

Proposed new grades.

#### 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. 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).

This would create an approximate breakdown by new levels of.

Level 1 16.85%

Level A 41.41%

Level B 17.83%

Level C 23.82%

Champ Status 15.80%

## Conversion of current grades to Proposed Levels.

### Introductory level

If you are currently in Grade 1 on date of implementation, then you would remain in Level I. any wins to progression would count all previous clear rounds are discarded.

#### Level A

All dogs eligible for Grade 3 move to level A.

Grade 2 dogs that have NOT achieved 4 clear rounds migrate to introductory level 2.

Grade 3 dogs Any previous wins in grade3 count towards progression from Level A to B

Grade 2 dogs Previous wins at Grade 2 count towards progression If they have achieved eligibility for Level A

#### Level B

All dogs eligible for Grades 4 and 5 move to level B.

Grade 5 dogs Any previous wins in grade 5 count towards progression from Level B to C

Grade 4 dogs. Any previous wins in combined classes including grade 5 or above count towards progression.

#### Level C

All dogs eligible for Grades 6 and 7 move to level C.

Grade 7 dogs are eligible for Champ Status

Grade 6 dogs. Any previous win's count towards Champ Status

### Champ Status

All dogs currently in Grade 7 are eligible for Champ Status. Dogs who progress into Level C must achieve Criteria for Champ Status.

Breakdown of Dogs in proposed Grades

**Dogs entered in KC shows between 1st Oct 2022 and 30th Sep 2023**

Based on grades and heights on 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 2023  
converted to new grades

Introductory		
Large	672	
Intermediate	419	
Medium	597	
Small	392	16.85%
Level A		
Large	1,671	
Intermediate	1,219	
Medium	1,305	
Small	949	41.41%
Level B		
Large	756	
Intermediate	505	
Medium	527	
Small	425	17.81%
Level C		
Large	829	
Intermediate	666	
Medium	778	
Small	700	23.93%
Champ Status		
Large	520	
Intermediate	422	
Medium	543	
Small	491	

Level A in Practice will be lower than suggested but the number of dogs in Grade 2 that have not achieved 4 clear rounds is hard to predict.

## Scheduling Classes

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Introductory level Part 1 and 2 course design should have minimal handling and the course should inspire confidence in both dog and handler

By having 2 levels of introductory class, it is thought that class numbers of introductory dogs will be large enough to warrant scheduling the classes on their own. These courses should be about competency and building confidence and simple in design.

Introductory levels Part 1 and 2 scheduled together Must have 2 separate awards for each Part.

Levels A, B and C can either be stand alone as in either A, B, C, or shows can combine max of 2 consecutive levels IA, AB, BC,

If Introductory Level is combined with Level A then only one set of results is required.

Open Classes combining all grades can be scheduled.

However, shows can decide the standard of course design by choosing which level appears First.

### Example

Class 1 combined levels BC the course design would be a novice style course, But

Class 2 combined levels CB the course design would be a senior/champ style course design.

This transparency allows handlers to know the level of course they should expect and give guidance to judges in terms of course difficulty.

Special Classes can be combined with as many levels as you wish If all 4 levels combined then these would class as Open classes (open to All) with the course design Grade in Brackets

Example Class 1 Special Open Steeplechase (C) course design would be Level C style.

Level A will always be the largest level with dogs progressing from Introductory Level 1 and 2 on clear rounds. It is anticipated that Level B will increase and overtake Level C in numbers, Level C. Champ

Status will decrease as this will be an elite level having to prove you can compete on a day-to-day basis to qualify for championship classes.

#### Prestige Events

The KC would need to realign qualifiers but would recommend starters cup.

for Level I Intro 1 and 2.

Novice cup for level AB

KC singles Level C

Agility Stakes Level BC But scheduled as CB so course design at the higher level.

#### Progression

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Wins 11 days before next show count towards progression Individuals must inform Show processor/show organiser as stated on schedule a minimum of 5 days before next show or entries will be void.

##### Example

Jan-25

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

if the 4th and 5th were a weekend show and you achieved your win to next level on Sat 4th Then first show would be 11 days after 4<sup>th</sup> January. So Day 1 of the 11 days would be 5<sup>th</sup> Jan. so first show after achieving level up would be from 16th Jan.

competitors must inform show processor/show organiser as stated by a minimum of 5 days before the start of the first show at their new level. The

before the next show. If next competition was 18th Jan, then the level change must be informed on 12th Jan latest. Notification from the 13<sup>th</sup> onwards would mean entries would be void.

Rational for changes,

The kennel club introduced the current grading system and Listed status at the same time, at that point no one could 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 puts a strain on the day management of a show. Costs involved in the number of trophies can be expensive for shows and these costs are passed on to the competitor.

Course design for judges becomes easier, it is much easier to have 4 levels of difficulty. 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 UK agility.

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.

## Summary

Reduced Levels mean increased class size.

Progression to Level B on Points

Qualifiers available at all grades,

New handlers can progress on clear rounds,

Progression waiting time reduced to 11 days.

Qualification for Champ means standard of dogs into Championship classes will be increased.

Reduced costs for show organisers.

Clear guidance on course design level for judges.

