

Dog Showing Amendments for 2026 (F Regs)

The Royal Kennel Club has approved the following changes to the regulations for dog shows held under F Regulations with effect from 1 January 2026.

The following amendment to the regulation allows dog show societies to accept Not for Competition (NFC) entries for dogs of 12 weeks of age and over, this aligns with the regulations for activity disciplines.

Amendment to regulation F.1.c

Regulation F.1.c. Application.

TO:

Only dogs of four calendar months of age and over on the first day of the show are eligible for exhibition at Royal Kennel Club licensed shows. However, societies may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion **for dogs aged 12 weeks and over.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendment to the regulation is to provide clarity that Reserve Challenge Certificates (RCCs) do not count towards Champion titles until five have been gained.

Amendment to Regulation F.4 and F(A)8

Regulation F.4. Licensed shows.

TO:

F.4. *Dogs which have won a Challenge Certificate, **five Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges) or** obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Royal Kennel Club e.g. CACIB, CAC, Green Star are not eligible for entry at these Shows, except for in the open class at breed club limited shows for Imported Register Breeds and breeds not allocated championship status in the United Kingdom.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation F(A)8.

TO:

F(A)8. - No dog is eligible for exhibition at a Limited Show which has won a Challenge Certificate, **five Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges) or** obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, ~~excluding Reserve Challenge Certificates,~~ under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Royal Kennel Club e.g. CACIB, CAC, Green Star, with the exception of the open class at breed club limited shows for Imported Register Breeds and breeds not allocated championship status in the United Kingdom.

(Insertion in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendments to the regulations have been approved following a review of the regulations for Matches and Special Events.

Amendment to Regulation F(2)

Regulation F(2)

TO:

Match Regulations

1. A match is a form of competition where judging is by elimination one against one. A match may be intra-club or an inter-club competition between **Royal Kennel Club Registered** societies.

2. A **Royal Kennel Club Registered** society may hold up to 12 matches per annum. In the case of clubs which have registered branches, each branch may hold one match per calendar month.

3. ~~Application.~~ Application for authority to hold matches is to be included within the annual returns required under Regulation C.4.a.(1). Separate applications to The Royal Kennel Club for each match is not required. **No fee is payable for matches.**

4. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held **by the Organisers.** ~~or the event will be deemed to be unrecognised.~~

5. Exhibits must be in the registered ownership of one of the members of one of the societies competing in the match. In the case of a dog owned in partnership, each member of such partnership must, at the time of entry, be a member of one of the societies competing in the match.

6. Puppies 4 months of age and over may compete in a match.

7. Dogs, which have won a Challenge Certificate, **5 Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges)** or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, ~~excluding Reserve Challenge Certificates,~~ under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Royal Kennel Club, are not eligible for entry in matches. However, they are allowed to attend the match and enter a special class restricted to only dogs that have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion. The winner cannot compete for Best in Match or Best Puppy in Match.

Special Event Regulations

8. Special Events are designated as any breed show related event which cannot be included on the schedule of a normally licensed show due to being invitational and therefore not open to all competitors, or which are not being held at a licensed show. Where competitors qualify for a final via heats held at that and other shows, special event permission must be sought for the final whether it is held in conjunction with a licensed show or as a separate standalone event.

9. The regulations relating to the disqualification and forfeit of awards will apply to these events.

10. Application for permission to hold a special event may be made by any Royal Kennel Club Registered General or Breed Society. A separate application to The Royal Kennel Club for each special event must be made with the appropriate fee.

11. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held by the Organisers.

General Regulations for Matches and Special Events

12. 4. Jurisdiction and responsibilities. The Officers and Committee Members of the organising society will jointly and severally be liable for the organisation of the Match **or Special Event** and **ensuring** that it is run under the rules and regulations of The Royal Kennel Club.

5. Regulations:-

~~a.~~ **13.** A dog must at the time of entry for a match be solely and unconditionally the property of the exhibitor and must, at the time of competition, be registered in the exhibitor's name at The Royal Kennel Club.

~~b.~~ **14.** Separate entry forms must be completed for each exhibitor and must be signed by the exhibitor or his/her authorised agent.

~~c.~~ **15.** The committee of the society may reserve the right to refuse any entry on reasonable grounds.

~~d.~~ Exhibits must be the property of the members of one of the societies competing in the match. In the case of a dog owned in partnership, each member of such partnership must, at the time of entry, be a member of one of the societies competing in the match.

~~e.~~ **16.** If a dog competes which has been exposed to the risk of any contagious or infectious disease during the period of 21 days prior to a match **or special event** and/or if any dog shall be proved to be suffering from any contagious or infectious disease, including contagious results of inoculation against distemper, at a match **or special event**, the owner thereof shall be liable to be dealt with under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

~~f.~~ Dogs, which have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, excluding Reserve Challenge Certificates, under the rules of any governing body recognised by The Royal Kennel Club, are not eligible for entry in matches. However, they are allowed to attend the match and enter a special class restricted to only dogs that have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion. The winner cannot compete for Best in Match or Best Puppy in Match:-

~~g.~~ Not more than 64 dogs may compete at a match:-

~~h.~~ Prize cards, diplomas, rosettes and other printed awards may be awarded at matches but they must be overprinted 'match':-

~~i. Societies are permitted to present special prizes at matches.~~

j. **17.** A society shall keep a list of the names of all competing dogs with awards, and the names and addresses of the owners for a period of twelve months from the date of the matches **or special event.**

(Insertions in bold, deletions struck through)

(effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendment to the regulations removes the requirement for benching and permits societies choose whether to provide benching or not.

Amendment to Regulations F(1)4 and F(1)16

Regulation F(1)4. Benching.

TO:

F(1)4 Benching

Championship, open and limited shows:-

a. Benching **may** ~~must~~ be provided by the show society and exhibits must be benched in a manner which has been approved by the Board ~~unless exemption from benching has been granted by the Board.~~

b. **If provided** benches must be constructed of materials which can be easily cleaned and disinfected. They must be of such design and construction as to provide reasonable comfort and security to dogs for the duration of the show. Arrangements must be made for the secure fastening of the dogs on the benches.

~~In certain cases the Board may, on application, authorise exemption from standard benching.~~

(Insertions in bold, deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation (F)(1)16. Exhibition of dogs.

TO:

(F)(1)16. Exhibition of dogs.

~~Championship, Open and Limited Shows (Benched):-~~

~~(1) Dogs should be present on their benches at all times except-~~

~~(a) When being judged-~~

~~(b) When being prepared for exhibition and/or being exercised-~~

~~(2) In certain circumstances dogs must be present on their benches at all times if required by show management-~~

~~(3) Dogs may be removed from their benches by order of the veterinary surgeon or show management.~~

(renumber accordingly)

(Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below regulations relating to partnership shows have been removed, after a successful two year suspension trial period from 1 January 2024.

Removal of Regulations F(1)20.h and F(1)30.a.(10)

Regulation F(1)20.h.

~~F(1)20.h-~~

~~At partnership shows judges must not officiate at one show and enter or handle a dog for exhibition at the other show including exhibiting a different breed on another day to that which they are to judge. Partnership shows are defined as shows where the host club and other clubs share a venue and other facilities to allow exhibitors the opportunity to exhibit at each show.-~~

~~(Deletions struck through)~~

~~(Effective 1 January 2026)~~

Regulation F(1)30.a.(10)

~~F(1)30.a(10)-~~

~~A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award, whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proven amongst other things to have been:-~~

~~(10) Entered for competition and/or handled in the ring by the judge a partnership show even if the class or classes are on another day of the show or the entry is for a different breed to that which the person is to judge.-~~

~~(Deletions struck through)~~

~~(Effective 1 January 2026)~~

The below amendment to the regulations has been introduced to confirm which dog can be declared Best Veteran in Breed and subsequently Best Veteran in Group and Best Veteran in Show.

Addition of Regulation F(1)27

Regulation F(1)27. Best Veteran in Show.

TO:

27. Best Veteran in Show.

Where a Best Veteran in Show competition is scheduled the Best Veteran in Show is a Veteran which has been declared Best Veteran in Breed or Best Veteran in Group. A Veteran is a dog of not less than 7 years of age on the first day of the show.

- a. **Where the Best of Breed, Best of Group or Best in Show is a Veteran it may, at the discretion of the judge, be awarded Best Veteran in Breed, Best Veteran in Group or Best Veteran in Show respectively.**
- b. **Where the Reserve Best of Breed, Reserve Best of Group or Reserve Best in Show is a Veteran it may, at the discretion of the judge, be awarded Best Veteran in Breed, Best Veteran in Group or Best Veteran in Show respectively.**
- c. **Shows judged on the group system**
(Definition: Shows judged on the Group System-Refer Regulation F(1)26.b.).
 - (1) **Best Veteran in Breed**
A Best Veteran may be declared in each breed from veterans entered in the breed classes.
 - (2) **Best Veteran in Group**
Best Veteran in Group and subsequent veteran group placings must be selected from:-
 - (a) **Those veterans declared Best Veteran in Breed.**

- (b) **The veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes in each group.**
 - (c) **The veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes in each group.**
- d. **Shows not judged on the group system**
 - (1) **At championship and open shows, Best Veteran in Show and subsequent placings must be selected from:**
 - (a) **Those veterans declared Best Veteran in Breed.**
 - (b) **The veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes in each group.**
 - (c) **The veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes in each group.**
 - (2) **At limited shows, Best Veteran in Show and subsequent placings must be selected from:**
 - (a) **Those veterans declared Best Veteran in Breed.**
 - (b) **The veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes.**
 - (c) **The veteran declared Best Veteran from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes.**
- e. **Best Veteran in Show**
Best Veteran in Show must be selected from the Best Veteran in Group winners.
 (Insertions in bold)
 (Effective from 1 January 2026)
 (Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)

The following amendments to the regulations have been approved to bring these judges regulations in line with the Judges Education Programme.

Amendment to Regulation F(1)20 and F(1)22.d

Regulation F(1)20. Judges and Judging.

TO:

F(1)20. Judges and Judging

a. General canine society, affiliated societies and breed club championship, open and limited shows

1. Championship Shows

For non Challenge Certificate breeds at championship shows the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society, ~~either:~~

- a. have previously been approved to award Challenge Certificates or be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the relevant breed ~~or~~
- b. ~~Be included on a Breed Council/Club B judges list or above and be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 1.~~

(2) Open and Limited Shows

(a) For open and limited shows scheduling more than three breed classes (four if including a Puppy class) for a particular breed the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society, either:

- (i) Have previously been approved to award Challenge Certificates or be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the relevant breed ~~or~~

~~(ii) Be included on a Breed Council/Club B judges list or above.~~

b. For open and limited shows scheduling up to three classes (four if scheduling a Puppy class) for a particular breed, the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society, be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 1 ~~or~~

ii. ~~Have met the Judges Education Programme Level 1 criteria at the time of accepting the appointment.~~

Except:-

i. Judges resident in Northern Ireland. Persons who are approved to award Green Stars under Irish Kennel Club Rules and are resident in Northern Ireland are permitted to judge **up to three classes (four if scheduling a Puppy class) for the relevant breed at open or limited shows** ~~the above mentioned classes at Kennel Club licensed Championship and open shows held in Northern Ireland. without being included on a Breed Council/Club judges list.~~

ii. Overseas judges. For non Challenge Certificate breeds at championship shows and for open and limited shows scheduling more than three classes (four if scheduling a Puppy class) for a particular breed the organising club/society must ensure any overseas judge appointed to judge has been:

a. Approved to judge the breed concerned at championship level in the country in which they are domiciled, or

b. Listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the breed concerned; ~~or~~

c. ~~Are on a Royal Kennel Club registered breed club/council B list or above and be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 1.~~

(c) On accepting an appointment the selected judge must ensure that their name is included ~~on a relevant breed club/council judges list or at~~ the appropriate level of the Judges Education Programme.

(Insertion in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective from 1 January 2026)

Regulation F(1)22. Selection, Appointment and Eligibility to Judge.

TO:

22. Selection, Appointment and Eligibility to Judge.

d. Application for approval of judge

The show society must apply to the Board for the approval of the following judges with the following conditions:

1. All applications for the approval to judge with Challenge Certificates, Groups, Best in Show, and Referees, ~~must include both the nomination and the questionnaire (where required), and~~ must be lodged by the show society with the Secretary of The Royal Kennel Club at least 12 months prior to the date of the show on the form provided.

(Deletions struck through)
(Effective from 1 January 2026)