

Chris Potter
Committee Support Specialist
The Kennel Club Limited
10 Clarges Street
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13 April 2017

Dear Chris

Pre-application for recognition of Dog Agility and The Kennel Club Limited

I am writing with regard to the pre-application for the recognition of Dog Agility and The Kennel Club Limited (the "organisation"), which you submitted on 15 November 2016.

Following careful assessment and consideration by the Sports Councils' UK Recognition Panel, I must inform you that your pre-application has been unsuccessful. This is on the grounds that it does not fully meet our pre-application criteria for recognising sports and National Governing Bodies as follows:

- **Description of the Sporting Activity** - the sporting activity must meet the definition of sport contained in the Council of Europe's European Sports Charter; and
- **Essential Purpose** - the purpose of the activity must be sporting and not a means to another end.

The Panel was not satisfied that Dog Agility met the above two criteria for the following reason:

Although Dog Agility requires physical effort from the handler, the Panel did not feel the application sufficiently demonstrated that the aim of the activity was to express or improve physical fitness as is required by the Council of Europe definition, or that sport is the activity's essential purpose. The focus of the activity would appear to be primarily on the dog, not the handler. The pre-application states that "the main purpose for participants is to train their dog to be able to negotiate the obstacles correctly so they can work through the grades and get to championship level". The pre-application did not contain sufficient information to explain how the input of the handler is measured and/or assessed in terms of the activity's rules. Whilst the handler has an input, success or otherwise in the activity would appear to be measured solely in terms of the dog's performance.

- **Governance structure** – the governing body should have a constitution or memorandum and articles of association relevant to the jurisdiction in which it operates (i.e. England, Scotland and Wales). The governing body should show robust management and governance procedures in accordance with good practice promoted by the Sports Councils:

The Panel was not satisfied the organisation had demonstrated robust management and governance procedures as follows:

The pre-application did not provide evidence that the organisation's child protection, anti-doping, equal opportunities and complaints policies or statements had been formally adopted. The Panel further noted that the organisation does not have a specific anti-doping policy as such. Although Clause 26 of its rules refers to 'fraudulent or discreditable conduct' and 'improper means' used to influence or interfere 'with the competition of a dog', it does not refer to anti-doping specifically. The Kennel Club Guidelines for Owners and Handlers does contain a section on doping, but this relates to dogs rather than handlers.

The Equal Opportunities and Diversity statements on the organisation's website would appear to be aimed at job applicants and employees, rather than members. The 'Complaints Procedure Desk Guide' would also appear to be an internal document related mostly to specific incidents at competitions. This and other documents linked to in this section of the pre-application were not felt to represent a comprehensive complaints procedure for members and the organisation as a whole.

- **Affiliation – the organisation must demonstrate direct or indirect affiliation to the UK (or Irish) or international governing body for the sport (as appropriate to the sport) if such a body exists:**

The Panel was not satisfied the organisation had demonstrated affiliation to the international body for the sport for the following reason:

The Panel noted that the organisation is not affiliated to the FCI but did not feel the reason given in the pre-application for it not doing so (it having its own rules and regulations) provided sufficient justification for this. The Panel noted that the FCI has its own rules for dog agility – however the pre-application did not explain how or why these were not compatible with the organisation's rules, or what effect non-affiliation with the FCI had on the ability for UK-based dog agility handlers to take part in international competitions.

- **Membership – the organisation must be able to evidence a current membership level (individual members) in excess of 1,650 for organisations with a UK-wide remit:**

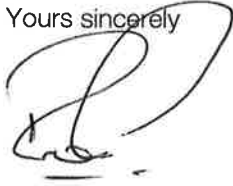
The Panel was not satisfied the organisation met this criteria for the following reasons:

The UK membership level stated in the pre-application (1,500) is below the threshold required for organisations with a UK-wide remit.

The Panel was happy that The Kennel Club Limited met the other pre-application recognition criteria.

I appreciate you will be disappointed by our decision. If you would like to discuss your pre-application and why you have been unsuccessful, please feel free to contact me either by email at richard.clarkson@sportengland.org or by telephone on 020 7273 1501. I will be pleased to help explain why the UK Recognition Panel could not support your pre-application.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Richard Clarkson', written over a horizontal line.

Richard Clarkson
Senior Grants Manager

c.c. Megan Griffiths, sportscotland
Ian Blackburn, Sport Wales
Marc Scott, Sport Northern Ireland
Gemma Sykes, UK Sport