



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 10 December 2014

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Regulations and Judging Procedure examination	The General Committee approved amendments to Heelwork to Music Regulations whereby from January 2016 all Heelwork Music judges will be required to have passed the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination. Also with effect from January 2016, all judges must attend a Regulations and Judging Procedure seminar every four years as a refresher, with the option to take the examination if they wish to do so.	All Judges and show organisers to note.
2.	Class progression	The Working Party was appreciative of the considerable amount of feedback received from the Heelwork to Music community following suggestions made at its meeting on 4 June 2014. It accepted that these suggestions had not been supported by those who had provided feedback and having considered the views expressed, it recommended that no further changes to the class progression structure be made at this time.	No action required.
3.	Introduction of an additional level	The Working Party considered the introduction of an additional level below Starters, for both Freestyle and Heelwork to Music. Guidance for recommended or suggested moves would be provided for those participating in such a class. The suggestion would be given further consideration at the Working Party's next meeting.	No action required at present.
4.	Score structure	The Working Party clarified that the score structure contained within Regulation L18.(e) should be treated as guidance only. Relevant amendments to the regulation and to the bandings provided within the Guide for Judges were under consideration.	Judges to note. Further information would be provided following the next meeting of the Working Party.
5.	Eligibility to compete at more than one level	The Working Party offered guidance in response to a query regarding the eligibility of a dog to compete at more than one level. It was clarified that a dog should only be entered at one level per division at any one show and that a regulation change to that effect had been proposed. If approved, the amended Regulation would come into effect in January 2016.	Competitors and show organisers to note.



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6.	Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group	Mr Curtis wished to stand down as the Heelwork to Music representative on the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group. Mrs Brocklehurst agreed to take the role, subject to approval by the Activities Sub-Committee and General Committee.	No action required.
7.	Heelwork to Music questionnaire	No unexpected issues had been highlighted from the results. Those who had completed the survey were thanked for taking part.	No action required.
8.	Feedback at seminars	In the interests of obtaining more honest and constructive feedback from attendees at seminars, feedback forms would in future be sent out by email by the office after the event. Accredited Trainers would request email addresses from attendees.	Judges and Accredited Trainers to note.
9.	Shadow Judging	<p>The working party considered the concept of shadow judging where potential/new judges could sit ringside with an Accredited Trainer for a set number of routines and discuss how to judge them. Accredited Trainers would provide information regarding which shows they would be available at and which class they would help with.</p> <p>The Working Party supported this initiative but expressed a view that the permission of show organisers should be sought beforehand and their co-operation requested in providing seating in a suitable position.</p>	Show organisers, Accredited Trainers and trainee judges to note.
10.	E-learning	The Kennel Club was in the process of developing e-learning courses for all disciplines and these would be introduced in due course. E-learning would not replace the role of Accredited Trainers but would enhance it by allowing some training and mock examinations to be carried out online.	No action required.
11.	Crufts judges	The Working Party wished to make it clear that it was not the policy of the Kennel Club to accept nominations for Crufts judges.	Heelwork to Music community to note.



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12.	Competing and Judging at the same event	The Working Party offered clarification on the issue of judges wishing to compete at a competition at which they were judging. This was not permissible in other disciplines, but the Working Party confirmed that the L Regulations contained a provision which allowed for Judges to enter or handle a dog at the Competition they are judging but not in the class they are judging.	Judges to note.
13.	YKC Rules	The Working Party addressed concerns raised in respect of the effect on young handlers of new YKC rules relating to Heelwork to Music. It clarified that the new rules did not necessitate handlers attending a number of events in order to qualify for Crufts and it hoped that the mainstream Heelwork to Music community would encourage more YKC handlers to take part in competitions.	YKC handlers and mainstream Heelwork to Music community to note. Full details of the points system can be found on the YKC website: www.ykc.org.uk/news/new-qualifying-points-system-young-kennel-club-heelwork-music -
14.	Judges judging at levels or in divisions in which they had no experience of competing	The Working Party addressed the issue of judges judging at levels, or in divisions, in which they had no experience of competing. It did not consider that it would be appropriate to recommend any regulation amendment but it was of the view that show organisers should make all possible efforts to ensure that judges were suitably experienced and that this recommendation should be drawn to the attention of show organisers.	Show organisers and judges to note.
15.	Judges for Crufts qualifiers	The Working Party considered whether it should be mandatory that, for a Crufts qualifier, two out of the three judges must have qualified a dog out of Intermediate in the Division that they are invited to judge. Its view was that it would be unduly restrictive to impose such a regulation but that show organisers should ensure, where possible, that when appointing judges for Crufts qualifiers, at least two out of three should have qualified a dog out of Intermediate in the Division they were being invited to judge. The Working Party also agreed that a judge should not judge more than two Crufts qualifiers per year in each division.	Judges and show organisers to note.