

**MEETING OF THE WORKING TRIALS LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT
10.30AM ON WEDNESDAY 1 JULY 2026 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

The Council is invited to note that there were no matters arising or results of recommendations from the Board.

ITEM 3. PD PANELS

The Council is invited to note that there is no update from the PD Panel.

ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note that there is no update from the April meeting of the Activities Judges Sub Group as no working trials matters were discussed at the meeting.

ITEM 5. PROPOSALS

The Working Trials community are invited to share any ideas which might help to improve or develop Working Trials.

To submit a proposal or discussion item, please use our online form so the Working Trials Liaison Council can discuss and review the suggestion further prior to the next meeting. Submissions are accepted at any time of year via the online form: [Liaison Council Agenda Item](#).

Proposed amendment to Regulation I(B)12

- a. The Council is requested to consider a proposed amendment to the above regulation to ensure that the exercise remains that of quartering the ground and not of sendaways or redirection.

Regulation I(B)12. Quartering the ground

To:

The missing person, protected consistent with safety, must remain motionless in a seated or standing position out of sight of the handler but must be accessible on investigation to the dog when 'winded'. The

protected steward must not be lying down. The judge should satisfy himself that the dog has found the person and given warning spontaneously and emphatically without being directed by the handler. A dog that bites the hidden person must be heavily penalised.

Excessive commands when the dog is quartering the ground must be penalised. The dog should have a positive attitude when searching for the protected steward/s. Dogs that do not respond to directions and return close to the handler must be treated as having finished the exercise.

(Insertion in bold.)

Rationale

The quartering the ground exercise should be conducted independently by the dog, demonstrating the dogs tracking and problem-solving ability. The handler's role should be limited, without the use of repeated directional cues and redirects to guide the dog. This change ensures the exercise is one of accurately assessing the dogs natural search capability rather than handler guidance.

Proposed amendment to Regulations I6 and I9.

- b. The Council is requested to consider a proposed amendment to the above regulation to shorten the time frame in which societies must apply for a licence to hold a working trial.

Regulation I6. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events.

To:

Applications should be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club by email at six ~~months~~ **weeks** before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.
(Deletions struck through. Insertion in bold.)

Regulation I9. Application.

To:

The application for a licence to hold a working trial must be made to the secretary of the Royal Kennel Club, and must be accompanied by the appropriate licence fee, at least six ~~months~~ **weeks** before the date of the working trial.

(Deletions struck through. Insertion in bold.)

Rationale

The availability of land for trials is subject to landowners' permission and is dependent on weather, crop growth and other farming activity. Permission cannot always be granted 6 months before a trial, and when permission is granted this early there is an increased risk of it being withdrawn due to factors such as soil preparation, planting, fertilisation, pest control, harvesting or rotational grazing.

Trials who seek landowners' permission closer to their trial date have a greater chance of being able to proceed without these issues.

Proposed amendment to Regulations I22.c.(13) and I27.b

- c. The Council is requested to consider a proposed amendment to the above regulations in order to allow judges to compete on the same day they are judging where applicable.

Regulation I22.c.(13) Schedules.

To:

~~A regulation which prohibits judges at the trials entering a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership.~~

If applicable, a statement that:

- 1. Judges may compete in any stake at this trial except the stake at which they are officiating at the discretion of the Trials Manager. (This option does not apply to judges of Championship PD/TD)**

OR

- 2. Judges may not compete in any stake at this trial**
(Deletions struck through. Insertion in bold.)

Regulation I27.b. Judging

To:

Judges at **Championship PD/TD** Working Trials may not enter a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership; or handle a dog at the trial at which they are judging.

(Insertions in bold.)

Rationale

Concerns regarding declining entry numbers and the increasing difficulty in securing judges across activities have highlighted the need to explore sustainable and practical solutions for the future of the discipline. Many experienced participants now prefer to compete rather than officiate, resulting in a reduced number of available judges and as a result, added pressure on societies organising trials.

The proposal to permit judges to compete at the same event, provided they do not officiate in the stake in which they are competing, seeks to address these challenges while maintaining fairness and integrity within competition.

The principle is already in place for other activities under existing regulations and the proposal aligns with the Royal Kennel Club's strategic aims of protecting the future of dog activities and maintaining the grassroots network. By widening opportunities for participation, the initiative is anticipated to encourage more individuals to accept judging appointments and increase the available judging pool, while supporting entry levels, particularly in lower stakes.

Recognising that implementation may not be practical for all societies or events, the proposal hopes to provide flexibility by allowing societies to opt in or out at their discretion.

ITEM 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

No discussion items have been received for this meeting.

ITEM 7. STRATEGIC 5 YEAR PLAN

The Council is requested to review the strategy document.
(Annex A refers)

ITEM 8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

ITEM 9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the Council's next meeting will be announced in September 2026.

THE ROYAL 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