



**MEETING OF THE AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2025 AT 10.30AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

A G E N D A

**ITEM 1. TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL
EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2025 TO DECEMBER 2025**

The Council is invited to note Committee elections will take place in May 2025.

**ITEM 2. TO ELECT A REPRESENTATIVE ONTO THE ACTIVITIES
COMMITTEE EFFECTIVE FROM JUNE 2025 TO MAY 2028**

ITEM 3. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 4 July 2024 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 5. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council is invited to note that the Board, at its meeting on 18 November 2024, approved the following amendments to H Regulations:

Regulation H(1)(B)3.f. Long Jump

TO:

Long Jump—Each unit a minimum length of 1.2m. Large Dogs - To comprise 5 units the overall length to be between 1.3m and 1.5m. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be 381mm.

Intermediate Dogs – to comprise 4 units, the overall length to be between 1m and 1.2m. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be 305mm. Medium Dogs - To comprise 3 units the overall length to be between 700mm and 900mm. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be 229mm. Small Dogs - To comprise 2 units the overall length to be between 400mm and 600mm. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be 170mm. Marker poles with a

minimum height of 1.2m shall be used, these should not be attached to any part of the obstacle. **The units must be constructed of an impact-absorbing material & weighted at the base for stability. Each unit should be of uniform depth and a consistent shape.**

(Insertion in bold.)

(Effective from 1 January 2025)

Removal of Water Jump and Wishing Well

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

TO:

~~Water Jump—The overall spread should be: Large Dogs—between 1.2m and 1.5m. Intermediate Dogs—between 1m and 1.3m. Medium Dogs—between 700mm and 900mm. Small Dogs—between 400mm and 500mm. A low hurdle or brush, with a maximum height of: Large Dogs—550mm, Intermediate Dogs—450mm, Medium Dogs—350mm, Small Dogs—250mm may be placed in front of the water. Marker poles with a minimum height of 1.2m, should be placed at all 4 corners, these should not be attached to any part of the water jump.~~

(Deletion struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

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

TO:

~~Wishing Well—This obstacle will be of stable construction and will be able to be fixed to the ground. To ensure the safety of the dog, it will have no sharp edges. Should a design be utilised which involves a removable centre section then the resultant corners must be rounded or padded. It will have a roof of which the bottom will be no less than Large and Intermediate Dogs—1500mm, Medium Dogs—1220mm, Small Dogs—950mm from the ground. The roof must not project beyond the width or depth of the base. It will have a displaceable top bar the height of which will be: Large Dogs—600mm, Intermediate Dogs—500mm, Medium Dogs—400mm, Small Dogs—300mm. The minimum space from the top of the bar to the top of the base will be Large Dogs—160mm, Intermediate Dogs—155mm, Medium Dogs—150mm, Small Dogs—105mm. The overall width of the base will be between 900mm & 1400mm. The depth of the base which the dog jumps will be a maximum of Large Dogs—550mm, Intermediate Dogs—475mm, Medium Dogs—400mm, Small Dogs—300mm.~~

(Deletion struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation H(1)(B)5.a.(2)

TO:

~~Wishing Well—a dog should be faulted if it touches the base or dislodges the pole.~~

(Deletion struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation H(1)(B)5.a.(4)

TO:

~~Water Jump— must be cleared without contact with the water.~~

(Deletion struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation H(1)9 Progression to the Championship Class Final

The Council is invited to note a slight amendment made by the Activities Committee to clarify when the winners of each round would compete in the final round.

New 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. 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.

(Insertion in bold.)

(Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation H(1)10. Management

New Regulation H(1)10.d

TO:

No smoking or vaping within the ring area.

(Insertion in bold.)

(Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Proposed amendment to Regulation H(1)10.a and H(1)(B)1.a.(1) Test area

The Council is invited to note that the Activities Committee discussed the proposed amendments to regulations H(1)10.a and H(1)(B)1.a.(1). After some discussion, a query was raised as to whether 26m was too low and the Committee agreed on the following amendment to Regulations:

Regulation H(1)10.a

TO:

Test area shall have a suitable surface and ~~measure a minimum of 32m x 32m for outdoor rings.~~ **must be a minimum of 1024 square metres. Each side of the ring being a minimum of 30m for outdoor rings. All rings must be square or rectangular.** Indoor rings are recommended to be 600 square meters but must be a minimum of 450 square metres with no one side measuring less than 15m. For outdoor all weather arenas of one or more rings that are enclosed by structure, fence or permanent barrier each ring is

recommended to be 800 square meters but must be a minimum of 600 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. All indoor and outdoor all weather permanently enclosed rings for Prestige Events and/or Championship classes must be a minimum of 800 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. The ring area includes space for officials, including the scime and ring party, but where possible the ring tent should be outside the ring area.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(1)

TO:

Test area shall have a suitable surface and ~~measure a minimum of 32m x 32m for outdoor rings.~~ **must be a minimum of 1024 square metres. Each side of the ring being a minimum of 30m for outdoor rings.** Indoor rings are recommended to be 600 square meters but must be a minimum of 450 square metres with no one side measuring less than 15m. For outdoor all weather arenas of one or more rings that are enclosed by structure, fence or permanent barrier each ring is recommended to be 800 square meters but must be a minimum of 600 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. All indoor and outdoor all weather permanently enclosed rings for Prestige Events and/or Championship classes must be a minimum of 800 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. The ring area includes space for officials, including the scime and ring party, but where possible the ring tent should be outside the ring area.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

- b. The Council is invited to note the amendment to regulation H4.e regarding the minimum age of dogs entered Not For Competition. This had been recommended by the Obedience Liaison Council. The Activities Committee agreed that the regulation amendment should be recommended for approval across all activity disciplines.

Proposed amendment to Regulation H4.e

Regulation H4.e

TO:

e. Only dogs of 18 calendar months of age and over on the day of competition are eligible for competition at Kennel Club licensed agility shows. However, societies may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion. ~~Dogs four months and over are eligible to enter Not For Competition.~~ **Dogs 12 weeks and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition.**

(Effective 1 January 2025)

- c. Regulation H(1)4.and H28.a.(7)

The Council is invited to note that the Activities Committee discussed proposed amendments to Regulation H(1)4 regarding whether a person could judge/compete during the show at which the special event was being held and

then compete/judge at the special event when it was held after the show had closed. The Activities Committee and subsequently the Board amended the Regulation as follows:

Regulation H(1)4.

TO:

Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events –

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

Special Events are designated as any activity-related event which cannot be included on the schedule of a normally licensed show/trial/competition 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/trials/competitions, special event permission must be sought for the final whether it is held in conjunction with a licensed show/trial/competition or as a separate standalone event. This would not apply where all of the heats are held at the same show/trial/competition at which the final is held.

The regulations relating to the disqualification and forfeit of awards will apply to these events, **except that a person may judge/compete at the show at which the Special Event is held and compete/judge at the Special Event, provided it is taking place once the main show/trial/competition has closed.**

(Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Whilst considering the above Special Event regulation, it was considered that the above amendment could be applied where qualifiers for a final were held at the same show/trial/competition but on different days. It was confirmed that an amendment to the regulations would allow for a judge to compete in a final if they had qualified on a previous day at the show/trial/competition. The Activities Committee and subsequently the Board approved the following amendment:

Regulation H28.a.(7)

TO:

A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award whether an objection has been lodged or note, if proved amongst other thing to have been:

- (7) Judged by their registered owner or handled in the ring by a judge at that competition. This shall not apply to dogs owned by a judge appointed in an emergency, **or where a judge has been appointed to judge on the day of a semi-final / final but has qualified for that semi-final / final. The qualifiers must have been held on a different day to the final at the same show and the semi-final / final must be held after the show has closed.**

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

- d. The Council is invited to note that following the regulation amendment requiring all large dogs to be measured, the office suggested an amendment allowing obviously large dogs to be measured prior to attaining the age of 15 months. This was supported by the Activities Committee and will come into effect from 1 January 2025.

Age for Measuring Large Dogs

Regulation H(1)(B)4.(2)

TO:

Dogs competing in small, medium, or intermediate height categories must be measured for competition and must be at least 15 months old before their first measurement. **Large dogs that are, in the official measurers' opinion, obviously over 500mm (prior to reaching 15 months of age) can be measured.** Competitors must ensure that their dog is measured prior to their first competition and that the dog's Agility Record Book has been signed and dated by the measuring officials.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

The following regulations suggested by the office relate to when an appeal may be permitted, and to provide further clarity when handler information may be required.

Objection Regulation Amendments

Regulation H29

TO:

Penalties

The Board shall have power to impose any of the following penalties upon any person for any breach of Kennel Club Regulations subject to a right of appeal, notice of intention of which must be lodged within 14 days from the date on which the decision is given and subject to the prescribed appeals process as shall be determined by the Board from time to time.

- a. Warn
- b. Censure/Reprimand
- c. Apology directive (Conduct Regulation or the Control of Dog Regulation)
- d. Fine
- e. Award disqualified

In addition, the Board may make the following directives;

- f. A dog's registration record may be marked 'incident recorded'
- g. A dog's registration record may be endorsed 'not eligible for entry in any event held under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, nor any unlicensed event recognised by the Kennel Club.'

The right of appeal against directives f) and g) listed above extends to an appeal on the finding of fact of a deliberate dog bite only, but does not extend to an appeal against those directives f) and g) in terms of

cancellation or modification of such directives if there is a finding of fact of an intentional dog bite.

In the event of any fine not being paid, or non compliance with any apology directive issued within the time stipulated by the Board, then that person may, at the discretion of the Board, be dealt with as if a complaint under Kennel Club Rule A11 had been lodged and proved to the satisfaction of the Board.

For complaints of conduct whether at a licensed event or on social media, in addition to a warning issued - a short term fixed period of refusal of entry/attendance at Kennel Club licensed events may also be imposed in accordance with procedures to be published from time to time to implement this regulation.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation H11

TO:

The owner, exhibitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog at Kennel Club licensed events must at all times ensure that the dog is kept under proper control whilst at the licensed venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches. This Regulation applies before (at any time during the set up period at the venue), during the event and afterwards (at any time during the breakdown of the event). The mating of bitches within the precincts of the competition, as stipulated above, is forbidden

An exhibitor or competitor should ensure that contact details for any handler are available and must be provided upon request in any investigation of a breach of this regulation by such handler.

(Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

Regulation H(1)11.a

TO:

No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of a dog at any time ~~within the precincts of the show~~ **whilst at the licensed venue, including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches.**

(Deletions struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2025)

e. Proposed amendment to Regulation H28.a.(9) Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards

The Council is invited to note that the Board did not approve the amendment to the above regulation to allow a judge to judge a spouse, family member or dog resident at the same address as the scheduled judge.

ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT PANEL

- a. The Council is invited to consider a report from the Equipment Panel and to discuss any issues arising from it.
(Annex A refers)

Incident book returns

- b. The Equipment panel wishes the Council to consider a proposed amendment to the following regulation so that incident books are returned to the office regardless of outcomes or if no incidents were reported.

Regulation H8.f.

To:

A Kennel Club Incident Book, containing details of all incidents occurring at the show, a copy of which must be submitted to the Kennel Club within 14 days. **A return must be submitted even if no incidents were recorded at the show. Resolved incidents must also be included.**

(Insertion in bold.)

Rationale

The regulation as it stands is unclear and could be interpreted either way by show management. This should be addressed. The lack of clarity and accountability leaves the system open to abuse. Stakeholders who enter issues into the incident book should be expecting their reports to be received by the Kennel Club. If there is not a nil return policy, there is no guarantee for those stakeholders that their reports have been passed on. This has resulted in a lack of trust in the process and many stakeholders see little point in reporting incidents. Mrs Bale has witnessed equipment reports being recorded in incident books at Kennel Club licensed shows this year that have not been received by the equipment panel.

Removal of width range for Dog Walk and See-Saw

- c. The Equipment panel wishes the Council to consider a proposed amendment to the following regulation to remove the width range of the Dog Walk and See-Saw.

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.)

Rationale

The width ranges should have been removed when the tolerances regulation was introduced, as it was for other obstacles. Allowing for a range as well as a tolerance gives too much variation for the plank widths.

ITEM 7. REPORT FROM THE AGILITY GOVERNANCE PANEL

- a. The Council is invited to consider a report from the Agility Governance Panel and to discuss any issues arising.
(Annex B refers)

Micro Height

- b. The Council is requested to consider an update from the panel regarding the survey on micro height conducted in July 2024 and the proposed outcomes as referenced in Annex B.

Grading review

- c. The Council is requested to note a proposal from the Panel regarding a revised grading system:

Regulation H(1)(A)9.

TO:

9. Standard Classes

~~Only first prizes and points gained in standard classes at Kennel Club licensed agility shows may be used for progression through the classes. (A dog is only eligible for one grade). In defining the eligibility of the owner or handler for grade 1, the two wins and points progression referred to in the definition apply only to one dog and not an accumulation of dogs.~~

~~a. Grade 1~~

~~Open to owners, handlers or dogs which have not gained a minimum of two first places at grade 1 at Kennel Club licensed agility shows, at least one of which must have been gained in an agility (not jumping) class. N.B Owners, handlers or dogs previously qualified out of grade 1 are not eligible for this class.~~

b. ~~Grade 2~~

~~Open to dogs which are not eligible for grade 1 or have elected to progress on points from grade 1 and are not eligible for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7.~~

c. ~~Grade 3~~

~~Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of two first places at grade 2 at Kennel Club Licensed Agility Shows, one of which must have been gained in an agility (not jumping) class, or have elected to progress on gained in an agility (not jumping) class, or have elected to progress on points from grade 2 and are not eligible for grades 2, 4, 5, 6, or 7.~~

d. ~~Grade 4~~

~~Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of three first places at grade 3 at Kennel Club Licensed Agility Shows, two of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, or have elected to progress on points from grade 3 and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 5, 6, or 7.~~

e. ~~Grade 5~~

~~Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of four first places at grade 4 Kennel Club Licensed agility shows, two of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 4, 6, or 7.~~

f. ~~Grade 6~~

~~Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of four first places at grade 5 at Kennel Club licensed agility shows, two of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7.~~

g. ~~Grade 7~~

~~Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of five first places at grade 6 at Kennel Club licensed agility shows, three of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.~~

h. ~~Championship Class.~~

~~Open to dogs having qualified to compete in grade 7 which have had five wins at Full Height in either grade 6 or grade 7, at least three of which must be gained in agility classes. To consist of 2 qualifying rounds of Standard Kennel Club classes, 1 Agility Class and 1 Jumping Class and a final round of agility to be held at the same show.~~

- **Introductory Level Part 1**

For Dogs, handlers and Owners who have never achieved 4 clear rounds at a KC Open agility show 2 must be agility classes

- **Introductory Level Part 2**

For Dogs who have never achieved 4 clear rounds in Introductory level 2 must be agility or 2 wins 1 must be agility. And are not eligible for introductory level or levels A,B or C

- **Level A**

For Dogs who have had 4 clear rounds 2 must be agility or 2 wins 1 must be agility at a KC licenced event Introductory level 2. and dogs who are not eligible for grades B and C

- **Level B**

For dogs who have had 4 wins (2 must be agility) at level A or achieve Silver Agility Warrant

- **Level C**

for dogs who have had 4 wins (2 must be agility) at level B

- **Eligibility for Championship classes**

Eligibility for Championship classes dogs must achieve 4 wins, 2 of which must be in agility classes, at level C to gain eligibility to enter Championship classes, this gives dogs Champ Status (CS).

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

Rationale

The Kennel Club introduced the current grading system and Listed status, at that point it could not have predicted the growth in the number of show licences currently being issued. Now with so much choice and the current grade system means often we have lots of small classes, this puts strain on judges having to design multiple courses, large amounts of the day building courses and course walking. Costs involved in the number of trophies can be expensive for shows and these costs are passed on to the competitor.

Within the new proposed grading structure there would be 4 levels of difficulty which would make course designing easier for judges. An introductory level for ALL dogs means they should all have simple flowing courses to build confidence. (motivational fluid confidence building courses) Championship Classes are predicted to become smaller and a showcase of the very best in agility in the UK. Championship classes currently could end up needing 2 rings per height as dogs progress into Grade 7 at a much faster rate than dogs are retiring.

(Annex C refers)

(Annex D refers)

Microchip numbers

- d. The Council is requested to consider a proposal from the Panel as referenced in the report, to include mandatory documentation of dogs' microchip numbers during measurement sessions, with details submitted to the Kennel Club on the measures return form.
- e. Measures Code of Best Practice
The Council is invited to note The Kennel Club Code of Best Practice for Measuring Agility Dog Heights is being updated for January 2025 to cover the new regulations for ALL dogs to be measured.

ITEM 8. REPORT FROM THE JUDGING PANEL AND OTHER JUDGING ISSUES

- a. The Council is invited to consider a report from the Judging Panel and to discuss any issues arising.
(Annex E refers)
- b. The Council is invited to note a report from Mrs J Gardner on the Activities Judges Sub-Group meeting held on 24 October 2024.
(Annex F refers)

ITEM 9. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Mr M Tait

Proposed amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)1.(3).

- a. Mr Tait wishes the Council to consider a proposed amendment to the above regulation which would reduce the maximum distance between centres of consecutive obstacles.

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 and 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 ~~40m~~ **8m** between centres of consecutive obstacles using the straight line centre-to-centre method.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

Rationale

Recent research indicates that the optimal safe approach distance for an A-Frame is 7 meters. Crafting regulation changes specific to this obstacle and considering all possible approaches is important. The previous maximum distance of 10 meters was never backed by research; it was simply an arbitrary figure. Lowering this maximum distance from 10 meters to 8 meters is unlikely to significantly impact course design. The agility community frequently calls for more research, and its important to respond to new research findings by implementing evidence-based changes.

(Annex G refers)

(Annex G.i refers)

Mr A Dornford-Smith

Proposed amendment to Regulation H(1)10.g

- b. Mr Dornford-Smith wishes the Council to consider an amendment to the above regulation, allowing dogs registered with recognised overseas Kennel Clubs to compete without undergoing additional measurements.

Regulation H(1)(B)4.(2)

TO:

Kennel Club Registered dogs competing in small, medium, or intermediate height categories must be measured for competition **at an official Kennel Club measurement session** and must be at least 15 months old before their first measurement. Large dogs that are, in the official measurers' opinion, obviously over 500mm (prior to reaching 15 months of age) can be measured **at an official Kennel Club measurement session**. Competitors must ensure that their dog is measured prior to their first competition and that the dog's Agility Record Book has been signed and dated by the measuring officials.

(3) Competitors with dogs registered with a recognised overseas Kennel Clubs may use this measurement in Kennel Club competitions.

A list of recognised overseas Kennel Clubs is published by the Kennel Club.

(Insertions in bold)

(Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered.)

Rationale

This change would allow dogs with comparable recognised measuring standards to compete in Kennel Club licensed shows without requiring further measuring procedures.

Mr A Dornford-Smith

Proposed amendment to Regulation H(1)(A)9.

- c. Mr Dornford-Smith wishes the Council to consider an amendment to the above regulation, allowing dogs registered with recognised overseas Kennel Clubs to compete at the equivalent grade.

Regulation H(1)(A)9.

TO:

For Kennel Club Registered dogs, only first prizes and points gained in standard classes at Kennel Club licensed agility shows may be used for progression through the classes (A dog is only eligible for one grade). In defining the eligibility of the owner or handler for grade 1, the two wins and points progression referred to in the definition apply only to one dog and not an accumulation of dogs.

Dogs registered with recognised overseas Kennel Clubs may use this grade in Kennel Club Licensed Agility Shows. A list of recognised overseas Kennel Clubs is published by the Kennel Club.

(Insertions in bold)

Rationale

This change would allow dogs registered with recognised overseas Kennel Clubs with comparable grading systems to compete in Kennel Club licensed shows at the equivalent grade.

ITEM 10. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Martin Tait

Maximum tunnel passes

- a. Mr Tait would like the Council to discuss adding wording to the Code of Best Practise for Agility Judges to allow a maximum of 5 tunnels per course to be negotiated in a standard Agility or Jumping class. A tunnel pass would be marked by each time a dog negotiated a tunnel.

Rationale

More than 5 tunnel passes would represent over 25% of a course made up of tunnels. Overusing tunnels can lead to other skills diminishing, to ensure there is a variety of skills tested and courses are appropriate.

Mr M Harrison

Ms R Sargent

White Dogs

- b. Mr Harrison would like the Council to discuss adding wording to the Code of Best Practise for running a white dog to ensure the safety of dog's lines prior to handlers walking the course. As referenced under 4.2 'Once the course has been built the judge alone may, if they wish, run a dog in their ownership around the course for the specific purpose of checking the course's suitability, confirming the dog's lines or handler's path. The judge may not allow anyone else to test their course'.

Mr Harrison has requested the addition of "To assist the judge in ensuring the safety of the dog's lines and make any necessary adjustments, it is permissible for him/her to ask one or more handlers and their dogs to run round the course prior to it being walked. Neither the handler nor the dog should compete in any of the height classes for that specific course".

Rationale

Multiple instances had been observed of changes being made, following the White Dogs at the European Open Agility Championships held in the UK in July 2024. The judges sometimes asked the White Dog handlers to run different options to test the lines. It would not be compulsory, as for some judges this may be an onerous task on long judging days, however this would give judges the option.

Ms S Lane

Ms J Bale

Multiple repetitions of an obstacle within a course

- c. Ms Lane would like the Council to discuss limiting the number of times a hurdle can be used within a course to twice with a maximum of once for the long jump, wall and tyre respectively.

Rationale

Fallen poles pose a risk to dogs every time they renegotiate them. Multiple

passes of an obstacle increase the risk of incident or injury. In addition, ring party members replacing fallen poles may also pose a risk during the timed round. Multiple repetitions across fallen poles have the potential to affect the overall time a dog receives which may influence results, this is particularly relevant when faulted rounds may place and qualify for events (such as in the case of the Agility Stakes).

Mrs C Wingate-Wynne

Ms J Gardner

Variety of obstacles within a jumping course

- d. Ms Wingate-Wynne would like the Council to discuss mandatory inclusion of one or more alternative obstacles such as the tyre, spread, wall and long jump, to be used in addition to the standard hurdles, tunnels and weaves.

Rationale

It has become increasingly common for jumping courses throughout the grades to include a combination of tunnels, weaves and single hurdles only. This means that dogs are often not exposed to the variety of additional jumping obstacles available. The latest equipment specifications have meant that these obstacles are significantly safer than in previous times and present a greater test of a dog's skill than the standard single pole hurdles alone.

Mr S Brown

Ms J Gardner

Timing errors in competition results

- e. Mr Brown wishes the council to discuss whether the process of recording times needs improving and made the following suggestions:
- Scrimes are qualified in some way before being allowed to officiate at Kennel Club competitions. This could be official training programs or written instructions to emphasise that timing equipment needs to be checked for non starting / stopping incidents.
 - Judges and Scrimes review each class results for obvious unusual / erroneous errors (timing or run faults) at the end of an event and before closing the class and publishing the results.
 - The timing / recording equipment flags up unusual, outlying results for review by the judge.
 - The timing equipment transfers the recorded time directly to the results system without human intervention, with unusual results being flagged for Judges review.

Rationale

It has been observed that twice during the last 6 months, different events had unexpected and erroneous times recorded for a run in competition. On both occasions Mr S Brown and another competitor were recorded as having the same time, and incurred time faults. The times recorded were nearly double what is the normal time for completing a course. This was raised as an issue with the competition judge and show manager. The first time no error was accepted and in the second the results were amended to the satisfaction of all.

Members on the Agilitynet Facebook group were asked for their opinions, knowledge and experience. From this information it seemed that this was not an isolated incident and that most competitors in agility have had an experience of timing errors happening in events at some time during their competitive career. Whilst it is not common, when it does happen it can be very upsetting.

The issue seems to be a combination of technical failure (Timing not starting, stopping or random cut outs) and human error (Scime not noticing the fact that timing is not working correctly).

Mr M Tait

Long jump

- f. Mr Tait wishes the Council to consider amending the length of the long jump from a variable range to a fixed length.

Rationale

Current regulations mean dogs are being asked to judge variable distances on the length jumped on a long jump, the regulations currently allow that intermediate dogs could be asked to jump longer than large dogs. A fixed measurement, the same as the jump height would make it consistent.

Mr M Hoffman

Change of height

Ms J Gardner

- g. Mr M Hoffman wishes the Council to consider that unmeasured dogs that are currently competing in the large height category are to be allowed to be measured retrospectively. Following this formal measurement, eligible dogs would then be permitted to compete in the intermediate height category.

Rationale

Mandatory measurement for agility dogs will be extended to all large dogs from 1 January 2025. The same welfare considerations should exist for unmeasured dogs currently competing. There is already precedent in the Kennel Club for dogs changing height after they have started competing. The current circumstances whereby a dog can change height are:

- Discrepancy between first and subsequent measure.
- Voluntary move to next height up.
- Challenge measure by a championship judge.

It could be argued that the Kennel Club gave plenty of notice regarding the introduction of the intermediate height, so handlers should have acted at that time. This is not unreasonable other than it is compromising the dog's welfare due to the inertia of the handler. It could also be argued that handlers, concerned about their dog's welfare, should have got their dog measured when they started competing. However, it is believed that it is easy to forget how overwhelming the process of taking up agility is for new handlers; and they often take the easiest route. There were also times recently when finding a

measurer was problematic – particularly during the end of the covid restrictions when covid compliant competitions were running. This too may have been a factor for handlers choosing to take the easy route of just jumping in large.

Some handlers will not have considered the welfare matter and will continue to run their unmeasured intermediate dogs at the large height for the dog's competitive lifetime. An intermediate height dog running at large is at a competitive disadvantage. Moving that dog to intermediate allows it to compete on a level playing field with no advantage to the handler and significant welfare benefit to the dog. Mr Hoffman has canvassed several competitors, measurers and judges about this proposal and has yet to find anyone who disagrees with it, or who can see any objection to it.

Mr J Amor
Practice rounds

Ms R Sargent

- h. Mr Amor wishes the Council to consider the addition of practice rounds at Kennel Club licensed agility shows.

Rationale

Other Kennel Club disciplines (including Obedience and Heelwork to Music) have provision for "Practice Rounds", specifically intended to help build confidence. Mr Amor proposes change to the H Regulations to bring Agility in line with other KC disciplines, introducing provision for Practice Rounds at Kennel Club licensed agility shows. Under these regulations most competitors still choose to run for competition as Practice Rounds do not count towards awards or progression. It is suggested that any disruption to the Judge associated with implementation of this proposal should be minimal and it may be beneficial by allowing a short break in concentration to observe a partnership instead of marking.

The following addition is suggested for the Agility "H" Regulations:

Practice Rounds

Practice rounds are permitted at the judge's discretion and the judge's decision is final, provided their main purpose is to aid the dog's or handler's confidence and their experience of the working ring, and subject to the following:

- Where practice rounds are allowed, they must be available for all competitors in that class.
- For classes scheduled to include Grade 1, 2, 3 or 4 dogs the time taken must not exceed the course time, or sixty seconds, whichever is greater. For all other classes the time taken must not exceed the course time.
- The use of toys which emit any noise, and the use of food are not permitted.
- The usual rules and etiquette for those who compete must be followed except that the handler may touch the dog in a non-harmful and non-intimidating manner, and the handler may choose to have another person assist them in the ring during their Practice Round.

- Excessive exuberance from the handler or dog will not be permitted if the judge considers that it could interfere with the chances of winning of other dogs and handlers working in adjacent rings.
- Handlers may not move, alter, add or remove equipment.
- Practice Rounds will be marked as an Elimination.
- Practice Rounds are not permitted in Championship classes

Addition to H(1)(B)5. Marking: If a handler does not state they are performing a Practice Round prior to their run, and they repeat a piece of equipment for the purpose of training, they will be eliminated and dismissed from the ring.

If a proposal were put forward as a regulation change, wording would need to be referenced in the Code of Best Practise for Agility Judges and Stewards & Guide to Agility Equipment.

Mike Hallam

Crate areas and leaving dogs unattended

- i. Mr Hallam would like the Council to discuss the regulation introduced in January 2024 that prevents crates from being left near or around rings and promotes the use of designated areas for these in the vicinity.

Rationale

Since this regulation has been in place it has been observed that designated areas at some shows were of a such a distance to the show rings that they proved to be quite ineffective, and use of these areas actually extended the periods of time that dogs were left in crates while handlers ran their other dogs.

ITEM 11. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Please give at least two weeks' advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Chair.

ITEM 12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Council's next meeting will take place at the Kennel Club in Clarges Street on 18 June 2025. Any items for the agenda must be submitted by 20 March 2025.

NOTES:

1. The Kennel Club will reimburse standard rail fares to all representatives attending the meeting, from their addresses as recorded at the Kennel Club. Claim forms will be available at the meeting.

2. Those resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland may apply in advance for authority to substitute shuttle air travel for standard rail fare, although it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.
3. Please give advance notice of matters to be raised under Any Other Business. This assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council Chairman.
4. Kennel Club Liaison Council Regulations state that the Kennel Club will bear the cost of all reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, representatives should apply to the Kennel Club for approval of any costs they may wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.

THE KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC AIMS

- *Champion the wellbeing of dogs*
- *Safeguard and enhance the future of pedigree dogs, addressing breed-associated health issues*
- *Protect the future of dog activities together with our grassroots network*
- *Become relevant to more dog owners to increase our impact*
- *Deliver an excellent member experience and widen our community*
- *Ensure we are financially secure and sustainable*