AUSTRALIAN ZNA JUDGING QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

This document aims to provide an agreed national standard for Australian koi hobbyists who wish to become a Zen Nippon Airinkai (ZNA) judge

Trainee Judge

A financial member of the koi club may apply, through their Secretary, in writing to become a Trainee Judge once the following criteria have been met:

- At least 2 years financial membership of the Koi Society or Association they are applying to.
- At least 2 years financial membership of the ZNA.
- At least 1 year participating as a Steward at the main Show of the Koi Society or Association they are applying to.

The request shall be tabled at the next Committee Meeting and support for the application shall not be withheld without due cause.

- A Trainee Judge may enter koi in the Show in which they are a Trainee Judge.
- A Trainee Judge shall not participate in the discussion for an award containing any of their own fish, even if called upon by a qualified judge present.

TRAINEE JUDGING REQUIREMENTS:

- They have participated as a Trainee Judge at five events or Seminars as specified by ZNA within 5 years, with a maximum of three of these being at their own State's Koi Show, and at least one event outside Australia.
- To become a Local Certified Judge the Trainee needs more than 5 years continuous ZNA Membership and 5 judging and seminar records in total (3 judging + 2 seminar OR 4 judging +1 seminar).
- Willingness to participate in the Koi Society or Association events, including active membership of committees or sub-committees.
- Presented two koi appreciation or similar topics to any Koi Society or Association's branch meeting in Australia.
- The individual shall have a pond and keep koi.
- Met all criteria listed in the ZNA Nichirin e-magazine for Local Certified Judge.

Once the above criteria have been met, the Trainee Judge shall successfully complete our Australian ZNA Judging Qualification three-part examinations set by the combined Australian Societies for the purpose of testing the knowledge of the Trainee ZNA judge.

Two existing ZNA Judges within the combined Australian Societies will view the examination results and endorse (or not) the nomination of the Trainee Judge to Local Certified Judge. If unsuccessful further training with the opportunity of sitting for additional examination can be arranged.

If the nomination is endorsed, the request shall be tabled at the next Committee Meeting of the Trainee Judge's own Society or Association's Committee, and support for the application shall not be withheld without due cause.

If approved at their respective koi club's Committee Meeting, the koi club's President shall complete the ZNA's official document to accompany the Trainee Judge's application to be sent to the ZNA CJ Committee Council to become considered as a "ZNA Local Certified Judge".

ZNA Judging Requirements:
Please note, the comments here are taken directly from the ZNA's judging criteria printed in the ZNA Nichirin magazine December 2012. Requirements and fees may change without notice.

Conditions for Local Certified Judge:

1. Non koi dealer or non business dealer
2. 5 year continuous ZNA Chapter Membership
3. 5 ZNA show judging experiences (ZNA Shows only)
4. 2 ZNA koi seminar attendances can be switched from two of the above koi show judging experiences.
5. Submit an application form with a chapter president recommendation letter and signature to the ZNA Head Office
6. Written application is examined every January
7. Local Certified Judge registration fee 20,000 JPY for first 3 years
8. 10,000 JPY renewal registration fee every 3 years thereafter.

Conditions for Assistant Certified Judge:

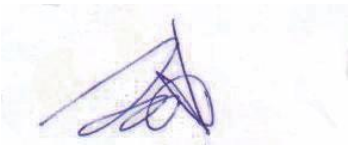
1. 2 more years of ZNA Chapter membership since Local Certified Judge registration.
2. 5 more ZNA show judging experiences as a Local Certified Judge.
3. 3 more ZNA koi seminar attendances can be switched from three of the above show judging experiences
4. Submit an application form with a chapter president's recommendation letter and signature to the ZNA head office to take an Assistant Certified Judging examination held in January each year.
5. Take an Assistant Certified examination (practical koi ranking and written comment)
6. Fee shall be 15000 JPY
7. Assistant Certified Judge registration fee 30,000JPY for first 3 years
8. 20,000 JPY renewal registration thereafter.

Conditions for Certified Judge:

1. 2 more years ZNA chapter membership since receiving Assistant Certified registration
2. 2 Japan District show judging experiences as Assistant Certified Judge.
3. 5 ZNA Japan koi seminar attendances
4. Submit koi keeping experience report, chapter activity history and an application form with chapter recommendation letter and signature to the ZNA Head Office.
5. Written application is examined every May
6. Certified Judge registration fee 60,000 JPY for first 3 years
7. 40,000 JPY renewal registration fee every 3 years thereafter.

Ron Moylan
President of the KSA
November 2025

Ian Andrews
President of the AKA
November 2025



Shona Macskasy
President of the KSWA
November 2025