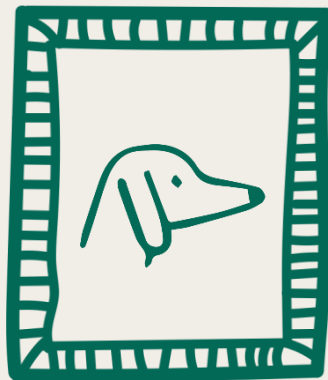




**YRKC GRADUATE AGILITY  
(GRAD)**



**AGILITY COMPETITIONS  
RULES 2026 (CRUFTS 2027)**



# YRKC GRADUATE AGILITY (GRAD)

## YRKC GRAD 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 (F) to the document to outline Crufts health testing requirement for RFG breeds.
  - v. E.2.ii - increased the cutoff point for swapping qualified dogs from 7 days to 14 days



## A ■ HANDLERS

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

Large Dogs	Intermediate Dogs	Medium Dogs	Small Dogs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Handler 06-24 Years</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Handler 06-24 Years</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Handler 06-24 Years</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Handler 06-24 Years</li></ul>

2. Only current YRKC members may compete 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 Grad 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 surrounding 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 a GRAD qualifier, that dog may only compete with that handler in any future GRAD qualifiers for the rest of the qualifying period.
4. Dogs are only eligible to enter YRKC Graduate competitions if they are eligible to enter one of the following classes;
  - i. Grade 1, Grade 2 or Grade 3
5. Dogs do NOT have to be grade 3 or lower when competing at Crufts the following year.
  - i. The dog may win out of Grade 3 and still compete in this class at Crufts so long as the dog was grade 3 or below when it qualified.

## C ■ GRADUATE AGILITY 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 Graduate Agility 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
4. The GRAD qualification class will feature a single agility round.
  - i. The course will be set at approximately G2-3 standard.
5. To determine the results for this class, 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.
  - i. The rankings of the 4 subcategories are separate.
6. Standard Royal Kennel Club marking will apply.
7. There will be a prize giving ceremony.
8. Members may enter GRAD competitions even if they have already qualified.
9. YRKC Graduate Agility 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.



# YRKC GRADUATE AGILITY (GRAD)

## D: GRADUATE AGILITY - WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE FINAL?

1. **First & Second place** at any GRAD qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the final
    - i. There will be no roll-down of this qualification
  2. The YRKC reserves the right to amend this qualification method if we are vastly oversubscribed for the final at Crufts **OR** if not enough spaces were filled.
    - i. The YRKC will only amend qualification criteria in exceptional circumstances.
  3. Once qualified, the handler and dog combination is locked in for this year's qualifying period.
    - i. The qualified dog may only be handled at Crufts by the same handler that it qualified with.
  4. The YRKC will invite all those who have qualified to enter Crufts via email before Christmas.
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## E: HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR GRAD?

1. You may qualify as many different dogs across as many heights as you wish for the GRAD final at Crufts **HOWEVER:**
    - i. YOU MAY ONLY ENTER A MAXIMUM OF **ONE** QUALIFIED DOG ACROSS ALL HEIGHTS **E.G.:**
      - a. **CORRECT** - 1 x dog in large OR intermediate OR medium OR small
      - b. **INCORRECT** - 1 x dog in each height category
  2. A handler is only allowed to swap dogs if they have managed to qualify another dog in the GRAD competition, in this case, they may swap to the other qualified dog.
    - i. This must be reported to the YRKC at the earliest opportunity.
    - ii. The cut off for any substitution of entered dogs using this method is 14 days prior to the first day of Crufts.
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## **F:** NEW HEALTH ENTRY CRITERIA FOR BULLDOGS, FRENCH BULLDOGS AND PUGS AT CRUFTS

1. 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.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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.
6. **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 F1 through F5 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.
7. **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>



## G ■ GRADUATE AGILITY @ CRUFTS – 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 final for the YRKC Graduate Agility competition is held at Crufts in the YRKC ring.
3. 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. 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.
4. The final will be held over a single agility Course.
  - i. This course will be set at grade 2-3.
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
    - a. The running order for the final will be determined randomly

## H ■ CLOTHING, SPONSORSHIP & LOGOS @ CRUFTS

1. 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:
    - (1) Dog food or treat supplier
    - (2) Car manufacturer
    - (3) 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.

## ■ GRADUATE AGILITY FINAL - PRIZEGIVING

1. The following awards will be presented in the YRKC ring for the Graduate Agility final

Large	Intermediate	Medium	Small
• 1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup>	• 1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup>	• 1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup>	• 1 <sup>st</sup> to 5 <sup>th</sup>

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