



**East Coast Kwazulu Natal
PANEL OF CAT JUDGES**
IN PROUD ASSOCIATION WITH SACC

CONSTITUTION OF THE EAST COAST KWAZULU NATAL PANEL OF CAT JUDGES.

Updated December 2024

1. DEFINITION

This body shall be known as the East Coast Kwazulu Natal Panel of Cat Judges, hereafter referred to as “The Panel”.

2. MEMBERSHIP

2.1. The Panel shall be an autonomous body, formally recognized by the Governing Council of the Southern Africa Cat Council and shall consist of two membership formats i.e.:

2.1.1. Qualified Judges domiciled in South Africa and emigrated qualified ECKZN Judges, pending acceptance by another organisation.

2.1.1.1. ECKZN Judges domiciled in another country may only remain Panel members for a period of two years from the date of emigration.

2.1.2. Student Judges domiciled in South Africa. A student judge:

2.1.2.1. Will have no voting rights on The Panel.

2.1.2.2. May not nominate any qualified or student judge as a member.

2.1.2.3. May not make any proposals to the agenda of the AGM or any regular meetings.

2.2. The Panel may accept any qualified or student judge on The Panel by a simple majority vote (50% + 1). Qualified or student judges may apply for membership to The Panel in writing or maybe be nominated by a member of The Panel. The Panel does not need to provide any explanation to any person or body if the application for membership has not been successful.

2.2.1. A student judge must qualify as a judge of at least one of the judging divisions within two years.

2.2.2. If a student judge has not completed a judge's course within two years, they will cease their membership.

2.3. A qualified judge and a student judge needs to pay a yearly subscription to The Panel, equal to the amount decided upon at the AGM.

2.4. A student judge needs to pay a fee for each course, equal to the amount decided upon at the AGM. The fee is payable at the beginning of the course. The years' subscription fee will be included in the course fee.

2.5. Members of The Panel residing outside the borders of KZN are required to participate in at least one KZN Show and meeting of the Panel. Meetings and shows can be either physical or virtual and are inclusive of AGMs.

2.6. A member of The Panel may only belong to one judging panel.

2.7. Members invited to judge non-recognised breeds in a section, either locally or overseas, should ensure that they have studied breed and colour standards beforehand. However, Judges must be qualified to judge the actual Breed Section in SACC. Any member suspected of judging a section which they are not qualified to judge, will be suspended immediately and will be disciplined as per paragraph 6 of this Constitution.

3. OFFICE BEARERS

3.1. There shall be the following office bearers, all of whom shall be members of The Panel: Chairman, Treasurer, Liaison Officer/Secretary a Head Tutor.

3.2. Elections for these positions are to take place on alternate years only, at the first meeting of every year.

3.3. Office Bearers shall hold office for a period of two years only but may stand again for re-election.

3.4. The Head Tutor will be and all-breeds judge and will coordinate all training in The Panel.

4. FUNCTIONS

The functions of The Panel shall be:

4.1. To provide judges to officiate at recognized cat shows.

4.2. To select and train suitable candidates in accordance with the procedure lay down by the Judges Council of the Southern African Cat Council.

4.3. To ensure that all member judges undertake to judge strictly in accordance with the Standard of Points as currently accepted by the Southern Africa Cat Council.

4.4. To uphold the prestige of judging in all of its facets.

4.5. To uphold a knowledge of cats and breed standards and to assist breeders.

5. MEETINGS & VOTING

5.1 The Panel shall hold an AGM and regular meetings in order to decide on matters of importance to The Panel.

5.2 The secretary of The Panel will call an AGM at least 3 months before the meeting will be held and an agenda for the AGM will be send to all members 1 month before the meeting.

5.3 Only voting members of The Panel may place items on the agenda for the AGM and all agenda items must be received by the secretary at least 10 days before the agenda will be sent to all members.

5.4 Only one AGM will be held per year and all members of The Panel must attend the AGM. Any member failing to attend three consecutive AGM's (unless Leave of Absence has been granted) shall be deemed to have relinquished membership of The Panel.

5.5 Amendments or additions to the constitution may only be passed by a two thirds majority vote of The Panel at an AGM.

5.6 A quorum at the AGM will be 50% +1 of all the voting members on The Panel. When a quorum is not present at the start of the meeting, the meeting must be delayed for at least 30 minutes. The meeting can then continue if there are at least 3 voting members present. If 3 voting members are not present, then a new meeting must be called within 30 days. All the rules regarding voting and a quorum will still be enforced.

5.7 At least two general meetings of The Panel must be held per year via cyber space. Agendas are to be sent to all members at least two weeks before the meeting, except in extenuating circumstances.

5.8 A quorum at a regular meeting will be 50% +1 of all the voting members in the province. When a quorum is not present at the start of the meeting, the meeting must be delayed for at least 30 minutes. The meeting can then continue if there are at least 3 voting members present. If 3 voting members are not present, then a new meeting must be called within 30 days. All the rules regarding voting and a quorum will still be enforced.

5.9 Routine matters requiring a vote shall be decided by a simple majority of all members of The Panel by either the AGM or regular meeting. Routine matters can also be decided upon electronically.

5.10 AGM or regular meeting agendas must include electronic/postal votes for agenda items that require voting. Electronic/Postal votes must be received by the chairman of the meeting at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting. No voting can happen to any item that did not appear on the agenda.

5.11 Agenda items may only be amended if the majority of the voting members of The Panel at a meeting agreed to the amendment.

5.12 The secretary of The Panel must keep record of all the different minutes of meetings held in the different provinces.

5.13 At the AGM the provisional date for the following AGM must be set.

6. LEAVE OF ABSENCE

6.1. Leave of Absence shall be for an initial period of six months, at the end of which another six months may be applied for.

6.2. If Leave of Absence is for one year or more, then some form of refresher course should be undertaken as per The Panel decision.

7. DISCIPLINE

In the event of a complaint against a member of The Panel, the under mentioned procedure shall be adopted:

7.1. All complaints must be submitted in writing to the Chairman of The Panel.

7.2. The complaint must contain full particulars concerning the complainant, the member in violation and the complaint.

7.3. A complaint has to be lodged within 30 days of the complainant becoming aware of the alleged misconduct, violation or cause.

7.4. The Secretary of The Panel will acknowledge receipt of the complaint and inform the member concerned and all other members of The Panel of the complaint.

7.5. The member concerned has the right to answer in writing to the allegations.

7.6. At a regular meeting of The Panel, the complaint and answer thereto will be discussed and The Panel shall decide upon the merit of the complaint.

7.7. The Panel will thereafter vote whether or not a formal hearing needs to be held.

7.8. Upon the outcome of the vote referred in 9.7 the venue, date and time of the hearing will be determined.

7.9. Parties have the right to be represented by an attorney and may call witnesses.

7.10. The complainant and member concerned shall have no vote at the hearing.

7.11. Any member who by some close association has an interest in the outcome of the hearing, shall be duty-bound to disqualify himself/herself from participating in the voting.

7.12. After hearing all the evidence, the members shall vote, by secret ballots and the Chairman shall inform all parties of the outcome thereof. A two thirds majority shall determine the result.

7.13. An appeal against the outcome and/or penalty shall be filed with the Ethics Committee, within 30 days after the date of the decision with the Judges Council of the Southern Africa Cat Council and be dealt with according to a valid complaint procedure within this organization.

7.14. The Rules of the Southern Africa Cat Council are applicable in the event of an appeal.

8. CANDIDATES

8.1. At the first meeting of each year, The Panel will decide whether judges' courses will be run for that year. In the event that such a course will be run, The Panel will place on the agenda for the following meeting the following items:

8.1.1. Courses to be run for the year.

8.1.2. How many candidates will be accepted for the course.

9. DISSOLUTION

In the event of the dissolution of The Panel, all debts shall be settled and any balance of assets shall be dispersed to the Judges Council of the Southern Africa Cat Council.