

E(A)

RACE PROCEDURES, RULES OF COMPETITION AND EQUIPMENT

These Regulations must be read in conjunction with Kennel Club General Canicross Regulations E.

1. Race Procedures.

- a. Canicross races shall take place along a course of the stated length which has been inspected and designated by the competition organiser(s), who shall give priority to the safety and welfare of the dogs and competitors taking part.
- b. The competition organiser(s) shall hold a safety briefing for competitors before every race the time of which should be stated in the Schedule.
- c. Each competitor in a race shall be assigned a unique identification number and issued with an identification bib, badge, armband, label or other means of identification, which must be displayed at all times while on the competition venue.
- d. Before issuing an identification number the race organiser(s) shall check leads, collars, harnesses and other equipment and ensure the dog displays no obvious signs of being unfit.
- e. The identification number assigned to each competitor and displayed on the bib or other means of identification will be that competitor's running order number.
- f. Competitors in a race may start individually at timed intervals ("individual start") or as a group comprising two or more competitors starting together ("group start"). The type of start to be used should be noted in the competition schedule.
- g. Where an "individual start" is used, the competitor with the lowest running order will start at the time set for the commencement of the race. All remaining competitors will start at set intervals of not less than thirty seconds in their running order sequence. Any deviation from the running order must be authorised by the Race Director.
- h. Where a "group start" is used competitors must keep their dogs under close control until the start signal is given. The official timekeeper, Race Director or a race marshal may require any competitor to withdraw from the start line and wait until the other dogs have started before commencing the race, if in their reasonable opinion the competitor's dog(s) are not under close control.
- i. The official timekeeper shall record the start time and finishing time of each competitor. All races shall start from and finish at the same point. Timing shall start and finish when the first part of the dog/handler team crosses the line. Where a "group start" is used, each competitor in the group shall be deemed to have started at the time the start signal is given.
- j. Any dog/competitor team which fails to complete the set course shall be eliminated.

2. Competing.

- a. Competitors may only compete in any race with one dog, except that where approved by the competition organiser(s) and stated in the competition schedule, competitors aged 18 or over may race with a maximum of two dogs. Where a competitor racing with two dogs is required to withdraw one of them from a race after they have started racing, the other dog must also be withdrawn from the race, unless with the express permission of the Race Director in multi-stage races only.
- b. No dog may be entered in more than one race on any day.

PART III

E(A) 3.73

- c. Competitors may enter in more than one race on the same day with different dogs.
- d. After a dog has commenced competing in a race, no substitution of competitor is permitted in that race.
- e. A competitor may race with a substitute dog which has been correctly entered and approved by the Race Director in accordance with Regulation 11.g. ("Acceptance of Entries – Substitute Dogs").
- f. Any dog which is not presented for competition when its running order is due will be deemed to have been withdrawn from the race.
- g. Dogs must be on a lead attached to a well-fitted running harness worn by the dog at all times while competing in a race. Leads may be held in the hand or attached to a competitor's waist belt.
- h. In general dogs must run ahead of or alongside the competitor throughout a race. At no time may dogs be dragged forward by their lead. However it is acceptable for a dog to follow a competitor on a steep downhill or slow technical section, provided that the dog is not at any time being dragged forward by the competitor.
- i. Competitors must do their utmost to ensure that their dogs do not interfere with other runners or dogs. When hailed by an overtaking competitor, they must give way to allow the competitor to overtake as soon as it is safe to do so. Overtaking competitors must give due warning before attempting to pass.
- j. The use during a race of mobile phones, personal stereos, MP3 players or any similar device that impairs concentration or the ability to hear marshals or other runners is strictly forbidden. Anyone using such a device shall be liable to be eliminated from the race.
- k. If any dog shall foul the ground while competing in a race, the competitor shall immediately remove the fouling, in accordance with the venue's policies, from any area where it is likely to be trodden on before continuing with the race. Where required to completely remove fouling, competitors shall pick it up, and must carry it to and dispose of it responsibly in the receptacles provided. In such cases competitors must carry with them whilst racing a means of removing dog fouling.
- l. Only dogs entered for competition are allowed on the course whilst the race is taking place.
- m. Those taking part in a competition held under these Regulations shall not openly impugn the decision of the appointed Race Director or openly criticise the race marshals, event officials or helpers.

3. Competitors' Equipment.

- a. Leads which are attached to a competitor's waist belt must be no more than 2 metres in length and must incorporate a bungee or elasticated section or be made from an elastic material. Leads held in the hand must be no more than 1.7 metres in length. Leads should be measured at full extension.
- b. Dogs must compete in a flat buckle or snap collar, which must bear the name and address of the dog's owner inscribed on the collar or on a tag or plate attached to it.
- c. Harnesses worn by dogs when taking part in a race must be well-fitted, must not constrict breathing, and must have the lead attachment on the upper back. Harnesses designed to deter dogs from pulling must not be used.
- d. Competitors may not wear footwear with spikes, hard studs or similar projections on the soles which could injure the dog.

4. Distances and Race Categories.

- a. The distance of each Canicross race shall be stated in the competition schedule.
- b. Competition organisers may state eligibility for a race by reference to the age

3.74

KENNEL CLUB YEAR BOOK

E(A)

and gender of the human competitor, subject to the following restrictions on eligibility:

- (1) Competitors must be aged at least 8 years on the day of the competition to take part in a Canicross race.
 - (2) Competitors below 14 years of age on the day of the competition are not eligible to enter races of more than 5 km (3 miles) in length, and must be accompanied throughout the race by a responsible adult (who may run or use a bicycle).
 - (3) Competitors below 17 years of age on the day of the competition are not eligible to enter races of more than 8 km (5 miles) in length.
 - (4) Competitors below 18 years of age on the day of the competition are not eligible to enter races of more than 21km (13 miles) in length.
 - (5) Competitors entering a race of more than 16 km (10 miles) must have successfully completed at least one race of at least 10km (6 miles) with the same dog in the six months prior to the day of the race. Proof will be required.
- c. Competition organisers may state eligibility for a race by reference to the age of the dog, subject to the restrictions in Regulation 2 ("Eligibility").
- d. Special races - Competition organisers may request the approval of the Kennel Club for other definitions of eligibility and special rules for other types of race including team and relay races. No such race shall be included in the schedule for a competition until approval has been given by the Kennel Club.