



FIFe Rules for Judges & Student Judges

Date of issue: 01.01.2023

STATUS OF CHANGES

For previous changes to the rules than those listed below, please refer to the separate document “FIFe Statutes & Rules – History of Changes” available in the section “Rules & Forms” on the FIFe website”.

§	Status	Remarks
<i>Edition 01.01.23</i>		
2.1.2	Addition	FIFe Member shall inform about Student Judges' change of membership
2.2.1.a	Change	Presence at the GA Seminar and certificate of attendance via email
3.1	Change	Change of address, email, telephone number and membership of FIFe Judges
3.7	Deletion	Restriction of 3 times per year judging at non-FIFe shows in countries where a FIFe Member exist

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1 General

1.1 Principles being a FIFe Judge

Judges trained and approved by FIFe are, besides the cats themselves, the most important representatives of the cat fancy and have great responsibilities toward the values and principles promoted by the Federation.

A cat show is the arena where many potential cat fanciers become active after having been a visitor. Information about the cat fancy brought to the community through newspapers, radio and television will normally take place in connection with local cat shows.

The skills, behaviour and attitude of the Judge are among the first impressions people outside the cat fancy receive. Thus, it is of utmost importance for FIFe that the Judge possesses skills and abilities such as:

- knowledge and skills in handling cats
- knowledge and understanding of the cat's anatomy and behaviour
- knowledge of basic genetics in cats
- knowledge of the standards and rules
- knowledge of organising shows and the various procedures
- knowledge of FIFe and understanding of the basic values and principles identifying the organisation
- ability to communicate with experienced and new exhibitors and other people
- self-confidence and self-control under stressful situations
- ability to judge in an objective way and being able to give reasons for the various decisions made
- the ability to focus on the cat, which is the main subject in the cat fancy in general, and especially at shows.

These are among the skills and talents a Judge is expected to possess that will do credit to the Federation.

Some are talents; some are skills that can be acquired through training and studies.

1.2 Code of Ethics

Judges are representatives of FIFe and shall conduct themselves as such.

Participants in the judging programme shall act in a professional manner by displaying a considerate and caring attitude and courteous behaviour whether verbal, written and/or as demonstrated by physical actions.

Judges shall make every reasonable effort to keep travel costs, meals and other incidental expenses as low as possible for the hosting club.

Judges should be aware that they are honoured by being asked to judge at a show.

Judges, whether judging, exhibiting or visiting a show, shall not cause disruption during a show.

The rules are also applicable to Student Judges.

1.3 Judges' undertaking to FIFe

A Judge who is authorised by FIFe must complete a written undertaking to abide by the Statutes and Rules of FIFe and is not allowed to perform and sign any judging evaluation of a cat for breeding purposes.

1.4 Judges' adherence to FIFe Standards

Judges are required to adhere to the Breed Standards recognized by FIFe.

1.5 Exhibition of cats when officiating as a Judge or as a Student Judge

A Judge or Student Judge may only exhibit their own cats "Out of Competition" at a show where they are officiating.

On a 1-certificate FIFe show, divided in categories during 2 or more days, it is not allowed to officiate as a Judge on the one day and exhibit on the other day.

Members of an officiating Student Judge's household may exhibit their own cat(s) at the show, but not in the category or categories in which the Student Judge is officiating at the show.

Exhibits belonging to members of an officiating Judge's household cannot compete at such a show.

1.6 Complaints against Judges

Written complaints lodged against Judges are to be dealt with by the FIFe Board.

The complaint must be a detailed and accurate report sent by a FIFe Member within two months of the event in question. The complaint must be presented in one of the three official FIFe languages (→ FIFe Statutes § 6.3).

If it is deemed necessary by the FIFe Board, the case will be submitted to the Disciplinary Commission who will, in turn, inform the Board of its findings (→ FIFe Statutes § 8.1, 8.2 and 8.3).

1.7 Judges Adherence to a National FIFe Member

Judges must be an individual member of a National FIFe Member.

The FIFe Member, in which a Judge is a member, is not empowered to suspend a Judge from officiating as a Judge either on a temporary or a permanent basis.

1.8 How to submit documents

When steward certificates, Student Judge certificates, examination papers, stage certificates are required to be submitted, such documents must be original or certified copies or electronically saved.

2 Judges' Training Programme

2.1 Training in First Category

2.1.1 Requirement to inform the FIFe General Secretary about Student Judges

Members of the FIFe are required to forward the name of each Student Judge to the FIFe General Secretary in accordance with § 2.1.5 of the Judges Rules.

2.1.2 Responsibility of the FIFe Member for its Student Judges

The FIFe Member to which the candidate belongs is entirely responsible for the progress and the conduct of the candidate. It can oppose a final examination if in its opinion the candidate does not show sufficient knowledge and is empowered to apply disciplinary measures or suspend a Student Judge on either a temporary or permanent bases.

The FIFe Member shall inform the FIFe Secretariat of the termination of membership of its Student Judges.

2.1.3 Being an active Student Judge

A Student Judge must serve as a trainee a minimum of twice a year to be considered an active Student Judge, unless extenuating circumstances prevail which are acceptable to the FIFe Member where the Student Judge holds his membership. Less activity will render the Student as inactive.

2.1.4 Requirements for the candidature as a Student Judge

2.1.4.1 Being active member

Before taking the preliminary examination, the candidate must have been an active member of a FIFe Member for at least five years.

2.1.4.2 Amount and period of stewarding

To apply to become a Student Judge, the following procedures must be complied with:

- participation as a steward at 10 national or international shows where the owners are not permitted to present the cats themselves, or
- at 20 national or international shows where the owners may present their own cats
- at least 6 steward certificates must be obtained in at least 2 countries different from the steward's country of residence.
- the participation as a steward must be spread over no less than two years (minimum period).

Through a positive steward certificate, the steward will prove his ability to handle different cats under circumstances which are typical for cat shows.

The steward must have experience in handling cats from all categories to develop an understanding for different breeds and feline behaviour in general.

A prerequisite for an approved steward certificate is that the steward has presented cats in the Best in Show panel for that show. The categories in which the steward has presented cats are indicated on the steward certificate.

2.1.4.3 Experience as a breeder, as an exhibitor and in the show organization

When the candidate presents himself for the preliminary test to become a Student Judge for his first category the following requirements must be met:

- The candidate must have bred at least 3 litters under his own cattery name for a period of at least 3 years.
- The candidate must have experience as an exhibitor, i.e. he must have exhibited cats at a minimum number of 20 national or international shows. At least one cat registered under his own cattery name must have obtained the title GIC/GIP during the last 5 years.
- Experience in organizing shows is compulsory. Relevant experience includes positions such as show manager, experience in the secretariat or prize room etc.
- Experience as chief steward and/or ring secretary for various Judges is highly recommended.

2.1.5 Preliminary examination, admission as Student Judge

Once the candidate has completed the required 10 or 20 steward assignments, he must sit a written preliminary examination set by the Judges and Standards Commission.

This examination must be taken in the English language and will be conducted by the Member to which the candidate belongs.

The examination shall consist of 40 questions of those at least 25 from the general part of the questionnaires. The examination is to be completed within a maximum period of 120 minutes.

A minimum of 80% of the possible marks must be achieved in order to gain a pass; less than this means the candidate has failed.

The Member must send the original relevant steward certificates with the application to the FIFe General Secretary no later than when requesting the preliminary exam for the candidate.

For this purpose, the FIFe has issued a special form: this standard application for admission of a Student Judge is the only valid application form.

The application should include:

- the choice of Category (e.g. Category 1 2, 3 or 4),
- the date, place and country where the candidate intends to sit for the examination,
- the names of the invigilators.

The FIFe General Secretary must receive this application at least two months prior to the date of the examination.

The Member must send the original copy of the examination together with the marks achieved to the FIFe General Secretary, no later than one month after the examination. The FIFe General Secretary will check the documentation before sending the Member the official notification of admitting the candidate as a FIFe Student Judge.

2.1.6 Requirements for Student Judges concerning the Instructing Judges

The Student Judge must be able to speak the official FIFe language of the Instructing Judge. The Student Judge must be able to communicate fluently in that language.

Generally, a Student Judge must be able to communicate fluently in at least one of the three official languages of FIFe. Student Judges, who have one of the official FIFe languages for their native language, should at least be able to speak and write in one of the other official FIFe languages.

It is highly recommended that the Student Judge sits with as many different Instructing Judges as possible.

2.1.7 Mentorship for Student Judges

It is mandatory for Students who are taking their first category to be under the guidance of a Mentor Judge.

It is preferred that a Student selects a Mentor Judge from his own country.

As a minimum, the Student must be able to communicate fluently both verbally and in writing with the Mentor Judge.

2.1.8 Training requirements

The training period of a Student Judge is required to cover a minimum of two years for each category from the date of approved admission as a Student Judge. The FIFe Member where the Student Judge holds his membership will decide the maximum training period.

Participation as a Student Judge:

- a. at national shows or
- b. international shows and/or
- c. national special breed shows and/or
- d. breed workshops or training outside the show hall
 - a minimum of 18 times for each category of which at least 5 times have taken place in at least 2 countries (at least 150 cats) different from the Student Judges' country of residence
 - a minimum of 600 cats for each category.

2.1.9 Application for participation as Student Judge

The Student Judge must send his application to the organiser of the show at least one month before the show. He must name the FIFe Member where he holds his membership and, if applicable, his Mentor. It is recommended that show organisers accept at least one Student Judge at each International Show. All FIFe Members – clubs and federations – must answer in writing an application from a Student Judge in due time prior to the date of the show.

The Student Judge must send a copy of all applications for all training activities (shows, seminars, breed workshops, training outside the show hall) to the FIFe Member, in which he holds his membership.

2.1.10 Student Judge certificates

After each Student Judge's participation, the instructing Judge issues a certificate containing the following:

- his observations on the diligence, capability, personal appearance (e.g. neat and tidy), and general demeanour of the Student Judge;
- the relevant numbers of cats of each breed and variety judged by the instructing Judge in his presence.

For this purpose, the FIFe has issued a special form: this standard Student Judge's certificate is the only valid certificate. Student Judges are responsible for having the most recent version of the Student Judge's certificate form available.

The certificate is to be issued in one of the three official FIFe languages, i.e. French, German or English.

In case of certificates marked "acceptable", the certificate will be given directly to the Student Judge, or the instructing Judge may send it to the FIFe Member in which the Student Judge is a member within one month after the show.

In case of certificates marked "not acceptable", the instructing Judge is required to send a copy of the certificate to the FIFe Member of which the Student Judge is a member within one month after the show.

Should the FIFe Member consider the certificate inadequate, it can be refused.

Alterations and/or corrections to a Student Judge certificate are only accepted when countersigned by the instructing Judge. Any other changes or amendments to the certificate will render it invalid.

The instructing Judge must write the total number of cats judged in presence of the Student Judge on the Student Judge certificate in numbers and words. Cats seen by the Student Judge exclusively in the Best in Show may not be added to the Student Judge certificate.

2.1.11 Mid-stream assessment

Mid-stream assessment is obligatory for Student Judges in their first category and it usually takes place, under the supervision of an Instructing Judge, when the Student Judge has completed half of the number of the requested cats.

The application for participation as a Student Judge shall be sent with reference to § 2.1.9 and shall indicate that the Student Judge assignment shall be a mid-stream assessment.

The organizing club shall notify the instructing Judge in advance.

In the midstream assessment the Student Judge shall:

- write at least 5 (five) full Judge's reports
- assess at least 5 (five) individual cats
- evaluate at least one larger group of cats in class or colour if possible
- decide his own BIV and nominations for BIS
- verbally answer the instructing Judge several questions about the standards and rules.

This evaluation, as well as further recommendations if any, must be written into the Student Judge's certificate.

2.1.12 Participation as Student Judge after Mid-stream assessment

After the approved mid-stream assessment, the Student Judge shall, in every participation as a Student Judge:

- in public, under the supervision of an instructing Judge assess a minimum of five cats,
- decide his own Best in Variety and nominations for Best in Show.

2.1.13 Presence at the Best in Show

Student Judges are required to be present during the Best in Show.

2.1.14 Training in different categories during the same training period

A Student Judge may only undertake training in a maximum of two categories in one training period.

2.1.15 Study of all breeds

All fully recognised breeds in the category in question must have been examined by a Student Judge. It is highly recommended to have examined preliminary recognised breeds.

The examination of housecats is compulsory for all Students in their first category, but they will not be added to the total number of cats required.

Certain groups of colours/patterns must have been examined (solid, bicolour, tabby, silver/golden, pointed).

The FIFe Board may grant exceptions to this rule when a candidate applies for his final examination in accordance with the geographic situation of that candidate. However, such exception(s) must be fulfilled during the stage(s) as a Probational Judge.

2.1.16 Participating in Judges training seminars

A maximum participation for Student Judges at 1 training seminar is acceptable.

2.1.17 Training outside the show hall

A Student Judge may undertake a part of his training separate from shows and seminars.

This training could include visits to breeders and other such informal events.

This training will be supervised by a qualified instructing Judge in the category.

The training visit will be documented on a Student Judge certificate completed by the instructing Judge.

Only cats older than 3 months may be listed on the certificate.

It is not allowed to visit the same breeder/cattery more than once during any single training period.

The maximum numbers of cats that will be accepted for this type of training for each category is 5% of the actual number of cats the Student Judge examined during his training period.

2.1.18 Parallel judging

Of the total number of cats required for each category, at least 100 (one-hundred) cats in each category must consist of parallel judging with the instructing Judge.

Parallel judging will normally take place at the end of the training programme, just before the Student Judge presents himself for the final exam.

Parallel judging conditions:

- The parallel judging is to start no later than the official judging.
- The candidate has to judge and make written reports on all cats allotted.
- The candidate also selects his Best in Variety and nominations for Best in Show.

2.1.19 Requirements for the organisers

The organising club is required to ensure that:

- the Student Judge has at least one steward at his disposal during the entire parallel judging,
- the parallel judging takes place under similar conditions as the official judging (light, cages, ring etc.).

2.2 Seminars

2.2.1 Training seminars organized by FIFe

a) Judges Training Seminars

Normally FIFe will organize a Training Seminar for Judges in conjunction with the General Assembly. The Seminar will be organised on the Saturday after the General Assembly.

If a Judge, or a Student Judge, proposes to attend the seminar, he must inform the FIFe General Secretary at least **two** weeks before the date of the seminar. The FIFe General Secretary will hold a roll call to check the Judges and Student Judges attending the Training Seminar. A Certificate of Attendance will be issued **by email within two weeks** after the Seminar to each Judge **and Student Judge** who remained in attendance for the whole seminar.

The FIFe Member on whose territory the Training Seminar is to be held will provide any necessary cats.

Participation in Judges Training Seminars will equal 30 cats judged for the Judge's training purposes.

b) Compulsory Training Seminars for Student Judges

It is compulsory for a Student Judge in his first category to participate in Compulsory Training Seminar conducted and organised by the FIFe or a FIFe Member.

The Seminar will be arranged as needed in different parts of Europe and will take place at week-ends. The minimum duration must be one day.

It is expected that the Student Judge participates in such a Seminar at the earliest practical occasion after having passed the preliminary exam.

This Seminar will be listed in the official show calendar at least 3 months prior to its date.

The information (location, duration and subjects) must be available within the same timeframe.

The Seminar shall cover as a minimum, the following subjects: colour and patterns including basic genetics, cat anatomy and health, social behaviour and the ethics of judging.

Participation in Compulsory Training Seminar will equal 50 cats judged and will count only once for Student Judges in their first category.

Judges, whether Student Judges in further categories or not, can only use their participation in Compulsory Seminars for their activity statement.

2.2.2 Training Seminars organized by FIFe Member

a) Judges Training Seminars

Each FIFe Member is permitted to organise a FIFe Judges' seminar once per year.

At least 2/3rds of the content of the seminar must be directly related to aspects and areas of judging within FIFe.

The FIFe General Secretary must approve the date of the seminar and the agenda must be approved by the Judges and Standards Commission.

The Seminar will be listed in the official show calendar at least 3 months prior to the date fixed and will count as an official FIFe Judge's Seminar. The organiser should be mentioned as well as a contact number (telephone, fax, e-mail).

In case when initially expected breeds are not present at a Seminar, the organising FIFe Member must inform the enrolled Student Judges as soon as possible.

Participation in Judges Training Seminars will equal 30 cats judged for the Judges' training purposes.

b) Breed Workshops for Student Judges

Each FIFe member is permitted to organize FIFe Breed Workshops for Student Judges.

Such Workshops are proposed and organized in cooperation with the relevant Breed Councils and conducted by a FIFe Judge. Breed Workshops may be held during a show weekend.

A maximum of 3 Breed Workshops per day are allowed and at least 10 cats for each breed of different ages must be present (i.e. 3 Breed Seminars = min. 30 cats).

A Student Judge's certificate signed by the lecturing Judge(s), will be issued to each Student Judge who has remained in attendance for the whole duration of the Workshop. The value of the certificate, in number of cats, shall be the number of cats present during the Workshop.

The maximum number of cats that will be accepted for this type of training is 50 for each category.

The relevant information (breed(s), location and duration) shall be published in the official FIFe show calendar at least 2 months prior to the date fixed. The organizer should be mentioned as well as a contact number (telephone, fax, e-mail).

2.2.3 Participation and costs

Student Judges and Judges participating in Training Seminars must pay the cost of travel, accommodation and meals.

The costs connected with the organization of the Training Seminar listed in § 2.2.1 will be borne by the FIFe. The costs connected with the organization of Training Seminars listed in § 2.2.2 will be borne by the FIFe Member.

All lecturers at Training Seminars and Compulsory Student Judges Seminars will receive, as a minimum, the same payment as for a single day judging allowance. For Breed Workshops in § 2.2.2 b), the compensation of expenses for the lecturers is at discretion of the FIFe Member.

2.3 Examination

2.3.1 Responsibility of the FIFe Member

The FIFe Member must take all necessary steps to ensure that the candidate it presents is sufficiently qualified to meet the necessary requirements relating to his training, his conduct, and his judging qualities as a Probational Judge. The FIFe Member carries the full responsibility.

2.3.2 Limit on number of examinations at one time

An examination can only be taken in one category at a time.

2.3.3 Requirements for the candidate: age, language

The candidate must be at least 25 years of age on the day of the examination.

The candidate must select one of the three official FIFe languages in which the examination will be conducted.

2.3.4 Examination Fee

An examination fee, as determined by the General Assembly, must be forwarded by the candidate to the FIFe Member where he holds his membership. The current fee is listed in Annex 1 of the General Rules. The examination fee will be divided into three parts:

- $\frac{1}{3}$ for FIFe
- $\frac{1}{3}$ for the show organising club hosting the examination
- $\frac{1}{3}$ to be equally divided between the two examining Judges.

Since the FIFe Treasurer will only deal with National FIFe Members, the division of the examination fee

- after receipt of the application for the examination by the FIFe General Secretary, the FIFe Treasurer will charge the full fee on the next invoice to the FIFe Member where the candidate holds his membership
- the FIFe Member hosting the exam will deal with its show organising club which will receive $\frac{2}{3}$ of the full fee:
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ of the full fee is for the hosting club
 - $\frac{1}{3}$ of the full fee is for the two examining Judges
- each examining Judge will receive $\frac{1}{6}$ of the full fee from the show organising club
- after the examination the FIFe Treasurer will deduct $\frac{2}{3}$ of the full fee from the next invoice to the FIFe Member on whose (club's) show the examination has taken place.

2.3.5 Application for the examination: requirements

The application for a Student Judge to take an examination has to be submitted to the FIFe General Secretary by the FIFe Member to which he belongs. All necessary documents as required and laid down in § 2.1.8, 2.1.10, 2.1.11, 2.1.16 and 2.1.18 must be attached. The application should include:

- the choice of Category, e.g.: category 1, 2, 3 or 4
- the venue (date, place, country) where the candidate intends to sit for the theoretical examination
- the show (date, place, country) where the candidate intends to sit for the practical examination, (if available)
- the FIFe Language in which the exam will be taken,
- the names of the examining Judges for the practical exam (if available).

The FIFe General Secretary must receive this application at least two months prior to the date of the examination. For this purpose, the FIFe has issued a special form: this standard application is the only valid application form.

In cases where the date and venue of the practical examination and/or the names of the examining Judges are missing in the above mentioned application, this information must be sent:

- when applying for permission to sit for the practical examination
- by the FIFe Member by email to the FIFe General Secretary
- and received at least two weeks prior to the intended date for the practical examination.

2.3.6 Venue for the Judge's examination

The judges' examination can be taken either

- during an international one day show or
- during an international two days show where at least 50 cats of the category concerned are entered. The examination can only be taken on the first day of a two-certificate show.

The theoretical examination can also be taken:

- during the Compulsory Student Judges Seminar (→ § 2.2.1 b),
- during the Judges Training Seminar (→ § 2.2.1 a) or 2.2.2. a)),
- at any day during the week of the General Assembly, or
- at a dedicated theoretical examination session, to be listed in the official show calendar at least 3 months prior to its date.
- This theoretical examination will be valid for the following 12 months.

The examiners shall supervise these examinations and be responsible for the paperwork's correction and sending to the FIFe General Secretary.

2.3.7 Theoretical and practical examination

The Judges' examination consists of two parts:

- a. a theoretical part
- b. a practical part

The examining Judges and the candidate must be able to communicate in the same FIFe language.

2.3.7.1 Theoretical examination

- The examination is to be completed within a maximum period of 120 minutes.
- It is a written examination.
- The questions are selected by the FIFe Judges and Standards Commission and sent to the examining Judges at least one week prior to the examination date.
- The questions should be among those listed in the questionnaires set by the Judges and Standards Commission.
- A minimum of 80% of the possible marks must be achieved for the general part as well as for the category part in order to gain a pass; less than this means the candidate has failed and he cannot present himself for the practical examination.
- The examination may be taken the day before the show commencing no later than 7.00 pm or commence before the official judging starts, but no later than at 9.00 am (except in case of technical difficulties). The examiners are required to evaluate the theoretical part within 45 minutes.

2.3.7.2 Repertory of examination questions

The FIFe General Secretary may provide the repertory of examination question to any FIFe Member who requests them for training purpose.

2.3.7.3 Questions for the theoretical examinations

The theoretical questions are to be divided as follows:

- 15 questions from the general part of the questionnaires;
- 15 questions from the category selected to which only short answers are required;
- 10 questions from the category selected to which long answers are required.

For candidates, already Judges in 2 or 3 categories, the questions will be divided as follows:

- 15 questions about the category selected to which only short answers are required;
- 10 questions about the category selected to which long answers are required;
- 5 questions about colour and patterns to which short answers are required;
- 5 questions about colour and patterns to which long answers are required;
- 5 questions from the general part of the questionnaires regarding the Show Rules.

2.3.7.4 Practical examination

- The candidate cannot be admitted to the show hall before the examination takes place.
- The examination is to start no later than the official judging (except in case of technical difficulties).
- A pass with a minimum of 80% of the marks is required.
- The candidate has to judge and make written reports on at least 35 cats (40 cats is the maximum).
- The candidate also selects his Best in Variety and nominations for Best in Show.
- Cats that are part of the practical examination shall be presented to the candidate only by the stewards.
- Cats judged by the candidate, need not necessary be judged by the examiners.
- The candidate must not hear or see judgements of the cats in the category concerned.

2.3.7.5 Requirements for the organisers

The organizing club is required to ensure that:

- the candidate has at least two stewards at his disposal during the entire part of the practical examination;
- the examination takes place under similar conditions as the official judging (light, cages, ring).

2.3.8 Practical Examination panel

The practical examination is conducted by a panel composed of two International Judges who are judging at the show concerned, and

- who have been active Judges in the category in which the candidate is to be examined for at least five years, and
- at least one of the examiners has participated at least once during the preceding three years in a seminar organised by the FIFe (→ § 2.2.1 or 2.2.2 a).

In the event of a Judge being prevented from attending the show, another International Judge who is judging at the show may be asked to deputise, providing the current requirements are complied with.

2.3.9 Requirements for the examiners

The examiners are required to:

- have lunch with the candidate (at least one of the examiners);
- compile various classes for assessment, of which one is large and consisting of at least 5 cats if possible;
- compile classes by sex and colour; mixing of sexes is not allowed;
- announce the final result of the examination on the second day of the show and no later than 2.00 p.m.
- during a one-day show such an announcement must be made before the show closes. The same applies for a two-day show with separated categories.

2.3.10 Examination results

The examining Judges must send the completed examination papers, including the marks achieved in both the theoretical and the practical part, to the FIFe General Secretary no later than two weeks after the practical examination. The FIFe General Secretary will inform the FIFe Member to which the candidate belongs of the result.

2.3.11 Failure of an examination

Should a candidate fail the practical part of the examination, it is up to the FIFe Member to decide how many times a candidate may present himself again for an examination.

2.3.12 Probational Judges

When all the examination papers are received and checked by the FIFe General Secretary the candidate with a successful pass will be awarded the title "Probational Judge".

A Probational Judge is allowed to judge under the supervision of an International Judge providing the requirements laid down in § 2.3.13 are complied with.

2.3.13 Stages, Probational Judges and Supervisors

To become an International Judge, the Probational Judge must satisfactorily complete a stage at least 30 cats, of which:

- at least 20 cats are adults/neuters (classes 01-10) and
- at least 10 juniors/kittens (classes 11 and 12).

The stage can only be completed at International Shows and may be completed at more than 1 show.

The stage will be supervised by an International Judge who has:

- been active for a period of at least 5 years within the category concerned and
- participated at least once in the preceding three years in a seminar organised by the FIFe (→ § 2.2.1 or 2.2.2 a).

The Supervising Judge will issue a report, including, including the number of cats judged in the relevant classes, which will be given to the Probational Judge who must forward the original to the FIFe General Secretary within two weeks of the show. For this purpose, the FIFe has issued a special form: this standard Stage certificate is the only valid certificate. Probational Judges are responsible for having the most recent version of the Stage Certificate form available.

Probational Judges must be present during the Best in Show.

2.3.14 International Judges

The Probational Judge is appointed as an International Judge after successfully passing the required stage. The FIFe General Secretary will make this appointment after having received and checked all necessary paperwork.

2.4 Training in Further Categories

2.4.1 Amount of Student Judge assignments and training period for Judges continuing with further categories

For an already accredited Judge wishing to qualify in a second category, the Judge will be required to repeat the Judge's training procedure, starting from the date of approved admission as Student Judge, and participate as a Student Judge at international shows and events as listed in § 2.1.8:

- a minimum of 15 times for a minimum of 18 months for each category, of which at least 5 times have taken place in at least 2 countries (at least 150 cats) different from the Student Judge's country of residence;
- a minimum of 500 cats for each category before becoming eligible to sit the exam.

For a Judge already accredited in at least two categories, the Judge will be required to repeat the Judge's training procedure and participate as a Student Judge:

- a minimum of 12 times for a minimum of 18 months for each category, of which at least 4 times have taken place in at least 2 countries (at least 100 cats) different from the Student Judge's country of residence
- a minimum of 400 cats for each category.

The attendance at training seminars (except Breed Workshops) is excluded from this minimum amount of 400 cats and can be only in addition to it.

2.4.2 Parallel judging

If a Student Judge is already a Judge in another category, then at least 30 (thirty) cats (all categories) must consist of parallel judging with the instructing Judge.

2.4.3 Stages

Stages are not required after passing the examination in a further category.

2.4.4 Examination in further categories

A Judge intending to sit an exam his second category must meet the following requirements:

- he must have passed a stage in accordance with § 2.3.13
- he must have judged a minimum of 4 times after his appointment date as an International Judge in the category for which he qualified
- he must have been an active Judge in the previous 12 months prior to the planned exam date.

A Judge intending to sit an examination in a further category (3rd and last) must meet the following requirements:

- he must have judged a minimum of 10 times as an International Judge in the previous category for which he qualified
- he must have been an active Judge in the previous 12 months prior to the planned examination date.

2.4.5 Progression to All Breeds Judge

The following shall apply:

- The period of time from the examination in the first category to the examination in the third category shall be no less than 4 (four) years.
- The period of time from the examination in the first category to the examination in the fourth and final category shall be no less than 7 (seven) years.

3 Judges

3.1 Recognized Judges

The FIFe recognises as FIFe Judges those persons who appear on the official FIFe Judges List (→ § 3.3).

FIFe Judges shall notify the FIFe Secretariat of any changes to their home address, telephone number and email address, as well as changes in their membership of FIFe Member, as soon as these occur.

3.2 Honorary Judges

The Board of FIFe may appoint honorary Judges in acknowledgment of their services to the FIFe.

3.3 Judges List

The Board of FIFe publishes an official list of its recognised Judges. This official list contains, in order of the ISO-code of country of residence, the following information:

- the name of the Judge
- the address, telephone number and email address of the Judge
- the FIFe languages which the Judge speaks fluently
- the ISO-country code where the Judge holds his membership if this country differs from his country of residence
- the date of the last seminar, as listed in § 2.2.1, 2.2.2 a), which the Judge has attended in the past three years after his appointment, indicated by “#”
- the date on which the Judge was appointed in a particular category
- the category (or categories) in which the Judge is active, i.e. has judged a minimum of three times in the previous year, indicated by a “X”
- the category (or categories) in which the Judge applied as a Mentor Judge, indicated by an “M”.

Note: to receive accreditation for attending a seminar the participants must remain for the whole period of that seminar.

The current Judges list is available on the FIFe website and will be sent to the FIFe Members and Judges annually (in January) or at written request.

3.4 Judges Engagements Form

All International and Non-European Judges must confirm their Judges' activities yearly. For this purpose, Judges must use the most recent version of the Judging Engagement Form, which is available on the FIFe website. This form should be completed, confirmed and returned to the General Secretary by email, no later than the 30th November of each year.

Judges who confirm on this form to have judged at international shows at least three times per category for which they are qualified during a calendar year will be indicated as “active” in the official Judges list of the following year.

Judges may send this form as soon as they have fulfilled these requirements, at any time during the year, as long as it is before the final date of the 30th November. It is recommended that Judges send a complete list of their own judging engagements to the FIFe Member to which they belong.

3.5 Judges Fee

For inclusion in the official Judges List, Judges are required to pay an annual fee, the amount of which is fixed by the General Assembly. The current fee is listed in Annex 1 of the General Rules.

Each FIFe Member will be responsible for submitting the fees of its Judges to the FIFe Treasurer by the 31 March each year.

3.6 Judges of other Federations

Judges belonging to other organizations are authorised to judge those breeds which they are licensed to Judge in their own organisation after being approved by the Board of FIFe separately for each assignment. Such Judges must Judge in accordance with the FIFe standards.

They cannot undertake to supervise a stage or to act as an examiner.

3.7 Participation in non-FIFe shows

A FIFe Judge may, with the permission of the FIFe Board and the FIFe Member in the country concerned, officiate at a non-FIFe show.

The invited Judge shall seek written permission for each individual assignment with the FIFe Member(s) in the country where he is invited. He shall also check if there is no FIFe show scheduled for the same date in the country concerned or in a 400 km radius. If all conditions are fulfilled the Judge should forward the request with the permission(s) to the FIFe General Secretary for approval.

If a FIFe Judge officiates at a non-FIFe show, it must be agreed beforehand that the show catalogue will state that he is a FIFe Judge. A breach of the current rules will result in disciplinary actions.

3.8 Function of Judges: Instructor, Supervisor, Examiner, Student

An officiating Judge must be given advance notice of the following:

- if he is to instruct a Student Judge (only one per Judge);
- if he needs to supervise a stage (only one per Judge);
- if he is to act as an examiner.

Judges may refuse such functions in writing and should make this known to the organiser.

3.8.1 Instructors

A Judge may only accept a Student Judge three (3) years after his appointment in the category concerned, and only if he is "active" in that category, i.e. has judged a minimum of three times in that category in the previous year.

3.8.2 Examiners

If the Judge is called upon to act as an examiner, he must not be given any further function.

3.8.3 An officiating Judge as examination candidate at the same show

A Judge who is officially invited to judge at a show may not take an examination in another category at the same show.

A Judge who is officially invited to judge at a two-day show, split by categories, may take an examination in another category only on the day when he is not officiating as a Judge.

3.8.4 An officiating Judge as Student Judge at the same show

An officiating Judge may not act as a Student Judge at the same show.

An officiating Judge at a two-day show, split by categories, may act as a Student Judge in another category only on the day when he is not officiating as a Judge.

3.9 Mentor Judges

A Mentor Judge will be responsible for supervising and directing Student Judges in their training.

A Mentor Judge must have been active as an International Judge for 3 years in the Category in which he will mentor. Attendance at a FIFe Judges Seminar once every 3 years is recommended.

To become a Mentor Judge, a candidate must apply in writing to FIFe General Secretary stating his reasons. For this purpose, the FIFe has issued a special form: this standard Mentor Judge application form is the only valid form.

Mentor Judges will be recorded in the official FIFe Judges list.

A Mentor Judge may have a maximum of 5 Students under his Mentorship at any one point in time.

3.10 Dormant Judges

A dormant Judge is an international Judge who has not officiated at national or international shows for whatever reason, for a period of at least two calendar years or has been deleted from the Judge's list. A dormant Judge may reactivate his status in accordance with § 3.11.

3.11 Reactivation of Dormant Judges

If a Dormant Judge wishes to reactivate his status, he must send a written request to the FIFe General Secretary.

The FIFe General Secretary will send him the reactivation questionnaire set by the Judges and Standards Commission. The completed questionnaire must be returned to the FIFe General Secretary no later than two months after issue.

The FIFe General Secretary will send the completed questionnaire to the Judges and Standards Commission for evaluation. This evaluation must be sent within one month to the FIFe General Secretary, who will either confirm or refuse the Judge's active status in accordance with the result of the questionnaire.

4 Non-European FIFe Judges

All articles in section 2 and 3 apply unless there is a corresponding article in the following section.

4.1 Training in First Category

4.1.1 Requirements for the candidature as a Student Judge

4.1.1.1 Being active member

Before taking the preliminary examination, the candidate must have been an active member of a FIFe Member for at least three years.

4.1.1.2 Amount of stewarding

To apply to become a Student Judge, the following procedure must be complied with:

- participation as a steward at 10 national or international shows.

Through a positive steward certificate, the steward will prove his ability to handle different breeds under circumstances that are typical for cat shows.

The steward must have experience in handling cats from all categories to develop an understanding for different breeds and feline behaviour in general.

4.1.1.3 Experience as breeder, as an exhibitor and in the show organization

When the candidate presents himself for the preliminary test to become a Student judge for his first category the following requirements must be met.

- The candidate must have bred at least 3 litters under his own cattery name for a period of at least 3 years.
- The candidate must have experience as an exhibitor, i.e. he must have exhibited cats at a minimum number of 10 national or international shows. At least one cat registered under his own cattery name must have obtained the title IC/IP during the last 3 years.
- Experience as chief steward and/or ring secretary for various Judges, experience in organizing shows is highly recommended. Relevant experience includes positions such as show manager, experience in the secretariat or prize room etc.

4.1.2 Training requirements

The maximum training period will be decided by the student's own FIFe Member.

Participation as a Student Judge, starting from the date of approved admission as Student Judge:

- a. at national shows or
- b. international shows and/or
- c. national special breed shows and/or
- d. breed workshops or training outside the show hall
- a minimum of 15 times for each category for a minimum of 2 years
- a minimum of 400 cats for each category.

4.1.3 Parallel judging

Of the total number of cats required for each category, at least 60 must consist of parallel judging with the instructing Judge.

Such parallel judging will normally take place at the end of the training programme, just before the Student Judge presents himself for the final exam.

Parallel judging conditions:

- The parallel judging is to start no later than the official judging.
- The candidate has to judge and make written reports on all cats allotted.
- The candidate also selects his Best in Variety and nominations for Best in Show.

4.2 Examination

4.2.1 Application for the examination: requirements

The application for a Student Judge to take an examination has to be submitted to the FIFe General Secretary by the FIFe Member to which he belongs.

All necessary documents as required and laid down in § 4.1.2, 2.1.10, 2.1.11, 2.1.16 and 4.1.3 must be attached.

The application should include:

- the choice of Category, e.g. category 1, 2, 3 or 4
- the show (date, place, country) where the candidate intends to sit for the examination
- the FIFe language in which the exam will be taken
- the names of the examining Judges.

The application must be received by the FIFe General Secretary at least two months prior to the date of examination. For this purpose, the FIFe has issued a special form: this standard application is the only valid form.

4.2.2 Venue for the Judge's examination

The Judges' examination can be taken either during an international or national one day show or during an international or national two days show where at least 35 cats in the category are entered.

An examination can only be taken on the first day of a two-certificate show.

The theoretical examination can also be taken according to § 2.3.6. This theoretical exam will be valid for the following 24 months.

4.2.3 Practical examination

- The candidate cannot be admitted to the show hall before the examination takes place.
- The examination is to start no later than the official judging (except in case of technical difficulties).
- A pass with a minimum of 80% of the marks is required.
- The candidate has to judge and make written reports on at least 30 cats (40 cats is the maximum).
- The candidate also selects his Best in Variety and nominations for Best in Show.
- Cats that are part of the practical examination shall be presented to the candidate only by the stewards.
- Cats judged by the candidate, need not necessarily be judged by the examiners.
- The candidate must not hear or see judgements of the cats in the category concerned.

4.2.4 Examination panel

The examination is conducted by a panel composed of two International Judges or two Non-European FIFe Judges who are judging at the show concerned, and

- who have been active Judges in the category in which the candidate is to be examined for at least three years, and
- at least one of the examiners has participated at least once during the preceding three years in a seminar organised by the FIFe (→ § 2.2.1 or 2.2.2 a).

In the event of a Judge being prevented from attending the show, another international Judge, who is judging at the show may be asked to deputise, providing the current requirements are complied with.

4.2.5 Non-European Judges at shows and as Mentor Judges

Non-European Judges are authorized:

- a) to issue all certificates at national or international shows held in non-European countries according to the FIFe Standards and Rules.
- b) to act as Mentor Judges to Non-European Student Judges.

4.2.6 Requirements for the Non-European Judge to become International Judge

- a) A Non-European Judge wishing to become an International Judge must:
 - have judged a minimum of 6 times (minimum of 240 cats) at national or international shows held in non-European countries;
 - The Non-European International Judge must write a full report of his judging activity (show place, country and date, show organising club, number of cats and the EMS codes of cats judged) and send it to the FIFe General Secretary within one month after the show.
The FIFe General Secretary will archive these reports in the candidate's personal folder.
- b) Once the Non-European Judge has completed these requirements, he must apply to the FIFe Board for permission to be allowed to issue all certificates according to the FIFe Standards and Rules as Non-European Judge at international shows held in European countries by a FIFe Member.
- c) After this approval he must:
 - have judged a minimum of 4 times (minimum of 160 cats) as an approved Non-European Judge at international shows held in European countries by a FIFe Member.
 - The approved Non-European Judge must write a full report of his judging activities (show place, country and date, show organising club, number of cats and the EMS codes of cats judged) and send it to the FIFe General Secretary within one month after the show.
The FIFe General Secretary will archive these reports in the candidate's personal folder.
- d) Once the approved Non-European Judge has completed these requirements and sent all the reports to the FIFe General Secretary, the FIFe General Secretary will approve all the reports and appoint him as a FIFe International Judge.

4.3 Training in Further Categories

4.3.1 Amount of Student Judge assignments and training period for Judges continuing with further categories

In the event of an already accredited Judge wishing to qualify in another category, the Judge will be required to repeat the Judge training procedure, starting from the date of approved admission as Student Judge at international shows and events as listed in § 4.1.2:

- a minimum of 8 times for each category for a minimum of 18 months;
- a minimum of 300 cats for each category.

The attendance at training seminars (except Breed Workshops) is excluded from this minimum number of cats and can be only in addition to it.

4.3.2 Progression to All Breeds Judge

The following shall apply:

- the period of time from the examination in the first category to the examination in the third category shall be no less than 3 (three) years.
- the period of time from the examination in the first category to the examination in the fourth category shall be no less than 6 (six) years.

Annex 1 FIFe Judges must respect FIFe rules at all FIFe shows

FIFe Judges must judge at all FIFe shows in accordance with the rules of FIFe. Exceptions, which are approved by the FIFe Board, must be communicated to the Judges and the FIFe Members at once.

Annex 2 Changes to the rules

All changes to the rules carried at a General Assembly will apply from the date of validation for all Judges and Student Judges. If rules are changed, all previous exceptions, conditions or requirements are only valid if in accordance with the new rules.

Annex 3 Temporary Breed Training

The following training may be used only by Judges appointed before 01.01.2017 in order to adjust their competence to fit the show categories valid from 01.01.2016.

Breed group A

TRAINING FOR JUDGES ALREADY QUALIFIED TO JUDGE THE BREEDS RAG, SBI AND TUV WHO WISH TO QUALIFY TO JUDGE THE BREEDS EXO AND PER

All breeds and all relevant colours and patterns must have been examined

Minimum training requirements: 200 cats of the 2 breeds in minimum 6 months

Breed group B

TRAINING FOR JUDGES ALREADY QUALIFIED TO JUDGE THE BREEDS EXO AND PER WHO WISH TO QUALIFY TO JUDGE THE BREEDS RAG, SBI AND TUV

All breeds and all relevant colours and patterns must have been examined

Minimum training requirements: 200 cats of the 3 breeds in minimum 6 months

Breed group C

TRAINING FOR JUDGES ALREADY QUALIFIED TO JUDGE THE BREEDS BAL, OLH, OSH, PEB, SIA AND THA WHO WISH TO QUALIFY TO JUDGE THE BREEDS ABY, CRX, DRX, GRX, DSP, JBT, RUS, SOM AND SPH

All breeds (except GRX) and all relevant colours and patterns must have been examined

Minimum training requirements: 300 cats of the 9 breeds in minimum 9 months

Breed group D

TRAINING FOR JUDGES ALREADY QUALIFIED TO JUDGE THE BREEDS ABY, CRX, DRX, GRX, DSP, JBT, RUS, SOM AND SPH WHO WISH TO QUALIFY TO JUDGE THE BREEDS BAL, OLH, OSH, PEB, SIA AND THA

All breeds and all relevant colours and patterns must have been examined

Minimum training requirements: 200 cats of the 6 breeds in minimum 6 months

GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

1. The FIFe Member carries the responsibility for the student that wishes to apply for temporary breed training.
2. Student Judge's Certificates obtained before 01.01.17 may be used for temporary breed training. Certificates shall not be older than 7 years.
3. Training in foreign countries is not required.
4. Midstream assessment is not required.
5. Minimum number of shows not required.
6. Parallel judging: a minimum of 30 cats in all cases.
7. Seminars are not included in the training (exception for breed workshops up to the max number allowed)
8. Theoretical examination:
 - a. takes place according to the present rules
 - b. written exam: 30 questions: 10 long, 20 short on the relevant breeds and the colours and patterns from the general part
 - c. max duration: 90 minutes
 - d. if failed, the candidate cannot present himself for the practical part
9. Practical examination:
 - a. can take place at shows where at least 30 cats of the relevant breeds are entered
 - b. the candidate has to write a minimum of 25 reports (max 30).
10. In case of an already qualified Int. Judge, no stage is required.
11. Probational Judges can take a temporary breed training exam by obtaining a prior exception from the Board. The requirement to complete the stages will be decided at that time.
12. All other requirements in the rules apply.
13. Temporary breed training is effective between 01.01.17 and 31.12.26.
14. Judges must complete all temporary breed training to obtain full category qualification before sitting an examination in new categories.
15. When using temporary breed training to obtain full category qualification, the time restraints noted in § 2.4.5 and 4.3.3 must be respected.
16. In cases not covered by the above sections, the FIFe Board can grant exceptions in accordance with the specific situation of the Student Judge.