



ALC Judging Panel Report Judging

Panel Remit:

- 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 Kennel Club/Scottish Kennel Club 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

My aim is to take all issues raised within the Judges Panel remit and input into a SMART table to enable easier tracking and build to a conclusion such as the table below

Specific	Measurable	Achievable/Relevance	Timescale	Owner

ITEMS to be added to the table

1. Qualifications and skill of agility judges

Understanding how many current judges we have and how many new judges are:

-Taking online exam

-Taking Practical assessment

Our proposed action is for the Judges Panel to liaise with Kennel Club regarding administration and ensure that the scheme runs smoothly in 2022 and data are collected to feed into the judges panel's review.

2. Mentor Scheme

To look at current scheme but to look at a more measurable system of support to new judges.

3. Recruitment and retainment of Judges

To enable us to monitor this situation the Judge panel would like to conduct a review of all existing judges to see when they last took the online judges exam and if they are still accepting appointments.

4. Judges Sub Group Report Online Judges exam

Ensure all questions are current and up to date.

5. Judges Trainers

No further update from previous meeting.



6. Layout of rings, entrances and exits, and the placement of leads and rewards

The Agility Liaison Council discussed this at their last meeting and agreed that the issue did need further consideration to improve on current practise. The Judging Panel has been considering how this might best be progressed. There are two options:

- ✦ Regulations that bring in new definitions or how ring entrances and exits must be marked or fenced, along with rules as to how they are used.
- ✦ Guidelines that clarify the issues that must be taken into account, give recommendation on different ways of controlling access and states what issues must be mitigated against.

The problem with regulation is the variety of venues that we need to consider – indoor and outdoor, those with restricted access to rings due to existing fences. No one regulations will cover all these types of venues without affecting the use of some venues.

Guidelines can cover the options and set out minimum standards. The main problem with guidelines is ensuring that all those involved in designing the layout of the show understand them and follow the guidelines so a judge is not presented with a potential arrival at a show that will not be safe.

The current version of the Guide for Agility Judges and Stewards (2022) gives guidelines on these issues for judges to consider:

- Sufficient space should be allowed at the start of the course to enable the dog to be setup by the handler within the ring. Dogs cannot start from outside the ring so the Judge must ensure that they have allocated sufficient space. It is recommended that the space from the first obstacle to the edge of the ring measured along the dog's probable line should be a minimum of 5m.
- The finish must be placed in such a way to enable the handler to gain control of their dog before exiting the ring. It is recommended that the space from the last obstacle to the edge of the ring measured along the dog's probable line should be a minimum of 5m.
- Consideration should be given to the placing of the start and finish in relation to each other to enable queuing of dogs waiting to enter the ring to be safe and away from ring entrances and exits.
- Consideration should be given to the Scrim when placing the ring tent in relation to the start to ensure they are able to effectively communicate with handler on the start line.

There are many good examples being used at some shows such as the provision of boxes/baskets which are used for handler to place leads/toys etc in as they enter the ring that are moved to the exit and the use of start and finish boxes - to prevent other competitors and spectators from interfering with the current competitors.

The panel recommends that the Guide for Agility Judges and Stewards should include examples of good practice (such as marking/fencing safe zones as the start and finish) and advise how show organisers and judges might mitigate against potential problem when this is not possible.

The panel would like to seek the view of the Council as to whether the distance for start and finish obstacles (minimum of 5m from the edge of the ring along the dog's probable line) should become a regulation.

7. Number of runs to be judged in a day

This will remain in review while we carry out a greater review of what issues cause judges genuine concern. To be able to provide a full review of how we can support those concerns.



8. Electronic contacts

No current progress has been made.

9. Guide For Judges

To ensure that the guide is reviewed for 2023 to include any new rule changes and guidance And to provide ongoing development as a **Best Practice document**.

10. Judges Overview

The overall objective for the Judging Panel is to keep the role of judges, their training and support, and judging rules and guidelines under review and to ensure that the Kennel Club Agility Judges structure is fit for purpose.

Martin Tait