



## **Kennel Club Agility Liaison Council**

### **Governance Panel Report – October 2022**

#### **The Role of the Competition Manager**

This matter was discussed at the last two meetings of the Agility Liaison Council. The Governance Panel has now drawn together these discussions into a description of the requirements and role of the Agility Competition Manager.

This would be a new annex in the regulations. The proposed annex is attached to this paper.

A new regulation should also be added as H(1)9.c.

**The person appointed as Competition Manager should be aware of their responsibilities as laid out in Annex H(1)(E) of these regulations and should meet the criteria for this role.**

The current regulation H(1)9.c. and all those following to be renumbered accordingly.

Ideally we would like this new regulation to be implemented from January 2024 but this will be dependant on the online seminar being available in time.

The Guide for Agility Judges and Stewards would need to be updated as a consequence of the rule changes.

#### **Capping Classes**

At the last ALC Meeting ( June 2022) the Council discussed a proposal to reduce the cap on progression classes from 250 to 50. The Council recommended that this go forward to the Activities Committee. Following discussion at the Activities Committee it was considered that reducing the cap to 50 had the potential to result in small classes. The Agility Liaison Council has been asked to reconsider this proposal.

The main rationale for proposing a reduction to the cap was to enable clubs to put on shows at smaller venues, in particular indoor venues during the winter months. The counter argument was that these classes should be open to all and not have restrictions placed on them that might unduly affect the standard of competition.

In many instances shows do already hold classes with fewer than 50 dogs at uncapped Open Shows. Shows generally control numbers at shows by managing what classes they put on. However there is always a risk that classes will be larger than anticipated and shows have no way on ensuring that they do not exceed the capacity of a venue.

The cap of 250 is currently applied to any class irrespective of whether it is graded or combined. Following further discussion between members of the Governance Panel a compromise is suggested whereby the overall cap is reduced to 150 but an additional clause is added allowing shows to cap classes that are open to dogs in just 1 or 2 grades at a lower level (50 and 100 respectively).

Thereby a class with just one grade could be capped at 50, but a class with 2 grades would need to be capped at a minimum of 100. For example this would enable clubs to put on shows with 4 standard classes each open to 2 grades, each capped at 100, thereby a maximum of 400 runs at the show.

If applied, caps at these levels would rarely affect the number of entries at most shows but would give clubs the ability to manage maximum entries and therefore be able to use more venues.

Note that no classes can be capped at Premier or Championship shows.

The following change to the regulations is therefore proposed.



Regulation H(1)(A)12.c.

TO:

The capping level must be set at a minimum of **50 entries for classes with just one grade of dogs, 100 entries for classes with 2 grades of dogs, and ~~250~~ 150** entries for all other classes. There is no maximum level at which a cap may be set. Capped classes may be split into two or more parts in accordance with Regulation H(1)9.f.

(Deletion struck through. Insertions in bold)

## Measuring

### Measurement of Large/Intermediate Dogs

Everyone will be aware that the FCI have bought in a new Intermediate height for dogs measuring 43 cm or more and less than 48 cm at the withers. Note that this is different to the UK height which is for dogs measuring over 43 cm and 50cm or under at the withers.

The Intermediate height in the UK has been a great success with most people now bringing “smaller” large dogs forward for a measure. The numbers of dogs competing in Intermediate are, in general, only slightly lower than in large.

Due to the difference in the measurements used some dogs in the UK will measure Intermediate but Large at their FCI height.

Dogs competing at the World Championships and European Open must compete in the height they measure into (they cannot compete in Large if they measure Intermediate). This is of particular relevance to those dogs whose handlers chose not to bring their dogs forward for a measure as they wanted to compete in Large so they would be eligible and competitive at an international level.

The Agility Liaison Council is asked to consider if this change in FCI regulation requires any action to the UK measuring regulations.

There are two options available

- No action – those dogs that did not come forward to be considered for an intermediate measure or were declared Large remain in the KC Large category for the rest of their time competing
- Allow dogs that had competed in Large to be voluntarily put forward for a measure to see if they measure onto Intermediate (if they had not already been brought forward for an Intermediate measure). If they do measure into Intermediate they will be immediately moved into the Intermediate height category (note this would be a short period to allow people to bring dogs forward for this measure – between 6-12 months)

It is also an appropriate time to also consider if the ability of owners to declare their dogs Large should be dropped ensuring that all dogs are measured and have to run in their correct height. This could be done by changing the regulations to ensure all dogs are measured before they compete, but might allow for “obviously” large dogs to have the second measure struck out.

Opinions on these issues are now sought so any proposed changes can come to the July ALC meeting.

### Training and Assessments for new measurers

Training sessions have now been held in Northern Ireland, Scotland and North West England. New measures have been appointed as a result of all of these sessions.

Further training sessions are planned early in 2023 in the Midlands, South West and Southern England.

Once these training and assessment sessions are completed, a review will be made of the Senior Measurers with a view to appointing additional senior measurers where these are required.



## Ongoing re-certification of measurers

The intention is to develop an online examination that can be used to help ensure that measurers are keeping up to date with any changes to the regulations and best practise. This will be in a format similar to the current online Judges exam. All existing measurers will be required to take this exam at least once every three years. A bank of questions will be designed – the timescale for implementation depends on how soon the KC will be able to set this up. We would hope that this could be done in 2023 so that a new regulation can be brought in for 2024

In addition the film relating to measuring is out of date and needs to be updated in 2023.

## Support for Measurers

The procedures for reporting incidents that happen during measuring sessions needs to be clarified along with the process for how those are dealt with. Some Measuring sessions happen at shows and incidents are reported in show incident book. Some sessions are held as stand-alone events and therefore not covered by the same regulations. It is essential that measurers are able to report any incidents and that these are dealt with through the Activities Committee in the same way that any incident at a show might be. Better guidance is needed as to how incidents should be reported. It is important that individual measurers have back up and support for safeguarding and disciplinary action and are kept informed of the status of any incidents.

This guidance will then be made available in an update to the Measurers Guidelines.

## Cost of measuring

The standard fee for measuring has been held at £4.00 for some time. Given the ongoing increases in costs (in terms of travel, equipment etc) we would recommend that the standard fee for measuring should increase to £6.00

This does not require a regulation change but would need agreement for guidelines to be updated. It would also require an update to measuring books (other small changes are also needed).

## Identifying issues in the current measuring process

A review of the data available is currently being undertaken to see if any specific trends can be identified. Specifically we are looking to see if there are trends in terms of when third measures are needed or the use of the additional measure. We are also looking at the data from GB measures to see if this highlights any additional trends.

A verbal report on this will be given at the meeting.

*Sara Hawkswell  
ALC Governance Panel Chair  
2<sup>nd</sup> November 2022*

## H(1)(E) INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE DUTIES OF AGILITY COMPETITION MANAGERS

### 1.. Experiences and Qualifications

- a. The Competition Manager should have a sound knowledge of the Kennel Club Rules and H Regulations, and a familiarity with the Kennel Club complaints procedure.
- b. The Competition Manager must have completed and passed an agility judges examination on the Kennel Club Academy within the last five years
- c. The Competition Manager must have attended an Agility Competition Manager's online seminar within the last five years.

### 2. Responsibilities.



- a. A Competition Manager's responsibilities are to at all times ensure that competitors and judges abide by the Kennel Club Rules and H Regulations.
- b. A Competition Manager acts as decision maker in all matters relating to the Kennel Club Rules and H Regulations for the duration of the show.
- c. A Competition Manager must fully document all decisions and actions taken in relation to the H Regulations in the show's Kennel Club incident book.
- d. A Competition Manager supports the show management team in the smooth running of the show.

### 3. Duties.

- a. The show committee shall appoint a Competition Manager whose name must be announced in the schedule, and who must not enter for competition a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership or work a dog or act in any other capacity at the show.
- b. In the event of extreme adverse conditions at a show a judge may remove mandatory equipment from a class as deemed appropriate at the time but must always obtain full agreement of the Competition Manager, unless in an emergency situation. The Competition Manager must be advised of the change and the reasons for it at the earliest opportunity. Any alterations must be recorded in the Incident Book and be reported, by the show management, to the Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show.
- c. Should a judge be prevented from completing a class which has already started, the Competition Manager shall decide what action is to be taken. Guidance is covered in the Guidance for Agility Judges and Stewards.
- d. The Competition Manager and the show management must act to remove a dog from the show under the conditions of Regulation H13.
- e. If there are any concerns over the suitability of a course the Competition Manager must consult with the relevant judge, and if available Accredited Trainers, and agree the proposed course of action.
- f. Any complaints or matters arising at the show should be referred, in the first instance to the Competition Manager, who may consult with other members of the show team before taking appropriate action. All incidents, even if they are resolved on the day of the show, must be recorded in the Incident Book and be reported, by the show management, to the Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show.