



# **JUDGES' HANDBOOK**

## **Rules for SACC Judges**

Amended March 2026

### **1. EXPECTATIONS AND CONDUCT OF SACC JUDGES**

SACC Judges represent the SOUTHERN AFRICA CAT COUNCIL in all aspects of their conduct, responsibilities, and contributions they make to our Cat Fancy. It is their responsibility to ensure that the values, rules and constitution of SACC is promoted and upheld in all they do.

Through their interaction with the show teams, exhibitors and the general public at shows, judges play a significant role in the impression people have of our cat fancy in general. It is therefore important that SACC judges display the following skills and characteristics to the highest degree:

1. Judges should be dependable and reliable with regards to their duties and responsibilities to SACC and SACC Clubs.
2. They should be skilful at handling cat breeds, with an understanding of the different "handling needs" of the various breeds
3. SACC judges should display a thorough knowledge with regards to
  - 3.1. the anatomy and behaviour of cats
  - 3.2. basic genetics
  - 3.3. the various breed standards
  - 3.4. knowledge and understanding of SACC rules, show rules and the management processes of shows
  - 3.5. an in-depth understanding of SACC constitution, the Show rules, the SA Judges Council Constitution and any other Rules pertaining to Judges
4. SACC judges should be able to communicate with exhibitors, the general public, and people they come in contact with diplomacy and confidence.
5. Judges should be able to handle difficult situations with tact and self-control
6. Their judging must be unbiased, knowledgeable and clear reasons for their decisions should be given in their show reports.

### **2. CODE OF ETHICS**

SACC judges are expected to follow the highest code of ethics as follows:

- 2.1 Their behaviour, speech or dress code should be professional as befits a representative of SACC.
- 2.2 Always be aware that it is an honour to be invited by a SACC club or any other South African or international association.
- 2.3 Judges perform their duties with honour, dignity and integrity; without prejudice or bias.
- 2.4 Treat judging colleagues with consideration, courtesy and respect whether in person, verbally or in writing. No judge may publicly criticise another judge's decisions.
- 2.5 Treat exhibitors and the public pleasantly and with respect at any SACC event; whether officiating as a judge or not.
- 2.6 A judge should show reserve and prudence in his/ her public behaviour; in particular in the use of information and communication technologies.
- 2.7 A judge shall refrain from any activity, or placing him/ herself in a situation liable to undermine the honour, dignity, integrity or to discredit SACC and/ or the members of SA Judges Council.
- 2.8 A judge shall treat the cats they handle respectfully. ~~and gently and ensure the safety of cats while in their care.~~

### 3. DRESS CODE

- 3.1 SACC judges should be well groomed and dress smartly, but comfortably.
- 3.2 Strong perfumes and aftershave lotions should be avoided.
- 3.3 Dangling jewellery that may be caught in cats' claws should be avoided.

### 4. JUDGING

- 4.1 A judge is committed to judging and takes the necessary measures to ensure he/ she remains up to date with regards to genetics, new breeds, new trends and the breed standards in general.
- 4.2 On the day of the show, Judges should:
  - arrive well in time for judging
  - check judges' book before judging starts to check for errors and to determine what will be expected during the day's judging
- 4.3 Cats must be judged on the judges' table and not in their cages or the owner's arms, excluding special classes and finals. Cats that cannot be handled, should be disqualified as per SACC Show Rules.
- 4.4 Awards and decisions shall be based on strict adherence to the SACC Show Rules and Standard of Points and shall be recorded in ink in the judges' book and on award slips.
- 4.5 Judges who experience an unpleasant confrontation with an exhibitor, have the right to halt the confrontation and request that the Show Manager or another judge join the discussion to mediate and/ or calm things down. If the unpleasant situation continues, it is suggested that the discussion is ended immediately and either party lodge a complaint.

### 5. SHOW REPORTS

- 5.1 Show reports are the line of communication between a judge and an exhibitor.
- 5.2 Show reports must be written for all cats in Kitten, Open, Grand, Supreme and Household Pet classes; unless otherwise directed by the show manager.
- 5.3 When withholding major awards, reasons must be given which are based on the standard of points.
- 5.4 Show reports must be legible and the terminology used must be from the breed standard of a particular breed.
- 5.5 Show reports should be positive as far as possible, while honestly pointing out faults which may impact the awarding / or withholding of awards or future awards in higher classes.
- 5.6 All award slips must be signed before being sent to the Show manager.

### 6. JUDGES' PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 6.1 It is the responsibility of **SA Judges Council management** to organise at least 2 Breed Workshops/ Seminars each year (*They may be online seminars held in the evening or weekend afternoon/ evening session*).
  - 6.1.1 One seminar per year should include show Rules and basic colour genetics.

**Note:** Student judges are expected to attend breed Seminars/ Workshops of the breeds they are studying. ~~Their~~
- 6.2 Each **Judges Panel** should hold at least 2 Breed Workshops for their own members per year. They may invite judges from other panels to attend, present the workshop or present part of the workshop.

### 7. JUDGES AS EXHIBITORS

- 7.1 No Judge may judge in the classes that he/ she is exhibiting in, or has bred a cat.
- 7.2 No Judge may judge in the Best in Show finals/the CLASSES at the end of the day where he/ she is exhibiting/ has bred a cat.
- 7.3 No judge may handle or present his/ her cat for judging on the floor or during Best in Show finals.