



**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT
10.30 AM ON THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2022 IN THE BOARDROOM,
THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET - AGENDA**

**ITEM 1. PRESENTATION TO THE COUNCIL ON KENNEL CLUB STRUCTURES
AND PROCEDURES**

The office will give a presentation to Council representatives giving details of the Kennel Club and Liaison Council structure and procedures and the role of Council representatives.

ITEM 2. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL

ITEM 3. TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL

**ITEM 4. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE
ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE 2022 TO MAY 2025**

**ITEM 5. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND
WELFARE SUB-GROUP**

**ITEM 6. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE ACTIVITIES JUDGE SUB-
GROUP**

ITEM 7. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 8. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2021 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 9. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Stay exercises
The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 2 September 2021, considered the issue of stay exercises. It accepted the Council's strong view that there was no necessity to replace the stay exercise with a control element of some kind, as there were already a number of control elements implicit in existing exercises, such as recall, send away, drop and recall, and distant control. Accordingly, it recommended the removal of all stays from the list of exercises for obedience.



At its meeting on 12 October 2021, the Board approved the regulation amendments necessary to facilitate the removal of the stay exercise. A full list is attached.
(Annex A refers)

- b. At its meeting on 12 October 2021, the Board also approved the following amendments to regulations:

New Regulation G(A)4

TO:

Progression on wins. Progression from each class will be determined by the eligibility for the class as referenced in Regulations G(A). To count for progression wins must be gained in standard classes at Kennel Club licensed Open, Premier or Championship Obedience shows. A first place will count towards progression.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

New Regulation G(A)5

TO:

Progression on points. At the handler's discretion a dog may progress up to the next class, up to and including into Open Class C by gaining points at each level, using the Obedience Excellent scale of points scheme as follows:

- Ten points for first prize
- Four points for second prize
- Two points for third prize
- One point for fourth prize

If this method of progression is selected, the handler must ensure the show secretary/chief steward signs the dog's Obedience Record Book at the first show entered in the higher class. There is no time limit on this progression, however, once a dog or handler has progressed, they cannot return to the class that they had progressed from. All wins and places to fourth since 1 January 2019 can be included when calculating points. Points are specific to a particular class and cannot be used against a lower or higher class.

Points required for progression on points are as follows:

1. 20 points required for progression from Pre-Beginners.
2. 20 points required for progression from Beginners.
3. 20 points required for progression from Novice.
4. 30 points required for progression from Class A.
5. 30 points required for progression from Class B.

(Insertion in bold)

(Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

New Regulation G(A)6

TO:

Progression may be on wins or on points and the handler may select their preferred means of progression on a class by class basis.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

New Regulation G(A)7

TO:

Obedience Record Book. Any handler wishing to progress on points must have an Obedience Record Book as evidence of points gained at eligible shows and which must be available for inspection by the show management and/or the judge on the date of any



competition entered by the owner/handler. This must include details of any wins, and any points, that allow for progression. Details will include show date, name and type of show (Open, Premier, or Championship), judge, class, placing and points.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation G(A)6

TO:

~~6.~~ **10.** Pre-Beginners.

- a. To compete in Pre-Beginners a handler or dog must not have won two first places in either Pre-Beginners or Beginners nor gained a third place or above in any other Obedience class (Introductory class excepted) **and have not elected to progress on points from Pre-Beginners.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation G(A)7

TO:

~~7.~~ **11.** Beginners.

- a. To compete in Beginners a handler or dog must not have won a total of two or more first places in Beginners class or one first place in any other Obedience class (Introductory class and Pre-Beginners excepted) **and have not elected to progress on points from Beginners.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation G(A)8.

TO:

~~8.~~ **12.** Novice.

- a. For dogs which have not won 2 first places in Obedience classes (Introductory class, Pre-Beginners and Beginners excepted) **and where the handler has not elected to progress on points from Novice.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation G(A)9.

TO:

~~9.~~**13.** Class A.

- a. For dogs which have not won 3 first prizes in Class A, B and Open Class C in total **and where the handler has not elected to progress on points from Class A.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation G(A)10.

TO:

~~10.~~ **14.** Class B.

- a. For dogs which have not won 3 first prizes in Class B and Open Class C in total **and where the handler has not elected to progress on points from Class B.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation G(A)11.

TO:

~~14.~~ **15.** Class C.

- a. For Championship Class C at Championship Shows, dogs must have won out of Novice, Class A and Class B, **or have progressed on points from those classes,** and have won



Open Class C on one occasion and have been placed not lower than third on three further occasions; all Open Class C places and wins must have been won under different judges at Kennel Club licensed shows.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2022)

Regulation K3.c. Obedience Warrants

TO:

c. Obedience Warrants. An Obedience Warrant will be issued on application by the registered owner at the time of qualification in respect of a dog that has obtained ~~14~~**100 progression** points ~~(as defined in General Regulations G Annex A)~~ whilst ineligible to compete in ~~Championship Class C~~. The points are to be gained at Championship, Premier or Open Obedience Shows, ~~as follows~~ **and must include the following:**

~~(1) Two points for a first prize in Novice Class on two occasions only.~~

~~(2) Two points for a first prize in Class A on two occasions only.~~

~~(3) Two points for a first prize in Class B on two occasions only.~~

~~(4) Two points for a first prize in Open Class C on one occasion only.~~

(1) 20 points in Novice Class.

(2) 30 points in Class A.

(3) 30 points in Class B.

(4) 10 points for a first prize in Open Class C on at least one occasion.

(5) 10 additional points in Open Class C.

(6) Where a dog had to progress because it had won a first prize, or first prizes, at a higher level, then additional points achieved at a higher class may be used to supplement points at a lower class to achieve the 100 points total.

~~(5)~~ **(7) The title 'OW' may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues.**

(8) All wins and places to fourth since 1 January 2019 can be included when calculating points.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2022)

New Regulation G34.m.

TO:

In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including 25 days before the start of the competition shall be counted when entering for any class. For these purposes a competition shall be defined as all classes covered within the same schedule. In the event that a dog becomes eligible for the next class at a particular show, after the entry for that show has been sent, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the show secretary or the show processor at least 14 days before the date of the show. The dog should then be moved into the appropriate class(es). The dog must be moved into the corresponding number of classes as were entered at the lower class. If there are fewer or no classes available for the next class the competitor should be offered a refund of the relevant entry fees.

The show organiser is not required to split a class should entries exceed the maximum of 60 as a result of this notification process.

(Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2022)

New Regulation G(D)

TO:

On application by the registered owner(s), an "Obedience Excellent Qualification" will be issued for a dog that has obtained the required amount of points for places gained at Open and Championship Obedience Shows. The scale of the points is as follows:

1. 10 points for a first prize.

2. 4 points for second prize.

3. 2 points for a third prize.



4. 1 point for a fourth prize.

The required points to achieve each qualification are as follows:

- 1. 10 points required for Introductory**
- 2. 20 points required for Pre-Beginners.**
- 3. 20 points required for Beginners.**
- 4. 20 points required for Novice.**
- 5. 30 points required for Class A.**
- 6. 30 points required for Class B.**
- 7. 40 points required for Class C.**

This qualification may be used on entry forms for dogs qualified and will be shown in show catalogues. Only one such qualification may be shown so that as a dog progresses to a higher qualification, the lower one may no longer be used. Points towards the required excellent qualification in any particular class will be awarded as a result of gaining places in that class and/or any higher class.

(Insertions in bold)

(Subsequent Regulation annexes to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2022)

c. Training for commentators

The Council had previously noted that it would be necessary for such training to take place on a face-to-face basis, rather than via remote means, and that for this reason it was unlikely that it would take place before early 2022.

It is invited to note that in view of the resources required to organise suitable training, it had been deferred, but arrangements would be made as soon as it was possible to do so. It was hoped that this would be during the course of 2022. The Council would be kept updated as to progress.

e. Obedience Festival

At its previous meeting, the Council agreed that an informal working party should be established, with the objective of developing plans for an Obedience Festival, and, in due course formulating a business plan. Mr McCartney, Mrs Patrick, Mrs Smith, Mrs Russell and Mrs Lavender all volunteered their services, and would discuss the issue and report back to the Council at its next meeting. It is invited to note a written report on the matter.

(Annex B refers)

f. Strategic Plan

At its July 2021 meeting, the Council had agreed that a review of the structure of obedience classes was necessary. This matter is included on the agenda under Item 15.

ITEM 10. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Rutter following the Sub-Group's meeting held on 18 November 2021.

(Annex C refers – to follow)

ITEM 11. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mrs Patrick following the Sub-Group's meeting which took place on 16 September 2021.

(Annex D refers)



ITEM 12. YOUNG KENNEL CLUB

The Council is requested to note a written report from Mrs Lavender.
(Annex E refers – to follow)

ITEM 13. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

- a. Ms H Troth Miss F Godfrey

Eligibility for Introductory classes

Ms Troth notes that this year in East Anglia there have been no Introductory Classes and completely new competitors have entered Pre-Beginner and Beginner Classes. The entries in these classes have been very low; for example, at one show in the summer there were only five entries in Pre-Beginners.

Accordingly, Ms Troth wishes to propose an amendment to Regulation G(A)5.b. in relation to eligibility for the Introductory Class, as follows:

Regulation G(A)5.b

TO:

To compete in the Introductory Class a handler or dog must not have ~~won or~~ **gained a 1st place in an** Introductory Class or ~~have achieved a 4th place or above in Pre-Beginners~~ or in any other class.

(Deletions struck through, insertion in bold)

Rationale

Inexperienced handlers are often unaware that, unless they elect to cease competing when their work goes badly wrong, they will find that they have won an award which will prevent them from ever competing in an Introductory Class, where they actually belong.

- b. Ms H Troth Miss F Godfrey
Competing in Introductory classes

Ms Troth is also of the view that existing competitors may not wish to find themselves having to compete in an Introductory Class as their lowest class, and proposes the following amendment to Regulation G(A)5:

Regulation G(A)5. Introductory

TO:

- a. **Note: This class, where scheduled, is optional, and eligible handlers may elect not to enter it as their lowest class.** This class is to introduce and support newcomers to obedience competition. In this class only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and may be given to the dog at the end of an exercise or in between exercises. Rewards include food which must be carried in a small closed container during the exercises. The judge will designate an area in the competitive ring where food may be given to the dog by the handler

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

The above amendment would allow the Introductory class to be treated as an optional class which would allow eligible competitors the choice of whether or not to enter it if they did not wish to do so.



ITEM 14. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Mrs J Le Fevre

Use of food rewards

Noting that food rewards are already permitted in the Introductory class, the Council is requested to consider the introduction of food rewards into Pre-Beginner and Beginner classes. Most dogs are trained at local training clubs with the handlers being able to hold food, or have food on them. At their first show, where the environment is far more challenging than a club environment, they are expected not to carry food unless an Introductory class is scheduled. Even where such a class is scheduled, the handler will not be permitted to use food in a second subsequent class. Mrs Le Fevre is of the view that more people would be encouraged into the discipline of competitive obedience if food rewards were permitted in the earlier classes, thus enabling a less challenging transition from training to competitions.

b. Mrs J Le Fevre

Pre-Beginner class – introduction of another exercise

Mrs Le Fevre notes that as stays have been removed from the list of exercises, the marking in the Pre-Beginner class is weighted towards heelwork. The views of the Council are sought as to suggestions for ways in which this class may be made a little more varied.

c. Mr D Moxon

Additional exercises and modifications to existing exercises

Mr Moxon requests that the Council discuss the above matter with a view to allowing for a working group to develop a proposal for the Council's meeting in June 2022 so that, if approved, new regulations could be brought into effect from January 2023.

The discussion has three themes.

1. Addressing the need for two lots of heelwork in the lower classes.
2. Provide a control on the amount of heelwork that is within a test, especially in the lower classes.
3. Look for additional exercises, excluding Class C.

Rationale

One of the concerns from new competitors to the discipline is the consequence of having to do two lots of heelwork in the lower classes (Pre-Beginners up to Novice). It is also not unusual for the two lots of heelwork to exceed the amount of heelwork that may be in an A round. There is therefore a concern that very little, other than heelwork, is being tested and it is not providing any real variety when training their dog. This is exacerbated with the removal of stays in that for Pre-Beginners there is only two lots of heelwork and a Novice Recall.

For Beginners and above (except C) there are now only four exercises and again there is an opportunity to introduce new exercises which could be seen as a development towards the exercises in Class C. In all cases there needs to be an eye as to the amount of time such exercises will take. Therefore, this fits within point 2 of the objective and that is to provide clarity as to the amount of heelwork that can be set within any test, at any level, either by time or/and by limiting the number of turns.

For discussion:

1. Replace heel free in Pre -Beginners, Beginners and Novice with a standard A recall. Dog can be left in a sit or down (as per A Recall) and handler will come to a halt 4 to 5 meters beyond the dog (could be longer for Novice).
 - a. For Pre-Beginner this could be a straight call to heel with or without heelwork.



- b. For Beginners and Novice, the handler calls the dog and once the dog is level with the handler, and without further instruction, the handler moves off into heelwork. This heelwork is limited to one turn and the total distance of the exercise is no more than two diagonal lengths of the ring. The handler does not need to have their feet together when calling the dog. This is to allow the dog to distinguish between moving off and coming to a sit position.
 - c. For Novice this could be extended with the option to include a left hand pick up. i.e. a left turn after leaving the dog and before calling the dog.
2. Time constraint for amount of heelwork based on the judge's walking time to cover the distance of the test. This can be based around the current guide that is given for the number of dogs per hour.
- i. Class C – 8 dogs = 7½ minutes per dog (Heelwork to be <3½minutes) (4 minutes for Championship Class C)
 - ii. Class B – 10 dogs = 6 minutes (Heelwork to be < 3minutes)
 - iii. Class A – 12 dogs per hour = 5 minutes (Heelwork to be <2½ minutes)
 - iv. Novice = 12 dogs per hour = 5 minutes (Heelwork to be <2½ minutes)
 - v. Beginners = 15 dogs per hour = 4 minutes (Heelwork to be < 2minutes)
 - vi. Pre-Beginners and Introductory = 18 dogs per hours = 3⅓ (3 minutes 20 seconds) (Heelwork to be no more than 1 minute 40 seconds - 100 seconds)

An additional option for the lower classes is to limit the number of turns but that does not assist where a judge has an arc or a circle. But for example:

- vii. Novice maximum 6 turns
 - viii. Beginners maximum 5 turns
 - ix. Pre-Beginners maximum 4 turns (Note - Introductory is already prescribed).
3. Additional Exercises: **Please note the following are suggestions and not intended to be the final proposals.**
- a. Class B
 - i. Mini Distance Control. From no more than 3 paces. 4 positions which must include a sit, down and stand.
 - b. Class A
 - i. One Position on the move. On a straight line, one position on the move being either down or stand (avoid sit) with a pickup and halt. Handler is allowed to pause to aid pick up.
 - ii. Wait – leave dog in sit or a down (judge's choice) and return. Needed for DC and could be done as part of fetching or return of dumbbell.
 - c. Novice
 - i. Wait – leave dog in sit or a down (handler's choice) and return. Needed for DC and could be done as part of fetching or return of dumbbell.
 - ii. With the dog sat in front of the handler, (approximately arm's length) the dog is commanded into a sit, down, stand. The judge decides which position the dog will start and finish in but there will only be three changes of position.
 - d. Beginners
 - i. Wait – leave dog in sit and return. Needed for DC and could be done as part of fetching or return of dumbbell. (Novice has option for a down)
 - ii. With the dog sat in front of the handler (approximately arm's length), the dog is commanded into a down, stand and finishes in a sit. At the judge's discretion the down and stand can be reversed but for Beginners, the dog must start in a sit and finish with a sit.
 - e. Pre-Beginners
 - i. Sit your dog and walk round or down your dog and walk round. This can be done on lead. Handlers can command the dog either at the front or the side of



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- the dog but must finish at the position where they started before releasing their dog. Exercise commences from a stand.
- ii. Recall front – on lead. Whilst walking with dog in heelwork position, call the dog to the front and into a present position. The handler is allowed to take three paces back to achieve the present position. To finish the handler then moves to the dog's heelwork position (i.e. the dog stays still). Note - Heelwork is not marked for this exercise, only the call front and if the dog changes position when the handler moves to the dog's heelwork position.
 - f. Introductory – on lead
 - i. Down your dog. Exercise commences from a stand or a sit.
 - ii. Sit your dog in front at arm's length and command to heelwork position.

ITEM 15. FIVE YEAR STRATEGY

- a. At its July 2021 meeting, the Council had agreed that further consideration should be given to 'Reviewing the structure of obedience classes' as listed within the Strategic Plan, particularly with the objective of considering new or revised exercises which would be beneficial in attracting new competitors into the discipline.
- b. It was also agreed that the Strategic Plan should be more dynamic in nature, with specific action points highlighted to ensure ongoing progress. The Council is invited to discuss ways in which this may be achieved.
- c. Representatives are invited to propose further items to the Strategic Plan.
(Annex F refers)

ITEM 16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Please give at least two weeks' advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Chairman.

ITEM 17. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date for the next meeting of the Council will take place on 23 June 2022. Any items for the agenda must be submitted by 25 March 2022.



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 Chairman.
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.