



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 4 May 2017

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Results of Working Party recommendations	<p>The Working Party noted that the Board approved the introduction of the following amendment to the L regulations:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Regulation L16.i Judges and Judging TO: i. If the overall score is below 55% (16.5 marks) 60% (18 marks), the class points will be withheld for that routine. There shall be at least four awards on offer in every class and printed award cards and rosettes may be given but the associated points would be withheld. (Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)</p>	<p>Competitors, competition organisers and judges to note.</p> <p>The amended regulation will come into effect on 1 January 2018.</p>
2.	Proposed Changes to Classes and Excellent Qualifications	<p>Proposals for changes to classes and excellent qualifications were considered. The main point for discussion was whether to make it mandatory for competitors competing in starters class to progress on points or to give the handler the option to decide. On balance, given that some competitors may not feel ready to move up a class, it was considered preferable for the handler to choose whether or not to progress on points only.</p> <p>A press release detailing the changes made to the L Regulations can be found here: https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/press-releases/2017/july/changes-to-kennel-club-heelwork-to-music-regulations/</p> <p>Regulation L(A)2. Official Categories TO: 2. In the following definitions of classes all points must be gained in official classes only. To count towards class progression or an excellent qualification, a first place in starters or novice, or two first places in intermediate must have been won with an overall score of at least 60% (18 marks)55% (16.5 marks). (Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)</p>	<p>Competitors, competition organisers and judges to note.</p> <p>The changes will come into effect on 1 January 2018.</p>



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Regulation L(A)4. Official Classes

TO:

- a. *Starters*. Neither the dog nor the handler must have gained 14 points or more **including a win, nor have elected to progress on points (20 points or more)** in official starters classes at Kennel Club licensed Heelwork to Music competitions. Dogs or handlers must progress to novice once 14 points or more **including a win** have been gained in starters classes **but may, at the handler's discretion, elect to progress on 20 points without a win.** *NB Handlers and dogs previously qualified out of starters are not eligible for this class. are not eligible for this class if they have previously gained 14 or more points in official starters classes with any dog.*
- b. *Novice*. The dog or the handler must have gained 14 points or more **including a win, or have elected to progress on 20 points** or more in official starters classes at Kennel Club licensed Heelwork to Music competitions. The dog must progress to intermediate once 16 points or more **including a win, or a total of 28 points or more** have been gained in novice classes.
- c. *Intermediate*. The dog must have gained 16 points or more **including a win, or a total of 28 points or more** in official novice classes at Kennel Club licensed Heelwork to Music competitions. The dog must progress to advanced once ~~20 points or more including~~ at least ~~one~~ **two** first places have been gained in intermediate classes.
- d. *Advanced*. The dog must have gained ~~20 points or more including~~ at least ~~one~~ **two** first places in official intermediate classes at Kennel Club licensed Heelwork to Music competitions.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

Regulation L(A)8. Excellent Qualifications

TO:

If a first place has been won ~~at a particular level~~ **in starters or novice, or two first places at intermediate or advanced**, when the required level of points have been gained, the dog will also be awarded an excellent qualification and can use the title "Ex" after its class title, such as: HTM St Ex.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)



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3.	Heelwork to Music and Freestyle Team GB Update	The Working Party noted a report from Mrs Hardman, Team Manager, on the latest developments of the Heelwork to Music and Freestyle Team GB preparations for the Open European Championships in 2017. It was confirmed that entries had been submitted and fundraising efforts had proved successful. Mrs Hardman was thanked for her efforts and it was confirmed that a review of Team GB at the Open European Championships in 2017 would take place at the next Working Party meeting.	All competitors to note.
4.	Creation of a New Class	It was discussed whether it was necessary to create an additional class above advanced. It was noted that the standard of performance had been high at the Crufts Semi-Final. It was noted that the low entries in starters had meant that the discipline was thought by the Working Party to be top heavy and this matter needed to be addressed. The Working Party agreed that currently no changes were necessary but agreed to continue to monitor the situation.	Competitors, competition organisers and judges to note.
5.	Venues and organisation of Heelwork to Music Competitions	<p>Following on from concerns raised at the last meeting about premier heelwork to music competition organisers adhering to the 20m by 15m minimum size requirements, the Working Party then discussed the matter.</p> <p>The office was requested to inform each club that held a premier heelwork to music competition that the Working Party was investigating the possibility of the introduction of minimum size requirements to the L Regulations. However, any possible introduction of this measure should be deferred for a year to give sufficient time for competition organisers to make any reasonable infrastructure adjustments.</p>	Competition organisers to note.
6.	Docked Dogs Competing at Crufts	<p>Following a query received, the office once again set out UK legislation on this matter. It was stated that docked dogs at events where the public paid an entrance fee were not permitted. It was noted that the agility discipline was considered by DEFRA to be exempt from this, as UK legislation allows an exemption if they are considered to be working dogs. It was stated that the office had not sought the same exemption for heelwork to music.</p> <p>It was clarified that the Heelwork to Music Crufts Schedule would be updated to include information on docked dogs competing at events, in light of this.</p>	Competitors, competition organisers and judges to note.
7.	Draw for the Crufts Final	The Working Party discussed a request for the draw for the Crufts Final to be held at the Heelwork to Music Semi-Final at Rugby Dog Training Club. However, it was considered impractical to do so due to time constraints.	Competitors, competition organisers to note.



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8.	Displayed Heelwork to Music Results	The Working Party discussed whether to add a requirement for all competitions to display all heelwork to music results, including all non-qualifying scores e.g. did not compete entries or eliminations etc. It was agreed that a proposal to amend the L regulations would be drafted for consideration at the next Working Party meeting.	Competitors, competition organisers and judges to note.
9.	Appointment of Judges	It was noted by the Working Party that there had been an increase in invitations recently to judge at short notice for premier heelwork to music competitions. This was not considered advisable and it was agreed that a proposal to amend the L regulations would be discussed by the Working Party to ensure judges were appointed in a timely manner.	Competition organisers and judges to note.
10.	Next meeting	The next meeting of the Working Party is due to take place on 23 November 2017. Any agenda items should be submitted at least four weeks prior to the meeting date HTM@thekennelclub.org.uk .	All to note.