



The Judging Panel

Jackie Gardner (Midlands), Simon Chandler (South East & East Anglia), Martin Tait (South West)
Martin Cavill (Wales), Sara Hawkswell (Scotland), Eleanor Kay (North East)

Remit

- The Judging Panel is there to look at ways of helping and supporting judges in all aspects of the role of being a judge.
- To regularly assess and update all literature pertaining to judges
- To review any incidents sent to the KC/SKC regarding judges and judging
- To support and pass on ideas on how to improve Judges Training and mentoring.
- To give feedback to the Activities Judges Sub-Group

Current items:

1. Proposals relating to Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(3) Increase of Minimum and Maximum Number of Obstacles

See main agenda for proposal submitted by Ms H Grantham

2. Issues faced by judges:

- Judging contracts for appointments several years in advance
- Arriving at shows and finding you have no one to help set up courses / lack of ring party
- Dealing with adverse weather conditions
- Dealing with Competitors / Dealing with Social Media
- What should we do in the event of Equipment failures

These are all things that our agility judges face weekly. There is a booklet, the Guide for Agility Judges and Stewards, which gives good practical advice, and we are also looking to update this booklet to help judges as much as we can.

Most Show incidents can and should be reported via the Incident book, but this is clearly not happening, why? By reporting an incident, it will not only help the person reporting it, but it will also highlight trends that we as a Judging Panel can now investigate. If you do not feel, for whatever reason, able to put your concerns in the incident book, you can also contact your ALC rep for assistance, or contact the KC direct with your concerns.

If something happens after the show, you can report it direct to the Kennel Club by emailing Agility@thekennelclub.org.uk

The Judges Training Seminars have been updated and now cover the practical side of judging. These Seminars are suitable for New and Existing judges.

3. Proposal relating to Regulation H 28.a.(9) relating to judging of spouses

Rationale why the Judges Panel feel Regulation H 28.a.(9) relating to judging of spouses should be removed:

- Judging agility is not a subjective event but has clearly defined parameters that define what should and should not be faulted. Signalling of faults is a very visual act and can be clearly seen by spectators.
- We believe our judges have the integrity and honesty that, should a subjective call be required, i.e. refusal plains being one possible such event, then consistent marking would be applied.
- Agility is developing with more and more professional trainers who judge, it would be more in the judge's interest for their clients to be seen as winning, than a spouse or family member.



- Business partners can judge each other but husband and wife can't. This does not make logical sense.
- Should any incidents of judges showing favouritism arise, these should be dealt with via the incident book rather than a blanket ban on all judges.
- We should be encouraging judges and supporting them.
- Competitors are trusted on merit to give correct details regarding wins towards progression etc. No formal evidence is required by the KC to confirm grade movement.
- But we are showing suspicion to our judges by not offering them the same level of trust.
- With agility showing continued growth we need to encourage judges new and old to develop and grow our hobby, this rule does not encourage people to judge or to want to judge.
- Couples in agility are generally more likely to be involved for a long period and losing these people as judges could be considered a backward step.
- Although we do not have evidentiary numbers as to the number of judges this effects, we believe it to be a significant enough number to warrant highly recommending reviewing and removing this ruling for agility Judges.
- This rule causes show organisers problems, as they have to try and fit classes to be judged around the family members of the judge.
- Show organisers are finding that judges are turning down appointment because of this ruling. Making it difficult for them to find the numbers of judges need for large Agility Shows.

Future Items:

Judges Mentoring Scheme - To look at ways to improve the scheme Update Booklet: Guide for Agility Judges