

**MEETING OF THE OBEDIENCE LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT 10.30 AM  
ON TUESDAY 13 JANUARY 2026 VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

**A G E N D A**

**ITEM 1.     TO ELECT A CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL  
EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2026 TO DECEMBER 2028**

**ITEM 2.     TO ELECT A VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE TERM OF THE COUNCIL  
EFFECTIVE FROM JANUARY 2026 TO DECEMBER 2028**

**ITEM 3.     APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

**ITEM 4.     HEALTH AND WELFARE**

The Council will receive a presentation from Ms C McNamara (Head of Health & Breeding) to discuss health initiatives at the Royal Kennel Club and explain the Health and Breeding Advisory Group.

**ITEM 5.     YOUNG KENNEL CLUB & DOG TRAINING**

- a. The Council is invited to note a verbal update from Mrs H Lawrence (Head of Education and Dog Training) and Mrs F Moore (Youth Training and Volunteer Development Manager).
- b. Following a presentation received by the YKC Team at the September 2025 Activities Committee meeting, the Committee was requested to consider allowing YKC Obedience judges to be able to compete on the same day which they judge the YKC classes, within agreed parameters.

The Committee agreed to raise this with the new Liaison Councils to gather views of the community. The Obedience Liaison Council is requested to work together with the Accredited Trainers to look into the matter for Competitive Obedience and come up with a workable solution. A timescale of 6 months was suggested, in order to form a proposal for the summer Activities Committee meeting.

## ITEM 6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2025 (copies previously distributed).

## ITEM 7. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Council is invited to note that the Board, at its meeting on 21 October 2025, approved the following amendments to G Regulations from 1 January 2026:

### Amendment to regulation G32.d

#### Regulation G32.d

##### **TO:**

A judge's first three appointments for shows must be restricted to Novice. The next three appointments must be up to and including Class A. Before accepting an Open Class C appointment, a Judge must have completed at least a ~~further nine~~ **twelve** appointments **in total**. These must include a minimum of **three Novice**, three Class A and three Class B appointments. It is the individual's responsibility to retain proof of their judging appointments. (Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendments to regulations relating to Introductory and Pre-Beginner Classes

#### Regulation G(A)9.a. Introductory.

##### **TO:**

In this class, ~~only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and~~ may be given to the dog **before the exercise**, at the end of an exercise or in between exercises **within the reward area of the ring. The reward area must be distinct from the working area.** Rewards include food which must be carried in a small closed container during the exercises, **either in the handler's pocket or left on the reward table, and only verbal and physical cues may be used to keep the dog engaged.** The judge will designate **the reward** an area in the competitive ring where food **or a toy** may be given to the dog by the handler. (Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

#### Regulation G(A)9.b

##### **TO:**

To compete in the Introductory Class a handler or dog must not have gained a 1st place in any competitive obedience class, **placed 1st to 3rd in Novice** and have not elected to progress on points from Introductory (Insertions in bold)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation G(A)10.a Pre-Beginners.

**TO:**

In this class, ~~only incentives in the form of a toy or rewards are allowed to be carried by the handler in the competitive ring and~~ may be given to the dog **before the exercise**, at the end of an exercise or in between exercises **within the reward area of the ring. The reward area must be distinct from the working area.** Rewards include food which must be carried in a small closed container during the exercises, **either in the handler's pocket or left on the reward table, and only verbal and physical cues may be used to keep the dog engaged.** The judge will designate **the reward** an area in the competitive ring where food **or a toy** may be given to the dog by the handler.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation G(A)9.e.i. Introductory.

**TO:**

e. The detailed test will be:

(1) Engagement - this will be marked throughout the test - the use of motivators and rewards before and between exercises which may include food, silent toys, tricks, and verbal and physical praise within the reward area of the ring. Toys and food in a ~~sealed~~ **closed** container, must either be left on the reward table, or be concealed in the handler's pocket during tests, where only verbal motivation may be used to keep the dog engaged. 10 points

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

- b. The following regulation to extend the licence applications from 6 weeks to 6 months has been approved from 1 January 2026. However, it has been raised that this may cause issues for smaller clubs and societies. The Council is requested to consider the impact of the regulation amendment and look for possible work arounds or exceptions for any societies who will struggle to meet the application date.

Amendments to regulations G6 and G8

Regulation G6. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events.

**TO:**

Applications should be submitted to The Royal Kennel Club by email at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Regulation G8. Application.

**TO:**

The application for a licence to hold an Obedience Show must be made to the Secretary of The Royal Kennel Club at least six ~~weeks~~ **months** before the proposed date of the show together with the appropriate licence fee.  
(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)  
(Effective 1 January 2026)

**ITEM 8.      ACTIVITIES JUDGES SUB-GROUP**

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mrs K Allen following the Sub-Group's meeting held on 24 October 2025.  
**(Annex A refers)**

**ITEM 9.      REVIEW OF SHOW ENTRIES & JUDGING**

The Council is invited to consider a review of the entries and judging at Competitive Obedience shows throughout 2025, presented by Mrs Boulter.  
**(Annex B refers)**

**ITEM 10.     ANALYSIS OF THE COMPETITIVE OBEDIENCE SURVEY**

The Council is requested to review the results of the Competitive Obedience Survey, presented by Ms Williams. The survey was released on 2 November and received over 640 responses from a range of experience levels by the time it was reviewed on 23 November 2025.

The Council is invited to note that work is still ongoing to review all the feedback, however the full report will be shared with the community and published with the minutes of the meeting.

**ITEM 11.     PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS**

No proposals have been received for this meeting.

The Obedience community are invited to share any ideas which might help to improve or develop Competitive Obedience.

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

**ITEM 12.     DISCUSSION ITEMS**

No discussion items have been received for this meeting.

**ITEM 13.     STRATEGIC 5 YEAR PLAN**

Representatives are invited to develop a new Strategic 5 Year Plan, to align with the needs of Competitive Obedience, and to discuss how ideas may be progressed.

The Strategic 5 year plan will be shared with the community and published with the minutes of the meeting.

**ITEM 14.     ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**ITEM 15.     DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The date of the Council's next meeting will be on 9 June 2026.

THE ROYAL KENNEL CLUB'S STRATEGIC AIMS

- Champion the wellbeing of dogs
- Safeguard and enhance the future of pedigree dogs, addressing breed-associated health issues
- Protect the future of dog activities together with our grassroots network
- Become relevant to more dog owners to increase our impact
- Deliver an excellent member experience and widen our community
- Ensure we are financially secure and sustainable