

Report from the Activities Judges Sub-Group meeting held on 7th April 2026

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Contingency Plans

It was agreed that where discipline representatives were unable to attend AJSG meetings they could submit comments on the agenda prior to the meeting via the Chair.

Reaccreditation Process for Activities Accredited Trainers

The Sub-Group discussed formalising a process for addressing issues raised in relation to accredited trainers. A small working group was formed who will feedback to the next meeting.

RKC Academy Film

The issue of Rally not having a film on the RKC Academy was raised, with particular regard to how it affects Rally's plans to move towards more practical based training for Rally judges. There is now a possibility of a lower cost option to produce a film, and a positive meeting has since been held exploring this. It is now hoped to have a RKC Academy Film for Rally in place prior to the introduction of the new framework.

Mentoring for Rally Accredited Trainers

Previously the mentoring programme for Rally ATs required them to work alongside a more experienced AT to co-present both seminars (usually over a weekend), after which the new trainer was deemed ready to deliver independently. There was no clear process for determining whether a candidate had met the required standard. A more structured approach, in line with other disciplines, was presented suggesting that candidates should first observe the Royal Kennel Club Rally Seminars before progressing to co-presenting a seminar. They would then deliver a seminar independently with an Accredited Trainer in attendance to assess performance to defined criteria and provide support if required. The programme then went on to outline a plan of action if the new AT was not considered ready at this assessment. It was emphasised that the outcome and constructive feedback should be given on the day throughout the process. The programme will be developed further with the Rally Accredited Trainers, and an update will be provided to the next meeting.

Yellow/Red Card System

The office highlighted the the Red/Yellow card process. The wording on the Royal Kennel Club website reads as follows:

Yellow card status

The procedure has two stages (warning and Yellow card/Red card) which are normally intended to be followed progressively.

If a warning is to be issued for a conduct complaint as a breach of the Royal Kennel Club Code of Conduct then a Yellow card may also be issued. The Yellow card will be in effect for twelve months. A yellow card will be issued by the Governance & Legal Services Team. This will be in accordance with strict criteria agreed with the Disciplinary Committee in terms of the type of cases which should attract the issue of a Yellow card. The Disciplinary Committee will be consulted if there is an exceptional case requiring a preliminary view. If there are no further complaints during that twelve month period then the Yellow card status will be removed by agreement with the Disciplinary Committee.

Red card status

During the twelve months in which a Yellow card status is active if there is a further issue involving conduct at a licensed event or on social media, a Red card may be issued by the Disciplinary Committee. The effect will be a 60 or 90 day exclusion depending on the seriousness of the matter (and the period and commencement date of the exclusion will be determined by the Disciplinary Committee taking into account appropriate seasonal aspects). An appeal against the issue of a Red card on specified grounds (e.g. new evidence) may be made to an Appeals Panel appointed by the Royal Kennel Club Board. At the end of the duration of the exclusion period under a Red card status the Yellow/Red card status will end unless the Disciplinary Committee confirms that the Yellow card status should remain in place for a further period of time (up to a further twelve month period).

Judging Performance

The office confirmed that both competitors and show organisers could raise concerns regarding an individual judge's performance via the incident book.

Annual Seminar

It was agreed that each discipline should hold its own online meetings, with any matters raised at the Activities Judges Sub-Group via the relevant representative.