



Dobermann Club Deutschland e.V.

Neckarweg 7, 34277 Fuldabrück

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Breeding and Working Judge Regulations

Adopted by the General Meeting 2025, registered with the Local Court of Apolda on 5 June 2025, amended by the General Meeting of October 2025.

Preamble

These Regulations are based on Section 3 II 3.1.3 of the Articles of Association of the Dobermann Club Deutschland e.V. (DCD) and on the current versions of the **VDH Breed Judge Regulations** and the **VDH Framework Regulations for Judges in Dog Sports** (version dated 1 September 2024, registered with the Local Court of Dortmund on 21 May 2025).

Section 1 – Purpose of the Judges' Committee

In cooperation with the Executive Board of DCD e.V., the Judges' Committee shall be responsible for all matters relating to Breed Judges and Working Judges.

The Committee shall ensure that Breed Judges and Working Judges make their decisions strictly in accordance with:

- the applicable FCI Breed Standard;
- where applicable, the Breeding Regulations, Breeding Approval Regulations and Breed Survey Regulations;
- the current **FCI IGP Trial Regulations** together with all applicable implementing directives.

Its objective is to ensure consistent and uniform evaluations with regard to breed type, working ability and breeding suitability.

The Committee shall also be responsible for the education and training of future judges through the training and examination commissions established for this purpose.

This shall require the Club to hold an official examination authorisation granted by the Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH).

If the Club does not hold such authorisation, Breed Judge and Working Judge candidates may, in accordance with VDH Regulations, complete their education and examinations within another VDH member club authorised to conduct such examinations. The examination results obtained there may subsequently be recognised by DCD e.V.



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Section 2 – Membership

The Judges' Committee shall consist of all Breed Judges and Working Judges officially recognised by DCD e.V., provided they are members of the Club.

Judge Candidates may, where appropriate, be invited to attend meetings of the Judges' Committee as guests for training purposes. Guest participants shall have neither speaking rights nor voting rights.

The President of DCD e.V. shall always be a member of the Judges' Committee, even if he or she is not a licensed judge.

In the President's absence, representation shall be assumed by the Vice President.

Section 3 – Chief Judge

The judges shall be represented within DCD e.V. by the **Chief Judge**.

The Chief Judge shall chair the Examination Commission responsible for the assessment of both Breed Judge Candidates and Working Judge Candidates.

The Chief Judge shall be elected by the Judges' Committee for a term of **three years** during a duly convened committee meeting.

At the same time, a **Deputy Chief Judge** shall be elected for the same term of office.

The Deputy Chief Judge shall act on behalf of the Chief Judge whenever the latter is absent or otherwise unable to perform the duties of office.

Applications for disciplinary measures against a Breed Judge or Working Judge resulting from misconduct shall be submitted by the Chief Judge to the **Honorary Council**, which shall decide upon the appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the Articles of Association and Club Regulations.

Section 4 – Administration

The **Chief Judge** of DCD e.V. shall chair the Judges' Committee. In the absence of the Chief Judge, the Deputy Chief Judge shall assume this responsibility.

The Deputy Chief Judge shall also serve as **Secretary** of the Committee and shall be responsible for recording the minutes of all meetings.

With the approval of the Judges' Committee, a separate Recording Secretary may be appointed.



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Section 5 – Committee Meetings

The Judges' Committee shall convene **at least once each calendar year** for a mandatory judges' conference.

Attendance at this conference is compulsory for all Breed Judges and Working Judges. Guests may be admitted at the discretion of the Committee.

Judges who repeatedly fail to attend, or who do not participate in any mandatory judges' conference for **three consecutive years**, shall be removed from the list of judges maintained by DCD e.V.

The invitation to the annual judges' conference shall be issued by the Chief Judge no later than **four weeks** before the scheduled meeting date.

Each invited judge shall confirm attendance in writing to ensure that the required quorum of at least **51%** of all judges will be present.

The invitation may also be published on the Club's official website or distributed by e-mail.

Section 6 – Register of Judges

DCD e.V. shall maintain an official register of all:

- Breed Judges;
- Working Judges; and
- Honorary Judges.

The Chief Judge shall ensure that this register is kept up to date and that all required amendments are reported to the **Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH)**.

A judge shall, among other reasons, be removed from the Register of Judges:

- upon his or her own written request;
 - upon death;
 - following disciplinary action for violations of these Judge Regulations as determined by the Honorary Council;
 - upon reaching the applicable age limit established by the VDH and DCD Regulations, unless an extension has been granted by the Executive Board upon application.
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Section 7 – Confidentiality

All discussions and proceedings of the Judges' Committee shall be treated as strictly confidential.

Every participant, including invited guests, shall be bound by an absolute duty of confidentiality.

Only after the minutes have been circulated and approved by the Executive Board may resolutions of the Judges' Committee be published on the official website of DCD e.V. by the Chief Judge.

Any breach of confidentiality may result in disciplinary action by the Honorary Council.

Section 8 – Honorary Judges

A long-serving and distinguished judge of DCD e.V. who has reached the age of **70 years** may, upon resolution of the Judges' Committee, be appointed as an **Honorary Judge**.

Following such appointment, the Honorary Judge shall no longer officiate at events but shall remain a member of the Judges' Committee in an advisory capacity without voting rights.

Section 9 – Judging Appointments Abroad

Any judging appointment outside Germany under the authority of another **National Canine Organisation (NCO)** shall be subject to the applicable FCI and VDH Regulations.

DCD e.V. shall notify the **Verband für das Deutsche Hundewesen (VDH)** accordingly so that the judge may be included in the official **FCI Register of Judges**, where applicable.

Every judging appointment abroad shall require the prior approval of both the **Chief Judge of DCD e.V.** and the **VDH**.

Applications for approval shall be submitted to the Club Office in sufficient time to ensure proper coordination of event schedules between the participating clubs and national organisations.

There shall be **no legal entitlement** to such approval.

Section 10 – Examination Commissions

For the education and qualification of future judges, appropriate **Examination Commissions** shall be established.



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Each Examination Commission shall consist of **three Senior Judges**, chaired by the acting **Chief Judge**.

Separate Examination Commissions shall be appointed for:

- **Breed Judge Candidates;** and
- **Working Judge Candidates.**

The Examination Commission for Breed Judges shall always include:

- the **Head Breed Warden;** and
- the **Chief Judge of DCD e.V.**

The Examination Commission for Working Judges shall always include:

- the **Chief Judge;** and
- the **Head of Training and Working Activities (OAL – Obmann/Obfrau für Ausbildung und Leistung).**

These Examination Commissions shall be responsible for:

- the education and training of judge candidates;
- monitoring their practical training;
- conducting examinations; and
- administering the final qualification examination.

Section 11 – Rights and Duties of Judges

Breed Judges and Working Judges perform an essential function within **Dobermann Club Deutschland e.V.**

The preservation and future development of the Dobermann breed, as well as the public reputation of organised cynology, depend upon the judges' professional competence, personal integrity, exemplary conduct, and sound judgement, both within the field of cynology and in their private lives.

Judges may fulfil these responsibilities only if they possess:

- comprehensive professional knowledge;
- high ethical standards;
- personal integrity; and
- complete independence in the exercise of their duties.

Judges shall evaluate dogs exclusively in accordance with:



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- the currently valid **FCI Breed Standard**; or
- the applicable **FCI IGP Trial Regulations**, as appropriate.

Judges also serve as advisers to exhibitors and handlers and shall provide guidance and explanations in a courteous, impartial, and constructive manner.

In accordance with **Section 4 (2) of the VDH Breed Judge Regulations**, the evaluation of dogs outside the VDH system is permissible and not prohibited.

Judges shall conduct themselves courteously, professionally, and with dignity at all DCD e.V. events.

No judge shall:

- make personal attacks against another judge in publications, judges' reports, or meetings;
- publicly criticise the decisions of the officiating judge;
- encourage exhibitors, handlers, or participants to challenge or oppose a judge's decisions.

No judge shall be obliged to accept a judging appointment.

Acceptance or refusal of an invitation shall be communicated to the event organiser without undue delay following receipt of the written invitation.

Judges are prohibited from soliciting judging appointments or offering to officiate free of charge or at reduced remuneration, including by accepting private accommodation or similar personal arrangements intended to influence the appointment.

All documentation required for the proper conduct of a conformation show, breed survey, or working trial shall be completed accurately, carefully reviewed, and finalised at the event venue.

Section 12 – Judicial Supervision

The supervision and oversight of Breed Judges and Working Judges shall be the responsibility of the **Chief Judge**.

All judges serving on the Judges' Committee are obliged to report any observed violations of these Regulations committed by DCD judges to the Chief Judge.

Anonymous complaints shall not be considered.

Should evidence arise indicating that a judge no longer fulfils the standards and objectives required of the office, disregards significant professional knowledge or developments in his or her evaluations, lacks the necessary professional competence, or behaves in a manner



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that gives rise to justified public complaints, the **Honorary Council** may, after hearing the Chief Judge, suspend or permanently remove that individual from judicial office.

Removal from judicial office shall automatically result in the loss of membership and voting rights within the Judges' Committee of DCD e.V.

In cases requiring immediate action, the Chief Judge may impose a **temporary suspension** of the judge's activities, including all judging appointments, for a period of up to **three months**, pending the final decision of the Honorary Council.

In such cases, the Chief Judge shall, in consultation with the Executive Board, promptly submit a formal application to the Honorary Council requesting the initiation of disciplinary proceedings.

A judge shall not officiate at a conformation show, breed survey, or other event involving dogs that are owned, co-owned, possessed, or handled by another judge officiating at the same event.

Judges shall likewise exercise the utmost restraint when evaluating dogs owned, co-owned, possessed, or handled by close relatives.

For the purposes of these Regulations, **close relatives** shall include spouses, registered partners, persons living in a permanent domestic partnership, members of breeding partnerships, co-owners, and persons sharing the same household.

Section 13 – Judge Candidates

A person may be admitted as a **Judge Candidate** provided that he or she:

- has been a member of DCD e.V. for at least **five years**;
- possesses proven pedagogical ability;
- has a good command of the German language, both spoken and written;
- is at least **25 years** of age and not older than **65 years**.

Additional Requirements for Breed Judge Candidates

Applicants for appointment as **Breed Judge Candidates** shall additionally:

- be an active breeder and, at the time of application, have successfully bred at least **three litters**, preferably with previous experience as a Breed Warden;
- have served on several occasions as Trial Secretary, Show Secretary, or Specialty Show Secretary;
- have personally trained a dog and successfully handled it to qualification in the **BH/VT (Companion Dog Test with Traffic Test)**.



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Additional Requirements for Working Judge Candidates

Applicants for appointment as **Working Judge Candidates** shall:

- be active handlers with many years of practical experience in the training and handling of working dogs;
- hold the **VDH Certificate of Competence** for instructors in working dog sports;
- have served as Trial Secretary at a minimum of **two working trials**;
- have successfully completed the theoretical section of the DCD Helper (Decoy) Training Course;
- have personally trained at least **two dogs** and successfully handled them through the examination levels **BH, IGP 1, IGP 2, and IGP 3** within DCD e.V. or another organisation recognised by the VDH;
- have successfully qualified one of these dogs for a **German Championship Qualifying Trial** or have successfully handled one at a recognised National Championship abroad;
- have personally trained at least one of these dogs through **FH (Tracking Dog)** level and successfully presented it in competition;
- demonstrate active participation in the activities of DCD e.V.;
- possess comprehensive knowledge of the Dobermann Breed Standard, anatomy, and breed-specific temperament;
- fulfil the personal suitability requirements set out in these Regulations.

Comparable experience in official service dog programmes may be taken into consideration but shall not, by itself, replace the above requirements.

Applications for admission as a Judge Candidate shall be submitted through the applicant's Local Group to the Chief Judge and shall include a written recommendation from the Local Group.

In accordance with **Section 72a of the German Social Code (SGB VIII)**, an up-to-date enhanced certificate of good conduct shall be enclosed with the application.

If all admission requirements have been fulfilled, the Judges' Committee shall decide at its next meeting whether the applicant is admitted to the training programme.

Following admission, the education programme shall comprise:

- a written preliminary examination;
- a written paper on a freely chosen cynological subject;
- at least **six practical judging assignments (apprenticeships)** completed within a period of **two years**; and
- a final examination conducted by the Examination Commission.

A written report shall be prepared for each apprenticeship and submitted, together with the supervising judge's written evaluation, to the **Head of Training and Working Activities (OAL)** within **four weeks** after the respective event.



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All expenses relating to judge training shall be borne by the Judge Candidate.

Should the Examination Commission determine during the training programme, or upon completion of the final examination, that the candidate has not demonstrated the required competence, it shall issue a written decision stating the reasons.

Completion of the apprenticeship programme shall **not** create any legal entitlement to appointment as a Breed Judge or Working Judge.

A candidate who fails the final examination may, after completing **two additional apprenticeships**, apply once for admission to a repeat final examination.

Only **one repeat examination** shall be permitted.

Section 14 – Final Provisions

The **VDH Judge Regulations** shall take precedence unless these Regulations expressly provide for a permissible deviation.

These Regulations, together with any future amendments, shall be adopted by resolution of the General Meeting of DCD e.V.

They shall enter into force upon adoption by the General Meeting and shall replace all previous Judge Regulations of DCD e.V.

The Regulations shall be published on the official website of DCD e.V.

These **Breeding and Working Judge Regulations** form an integral part of the Articles of Association and shall become effective upon registration in the Register of Associations.

For reasons of readability, gender-neutral terminology is used throughout these Regulations.

Last updated: October 2025

The German version of these Breeding Approval Regulations shall constitute the sole authentic and legally binding text. The English translation is provided for information and convenience only. In the event of any discrepancy, inconsistency, or ambiguity between the two versions, the German text shall prevail.