



## **MEMBERSHIP CONDITIONS**

### **1. Membership Eligibility**

The Association of Show and Competition Judges (“Association”) offers three types of membership – (1) Full members; (2) Associate members; and (3) Retired judges.

1.1 **Full membership** is open to individuals, over the age of 18, who have completed the required level of judge training in their discipline, as determined by the Management Team. Retired judges are also eligible for full membership.

1.2 **Associate membership** is open to individuals, over the age of 18, who are training, or interested in training, to become a judge. Show stewards may also apply for associate membership.

1.3 **Retired Judges** - membership will be open to qualified judges, who have retired from active judging.

### **2. Application Process**

2.1 Individuals can apply for membership by completing an online Membership Form and returning it to the Membership Secretary.

2.2 The Membership Secretary may request further details from an individual to support their application.

2.3 The Membership Secretary will confirm the outcome of the application within 7 working days of receipt.

2.4 Applicants may be required to provide evidence of their training and qualifications, and any practical experience. The Membership Secretary may request additional evidence or require the applicant to undergo further testing (e.g. through shadowing).

2.5 Acceptance of an application for membership is solely at the discretion of the Management Team. If an application is not accepted, the applicant will be provided with a reason for the decision.



### **3. Annual Membership Period**

- 3.1 The membership period runs from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December.
- 3.2 Membership expires automatically at the end of the membership period unless renewed through payment of the annual membership fee (see Section 4)
- 3.2 Interested individuals can apply to join the Association at any time. Fees will be pro-rated in accordance with 4.4 below.

### **4. Membership Fees**

- 4.1 Membership fees are set annually by the Management Team.
- 4.2 Fees will be communicated to members at least 30 days before the start of the membership period to which agreed fees apply.
- 4.3 Membership fees become due at the start of the Annual Membership Period (See 3.1 above)
- 4.4 For individuals applying for membership during the membership period, their membership will commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month following the acceptance of their application. Fees will be reduced by 50% for applications received after 30<sup>th</sup> June of the membership year.

### **5. Membership Benefits**

- 5.1 As part of their membership package, full and associate members will benefit from a range of continuing professional development and networking activities. These are set out in the Association's "Member Offer"
- 5.2 The Association will also promote its full member judges to local, regional and national shows and competitions, to build their profile and increase opportunities for judging.
- 5.3 All member benefits will be reviewed and publicised on a regular basis.
- 5.4 For the avoidance of doubt, the cost of training courses for associate members to qualify as judges in any discipline, are not included as part of the associate membership fee.
- 5.5 Further training may be made available to members from time to time and at an additional cost.

### **6. Member Requirements**



- 6.1 Members must uphold the professional standards and reputation of the Association and adhere to its values.
- 6.2 Members are required to comply with:
- All Association policies, procedures and guidance.
  - Member responsibilities and any codes of conduct, including the requirement to hold a valid Food Hygiene & Safety certificate, where appropriate.
  - Continuing professional development requirements, as determined by the Management Team, and in consultation with members.
- 6.2 Members are required to pay any outstanding fees by the date requested otherwise they shall forfeit their right to represent the Association, participate in Association activities or vote in Association meetings, until such fees are paid.

## **7. Associate Members**

- 7.1 Associate membership are individuals, over the age of 18, who are training, or interested in training, to become a judge. Stewards may also be associate members.
- 7.2 Associate members are expected to comply with membership responsibilities as appropriate to their current status.

## **8. Retired Judges**

- 8.1 Retired judges are those who have completed the required level of judge training in their discipline but are no longer actively involved in judging or seeking judging opportunities.
- 8.2 Retired judges may retain membership, at a reduced subscription fee, as determined by the Management Team.
- 8.3 Retired judges do not need to meet the Association's Continuing Professional Development requirements to maintain their membership but are expected to comply with the Member Responsibilities.

## **9. Cancellation of membership – by you**

- 9.1 A member may cancel their membership at any time, by notice in e-mail.



- 9.2 Cancellation of membership should be notified to the Membership Secretary, who will acknowledge receipt and confirm the process for leaving the Association.
- 9.3 Membership fees will not be refundable upon cancellation of membership.
- 9.4 The departing member will be removed from the Judges list at the earliest opportunity.

## **10. Suspension or termination of membership – by us**

- 10.1 Membership may be suspended or terminated by the Management Team if a member fails to meet the requirements set out in Section 6 and 11.1.
- 10.2 If membership is suspended or terminated, the member will be informed in writing and provided with reason(s) behind the decision.
- 10.3 Members have the right to appeal suspension or termination and must notify the Membership Secretary in writing within 5 working days of receiving notification (set out in 9.2 above) of their intention to appeal.
- 10.4 The appeal must be received in writing by the Membership Secretary within 10 working days of the suspension or termination being issued (as in 9.2 above)
- 10.5 Appeals will be considered by the Management Team, which may request additional evidence or discussions with the appellant.
- 10.6 Membership fees will not be refundable upon termination of membership.

## **11. Member Data**

- 11.1 Data will be collected for the purposes of communicating with members; understanding their training and development needs; responding to requests from show and competition organisers looking for judges; and delivering the member benefits set out in Section 5 above.
- 11.2 The Association will, as part of the application process, obtain consent from members that they permit the use of their data for the purposes outlined in Section 10.1.
- 11.3 Data will be stored securely.
- 11.4 Part of the Association's role is to introduce members to shows and competitions. Individual member details or data will not be shared with any third party, without consent of the member.



- 11.5 Members can revoke their consent or request access to data held about them at any time.

## **12. Responsibility and Liability**

- 12.1 The Association expects members to champion their disciplines, maintain professional standards and show fairness, integrity, and encouragement at all times.
- 12.2 Members enter into their own agreements and arrangements with shows and competitions. The Association is not liable for any losses, claims or damages arising directly or indirectly from any act or omission of members at such events.