

## **THE NATIONAL JUDGES' DIPLOMA**

(Exam every 3 years or when necessary)

### **1. PRE-REQUISITE FOR EXAMINATION**

- National Design Diploma (NDD). After obtaining the NDD, at least two - three years' experience must be gained before a Judges' Examination can be written.
  - **Three GOLDS/AWARDS** obtained at an Advanced level in the three years preceding the examination, awarded by **three** accredited SAFU Judges at Shows or Club meetings or award 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>) in a national/international virtual show.
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- **Four GOLDS** obtained at an Advanced level in the preceding three years awarded by **two** SAFU Judges at Shows or Club meetings.

**Gold**s in 'Petite', 'Miniature' and 'Craft' classes are allowed, but only one gold obtained in the aforementioned will be taken into account.,  
Only golds/awards obtained in individual competitions will be recognised.

- An application form must be signed by the candidate and approved by the provincial Judges' Panel head and President or club chairperson. **A comprehensive list of floral activities** is to be compiled for the three years prior to the application for the Judges' Examination. This must indicate diversity: all shows entered (irrespective of ribbons awarded), work done at club level, courses and/or workshops attended, involvement in private floral activities, etc. Drawings and/or pictures can be added but is not a pre-requisite.

### **2. STUDY MATERIAL**

- SAFU National Design Diploma Modules
- Judges Manual (2023)
- SAFU Handbook for Judges and Flower Arrangers

### **SUGGESTED ADDITIONAL READING/RESEARCH**

- SAFU Booklet on Techniques and Plant manipulation
- 'Creative Flower Arranging': Jean Taylor
- 'The Floral Art Encyclopaedia: Judith Blacklock
- 'Cut Flowers of the World': Johannes Maree Ben-Erik van Wyk
- Fresh Look at Judging Floral Design: Hitomi Gilliam and Kathy Whalen
- Plant ID Apps

### **3. EXAMINATION FORMAT - Four Sections**

- 3.1 **Portfolio:** Drawing up of a Show Schedule, including layout of the Show. **(The schedule must be submitted to the National Judges' Panel head by the end of March).**
- 3.2 **Written Theory paper** with emphasis on ethics, judging procedures and assessment of Floral Art as experienced in a practical situation when judging Floral Art Shows (175 – 200 marks including plant ID)
- 3.3 Plant Identification (Common and Botanical names)  
**(Theory and plant ID must be completed by the end of May of the Examination year. Marked by the National Judges' Panel Head and exam Co-ordinator).**
- 3.4 Practical Examination in three parts:
- **Practical Judging/Oral Examination** consisting of practical judging (including 1 virtual judging exercise with a mark sheet), verbal comments and answering questions by the Examination Panel.

- **Practical design examination** consisting of four arrangements (5 Hours):

A traditional design  
 An interpretive design  
 A modern freestanding design  
 An imposed design

(It is suggested that the practical examination could run over 2 days if necessary ie. Designs on day 1; judging, assessment cards, questions etc. on day 2)

- **Writing of assessment cards**

**(The practical examination must be completed by mid- September of the examination year. Assessment done by 3 provincial judges and Judges’ Panel Head as moderator).**

**4. PASS MARK**

**Portfolio, Theory Examination, Plant Identification:** 75% is the required pass mark for each of these sections.

**Supplementary examinations** will be allowed in cases where candidates obtain 70–74% in one of these sections ie. Candidates are allowed only one supplementary examination in sections mentioned above. The candidate will be required to re-do the sections in a supplementary examination that did not achieve the pass mark of 75%. Supplementary examination will take place 1 month after results of the initial exam.

**Practical Examination:** 75% is the required pass mark for each design.

**Supplementary exams** will be allowed if the candidate achieves 70-74% for only one of the four designs. The candidate will be required to re-do the one design in a in which he/she did not achieve the required pass mark of 75%. Supplementary examination will take place within one (1) month after the results of the initial exam.

**5. PRO-FORMA MARK SHEETS FOR EXAMS**

SCORESHEET FOR JUDGES’ EXAM: SHOW SCHEDULE

EXAM NUMBERS OF CANDIDATES					
Schedule conforms to requirements stipulated in Judges’ manual (10)					

Content of the schedule: show rules, guidelines, information (25)					
Schedule classes: choice and suitability of titles, classes for different levels, information about staging, measurements, colours, backgrounds (45)					
Presentation and attention to detail: overall appeal and neatness (20)					
TOTAL (100)					
PASS OR FAIL					

GENERAL COMMENTS:

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JUDGES' PANEL HEAD: \_\_\_\_\_ EXAM CO-ORDINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

SCORESHEET FOR JUDGES' EXAM: COMMENT CARDS

EXAM NUMBERS OF CANDIDATES					
Are the comments sufficiently substantial/to the point/not too verbose (5)					
Is the wording/terminology suitable and used correct (5)					
Are the comments constructive, pointing out strengths and weaknesses (5)					
Are the comments varied, encouraging and tactful (5)					
Neatness of comment card (5)					
TOTAL					

GENERAL COMMENTS:

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JUDGES' PANEL HEAD: \_\_\_\_\_ EXAM CO-ORDINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_

SCORESHEET FOR JUDGES' EXAM: VERBAL COMMENTS

EXAM NUMBERS OF CANDIDATES					
Does the judges' candidate speak clearly and with confidence (5)					

Does he/she use correct/suitable wording and terminology (5)					
Does he/she make comments that are constructive, pointing out strengths and weaknesses (5)					
Is he/she able to motivate decisions that were made (5)					
Are the comments varied, encouraging and tactful (5)					
TOTAL					

GENERAL COMMENTS:

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JUDGES' PANEL HEAD: \_\_\_\_\_ EXAM CO-ORDINATOR: \_\_\_\_\_