



YKC CODE OF CONDUCT



QUALIFIERS 2025 (CRUFTS 2026)



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A: YKC COMPETITORS

1. **YKC (Young Kennel Club) members must always show respect to other competitors.**
 - i. YKC members should be humble in victory and gracious in defeat.
2. **YKC members must respect the judge, competition stewards and show secretaries.**
 - i. Judge's decisions are final.
 - a. Judges are human and can make mistakes.
 - ii. The officials you will meet while competing are all volunteers and human beings.
 - a. If you wish to highlight an issue or error with the competition to any official, do so in a manner that is calm, considered, and polite.
3. **YKC members must always be kind to their dog.**
 - i. Dogs are allowed to make mistakes.
 - ii. Harsh handling of a dog is never acceptable.
4. **YKC members must ask permission before interacting with someone else's dog**
 - i. This includes (not limited to):
 - a. Petting / Stroking / Playing with
 - b. Feeding – some dogs have allergies
5. **YKC members must follow and obey the rules of the competition.**
 - i. YKC members should never cheat or use underhanded methods to gain an advantage.
 - ii. Where any rule is unclear, YKC members should seek clarification if able, or if unable, resolve the situation in a manner that is fair to all involved.
6. **Crufts qualification must be earned and is not a right.**
7. **YKC members should not make comments about whether another YKC member should be entering a competition.**
 - i. Most YKC competitions allow members to continue to compete after they have qualified.
8. **Have fun and make friends!**
 - i. YKC competitions are designed to give its members the opportunity to meet and compete in friendly competition with others of a similar age.
 - ii. Gaining a friend is ALWAYS worth more than improving the colour of a rosette.

B: YKC COMPETITOR'S DOGS

1. **Competitor's dogs should always be kept under control.**
2. **Competitors should always be aware of their dogs and ensure that their dog is:**
 - i. Not being a distraction to other dogs/handlers.
 - ii. Not encroaching on other competitors' dog's personal space.
 - iii. Not acting in an anti-social manner towards other dogs/handlers i.e.
 - (1) not eyeballing other dogs.
 - (2) not baring teeth or growling at other dogs/handlers.
 - (3) not barking aggressively or antagonistically at other dogs/handlers.
 - b. If a YKC member's dog does exhibit any of the above behaviours, YKC members should defuse the situation by either distracting their dog or removing their dog from the situation.
3. **If you own a boisterous or playful dog, be mindful of other competitor's dogs.**
 - a. Some dogs may not want to play with your dog. (Even if your dog is very friendly.)



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C ■ YKC MEMBER'S PARENTS / GUARDIANS / REPRESENTATIVES

1. In this section, we'll be addressing anyone who accompanies a YKC member as a YKC Rep.

- i. A rep may be any of the following list:
 - a. Parent
 - b. Grandparent
 - c. Family member
 - d. Friend
 - e. Anyone who represents the interest of the YKC member.

1. YKC Reps should always offer encouragement to a YKC member, not criticism.

2. YKC Reps should not increase the amount of pressure a YKC member is under.

3. YKC Reps should accept that YKC members may make mistakes; this is part of learning.

- i. Where any mistakes do occur, offer support, do NOT instantly offer advice.

4. YKC Reps should (where appropriate) coach the YKC member on how to improve their skills.

- i. This should NEVER happen directly after a disappointing competition
 - a. This should occur after time has passed and often after you have returned home.

5. YKC Reps should not pass open comment on another YKC member's conduct.

- i. This includes commenting on whether a YKC member should be entering a class.
- ii. If a YKC Rep deems another YKC member's conduct objectionable, that YKC rep should either:
 - (1) Raise a complaint in a calm, considered, and polite manner to the show secretary and make a record in the incident book for that show.
 - (2) Raise a complaint in a calm, considered, and polite manner via email to the YKC office outlining what has occurred.
- b. YKC Reps shall not publish any grievance on social media, nor gossip around the showground/venue.

6. If a YKC rep wishes to report an issue with a competition, a maximum of one YKC Rep plus the YKC Member affected may speak with the show secretary to record what has happened.

- i. YKC Reps are discouraged from descending on a show secretary en masse.



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D: SOCIAL MEDIA

1. YKC members and their YKC Reps may use social media as a platform for positivity, celebration, and information only.
2. It is acceptable for YKC members to post on social media the following (not limited to):
 - i. Their wins / successes
 - ii. Messages of congratulation towards other YKC Members wins /successes
 - iii. Information about upcoming events/competitions.
 - iv. Etc.
3. It is **NOT** acceptable for YKC members or YKC Reps to post the following (not limited to):
 - i. Any spiteful remark towards any other YKC Member / YKC Rep or YKC competition official.
 - ii. Any comment on competition issues still awaiting resolution
4. Social media very rarely resolves conflicts and often exacerbates them; be mindful of how your online comments can affect others.
5. Be mindful of who you are photographing for any social media post that includes a picture.
 - i. Ensure you have permission to take and publish a photo of someone else's child.
6. Never use social media to dox another individual (post sensitive/personal information about another person).



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E: YKC COMPETITION OFFICIALS

1. **All officials involved in a YKC competition should be aware that a YKC member may be a 24-year-old professional with children of their own OR they could be a 6-year-old child still learning how best to express themselves.**
 - i. As such, officials should be encouraging towards YKC members who require additional support
 - ii. While extra allowance may be permitted during any explanation of tasks, the competition must remain fair, and all involved must be judged as equals.
2. **All competition officials should be aware that it is not just the YKC members age that may vary wildly. YKC members may also be brand new to your sport; this could be the first time that they (and their Reps) have competed before. Please ensure that:**
 - i. All YKC members and their Reps can ask for assistance
 - ii. Be on hand to, not only explain how this competition is due to run, but also how other competitions at the show work if required. i.e.:
 - a. How to enter future shows
 - b. How to work out when your class is due
 - c. Where to queue
 - d. Who to speak to once at the ring
 - e. Etc
3. **All YKC Competition officials are strongly advised to read both the Kennel Club's safeguarding document and child protection document.**
 - i. Both documents can be found on the YKC and the Kennel Club website.
 - a. <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/policies/safeguarding-policy/>
 - b. <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/policies/child-protection-policy/>
 - ii. These documents are free to be read by all
 - iii. These documents offer advice to protect both YKC members AND those that need to officiate over them.
4. **YKC competitions are more complicated than standard Kennel Club classes. (*who knew working with both children AND dogs was more difficult!?*) As such, we would value any feedback you have from officiating the competition. The YKC want to ensure that our competitions are fair and engaging for our members, but also as stress free for the show societies and ring party as possible.**
 - i. Please let the show secretary know if you have any feedback at all including:
 - a. What works well
 - b. What needs improvement
 - c. Any rule that seems to serve no purpose