

## Judge Level Descriptions

### Overview

A judge is a person who assists running events by carrying out the responsibilities defined in CZE Tournament Policy. A judge's level is equivalent to the highest-level certification test that judge has passed. Official documents will use the term certification level when referring to people or certifications.

### Nota Bene:

- Each of the following judge levels have yearly requirements to keep certifications in good standing. If a judge is not on track to meet their yearly requirements after six months, they will be reminded with an e-mail to renew and will enter a six-month probationary period. Failure to fulfill the minimum level requirements by the end of the probationary period will result in demotion to a lower level or removal from the judge program. This process of decay is necessary to ensure that judge resources are not sent to inactive judges and that judges remain caught up on recent rules and policy changes. Certification requirements can be found in the Requirements section of each level.
- Judges wishing to test for higher levels may be asked to fill roles usually assigned to high-level judges as a training and observation tool.
- Candidates wishing to take a certification test must first have passed the previous level's test. A candidate may not take more than one certification test at a single event, regardless of their performance.
- The Cryptozoic Entertainment Judge program is based on knowledge and integrity; both are equally important. Any online test can be abused. "If you cheat on the test, you are only cheating yourselves, your peers, and everything Cryptozoic stands for," – Mike Girard, Volunteer and Community Manager.

## **Level 1: Journeyman**

The primary duty of a journeyman judge is to provide players with a fair play experience. Their focus should be on providing impartial rulings and promoting a positive atmosphere for game play.

### Testing

The journeyman test is administered online and is open book. Judges are encouraged to find the resources required to complete the test. The purpose of the journeyman test is threefold:

- Serving as a learning tool by frequently asking simple questions and reinforcing appropriate behavior.
- Showing that the judge is able to run a local-level event (such as a Battleground tournament).
- Engaging judges in the judge program by connecting them with other judges and Organized Play through forums and events.

### Re-testing

If a candidate fails the journeyman test, he or she will be allowed to re-take the test in seven days. Re-testing takes place online with a new generated test, and re-testing does not require any special permissions.

### Requirements

Journeyman judges are expected to judge at least one sanctioned tournament every four months. These events should be seen as opportunities gain rules knowledge familiarity and player management experience.

### Judge Exclusives

- CZE Judge Card

-Promotional cards, mailed every 6 months.

## **Level 2: Expert**

The primary duties of expert judges include those of journeyman judges. In addition, they should seek a leadership role in their local communities. An expert judge should be willing to answer questions and provide help not only to players, but to other judges and tournament staff. Expert judges are able to head judge Sneak Previews, and floor judge Qualifiers.

### Testing

The expert test is administered online. Judges who feel that they are ready to take the expert exam will need to seek the recommendation of an expert judge or higher, SI:7 member, or CZE employee.

Passing the expert certification test will require the candidate to have working knowledge of and experience with rules, tournament operations, player management, and penalty guidelines. Candidates will be interviewed briefly before being allowed to take the test, and those who do not display sufficient familiarity with rules and policy documents will be encouraged to study and attempt the test at a later time.

### Re-testing

If a candidate fails the expert certification, he or she must wait at least three months to re-test. This wait time ensures that candidates will take time to study the rules and policies they are unfamiliar with, rather than memorizing specific answers. Candidates wishing to re-test must seek an additional recommendation from a different artisan judge or higher, SI:7 member, or CZE employee

New questions are added to the certification pool regularly. Candidates should not expect to see the same questions on subsequent test attempts.

### Requirements

Expert judges are expected to work at least one qualifier-level or higher event every six months in addition to the journeyman judge requirements. Tournament organizers in the candidate's area will look to expert judges when staffing sneak previews, qualifiers, and regional championship level events. Expert judges looking to advance in the CZE judge program should use floor judging qualifier and regional championship experience as a building block for the artisan certification.

### Judge Exclusives

- CZE judge shirt
- Ability to recommend certification for lower level judges.

### **Level 3: Artisan**

The primary duties of artisan judges include those of expert judges. In addition, they should be willing to help mentor other judges. Their focus should be on mentoring judges and upholding CZE policy. They are the primary means of head judging regional-level events and are expected to head judge Public Events at large events. Additionally, artisan judges are the primary source of expert certification exam recommendations; they must learn where to draw the line between being too easy and too harsh with their recommendations. They are expected to maintain perfect contact information in the CZE database and respond in a timely manner to candidates wishing to test.

#### Testing

The artisan test is administered in person at national-level and higher events. It encompasses advanced rules knowledge, player management, tournament operations, penalty guidelines, and tournament policy. Each of these categories is weighted equally. All candidates for the artisan test must fulfill the following requirements:

- Obtain a recommendation from an artisan judge, SI:7 member, or CZE employee
- Successfully head judge at least two realm-level events based on the feedback of tournament organizers.
- Undergo a brief screening before the exam to ensure the proper familiarity with rules and policy documents

#### Re-testing

If a candidate fails the artisan certification, he or she must wait to re-test for at least three months. This ensures that the candidate is serious about testing. The candidate must test using a different test version.

#### Requirements

Artisan judges are expected to work at least one realm-level event or higher every year in addition to the expert judge requirements.

Artisan judges must re-certify every year.

#### Judge Exclusives

- CZE Judge playmat.
- Consideration for “large tournament” event sponsorships.
- Ability to recommend certification for lower level judges.

#### **Level 4: Master**

The primary duties of master judges include those of artisan judges. In addition, they demonstrate willingness to devote their personal time and expertise to the CZE judge program. They are responsible for working with and mentoring artisan judges in their geographical area. Master judges are able to effectively head judge any national-level event, and may be required to create training materials for events they are head judging. Travel, including international travel, may be required.

#### Testing

Master candidates will undergo observation at an event to make sure that they have practical experience to manage a tournament staff. Candidates will be interviewed by a combination of other master judges, grand master judges, and CZE employees. They must successfully navigate standard scenarios that will test high complexity rules questions, discovery of information, and correct application of penalty guidelines. The scenarios are weighted in favor of player management experience. All candidates for the master certification must fulfill the following requirements:

- Successfully mentor at least two expert judges. A successful mentor works with journeyman judges so that they pass the expert certification exam and makes sure they remain in good standing.
- Head judge at least two realm-level events and successfully team lead a national-level event..
- An endorsement from a master judge or higher and SI:7 member.

#### Re-testing

Re-testing authorization is at the discretion of the CZE Volunteer and Community Manager and/or SI:7. This ensures that the candidate is serious about testing.

#### Requirements

Master judges are expected to work at least five regional-level or higher events a year. Barring extreme circumstances, master judges may not substitute local-level events for this requirement.

Master judges must re-certify every two years.

#### Judge Exclusives

- CZE Master Judge Kit
- Head Judge shirt (red) to keep after judging a National level event
- Consideration for National Head Judging opportunities.

## **Level 5: Grand Master**

The primary duties of a grand master judge include those of all other levels. Grand master judges are head judges for national- and world-level events. They also work closely with CZE in developing and implementing policy for all aspects of Organized Play. Grand master judges may be responsible for creating training materials for the Judge Program.

### Testing

The grand master certification exam is administered by members of SI:7 and CZE employees in person. Candidates will navigate through complex scenarios, edge rules cases, convoluted player management situations, and multilingual issues.

Peer feedback will play a larger role in determining candidate readiness than in previous levels. Each grand master candidate must be a respected member of the global judging community. Candidates will be asked to test by the CZE Volunteer and Community Manager based on peer feedback and observation. All candidates for the grand master certification must fulfill the following requirements:

- Successfully mentor at least one artisan judge. A successful mentor works with artisan judges so that they pass the artisan certification exam and makes sure they remain in good standing.
- Head judge at least two National level events.
- An endorsement from a grand master judge and SI:7 member.
- A brief interview with the person who administers the test to ensure the proper knowledge level.

### Re-testing

Re-testing authorization is at the discretion of the CZE Volunteer and Community Manager. This ensures that the candidate is serious about testing.

### Certification Requirements

Grand master judges are expected to work at least two national-level or higher events a year. Barring extreme circumstances, master judges may not substitute regional-level events for this requirement.

Grand master judges must recertify every two years.

### Judge Exclusives

- SI:7 membership
- Judging and Head Judging sponsorships, including international events.

Breakdown of Events

**Local** – Battlegrounds, Sneak Previews,

**City** - Elite Series, City Champs

**Region/Realm** – Realm Qualifiers,

**National** – Realm Championships, Continental/National Championship, DMFs

**World** – World Championship, other World based events (like a World Cup)