



YKC PAIRS



AGILITY COMPETITIONS
RULES 2026 (CRUFTS 2027)



A: HANDLERS

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

Large Dogs	Intermediate Dogs	Medium Dogs	Small Dogs
• Handler 06-11 Years • Handler 12-17 Years • Open 06-24 Years	• Handler 06-11 Years • Handler 12-17 Years • Open 06-24 Years	• Handler 06-11 Years • Handler 12-17 Years • Open 06-24 Years	• Handler 06-11 Years • Handler 12-17 Years • Open 06-24 Years

2. Only current YKC members may compete in YKC Classes.
3. There are different rules on when handlers may be substituted in YKC pairs competition.
 - i. This will be outlined in section "C", "H" & "I".
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 regarding which dogs may enter this agility class apply.
2. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YKC agility competition.
3. When forming a pair, both of the dogs must be eligible to compete over the same height obstacles.
4. There are different rules on when dogs may be substituted in YKC pairs competition.
 - i. This will be outlined in section "C", "H" & "I".
5. Once a dog has competed with a given YKC handler in a YKC Pairs qualifier, that dog may only compete with that handler in any future YKC Pairs qualifiers for the rest of the qualifying season.
6. Dogs of any grade may enter this competition.

C: YKC PAIRS UNIQUE RULES

1. Unless otherwise specified in this document, YKC Pairs 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
2. **YKC Pairs will be a continuous course of 1x agility round, baton change, 1x jumping round.**
 - i. Standard equipment (used by both dogs):
 - a. Jumps, Tunnels, Weaves.
 - ii. **The first dog will complete the agility section.**
 - a. Additional equipment must include:
 - (1) A-Frame, See-Saw, Dog walk.
 - iii. **The second dog will complete the jumping section.**
 - a. Additional equipment may include:
 - (1) long jump, tire, wall.
3. 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 12 subcategories are separate.
4. Please note this is a special class, contact equipment can be used more than once and the judge does not have to use every piece of equipment listed above.
5. Each section should feature between 13 and 16 obstacles.
6. You may choose, after walking the course, who will complete each section.
7. The course will be different for the first and the second dogs.
 - i. However, any obstacle that appears on the "standard equipment" list can be used as part of the course for both dogs.



8. Altered Kennel Club & Additional Rules

- i. A single elimination will score 100 faults and will be that dog's final faults total (irrespective of how many faults were accumulated prior to this) the dog will no longer be marked but must complete the full course.
- ii. The time will always be recorded, unless either;
 - a. the pair are disqualified (see below).
 - b. both dogs are eliminated.
- iii. If both dogs are eliminated then, as a pair, they will be marked as eliminated: they cannot receive placings or qualifications.
- iv. Once a dog completes their final obstacle, that dog is no longer under test.
 - a. If a dog that has completed its round, naturally continues its stride and completes another obstacle; no fault will be recorded. If the dog is out of control, however, the pair will be disqualified.
- v. The pair will be disqualified if either dog fails to make a fair attempt at the whole course or either dog is deemed out of control.
- vi. If the timing is stopped before the course is completed because of the competing dog/handler's mistake, the team's time will be recorded as either the course time OR the time at which the clock was stopped, whichever is greater.
 - a. If the timing equipment malfunctions, this shall be handled as if it was a normal class.

9. YKC Pairs will feature a baton change.

- i. The baton will be held by the member who is NOT currently running.
- ii. During the handover, the 2nd member and dog may not set off until the baton is in the grip of the 1st member and the 1st dog has completed its course and is under control.
- iii. The baton may not touch the floor during the handover, if it does, the pair will have 20 faults added.
- iv. The 2nd handler & dog must have their entire body behind the line / inside the box during the handover.
 - a. This includes the baton - no leaning outside!
- v. The baton must be passed with care to the approaching handler, you are not permitted to throw the baton for any reason - doing so will result in the pair being disqualified.
- vi. Once the baton has been handed over, and the second dog has cleared the first of its obstacles, the baton is no longer required to be held.

10. Handover Rules

- i. The handover box / line should be at the side of the ring typically on the same side as the start / finish line.
- ii. The handover box / line should be a sensible distance from the previous / next obstacle (at least 5 metres).
- iii. Once the first dog has completed its course, there is no requirement for that dog to remain in the ring.
- iv. Another person (e.g. parent) may hold the second dog for the second handler and/or help collect the first dog if required.
- v. This person must stay in the box until the 2nd dog has completed its first obstacle.
- vi. This person should do the bare minimum for the second handler.
 - a. **This may include the following:**
 - (1) Holding the second dog while the first dog is running.
 - (2) Releasing the second dog as soon as the second handler moves outside the box / line.
 - (3) Collecting the first dog once the second dog has been released.
 - b. **This may NOT include:**
 - (1) Giving any verbal commands or hand signals to dogs outside the box / line (i.e. no double handling).
 - (2) Delaying the release of the second dog to gain an advantage in handling position.
 - (3) Using a toy or lure.



D:

YKC PAIRS QUALIFIERS

1. By entering a YKC qualifier, the YKC members 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. Upon entry, you must decide which dog each of the pair will be handling in the competition.
 - i. This means you cannot swap dogs with your pairs partner after entries close.
4. A handler may enter each height category as a separate qualifier.
5. A handler must only enter one age category per height.
 - i. If entering multiple pairs in the same height category, but different age categories, ALL entries with this handler must be into the 06-24 Years age category for this height.
6. If you have already qualified in a height category you may not enter or compete in that YKC pairs height category again that year unless it is with the same pairing that you have qualified with.
 - i. If you have already qualified, but have entered a show with another pairing, you must forfeit this round.
 - a. We advise only entering shows with the same pair combinations to avoid disappointment.
7. There will be a prize giving ceremony.
8. YKC Pairs 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.

E:

YKC BROKEN PAIRS @ QUALIFIERS

1. **Broken pairs;**
 - i. If only 1 member of the pair is able to compete on the day of the competition, they may merge with another pair in the same situation.
 - a. It is possible that this will alter the age category for the pair, this is allowed and the new age category will be correct for the pair.
 - b. You cannot form a new pair with someone who was not already entered into the pairs competition.
 - c. Both handlers must use the dog they elected to run with their original pair.
 - d. The dog height restriction is still in effect (i.e. both dogs must be eligible to compete over the same height obstacles).
 - e. If a dog is unable to compete (i.e. injured) you cannot swap to another dog you own that is not entered into the pairs competition.
 - (1) In this case, the injured dog and its handler withdraw from the competition and the remaining dog and handler from the pairing may attempt to merge with another pair as described in this section.
 - f. Any merging of pairs must be completed **BEFORE** the relevant height category has begun.
 - g. You **MUST** ask permission to merge pairs with the show secretary.
 - (1) The show secretary is within their rights to deny a merge of pairs for any reason.
 - (i) Reasons may include (but not limited to):
 - (a) Either the height category has already started or it is too close to the height starting.
 - (b) The show secretary is unable to access or amend the pair on the scoring system.
 - h. Once entered, you cannot voluntarily break a pair to merge with another pair.
 - (1) Falling out with your pairs partner is not a valid reason to merge with another pair.



F: YKC PAIRS - WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE FINAL?

1. **First place at any YKC pairs qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the final**
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 set for this year's qualifying season
 - 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.

G: HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR THE YKC PAIRS FINAL?

1. You may enter as many different YKC Pairs qualification heats as you wish, even after you have already qualified with a 1st place, **HOWEVER**:
 - i. As soon as you have qualified, you may only enter YKC pairs competitions at that height with the pair you have qualified with.
2. You may only qualify 1 dog per height for the Pairs finals at Crufts:
 - i. The maximum number of runs you can qualify for at the Crufts YKC Pairs final is 4.
 - a. 1 x Large Dog
 - b. 1 x Intermediate
 - c. 1 x Medium Dog
 - d. 1 x Small Dog
 - ii. You do not have to be in the same pair for the different heights.

H: YKC PAIRS FINAL AT CRUFTS

1. **By entering a YKC competition, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct**
2. If a dog is unable to compete at Crufts, you may contact the YKC to ask whether you can replace one (and only one) of the pair's dogs.
 - a. The replacement dog must compete at the same height
- ii. Reasons may include, but not limited to:
 - a. Bitch in season
 - b. Dog has sustained an injury
- iii. You **MUST** receive written confirmation (email) that the YKC have allowed the substitution.
- iv. The last date substitutions can be made is no later than 7 days before the first day of Crufts
 - a. If a dog is unable to compete after that point, then the pair must withdraw.
3. If both originally qualified dogs from the pair are unable to compete at Crufts, the pair is withdrawn from the competition.
4. The handlers may **NEVER** be substituted
5. The final for the YKC Pairs competition is held at Crufts in the YKC ring.
 - i. The final will be held in the same manner as the qualifiers
 - a. 1x agility round, baton change, 1 x jumping round.
 - b. This course will be set at grade 3.
6. The age category a YKC member will compete in is calculated by their age on the first day of Crufts,
 - i. For example: if a member qualified as an 11-year-old and turns 12 before the first day of Crufts, they will be invited to compete in the 12-17 age group
7. 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
 - (1) Each of the heights will be grouped together, but the age categories will be jumbled
8. Each of the twelve categories will have separate placings and prize-givings



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:
 - a. Dog food or treat supplier
 - b. Car manufacturer
 - c. 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.

BROKEN PAIRS @ CRUFTS

1. **If your pair becomes broken** (either no replacement dog or one of the handlers no longer wishes to compete) immediately inform the YKC office.
 - i. The member and dog who still wish to compete will go onto a waiting list to be joined with other members in a similar situation.
 - ii. The YKC will merge any members who have been split up from their original pairing. This merge will be done in a first come first served basis, the earlier you let the YKC know, the more likely you will get another partner.
 - a. The YKC will merge members based on dog height only, i.e., a 20-year-old could get merged with an 8-year-old if their dogs compete at the same height.
 - (1) this is non-negotiable. If you are unhappy with your pairing you may withdraw from the Crufts final (you will not be merged a second time - the person you left will be merged though)
 - iii. You do not have to be merged; you may instead withdraw from the Crufts final. You may still not re-qualify with another pairing in that dog height.
 - iv. The member whose dog has been injured may switch to a new pair and attempt to requalify only if they have contacted the YKC with written proof from their vet that this is the case AND the YKC have written back and agreed. (Email is fine)
 - v. A member that did not want to be part of that pairing anymore will not be allowed to requalify (unless it falls under extenuating circumstances, in which case, you must contact the YKC for written permission)



K ■ YKC PAIRS AGILITY FINAL – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following awards will be presented in the YKC ring for the YKC Pairs Agility Final

06-11 Years	12-17 Years	06-24 Years
• 1st to 5th LRG • 1st to 5th INT • 1st to 5th MED • 1st to 5th SML	• 1st to 5th LRG • 1st to 5th INT • 1st to 5th MED • 1st to 5th SML	• 1st to 5th LRG • 1st to 5th INT • 1st to 5th MED • 1st to 5th SML
Overall Pairs Agility Winner	Overall Pairs Agility Reserve	

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.