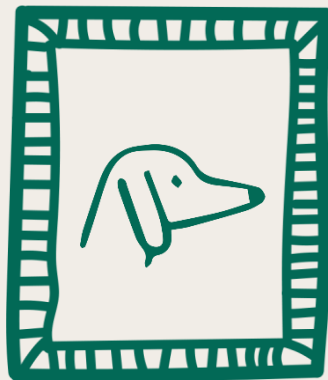




**YKC GRADUATE AGILITY
(GRAD)**



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



A: HANDLERS

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

Large Dogs	Intermediate Dogs	Medium Dogs	Small Dogs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handler 06-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handler 06-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handler 06-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handler 06-24 Years

2. Only current YKC members may compete YKC Classes.
3. Handlers may not be swapped after the closing date of the show.
 - i. This means no on-the-day swapping of YKC handlers at any Grad qualifier.
 - ii. If the entered handler is not running the dog, that entered dog must withdraw from the class.
4. 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. Standard Kennel Club rules surrounding which dogs may enter this agility class apply.
2. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YKC agility competition.
3. Once a dog has competed with a given YKC handler in a GRAD qualifier, that dog may only compete with that handler in any future GRAD qualifiers for the rest of the qualifying period.
4. Dogs are only eligible to enter YKC Graduate competitions if they are eligible to enter one of the following classes;
 - i. Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3
5. Dogs do NOT have to be grade 3 or lower when competing at Crufts the following year.
 - i. The dog may win out of Grade 3 and still compete in this class at Crufts so long as the dog was grade 3 or below when it qualified.

C: GRADUATE AGILITY QUALIFIERS & GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. **By entering a YKC qualifier, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct**
2. The qualification period for **Crufts 2027** is: **01-Nov-2025 till 31-Oct-2026**
3. Unless otherwise specified in this document, YKC Graduate Agility classes will be subject to all in-force Kennel Club regulations for agility competitions. Including, but not limited to:
 - i. (H) General Regulations for Agility Competitions
 - ii. (O) Regulations for The Young Kennel Club
4. The GRAD qualification class will feature a single agility round.
 - i. The course will be set at approximately G2-3 standard.
5. To determine the results for this class, dogs will be ranked first by total number of faults, then by time. The dog with the fewest faults in the fastest time is the winner.
 - i. The rankings of the 4 subcategories are separate.
6. Standard Kennel Club marking will apply.
7. There will be a prize giving ceremony.
8. Members may enter GRAD competitions even if they have already qualified.
9. YKC Graduate Agility qualifiers are listed on the YKC website
 - i. Only qualifiers listed on the YKC website will be eligible for qualification, please ensure that you are entering a valid YKC qualifier.



D: GRADUATE AGILITY - WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE FINAL?

1. **First & Second place** at any GRAD qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the final
 - i. There will be no roll-down of this qualification
2. 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.
3. Once qualified, the handler and dog combination is locked in for this year's qualifying period.
 - i. The qualified dog may only be handled at Crufts by the same handler that it qualified with.
4. The YKC will invite all those who have qualified to enter Crufts via email before Christmas.

E: HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR GRAD?

1. You may qualify as many different dogs across as many heights as you wish for the GRAD final at Crufts **HOWEVER:**
 - i. YOU MAY ONLY ENTER A MAXIMUM OF **ONE** QUALIFIED DOG ACROSS ALL HEIGHTS **E.G.:**
 - a. **CORRECT** - 1 x dog in large OR intermediate OR medium OR small
 - b. **INCORRECT** - 1 x dog in each height category
2. A handler is only allowed to swap dogs if they have managed to qualify another dog in the GRAD competition, in this case, they may swap to the other qualified dog.
 - i. This must be reported to the YKC at the earliest opportunity.
 - ii. The cut off for any substitution of entered dogs using this method is 7 days prior to the first day of Crufts.

F: GRADUATE AGILITY @ CRUFTS – FINAL

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 final for the YKC Graduate Agility competition is held at Crufts in the YKC ring.
3. At Crufts, the YKC will calculate the which age category each competitor shall be in based on the YKC members age on the first day of Crufts.
 - i. 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.
4. The final will be held over a single agility Course.
 - i. This course will be set at grade 2-3.
5. At Crufts, dogs **MUST** run in strict running order;
 - i. if you are not on the line when your run is due, you will have missed your run
 - a. The running order for the final will be determined randomly



G: CLOTHING, SPONSORSHIP & LOGOS @ CRUFTS

1. Handlers should wear smart athletic wear, with plain black or navy tracksuit bottoms/leggings paired with a short sleeve t-shirt/polo shirt of their choosing.
2. Agility handlers should wear footwear that will enable them to run without slipping on artificial grass.
3. Some YKC members have managed to arrange personal sponsorship and branding deals. YKC members who wish to have branding on their clothing at Crufts must follow the below rules.
4. The YKC & Kennel Club also have several sponsors in both the YKC ring and the main arena at Crufts.
 - i. To comply with our sponsors, YKC members may **NOT** have branding on display from the following companies:
 - (1) Dog food or treat supplier
 - (2) Car manufacturer
 - (3) Insurance company
 - ii. If a YKC member wishes to have branding from a company not on the above list on an item of clothing, that company's branding must be where a breast pocket would be and must be approximately breast pocket size.
 - iii. This restriction on branding only applies in the following locations:
 - a. Crufts YKC collecting ring, Crufts YKC ring, Crufts YKC Presentation Area.
 - b. Crufts Main arena collecting ring, Crufts Main Arena, Crufts Main Arena Presentation Area.

H: GRADUATE AGILITY FINAL - PRIZEGIVING

1. The following awards will be presented in the YKC ring for the Graduate Agility final

Large	Intermediate	Medium	Small
• 1 st to 5 th	• 1 st to 5 th	• 1 st to 5 th	• 1 st to 5 th

2. All non-placed competitors will receive a finalist rosette when exiting the prize-giving
 - i. To receive this award, members must be present for the prize-giving.