

**MEETING OF THE AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON  
THURSDAY 19 JANUARY 2017 AT 10.30 AM IN THE BOARDROOM, THE  
KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

**A G E N D A**

**ITEM 1.      APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 2.      APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2016 (copies previously distributed).

**ITEM 3.      MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

(Pages 9 - 10)

a.      Recognition of Agility as a sport

The Council is invited to receive a verbal update on the pre-application process for recognition of Agility as a sport by the Sports Council.

b.      Lower Height Option

The Board has approved the following amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)1.c. whereby, in the interests of simplicity both for competitors and show organisers, competitors will walk the course set at the height category into which their dog was measured.

H(1)(B)1.c

**TO:**

No practice is allowed on the course save that competitors will be allowed to walk the course set at ~~the~~ **Small, Medium or Large** height ~~the dog is to negotiate~~, without their dog(s) before the class begins. Hurdles ~~will~~ **may** be raised/lowered during the course walking time if multiple heights are offered within the same class.  
(Deletions struck through. Insertion in bold)

c.      Splitting of classes

The following amendment to H Regulations has been approved by the Board:

Regulation H(1)9.f

**TO:**

**(1) Splitting of classes**

**Where classes do not have the Lower Height Option, classes should be split according to the following:**

Where combined classes are split, they must be split into parts of equal numbers (to within one dog). Splits must be conducted on a random basis. Where graded classes are split, they must be split by grade. If a subsequent grade or single grade class is split, ~~they~~ **it** must be split into parts of equal numbers (to within one dog). Splits must be conducted on a random basis. Competitors entered therein must be notified of all changes.

- (2) Where classes have the Lower Height Option and are required to be split, classes should be split according to the following:**
- (i) Where combined classes with one set of results are split, they must be split into parts of equal numbers (to within one dog). Splits must be conducted on a random basis.**
  - (ii) Where combined classes with separate awards for Lower Height and Full Height are split, they must be split by Lower Height and Full Height. If a subsequent height class is split, it must be split into parts of equal numbers (to within one dog). Splits must be conducted on a random basis.**
  - (iii) Where graded classes with one set of results per grade are split, they must be split by grade. If a subsequent grade or single grade class is split, it must be split into parts of equal numbers (to within one dog). Splits must be conducted on a random basis.**
  - (iv) Where graded classes with separate awards for Lower Height and Full Height are split, they must be split by grade. If a subsequent grade or single grade class is split, it must be split by Lower Height and Full Height. If a subsequent height class is split, it must be split into parts of equal numbers (to within one dog). Splits must be conducted on a random basis.**
- Competitors entered therein must be notified of all changes.**

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

- d. Incident Book  
The Council is invited to note the contents of a press release issued on 1 August 2016 giving guidance on the correct use of the Incident Book.  
**(Annex A refers)**

- e. Communications  
At its last meeting, the Council requested the office to investigate whether it was possible for any improvements to be made to the way in which information relating to agility was made available to the agility community. It is invited to note a verbal update from the office.
- f. Proposed amendments to Regulation H(1)(B)3.i. – Collapsible Tunnel  
The Council is invited to note that a temporary suspension of the use of the Collapsible Tunnel, with immediate effect, was announced on 30 August 2016 due to concerns regarding the safety of dogs. The Board has subsequently approved the removal of the Collapsible Tunnel from the list of approved obstacles, for health and safety reasons.
- g. Proposed amendments to Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(3) – Design  
The Council is requested to note that the Board has approved amendments to the above Regulation in respect of the minimum distances between obstacles. It has also approved an amendment to the Regulation which specifies a maximum distance between obstacles, noting that the Activities Committee was satisfied that the inclusion of a maximum distance within the Regulation was in the interests of the health and welfare of competing dogs.

Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(3) – Design

**TO:**

The course should require a dog to traverse at least 10 obstacles, but not more than 20 and all jump obstacles should be the same height. ~~Obstacles~~ **All obstacles** which ~~the dog is required to clear~~ should have a minimum of ~~3.6~~ **5m (4-yds 5.5yds)** and up to a maximum of **10m (11yds)** between centres **of consecutive obstacles using the straight line centre-to-centre method** ~~except that this may be reduced to 2.74m (3yds) when the following obstacle is placed at 90 degrees or more to the preceding one.~~

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

**ITEM 4. JUDGES WORKING PARTY (ACTIVITIES)** (Pages 11 - 12)

To note a written report from Mr Huckle on the progress of the Judges Working Party following its meeting on 14 November 2016.

**(Annex B refers)**

- ITEM 5. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT PANEL** (Pages 13 - 14)  
To receive a written report from the Equipment Panel regarding any issues which had been referred to it.  
**(Annex C refers)**
- ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE GRADING PANEL** (Pages 15 - 18)  
To receive a written report from the Grading Panel regarding its activities since the Council's previous meeting, and to consider the issues raised.  
**(Annex D refers)**
- ITEM 7. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE**  
(Pages 19 - 20)
- a. Use of external show management companies  
The Activities Committee wishes to seek the views of the Council regarding the use of external show management companies and whether the Kennel Club should have a formal procedure in place to approve the use of external contractors to run shows on behalf of clubs with limited resources. If so, the Council is requested to identify the key issues which should be covered within the proposed contract.  
**(Annex E refers)**
- b. Use of treat bags  
Noting that there is no Regulation which prevents a competitor from carrying food in a treat bag whilst in the ring, the views of the Council are sought as to whether a treat bag should be considered to be an aid to the dog and if so, whether an amendment to the H Regulations regarding their use is necessary.
- ITEM 8. INTERNATIONAL AGILITY FESTIVAL** (Pages 21 - 22)  
To note a written report on the arrangements for the Kennel Club International Agility Festival, due to be held on 10 - 13 August 2017.  
**(Annex F refers)**
- ITEM 9. AGILITY TEAM GB** (Pages 23 - 24)  
The Council is invited to note a report on Agility Team GB's attendance at the 2016 European Open Championships and World Championships.  
**(Annex G refers)**

**ITEM 10. DISCUSSION ITEMS**Bitches in SeasonMr I MacDonaldMs C BaileyMrs B Bay and

Mrs Bay and Ms Bailey wish the Council to review Regulation H10c.(15), which states that a schedule must contain 'a statement that no bitch in season is allowed to compete', and to consider whether it should be amended to allow for bitches in season to compete in some or all competitions held under Kennel Club Regulations.

Mrs Bay and Ms Bailey are of the view that Agility is a showcase for happy, healthy and active dogs, and should reflect the Kennel Club's 'fit for function' ethos. The healthiest and most athletic dogs should be used for breeding and agility is one way to highlight this. Not allowing the best bitches to remain intact and to compete at the highest levels limits opportunities to improve the breeds concerned.

Mrs Bay and Ms Bailey wish to emphasise that owners of bitches are losing the effort, time and money they invest in training, competing, travel and event fees if a bitch is in season. In other countries, provision is made in agility competitions for in season bitches to run at the end of class, or within a normal running order, and with care and consideration such arrangements work well. Further, there are other UK competitions where bitches in season are allowed to compete, such as in ISDS Sheepdog Trials and Kennel Club Breed Shows.

The Council is requested to consider the four following options:

- Option 1: to allow bitches in season to compete at all Kennel Club agility events
- Option 2: to allow bitches in season to compete at major agility finals as determined by the Kennel Club
- Option 3: to allow bitches in season to compete at major agility qualifiers and finals as determined by the Kennel Club
- Option 4: to allow each show organising committee to determine if they wish to allow bitches in season to compete at their show/final/qualifier

**ITEM 11. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY (Pages 25 - 26)**

To note the items on the Council's five year strategic plan.  
**(Annex H refers)**

**ITEM 12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Please give at least two weeks advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council.

**ITEM 13. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the next meeting will be 13 July 2017. Any items for the agenda must be submitted by 14 April 2017.

**NOTES:**

1. The Kennel Club will reimburse standard rail fares to all representatives attending the meeting, from their addresses as recorded at the Kennel Club. Claim forms will be available at the meeting.
2. Those resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland may apply in advance for authority to substitute shuttle air travel for standard rail fare, although it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.
3. Please give advance notice of matters to be raised under Any Other Business. This assists the Office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council Chairman.
4. Kennel Club Liaison Council Regulations state that the Kennel Club will bear the cost of all reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, representatives should apply to the Kennel Club for approval of any costs they may wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.

**THE KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

**'The Kennel Club is the national body which exists to promote the general improvement, health and well-being of all dogs through responsible breeding and ownership' *This is to be achieved through:-***

- **Promoting the Kennel Club as the leading national organisation for referral and advice regarding all canine related matters.**
- **Encouraging the responsible breeding of pedigree dogs.**
- **Encourage the responsible ownership of dogs.**
- **Facilitating the breeding of healthy dogs**
- **Promoting the positive benefits of dogs in society.**
- **Promoting and regulating canine activities and competitions.**
- **Providing opportunities for education and training through Kennel Club led initiatives.**
- **Investing in canine health and welfare.**
- **Engaging with the wider dog owning audience/fraternity.**

**Agility Liaison Council Representatives**  
**1 January 2016 – 31 December 2018**

Listed below are the Area Liaison Council Representatives that can be contacted should further information be required on any of the items.

**SCOTLAND**

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**WALES**

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