

ALC Grade Review Proposal

- Reduce the number of graded classes allowed per day from 4 to 2.
- Reduce number of grades allowed in graded classes from 3 to 2.
- Increase minimum number of combined grades allowed in combined classes from 2 to 3.
- Combined classes should have an indicator that shows the expected level of course design. E.g. Combined 4-6 (4) number in brackets indicates to the judge to design at G4 complexity. (6) would mean course set to G6 level.
- This will also indicate to the competitor the expected level of skill required and tested on each course.
- Grade 7 will become championship level only, requiring additional wins. At standard classes, all championship dogs would be eligible for G6 classes.

It suggested that these changes would maintain progression through the grades while enabling more suitable course design. By reducing the number of graded classes together to 2 we have G1-2, G3-4, G5-6, requiring a judge to design 3 different levels: for typically all heights e.g. 2 course changes. The addition of the course grade indicator for combined classes will also help to guide a competitor in the expected level of skill required and tested on each course.

It was not deemed appropriate to add an additional level and so by Grade 7 becoming Championship, with additional wins required, it will make room for the extra height of competition that has been requested for the welfare of smaller dogs (see proposal on micro height). It also allows the room to reduce the limbo period as requested (see proposal on limbo periods).

Regulation changes as follows:

Regulation H(1)(A) 5.

TO:

5. A maximum of four standard classes may be scheduled for any dog on an individual day of competition **including a maximum of two graded classes**. Any number of special classes may be scheduled.

Regulation H(1)(A) 6.

TO:

6. Class Structure.

A class may either be held as a graded class or a combined class. A graded class may be scheduled for a maximum of ~~three~~ **two** consecutive grades with separate results and awards issued for each grade. The eligibility for a graded class is detailed below. A combined class ~~may~~ **must** be scheduled for ~~more than one~~ **more than two** consecutive grades with one overall set of results. A combined class is open to any combination of dog and handler that qualifies for any of the grades in that class.

Regulation H(1)(A) 10.

TO:

10. Standard Classes.

Only first prizes and points gained in standard classes at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows may be used for progression through the classes. (A dog is only eligible for one grade). In defining the eligibility of the owner or handler for grade 1, the two wins and points progression referred to in the definition apply only to one dog and not an accumulation of dogs.

- a. Grade 1
Open to owners, handlers or dogs which have not gained a minimum of two first places at grade 1 at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows, at least one of which must have been gained in an agility (not jumping) class. N.B Owners, handlers or dogs previously qualified out of grade 1 are not eligible for this class.
- b. Grade 2
Open to dogs which are not eligible for grade 1 or have elected to progress on points from grade 1 and are not eligible for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, or ~~7~~**Championship Class**.
- c. Grade 3
Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of two first places at grade 2 at Royal Kennel Club Licensed Agility Shows, one of which must have been gained in an agility (not jumping) class, or have elected to progress on points from grade 2 and are not eligible for grades 2, 4, 5, 6, or ~~7~~**Championship Class**.
- d. Grade 4
Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of three first places at grade 3 at Royal Kennel Club Licensed Agility Shows, two of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, or have elected to progress on points from grade 3 and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 5, 6, or ~~7~~**Championship Class**.
- e. Grade 5
Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of four first places at grade 4 Royal Kennel Club Licensed agility shows, two of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 4, 6, or ~~7~~**Championship Class**.
- f. Grade 6
Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of four first places at grade 5 at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows, two of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 4 ~~or 5 or 7~~.
- ~~g. Grade 7.~~
~~Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of five first places at grade 6 at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows, three of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.~~
- ~~h. Grade 7 Championship Class.~~
Open to dogs having qualified to compete in grade ~~7~~**6**, which have had five wins at Full Height in ~~either grade 6 or grade 7~~, at least three of which must be gained in agility classes. To consist of 2 qualifying rounds of Standard Royal Kennel Club classes, 1 Agility Class and 1 Jumping Class and a final round of agility to be held at the same show.

Regulation H(1)(D) 2.

TO:

2. Type of show

Limited agility shows are shows at which the classes (except for standard classes) may be limited by numbers of class entries, overall numbers of entries, specific breeds, residence of competitors, membership of societies or organisations or otherwise subject to the approval of the Board of The Royal Kennel Club. A maximum of four standard classes **including a maximum of two graded classes**, and any number of special classes may be scheduled, other than qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club sponsored or sanctioned competitions.

Regulation H(1)(D) 3.c.

- c. A limited agility show may schedule an unlimited number of special agility classes and up to four standard classes (which may be capped) **including a maximum of two graded classes**.