

NZCCA Judge Training and Requirements

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Official Points Approved Cowboy Challenges require two or more judges for the competition. As well as scoring, a judge approves the course and overall times prior to the event, and must join all course walks with competitors and answer questions from them.

A judge interacts with Challenge hosts, other judges, competitors, writers, scorers etc and may be put into demanding situations on occasion. As representatives of NZCCA, judges are expected to be diplomatic and professional at all times. We have a Judge Rights & Responsibilities document which outlines what judges are expected to do and what they can expect as a judge. **All judges are expected to be fully conversant with the current Rule Book, including requirements of all obstacles.** Judges (including trainees) must be members of NZCCA.

Applying to be a Judge

- 1 Contact NZCCA who will ask you to complete an application and provide names of referees.
- 2 The Council will consider your application and advise their decision in writing. If you are accepted, you start on the trainee judge process. The Council's decision is final and no discussion will be entered into.

Trainee Judge Process

- 1 You must be a judge writer at three separate Points Approved Cowboy Challenges*. This may be with either a qualified or a probationary judge.
- 2 After completing the writing, you must sit alongside and observe a qualified judge (not a probationary judge) at three separate Points Approved Cowboy Challenges*. During this time you are to:
 - Join the course approval if possible and join all the course walks.
 - Score riders and note the scores down (you don't need an official score sheet).
 - Interact with the judge to compare/discuss scoring as possible during judging and afterwards (you are not required to show the judge your scores or discuss all scores).

*Each time you write and observe it must be for the full Challenge, which has to incorporate at least two rounds (ie a one round Challenge does not count); you may not do this at a Challenge you are riding in.

It is up to you to arrange these sessions with the respective Challenge organisers, as well as the judge when you are observing. When observing, you are responsible for providing your own resources, food etc; this is not up to the Challenge host.

Sign Off: Each time you write or observe, you must have the judge sign your Trainee Sign Off form. Submit the completed form to NZCCA after you have undertaken all sessions. *These Sign Offs are your responsibility to obtain and are essential in order to be assessed.*

Assessment: Once NZCCA has received your Sign Offs, they will arrange for you to undertake the trainee assessment with a qualified judge. You will be advised in writing by NZCCA upon passing the assessment, confirmed as a Probationary Judge and provided with a judge badge.

Timeframe: The trainee process is to be completed within two seasons. If this is not achieved, NZCCA will consider if further training is required before undertaking your assessment.

Probationary Judge Process

- 1 You must judge at three separate Points Approved Cowboy Challenges for their full duration, and the Challenge has to incorporate at least two rounds. The other judge must be a qualified judge. On the third probationary judging you will be observed/assessed by a qualified judge (see below).
- 2 You must participate in the course approval and course walk for all three Challenges. Note that you may not complete the course approval on your own as a Probationary Judge.

Sign Off: Submit your completed Probationary Sign Off form to NZCCA after your have judged at two Challenges and advise NZCCA well in advance when your third judging is scheduled. *These Sign Offs are your responsibility to obtain and are essential in order to be assessed at your third judging.*

Assessment: NZCCA will arrange for a qualified judge to observe and assess you at your third judging. A report will be completed by you and the assessing judge, who will make a recommendation to NZCCA to approve your judging or for further training. NZCCA will notify you in writing when probationary judging is complete and you are confirmed as a qualified judge. You may only judge in this capacity after you receive this confirmation.

Timeframe: Probationary Judging is to be completed within two seasons. If this is not achieved, NZCCA will consider if further probationary judging or other review is required.

Note:

- Any rulings that need to be made during the Challenge (eg penalty for outside interference) must be decided in conjunction with the other qualified judge.
- If 3 judges are used, two may be probationary but a probationary judge may be part of a 3 judge team once only.

Ongoing Judge Training

NZCCA holds regular judge “standardisation” days for qualified and probationary judges, in order to verify that all are judging to a similar standard. These are currently held in person annually, and other training/discussion sessions are held online via Zoom. Judges are expected to keep current and must attend a standardisation session (as determined by NZCCA) at least once every two years in order to remain as a judge.

If a qualified judge is not active as a judge for two seasons, they will be required to undertake a review before judging again.

Appointing Judges for Challenges

NZCCA publishes a list of available qualified and probationary judges with their contact details. Organisers of Challenges are responsible for arranging judges for their competitions and will make contact directly. NZCCA has a recommended fee that a judge is paid as well as negotiated travel expenses (refer to Guide to Organising a Cowboy Challenge). The fees and expenses should be discussed at the time of the request to judge. The organiser is also responsible for providing accommodation and meals. If judging at an event away from home, it is common practice to stay with someone nearby as arranged by the Challenge organiser.

Definitions:

- Trainee Judge: a person approved by NZCCA to train as a judge - may not judge a Points Approved class.
- Probationary Judge: a person who has completed trainee requirements and is judging for their first three Points Approved Challenges - may only judge if the other judge is fully qualified.
- Qualified Judge: a person who has completed judge training and probationary judging, and confirmed as fully qualified by NZCCA.