Royal Kennel Club

Show Regulations

2026

Royal Kennel Club Regulation Booklets

This is one of a series of booklets designed to present the Regulations in a more accessible form. The complete set of Rules & Regulations is of course still available within the Royal Kennel Club Year Book.

There are booklets available for Breed Shows, Obedience Shows, Agility Shows, Working Trials and Bloodhound Trials, Heelwork to Music, Field Trials and Rally. Whilst including all the relevant regulations also included is an extract from the B Regulations on the requirements of dog registration.

ROYAL KENNEL CLUB SHOW REGULATIONS
GENERAL SHOW REGULATIONS

As at 1st January 2026

1. Eligibility.

a. Show licences will be issued to registered or affiliated societies only, with the exception of companion dog show licences which will be issued to registered or unregistered organisations.

b. Dogs entered for exhibition at Royal Kennel Club licensed shows, with the exception of companion dog shows must be registered at the Royal Kennel Club in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Regulations for Classification and Registration B. In the case of companion dog shows held in conjunction with another Royal Kennel Club licensed dog show, a dog entered for exhibition at the companion dog show will be deemed to be an entered dog for the purposes of visiting and/or competing at the other licensed dog show.

c. Only dogs of four calendar months of age and over on the first day of the show are eligible for exhibition at Royal Kennel Club licensed shows. However, societies may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion for dogs aged three calendar months and over.

d. If, in the opinion of the Board, a dog is of a savage disposition it shall be ineligible for entry for any show held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.

e. Persons disqualified or suspended under Royal Kennel Club Rules are not permitted to take part in any Royal Kennel Club licensed show.

f. No activity shall be conducted which permits, encourages or develops aggression in a dog.

g. Only breeds for which a breed standard or interim breed standard has been published by the Royal Kennel Club are eligible to enter to compete at shows.

h. 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.

2. Welfare of dogs.

An exhibitor (or competitor) whose dog is entered at a Royal Kennel Club licensed event should take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog(s) are met, and should not knowingly put their dogs' health and welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise. A breach of this Regulation may be referred to the Board for disciplinary action under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations. The use of pinch collars, electronic shock collars, or prong collars, is not permitted to the show licensed by the Royal Kennel Club. This shall apply at the venue or within the precincts of the show.

3. Those taking part in Royal Kennel Club licensed/approved events are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards, in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Conduct as published from time to time.

4. Licensed shows.

Licensed shows held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations are those held under licence granted by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club and which comprise:

a. *Championship shows*-which are open to all exhibitors (except where a qualification for entry has been approved by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club) and at which Royal Kennel Club Challenge Certificates are offered.
(vide Royal Kennel Club Show Regulation F(1))

b. *Open shows*-which are open to all exhibitors.
(vide Royal Kennel Club Show Regulation F(1))

c. *Limited shows*-at which entry is limited to members of the show society or to exhibitors resident within specified areas or otherwise subject to the approval of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club*.
(vide Royal Kennel Club Show Regulation F(1))

d. *Matches*-at which entry is limited to members of the show society.
(vide Royal Kennel Club Show Regulations F(2))

e. *Companion dog shows*-at which registered and unregistered dogs are eligible to enter.
(vide Royal Kennel Club Show Regulation F(3))

*Dogs which have won a Challenge Certificate, five Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges) or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club e.g. CACIB, CAC, Green Star are not eligible for entry at these Shows, except for in the open class at breed club limited shows for Imported Register Breeds and breeds not allocated championship status in the United Kingdom.

NOTE: Partnership shows are defined as shows where the host club and other clubs share a venue and other facilities to allow exhibitors the opportunity to exhibit at each show (vide Royal Kennel Club Regulation F(1)).

NOTE: The Board of the Royal Kennel Club also licenses other activities, which are covered by the appropriate Regulations.

5. Permission to hold shows.

a. The Board shall have the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any licensed show.

b. A general canine society may apply for a licence for two open shows per year.

6. Abandonment of shows.

In the event of any major contravention of Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, in particular attraction from outside the ring, the show management may order that judging in specific classes, breeds, rings or the show be abandoned.

Any cancellation or abandonment of a show without prior permission of the Royal Kennel Club must be reported in writing to the Royal Kennel Club without delay.

7. Jurisdiction and responsibilities.

The Officers and Committee members of the society holding the licence are deemed responsible for organising and conducting the show safely and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Royal Kennel Club and agree to abide by and adopt any decision of the Board or any authority to whom the Board may delegate its powers subject to the conditions of Regulation F17. In so doing those appointed as officers and committee members accept that they are jointly and severally responsible for the organisation of the show and that this is a binding undertaking (vide Royal Kennel Club General Show Regulations F4 and F5).

Any decision given against the society under Rule A11 of the Royal Kennel Club Rules may be communicated by the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club to the Secretaries of registered or affiliated societies holding licensed events, and may also be published in the Royal Kennel Club Journal, together with a report of the proceedings in the matter.

Any notice sent to the Secretary of the Society at the contact address duly lodged at the Royal Kennel Club shall be deemed full and sufficient notice on the part of the Royal Kennel Club of (a) any proceedings, matters or decision of the Board, or of any Authority to whom the Board may have delegated its powers or (b) of anything arising out of the show licence or to the conduct of the Show, or (c) of any other matter whatsoever arising out of or in connection with the same. Any change in officers or committee members must be notified to the Royal Kennel Club.

8. Application.

The application for a licence to hold a show must be made to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club at least 12 months before the proposed date of the show together with the appropriate licence fee.

9. Documentation.

At every show the following documents must be available:-

a. The licence for the show.
b. A current public liability insurance document, which must be clearly displayed.
c. A copy of current Royal Kennel Club Rules and relevant show Regulations.
d. A copy of current Royal Kennel Club breed standards for all breeds scheduled at the show.
e. A copy of the schedule and catalogue for the show, where applicable.
f. The completed entry forms for the show.
g. A Royal Kennel Club Incident Book, containing details of all incidents occurring at the show, a copy of which must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club within 14 days.

10. Judges, responsibilities.

a. Judges at Royal Kennel Club licensed shows must;
   (1) Judge in accordance with Royal Kennel Club breed standards. In assessing dogs, judges must penalise any features or exaggerations which they consider would be detrimental to the soundness, health or well-being of the dog.
   (2) Judges are expected to act impartially, with integrity and to only judge on the merits of the dogs in competition and consider no other factors.

(3) Judges must maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, appropriate Codes of Best Practice and the criteria described in the Judges Education Programme as published from time to time.

(4) To accept appointments and to judge breed classes at Royal Kennel Club licensed championship, open and limited shows judges must be listed on the relevant breed club judging list or at the appropriate Judges Education Programme Level. Judges must maintain accurate records of educational evidence and confirmed judging appointments.

b. The Board shall have the power to grant, withhold, amend, suspend or cancel the status of a judge.

c. The committee shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel the approval of any judge, referee, judge of group competitions or judge for Best in Show.

11. Exhibition of dogs.

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

b. The owner, exhibitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog at Royal 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).

12. Veterinary support.

A show society is required to arrange veterinary support compatible with the arrangements for the show and the anticipated entry. At shows at which a veterinary surgeon is present, he/she must be on site when the show opens and for the duration of each day's judging. All general and group championship shows must have a veterinary surgeon on site.

13. Dog fouling, grooming and waste (animal).

a. Any owner, exhibitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog is required to remove immediately any fouling caused by their dog(s) and/or any grooming waste at any Royal Kennel Club licensed show within the licensed venue and within the environs of that event including car and caravan parks and approaches.

b. Any organisation holding a Royal Kennel Club licensed event is required to provide an adequate number of receptacles for the disposal of such fouling waste.

c. The chalking, powdering or spraying (with the exception of water) of exhibits within the precincts of the show is forbidden.

14. Fraudulent or discreditable conduct at shows.

The secretary of a show must immediately report in writing to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club any case of alleged fraudulent or discreditable conduct, or any default, omission or incident at or in connection with the show which may come to his notice, even where parties concerned have indicated that they intend taking no

action and at the same time forward to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club all documents and information in connection therewith which may be in his possession or power. If evidence is placed before the Board to its satisfaction that undue influence has been exercised by any person(s), or that any improper means have been used to influence the appointment of a judge or interfere with the exhibition of a dog at any show held under Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, the Board may require all correspondence and evidence in connection with the case to be produced in order that it may deal with the offender(s) under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

15. Penalty for infringement of Royal Kennel Club Rules by the show society.

The Board shall have power to fine the show society which has breached Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations in the conduct of the show.

16. Unlicensed shows.

Notwithstanding the provisions of these Regulations, certain events which are not licensed by the Royal Kennel Club may from time to time be recognised by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club.

The Board shall have power to grant permission for Royal Kennel Club registered dogs to be entered for such events. A judge, exhibitor or promoter will not be prejudiced by participation in these special unlicensed events.

17. Delegated powers of the Scottish Kennel Club.

For the purpose of paragraphs 3 and 4 of this Regulation, the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any licensed show in Scotland, other than a championship show, shall be delegated to the Scottish Kennel Club.

For the purpose of these Regulations, all powers of the Board relative to shows held in Scotland and licensed by the Scottish Kennel Club are delegated to the Executive Council of the Scottish Kennel Club. Applications for licences, documents, objections and allegations of fraudulent or discreditable conduct relative to shows licensed by the Scottish Kennel Club must be submitted to the Secretary General of the Scottish Kennel Club, Unit 2 - Ground Floor, Satellite Business Park, Macmerry, Tranent, East Lothian. EH33 1RY.

SPECIFIC SHOW REGULATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP, OPEN AND LIMITED SHOW REGULATIONS

The following Regulations apply to championship, open and limited shows. Certain clauses of the Regulations only affect certain types of shows and, where this is the case, a note to that effect appears at the beginning of the relevant clause.

These Regulations must be read in conjunction with Royal Kennel Club General Show Regulations [F].

1. Application.

a. Application for show licences must be submitted at least 12 months before the proposed date of the show, properly completed in accordance with Royal Kennel Club General Show Regulation F4.

b. Show licences issued will only be valid if on the day of the event a current public liability insurance document is held.

c. The Board shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel any show licence.

2. Sponsorship and donations.

a. No offer of sponsorship or donation may be made on condition that a specified person is appointed to judge except that a registered breed society may offer sponsorship or donation subject to either of the following conditions:-

(1) That the judge is on the registered breed society's list of judges.

(2) That a specified person is appointed to judge but the selection of that judge must have been made by the committee of the registered breed society or by a properly conducted ballot of the members of the registered breed society.

b. Classes restricted to breed points may be sponsored only by registered breed societies.

c. No prize may be offered for progeny sired by a specific dog and no prize consisting of a free service of any dog is permitted.

3. Facilities.

The following facilities must be provided:-

a. Benching as required by Regulation F(1)4.

b. Judging rings, which must be appropriate to the number of exhibits and to the breeds, and shall not in any circumstances be less than 20 ft (6.15 m) wide nor contain less than 500 square feet (45 sq m) of clear floor space. Each ring must be enclosed by seats or otherwise. Persons occupying the seats will not be considered to be within the enclosure.

c. Wet weather accommodation.

(1) At shows where judging is to take place in the open air, an adequate number of alternative rings under satisfactory cover must be provided.

(2) Plans of the alternative rings must be available for inspection in the secretary's office.

(3) Wet weather accommodation need not be provided at breed club championship shows, breed club and general canine open and limited shows.

d. Gangways.
   (1) The width of unobstructed gangway shall not be less than 6 ft (1.85 m) when there are rings and/or benches on either side.
   (2) The width of unobstructed gangway shall not be less than 3 ft (0.92 m) when there is a ring or benches on one side only.

e. For breeds which are customarily judged on a table, a separate table of suitable size and stable construction with a rubber mat adequate for the breed or a non-slip surface should be provided in all rings in which these breeds are to be judged.

f. (1) *Group and general championship shows:*-A board within the ring on which the awards must be clearly displayed after each class, as soon as determined by the judge.
   (2) *Breed club championship shows, open and limited shows*:-An area for the display of awards.

g. (1) An area for the grooming of dogs and/or cages and trolleys. The use of chalk, powders or any other similar substances is prohibited within the precincts of a show.
   (2) Clearly defined exercise areas.
   (3) Cages, pens, grooming tables, trolleys and dogs must not obstruct gangways.

h. Veterinary support (vide Regulation F(1)12.)

i. For shows at which a veterinary surgeon is present. A separate place, where water, and suitable disinfectant are available for the use of the veterinary surgeon and where exhibits can be referred for examination in accordance with the Regulations.

4. Benching.

Championship, open and limited shows:-

a. Benching may be provided by the show society and exhibits must be benched in a manner which has been approved by the Board.

b. If provided benches must be constructed of materials which can be easily cleaned and disinfected. They must be of such design and construction as to provide reasonable comfort and security to dogs for the duration of the show. Arrangements must be made for the secure fastening of the dogs on the benches.

c. No person may interfere in any way with the benching as erected in accordance with this Regulation and in particular the partitions as erected between one pen and another must not be removed.

d. Only the following notices may be displayed over the benches:-
   (1) White cards not exceeding 25.5cm x 2.7cm (10" x 5"), with black lettering not exceeding 2.5cm (1") in height bearing the following messages:-
      (a) 'Not for Competition', with the name of the dog similarly displayed.
      (b) The name of the kennel and the name, address and telephone number of the owners.
   (2) Printed awards, including the Challenge Certificates awarded at that Show.

e. Obstruction of gangways prohibited.

5. Number and type of classes.

a. *Championship, open and limited shows-*

(1) At shows scheduling one breed, a minimum of 12 classes must be provided, which must include an Open class.

(2) At shows where more than one breed is scheduled, at least 16 classes must be provided, which must include an open class for each breed.

(3) At shows where more than one breed is scheduled a minimum of eight classes for breeds for which Challenge Certificates are offered must be provided, which must include an Open and a Limit Class for each sex.

(4) Where a show is judged on the Group system, unless a class for every breed eligible for separate classification is provided, at least one Any Variety Not Separately Classified class per group must be provided, and at least one Any Variety Imported Breeds Register class per group must also be provided.

(5) General Canine Society Limited Shows shall not schedule more than 100 classes. Any Variety Imported Breeds Register Classes are not to be counted in this restriction and would be exempt.

b. *Supported entry open shows.* A breed club must select and promote at least 2 supported entry open shows for its breed at general or group open show each year. A formal written agreement to be reached with the licensed show societies. The judges of such classes must be selected by the licensed show society from a list of at least two names proposed by the breed club and will be at either Judges Education Programme Level 2 or Level 3 (or B list or A3 list).

6. Awards.

a. There shall be at least 4 awards including reserve on offer in every class. Printed awards must be given and, may indicate the name of the society, the type and date of the show, the nature of the award and the name of any commercial firms donating the awards.

b. Best of Breed
Where a breed is separately classified a Best of Breed may be declared but only from those dogs which have received a first prize in a breed class at the show. Where separate classes are provided for each sex a Best of each Sex must be declared.

c. Best Puppy in Breed
Where there is an award for Best Puppy in Breed the winner may be selected from puppies entered and unbeaten by another puppy in the breed classes.

d. Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified
Where an Any Variety Not Separately Classified class(es) is (are) scheduled the Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified must be selected from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes. Where separate Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes are provided for each sex, the Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified must be selected from those dogs declared Best of each Sex.

e. Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified Puppy
The Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified Puppy must be selected from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes.

f. Best Any Variety Imported Breed Register
A Best Any Variety Imported Breed Register may be declared but only from those dogs which have received a first prize in an Any Variety Imported Breed Register class. Where there is an award for Best Any Variety Imported Breed Register Puppy the winner must be selected from puppies entered in the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes.

7. Schedule.

a. The show society must issue a schedule for the show, such schedule to follow the layout of the specimen schedule provided by the Royal Kennel Club and conform with Royal Kennel Club Regulations.

b. *Schedules*
A copy of the schedule that is issued for each show, must be retained by the organisers for 12 months and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.

c. *Schedule contents:-*

(1) On the front outside cover or title page, the name of the show society, the type, venue and date of the show as described on the licence, and any additional title for which prior permission has been given by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club; the secretary's name, contact information and an address for postal entries. Shows scheduling breeds from more than one group must specify whether or not the show is to be judged on the group system.
In the case of events where classes are provided for exhibits other than dogs, the names and addresses need only be printed at the head of the dog section.

(2) On the front outside cover or the title page the appropriate statement on the exhibition of docked dogs for the show's location and status. The various statements are included in the specimen schedule provided by the Royal Kennel Club.

(3) *Breed club championship shows, breed club and general canine open and limited shows.*
In the event that wet weather accommodation is not being provided at the show, the front outside cover or title page of the schedule must prominently display a statement to this effect.

(4) *Championship shows:-*
The name of each breed for which Challenge Certificates are offered must be printed and the names of the judge(s) and referee(s), if applicable, followed by the words 'Royal Kennel Club Challenge Certificate Dog; Royal Kennel Club Challenge Certificate Bitch'; and then the classification provided for the breed.

(5) *Breed club supported entry open shows.* If applicable, at the beginning of each breed classification a statement that the classes are designated as a Breed club supported entry open show, together with the name of the relevant Breed Club.

(6) If accepting postal entries; An entry form, the wording of which must be in accordance with that approved for the time being by the Royal Kennel Club, and if applicable details of how entries can be made online.
(7) The name of the judge(s) and referee, if applicable, of each breed and other classes.
(8) The definitions of all classes and conditions of entry must be inserted in the same order as Annex A to these Regulations, as applicable to the type of Show.
(9) All offers of sponsorship or donations with the names of the sponsors.
(10) The date of closing entries.
(11) The amount of entry and other fees.
(12) The amount of prize money where offered.
(13) The date for estimating the number of awards won.
(14) An announcement that exhibits will not be admitted to Group or Best in Show competition after a period of 10 minutes has elapsed since the announcement that exhibits are required for judging, unless they have been unavoidably delayed by previous judging not being completed on time, and then only with special permission of the show management.
(15) (a) The time of opening of the show.
(b) The latest time up to which dogs will be received and after which no dogs may be received except under exceptional and unforeseen circumstances and by special permission of the show management; or notice to the effect that dogs will be received at any time.
(c) Championship, open and limited shows:-
(i) *Benched shows*
The times and conditions for the removal of exhibits including a statement regarding any special early removal of dogs from the Show on each day of its continuance and a statement that exhibits may not be removed at any other time unless by the written order of the veterinary surgeon, veterinary practitioner or of the show management and then only in very exceptional and unforeseen circumstances which must be reported to the Royal Kennel Club.
NOTE: The conditions for removal may not include the right to charge a fee for removal before closing or for early removal.
(ii) The time by which exhibits must be removed from the benches, apart from those breeds for which judging has not been completed.
(iii) *Unbenched shows*
A statement that removal of exhibits will be allowed after they have been judged.
(d) A statement that the show closes half an hour after all judging has been completed.

(16) Notice of
Royal Kennel Club Show Regulations F(1) paragraphs:
8 a
8 i (as applicable)
8 l
8 m
13
18 (as applicable)
26 (as applicable)
27 (as applicable)
F(B) (Either within schedule or on reverse of entry form)

(17) (a) Not for Competition entries will be accepted. Details of each dog so entered must be recorded on the entry form and must be Royal Kennel Club registered or

(b) Not for Competition entries not accepted.

d. No modifications may be made to the Schedule except by permission of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club and which must be followed by advertisement in the canine press if possible.

8. Entry for exhibition.

a. Puppies under four calendar months of age on the first day of the show are not eligible for exhibition.

b. Societies have discretion to accept online entries only, postal entries only, or both online and postal entries. Schedules must clearly state the way in which entries may be made.

c. Entries for a show must close at the time indicated in the schedule and, at the latest on the seventh day before the show opens.

d. The show committee must reserve to itself the right to refuse any entry.

e. If accepting postal entries; Entries received by post bearing the Post Office postmark of the date for closing of entries or before must be accepted subject to the conditions of Regulation F(1)8.d.

f. If accepting postal entries; Entries from exhibitors claiming that undelivered entries have been correctly posted, and if accepting online entries; Entries from exhibitors claiming that entries have been correctly made must be accepted on the day of the show, subject to the conditions of Regulation F(1)8.d. Such claims will have to be substantiated to the Royal Kennel Club which will request documentary evidence, subsequent to the show.

g. A dog must, at the time of entry for a show, be registered as required by Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations in the exhibitors' name (or registration or transfer applied for). In the case of joint registered owners the full name of every registered owner must be given.
Where an owner makes an entry on behalf of another joint registered owner(s) or where an agent enters on behalf of a single or joint registered owner(s) such person must have the authority and consent from the single or joint registered owner(s) to sign the entry form on their behalf thereby binding them all to Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations. In the event of any dispute, evidence of such authority and consent will be required.
A dog acquired subsequent to entry having been made at a show may be exhibited by the new owner as the new owner's property provided that an

application for the transfer has been forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club before the show, and the new owner has undertaken to abide by the Regulations and conditions of the original entry form (and in accordance with the conditions set out above).

Titles may be included as part of an entry to a licensed event if validly achieved. The onus on verification of the award is with the exhibitor. It will be a breach of this Regulation if titles are incorrectly attributed to a dog entered to a licensed event.

h. A separate application for entry must be made by each exhibitor and acceptance of the entry declaration must be given in accordance with the provisions specified thereon - whether in writing or via the internet. Entries cannot be accepted without the appropriate fees or acceptance of the entry declaration.

i. In the case of a dog owned in partnership, and entered in members' classes or competing for members' specials, each partner must at the time of entry be a member of the society.

j. An entry must not be made at any show under a judge of any dog where said judge or any member of his/her immediate household or immediate family has been known to have owned, handled at a show, boarded or prepared such dog for exhibition within 12 months prior to the show. This regulation shall not apply to judges appointed in an emergency.

k. An entry must not be made at any show under a judge of any dog where said judge has bred the dog. This Regulation shall not apply to judges appointed in an emergency.

l. In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including the seventh day before the first closing date shall be counted when entering for any class. Wins in variety classes do not count for entry in breed classes.

m. If an exhibitor reports before the judging of a class or classes that a dog has been entered which is ineligible, the exhibitor may choose one of the following options:-

(1) *Withdrawal*

The dog may be withdrawn from specific classes or the entire competition subject to the conditions of Regulation F(1)19 and from:

(a) Any variety classes when judged before breed classes.

(b) Classes as a result of the appointment of an emergency judge.

(c) Classes where the scheduled judge is the breeder of the dog.

(2) *Transfer*

(a) If a dog is ineligible for a class or classes as regards its breed, colour, sex, weight or height the show secretary shall transfer it to the equivalent class or classes for the correct breed, colour, sex, weight, or height or, in the event of there being no equivalent class, Minor Puppy and Puppy excepted to the Open Class for the correct breed, colour, sex, weight, or height.

(b) If an exhibit is entered incorrectly in a Minor Puppy Class, Puppy Class or Junior Class, which is over age but under 12 calendar months of age, 18 calendar months of age or 24 calendar months of age respectively the show secretary shall transfer the exhibit to the Puppy Class, Junior Class or Yearling

Class respectively for the correct breed, colour, sex, weight or height and in the event of there being no Puppy, Junior or Yearling Class to the Open Class for the correct breed, colour, sex, weight or height.

(c) For any reason other than the above, the show secretary shall transfer it to the Open Class for the correct breed, colour, sex, weight or height.

(d) If an exhibit arrives late and misses a class, even if it is the only class in which the dog is entered, the dog may not be transferred to any other class.

n. An exhibitor must not enter or exhibit a dog under a judge which creates a conflict of interest between the dog, exhibitor and/or judge.

9. Free passes.

a. The committee of a show shall provide all exhibitors with a free pass enabling them to enter the show at any time on the day their exhibits are scheduled, but in the case of a dog owned in partnership only one such free pass need be issued. Any exhibitor entering 3 or more dogs must be allowed a further free pass. Free passes and pass out tickets shall be available for exhibitors, but the admission or exit of dogs may be restricted to special entrances. Additional free passes may be issued at the show committee's discretion.

10. Animals allowed in show.

No animal other than an exhibit shall be brought into the precincts of a dog show during its continuance, except any dogs registered to assist the disabled, those brought for health testing (provided that the appropriate entry form declaration has been signed) or dogs required for educational or instructional purposes or by permission of the Board.

However, at the discretion of the show society, a dog brought to the show by a spectator may be admitted into the precincts of the dog show, with the proviso that those in charge of the dog sign a declaration confirming the dog is free from disease and that the dog will be kept under proper control at all times. In the case of general and group championship shows, the show society must apply to the Board for permission to admit spectators' dogs as described above, and the granting of such permission will be entirely at the committee's discretion.

11. Catalogue.

a. The show society must publish a catalogue for the show.

b. *Catalogue contents:*

(1) On the front outside cover or title page, the name of the show society, the type of show as described on the licence, and any additional title for which prior permission has been given by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club; the Secretary's name, a contact address and telephone number. Shows scheduling breeds from more than one group must specify whether or not the show is to be judged on the group system.

In the case of shows where classes are provided for exhibits other than dogs, where the names and addresses need be printed only at the head of the dog section.

(2) *Breed club championship shows, breed club and general canine open and limited shows.*
In the event that wet weather accommodation is not being provided at the show, the front outside cover or title page of the catalogue must prominently display a statement to this effect.

(3) The classes for each breed the numbering of which must follow that of the Schedule.

(4) *Championship shows-*
The breeds with Challenge Certificates on offer must be specified.

(5) The names of the judges and referee, where applicable, of each breed and other classes.

(6) *Championship shows-*
At the beginning of each breed classification an alphabetical index containing the names and addresses (unless requested by the exhibitor to be withheld for publication), the number and name of each exhibit and the numbers of the classes in which it is entered, giving a separate line to the name of each exhibitor, and full particulars of each exhibit as given on the entry form completed by the exhibitor. The number and name of each exhibit must be given in each class for which it is entered.

(7) If applicable, at the beginning of each breed classification a statement that the classes are designated as a Breed Club Supported Entry Open Show, together with the name of the relevant breed club.

(8) *Open and limited shows-*
Names and addresses (unless requested by the exhibitor to be withheld for publication), of all exhibitors and full particulars of each exhibit as given on the entry form by the exhibitor.

(9) *Championship, open and limited shows*-The number of the ring in which each judge will officiate must be given together with information regarding wet weather arrangements.

(10) For shows at which a veterinary surgeon is not present, the name, address and telephone number of the veterinary practice on call.

c. *Submission of catalogues*
Championship—Within 14 days of the close of the show, a copy of the official catalogue for the show, containing a full and correct list of all the entries, with all the awards correctly marked, must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club together with any other documents.

d. *Open and limited*—A copy of the official catalogue for each show, containing a full and correct list of all the entries with all the awards correctly marked must be retained indefinitely by the show society and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.

12. Veterinary support.

a Show societies are to arrange veterinary support in accordance with Regulation F12.

b. For shows at which a veterinary surgeon is present, provision must be made for examination by the veterinary surgeon of:

(1) Any dog so referred by a judge or an authorised official of the show.

(2) Any dog to which objection has been made on grounds which require a veterinary opinion. The opinion must be given in writing to the secretary before the show closes. No dog to which objection has been made may leave the show before such examination. In any dispute the appointed veterinary surgeon's decision shall be final.

(3) Any dog so referred by the show society on the written instructions of the Board.

Where no veterinary surgeon is present at the show, the objection should be reported to the Royal Kennel Club within 7 days of the close of the show.

13. The mating of bitches within the precincts of a show is forbidden.

14. Exclusion of dogs.

a If in the opinion of the show secretary, show manager or judge any dog is considered not in a fit state for exhibition owing to disease, savage disposition, or any other cause, the dog may be excluded or removed from the show on the instruction of the show management. Once excluded or removed from the show the dog must not be brought into the show at any time under any circumstances.

b If in the opinion of the show secretary, show manager or duly appointed official of the Royal Kennel Club any dog is suffering from a visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare the dog must be examined by the veterinary surgeon of the show to establish the validity of the allegation. The veterinary surgeon's opinion shall be final and if the allegation is upheld, the dog shall be excluded from all subsequent competition at the show. Where no veterinary surgeon is present at the show, the matter should be reported to the Royal Kennel Club within 7 days of the close of the show.

c A full report on any exclusion(s) must be made by the show secretary to the Royal Kennel Club for consideration within 7 days of the close of the show.

15. Exhibition of dogs suffering from contagious or infectious disease or any visible condition which adversely affects their health or welfare.

No dog suffering from any infectious or contagious disease or having been exposed to such disease during the period of 21 days prior to the show or suffering from any visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare may be exhibited. Exhibitors infringing this Regulation will be liable to be fined and/or to be dealt with under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

16. Exhibition of dogs.

a. Preparation of exhibits should generally take place on benches or in the area provided by the show society.

b. Except when securely benched or caged all dogs must be on a lead for the duration of the show including in the exercising area, except when competing in the ring in an obedience class or agility test, or taking part in a demonstration.

c. Cages, pens, grooming tables and trolleys are not allowed at the ringside.

d. Obstruction of gangways is prohibited.

e. No dog shall be allowed in a judging ring other than actual exhibits in the class being judged.

f. Printed awards may not be displayed in the ring except when judging is taking place for Groups and Best in Show. Nothing may be carried, worn or displayed by a handler or a dog in the ring which is capable of indicating the identity of the exhibit, owner or company which might be sponsoring that handler or dog. Nor must anything be said or any action be taken which identifies the exhibit other than by exhibit number.
g. The attracting of the attention of exhibits by any method from outside the ring is prohibited. It is the duty of the judge, steward or show management noticing such attraction to ask that it cease.
h. Every exhibitor shall ensure that whilst the dog is being exhibited, its handler shall display the correct ring number.
i. Before confirmation of a Best of Breed/Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified award and where appropriate a Champion award, for breeds designated by the Royal Kennel Club as a category 3 breed, exhibitors are required to present their dogs for examination to a General & Group Championship Show veterinary surgeon. The result of the examination shall be final.
j. No competitor shall impugn the decision of the judge or judges.

17. Use of firearms and sound amplifiers.

The use of firearms is prohibited and the use of sound amplifiers is forbidden except as authorised by the show management.

18. Cooking stoves.

The use of cooking stoves in the proximity of tenting and benching areas is forbidden except as authorised by the show management.

19. Withdrawal from competition.

If a dog admitted to a Show is not exhibited in all the classes in which it is entered or not brought into the ring when required by a judge, it is liable to be disqualified at the discretion of the Board but withdrawal from competition is permissible in the following circumstances:

a In accordance with the provisions of Regulation F(1)8.m.
b. When the judge announced in the schedule is changed and notice of the change is not given in accordance with Regulation F(1)7.d., the dog may be withdrawn from classes under the substitute judge by giving notice to the show secretary before the commencement of the judging. If the exhibitor wishes to withdraw from all competition, the show secretary shall notify the steward of the ring and, on application, shall permit the removal of the exhibit from the show by the owner or his accredited agent.
c. When the exhibitor or his representative makes application to the judge. A dog so withdrawn must not compete further at that show.
d. When a dog is declared Best of Breed in order to remain unbeaten. This provision is at the discretion of the exhibitor.
e. Through its illness, when an application to that effect must be made at once to the show secretary, and if thought necessary by the show manager the dog must be examined by the veterinary surgeon of the show. All such cases must be reported to the Royal Kennel Club by the show secretary within 7 days of the close of the show.
f. When classes are judged after the authorised time for removal of the exhibit.

g. When the Any Variety Classes so entered are judged before the relevant Breed Classes.
h. Where the scheduled judge is the breeder of the dog.

20. Judges and judging.

a. *General canine society affiliated societies and breed club championship, open and limited shows.*

(1) *Championship Shows*
For non Challenge Certificate breeds at championship shows the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society,
(a) have previously been approved to award Challenge Certificates or be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the relevant breed and not have been declared ineligible to do so by the time of carrying out the appointment .

(2) *Open and Limited Shows*
(a) For open and limited shows scheduling more than three breed classes (four if including a Puppy class) for a particular breed the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society,
(i) have previously been approved to award Challenge Certificates or be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the relevant breed.
(b) For open and limited shows scheduling up to three classes (four if scheduling a Puppy class) for a particular breed, the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society, be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 1.

Except:-
(i) Judges resident in Northern Ireland. Persons who are approved to award Green Stars under Irish Kennel Club Rules and are resident in Northern Ireland are permitted to judge up to three classes (four if scheduling a Puppy class) for the relevant breed at open or limited shows held in Northern Ireland.
(ii) Overseas judges. For non Challenge Certificate breeds at championship shows and for open and limited shows scheduling more than three classes (four if scheduling a Puppy class) for a particular breed the organising club/society must ensure that any overseas judge appointed to judge has been:
(a) Approved to judge the breed concerned at championship level in the country in which they are domiciled, or
(b) Listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the breed concerned.

(3) General canine society open shows and affiliated organisation open shows only. Persons appointed to judge Best in Show, Best in Group, Best Puppy in Group and/or Variety Classes must be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 4 or have previously been approved to award and have awarded Challenge Certificates to at least one breed, and be currently eligible to do so. Classes for varieties of a breed and handling classes are exempt from this Regulation.

(4) General canine society limited shows and affiliated organisation limited shows only. Persons appointed to judge Best in Show, Best in Group, Best Puppy in Group and/or Variety Classes must be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above or be on a breed

club/council B list or above. Classes for varieties of a breed and handling classes are exempt from this Regulation.

b. The selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society be eligible in accordance with the criteria set out in these Regulations and will not have been declared ineligible to do so by the time of carrying out the appointment.

c. On accepting an appointment the selected judge must ensure that their name is included at the appropriate level of the Judges Education Programme.

d. All judges' at championship shows and open shows must produce a written critique for the first two placings in each Breed class, and will dispatch these to the weekly United Kingdom canine journal or upload onto the Royal Kennel Club Judges Critique Website.

e. When requested to do so, judges must submit a completed breed health monitoring report form to the Royal Kennel Club within 21 days of the close of the show.

f. A judge must not alter the ownership of a dog in order to allow that dog to be entered for exhibition at a show where that judge is officiating.

g. Judges may not enter, exhibit, prepare a dog for exhibition or handle a dog in the ring at a show at which they are officiating (vide F(1)30a(9).

h. The numbering of the classes in the judging book, must follow that of the schedule and judges must judge the classes in each breed in the order in which they are listed in the judging book.

i. Each judge must be provided with a judging book which must have:

   (1) Detachable slips for each class and award for use on the award board and in the secretary's office.

   (2) On the portion of the book which is retained by the judge, the exhibit numbers of the dogs entered in each class and space for recording the numbers of the exhibits gaining awards.

   (3) *Championship shows-*
   Slips for the Best of Sex, Reserve Best of Sex and Best of Breed and the notice regarding the awarding of Challenge Certificates obtainable from the Royal Kennel Club.

j. When a breed is to be judged in a ring other than that intimated in the catalogue, a notice of the change must be prominently posted in the original ring.

k. In all classes where competition is subject to a height or weight limit, the decision of the judge in case of a dispute shall be final.

l. A judge's awards shall be final except in the case of fraud or misrepresentation or where a bona fide mistake has been made by the judge. No alteration of the awards may be made after the date of the show without specific permission of the Royal Kennel Club.

m. An award may be withheld if in the opinion of the judge there is lack of sufficient merit. The judge must mark on the judging slips that the award has been so withheld. The judge is not entitled to withhold an award for any other reason. When a judge withholds a third award for want of merit, the subsequent awards in that class must also be withheld.

n. Judges may exclude any dog from the ring if it is considered not in a fit state for exhibition owing to savage disposition or suffering from any visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare and the

exclusion must be reported on the day by the judge/steward to the show secretary. The judge's decision is final and the dog shall be excluded from all subsequent competition at the Show.

o. A judge must request that a dog be withdrawn from competition if the judge has a conflict of interest with the dog and/or its owner.

p. Where a dog has been withdrawn at the request or suggestion of the judge, the judge must make a report to the show secretary at the first opportunity at the show. The secretary must forward these details to the Royal Kennel Club within 7 days of the close of the show.

q. Judges who consider there has been a breach of Annex B to these Regulations may call for an examination at the show and shall mark the awards accordingly.

r. At any level of competition there must be no placing in reverse order. The judge must place the dogs to be given awards in the centre of the ring in descending order from the judge's left to right and must then mark and sign the judge's book.

s. A judge must initial any alteration made and endorse upon the Judging Book, slips, letter and any other relevant document, the time and date of making the alteration.

t. Where applicable, the judge must mark in the Judging Book the dogs declared to be the Best of each Sex, Best of Breed, Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified, Best Any Variety Imported Breed Register, Best Puppy in Breed, Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified Puppy and Best Any Variety Imported Breed Register Puppy and must complete and sign the award cards.

u. Judges are not permitted to make any oral commentary on the dogs until after the conclusion of all their judging. Any public commentary at a show must not include mention of a dog's name or reference to previous awards.

v. Equal awards are prohibited.

21. Invitation to Judge.

a. Invitations to judge must be made by show societies in writing and they must ensure that written acceptances are received. Written acceptances must be followed by written confirmation of the appointment by the society upon which a judging contract will be deemed to have been formed; except that in the case of appointments to award Challenge Certificates, the contract to judge will only be formed when Royal Kennel Club approval of the appointment has been given.

b. Societies are required to include the following wording in judges' invitation letters:

'In accepting this invitation you agree to be bound by Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and the Royal Kennel Club Code of Best Practice for Judges. In doing so you also recognise that you are obliged to notify us in writing of any change in your personal circumstances or additional information which may affect your ability and standing to fulfil this judging appointment.'

'You should also note that we reserve the right to cancel this contract before the date of the show if there is a change in your circumstances, which in our reasonable opinion would adversely affect your ability to fulfil the appointment.'

c. All judging contracts are subject to cancellation at the discretion of the Royal Kennel Club in the event of the judge being subject to relevant disciplinary action.
d. The judge or society may be required by the Board to provide an explanation for any breach of the terms of a judging appointment. In the event of the explanation not being considered satisfactory, the Board may impose a fine and/or other penalties.
e. In the event of such fines not being paid within the time stipulated by the Board, the judge or Officers and Committee Members, as applicable, may at the discretion of the Board be dealt with as if a complaint under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11 had been lodged and proved to the satisfaction of the Board.

22. Selection, Appointment and Eligibility to Judge.

a. Those judges invited to judge must be selected in accordance with the rules of the Show Society and the Royal Kennel Club Code of Best Practice for Judges as published from time to time and if required evidence of this must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club.
b. Judges so selected must at the time of accepting the invitation and at the time of the appointment be eligible to judge in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Regulations.
c. No announcement may be made by a Show Society of any appointment until the judge has accepted the invitation and the Show Society has confirmed the appointment in writing to the judge.
d. *Application for approval of judge*
The show society must apply to the Board for the approval of the following judges with the following conditions:
(1) All applications for the approval to judge with Challenge Certificates, Groups, Best in Show, and Referees, must be lodged by the show society with the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club at least 12 months prior to the date of the show on the form provided.
(2) *Judges to award Challenge Certificates, at single breed, sub-group and general or group championship shows.*
(a) There must be an interval of not less than 18 calendar months between the appointment of a judge to award Challenge Certificates to the same sex of the same breed.
(3) *There must be an interval of not less than 9 calendar months between appointments to judge the same group at championship shows.*
(4) Judges for Best Puppy in Show (excluding single breed championship shows).
(a) There must be an interval of not less than 9 calendar months between appointments to judge Best Puppy in Show at a championship show.
(5) *Judges for Best in Show* (excluding single breed championship shows).
(a) The judge of Best in Show at a general championship show, shall not judge any breed or variety classes at the show except when acting in the capacity of referee. The judge of Best in Show at a group championship show, shall not judge any breed at the show except when acting in the capacity of referee.

(b) At a sub-group championship show where more than one judge is appointed a separate Best in Show judge must also be appointed, who must not judge any breed or variety classes at the show except when acting in the capacity of referee. At a sub-group championship show where only one judge is appointed a separate Best in Show judge need not be nominated.

(c) There must an interval of not less than 9 calendar months between appointments to judge Best in Show at a Championship Show.

e. No more than three Judges shall be appointed to adjudicate for any award.

f. If more than one judge is appointed for any form of competition, a further judge must be appointed to act as referee and the name published in the schedule. However, at a single breed championship show, where more than one judge is appointed, the society may appoint a Best in Show judge instead of a referee, whose name must be published in the schedule.

g. Should any judge named in the schedule be unable to fulfil the specified appointment, another judge must be appointed who is eligible to do so. Where Challenge Certificates are available another judge must be appointed who has previously awarded Challenge Certificates in the breed/or is listed at the appropriate Judges Education Programme Level. There must be an interval of not less than 18 calendar months between this appointment and a subsequent appointment to award Challenge Certificates to the same sex of the same breed. The show committee may similarly substitute a Judge for a Group or Best in Show at Championship Show provided that the substitute Judge has been previously approved for, and judged, the same Group or Best in Show or is listed at the appropriate Judges Education Programme Level but who has not accepted an invitation to judge the same Group or Best in Show within the 9 calendar months following the show in question. The circumstances of any such substitution must be reported to the Royal Kennel Club without delay. This appointment must not conflict with the conditions in the contract of a future judging appointment. Such judges must be submitted to the Board for approval. The alteration should be notified to exhibitors if possible.

h Where a judge is unable to complete all allotted judging, a substitute judge must be appointed to complete the judging. The appointment of the substitute must be in accordance with the procedure and Regulations for appointing judges in an emergency.

23. Challenge Certificates.

Championship Shows-

a. *Allocation*

The allocation of Challenge Certificates is discretionary and conditional upon Show Societies running satisfactory shows previously. If requested, Challenge Certificates for all breeds for which Challenge Certificates are available will be granted to the agreed designated all breed championship shows including; Crufts Dog Show, Birmingham Dog Show Society, Scottish Kennel Club and Welsh Kennel Club. Challenge Certificates may also be allocated to other Clubs and Societies at the discretion of the Board on application from the show societies.

b. *Classification*
At shows where more than one breed is scheduled at least eight classes for breeds for which Challenge Certificates are offered, including an open and a limit class for each sex must be provided.

c. No announcement may be made by a show society of an appointment to award Challenge Certificates, or to act as referee for a breed for which Challenge Certificates are on offer at the show or to judge a group or Best in Show until the name of the judge has been submitted to the Board and the Board has intimated its approval, which approval is entirely at the discretion of the Board.

d. The judge shall decide on a Best of Sex and Reserve Best of Sex winner in each sex. Before deciding to award a Challenge Certificate or Reserve Challenge Certificate the judge must be clearly of the opinion that both exhibits are of such outstanding merit as to be worthy of the title of Champion.
Should the Challenge Certificate not be awarded the Reserve Challenge Certificate cannot be awarded. The dog must be in the ring at the time the awards are made. The judge must complete and sign all certificates, including Best of Sex and Reserve Best of Sex, in accordance with the catalogue details. If requested by the judge, the steward may complete but must not sign certificates.

e. In the event of a dog awarded a Challenge Certificate being subsequently disqualified under Royal Kennel Club Show Regulation F(1)30, the Board may authorise the award of the Challenge Certificate to the exhibit awarded the Reserve Challenge Certificate.

f. The Royal Kennel Club will issue the award cards for each Challenge Certificate and Reserve Challenge Certificate offered and the cards for the Best of Sex, Reserve Best of Sex and Best of Breed.

24. Stewards.

Show societies must appoint at least one steward for every ring in which judging is to take place. Stewards shall at all times act in accordance with instructions for stewards (Annex C to these Regulations), a copy of which must be issued to each steward by show societies.

25. Special awards.

a. Special awards may be given to exhibits placed first, second, third and reserve in addition to the class award.

b. Special awards dependent on breed characteristics may be offered only by registered breed societies.

c. In any case where a special award involves the presentation of a Diploma of Merit in the form of an award card, a specimen must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club for approval before the publication of the schedule and catalogue. The use of the word 'Certificate' for a special award is not permitted.

26. Best Puppy in Show.

Where a Best Puppy in Show competition is scheduled the Best Puppy in Show is a puppy which has been declared Best Puppy in Breed or Best Puppy in Group. A puppy is a dog of 6 and not exceeding 12 calendar months of age on the first day of

the show. The selection of Best in Show may follow the selection of Best Puppy in Show and Best Veteran in Show (if scheduled) respectively.

a. Where the Best of Breed, Best of Group or Best in Show is a puppy it may, at the discretion of the judge, be awarded Best Puppy in Breed, Best Puppy in Group or Best Puppy in Show respectively.

b. Where the Reserve Best of Breed, Reserve Best of Group or Reserve Best in Show is a puppy it may, at the discretion of the judge, be Best Puppy in Breed, Best Puppy in Group or Best Puppy in Show respectively.

c. *Championship, open shows and limited shows judged on the group system*
(Definition: Shows judged on the Group System-Refer Regulation F(1)26.b.).
(1) *Best Puppy in Breed*
A Best Puppy may be declared in each breed from puppies entered in the breed classes.
(2) *Best Puppy in Group*
Best Puppy in Group and subsequent puppy group placings must be selected from:-
(a) Those puppies declared Best Puppy in Breed.
(b) The puppy declared Best Puppy from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes in each group.
(c) The puppy declared Best Puppy from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes in each group.

d. *Shows not judged on the group system*
(1) At championship and open shows, Best Puppy in Show and subsequent placings must be selected from:
(a) Those puppies declared Best Puppy in Breed.
(b) The puppy declared Best Puppy from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes in each group.
(c) The puppy declared Best Puppy from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes in each group.
(2) At limited shows, Best Puppy in Show and subsequent placings must be selected from:
(a) Those puppies declared Best Puppy in Breed.
(b) The puppy declared Best Puppy from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes.
(c) The puppy declared Best Puppy from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes.

e. *Best Puppy in Show*
Best Puppy in Show must be selected from the Best Puppy in Group winners.

f. A Baby Puppy is a dog of four and less than six calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
(a) Baby Puppy classes may be scheduled at any breed club show.
(b) Any Variety Baby Puppy classes may be scheduled at any breed club show.
(c) Best Baby Puppy in Breed may be declared in each breed from the dogs entered in the Baby Puppy breed classes. There must be no progression to further competition.

27. Best in Show.

Definition of a category 3 breed. A breed from time to time designated by the Board as requiring particular monitoring by reason of visible condition(s) which may cause health or welfare concerns. The list of designated category 3 breeds is kept under regular review and is published from time to time in the KC Journal.

a. *Best of Breed*

Where a breed is separately classified a Best of Breed may be declared but only from those dogs which have received a first prize in a breed class at the show. Where separate classes are provided for each sex of a breed a Best of each Sex must be declared.

NOTE: The Best of Breed/Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified/Best Any Variety Imported Breed Register award relevant to a category 3 breed will not be confirmed until the dog has passed an examination by the general and group championship show veterinary surgeon.

b. *Shows judged on the group system*

(Definition: Shows judged on the group system include classes for breeds within one or more groups, as defined in Royal Kennel Club Regulation B(A); and require a judge to declare a Best of each Group after which the exhibits so declared will compete for the award of Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.)

(1) *Best of Group*

Best of Group and subsequent group placings must be selected from:-

(a) The Best of Breed winners in each group.

(b) The best dog from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes in each group.

(c) The best dog from the Any Variety Imported Register Breed Classes in each group.

NOTE: The dog declared Best of Breed/Best Any Variety Not Separately Classified/Best Any Variety Imported Breed Register from a breed designated by the Royal Kennel Club as a category 3 breed is not eligible to compete in the group competition unless it has passed an examination by the show's veterinary surgeon. If the dog fails to pass the examination it is ineligible to compete in the relevant group.

(2) *Best in Show*

Best in Show must be selected from the Best of Group winners. Reserve Best in Show must be selected from the remaining group winners following the selection for Best in Show.

NOTE: Group Championship Shows will be judged on the group system, the Best in Group being the Best in Show Reserve Best in Show being selected from the remaining dogs judged for Best in Show.

c. *Shows not judged on the group system*

(1) At championship and open shows, Best in Show and subsequent placings must be selected from:

(a) Those dogs declared Best in Breed.

(b) The dog declared Best from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes in each group.

(c) The dog declared Best from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes in each group.

(2) At limited shows, Best in Show and subsequent placings must be selected from:
(a) Those dogs declared Best in Breed.
(b) The dog declared Best from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes.
(c) The dog declared Best from the Any Variety Imported Breed Register classes.

d. *Breed club shows*
(1) *Shows confined to one breed*
Best in Show must be selected from the exhibits declared Best of Sex. If a Reserve Best in Show is to be selected eligible dogs are those declared Best Opposite Sex and Reserve Best of Sex to the exhibit declared Best in Show.
(2) *Shows confined to a sub-group*
Best in Show and subsequent placings must be selected from those dogs declared Best in Breed and the dog declared Best from the Any Variety Not Separately Classified. Reserve Best in Show must be selected from the remaining Best of Breed(s) and Best AVNSC and the dog/bitch declared by the breed judge to be Reserve Best of Breed to the dog declared Best in Show.

28. Objections.

a. *Grounds for objection*
(1) That an exhibit is suffering from an infectious or contagious disease.
(2) That an act or operation has been performed which alters the natural conformation of the dog (as outlined in F(B)3).
(3) That Royal Kennel Club Regulations have been contravened.

b. *Objection fee*
Objections must be accompanied by a fee of £35.00, or such amount as may from time to time be decided by the Board. In the case of objections lodged against exhibits such fees must be made for each exhibit to which objection is made except in the case of an objection to a pack, couple or team when one fee only is required.
The fee may be returned at the Board's discretion once the objection has been considered.

c. *Submission of objection*
(1) *Infectious or contagious disease*
An objection to an exhibit on the grounds of infectious or contagious disease may be made by any person except by one who is under a term of suspension by the Royal Kennel Club.
(2) *Acts or operations altering the natural conformation of a dog.*
An objection to an exhibit on the grounds that an act or operation has been performed which alters the natural conformation of the dog (as outlined in F(B)3) may be made only by an individual handling or owning a dog competing in the same breed or class as the dog to which the objection is being made.
(3) *Breaches of Regulations*
An objection to any breach of Royal Kennel Club Regulations may be made by any person except by one who is under a term of suspension by the Royal Kennel Club.

(4) No objection shall be invalidated solely on the grounds that it was incorrectly lodged.

d. *Procedure*

(1) *Infectious or contagious disease/acts or operations altering the natural conformation of a dog.*

(a) Objections must be made before the show closes to the show secretary and must be in writing accompanied by the fee. The show secretary must establish the identity of the person lodging the objection.

(b) When the objection is lodged, the secretary must at once require the owner or handler to bring the dog to a convenient place appointed by the secretary and advise him of the terms of the objection.

(c) If the objection relates to infectious or contagious disease. The exhibit must be examined and/or tested by the veterinary surgeon of the show to establish the validity of the objection: The veterinary surgeon's opinion shall be final. A report must be submitted by the show secretary to the Royal Kennel Club for consideration.

(d) If the objection relates to an act or operation which alters the natural conformation of a dog under Regulation F(B)3, the exhibit must be examined and/or tested by the veterinary surgeon of the show and a report submitted by the show secretary to the Royal Kennel Club for consideration.

(e) In all cases, the examination must take place in the presence of the secretary or a duly authorised official of the show. An exhibitor or handler failing to comply with a proper request to produce an exhibit for examination will be in breach of this Regulation.

(f) Within 7 days following the show, the secretary must send the following to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club;

(i) A copy of the objection together with a fee.

(ii) The name and address of the objector.

(iii) The name and address of the owner of the dog.

(iv) Where appropriate, the name, address and written report of the veterinary surgeon who examined the dog under F(1)28.d.(1) above.

(v) Any other relevant information.

(2) *Breaches of Royal Kennel Club Regulations*

An objection to a breach of Royal Kennel Club Regulation(s) may be made direct to the secretary of the show before the end of the show. As an alternative, an objection may be lodged directly with the Royal Kennel Club within seven days after the last day of the show and under these circumstances a copy of the objection must be sent to the show secretary.

When an objection is lodged the following information must be given:
A statement detailing the objection quoting the relevant regulation(s).
The objection fee.
The name and address of the objector.

The name and address of the owner of the dog (if relevant).
All relevant evidence.

(3) With the exception of objections made under Regulation F(1)14 and F(1)15 (Exclusion of dogs & Exhibition of dogs suffering from contagious or infectious disease) the dog should be allowed to compete and a full report made to the Royal Kennel Club.

(4) *Disposal*
Objections or alleged breaches of Royal Kennel Club Regulations shall be referred to the Board who shall have the power to delegate the hearing of the objection or breach of Regulation to the relevant committee or may decide to refer the matter for disciplinary action under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

e. *Appeal*
Any appeal against the relevant committee decision must be lodged within fourteen days of the decision being given and will be subject to the prescribed appeals procedure as shall be determined by the Board from time to time.

29. Payment and delivery of prize money and printed awards.

a. All prize money and printed awards must be available for collection at the show.
b. Prize money and printed awards, except special awards, not collected on the day, must be claimed not later than 31 days from the close of the show, otherwise they will be forfeited.
c. Where any prize money is offered in the schedule it must be paid in full, without deduction except in cases where amounts are legally due to a show executive.
d. When special awards are offered by a registered breed society or sponsor the committee of the society or sponsor will be held responsible.
e. In the event of the disqualification of an award winner subsequent to the receipt of any prize or prize money, such prize or prize money must be returned at once on receipt of a demand from the show society. A failure to comply with any request shall be reported to the Royal Kennel Club and may be dealt with under Rule A11.

30. Disqualification and forfeit of awards.

a. A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award, whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proven amongst other things to have been:
   (1) Exhibited at an unrecognised show.
   (2) Exhibited or owned by a person disqualified or suspended under Rule A11 as from the date of the complaint having been lodged at the Royal Kennel Club and for the period of disqualification or suspension.
   (3) Not entered on a Royal Kennel Club approved entry form in the name and with the details which are recorded with the Royal Kennel Club or entered with an unverifiable title or titles.
   (4) Entered after the date announced for closing of entries, subject to the conditions of Regulation F(1)8.e. and F(1)8.f., or contrary to Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.

(5) (a) Totally blind.
(b) Deaf.
(c) Or except as provided for in Annex B of these Regulations.
(6) Suffering from an infectious or contagious disease.
(7) Prepared for exhibition in contravention of Show Regulations.
(8) Exhibited in a class for which it was not entered subject to the conditions of Regulation F(1)8.m.(2).
(9) Entered or exhibited for competition or handled in the ring by a judge of dogs at that show.
(10) Registered or recorded as owned by the scheduled judge or any member of his/her immediate household or immediate family within a period of twelve months prior to the show. This shall not apply to dogs owned by a judge appointed in an emergency.
(11) Handled at a show, boarded or prepared for exhibition within the previous twelve months by the scheduled judge or any member of his/her immediate household or immediate family. This shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency.
(12) Not correctly registered and recorded in the name of the exhibitor(s) at the Royal Kennel Club or as provided in Regulation F(1)8.g.
(13) Attracted from outside the ring whilst being judged.
(14) Registered or recorded as having been bred by the scheduled judge. This shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency.
(15) Exhibited without payment of appropriate entry fees. (Regulation F(1).8.h. refers).
(16) To have been the subject of any other default, omission, action or incident occurring at or in connection with the show rendering it unfair that the award should be allowed to stand.

b. A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award or awards gained whether an objection has been lodged or not if entered in a class or classes for which it is ineligible and not withdrawn from competition in such class or classes or transferred in accordance with the provisions of Regulation F(1)8.m, and the exhibitor may be fined at the discretion of the Board.

c. The owner of a dog disqualified for any of the above reasons is liable to forfeit all entry fees paid, and all prize money won by such dog.

31. Order of merit when dogs are disqualified.

If a dog be disqualified, the prize to which it would otherwise have been entitled shall be forfeited. The Committee may at its discretion move up the dog or dogs next in order of merit (up to and including reserve or fourth place) to take the prize or prize(s).

32. Entry forms and other documents.

All entry forms must be preserved by the show committee for at least 12 months from the closing date of entries and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.

33. Payment of sponsorship.

In the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the liability of the sponsor(s) of any class or classes at a show shall be limited to making good any deficiency between entry fees received and any prize money paid out.

The show secretary must intimate the amount of sponsorship due within one calendar month of the close of the show and the sponsor(s) must pay this amount within 14 days of receipt of such notice. If the sponsorship is not paid within the specified time the show secretary must report the matter to the Royal Kennel Club.

34. Penalties.

The Board shall have power to impose any of the following penalties upon any person for any breach of Royal 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 Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations, nor any unlicensed event recognised by the Royal Kennel Club.'
h. 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 Royal Kennel Club licensed events may also be imposed in accordance with procedures to be published from time to time to implement this regulation.

The right of appeal against directives f) and g) listed below 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 Royal Kennel Club Rule A11 had been lodged and proved to the satisfaction of the Board.

SPECIFIC SHOW REGULATIONS
MATCH REGULATIONS

These Regulations must be read in conjunction with Royal Kennel Club General Show Regulations [F].

1. A match is a form of competition where judging is by elimination one against one. A match may be intra-club or an inter-club competition between Royal Kennel Club Registered societies.

2. A Royal Kennel Club Registered society may hold up to 12 matches per annum. In the case of clubs which have registered branches, each branch may hold one match per calendar month.

3. Application for authority to hold matches is to be included within the annual return required under Regulation C.4.a.(1). Separate applications to the Royal Kennel Club for each match is not required. No fee is payable for matches.

4. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held by the Organisers.

5. Exhibits must be in the registered ownership of one of the members of one of the societies competing in the match. In the case of a dog owned in partnership, each member of such partnership must, at the time of entry, be a member of one of the societies competing in the match.

6. Puppies 4 months of age and over may compete in a match.

7. Dogs, which have won a Challenge Certificate, 5 Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges) or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club, are not eligible for entry in matches. However, they are allowed to attend the match and enter a special class restricted to only dogs that have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion. The winner cannot compete for Best in Match or Best Puppy in Match.

Special Event Regulations

8. Special Events are designated as any breed show related event which cannot be included on the schedule of a normally licensed show 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, special event permission must be sought for the final whether it is held in conjunction with a licensed show or as a separate standalone event.

9. The regulations relating to the disqualification and forfeit of awards will apply to these events.

10. Application for permission to hold a special event may be made by any Royal Kennel Club Registered General or Breed Society. A separate application to the Royal Kennel Club for each special event must be made with the appropriate fee.

11. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held by the Organisers.

General Regulations for Matches and Special Events

12. The Officers and Committee Members of the organising society will jointly and severally be liable for the organisation of the Match or Special Event and ensuring that it is run under the rules and regulations of the Royal Kennel Club.

13. A dog must at the time of entry for a match be solely and unconditionally the property of the exhibitor and must, at the time of competition, be registered in the exhibitor's name at the Royal Kennel Club.

14. Separate entry forms must be completed for each exhibit and must be signed by the exhibitor or his/her authorised agent.

15 The committee of the society may reserve the right to refuse any entry on reasonable grounds.

16. If a dog competes which has been exposed to the risk of any contagious or infectious disease during the period of 21 days prior to a match or special event and/or if any dog shall be proved to be suffering from any contagious or infectious disease, including contagious results of inoculation against distemper, at a match or special event, the owner thereof shall be liable to be dealt with under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

17.A society shall keep a list of the names of all competing dogs with awards, and the names and addresses of the owners for a period of twelve months from the date of the match or special event.

SPECIFIC SHOW REGULATIONS
COMPANION DOG SHOWS

These Regulations must be read in conjunction with Royal Kennel Club General Show Regulation [F].

1. A companion dog show may schedule an unlimited number of classes for both pedigree and non-pedigree dogs whether registered or unregistered. The schedule for the show must follow that of the specimen schedule provided by the Royal Kennel Club with the show licence.

2. Application.

a. A companion dog show will only be licensed for the purpose of raising money on behalf of charities or charitable organisations. The organisers must inform the nominated charity in writing of their intention to hold a companion dog show on their behalf. The charity's acknowledgement of this letter (original not a copy) must accompany the licence application. The licence will not be issued without this information.

b. If the organisers are a Royal Kennel Club registered club or society, at least 50% of profits must be donated to a charity or charitable cause.

c. Companion dog shows may be held as separate events or in conjunction with licensed dog shows.

d. In the case of companion dog shows held in conjunction with another Royal Kennel Club Licensed dog show, dogs entered for competition at the companion dog show will be deemed to be entered dogs for the purpose of visiting and/or competing in a pay on the day AV Companion Dog Show Class at the other licensed dog Show.

e. Applications for a licence to hold a companion dog show must be made at least 6 weeks before the date of the show. The application must specify the charity or charitable cause, the date, the show venue and the name(s) of the judge(s), and must be accompanied by the charity's acknowledgement letter and the relevant fee.
NOTE: Applications for companion dog shows to be held in Scotland or Wales must be made direct to the Scottish Kennel Club or Welsh Kennel Club as appropriate.

f. The licence will only be valid if on the day of the event a current public liability insurance document is held and is on display.

3. Jurisdiction and responsibilities.

a. The licensee of a companion dog show shall be liable for the organisation of the show, its safety and finances in addition to ensuring it is run under the rules and regulations of the Royal Kennel Club. In the case of a companion dog show being held by a registered society, the Officers and Committee members of the Society will hold this responsibility. The licensee, or in the case of a show held by a registered society, the society shall retain receipts or accounts for monies taken at the show and, where applicable, forward these to the organisation on whose behalf the show was held. the Royal Kennel Club may require production of receipts or accounts after the show.

b. All entry forms together with any other documents must be preserved by the organiser(s) for at least twelve months and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if required.

4. Classification.

a. Classes for pedigree dogs may include any of the following:
   1. Any Variety Sporting Dogs
   2. Any Variety Hounds
   3. Any Variety Gundogs
   4. Any Variety Terriers
   5. Any Variety Non-Sporting Dogs
   6. Any Variety Utility
   7. Any Variety Working
   8. Any Variety Pastoral
   9. Any Variety Toys
   10. Any Variety Puppy (6 - 9 months)
   11. Any Variety Puppy (6-12 months)
   12. Any Variety Junior (12 - 18 months)
   13. Any Variety Open
   14. Any Variety Veteran (Over 7 years)
   15. Any combination of groups
   16. Junior Handlers Class (Under 18 years of age - Dog owned by exhibitor or the exhibitor's parents).
   17. Any Variety Imported Breed Register

b. The basis for the grouping of the breeds is defined in Royal Kennel Club Regulations for Classification and Registration.

c. A maximum of two breed classes per breed may, at the organisers discretion, be scheduled on the day of the show for pedigree dogs whether registered or unregistered.

d. Novelty Classes. Notwithstanding the above any number of novelty (fun) classes may be scheduled open to all entered dogs whether KC registered or not.

5. Regulations.

a. That a sign is displayed at the show to include the appropriate statement on the exhibition of docked dogs for the show's location and status. The various statements are included in the specimen Schedule provided by the Royal Kennel Club.

b. Obedience classes. Obedience classes may be scheduled at Companion Dog Shows provided the tests and titles of the classes differ from those laid down in Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.

c. Agility and/or obstacle courses. Agility and/or obstacle courses may not be held as part of a Companion Dog Show. However, an agility test may be held in conjunction with such an event provided it is organised by a registered society in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Regulations for agility tests, and a separate licence is issued.

d. Demonstrations of heelwork to music may be held at companion dog shows.

e. Dogs which have won any of the following awards are not eligible for entry at Companion Dog Shows:
   1. Challenge Certificate (or any award that counts towards the title of champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club). (Pedigree classes only).
   2. Reserve Challenge Certificate. (Pedigree classes only).
   3. Junior Warrant. (Pedigree classes only).
   4. Obedience Certificate. (Obedience classes only).

f. Only dogs of 6 calendar months of age and over on the day of the show are eligible for entry.

g. Exhibitors and officials at Companion Dog Shows shall be subject to Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

DEFINITIONS OF CLASSES AT CHAMPIONSHIP, OPEN AND LIMITED SHOWS

1. For the purposes of Royal Kennel Club Show Regulations, the term 'Variety Class' also applies to 'Stakes Classes'.

There must be no stipulation that exhibits must be entered for Variety Classes as well as Breed Classes and no minimum number of classes in which a dog must be entered may be fixed.

2. Wins at championship shows in breed classes where Challenge Certificates are not on offer shall be counted as wins at open shows.

3. In the following Definitions, a Challenge Certificate includes any Show award that counts towards the title of Champion, excluding Reserve Challenge Certificates, under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club **e.g. CACIB, CAC, Green Star**.

4. No class may be provided unless a definition of the class is given in the schedule.

5. Where a breed is separately classified an Open Class for the breed must be provided at championship, open and limited shows, and a Best of Breed declared in accordance with the provisions of Regulation F(1)6.b.

6. Unless a class for every breed eligible for classification is provided, the following classes must be scheduled:

(a) Championship and open shows must schedule at least one Any Variety Not Separately Classified class per group.
(b) Limited shows held on the group system must schedule at least one Any Variety Not Separately Classified class per group.
(c) Limited shows not held on the group system must schedule at least one Any Variety Not Separately Classified class.

7. a. Championship and open shows must schedule at least one Any Variety Imported Breed Register class per group.
b. Limited shows held on the group system must schedule at least one Any Variety Imported Breed Register class per group.
c. Limited shows not held on the group system must schedule at least one Any Variety Imported Breed Register class.

8. No dog is eligible for exhibition at a Limited Show which has won a Challenge Certificate, five Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges) or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club e.g. CACIB, CAC, Green Star, with the exception of the open class at breed club limited shows for Imported Register Breeds and breeds not allocated championship status in the United Kingdom.

9. General canine society limited shows shall not schedule more than 100 classes.

10. Subject to the following and to any individual Show Regulations, show committees may offer such prizes and make such classification and definitions thereof as they think fit except that:

(a) All classes advertised in the schedule of the show must be clearly defined in the Schedule, in accordance with the Royal Kennel Club Show Regulations.

(b) If any class be provided with a definition other than those defined below, the word 'Special' must precede the name of such class.

(c) The words 'Grand' or 'Challenge' must not be used in the designation of any class or prize for which an entrance fee is charged and for which entry has to be made prior to the day of the show.
The word 'Champion' can only be used in the designation of the Champion Variety class as previously defined, and further explained in the Champion class definition in these Regulations.

In the following definitions:

* applies to championship and open shows only.
** applies to limited shows only.
*** applies to breed club shows only.

Where there is no qualification, the definition applies to all types of shows.

In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including the seventh day before the date of closing of postal entries shall be counted when entering for any class. Wins in variety classes do not count for entry in breed classes, but when entering for variety classes, wins in both breed and variety classes must be counted. First prizes awarded in any classes defined as Special do not count towards eligibility.

BABY PUPPY	***	A baby puppy is a dog of four and less than six calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
MINOR PUPPY		For dogs of 6 and not exceeding 9 calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
PUPPY		For dogs of 6 and not exceeding 12 calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
JUNIOR		For dogs of 6 and not exceeding 18 calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
YEARLING		For dogs of twelve and not exceeding twenty-four calendar months of age on the first day of the show.
BEGINNERS	*	For owner, handler or exhibit not having won a first prize at any show.
	**	For owner, handler or exhibit not having won a first prize at any show.
MAIDEN	*	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/ CACIB/CAC/Green Star or a First Prize at an open or championship show (Baby Puppy, Minor Puppy and Puppy Classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
	**	For dogs which have not won a first prize at any show (Baby Puppy, Minor Puppy and Puppy Classes excepted whether restricted or not).

NOVICE	*	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/ CACIB/CAC/Green Star or 3 or more first prizes at open and championship shows (Baby Puppy, Minor Puppy and Puppy Classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
	**	For dogs which have not won 3 or more first prizes at any show (Baby Puppy, Minor Puppy and Puppy Classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
TYRO	*	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/ CACIB/CAC/Green Star or 5 or more first prizes at open and championship shows (Baby Puppy, Minor Puppy and Puppy Classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
	**	For dogs which have not won 5 or more first prizes at any show (Baby Puppy, Minor Puppy and Puppy Classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
DEBUTANT	*	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/ CACIB/CAC/Green Star or a first prize at a championship show where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed (Baby Puppy, Minor Puppy and Puppy classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
	**	For dogs which have not won a first prize at an open or championship show (Baby Puppy, Minor Puppy and Puppy Classes excepted, whether restricted or not).
UNDERGRADUATE	*	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/ CACIB/CAC/Green Star or 3 or more first prizes at championship shows in Undergraduate, Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit or Open Classes whether restricted or not where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
	**	For dogs which have not won 3 or more first prize at open or championship shows Undergraduate, Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit or Open Classes whether restricted or not.
GRADUATE	*	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/ CACIB/CAC/Green Star or 4 or more first prizes at championship shows in Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, whether restricted or not where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
	**	For dogs which have not won 4 or more first prizes at open or championship shows in Graduate, Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, whether restricted or not.
POST GRADUATE	*	For dogs which have not won a Challenge Certificate/ CACIB/CAC/Green Star or 5 or more first prizes at championship shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, whether restricted or not where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
	**	For dogs which have not won 5 or more first prizes at championship and open shows in Post Graduate, Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, whether restricted or not.

MINOR LIMIT	*	For dogs which have not won 2 Challenge Certificates/ CACIBs/CACs/Green Stars or 3 or more first prizes in all at championship shows in Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not at Shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
	**	For dogs which have not won 3 or more first prizes in all at open and championship shows in Minor Limit, Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not.
MID LIMIT	*	For dogs which have not become Show Champions under Royal Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club or won 3 or more CC/CACIB/CAC/Green Stars or won five or more first prizes in all at championship shows in Mid Limit, Limit or Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not, at shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
	**	For dogs which have not won 5 or more first prizes in all at open and championship shows in Mid Limit, Limit and Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not.
LIMIT	*	For dogs which have not become Show Champions under Royal Kennel Club Regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club or won 3 or more CC/CACIB/CAC/Green Stars or won 7 or more first prizes in all, at championship shows in Limit or Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not at shows where Challenge Certificates were offered for the breed.
	**	For dogs which have not won 7 or more first prizes in all at open and championship shows in Limit and Open Classes, confined to the breed, whether restricted or not.
OPEN	*	For all dogs of the breed for which the class is provided and eligible for entry at the show.
VETERAN		For dogs of not less than 7 years of age on the first day of the show.
CHAMPION		For dogs which have been confirmed a Champion or Show Champion under Royal Kennel Club regulations or under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club.
RARE BREEDS		Confined to those breeds not granted Challenge Certificates in the current year, with the exception of those breeds whose registration is confined to the Imported Breed Register.
FIELD TRIAL		For dogs which have won an award, Diploma of Merit or Certificate of Merit in actual competition at a field trial held under Royal Kennel Club or Irish Kennel Club field trial Regulations.

WORKING TRIAL	For dogs which have won an award in competition at a Bloodhound working trial and Royal Kennel Club licensed working trials, held under Royal Kennel Club Regulations.
STUD DOG	For stud dogs and at least two progeny of which only the progeny must be entered and exhibited in a breed class at the show.
BROOD BITCH	For brood bitches and at least 2 progeny of which only the progeny must be entered and exhibited in a breed class at the show.
PROGENY	For a dog or bitch, accompanied by at least three of its registered progeny. The dog or bitch not necessarily entered in another class however, all progeny having been entered and exhibited in another class. The dog or bitch and the progeny need not be registered in the same ownership.
BRACE	For 2 exhibits (either sex or mixed) of one breed belonging to the same exhibitor, each exhibit having been entered in some class other than Brace or Team.
TEAM	For 3 or more exhibits (either sex or mixed) of one breed belonging to the same exhibitor, each exhibit having been entered in some class other than Brace or Team.
BREEDERS	For dogs bred by the exhibitor.
IMPORTED BREED REGISTER	For breeds confined to the Imported Breed Register and only when an interim breed standard has been published by the Royal Kennel Club. Such breeds may be exhibited in this class with the Best Imported Register / Best Imported Register Puppy being eligible to compete for Best in Group / Best Puppy in Group or Best in Show / Best Puppy in Show as relevant. Such breeds may be entered into Imported Breed Register classes and/or Any Variety or Stakes classes, with the exception of AVNSC classes, for which they are not eligible.
ANY VARIETY NOT SEPARATELY CLASSIFIED	For breeds of dog for which no separate breed classes are scheduled These classes are not open to breeds which are listed on the Imported Breed Register.
ANY VARIETY	A Variety Class is one in which more than one breed or variety of a breed with a breed standard can compete.
YOUNG KENNEL CLUB (YKC) STAKES	For any variety dog or bitch exhibited and handled by a fully paid up member of the Young Kennel Club. The dog should be registered either: a. Solely or jointly in the member's name, or b. In the name of a member of the family and under these circumstances the dog must be resident at the YKC member's address.

GOOD CITIZEN DOG SCHEME CLASS	For dogs that have achieved their GCDS Bronze Award Certificate or above.
NOT FOR COMPETITION	Societies may at their discretion, accept Not for Competition entries. Societies may accept such entries from breeds of dog not included within the title of the society and at shows held over more than one day, such entries may be accepted on any day from any breed.
ANY VARIETY COMPANION DOG CLUB CLASS	For any variety of purebred dog having been entered at a companion dog show held in conjunction with the show at which this class is scheduled.

REGULATIONS FOR THE PREPARATION OF DOGS FOR EXHIBITION

1. These Regulations must be observed when a dog is prepared for exhibition and/or exhibited at any Royal Kennel Club licensed event. Objections may be referred to the Board for disciplinary action under these Show Regulations and/or for disciplinary action under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

(a) A dog found to have been exhibited in breach of these Regulations will automatically be disqualified from exhibition at the show and from any award gained thereat.

(b) Unless the exhibitor provides a satisfactory explanation for the dog being exhibited in breach of these Regulations then he/she may be subject to further penalties of either a fine or as listed under Rule A11.

2. (a) No substance which alters the natural colour, texture or body of the coat may be present in the dog's coat for any purpose at any time during the Show. No substance which alters the natural colour of any external part of the dog may be present on the dog for any purpose at any time during the show.

(b) Any other substance (other than water) which may be used in the preparation of a dog for exhibition must not be allowed to remain in the coat or on any other part of the dog at the time of exhibition.

3. No act or operation which alters the natural conformation of a dog or any part thereof may be performed except:-

(a) Operations certified to the satisfaction of the Board.

(b) The removal of dew claws of any breed.

(c) Operations to prevent breeding provided that such operations are notified to the Royal Kennel Club before neutered dogs are shown.

Nor must anything be done calculated to in the opinion of the Board to deceive.

4. The Board without previous notice may order an examination of any dog or dogs at any show. Any examination thus ordered will be made by a person having executive authority who shall have a written directive from the Royal Kennel Club in their possession. Samples may be taken for further examination and analysis.

5. An individual has the right to lodge an objection to a dog only if he/she is the owner or handler of a dog competing in the same breed or class. An objection may, however, be lodged by an official of the show or by anyone so deputed by the Royal Kennel Club. It will be the responsibility of the individual who lodges the objection or the official (as appropriate), to substantiate the grounds for the objection. The Royal Kennel Club will substantiate the grounds for an objection made on its behalf.

6. Any objection by an individual related to an infringement of these Regulations must be made in writing to the show secretary at his/her office before the close of the show and the individual must produce evidence of identity at the time of lodging the complaint.

INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE DUTIES OF STEWARDS

1. Authority/responsibilities.

a. A steward's responsibilities are at all times to assist the judge in the course of his/her duties and to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the ring.

b. Stewards should always remember that the judge is in overall control of the ring and accordingly should follow the judge's directives.

c. Stewards are not authorised to allow any exhibit into the ring unless it is entered in the class as recorded in the judge's book and/or Catalogue or unless a notice of transfer authority is provided by the show secretary/manager.

d. Stewards are not authorised to transfer dogs from classes or allow unentered exhibits into classes without the necessary authority from the Show Secretary/Manager.

Note: The only transfer authority is—the show secretary/manager.

e. Stewards are not authorised to instruct exhibitors concerning a dog's eligibility to compete in a class and should never prevent a dog which is entered in the class or has the necessary authority to be exhibited from competing even if it is considered that the dog is ineligible.

Note: The only authority to disqualify is—the Committee of the Royal Kennel Club.

2. Duties.

a Before judging

(1) Ensure that all material has been provided in the ring for the proper posting of awards and that all prize cards for each class are available.

Stewards must be aware of the order in which breeds are to be judged in the ring.

(2) Take all reasonable steps to ensure exhibitors are aware judging is due to commence after which the responsibility for dogs being brought into the ring at the correct time for the classes entered, rests with the exhibitor.

(3) Ensure each handler has the correct ring number clearly displayed whilst exhibiting.

(4) Ensure that no dog is present in the ring except those being judged: those persons allowed in the ring are the judge and ring stewards, no other person is allowed in the ring without the authority of the show executive.

(5) If so desired by the judge, to place in the order of the previous awards the dogs coming forward from earlier classes and to stand new dogs by themselves.

(6) Advise the judge when all dogs are present in the ring and then retire to a corner of the ring and subsequently only converse with the judge if requested to perform a specific duty.

b. During judging
   (1) Ensure that dogs near or around the ringside do not interfere with exhibits being judged.
   (2) Ensure that photographers are not inside the ring whilst judging is in progress.
   (3) Ensure that the attraction of exhibits from outside the ring does not occur and that any persons so attracting are reported to the judge.

Note: The attraction of the exhibits' attention from outside the ring is prohibited—it is not allowed even at the judge's or steward's discretion—stewards must ensure that it is not done.

c. After the class has been judged.
   (1) Remind the judge to place the dogs to be awarded prizes in the centre of the ring in descending order from left to right before the judge marks the Judging Book.
   (2) When placed in order of judge's awards—give out prizes.
   (3) Ensure, where Challenge Certificates are on offer that the judge completes and signs the Challenge Certificates, Reserve Challenge Certificates, Best of Sex or Reserve Best of Sex cards and enters correct numbers of the winners in the Judging Book. If requested by the judge, the steward may complete but must not sign certificates.
   (4) Clearly mark awards on board provided in the ring.
   (5) Where relevant, post correct award slips on board provided in the ring and ensure other correctly marked and signed slips are sent to the show secretary/manager's office.

K

REGULATIONS FOR ENTRIES IN THE STUD BOOK, CHAMPIONS AND WARRANTS

As at 1st January 2026

1. Stud Book Qualifications.

a. An entry in the Stud Book shall consist of the registered name of the dog, its sex, colour, date of birth, owner, breeder and an extension of its pedigree limited to three generations, or a Stud Book reference within that limit.

b. All dogs must be entered in the Stud Book in the name of the registered owner at the time of qualification.

c. A Royal Kennel Club Stud Book number will be assigned to each dog accepted for entry.

d. A neutered dog, which has qualified for an entry in the Stud Book will be listed therein with the letters 'NEUT' appearing after its name.

e. The following dogs are entitled to entry in the Royal Kennel Club Stud Book subject to regulations a, b, c, and d above.

(1) Dogs winning Challenge Certificates or Reserve Challenge Certificates.

(2) Dogs winning qualifying place prizes in the class(es) which are in the band for the breed, where Royal Kennel Club Challenge Certificates are competed for, as follows:–

(a) Band A—First in Open Class

(b) Band B—First or second in Open Class

(c) Band C—First or second in Open Class; first in Limit Class

(d) Band D—First, second or third in Open Class; first in Limit Class

(e) Band E—First, second or third in Open Class; first, second or third in Limit Class;

provided such class(es) are not subject to any limitation as to weight, colour or other description.

2. Championship qualifications.

a. *Title of Champion (Ch)* The following dogs shall be entitled to be described as Champions:

(1) Any Hound, Terrier, Utility, Working, Pastoral (except Border Collie) or Toy Dog awarded three Challenge Certificates under three different judges, provided that at least one of the Challenge Certificates was awarded when the dog was more than twelve months of age.

(2) Any Hound, Terrier, Utility, Working, Pastoral (except Border Collie) or Toy Dog awarded two Challenge Certificates and five Reserve Challenge Certificates under seven different judges, provided that at least one of the Challenge Certificates was awarded when the dog was more than twelve months of age.

Excerpt from K

(3) Any Gundog which has fulfilled the requirements of 2.a.(1) or 2.a.(2) and has obtained either of the following.
   (a) An Award, Diploma of Merit or Certificate of Merit under the Regulations of the Royal Kennel Club or under the Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club.
   (b) A Show Gundog Working Certificate which conforms to the conditions set out in the Royal Kennel Club Regulations or the Rules of the Irish Kennel Club.

(4) Any Border Collie which has fulfilled the requirements of 2.b.(1) or 2.a.(2) and has passed the Show Border Collie Herding Test. Where a dog has passed the Show Border Collie Herding test, the letters SBCHT may be used after the dog's name on entry forms and in show catalogues.

(5) Any dog from a breed designated by the Royal Kennel Club as a category 3 breed will not have its title of Champion confirmed until the dog has passed an examination by a general or group championship show veterinary surgeon. The result of the examination shall be final.

b. *Title of Show Champion (Sh Ch)* The following dogs shall be entitled to be described as Show Champions.

(1) Any Gundog or Border Collie awarded three Challenge Certificates under three different Judges provided that at least one of the Challenge Certificates was awarded when the dog was more than twelve months of age.

(2) Any Gundog or Border Collie awarded two Challenge Certificates, and five Reserve Challenge Certificates, under seven different judges, provided that at least one of the Challenge Certificates was awarded when the dog was more than twelve months of age.

(3) Any dog from a breed designated by the Royal Kennel Club as a category 3 breed will not have its title of Champion confirmed until the dog has passed an examination by a general or group championship show veterinary surgeon. The result of the examination shall be final.

3. Warrants.

a. *Junior Warrants* (JW)

A Junior Warrant will be issued on receipt of an application from the registered owner at the time of qualification, in respect of a dog that has obtained 25 points between the ages of 6 and 18 months. A minimum of three points must be won at championship shows where Challenge Certificates for the breed are on offer and a minimum of seven points won at open shows or championship shows where Challenge Certificates are not offered for the breed, including from Any Variety Not Separately Classified classes or Any Variety classes at open shows.

In assessing the number of dogs present in each class, exhibitors may count a dog as having been present in a class provided it was entered in that class and was present in its first class for the breed (including Any Variety Not Separately Classified) Any Variety at the show.

Excerpt from K

The scale of points is as follows:

(1) Breeds scheduled with Challenge Certificates.
Junior Warrant points may be claimed from classes or for awards where Challenge Certificates are on offer for the breed provided three or more dogs of the breed were present
   (a) 3 points for each first prize awarded in a breed class.
   (b) 3 points awarded for Best of Breed (only valid if no Junior Warrant points are gained by the dog for winning best of sex or a breed class/es at the show).
   (c) 3 points awarded for Best of Sex or Best Puppy of Sex (only valid if no Junior Warrant points are gained by the dog for winning a breed class/es at the show and there were at least two others of the sex present)
   (d) 3 points for Best Puppy in Breed (only valid if no Junior Warrant points are gained by the dog for winning a breed class/es or Best Puppy of Sex at the show and provided the puppy has beaten two other puppies of either sex).

(2) Breeds (including Any Variety Not Separately Classified) scheduled where Challenge Certificates are not on offer at a championship show. Junior Warrant points may be claimed from classes or for awards provided two or more dogs of the breed were present. Only one Junior Warrant point may be claimed per show.
   (a) 1 point for a first prize awarded in a breed class.
   (b) 1 point awarded for Best of Breed (only valid if no Junior Warrant point was gained by the dog for winning a breed class/es at the show).
   (c) 1 point awarded for Best of Sex or Best Puppy of Sex (only valid if no Junior Warrant point was gained by the dog for winning a breed class/es at the show and there was at least one other of the sex present).
   (d) 1 point for Best Puppy in Breed (only valid if no Junior Warrant point was gained by the dog for winning a breed class/es or Best Puppy of Sex at the show and provided the puppy has beaten one other puppy of either sex).

(3) Open shows. Junior Warrant points may be claimed from classes or for awards at open shows scheduling the breed (including Any Variety Not Separately Classified) providing two or more dogs of the breed were present. Only one Junior Warrant point may be claimed per show.
   (a) 1 point for a first prize awarded in a breed class.
   (b) 1 point awarded for Best of Breed (only valid if no Junior Warrant points are gained by the dog winning a breed class/es at the show).
   (c) 1 point awarded for Best of Sex or Best Puppy of Sex where declared (only valid if no Junior Warrant point was gained by the dog for winning a breed class/es at the show and there was at least one other of the sex present).

(d) 1 point for Best Puppy in Breed (only valid if no Junior Warrant point was gained by the dog for winning a breed class/es or Best Puppy of Sex at the show and provided the puppy has beaten one other puppy of either sex).

(e) 1 point for a first prize awarded in an Any Variety class provided the dog has beaten one other.

(f) 1 point for any group placing, puppy group placing, Best in Show, Reserve Best in Show, Best Puppy in Show or Reserve Best Puppy in Show if the dog has beaten at least one other. (Only valid if no other Junior Warrant points have been claimed for this dog at the show).

(4) Junior Warrant holders will be awarded a Stud Book number.

(5) The title "JW" may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues.

b *Veteran Warrant (VW)*

No Stud Book number will be issued to dogs awarded a Veteran Warrant. A total of 25 points will be required to claim a Veteran Warrant.

Points may be claimed from general open shows only, from AV Veteran, or Veteran Stakes classes. Points may not be claimed from breed-specific Veteran classes or from AVNSC Veteran classes.

Points will be available as follows:
1st place – 4 points
2nd place – 3 points
3rd place – 2 points
4th place – 1 point

Points may only be claimed for dogs aged seven years or over on the first day of the show. No maximum age has been specified. the Royal Kennel Club is of the view that the exhibition of older dogs should be left to the discretion of exhibitors, noting that there are significant differences across breeds.
Only one claim may be made from each show.
The Title "VW" may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues.

B

ROYAL KENNEL CLUB REGULATIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

As at 1st January 2026

8. Change of name.

a. Addition of an kennel name. Subject as mentioned below, the registered name of a dog may normally be changed once only, and only by the addition of the owner's kennel name to the existing name in accordance with Regulation B7 and the notes given on the application form. However, the name of a dog cannot be changed more than thirty days after the date of the first award which qualifies that dog for entry in the Royal Kennel Club Stud Book.

b. Removal of a kennel name. If a dog is transferred back to the ownership of the original breeder(s), a kennel name added to its name as per sub-para 8a above, may be removed at the request of the original breeder(s). However, this may only be done provided that:-

(1) The written consent of the person(s) who added the kennel name is obtained.

(2) The dog has not gained entry into the Royal Kennel Club Stud Book.

Once a kennel name has been removed, no further alterations or amendments to the name will be permitted.

20. Dogs for competitions.

Dogs entered for any form of Royal Kennel Club competition i.e. show classes, field trials, gundog working tests, obedience, working trials, agility, heelwork to music, and rally must be registered in the name of the person(s) making the entry. If, at the closing date for entries, the owner(s) have applied for but have not received the Royal Kennel Club registration certificate, the dog shall be entered in the name shown as the first choice on the application form for registration and the name should be followed by the letters 'N.A.F' (name applied for). In the case of applications for transfer of ownership and change of name, the dog should be entered 'T.A.F.' (transfer applied for) 'C.N.A.F.' (change of name applied for) where application has been made but not received. Dogs are exempt from registration in the following cases:

a. Dogs either exhibited exclusively in classes specially exempted by the Royal Kennel Club Board or in special classes sanctioned by the Board.

b. Hounds belonging to recognised packs.

C

ROYAL KENNEL CLUB REGULATIONS FOR THE REGISTRATION AND MAINTENANCE OF TITLE OF SOCIETIES, BRANCHES AND BREED COUNCILS AND THE AFFILIATION OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES

As at 1st January 2026

5. General

c. A Royal Kennel Club licence is issued to the designated society only and it is non transferable under any circumstances.

SHOW REGULATION AMENDMENTS

The Royal Kennel Club has approved the following changes to the regulations for dog shows held under F Regulations with effect from 1 January 2026.

The following amendment to the regulation allows dog show societies to accept Not for Competition (NFC) entries for dogs of three calendar months of age and over, this aligns with the regulations for activity disciplines.

Amendment to regulation F.1.c

Regulation F.1.c. Application.

TO:

Only dogs of four calendar months of age and over on the first day of the show are eligible for exhibition at Royal Kennel Club licensed shows. However, societies may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion **for dogs aged three calendar months and over.**

(Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendment to the regulation is to provide clarity that Reserve Challenge Certificates (RCCs) do not count towards Champion titles until five have been gained.

Amendment to Regulation F.4 and F(A)8

Regulation F.4. Licensed shows.

TO:

F.4. *Dogs which have won a Challenge Certificate, **five Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges) or** obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club e.g. CACIB, CAC, Green Star are not eligible for entry at these Shows, except for in the open class at breed club limited shows for Imported Register Breeds and breeds not allocated championship status in the United Kingdom.

(Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation F(A)8.

TO:

F(A)8. - No dog is eligible for exhibition at a Limited Show which has won a Challenge Certificate, **five Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges) or** obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, ~~excluding Reserve Challenge Certificates,~~ under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club e.g. CACIB, CAC, Green Star, with the exception of the open class at breed club limited shows for Imported Register Breeds and breeds not allocated championship status in the United Kingdom.

(Insertion in bold, deletions struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below amendments to the regulations have been approved following a review of the regulations for Matches and Special Events.

Amendment to Regulation F(2)

Regulation F(2)

TO:

Match Regulations

1. A match is a form of competition where judging is by elimination one against one. A match may be intra-club or an inter-club competition between **Royal Kennel Club Registered** societies.

2. A **Royal Kennel Club Registered** society may hold up to 12 matches per annum. In the case of clubs which have registered branches, each branch may hold one match per calendar month.

3. ~~**Application.**~~ Application for authority to hold matches is to be included within the annual returns required under Regulation C.4.a.(1). Separate applications to the Royal Kennel Club for each match is not required. **No fee is payable for matches.**

4. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held **by the Organisers.** ~~or the event will be deemed to be unrecognised.~~

5. **Exhibits must be in the registered ownership of one of the members of one of the societies competing in the match. In the case of a dog owned in partnership, each member of such partnership must, at the time of entry, be a member of one of the societies competing in the match.**

6. **Puppies 4 months of age and over may compete in a match.**

7. Dogs, which have won a Challenge Certificate, **5 Reserve Challenge Certificates (under different judges)** or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, ~~excluding Reserve Challenge Certificates,~~ under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club, are not eligible for entry in matches. However, they are allowed to attend the match and enter a special class restricted to only dogs that have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion. The winner cannot compete for Best in Match or Best Puppy in Match.

Special Event Regulations

8. **Special Events are designated as any breed show related event which cannot be included on the schedule of a normally licensed show 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, special event permission must be sought for the final whether it is held in conjunction with a licensed show or as a separate standalone event.**

9. **The regulations relating to the disqualification and forfeit of awards will apply to these events.**

10. **Application for permission to hold a special event may be made by any Royal Kennel Club Registered General or Breed Society. A separate application to the Royal Kennel Club for each special event must be made with the appropriate fee.**

11. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held by the Organisers.

General Regulations for Matches and Special Events

12. ~~4. **Jurisdiction and responsibilities.**~~ The Officers and Committee Members of the organising society will jointly and severally be liable for the organisation of the Match **or Special Event** and **ensuring** that it is run under the rules and regulations of the Royal Kennel Club.

~~5. **Regulations.**~~

~~a.~~ **13.** A dog must at the time of entry for a match be solely and unconditionally the property of the exhibitor and must, at the time of competition, be registered in the exhibitor's name at the Royal Kennel Club.

~~b.~~ **14.** Separate entry forms must be completed for each exhibitor and must be signed by the exhibitor or his/her authorised agent.

~~c.~~ **15.** The committee of the society may reserve the right to refuse any entry on reasonable grounds.

d. ~~Exhibits must be the property of the members of one of the societies competing in the match. In the case of a dog owned in partnership, each member of such partnership must, at the time of entry, be a member of one of the societies competing in the match.~~

~~e.~~ **16.** If a dog competes which has been exposed to the risk of any contagious or infectious disease during the period of 21 days prior to a match **or special event** and/or if any dog shall be proved to be suffering from any contagious or infectious disease, including contagious results of inoculation against distemper, at a match **or special event,** the owner thereof shall be liable to be dealt with under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

~~f. Dogs, which have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion, excluding Reserve Challenge Certificates, under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club, are not eligible for entry in matches. However, they are allowed to attend the match and enter a special class restricted to only dogs that have won a Challenge Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Champion. The winner cannot compete for Best in Match or Best Puppy in Match.~~

~~g. Not more than 64 dogs may compete at a match.~~

~~h. Prize cards, diplomas, rosettes and other printed awards may be awarded at matches but they must be overprinted 'match'.~~

~~i. Societies are permitted to present special prizes at matches.~~

~~j.~~ **17.** A society shall keep a list of the names of all competing dogs with awards, and the names and addresses of the owners for a period of twelve months from the date of the match~~es~~ **or special event**.

(Insertions in bold, deletions struck through)
(effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendment to the regulations removes the requirement for benching and permits societies choose whether to provide benching or not.

Amendment to Regulations F(1)4 and F(1)16

Regulation F(1)4. Benching.

TO:

F(1)4 Benching

Championship, open and limited shows:-

a. Benching **may** ~~must~~ be provided by the show society and exhibits must be benched in a manner which has been approved by the Board ~~unless exemption from benching has been granted by the Board~~.

b. **If provided b**enches must be constructed of materials which can be easily cleaned and disinfected. They must be of such design and construction as to provide reasonable comfort and security to dogs for the duration of the show. Arrangements must be made for the secure fastening of the dogs on the benches.
~~In certain cases the Board may, on application, authorise exemption from standard benching.~~

(Insertions in bold, deletions struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation (F)(1)16. Exhibition of dogs.

TO:

(F)(1)16. Exhibition of dogs.
~~Championship, Open and Limited Shows (Benched):-~~
~~(1) Dogs should be present on their benches at all times except~~
~~(a) When being judged.~~
~~(b) When being prepared for exhibition and/or being exercised.~~
~~(2) In certain circumstances dogs must be present on their benches at all times if required by show management~~
~~(3) Dogs may be rem oved from their benches by order of the veterinary surgeon or show management.~~
(renumber accordingly)
(Deletions struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2026)

The below regulations relating to partnership shows have been removed, after a successful two year suspension trial period from 1 January 2024.

Removal of Regulations F(1)20.h and F(1)30.a.(10)

Regulation F(1)20.h.

~~F(1)20.h~~
~~At partnership shows judges must not officiate at one show and enter or handle a dog for exhibition at the other show including exhibiting a different breed on another day to that which they are to judge. Partnership shows are defined as shows where the host club and other clubs share a venue and other facilities to allow exhibitors the opportunity to exhibit at each show.~~

(Deletions struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation F(1)30.a.(10)
~~F(1)30.a(10)~~
~~A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award, whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proven amongst other things to have been:~~

~~(10) Entered for competition and/or handled in the ring by the judge a partnership show even if the class or classes are on another day of the show or the entry is for a different breed to that which the person is to judge.~~

(Deletions struck through)
(Effective 1 January 2026)

The following amendments to the regulations have been approved to bring these judges regulations in line with the Judges Education Programme.

Amendment to Regulation F(1)20 and F(1)22.d

Regulation F(1)20. Judges and Judging.
TO:
F(1)20. Judges and Judging

a. General canine society, affiliated societies and breed club championship, open and limited shows
   1. Championship Shows

For non Challenge Certificate breeds at championship shows the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society~~, either~~:

a. have previously been approved to award Challenge Certificates or be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the relevant breed ~~or~~
b. ~~Be included on a Breed Council/Club B judges list or above and be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 1.~~

(2) Open and Limited Shows

(a) For open and limited shows scheduling more than three breed classes (four if including a Puppy class) for a particular breed the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society, either:
   (i) Have previously been approved to award Challenge Certificates or be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the relevant breed ~~or~~
   ~~(ii) Be included on a Breed Council/Club B judges list or above.~~

b. For open and limited shows scheduling up to three classes (four if scheduling a Puppy class) for a particular breed, the selected judge must, when appointed by the club/society, be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 1 ~~or~~
   ii. ~~Have met the Judges Education Programme Level 1 criteria at the time of accepting the appointment.~~

Except:-

i. Judges resident in Northern Ireland. Persons who are approved to award Green Stars under Irish Kennel Club Rules and are resident in Northern Ireland are permitted to judge **up to three classes (four if scheduling a Puppy class) for the relevant breed at open or limited shows** ~~the above mentioned classes at Kennel Club licensed Championship and open shows held~~ in Northern Ireland. ~~without being included on a Breed Council/Club judges list.~~

ii. Overseas judges. For non Challenge Certificate breeds at championship shows and for open and limited shows scheduling more than three classes (four if scheduling a Puppy class) for a particular breed the organising club/society must ensure any overseas judge appointed to judge has been:
   a. Approved to judge the breed concerned at championship level in the country in which they are domiciled, or
   b. Listed at Judges Education Programme Level 2 or above for the breed concerned, or
   c. ~~Are on a Royal Kennel Club registered breed club/council B list or above and be listed at Judges Education Programme Level 1~~.

(c) On accepting an appointment the selected judge must ensure that their name is included ~~on a relevant breed club/council judges list or~~ at the appropriate level of the Judges Education Programme.

(Insertion in bold. Deletions struck through)
(Effective from 1 January 2026)

Regulation F(1)22. Selection, Appointment and Eligibility to Judge.
TO:
22. Selection, Appointment and Eligibility to Judge.

d. Application for approval of judge

The show society must apply to the Board for the approval of the following judges with the following conditions:

1. All applications for the approval to judge with Challenge Certificates, Groups, Best in Show, and Referees~~, must include both the nomination and the questionnaire (where required), and~~ must be lodged by the show society with the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club at least 12 months prior to the date of the show on the form provided.

(Deletions struck through)
(Effective from 1 January 2026)

Activities Liaison Team
01296 318540
breedshows@royalkennelclub.com
royalkennelclub.com

Royal Kennel Club

Head Office
10 Clarges Street, London W1J 8AB

Aylesbury Office
Kennel Club House, Gatehouse Way, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8DB

01296 318540
royalkennelclub.com