of the cats entered in the correct class takes preference and may NOT be changed.
 - ii) The judge concerned has not awarded the cat in the relevant class before.
 - iii) The judge is prepared to change the award.
- (d) In the event of any result/s amended as in 9(c) above, the Registrar shall notify all Clubs of such amendments within 4 days after the show (as per rule 9a). Failure to do so will result in the incorrect award/s becoming null and void.

10. CHANGE OF JUDGES

- (a) Once a cat has been penned for competition at a show it may not be withdrawn without the written consent of the show manager.
- (b) In the case of a change of Judges the notice of changes must be prominently displayed at the entrance to the show before Judging commences.
- (c) Provided that the provisions of sub-paragraph (b) hereof have been complied with a change of judges shall be binding on the exhibitors.
- (d) If for any reason whatsoever, the provisions of sub-paragraph (b) have not been complied with, the exhibitor shall have the election:
 - i) as set out in sub-paragraph (a) hereof to withdraw the cat from competition; or
 - ii) to refuse the award of such judge; or
 - iii) to accept the award of such judge.

In the case of sub-paragraph (d) (i) and (ii) hereof the exhibitor shall be entitled to a refund of entry fees in the classes concerned.

11. REGISTERED KITTEN CLASSES

- (a) Kitten classes are for registered kittens of 16 weeks and under nine months.
- (b) Kittens of the same breed compete against one another.
- (d) Breeds that are judged on colour and pattern may be shown in individual colour and/or pattern classes.
- (e) Show managers may divide the kitten classes in male or female classes if the numbers justify it.
- (f) Classes may be divided in 4 – 6 month and 6 – 9 month classes at the discretion of the show manager.

12. CHALLENGE CERTIFICATES

Registered Open Classes:

- (i) Open Classes are for cats from the age of nine calendar months and over, competing for Challenge and Premier Certificates.
- (ii) Cats of the same breed compete against one another. Cats are divided into male, female, neuter males and spayed female classes.
- (iii) Breeds that are judged on colour and pattern should be shown in individual colour and/or pattern classes.
- (iv) Maine Coons to be judged in the following classes: Self/Self and White/Patterned (All Tabby patterns-exclude silver tabbies)/ Patterned and White (All Tabby patterns, exclude Silver tabby and white)/ Shaded (include all silvers that are tabby, tipped, smoke or shaded)/ Shaded and White (include all silvers with white that are tabby, tipped, smoke or shaded).
Note: Maine Coons with white will not be judged according to the minimum and minimum white requirements for Bicolour, Harlequin and Van.

A challenge class shall be a registered open class in which there is competition for challenge certificates. To be eligible for such certificates a cat must comply with the following requirements:

- (a) It must be of a breed or variety of breed recognised by the GC of SACC, and be entered in an open class provided for both male and female of such breed at the show.
- (b) It must have been awarded first or second place in such registered open class.
- (c) It must be of sufficient merit in the opinion of the judge to be awarded a Challenge Certificate. If the judge desires to withhold a Challenge Certificate or a first place in an open class a consultant judge MAY be called in to confirm or reject the judges' decision, and the withholding confirmed on the award slip by the consultant judge. If the quality of the exhibit warrants it, the cat placed second may also be awarded a Challenge Certificate without mandatory consultation.

- (d) A cat which receives three Challenge Certificates under three different judges, shall be entitled to the title of Champion and to the award of a certificate commemorating such title.
- (e) A Champion Certificate shall be supplied by the Registrar on receipt of completed application form requesting the Certificate from the owner. Application forms will be available on the web-site and at Shows. Cost to be decided on by GC from time to time and listed on the SACC registrations price list.

13. PREMIER CERTIFICATES

- (a) A Premier Certificate shall be awarded to a neutered cat in a registered open premier class for a breed or variety of breed recognised by the GC of SACC.
- (b) A Premier Certificate may be awarded for every registered open class at each show in which one or more entries are competing. If the quality of the exhibit warrants it, the cat placed second may also be awarded a Premier Certificate, without mandatory consultation.
- (c) Save as aforesaid, the provisions of Rule 12 shall apply mutatis mutandis to the award of a Premier Certificate. Awards gained when entire may be carried forward by a cat where it is neutered/spayed. When neutered/spayed a certificate by a qualified veterinary surgeon may be attached to the entry form. This is entirely at the discretion of the Show Manager as to whether this is necessary.

14. GRAND CHALLENGE AND GRAND PREMIER CERTIFICATES

- (a)
 - i) Cats that have gained the titles of Champion or Premier may compete in Grand Challenge Classes.
 - ii) Cats of the same breed compete against one another. Cats are divided into male, female, neuter male and spayed female classes.
 - iii) Breeds that are judged on colour and pattern should be grouped into the following Sections:
 - **Self Grand Class:** contains all self colours, including torties.
 - **Shaded Grand Class:** All Tipped, shaded and smoke colours, pointed shaded cats, excluding shaded tabbies.
 - **Patterned Grand Class:** All Tabby patterns, including silver and shaded tabbies and excluding tabby and white cats.
 - **Patched Grand Class:** Any colour or pattern patched with white-including self, smoke, shaded, tabby & white and Pointed and white)
 - **Pointed Grand Class:** Colourpoint Persians, Colourpoint British shorthairs and longhairs, Birmans, Ragdolls, Siamese, all Tonkinese etc. Self points and Tabby points (including golden pointed) are in the same Pointed Grand class. All Siberians, whether pointed and non-pointed, will compete in the same Grand class because they are not judged on colour
 - iv) Maine Coons to be judged in the following classes:
 - Self and Self and White
 - Patterned and Patterned and White (All tabbies excluding Silver or Silver and white tabbies).
 - Shaded and Shaded and White (All silver or silver and white cats that are tabby, tipped, smoke or shaded).
 - Note: Maine Coons with white will not be judged according to the

minimum and minimum white requirements for Bicolour, Harlequin and Van.

- v) To be eligible for such certificates a cat must be entitled to the title of Champion or Premier in terms of Rule 12 and 13 and be entered in one of the aforesaid classes.

Note:

It was minuted at the Governing Council Meeting on 23rd October 1993 that should any show rule be changed for a breed it would automatically be applied across the board where appropriate.

- (b) A cat winning a Grand Challenge or Grand Premier certificate under six different judges in a Grand Class shall be entitled to the title of Grand Champion or Grand Premier.
- (c) Before awarding or withholding a Grand Challenge or Grand Premier Certificate or a first place, a consultant judge MAY be called in to confirm or reject the judge's decision, and the awarding or withholding thereof countersigned on the award slip by such consultant judge. If the quality of the exhibit warrants it, the cat placed second may also be awarded a Grand Challenge or Grand Premier Certificate without mandatory consultation.
- (d) A cat which becomes entitled to the title of Grand Champion or Grand Premier in accordance with the provisions of this rule shall be entitled to the award of a certificate commemorating such title.
- (e) Grand Champion and Grand Premier Certificates shall be supplied by the Registrar on receipt of completed application form requesting the Certificate from the owner. Application forms will be available on the web-site and at Shows. Cost to be decided on by GC from time to time and listed on the SACC registrations price list.
- (f) There will be placings from 1 - 4 and a possible 2nd GCC/GPC can be awarded.

15. SUPREME CHALLENGE AND SUPREME PREMIER CERTIFICATES

- (a) Cats which are entitled to the title of Grand Champion or Grand Premier in accordance with Rule 14 may be entered in the Supreme Challenge or Supreme Premier classes. Each exhibit shall be judged by one (1) judge. Each judge shall record his/her vote on a slip of paper which shall be handed to the show manager (92% or higher would warrant a certificate)
- (b) A cat entered in the Supreme Classes shall not compete against other cats in breed, colour or pattern classes for a placing, but judged against its breed standard:
 - i) be awarded a minimum of six supreme certificates.
 - ii) within the awarding of the six certificates in (i) be awarded a minimum of six certificates each from a different judge.
 - iii) All Supreme exhibits to be in one section, divided only for judging purposes.
- (c) Full results awarded by individual judges shall be made known on the award card and the main award lists.
- (d) A cat need not be retired on achieving the title of Supreme Champion or Supreme

Premier but may continue to be eligible for the award of an indefinite number of certificates.

- (e) A Supreme Champion and Supreme Premier Certificate shall be supplied by the Registrar on receipt of completed application form requesting the Certificate from the owner. Application forms will be available on the web-site and at Shows. Cost to be decided on by GC from time to time and listed on the SACC registrations price list.
- (f) Multiple Supreme Champion / Premier titles
 - (i) Double Supreme Champion / Premier: Twelve Supreme Certificates must be awarded by nine different judges; abbreviation Db Sp Ch/Pr.
 - (ii) Triple Supreme Champion / Premier: Eighteen Supreme Certificates must be awarded by a minimum of twelve different judges; abbreviation Tr Sp Ch/Pr.
 - (iii) This places no obligation on show managers to consider awards towards these multiple titles in their judges' allocation. Cats will gain these by continued and / or widespread showing.
 - (iv) These titles may be achieved with awards backdating to 2004.

16. IMPERIAL SUPREME CHALLENGE (ISCC) and IMPERIAL SUPREME PREMIER CERTIFICATES (ISPC).

- a. Cats that have achieved the title of Supreme Champion or Supreme Premier prior to the commencement of a championship show are eligible to be entered in the Imperial Supreme Challenge or Imperial Supreme Premier Class.
- b. Each eligible cat may be entered into two classes per show: the standard Supreme Class, in accordance with Rule 15, and the Imperial Supreme Class. The fee to enter a cat into this class is determined by each club.
- c. Only one ring of Imperial Supreme Classes will be judged per show.
- d. All-Breeds Judges shall evaluate all entries submitted in both the Entire and Neuter categories within the Imperial Class. Two judges may be used to judge the Entire or Neuter sections.
- e. Cats entered in the Imperial Supreme Class shall not compete against others based on breed, colour or pattern. Instead, each exhibit shall be assessed exclusively against its respective breed standard. Only one Imperial Supreme Certificate shall be awarded, and it will be granted to the exhibit that most closely exemplifies the ideal standard of its breed.
- f. The judge may, at their discretion, award one certificate in the Entire section and one in the Neuter section. The judge also reserves the right to withhold certificates in either or both classes if, in their expert opinion, no exhibit sufficiently meets the standard.
- g. A cat that has been awarded six Imperial Supreme Certificates under six different judges shall be conferred the title of Supreme Imperial Champion (Entires) or Imperial Supreme Premier (Neuters), as applicable.
- h. Upon attaining the Imperial Supreme title, a cat becomes ineligible for further competition in this class.
- i. If a cat originally entered in the Entire category is subsequently neutered, it shall retain all Imperial Certificates it previously earned.

17. OTHER CLASSES

- (a) A Judge judging in classes other than those referred to in Rules 12, 13, 14 and 15 shall be entitled to make or withhold reference to any other judge: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, Very Highly Commended, Highly Commended or Commended.

18. SACC MERIT CLUB

To become a member, a cat needs to fulfil the following requirements:

- Be awarded 50 Supreme Certificates (Silver membership certificate)
 - Be awarded 75 Supreme certificates (Gold membership certificate)
 - Be awarded 100 supreme Certificates (Platinum membership certificate)
- (a) Procedure:
- The onus is on the owners of the cats to maintain and record their cats' awards.
 - When the cats have been awarded the required number of certificates, the owners may apply for Merit Club membership by submitting the records of shows, clubs, dates, and awarding judges' names to the SA Cat Register for verification.
 - Application to be made on an official SACC application form obtainable from the SACR office.
 - The Registrar will confirm or deny such application.
 - If the application has succeeded, the Registrar will confirm it with the owner and deliver the certificates to the particular year's COTY club for distribution.
or
 - Distribute the certificates to the owners after the COTY event.
- (b) The name of the cats, owners, breeders well as the breed and colour will be read out at the COTY awards ceremony for that year and a certificate of achievement will be handed to the owner.
- (c) The name of the cats, owners, breeders as well as the breed and colour will be placed on the SACC website under the headings of SACC Merit Club membership.
- (d) This may be backdated to the year 2004.

19. LOCAL RULES AND GENERAL

- (a) The committee may offer such prizes and make such classification and definitions thereof subject to the definitions of these rules, as they think fit, except:
- (i) no classes or prizes may be offered for any progeny sired by a special cat;
 - (ii) no free service from any particular stud cat may be offered as a prize;
 - (iii) when power to cancel or amalgamate classes, or to alter prize lists, or to return entries is reserved, it must be prominently stated in the

schedule of the show and exhibitors shall be notified to exercise such power at least three days previous to the date of the show, and entrance fees thereby affected shall be returned, but in the case of cancelled classes exhibitors in such classes shall be notified of intention to exercise by post three days previous to the show;

- (iv) kitten classes can be subdivided at the discretion of the Show Committee;
- (v) unregistered classes can be subdivided at the discretion of the Show Committee;
- (b) prize cards shall not be placed on pens in any section until the advertised time of opening of the show to the public, and only then if all judging, including specials, in that section has already been conducted, except where the cards do not identify the exhibit or exhibitor;
- (c) if the show manager makes a technical error in the classification of a cat in a judges book, and it can be rectified on the day of the show, the judge must accept the show manager's decision;
- (d) the aisles between the rows of cages must be a minimum of 1,5m wide
- (e) NO SMOKING be allowed in halls containing cats. This is to apply to all cat club personnel, judges, stewards and general public.
- (f) Show cats should have the translucent tips of their nails clipped before being benched for shows.
- (g) An exhibitor shall not move his exhibit from its show cage to its traveling container, and/or leave the show hall with his exhibit, until after the end of the show, as announced by the show manager, except with written approval from the show manager. In a case where an exhibitor has removed his exhibit without prior approval, the show manager may at his discretion declare any awards gained null and void and advise the SA Cat Registrar accordingly, and/or impose a fine on the exhibitor, and/or impose a ban on the exhibitor's future show participation at shows held by the hosting club at whose show the offence occurred.

20. ENTRIES

- i) The committee may reserve the right to refuse any entry or entries provided that a valid reason for doing so is given.
- ii) The committee may decide on any day for closing its acceptance of show entries, and such date must be published. This clause to be included on all show entry forms.

- iii) A club may not accept entries from any exhibitor once officially notified that the exhibitor owes any SACC club or the registration office outstanding fees for shows or registrations. Registrations or transfers with the SACR are to be put on hold for the exhibitor in question. Once outstanding fees have been paid, all SACC clubs must be informed and the exhibitor will be allowed at future shows. Registrations and transfers will continue to be processed thereafter.

21. DUTIES OF VETERINARY SURGEONS

Show Rule abolished on 26 October 1996. (Vetting in not mandatory).

22. DISQUALIFICATION OF CATS

A cat shall be disqualified from exhibition and competition:

- (1) by the show manager and two members of the committee [see Rule 8(g)]
- (2) by the committee on objection [see Rules 3(c) & 5] if it is obvious that:
 - (a) it has been improperly prepared for show, that is, if any dye, colouring lightening or darkening substance, any oils or greasy preparation and cleaning preparations, or any foreign matter of any description has been used and remains in the cat's coat during exhibition; if any of the cat's coat has been cut, clipped, singed or rasped down by any substance; if any of the new or fast coat has been removed by pulling or plucking in any way, or if the eyes have been artificially treated so that the pupils do not show a normal reaction to light;
 - (b) Show rules abolished on 26 October 1996.
 - (c) If the cat or its cage bear the name of the exhibit and/or exhibitor;
 - (d) It has been penned for competition after judging has been completed in that class;
 - (e) It has been registered in the name of and is owned by a person suspended for discreditable conduct as from the date of the charge being lodged with the show committee concerned and for the period and for the period of such suspension [see Rule 3];
 - (f) It is totally blind;
 - (g) It has been suffering from a communicable disease within a period of at least 30 days prior to the date of the show;
 - (h) It has been entered in a manner not complying with the classification in the schedule or with these rules;
 - (i) It is a monorchid or cryptorchid if over the age of 9 months on the day of the show unless a certificate of neutering by a qualified veterinary surgeon is produced;

- (j) It has been declawed;
- (k) It has not been duly registered in the S.A.C.R. [except in unregistered classes];
- (l) It has not been duly transferred in the S.A.C.R. where a change of ownership has taken place [except in unregistered classes];
- (m) It is obviously pregnant, a nursing mother or a queen with kittens less than eight weeks of age on the day of the show;
- (n) It is a teaser tom [which may only be exhibited in the pets or registered pets class];
- (o) A tranquiliser has been evidently administered.
- (p) Poor show condition e.g. flea infestation, sores, poor general condition.
- (q) The identification of an owner or exhibitor to the judge during or before judging is not permitted.

The owner of a cat disqualified in terms of the Rules is liable to forfeiture in the discretion of the show committee of all entry fees and prize money made in respect of or won by such cat at a show or shows in question. The show committee concerned shall have powers to reprimand an exhibitor and order the forfeiture of entry fees and prize money in lieu of disqualification where an exhibitor has made a bona fide error in the entrance forms of a technical or clerical nature.

23. POSITION AFTER DISQUALIFICATION

If a prize winner be disqualified after being judged, the cat next in consecutive order of merit if so placed by the judge and awarded not less than fourth, may be moved into the higher place in the prize list, and such placings shall thereupon become the award. This does not apply to challenge, grand or supreme challenge, premier, grand or supreme premier certificates unless with the judge's written consent.

24. EMPLOYMENT OF SUSPENDED PERSON

Any person who shall employ any suspended person in any capacity in connection with cats will, if it is proved to the satisfaction of the show committee concerned that he or she knew of such suspension, be liable to be dealt with as an offender within the meaning of Rule 3.

25. DUTIES OF SHOW OFFICIALS

1. Show officials must immediately report to the show manager any case of fraudulent or discreditable conduct at or in connection with a show which may come to their notice, and at the same time furnish the show manager concerned with all documents or information in connection therewith which may be in their possession or power.

2. All participants in SACC activities, shows and events should conduct themselves in such a manner that SACC and its members and affiliated members are not brought into disrepute. Such harmful actions might be but are not limited to : verbal attacks or maligning of exhibitors, judges or other people at SACC Show, exhibitions or events; or written attacks or scathing comments on persons in public email lists, in cell phone messages or any electronic media.

26. DUTIES OF EXHIBITORS

All exhibitors shall ensure that their cats are provided with adequate water for the duration of the Show. Should the exhibitor be unable to be present for the entire duration of the show he/she shall make arrangements to ensure adherence to this rule. It remains, under all circumstances, the responsibility of the exhibitor to ensure compliance to this rule.

27. EXHIBITOR BOUND BY RULES

A person entering a cat for any show held under these rules shall, by such act, be deemed to have agreed to refer any question or dispute to the committee of the show or club concerned and to abide by their decision, and this fact must be brought to the attention of exhibitors before a show.

28. NOTICE TO EXHIBITORS

A Notice to Exhibitors to be sent to all exhibitors, participating judges and the Registrar, before the date of a show. This Notice should contain details of time of vetting-in (if applicable), instructions for benching, telephone number of Show Manager etc. The Allocation of Judges in each ring and directions for reaching the venue should be sent with this Notice. The Notice must also provide that a copy of the Show Rules shall be available to any exhibitor requiring it.

29. REQUIREMENTS OF SCHEDULE

The schedule must provide that a copy of these rules shall be available to any exhibitor requiring it. The names of the judges must be given on a Notice to the Exhibitors, together with the classes allocated to them.

30. COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

No exhibitor shall exhibit a cat or kitten which to his or her knowledge has, at the date of the show, been exposed to any specific communicable disease within the period of 30 days prior to the date of the show, and no cat or kitten may be exhibited if the exhibitor has had any such illness in his or her home or cattery during that period. In the case of a communicable disease having occurred in a home or cattery a clearance certificate will be required from a fully qualified veterinary surgeon. Any exhibitor who, in the opinion of the committee, shall have made a false declaration in respect of the above will be liable to serve penalties under the powers of the committee. Owners of rejected exhibits shall not personally attend any show within the prescribed period of 30 days unless in the possession of a veterinary clearance certificate which must be exhibited to the show manager on demand.

THIS RULE TO BE PRINTED IN BOLD TYPE ON EVERY SHOW ENTRY FORM.

31. RECLASSIFICATION

- (a) A cat shall be reclassified by the SA Cat Registrar upon the unanimous, written opinion of three qualified judges.
- (b) Should the owner disagree with such proposed reclassification, he may request the show manager to appoint a different panel of three judges to review the decision. If such panel unanimously supports the proposed reclassification, the owner shall accept same.
- (c) Upon receipt of the reclassification form by the SACR, the Registrar shall compare the proposed colour/pattern to the cat's pedigree in order to determine whether the proposed colour/pattern is genetically possible from the pedigree. The Registrar may co-opt any genetically-knowledgeable member of SACC to assist in this if necessary.
- (d) Should a cat be reclassified as a different colour or pattern, such cat shall lose all major awards and/or titles earned before the reclassification.
- (e) If reclassification takes place at a show before judging, the cat may then be moved to the correct class and judged as such. However, if after receipt of the reclassification form by the SACR, the Registrar finds reason to reject the reclassification, any awards gained will become null and void.
- (f) All reclassifications of colour or pattern shall be subject to verification that the pedigree reflects the genetic possibility of such change. No re-registration will be done unless a copy of the pedigree is submitted to the Registrar within 7 days after the show.
- (g) If the pedigree does not support the proposed change, the cat will revert to its original registration and all awards under the new colour / pattern will fall away.
- (h) If the pedigree should not support the recommended changes, the SA Cat Registrar may investigate the matter and may use whatever appropriate means or support in order to do so.

32. REGIONAL COMPETITIONS

All Adult and Neuter finalists in annual regional competitions gain the letter RQ behind their names, denoting the title Regional Qualifier. The winners of the Adult and Neuter sections gain the letter RW behind their names, denoting the title Regional Winner.

33. CLUBS

- (a) A fine of R500.00 will be levied against clubs which allow cats that have been expressly denied breed recognition to be present at any SACC event.
- (b) Student/Pupil judges from any organisation other than SACC may not receive training at any SACC show.

- (c) Student and pupil judges from any organisation may be permitted to observe judging from within the judging area. The observer shall not initiate conversation with the judge. The presence of such observer shall take place only at the discretion of the show manager and with his prior approval, and with the consideration of other training supervised by the judge, and the interest of the cats and exhibitors.

The training of SACC student / pupil judges shall take precedence.

34. SHOWS HOSTED BY BREED GROUPS

SACC Breed Groups that want to hold shows may only do so under the auspices of a SACC club and must adhere to the following conditions:

- a. An application to be auspiced by a club must be made each year. Agreements to be auspiced cannot be indefinite.
- b. The application must include what is planned for the event, indicate the number of rings, any themes and a detailed outline of how any theme will be showcased.
- c. The list of judges to be invited must be submitted with the application for approval by the club committee.
- d. Any show held must comply with SACC Show Rules.
- e. The Breed Group must ensure that nothing is done at the Show to bring the auspice club or SACC into disrepute.
- f. The auspice club must have a representative present on the day of the Breed Group Show as a monitor.
- g. Approval or otherwise of an application for auspice is at the sole discretion of the club receiving the application.
- h. Members of the auspice club shall qualify for the same discounted entry fees as granted to members of the breed group.
- i. The auspice club and breed group shall define financial commitments in writing, in advance of initiating arrangements for the event.
- j. The auspice club shall not be held liable for any debts incurred by the breed group in connection with shows.
- k. The auspice club shall not be liable for any legal action that may arise in respect of such show.

35. NON-CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS

- a. Non-Championship Shows affiliated with or conducted under the auspices of SACC shall be organised in accordance with official SACC rules and standards. Although these events do not necessarily confer titles or certificates, they must uphold the same level of integrity, welfare standards, and judging protocols as Championship Shows.

All participating clubs and organisers are required to ensure that the show environment, procedures, and classifications meet the expectations set by SACC. This ensures consistency, transparency, and fairness across all SACC-linked feline events, regardless of competitive status.

- b. Non-Championship Shows are events in which cats compete outside of the standard championship structure, provided that prior approval has been granted by the Governing Council. These events may include, but are not limited to, regional competitions, exhibitions, and shows limited to kittens or domestic cats.
- c. Approval to host a Non-Championship Show requires a simple majority vote by the Governing Council.
- d. Judges appointed to officiate at these events must be approved by the Judges Council.
- e. At least 50% of the officiating judges at a Non-Championship Show must be members of a SACC-affiliated judges' panel.
- f. A judge may not officiate in any section of the event if a cat owned or bred by the judge, or by a member of their household, or by a first-degree relative, is participating in the competition.
- g. The hosting club shall be responsible for the organisation and execution of the event, including securing sponsorship and managing publicity.
- h. Show results must be determined using a transparent and fair system and must be audited by an independent party to ensure integrity.
- i. At regional shows, cats—excluding kittens and domestic cats—that qualify for the finals will entitle their owners to use the suffix RQ (Regional Qualifier) after the cat's registered name.
- j. Cats that win the finals at regional events will entitle their owners to use the suffix RW (Regional Winner) after the cat's registered name.
- k. No additional titles or designations, including those resulting from special classes presented at the event, shall be awarded or recognised by SACC.