

Young Royal Kennel Club



YRKC AGILITY DOG OF THE YEAR
(ADOTY)



AGILITY COMPETITIONS
RULES 2026 (CRUFTS 2027)



YRKC AGILITY DOG OF THE YEAR (ADOTY)

YRKC ADOTY RULES - CHANGE LOG

1. Changes Dated 27/03/2026 – (v1.0 to v1.1).
 - i. Changed all YKC logos to YRKC.
 - ii. Changed all mention of YKC to YRKC.
 - iii. Changed all mention of Kennel Club to Royal Kennel Club.
 - iv. Added a new section (G) to the document to outline Crufts health testing requirement for RFG breeds.
 - v. F.1.i.a.(2) – increased the cutoff point for swapping qualified dogs from 7 days to 14 days



YRKC AGILITY DOG OF THE YEAR (ADOTY)

A: HANDLERS

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

Large Dogs	Intermediate Dogs	Medium Dogs	Small Dogs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handler 06-11 Years• Handler 12-14 Years• Handler 15-17 Years• Handler 18-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handler 06-11 Years• Handler 12-14 Years• Handler 15-17 Years• Handler 18-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handler 06-11 Years• Handler 12-14 Years• Handler 15-17 Years• Handler 18-24 Years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handler 06-11 Years• Handler 12-14 Years• Handler 15-17 Years• Handler 18-24 Years

2. Only current YRKC members may compete in YRKC Classes.
3. Handlers may not be swapped after the closing date of the show.
 - i. This means no on-the-day swapping of YRKC handlers at any ADOTY qualifier.
 - ii. If the entered handler is not running the dog, that entered dog must withdraw from the class.
4. Use the YRKC member's age on the first day of the show to work out which age category a YRKC member should enter.

B: DOGS

1. Standard Royal Kennel Club rules regarding which dogs may enter this agility class apply.
2. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YRKC agility competition.
3. Once a dog has competed with a given YRKC handler in an ADOTY qualifier, that dog may only compete with that handler in any future ADOTY qualifiers for the rest of the qualifying season.
4. Dogs of any grade may enter this competition.

C: YRKC ADOTY QUALIFIERS & GENERAL REGULATIONS

1. **By entering a YRKC qualifier, the YRKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YRKC's Code of Conduct**
2. The qualification period for **Crufts 2027** is: **01-Nov-2025 till 31-Oct-2026**
3. Unless otherwise specified in this document, YRKC ADOTY classes will be subject to all in-force Royal Kennel Club regulations for agility competitions. Including, but not limited to:
 - i. (H) General Regulations for Agility Competitions
 - ii. (O) Regulations for The Young Royal Kennel Club
3. The ADOTY qualification heat will feature two individual rounds:
 - a. 1x Agility
 - b. 1x Jumping
 - i. Both Courses will be set to a grade 3-5 standard.
4. Standard Royal Kennel Club marking will apply.
5. At the qualifier, the results from the Agility and Jumping rounds will be combined to give an overall score.
 - i. This will be outlined in section D.
6. Members may enter ADOTY competitions even if they have already qualified.
7. YRKC ADOTY qualifiers are listed on the YRKC website
 - i. Only qualifiers listed on the YRKC website will be eligible for qualification, please ensure that you are entering a valid YRKC qualifier.



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D: YRKC ADOTY SCORING METHOD

1. There will be 3 separate prize-givings for YRKC ADOTY qualifiers:
 - i. 1 x prize giving for each of the individual rounds (2 total)
 - a. To determine the results for these rounds, dogs will be ranked first by total number of faults, then by time. The dog with the fewest faults in the fastest time is the winner.
 - ii. 1 x prize giving for the combined score (1 total)
 - a. The combined score is detailed below:
2. The combined score is the results from the agility and jumping rounds combined providing that;
 - i. Neither of those rounds feature an elimination or disqualification.
 - a. If a dog is eliminated in either round, they will no longer be able to qualify for the ADOTY semi-final at that show, nor receive a placing in the combined results prize-giving.
3. Each round will score [course faults] and [time faults] independently.
4. The agility round and the jumping round shall each have their own independent course time.
 - i. There will be a separate time recorded for each of the dog's rounds.
5. The combined results will total all of the faults from both rounds:
 - i. The faults for the combined result will be as follows:
 - a. [Agility Course faults] + [Agility time faults] + [Jumping course faults] + [Jumping time faults]
 - ii. The time for the combined result will be as follows:
 - a. [Agility time] + [Jumping time]
6. To determine the results for combined score, dogs will be ranked first by combined total number of faults, then by combined time. The dog with the fewest faults in the fastest time is the winner.

E: WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE ADOTY SEMI-FINAL?

1. **ONLY First place in the combined result for each height/age category at any ADOTY qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the semi-final.**
 - i. There will be no roll down or other qualification method except;
 - a. The overall winner of the YRKC Jumping Cup Final competition, held in the main arena, will be invited to compete in the YRKC Agility Dog of the Year semi-final.
2. The YRKC will invite all those who have qualified to enter Crufts via email before Christmas.
3. If a YRKC member has managed to qualify for the ADOTY semi-final, that member will also be invited to participate in the first performance weekend for the YRKC Team GB squad.
 - i. More information can be found on the YRKC Team GB qualification page.
 - ii. 18-24 age category does not count for this qualification.
 - a. There is potential for one 18-24 member to be considered for the Adult Team GB – see further in this document.

F: HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR THE ADOTY SEMI-FINAL?

1. You may qualify as many different dogs across as many heights as you wish for the ADOTY Semi-finals at Crufts HOWEVER:
 - i. **YOU MAY ONLY ENTER A MAXIMUM OF FOUR DOGS ACROSS ALL HEIGHTS THAT YOU HAVE QUALIFIED INTO THE CRUFTS ADOTY SEMI-FINAL COMPETITION**
 - a. If you have entered 4 dogs into the ADOTY Crufts semi-final, and one of them is unable to compete, if you have another dog that has also qualified, but not part of the 4 you have already entered, you may substitute those dogs.
 - (1) This must be reported to the YRKC at the earliest opportunity.
 - (2) The cut off for any substitution of entered dogs using this method is 14 days prior to the first day of Crufts.
2. The handler may NEVER be substituted.



NEW HEALTH ENTRY CRITERIA FOR BULLDOGS, FRENCH BULLDOGS AND PUGS AT CRUFTS

3. All Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs exceeding 14 calendar months on the first day of Crufts must have a valid Respiratory Function Grading (RFG) Scheme assessment to attend. This requirement is mandatory for entry into the show, not just individual classes.
4. **VALID RFG SCHEME ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**
 - i. To gain entry, all eligible Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs must attach a valid RFG Scheme certificate dated within the last 24 months of the first day of the show to their entry.
 - ii. Dogs assessed as Grade 2 or 3 will be excluded and not allowed to enter or attend the show.
5. **CERTIFICATE UPLOAD AND VALIDATION**
 - i. The dog's RFG scheme certificate must be uploaded as part of your entry, including the expiry date and grade. The Royal Kennel Club will validate and approve the certificate.
6. **EXEMPTIONS AND AGE REQUIREMENTS**
 - i. Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs not exceeding 14 calendar months on the first day of the show are exempt from needing an RFG Scheme assessment, and a certificate is not required.
 - ii. Bulldogs, French Bulldogs and Pugs aged 7 years or older on the first day of the show do not need a valid RFG Scheme assessment; however, they must upload the last certificate awarded to the dog
 - a. The corresponding certificate must be uploaded prior to entry, but it does not need to be dated within the last 24 months.
 - b. The last certificate awarded must have the dog assessed as either Grade 0 or Grade 1.
7. **OVERSEAS ASSESSMENTS**
 - i. International RFG Scheme assessments issued by licensed organisations, and carried out by approved assessors, will be accepted. Overseas exhibitors must upload a valid certificate prior to entry, and ensure certificates meet the same standards as domestic entries.
8. **CROSSBREED DOG BREED DETERMINATION**
 - i. A crossbreed that has characteristics of either a Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug will be asked to prove that there are none of the aforementioned breeds in the dog's breeding going back 5 generations.
 - ii. A crossbreed that has unknown lineage will be deemed as one of the designated breeds (Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug) if it has characteristics that are associated with those breeds respectively.
 - iii. Any Crossbreed that is deemed to be one of the designated breeds (Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug) is subject to the same health testing restrictions as outlined in G1 through G5 in this document.
 - iv. If there is any doubt whether a dog should be deemed as one of the designated breeds (Bulldog, French Bulldog or Pug) AND that dog has been entered into Crufts without submitting a valid RFG scheme certificate, the judge of the competition will adjudicate.
 - a. The judge may ask for a second opinion from the YRKC show organisers.
 - b. If it is deemed that the dog is one of the designated breeds, that dog shall be asked to leave the show immediately.
9. **More Information**
 - i. For information on where the scheme is available, expected costs and more information on why the RKC is implementing these rules: please visit <https://www.royalkennelclub.com/rfgscheme>



YRKC AGILITY DOG OF THE YEAR (ADOTY)

H ■ ADOTY AT CRUFTS – SEMI-FINAL

1. By entering a YRKC class, the YRKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YRKC’s Code of Conduct
2. The semi-final for the YRKC Agility Dog of the Year competition is held at Crufts in the YRKC ring.
3. The semi-final will be held over a single agility course.
 - i. This course will be set at grade 3-5.
4. At Crufts, the YRKC will calculate the which age category each competitor shall be in, based on the YRKC members age on the first day of Crufts.
 - i. This may be a different age category to the one the YRKC member qualified in.
 - ii. Handlers who turn 25 before the first day of Crufts are not eligible to compete at Crufts in the YRKC ring – any qualifications gained for the YRKC will be forfeit.
5. At Crufts, dogs **MUST** run in strict running order;
 - i. if you are not on the line when your run is due, you will have missed your run.
 - ii. The running order for the semi-final (and final) will be determined in a pseudo-random nature.
 - a. Any handlers with more than one dog in a height will have at least three dogs between their runs where possible.
 - (1) If this is not possible, there will be a 2-minute period between runs.
 - iii. Each of the heights will be grouped together, but the age categories will be jumbled.

I ■ CLOTHING, SPONSORSHIP & LOGOS @ CRUFTS

1. Agility handlers should wear smart athletic wear, with plain black or navy tracksuit bottoms/leggings paired with a short sleeve t-shirt/polo shirt of their choosing.
2. Agility handlers should wear footwear that will enable them to run without slipping on artificial grass.
3. Some YRKC members have managed to arrange personal sponsorship and branding deals. YRKC members who wish to have branding on their clothing at Crufts must follow the below rules.
4. The YRKC & Royal Kennel Club also have several sponsors in both the YRKC ring and the main arena at Crufts.
 - i. To comply with our sponsors, YRKC members may **NOT** have branding on display from the following companies:
 - a. Dog food or treat supplier
 - b. Car manufacturer
 - c. Insurance company
 - ii. If a YRKC member wishes to have branding from a company not on the above list on an item of clothing, that company’s branding must be where a breast pocket would be and must be approximately breast pocket size.
 - iii. This restriction on branding only applies in the following locations:
 - a. Crufts YRKC collecting ring, Crufts YRKC ring, Crufts YRKC Presentation Area
 - b. Crufts Main arena collecting ring, Crufts Main Arena, Crufts Main Arena Presentation Area

J ■ ADOTY SEMI-FINAL – PRIZEGIVING

1. The following awards will be presented in the YRKC ring for the ADOTY Semi-final

06-11 Years	12-14 Years	15-17 Years	18-24 Years
• 1 st to 5 th LRG	• 1 st to 5 th LRG	• 1 st to 5 th LRG	• 1 st to 5 th LRG
• 1 st to 5 th INT	• 1 st to 5 th INT	• 1 st to 5 th INT	• 1 st to 5 th INT
• 1 st to 5 th MED	• 1 st to 5 th MED	• 1 st to 5 th MED	• 1 st to 5 th MED
• 1 st to 5 th SML	• 1 st to 5 th SML	• 1 st to 5 th SML	• 1 st to 5 th SML

2. All non-placed competitors will receive a semi-finalist rosette when exiting the prize-giving
 - i. To receive this award, members must be present for the prize-giving.



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K: ADOTY AT CRUFTS – QUALIFYING FOR THE GRAND FINAL

1. To qualify for a place in the final you must place in the semi-final as follows:
2. In addition, during your semi-final run, you must have scored fewer than 10 total faults and must not have received time faults to qualify for the final.

06-11 Years	12-14 Years	15-17 Years	18-24 Years
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Dogs • Intermediate Dogs • Medium Dogs • Small Dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Dogs • Intermediate Dogs • Medium Dogs • Small Dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Dogs • Intermediate Dogs • Medium Dogs • Small Dogs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Dogs • Intermediate Dogs • Medium Dogs • Small Dogs
1st Or 2nd	1st Or 2nd	1st Or 2nd	1st Or 2nd
(8 Spaces)	(8 Spaces)	(8 Spaces)	(8 Spaces)

L: ADOTY AT CRUFTS –THE GRAND FINAL

1. The grand final for the YRKC Agility Dog of the Year competition is held in the main arena at Crufts.
2. The grand final will be over a single grade 3-5 agility course (different to the semi-final).
3. In the grand final, for the purposes of scoring, dog height categories are removed and all finalists compete for 1st place in their respective age category.
 - i. Dogs will still compete at their appropriate height obstacles.
4. There will be an overall winner for the ADOTY competition.
 - i. The overall fastest dog with the fewest faults will be crowned this year’s YRKC Agility Dog of the Year.
5. Clothing, Sponsorship & Branding requirement are the same as the above semi-final.
 - i. Any finalists MAY be asked to wear a sponsor’s shirt/over-garment that will be provided by the YRKC
6. 18-24 Category – the winner of this age category will also be invited to attend the first pre-selection qualification (PSQ) for the Adult Team GB.
 - i. This is limited to one space only
 - ii. Getting to the PSQ is not a guarantee of making the adult team GB team or squad, it just bypasses one hurdle to get to the PSQ
 - iii. If the winner is already invited to the PSQ this space will not roll down.

M: ADOTY GRAND FINAL PRESENTATIONS

1. The following 5 awards will be presented in the main arena immediately after the competition:

06-11 Years	12-14 Years	15-17 Years	18-24 Years
1st Place	1st Place	1st Place	1st Place
All Heights combined	All Heights combined	All Heights combined	All Heights combined

ADOTY GRAND FINAL

OVERALL WINNER

2. All YRKC competitors in the ADOTY Grand Final will receive a YRKC ADOTY Finalist Rosette.