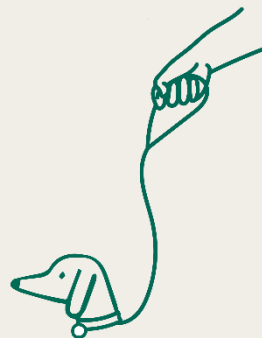




**YKC HANDLING**



**HANDLING COMPETITIONS**  
RULES 2026 (CRUFTS 2027)



## A: HANDLERS

1. The following three subcategories will be open for members to compete in:

06-11 Years

12-17 Years

18-24 Years

2. Only current YKC members may compete in YKC Classes.
3. Use the YKC member's age on the first day of the show to work out which age category a YKC member should enter.

## B: DOGS

1. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YKC Handling competition.
2. All competing dogs must be six calendar months of age or over on the day of competition.
3. Dogs must be registered with the Kennel Club when entering Kennel Club licenced shows.
  - i. Dogs can either be registered on the breed register or the activity register.
  - ii. As of 07-JAN-2020, dogs entering a handling class as their only entry at a show must be on a Kennel Club breed register **OR** the activity register.
    - a. If a dog wishes to participate in both a handling class and a breed class at a show, the dog must be on the relevant breed register.

## C: YKC HANDLING QUALIFIERS & GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. **By entering a YKC qualifier or final, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct**
2. YKC Handling competitions will be judged in-line with the YKC Handling Judges Criteria, available on the YKC website.
  - i. The winner will be the handler who the judge has deemed to have exhibited their dog the best according to the guidelines mentioned above.
3. The qualification period for **Crufts 2027** is: **01-Nov-2025 till 31-Oct-2026**
4. Unless otherwise specified in this document, YKC Handling classes will be subject to all in-force Kennel Club regulations for show competitions. Including, but not limited to:
  - i. (F) Show Regulations
    - a. In this section, any regulation that directly relates to judging criteria is superseded by the YKC Handling Judges Criteria
    - b. In this section, any regulation that directly relates to a judge's eligibility is ignored, however show organising the YKC handling competition must appoint a competent handling judge.
  - ii. (O) Regulations for The Young Kennel Club
5. When entering a YKC handling class, enter the age category you would be on the first day of the show.
6. YKC members must enter both the handler and dog into the class: the following information will be captured when entering the class;
  - i. YKC Handlers Name
  - ii. Dog's Kennel Club Name
7. YKC handling classes are not linked to which breeds are being exhibited on the day of the qualifier.
  - i. If a show has qualifiers across multiple days, any breed of dog may be handled on any day.
8. When a show holds YKC qualifiers over multiple days, if a YKC member wishes to enter a YKC handling qualifier on more than one day, each YKC handling entry must be with a different dog.
  - i. This is to limit handlers entering all days of a show with one dog and blocking qualification spots for other competitors.



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9. A YKC member may swap the dog entered to another dog that has already been entered at the show at any point before the class begins.
    - i. If a swap has occurred, the competitor must inform the steward at the earliest opportunity.
    - ii. A dog may not be swapped to another dog if by doing so it would break the above rule: C.8
  10. YKC Handling classes may be the first and only entry for a dog at a show.
    - i. You do not have to enter your dog in the relevant breed class at the same show when entering a YKC handling qualifier.
  11. Crossbreed dogs may compete in YKC handling competitions at any show holding YKC handling qualifiers.
  12. A YKC member may only handle one dog per class.
  13. YKC Members may enter YKC handling classes if they have already qualified.
  14. YKC Handling qualifiers are listed on the YKC website
    - i. Only qualifiers listed on the website will be eligible for qualification, please ensure that you are entering a valid YKC qualifier.
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## D: YKC HANDLING - WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE FINALS?

1. There will be 3 categories for YKC members to qualify for.
    - i. The categories will be subdivided as follows:

- Handler 06-11 Years
      - Handler 12-17 Years
      - Handler 18-24 Years
  2. **First & Second place** at any YKC Handling qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the final
  3. The YKC reserves the right to amend this qualification method if we are vastly oversubscribed for the final at Crufts **OR** if not enough spaces were filled.
    - i. The YKC will only amend qualification criteria in exceptional circumstances.
  4. The YKC will invite all those who have qualified to enter Crufts via email before Christmas
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## E: HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR YKC HANDLING?

1. YOU MAY ONLY ENTER A MAXIMUM OF **ONE** DOG TO THE FINALS AT CRUFTS.
  - i. This dog must be registered on either the Breed Register or Activity Register.
  - ii. This dog may be different from the dog you competed with in the qualifier.



## F: YKC HANDLING AT CRUFTS – FINALS

1. By entering a YKC class, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct.
2. The finals for the YKC Handling competitions are held at Crufts in the YKC ring.
3. The handling competitions at Crufts will be broken down into the following 9 classes (3 per day):

DAY (TBC)	DAY (TBC)	SUNDAY
<b>CLASS 1</b> Handler 18-24 Years (Max. 18 Handlers)	<b>CLASS 4</b> Handler 12-17 Years (Max. 18 Handlers)	<b>CLASS 7</b> Handler 06-11 Years (Max. 18 Handlers)
<b>CLASS 2</b> Handler 18-24 Years (Max. 18 Handlers)	<b>CLASS 5</b> Handler 12-17 Years (Max. 18 Handlers)	<b>CLASS 8</b> Handler 06-11 Years (Max. 18 Handlers)
<b>CLASS 3</b> Handler 18-24 Years (Max. 18 Handlers)	<b>CLASS 6</b> Handler 12-17 Years (Max. 18 Handlers)	<b>CLASS 9</b> Handler 06-11 Years (Max. 18 Handlers)
<b>GRAND FINAL</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Places from classes 1-9		

4. Handlers will be evenly distributed into the relevant classes.
  - i. The YKC will randomly distribute even numbers of those who qualified with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places into each class.
5. YKC Handling at Crufts will be judged in the same manner as the qualifiers.
6. Awards will be presented in the ring.
7. At Crufts, the YKC member's age will be calculated as that member's age on the first day of Crufts.
  - i. The YKC will use this calculated age to determine which age category a YKC member will compete in at Crufts.
    - a. This may be a different age category to the one the YKC member qualified in
    - b. Handlers who turn 25 before the first day of Crufts are not eligible to compete at Crufts in the YKC ring – any qualifications gained for the YKC will be forfeit.
8. A handler is allowed to swap dogs to any breed/crossbreed.
  - i. This must be reported to the YKC at the earliest opportunity.
    - a. The latest you may swap a dog from the one entered is 7 days before the first day of Crufts unless;
  - ii. Swapping dogs on the day of the competition at Crufts must be done during check in and before the start of the competition.
    - a. The dog you are swapping to must already be entered into another YKC class or a Breed class at the show.
9. Docked dogs may not be entered into the YKC handling finals competition at Crufts.
10. Dogs will be lined up in accordance with the approximate breed height, this will be determined by the YKC ahead of the competition.



## G: CLOTHING @ CRUFTS

1. Handlers should wear a similar style of suit to what would be typically seen in the breed ring. These suits should be smart while allowing the handler to perform the full range of motions required.
2. Boys should be in either a trousered or kilted suit with jacket.
3. Girls should be in either a trousered or skirted suit.
4. Should the handler either wear a kilt or skirt, these should be of appropriate length to allow the handler to perform the full range of motion required to show their dog without accidentally exposing themselves (take extra consideration for how your clothes will sit while stacking and presenting your dog).
5. Handlers should pick outfits that do not distract the judge from their view of the dog (e.g. don't pick trousers that are the same colour as your dog as then the judge cannot clearly see the topline of the dog etc.).
6. Handlers should wear smart comfortable shoes that allow them to move at the correct pace for their dog over artificial grass. High heels and trainers are not appropriate.

## H: YKC HANDLING FINALS – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following awards will be presented in the YKC ring for the YKC Handling Finals:

DAY (TBC)	DAY (TBC)	SUNDAY
<b>CLASS 1</b> Handler 18-24 Years 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLASS 4</b> Handler 12-17 Years 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLASS 7</b> Handler 06-11 Years 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>CLASS 2</b> Handler 18-24 Years 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLASS 5</b> Handler 12-17 Years 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLASS 8</b> Handler 06-11 Years 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>
<b>CLASS 3</b> Handler 18-24 Years 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLASS 6</b> Handler 12-17 Years 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CLASS 9</b> Handler 06-11 Years 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup>

## I: YKC HANDLER OF THE YEAR – GRAND FINAL

1. The winner of each of the above handling final competitions at Crufts will be invited to take part in the YKC Handler Of The Year Grand Final held in the YKC Ring on Sunday at Crufts. (9 competitors total)
2. Competitors should use the same dog as they handled in the finals.
  - i. If there is a suitable reason this dog may not be used in the Grand Final, a substitute dog may be used only with the agreement of the YKC.



# YKC HANDLING



## J ■ YKC HANDLING GRAND FINAL – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following two awards will be presented in the YKC ring for the YKC Handling Grand Final:

**YKC Handler of The Year**

**Overall Winner**

**YKC Handler of The Year**

**Reserve**

2. All YKC competitors in the YKC Handling Grand Final will receive a YKC Handling Grand Finalist Rosette.