

SWIFTS Judging Pathway Pack

1. Overview

This pack explains how to become a qualified SWI judge through the SWIFTS judging pathway. It sets out the steps you must follow, what evidence is required, and the role of the qualified judge in the process. The process is designed to be supportive, fair, and consistent across the membership.

There is no fee for the Judging Pathway - we hope this encourages more members to pursue judging and support the continued growth of the SWI across Scotland.

2. Who is this for?

This pathway is for members who want to become an SWI judge and who already may hold old style proficiency certificates or have completed the new SWIFTS pathway for beginner, intermediate, and advanced level.

3. The judging pathway at a glance

Previous SWI Proficiencies or completed SWIFTS Pathway



Move onto Practical Judging Pathway



Practical Judging Session 1 (with qualified judge + assessment form)



Practical Judging Session 2 (with qualified judge + assessment form)



Practical Judging Session 3 (with qualified judge + assessment form)



Submit completed application form to SWI Central Office



SWIFTS Judging Qualification Awarded

4. Step-by-step guide for members

Step 1. Exchange your old-style proficiency certificates or complete a SWIFTS Pathway

If you have previously completed SWI proficiency tests, these may be recognised as equivalent to a SWIFTS pathway. This allows members to progress to the practical judging pathway. Three or more first-class proficiency certificates are equivalent to completing a full SWIFTS pathway.

Members who have completed a full SWIFTS pathway at beginner, intermediate, and advanced level in one subject, with an overall average of at least 85 credits, may proceed to the judging pathway.

Step 2 — Complete practical judging (three sessions)

You must take part in three peer-reviewed judging sessions with a qualified SWI judge. Each session must be supervised and assessed.

- Apply SWI judging standards fairly and consistently
- Understand the class criteria
- Explain your judging decisions clearly
- Judge with professionalism, integrity, and impartiality

A practical Judging Assessment Form must be completed for each session.

Important:

- At least one session must take place at an SWI Federation show.
- Other suitable shows may be used if supervised by a qualified SWI judge.

Step 3 — Submit your application

After completing all three sessions, send the following to SWI central office:

- Evidence of your previous proficiency tests or new SWIFTS credits
- Three completed Practical Judging Assessment Forms (one per session)

5. Guidance for aspiring judges

- Arrive prepared and understand the class criteria
- Form your own judging decisions
- Clearly explain your reasoning
- Treat competitors, volunteers, and the supervising judge with respect
- Be open to feedback and willing to learn

6. Guidance for supervising (qualified) judges

The supervising judge plays an important role in supporting aspiring judges while maintaining SWI standards.

- Observe the aspiring judge throughout the full judging process
- Allow the aspiring judge to form independent opinions before discussion
- Avoid leading or influencing decisions
- Provide supportive and constructive feedback
- Complete the assessment form honestly and accurately
- Only recommend a credit if the required standard is met

7. Evidence Required

- Completed Practical Judging Assessment Form for each session
- Event details (event name, date, Federation/Institute, category judged)
- Evidence of proficiency tests

8. Outcome

Once all requirements are met, you will be awarded a SWIFTS Single-Subject Judging Qualification.

Members may progress to Multi-Subject Judge status by completing additional SWIFTS courses **OR** by holding multiple old-style proficiency certificates in different subjects and demonstrating this knowledge throughout the practical judging sessions.

See next page for **Practical Judging Assessment Form** →

Practical Judging Assessment Form

Please complete a separate Practical Judging Assessment Form for each session.

Aspiring Judge Name: _____

Membership Number: _____

Supervising Judge Name: _____

Judging Qualification(s) Held: _____

Membership Number: _____

Event / Competition: _____

Date: _____

Category / Class Judged: _____

Assessment criteria

Skill Area	Meets Standard	Comments
Understanding of class criteria	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Fairness and consistency of judging	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Accuracy in assessing workmanship / finish	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Ability to articulate judging decisions	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Professional conduct and impartiality	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Displays readiness for independent judging	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	

Supervisor's written assessment

Please provide a short assessment commenting on the aspiring judge's performance, strengths, and any areas for development. You may also include examples observed during the session. (Approx. 100–200 words)

Assessment

- Yes** – This session should count toward qualification
- Not yet** – Additional supervised experience recommended

Supervisor signature:

Date:

Submission of evidence

Once you have completed three Practical Judging sessions, email to beth.spencer@theswi.org.uk along with:

- Completed Practical Judging Assessment Form for each session
 - Event details (event name, date, Federation/Institute, category judged)
 - Evidence of proficiency tests or SWIFTS
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This handbook is part of the SWIFTS Learning Pathway and may be updated as the programme develops.