

Changes to Agility Regulations for 2026

The Royal Kennel Club has approved the following changes to the regulations for Agility.

The following amendment to the regulations increases the time frame between requesting a show licence to 6 months before the date of the show.

Amendment to regulations H5, H(1)4 & H(1)(D)3.b

Regulation H5. Application

TO:

The application for a licence to hold an agility show must be made to the Secretary of The Royal Kennel Club together with the appropriate licence fee, at least ~~6 weeks~~ **six months** before the proposed date of the competition.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation H(1)4. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events

TO:

Applications should be submitted to The Royal Kennel Club by email at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation H(1)(D)3.b. Licences

TO:

b. Applications for a limited agility licence must be made at least ~~42 days~~ **six months** before the date of the show, specifying the name of the responsible person to whom the licence is to be issued, the venue, date and relevant fee.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendments to the regulations reduces the limbo period between grades from 25 days to 18 days.

Amendment to Regulation H.9.(14) & H.10.h

Regulation H.9.(14)

TO:

A statement that in estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including ~~25~~ **18** 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 grade 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) for the next grade. The dog must be moved into the corresponding number of classes as were entered at the lower grade. If there are fewer or no classes available for the next grade the competitor should be offered a refund of the relevant entry fees. **Failure to notify the show secretary or processor at least 14 days before the date of the show will result in the dog being ineligible to compete at that show.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation H.10.h

TO:

In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including ~~25~~ **18** 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 grade 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) for the next grade. The dog must be moved into the corresponding number of classes as were entered at the lower grade. If there are fewer or no classes available for the next grade the competitor should be offered a refund of the relevant entry fees. **Failure to notify the show secretary or processor at least 14 days before the date of the show will result in the dog being ineligible to compete at that show.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendment to the regulations increases the number of prestige event qualifiers needed to have been judged to become a Championship Agility Judge.

Amendment to Regulation H19.b.(4)

Regulation H19.b.(4)

TO:

(4) have judged Royal Kennel Club qualifier(s) in each height category for Crufts, Discover Dogs, or The Royal Kennel Club Agility Stakes (excluding YKC classes) **at a minimum of 2 licensed agility shows**, and

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendment to the regulations ensures that judges have completed the agility judges' practical seminar and passed the assessment within the last five years at the time of application to become a Championship Agility Judge.

Amendment to Regulation H19.b.(8)

Regulation H19.b.(8)

TO:

(8) have attended a Royal Kennel Club Agility Judges Seminar and passed the assessment **within the last 5 years**, or

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendment to the regulations relates to the running order of championship classes, allowing flexibility to manage possible clashes between classes.

Amendment to Regulation H(1)8.a

Regulation H(1)8.a - Ballot for championship running orders.

TO:

Agility Round and Jumping Round – A draw for the running order of the Agility and Jumping Rounds must be made prior to the show. The relevant competitors must be notified before the day of the show. **Where a handler has more than one dog entered in the same Championship Class, the dogs will, where entries permit, be drawn with a minimum of 20 places between them. Where there are insufficient entries to allow this spacing, the maximum separation possible must be applied.** The dogs must run in the order in which they are drawn. ~~and unless agreed otherwise by the judge,~~

~~in conjunction with the show manager, who may, in exceptional circumstances, relax the running order, by no more than 10 dogs.~~

If a handler is competing in more than one championship height category on the same day, the judge, in conjunction with the show manager may relax the running order by no more than 20 dogs.

All such decisions must be recorded in the Show's Incident Book.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendment to the regulations provides clarification about running orders for Championship competitions, confirming that no dog can be eliminated in either round, except the winner of the opposing round which may still compete in the final. This was to clarify previous changes to the regulation and as such was introduced with immediate effect from April 2025.

Amendment to Regulation H(1)9.b

Regulation H(1)9.b

TO:

The winner of each round will be invited to the final, in addition to the top 50% of the entry, up to a maximum of 20 dogs from the combined results of the two qualifying rounds, making the final a maximum of 22 dogs. The winner of the jumping round will run first in the final, the winner of the agility round will run second in the final, **unless it has qualified through the normal route, in which case it will be in the standard running order.** If the winner of either of the two qualifying rounds are in the top 50% of the entry, up to a maximum of 20 dogs, then the 'win on spot' will not transfer down to the 2nd placed dog. The winner of each round must have competed in both qualifying rounds.

(Insertions in bold. Effective date – 30 April 2025.)

Along with the amendment to regulation H(1)9.b, it was also agreed that the regulation should be reinstated to state that no dog can be eliminated in either round, except the winner of the opposing round which may still compete in the final. The regulation was removed from January 2025, however the below regulation was reinstated and amended from January 2026 to avoid confusion.

Amendment to Regulation H(1)9.e. & H(1)(A)11.c

Regulation H(1)9.e.

TO:

A dog having been eliminated in either qualifying round will not be eligible for the final, except the winner of the opposing round which will be invited to compete in the final.

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation H(1)(A)11.c

TO:

c. Elimination in either of the qualifying rounds will exclude the dog from competition in the final round, except the winner of the opposing round which will be invited to compete in the final.

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendment to the regulations reduces the number of graded classes allowed per height per day from 4 to 2.

Amendment to Regulations H(1)(A) 5, H(1)(D) 2 & H(1)(D) 3.c

Regulation H(1)(A) 5.

TO:

A maximum of four standard classes may be scheduled for any dog on an individual day of competition **including a maximum of two graded classes**. Any number of special classes may be scheduled.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation H(1)(D) 2.

TO:

Type of show

Limited agility shows are shows at which the classes (except for standard classes) may be limited by numbers of class entries, overall numbers of entries, specific breeds, residence of competitors, membership of societies or

organisations or otherwise subject to the approval of the Board of The Royal Kennel Club. A maximum of four standard classes **including a maximum of two graded classes**, and any number of special classes may be scheduled, other than qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club sponsored or sanctioned competitions.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation H(1)(D) 3.c.

TO:

A limited agility show may schedule an unlimited number of special agility classes and up to four standard classes (which may be capped) **including a maximum of two graded classes**.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendment to the regulations increases the maximum number of obstacles to 22. This applies to Championship classes only.

Amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)1.(3)

Regulation H(1)(B)1.(3) Design

TO:

Design—The course should require a dog to traverse at least 15 obstacles but not more than 20, **with the exception of Championship classes (jumping, agility and final) where the maximum number of obstacles must not exceed 22.**

All jump obstacles in any class should be the same height. All obstacles should have a minimum of 5m and up to a maximum of 10m between centres of consecutive obstacles using the straight line centre-to-centre method.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendment to the regulations relates to the width range for the seesaw and dog walk.

Amendments to Regulations H(1)(B)3.l & H(1)(B) 3.m

Regulation H(1)(B)3.l and H(1)(B) 3.m.

TO:

l. See-Saw—This obstacle will consist of a plank firmly mounted on a central

bracket. ~~The length of the plank must be 3.66m. The width must be 295mm minimum and 305mm maximum.~~ **The plank must be 3.66m in length and 300mm in width.** The height of the central bracket measured from the ground to the top of the plank must be 610mm. The maximum distance from the pivot point to the top of the plank should not be more than 100mm. The last 914mm from each end should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. The plank should have a non-slip surface with no slats. The See-Saw must start to tip and then touch the ground between 2–3 seconds after a weight of 1 kilogram has been placed in the middle of the down contact area.

m. Dog Walk—A walk plank of approximately 1.2m measured from the ground to the top of the plank, with firmly fixed ramps at either end. The planks must be 3.66m in length and **300mm** ~~a minimum of 254mm and a maximum of 305mm~~ in width. The last 914mm from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp should have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 152mm of the start of a contact area.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)