THE KENNEL CLUB

Rule to discuss:

H(1)9.E - "The maximum number of individual runs a person shall judge on one day is 450, excluding unforeseen eventualities such as re-runs."

Background:

Mrs Webster wishes the council to consider whether the regulation H(1)9.E should be reviewed regarding the maximum number of dogs (450) a judge can judge during a judging day. Since the maximum number of dog's rule was set, several additional rule changes have occurred which have lengthened days for the show teams, judges and competitors, including but not limited to:
- H(1)(B)1.a)4. - Measuring each course set to formulate a suitable time
- H(1)(B)1.a)3. - Minimum and maximum distances between obstacles to consider and alter on the day
- H(1)(A)8. - LHO (a similar impact to day length is expected when this is replaced by "Intermediate height" - H(1)(B)2 - with the course walking, height changes, classes and calling expected)

Quantitative research was carried out which found that 60% of all judging appointments exceeded 8 hours, a typical working day. This duration did not take into account the time taken to set the first course of the day, prepare any of the courses prior, or travel time to and from the venue.

From speaking to a sample of judges and competitors for qualitative data, Mrs Webster found that classes are getting smaller, meaning fewer judges are required based on regulation H(1)9.E. However, they are judging more classes/courses at each appointment, in some cases this was up to 12 classes in one day. The popularity of running contacts is highlighted to also create a more demanding judging day, both mentally and physically. The advent of electronic scoring was also mentioned and, although it is welcomed by most, issues with systems have added between 10 and 60 minutes to days.
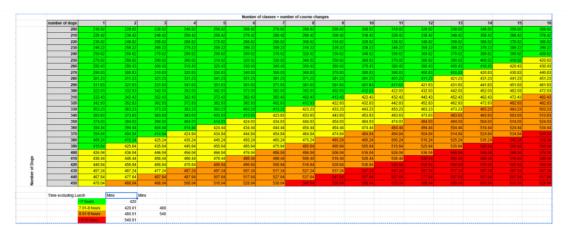
Judges are retiring for a variety of reasons and new judges are not coming through quickly enough to balance the churn rate. Therefore, measures that the committee can implement to make a judging day more manageable both physically and mentally should be considered a positive step for the sport.
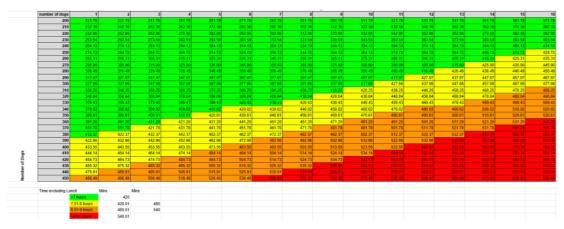
Suggestion:

Mrs Webster would like to suggest the current rule which states the maximum number of dogs is replaced by a guideline that takes into consideration the number of dogs, the number of course changes and the number of classes, with a view to limiting very long days which further impact the number of judges and voluntary ring parties found in our sport. Mrs Webster used her research to create a matrix which she suggests the judges working party investigate further. Mrs Webster would be willing to assist with this if required. Below: Example "Agility Matrix" with the number of dogs entered on the X and number of classes on the Y. Green areas are estimated 7 hour working days or less, not including "lunch" breaks.

Below: Example "Jumping Matrix" with the number of dogs entered on the X and number of classes on the Y:

END.

Research summary:

A survey was created and distributed to Kennel Club judges in order to gain primary quantitative research into the duration of a typical judging day.

Of the 60 respondents between May and August of 2019, Mrs Webster found that:
- 60% of appointments exceeded a 'typical working day' of 8 hours
- the most common day length reported was 9 hours
- the longest day recorded from the survey was 10.25 hours

Mrs Webster further analysed the actual minutes per dog based on class type, both including and excluding course changes and found the following*:

	Mins per dog inc. changes	Mins per dog exc. changes
Overall Average	1.5	1.1
Agility Average	1.5	1
Jumping Average	1.5	1.1
Mixed Average	1.4	1

Mrs Webster also analysed the effect that the number of classes/courses and the number of dogs judged had on the time involved in the day, with and without breaks. It is from this data that the suggestion has been formulated.

*For the purposes of results collation, the following assumptions were made:
- Course walking and course change took approximately 10 minutes
- All dogs who had entered the classes had ran on the day, as the number of dogs ran is not readily available to judges at the time.
  - Those involved in the research note that by using the "number of entered dogs" for the matrix creation, rather than the "number of dogs actually running", the average time per dog is actually longer, therefore the matrix is built on best-case scenarios whereby the number of running dogs is closer to the entered rather than the actual figures.

Mrs Webster is happy to share the data captured with the committee on request.