



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 10 December 2013

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Entry for Competition	The General Committee had approved an amendment to Regulation L12.g to allow the music specified in a competition entry to be amended on the day.	Show societies and competitors to note the amendment.
2.	YKC	The working party discussed the amendments to the YKC HTM competitions. Clubs and societies will no longer hold specific YKC Heelwork to Music classes which qualify competitors directly for the annual finals at Crufts. Instead qualification will be on a points-based structure, with points being achieved through competing in scheduled classes at any show throughout the year.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the information. Full details of the changes can be found on the YKC website: http://www.ykc.org.uk/news/new-qualifying-points-system-young-kennel-club-heelwork-music
3.	Inappropriate Moves	The working party considered whether there was a requirement to add the freestyle move where the dog reverses onto the handler or prop to the list of 'Inappropriate Moves'. It was felt that the issue was in regards to the extreme angle of the move rather than the move itself therefore judges would be reminded to be aware of it during their appointments and in the Judges education training. Competitors were advised that the move should only be carried out in a manner that is appropriate for the structure and size of the dog and not to be repetitive.	Competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view.
4.	Judges Feedback	The working party discussed implementing a requirement for the 'head judge' to provide competitors with feedback on their performance. It was felt that the process worked well in other disciplines and would assist to increase the standard of competition in all classes. It was agreed that feedback would be given for the top four competitors and the class overall. The process would be begun at the Crufts Semi-Final and examples of feedback would be available online to assist judges.	Judges to note the requirement to provide feedback to the top four competitors and an overall assessment of the class.
5.	Heelwork to Music 2014 World Championships	The working party noted that no applications had been received to attend the Heelwork to Music 2014 World Championships.	No further action is required from your club / society.



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6.	Class Progression	<p>The proposed review of class progression, aimed at increasing the standard of competition in the discipline, was discussed by the working party. Disappointment was expressed that more feedback hadn't been received from the Heelwork to Music community in regards to the review. It was agreed that more feedback was required before any changes could be made and therefore the matter would be re-submitted for consideration of the following options:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing the 'baseline' pass mark of 55% • The introduction of 'wins' at every level to enable progression • Increasing the number of points required to progress 	Competitors are requested to submit their feedback on the options for changing class progression to the members of the working party.
7.	Heelwork to Music Dog Health Questionnaire	<p>The working party were advised of the questionnaire on dog health issues from the Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group. The survey aims to highlight any particularly outstanding health issues in dogs that participate in Heelwork to Music. The survey has also been carried out for Agility and Obedience.</p>	<p>Competitors wishing to participate in the survey can find it here: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HWTM</p>
8.	Judges named as Reserves	<p>Following discussion the working party clarified that when judges who were named on a schedule as reserves but were competing at the show were required to judge this agreement must take precedent over their show entry. Judges were reminded that they have the option of stating to the club that they do not wish to be a reserve for classes that they intend to enter.</p>	Show societies and judges to note the Working Party's view.
9.	European HTM Championship	<p>The working party noted that the media coverage of the European Championship had indicated that the competing teams from the UK were affiliated with the Kennel Club which was not the case. It was accepted that it was very difficult to control how the media referred to the team however competitors should ensure that if a team was entered it should be clearly stated that the entry was not on behalf of the Kennel Club.</p>	Societies and competitors to note the Working Party's view.



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10.	Competing at Crufts	The working party were asked to consider whether there were any acceptable circumstances for a handler who was not able to compete in the Semi-Final, but would potentially be able to compete at Crufts, being allowed to nominate an alternative handler for the event. It was clarified that following the precedent in the Agility rules for Crufts where it is stated that the handler/dog combination for the heat, Semi-Final and Final needed to be the same this also applied to Heelwork to Music.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view.
11.	Opting out of a Qualifier	The working party discussed that mixed feedback had been received following the previous meeting's agreement on opting out of a qualifier. It was highlighted that the process had only just been amended and would need time to become established therefore the working party agreed that the process would not be reviewed further at this time.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view.