



AWEBSA RULE 14 OF 2014: JUDGES AND JUDGING

R14.1 Code of Conduct for AWEBSA Judges

Appointment to the AWEBSA Main Panel of Judges shall be an acknowledgement that a member of the Association has attained a high proficiency in the breeding, exhibition and assessment of budgies (both wild-types and exhibition) according to the AWEBSA standards of perfection.

Appointment to the AWEBSA Wild-type Panel of Judges would be after a member has demonstrated a proficiency in the breeding, exhibition and assessment of wild-type budgies.

A judge must share the AWEBSA passion for the enhancement and exhibition of budgies and its mutations.

Judges must:

- R14.1.1 Have a passion for both exhibition and wild-type budgies;
- R14.1.2 Remain active as breeders and/or exhibitors of quality budgies;
- R14.1.3 Remain abreast of the latest information regarding the evaluation of the standards of perfection of budgies and of ***all colours and varieties***;
- R14.1.4 Ensure that their conduct shall at all times exemplify the dignity and high esteem of their appointment to all members of the Association;
- R14.1.5 Singularly and collectively, actively strive to improve the quality of the standards of perfection and their actions, including their judging, shall reflect this endeavour;
- R14.1.6 Always assess budgies according to the Standard for the Ideal Budgerigars as approved by the Governing Body of AWEBSA and in line with the items identified that could lead to penalizing or disqualifying of exhibits;
- R14.1.7 Place all exhibits fairly, honestly and impartially according to these standards;
- R14.1.8 Attend judge's meetings, conferences, etc. in order to stay abreast of developments, to further the improvement of the Ideal, Colour Standards, Show Schedule, Scale of Points, Faults Requiring Disqualification, Guidelines and the Judges' Book, etc. and to promote uniform judging standards;

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- R14.1.9 Remain abreast of the handling and completion of the prescribed documentation and show program, when applicable, required during judging;
- R14.1.10 Respond to judging invitations in writing and shall not withdraw from an engagement that has been accepted without good reason;
- R14.1.11 Not compromise their impartiality nor blemish the high esteem of their position by:
 - R14.1.11.1 Viewing any member's birds in the two (2) weeks prior to a Show where at the member will or could exhibit before him/her;
 - R14.1.11.2 Accepting accommodation or hospitality from an exhibitor before benching has been completed;
 - R14.1.11.3 Discussing the merit or otherwise of an exhibit until judging has been completed;
 - R14.1.11.4 Openly criticizing the decisions of another judge or the judging ability of any member of the Panel of Judges;
 - R14.1.11.5 Advertising his/her judging ability in such a manner as to harm the dignity of fellow judges;
 - R14.1.11.6 Being party to, or in any way assisting an exhibitor to defraud or in any way contravene the spirit of the AWEBSA Constitution; and
 - R14.1.11.7 Acting or behaving in an unethical manner.
- R14.1.11 Be aware that they are not permitted to show birds at a Show at which he/she is officiating unless he/she is only judging either the exhibition budgie or wild-type budgie categories. In such an instance, the judge may exhibit in the category he/she is not officiating.

R14.2 Functions of Judges

- R14.2.1 Judges shall support and encourage the exhibition of budgies by adjudicating budgies at shows fairly in terms of the accepted standards.
- R14.2.2 Judges shall encourage mutation breeding and exhibiting.
- R14.2.3 Judges appointed as examining judges shall test all applicants.

R14.3 Duties and Powers

- R14.3.1 A Judge on the AWEBSA main panel of judges can officiate and judge both exhibition and wild-type budgies.
- R14.3.2 A Judge on the AWEBSA wild-type panel of judges can only officiate and judge wild-type budgies until such time that he/she qualifies in terms of the minimum requirements to qualify for a trainee judge in respect of exhibition budgies.
- R14.3.3 The Judge's decision shall be final, except where fraud, misrepresentation or collusion is afterwards proven.

- R14.3.4 No alteration shall be made to the awards by the judge after he/she has finished judging at a show without first obtaining the permission of the Show Committee.
- R14.3.5 Judges shall evaluate the classes designated to them at shows in accordance with the Ideal/s, Colour Standards, Scale of Points, Faults Requiring Disqualification and Guidelines and may award the allotted prizes if the birds are of a sufficiently high standard or withhold the awards.
- R14.3.6 Whenever a judge “passes” or “No Award” (N/A) an exhibit, he shall mark the reason therefor on the cage ticket.
- R14.3.7 Whenever a judge “Wrong Class” (W/C) an exhibit, he/she shall mark the reason therefor on the cage ticket.
- R14.3.8 Judges shall wear an identification badge when officiating at Championship Shows.
- R14.3.9 A judge shall act in an honorary capacity but may be reimbursed all or part of his expenses.
- R14.3.10 Judges shall attend as many Judges’ Conferences, Seminars and Meetings as possible and shall adhere to the resultant written guidelines that are approved by the Judges’ Committee and ratified by the Governing Body of the Association.

R14.4 Requirements for the Appointment of Trainee Judges

R14.4.1 Criteria for appointment as Trainee Judge Exhibition Budgies

Before an application for appointment as a trainee judge for exhibition budgies will be considered, the applicant must have been:

- R14.4.1.1 A breeder and exhibitor of budgerigars for a period of not less than eight (8) years (not all eight (8) years necessarily as a member of AWEBSA);
- R14.4.1.2 A Junior member does not qualify to apply until they are at least seventeen (17) years old and provided all other criteria are met;
- R14.4.1.3 A paid-up member of AWEBSA and a Club at the time of appointment;
- R14.4.1.4 Been at least two (2) years as Intermediate show status; and
- R14.4.1.5 Stewarded on at least ten (10) Championship Shows of which at least six (6) were as a senior steward (Not necessarily as a member of AWEBSA) or performed the duties of the Show Secretary four (4) Provincial/National Championship Shows.

R14.4.2 Criteria for appointment as Trainee Judge Wild-Type Budgies

Before an application for appointment as a trainee judge will be considered, the applicant must have been:

- R14.4.2.1 A breeder and exhibitor of wild-type budgies for a period of not less than four (4) years (not all four (4) years necessarily as a member of AWEBBSA);
- R14.4.2.2 A Junior member does not qualify to apply until they are at least seventeen (17) years old and provided all other criteria are met;
- R14.4.2.3 A paid-up member of AWEBBSA and a Club at the time of appointment; and
- R14.4.2.4 Stewarded on at least four (4) Championship Shows of which at least three (3) were as a senior steward (Not necessarily as a member of AWEBBSA) or performed the duties of the Show Secretary two (2) Provincial/National Championship Shows.

R14.5 Application for Appointment as a Trainee Judge

- R14.5.1 The AWEBBSA member must apply via his/her Club and in writing to the AWEBBSA EXCO to be considered for the appointment as a Trainee Judge. The application must:
 - R14.5.1.1 Indicate whether the application is for Main panel judge or wild-type;
 - R14.5.1.2 Provide motivation why the member wants to become a judge; and
 - R14.5.1.3 Supply evidence that the requirements for becoming a trainee judge have been met.
- R14.5.2 On receipt of a prospective trainee judge's application, the AWEBBSA EXCO will verify that the applicant complies with the requirements. If not, the applicant would be advised what is still outstanding, in writing, by the AWEBBSA General Secretary.
- R15.5.3 The AWEBBSA General Secretary will refer the application of a member that qualifies to the Judges' Committee.
- R15.5.4 The Judges' Committee will then register the applicant as a Trainee Judge.
- R14.5.5 Such Trainee Judge will then be required to undergo a written examination on the Judges Book, the Constitution, Rules and guideline documents on judging, or any other documents supplied by the Judges' Committee.
- R14.5.6 Upon successful completion of the written examination he/she will be required, for training purposes, to assist a qualified judge at a minimum of four (4) Championship or Provincial shows, as approved by the Judges' Committee, the fourth one being the final assessment for both exhibition and wild-type budgies.
- R14.5.7 The fourth (4th) assessment, which will focus mainly on colour identification, will be to determine if the Trainee Judge is ready and has the necessary confidence to proceed. The Trainee Judge will then be given the option to proceed.
- R14.5.8 Thereafter the Trainee Judge may apply in writing to the Secretary of the Judges Committee to undergo two (2) practical tests which shall include a detailed colour identification.

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- R14.5.9 The tests shall be undertaken at Provincial and/or National Championship Shows if two (2) eligible judges are available.
- R14.5.10 A document on the testing procedures will be supplied to all aspirant Trainee Judges.
- R14.5.11 Judges from the Main Panel will be appointed to officiate as examining judges by the Judges' Committee provided that they have been judges for at least three (3) years.
- R14.5.12 Written reports of each test, on the forms provided for this purpose by the Secretary of the Judges' Committee, shall be completed by the examining judge and returned, sealed in the self-addressed stamped envelope, to the Secretary of the Judges' Committee immediately after the show.
- R14.5.13 The results are to be verified by the Judges' Committee.
- R14.5.14 A Trainee Judge shall pass each test upon obtaining a minimum eighty percent (80%) pass mark.
- R14.5.15 On receipt of the written report, the Judges' Committee may either allow the Trainee Judge to undergo the next test if he/she has passed the test or require him/her to be re-examined at a further show under the same conditions.
- R14.5.16 When a Trainee Judge has passed the final test, the Judges' Committee shall advise the Trainee Judge of his/her appointment, issue a judges' certificate and identification badge and add the judge to the Panel of Judges.
- R14.5.17 The Judges' Committee will inform the AWESBA EXCO of the appointment. The AWESBA General Secretary will inform the Clubs accordingly.

R14.6 Foreign Judges

- R14.6.1 A person whose name appears on the current Panel of Judges or Judges' Register of a specialist budgerigar authority outside the Republic of South Africa may, subject to the prior approval of the Judges Committee and to such terms and conditions as the Judges Committee may in each individual case impose, officiate as a judge at one or more Championship Shows of the Association. Particular focus would be the judge's exposure and competency to judge wild-type budgies.
- R14.6.2 The Judges' Committee may approve the permanent appointment of suitably experienced international judges to the Main Panel of Judges under such conditions as may be imposed in each individual case.
- R14.6.3 It shall be incumbent upon the Judges' Committee to ensure that such a judge be fully informed of the Standards of Perfection, Scale of Points, Colour Standards, Faults Requiring Disqualification and Guidelines of the Association.

R14.7 Judges' Bodies

R14.7.1 The Judges' Committee

- R14.7.1.1 A Judges' Committee, comprising of a Chairman, Secretary and one (1) additional member shall administer matters pertaining to judges and shall hold at least one (1) meeting, whether a physical meeting or via WhatsApp, per annum. Ultimately three (3) additional members must form part of the Judges Committee;
- R14.7.1.2 The Judges' Committee shall consider such matters pertaining to the functions and duties of judges of the Association and make recommendations to the Governing Body for amendments of the Constitution and Rules for consideration and approval;
- R14.7.1.3 The Judges' Committee shall endeavour to attain the highest standard of judging by the Panel of Judges;
- R14.7.1.4 The Judges Committee will deal with complaints received against judges and act as Disciplinary Committee;
- R14.7.1.5 The only exception is when the complaint is against the Chairperson. The matter will then be handled by the Disciplinary Committee appointed by the Governing Body; and
- R14.7.1.6 The Judges' Committee shall annually arrange a Judges' Seminar in conjunction with Association's AGM.

R14.7.2 Judges' Meetings

- R14.7.2.1 A Judges' Meeting at which all participating judges, other judges present at the show and the Show Manager will attend, shall be held at each Championship Show to discuss matters pertaining to the judging and the Show;
- R14.7.2.2 Where the Chairman, Secretary or an additional member of the Judges' Committee cannot be present, the Judges' Committee will, by prior arrangement, appoint a chairman and/or secretary from the officiating judges; and
- R14.7.2.3 Minutes of the meeting shall be submitted to the Judges' Committee who in turn shall refer any relevant matters to the AWEB SA EXCO.

R14.7.3 The Judges' Conference

- R14.7.3.1 A Judges' Conference may be held annually at a time and place nominated by the Judges' Committee allowing sufficient time in terms of the provisions of the AWEB SA Constitution for the proposals of such conference to be circulated and considered at the Annual General Meeting of the Governing Body;
- R14.7.3.2 The judges present at the Judges' Conference shall consider:
- Recommendations by the Judges' Committee and the Judges' Meetings held after each Championship Show during the past show season;
 - The Show Schedule;
 - The Scale of Points;
 - The Colour Standards;
 - The Standards of the Ideal Budgerigars;
 - The functioning of the electronic show program (if applicable) and
 - The Administrative Procedure Manual applicable to the shows of the Association.

R14.8 Election of Office Bearers

- R14.8.1 The Judges' Committee shall be elected every second year preferably prior to the Annual General Meeting of the Governing Body.
- R14.8.2 The Secretary of the Judges' Committee shall contact each judge on the Panel of Judges in each alternate year to establish which members are willing to stand for election on the Judges' Committee.
- R.14.8.3 The Secretary of the Judges' Committee shall forward a ballot paper, containing the names of all the judges who indicated their willingness to stand, to each judge on the Panel of Judges by not later than 30th September in that year.
- R14.8.4 Judges may then cast their votes for the nominees for the Judges' Committee and must return the ballot papers to the Secretary of Judges Committee before 31st October in that year.
- R14.8.5 The nominees with the most votes, up to a maximum of five (5) members, shall be duly elected and their names shall be announced at the following meeting of the Governing Body or via the Governing body WhatsApp group.
- R14.8.6 In the event of one or more nominees receiving the same number of votes and through that qualifies to be on the committee, these nominees will be deemed elected, provided the maximum of five (5) members is not exceeded. If so, the nominees will be approached by the Secretary of the judge's committee to establish who would be prepared to stand down. If not, fresh nominations will be called for. The matter must now be concluded within five (5) days.

R14.8.7 The Judges' Committee shall have the right to co-opt additional members at any stage, when membership drop below the maximum of five (5) during its existence and such additional members shall enjoy full voting rights.

R14.8.8 The judges elected to the Judges' Committee shall elect their own Chairman and Secretary.

R14.9 Disqualification and Reinstatement

R14.9.1 A judge who is in arrears with his affiliation fees due to the Association shall not be allowed to judge until the arrears are fully paid.

R14.9.2 No judge shall judge or be allowed to judge his own exhibits or those belonging to a partner, near relative or from an establishment under his management or control:

R14.9.2.1 Any such alleged occurrences are to be referred to the Judges' Committee, unless the allegation is against the Chairperson. Then the matter must be referred to the Disciplinary Committee of the Association;

R14.9.2.2 The Judges' Committee or Governing Body shall investigate such allegation and may suspend such judge until the disciplinary process has been completed; and

R14.9.2.3 Allegations made during a show shall be handled by the Show Committee before being referred to the Judges' Committee or Governing Body.

R14.9.3 If a judge has left the Association for a period of not more than three (3) years, he may be re-instated as a judge on his return to AWEBBSA, provided that he successfully undergoes a practical test, as arranged by the Judges' Committee.

R14.9.4 If a judge of the Association has resigned from the Main Panel of Judges while in good standing for less than three (3) years, he may be reinstated as a judge provided he successfully undergoes a practical test, as arranged by the Judges' Committee.

R14.9.5 In the event of a judge having left the fancy for more than three (3) years, he must, on his return to the fancy, undergo the entire testing procedure for judges, as arranged by the Judges' Committee.

R14.9.6 Notwithstanding the above requirements for appointment as a judge, an immigrant who is a World Budgerigar Organisation Panel Judge, or alternatively, who has been appointed as a judge by a specialist budgerigar society in his country of origin and who claims Champion status, may be appointed to the Main Panel of Judges provided that the application is sponsored by his club and proof of his prior appointment can be furnished to the Judges Committee.

R14.9.7 A member who is appointed as a judge may accept judging appointments immediately.

R14.10 Improper Conduct

R14.10.1 The Judges' Committee shall have the power to enquire into any complaint of improper or dishonourable conduct relating to judging against any member of the Panel of Judges and, on finding such a member guilty of such act or omission, to impose any of the following penalties:

R14.10.1.1 A reprimand or a caution, or

R14.10.1.2 A reprimand and a caution, or

R14.10.1.3 Suspension for a specified period from the Panel of Judges.

R14.10.2 Any such complaint may be made by the Judges' Committee, by the Governing Body, by a club, or by any member of the Panel of Judges.

R14.10.3 Any such inquiry shall be held, mutatis mutandis, in accordance with the complaints procedure set out in Rule 15 attached to the Constitution.

R14.11 Retirement from the Main Panel of Judges

R14.11.1 Judges over the age of sixty-five (65) may apply to the Judges Committee to retire from the Panel of Judges in which case their names will be placed on a list of retired judges which is to be maintained by the Secretary of the Judges' Committee.

R14.11.2 Retired judges shall be entitled to wear AWEBSA judges' badges and will receive all correspondence etc. sent to the Panel of Judges.

R14.11.3 Retired judges may attend meetings of judges but will not have voting rights at Judges' Meetings, the Judges' Conference, or for the election of the Judges' Committee etc.

R14.11.4 Retired judges shall not be entitled to judge exhibition budgies at National Championship Shows but may judge wild-types. At Provincial shows and or Club Shows they can judge both categories.