

**MEETING OF THE KENNEL CLUB AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD
ON 6 JUNE 2013 AT 10.30AM IN THE BOARDROOM AT CLARGES STREET**

AGENDA

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 January 2013 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. To note feedback on the following matters:-
- i. Amendment of Regulation H(1)4.b. (Marked Running Orders Championship Class)
 - ii. Amendment of Regulation H18.a. (Approval of Judges)
 - iii. Measuring Queries – Review of the number of measurers for each area of the UK
 - iv. Agility Liaison Council – South East & East Anglia Region – Additional Representative

Calculating Accurate Course Times

- b. At its meeting on 17 January 2013, the Council supported the straight line distance between obstacle centres method for calculating course time. This will ensure judges are consistent when calculating course times. The Council is therefore requested to consider a proposed new Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(4) as follows:

INSERT

Course Time—An appropriate set time for each course shall be calculated by the judge, who shall take into account the course length, the height category of the dogs competing, and the grade or grades of the dogs competing in the relevant class, together with any other relevant factors. The course length must be measured by the judge using a commercially available measuring wheel, using the straight line distance between obstacle centres method. The set time shall be stated by the judge before judging commences.

(Insertion underlined)

The Council is also requested to consider grammatical amendments to Regulation H(1)(B)5.b (Marking) as follows:

FROM

Cumulative Marking/Time Faults—Faults incurred for failure to negotiate obstacles will be added to the faults incurred for failure to complete course in set time. A single fault or part thereof will be added for each second over the set time. Actual time will be recorded and rounding up or rounding down is not permitted.

TO

Cumulative Marking/Time Faults—Faults incurred for failure to negotiate obstacles will be added to the faults incurred for failure to complete the course in the set time. A single fault or part thereof will be added for each second or part thereof over the set time. Actual time will be recorded and rounding up or rounding down is not permitted.

(Amendments underlined)

The Council is also invited to note guidance from the Judges' Working Party which includes the Course Time Matrix as well as information on how to measure around different course designs.

(Annex A refers)

Dog Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group

- c. The Council is invited to note a report on the progress in agility related matters from the Dog Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group. The Council is also invited to note that a questionnaire is now available to all agility competitors to identify any agility related injuries to dogs and is available via the Kennel Club website:

(Annex B refers)

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/dogagility>

Preventing Conflicts in Agility

- d. Further to its previous meeting in January, the Council is invited to note a report outlining the number and type of incidents that have been reported. The Council is also invited to note that guidance for the management of agility shows is awaiting publication in the Kennel Club Manual for Registered Societies.

(Annex C – representatives only)

Design Changes to Agility Equipment

- e. Further to its previous meeting in January, the Council is requested to consider a proposed new Regulation H(1)9.c. confirming that it is the responsibility of show societies to ensure that their show equipment is of the correct specification. This would effectively ensure that equipment suppliers consulted with the Kennel Club over any fundamental design changes to agility equipment prior to manufacture.

INSERT

Equipment – societies must ensure that the obstacles supplied for the show are of the correct specification.

(Insertion underlined)

Proposed Amendments of Regulation H(1)(B)3.n. (See-Saw) and Regulation H(1)(B)3.o. (Dog Walk)

- f. At its last meeting, the Council supported the suggestion that dimensions for all the contact equipment should be standardised. Mrs Croxford and Mr Gilbert have proposed the following amendments to the See-Saw and Dog Walk for the Council's consideration.

Regulation H(1)(B)3.n. (See-Saw)

FROM

See-Saw—This obstacle will consist of a plank firmly mounted on a central bracket. The length of the plank should be a minimum of 3.66m (12ft) and a maximum of 4.267m (14ft). The width should be 254mm (10ins) minimum and 305mm (12ins) maximum with the height of the central bracket being a maximum of 685mm (2ft 3ins) from the ground. The last 914mm (3ft) from each end should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. The plank should have a non-slip surface with no slats.

(Deletions underlined)

TO

See-Saw—This obstacle will consist of a plank firmly mounted on a central bracket. The length of the plank must be 3.66m (12ft). The width should be 254mm (10ins) minimum and 305mm (12ins) maximum. The height of the central bracket measured from the ground to the top of the plank should be 610mm (2ft) minimum and 685mm (2ft 3ins). The last 914mm (3ft) from each end should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. The plank should have a non-slip surface with no slats.

(Amendments underlined)

Addition to Regulation H(1)(B)3.n. (See-Saw)

FROM

... The plank should have a non-slip surface with no slats.

TO

... The plank should have a non-slip surface with no slats. The See-Saw must start to tip and then touch the ground between 2–3 seconds after a weight of 1 kilogram has been placed in the middle of the down contact area.

(Addition underlined)

Regulation H(1)(B)3.o. (Dog Walk)

FROM

Dog Walk—A walk plank of approximately 1.372m (4ft 6ins) high with firmly fixed ramps at either end. The planks should be a minimum 3.66m (12ft) and a maximum 4.267m (14ft) in length and a minimum of 254mm (10ins) and a maximum of 305mm (12ins) in width. The last 914mm (3ft) from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp should have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 152mm (6ins) of the start of a contact area.

(Deletions underlined)

TO

Dog Walk—A walk plank of approximately 1.372m (4ft 6ins) measured from the ground to the top of the plank, with firmly fixed ramps at either end. The planks must be 3.66m (12ft) in length and a minimum of 254mm (10ins) and a maximum of 305mm (12ins) in width. The last 914mm (3ft) from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp should have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 152mm (6ins) of the start of a contact area.

(Amendments underlined)

Cancelled Show Refunds

- g. At its last meeting the Council requested the office investigate the cost of a central cancellation insurance policy to cover all shows. The Council is invited to note the results of the research.

(Annex D – to be tabled)

Start/Finish – Positioning of Electronic Timing Gates

- h. At its last meeting clarification was sought on the definition of the start and finish of an Agility course as well as the positioning of electronic timing gates. The Council agreed that electronic timing gates should not be used in a way which would make them appear as part of the course for the dog and handler to negotiate. It was suggested that timing devices could perhaps be placed on certain obstacles. Whilst not attempting to remove Judge's discretion on course design, some obstacles do not lend themselves to being used in conjunction with timing gates without causing a problem for the dog and handler, and consequently, the Judge. For example, positioning the timing gates on tunnels, weaving poles or contact obstacles at the start or finish of the course is difficult to achieve without impeding the dog or creating a Judging dilemma. Even when used in conjunction with a simple hurdle, incorrect positioning of the timing gates can cause problems, in particular when the obstacle is taken at an angle. Furthermore, there have been instances of confusion as to which side the timing heads should be placed on the start/finish obstacle. Mr Gilbert and Mr Mallabar have prepared several proposals for consideration. The Council is requested to note that the proposals are not dependent on each other.

Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(3)

FROM

Design – 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 which the dog is required to clear should have a minimum of 3.6m (4yds) between centres 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. The distance between the finishing poles should be wide enough to allow a dog to pass through without impediment.
(Deletion underlined)

TO

Design – 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 which the dog is required to clear should have a minimum of 3.6m (4yds) between centres 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.

Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(6) (Electronic Timing Gates)

INSERT

Electronic timing gates—The only obstacles allowed at the Start and Finish of a Standard Agility or Jumping Course are; Hurdle, Spread Jump, Brush Jump, Long Jump, Tyre, Wishing Well. The electronic timing gates should be positioned within 30cm (12ins) in front of the first obstacle and within 30cm (12ins) after the last obstacle. The distance between the electronic timing gates should be no less than the width of the part of the obstacle the dog must jump. Whenever possible the timing gates should be placed within the width of the Hurdle wings, or in the case of the Wall, within the pillars. For the Long Jump, Tyre and Wishing Well, the timing gates should be placed as close as possible to the outside edge of the obstacle without impeding the dog's natural jumping path.

N.B. This regulation should also apply if manual timing is used in conjunction with start/finish poles.

(Insertion underlined)

For the latter proposals, although it is customary for a scribe to tell the handler when to start, there is no regulation for this, or what marking should apply in the event that the handler and dog start too soon. The following proposed regulations would help clarify the matter for all those involved. It is important to note however, that other regulations which relate to competitors/dogs in the ring would still apply.

Regulation H(1)10.g. (Competing)

INSERT

The dog and handler are deemed to be under test when instructed by the Judge or the Judge's steward, by signal or voice. The test has concluded when the dog has negotiated the last obstacle, or the handler and dog have voluntarily left the ring.

(Insertion underlined)

Regulation H(1)(B)5.a.(13)

INSERT

Start—Starting prior to instruction may result in elimination. If the dog runs by the first obstacle it should be faulted with a refusal.

(Insertion underlined)

ITEM 4. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

The Council is invited to review and discuss progress on the five-year strategy. The following topics were suggested at the last meeting as areas for discussion, with the first two being prioritised:

- To recognise agility as an official sport.
- To establish the possibility of creating a results database.
- Judges' Mentoring Programme for all judges.
- To suggest recording a dog's actual height measurement rather than, as at present, placing a dog into its relevant height category.

ITEM 5. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Ms B Palmer

Mr C Huckle

Proposed Amendment of Regulation H(1)10.c.

FROM

Dogs must not wear any type of slip, half-slip collar or lead when under test. A flat, close fitting, leather or webbing collar is permitted, providing the only attachment is a plain identification panel as an integral part of the collar i.e.: not attached by a ring.

(Deletion underlined)

TO

Dogs must not wear any type of slip, half-slip collar or lead when under test. A flat, close fitting collar is permitted, providing the only attachments are a plain identification panel and a D ring as an integral part of the collar i.e.: not attached by a ring.

(Amendments underlined)

This regulation amendment is proposed as clarification since judges cannot confirm what the collar material might be from a distance. Some competitors are now using a flat, close fitting flea collar which is not designed to be removed. Ms Palmer considers that these collars should be permitted since they are flat and close fitting. The additional insertion regarding the D ring is to clarify what constitutes an integral part of a collar.

ITEM 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Securing the Pipe Tunnel – Dog [Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group](#)

The above Sub-Group requests the Council discuss whether a change to the regulations should be introduced to stipulate how the pipe tunnel should be secured to ensure the aperture of the tunnel is not reduced below the recommended minimum as a result of securing straps being over tightened.

The Council is invited to note that at its meeting in January 2012, it was stated that it was the judge's responsibility to ensure that the equipment in the ring met with Kennel Club Regulations. In conclusion, the Council agreed that wider straps which would spread the compression onto the tunnel would be preferable and it encouraged equipment manufacturers to create alternative options to prevent this problem. The Council is therefore requested to consider whether regulating this matter would prove effective.

ITEM 7. INTERNATIONAL AGILITY FESTIVAL

To note a written report on the arrangements for the 2013 Kennel Club International Agility Festival, due to be held on 9-11 August 2013.
(Annex E refers)

ITEM 8. JUDGES WORKING PARTY (WTOA)

To note a written report on the progress of the Judges Working Party following its meeting on 22 April 2013.
(Annex F – to be tabled)

ITEM 9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be in January 2014 and will be confirmed in September 2013.

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.*
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 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

“To raise the relevance of the Kennel Club in the eyes of the public at large, dog owners and those who take part in canine events, so as to be better able ‘to promote in every way the general improvement of dogs.’ This objective to be achieved through:-

- **Ensuring that the Kennel Club is the first port of call on all canine matters.**
- **Improving canine health and welfare.**
- **Popularising canine events focusing on the retention of existing participants and the attracting of new.**
- **Encouraging the development of all those concerned with dogs through education and training.**
- **Achieving a widening of the Kennel Club membership base.**
- **Encouraging more people to provide input in the Kennel Club’s decision making process.”**