



Royal Kennel Club

# Agility 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.

# GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR AGILITY COMPETITIONS

*As at 1st January 2026*

These Regulations apply to all licensed agility shows, except where indicated.

## **1. Permission to hold agility shows.**

- a. The Board shall have the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any licensed agility show.
- b. Any cancellation or abandonment of a competition without prior permission of the Board must be reported in writing to the Royal Kennel Club without delay, and must be carried out in accordance with the relevant Royal Kennel Club published event cancellation policy.

## **2. Code of conduct.**

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.

## **3. 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 at any agility show licensed by the Royal Kennel Club. This shall apply at the venue and within the precincts of the show.

## **4. Eligibility/licensing.**

- a. Agility Show licences will only be issued to registered or affiliated societies or other organisations approved by the Board.
- b. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held or the event will be deemed unlicensed.
- c. Companion dog shows may not hold agility shows unless organised on their behalf by a registered society or other organisation approved by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club, and separately licensed.
- d. Dogs entered in agility shows must be registered at the Royal Kennel Club in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Regulations for Classification and Registration [B].
- e. Only dogs of 18 calendar months of age and over on the day of competition are eligible for competition at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows. However, societies may accept Not for Competition entries at their discretion. Dogs 12 weeks and over are eligible to enter Not for Competition.

- f. If, in the opinion of the Board, a dog is of a savage disposition it shall be ineligible for entry at any agility show held under Royal Kennel Club Regulations.
- g. Persons disqualified or suspended under Royal Kennel Club Rules are not eligible to take part in any Royal Kennel Club licensed event.
- h. No activity shall be conducted which permits, encourages or develops aggression in a dog.

### **5. Application.**

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

### **6. Unlicensed agility show.**

Notwithstanding the provision 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, competitor or promoter will not be prejudiced by participating in these special unlicensed events.

### **7. Jurisdiction and responsibilities.**

The officers and committee members of the society / or the licensee 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 H31. In so doing those appointed as officers and committee members, or the licensee, accept that they are jointly and severally responsible for the organisation of the show and that this is a binding undertaking.

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. Documentation.**

At every agility show the following documents must be available:

- a. The licence for the competition.
- b. The current public liability insurance documents, which must be clearly displayed.
- c. A copy of Royal Kennel Club Rules and relevant Regulations.
- d. A copy of the schedule for the competition.

- e. The completed entry forms for the competition.  
All entry forms must be preserved by the 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. A list of results for each class must be retained by the society for at least 12 months from the date of the competition.
- f. 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.

## 9. Schedule.

- a. The organisers must issue a schedule for the event, such schedule to follow the layout of the specimen schedule provided by the Royal Kennel Club and conform with Royal Kennel Club Regulations. No modifications may be made to the schedule except by permission of the Royal Kennel Club and such modifications must be advertised.
- b. A copy of the schedule issued for each show must be retained by the organisations for at least one year from the date of the show and must be forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club if requested, together with any other documents.
- c. Contents of schedule
  - (1) On the front outside cover or title page, the name of the 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, a contact address and telephone number and the name of the show manager, and the date of closing of entries.
  - (2) An announcement that the competition is held under Royal Kennel Club Regulations.
  - (3) Royal Kennel Club Championship Agility Certificate (Large Dogs) and / or Royal Kennel Club Championship Agility Certificate (Intermediate Dogs) and / or Royal Kennel Club Championship Agility Certificate (Medium Dogs) and / or Royal Kennel Club Championship Agility Certificate (Small Dogs) for Championship Class.
  - (4) The names of the judge(s) with the name of the class.
  - (5) All offers of sponsorship or donations with the names of the sponsors.
  - (6) The amount of entry and other fees.
  - (7) The amount of prize money where offered.
  - (8) The time of opening of the competition.
  - (9) An entry form, which must include a box for the Royal Kennel Club registration number of the dog and the standard declaration as included in the specimen entry form issued by the Royal Kennel Club.
  - (10) A statement if applicable on details of how entries can be made via the internet.
  - (11) Definitions of classes.
  - (12) Dog agility is a competitive and physically strenuous activity. It is the responsibility of the owner / handler to ensure their dog is 'fit for function' and that they themselves are fit to take part. By signing the entry form you confirm that to the best of your knowledge your dog is fit and able to take part in agility classes on the day of the show.

- (13) Method by which the judge will mark the tests (agility shows only).
- (14) A statement that in estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including 18 days before the start of the competition shall be counted when entering for any class. For these purposes a competition shall be defined as all classes covered within the same schedule. In the event that a dog becomes eligible for the next grade at a particular show, after the entry for that show has been sent, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the show secretary at least 14 days before the date of the show. The dog should then be moved into the appropriate class(es) for the next grade. The dog must be moved into the corresponding number of classes as were entered at the lower grade. If there are fewer or no classes available for the next grade the competitor should be offered a refund of the relevant entry fees. Failure to notify the show secretary or processor at least 14 days before the date of the show will result in the dog being ineligible to compete at that show.
- (15) A statement that no bitch in season is allowed to compete at Limited, Open, Premier or Championship Agility Shows. However, bitches in season can compete at quarter finals, semi-finals and finals of Royal Kennel Club Prestige Events except in events held under YKC rules.
- (16) A statement that the committee reserves to itself the right to refuse any entries.
- (17) A statement that should a judge be unable to fulfil the appointment to judge the committee reserves the right to appoint another judge.
- (18) A statement that should circumstances so dictate the society, in consultation with the judge, may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them must be reported to the Royal Kennel Club.
- (19) Notice of Royal Kennel Club Agility Regulations H paragraphs: 10.f.  
13.
- (20) If applicable a statement that;
1. Not for Competition entries will be accepted for dogs aged four calendar months and over. Details of each dog so entered must be recorded on the entry form and must be Royal Kennel Club registered or
  2. Not for Competition entries are not accepted.
- (21) A pay on the day class will be held if time permits.
- (22) A practice ring may be available to dogs entered for competition at the show if space allows. The ring must be supervised by a responsible adult with agility knowledge.

### 10. Entry for Competition.

- a. 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.
- b. Entries for the event must close at the time indicated in the schedule, which must be no later than 14 days before the event opens.
- c. 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 H9.c.(14).

- d. Entries from competitors claiming that undelivered entries have been correctly posted must be accepted on the day of the competition, subject to the conditions of Regulation H9.c.(14). Such claims will have to be substantiated to the Royal Kennel Club which will request documentary evidence, subsequent to the competition.
- e. A dog must at the time of entry for a competition be registered as required by Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations in the owner's 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 competition may compete as the new owner's property provided that an application for the transfer has been forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club before the competition, 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).
- f. A separate application for entry must be made by each owner 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.
- g. If a competitor reports less than 14 days before competition that a dog has been entered which is ineligible, the dog must be withdrawn from competition, no refund of entry fee(s) shall be due. (Except under regulation H(1)(B)4.(12) where, at the discretion of the show management, the dog's entries may be transferred in order that it can compete at the correct height category).
- h. In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including 18 days before the start of the competition shall be counted when entering for any class. For these purposes a competition shall be defined as all classes covered within the same schedule. In the event that a dog becomes eligible for the next grade at a particular show, after the entry for that show has been sent, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the show secretary or the show processor at least 14 days before the date of the show. The dog should then be moved into the appropriate class(es) for the next grade. The dog must be moved into the corresponding number of classes as were entered at the lower grade. If there are fewer or no classes available for the next grade the competitor should be offered a refund of the relevant entry fees. Failure to notify the show secretary or processor at least 14 days before the date of the show will result in the dog being ineligible to compete at that show.
- i. Dogs may be limited to a specific number of classes. (*if applicable*)
- j. A dog must not compete in the same class more than once, including special classes.

### **11. Control of Dogs.**

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). The mating of bitches within the precincts of the competition, as stipulated above, is forbidden.

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.

### **12. Free Passes.**

The committee of an agility show shall provide all competitors with a free pass enabling them to enter the event at any time of the day their competition is scheduled, but in the case of a dog owned in partnership only one such free pass need be issued. Additional free passes may be issued at the organising committee's discretion.

### **13. Removal of dogs from competition.**

Following discussion between the show management and/or a veterinary surgeon, a dog shall be prevented from competing and/or removed from an agility show if it is:

- a. A bitch which is in season is allowed to attend a show providing it is kept away from the competition areas. (Except those dogs that are attending the show to compete in quarter finals, semi-finals and finals of Royal Kennel Club Prestige Events, other than events held under YKC rules), who are allowed to compete in these classes only. Qualified handlers are asked to remove their dog from the competition area as soon as they have competed in the Prestige Event.
- b. Suffering from any infectious or contagious disease.
- c. Interfering with the safety or chance of winning of an opponent.
- d. Of such temperament or is so much out of control as to be a danger to the safety of any person or other animal.
- e. Likely to cause suffering to the dog if it continues competing.

The circumstances of such a removal shall be recorded in the competition/show incident book and submitted to the Royal Kennel Club.

### **14. Removal of competitors.**

No equipment shall be moved without permission of the judge. Any concerns regarding the course shall be discussed with the judge/show management. Any unauthorised movement of equipment may result in removal of the competitor from the show. All such removals should be reported to the Royal Kennel Club in the Incident Book.

### **15. Competition of dogs suffering from contagious or infectious disease.**

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 competition may compete. Competitors infringing this Regulation will be liable to be fined and/or dealt with under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.

### **16. Animals allowed in event.**

No animal other than one officially entered shall be brought into the precincts of the event during its continuance, except any dogs registered to assist the disabled, 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.

### **17. Veterinary support.**

The secretary of a licensed agility show is required to arrange veterinary support compatible with the arrangements for the competition and anticipated entries. The name, address and telephone number of the veterinary surgeon, practitioner or practice supporting the competition is to be available.

### **18. Judging contracts.**

- a. Invitations to judge must be made by organising societies in writing and they must ensure that written acceptances are received. Written acceptance 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 Agility 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, and confirm that you are qualified to judge in accordance with Agility Regulation H18. In addition, you will familiarise yourself with the Royal Kennel Club H Regulations which are current at the date of the judging appointment. In doing so you also recognise that you are obliged to notify us in writing of any change in personal circumstances which may affect your ability to fulfil this judging appointment.

You should also note that we reserve the right to cancel the contract before the date of the appointment if there is a change in your circumstances, which in our reasonable opinion would adversely affect your ability to fulfil the appointment. Clubs may cancel a judging appointment where there is a clear evidence that the judge's ability to fulfil the appointment has been adversely affected, or in consultation with the judge.'

- 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. In the event of a judge failing to honour an engagement to judge, the Board will require reasons for such failure, and in the event of the explanation not being considered satisfactory, the Board may impose a fine. Similarly, in the event of a Society not honouring a judging contract, the society may be required by the Board to give reasons for such failure, and in the event of the explanation not being considered satisfactory, the Board may impose a fine upon the society.

- e. In the event of such fines not being paid within the time stipulated by the Board, the judge or officers and committee members of the society / or the licensee, 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.

### **19. Approval of judges.**

- a. Show Societies must apply to the Board for approval of Championship Agility Class judges for championship agility shows, at least nine months before the date of the Show on the approved form. All first time appointments must be applied for a minimum of eighteen months before the date of the show on the form provided. Individuals may apply to the Board for approval to award Championship Agility Certificates for the first time, provided that the judge has fulfilled the minimum criteria in accordance with Regulation H18.b. Subject to approval judges would be included on the list of Approved Championship Agility judges.
- b. On application for a person's first appointment to judge the Championship Agility Class the minimum conditions which apply are:  
A person must:-
- (1) have a minimum of 5 years' experience of competing at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows, and
  - (2) have a minimum of 5 years' experience of judging at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows, and
  - (3) have judged at a minimum of 10 licensed agility shows over the previous 3 years including standard classes in each height category which must include grade 7, class size and geographical distribution of judging appointments will be a consideration, and
  - (4) have judged Royal Kennel Club qualifiers in each height category for Crufts, Discover Dogs, or the Royal Kennel Club Agility Stakes (excluding YKC classes) at a minimum of 2 licensed agility shows, and
  - (5) have handled a dog competitively at grade 6 or 7, and
  - (6) have been assessed before their first championship appointment, and
  - (7) have completed and passed an agility judges examination on the Royal Kennel Club Academy prior to attending a Royal Kennel Club Judges Seminar, and
  - (8) have attended a Royal Kennel Club Agility Judges Seminar and passed the assessment within the last 5 years, or
  - (9) otherwise have been approved by the Board.
- c. The Board of the Royal Kennel Club shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel the approval of any judge.
- d. A person approved to judge a Championship Agility Certificate may not judge another Championship Agility Certificate at the same height category within a period of six calendar months.

### **20. Judges and judging.**

- a. Organisers of agility shows must ensure that those invited to judge are competent to fulfil their engagement taking into account the nature of the competition.

- b. Additionally judges appointed to officiate for the first time at a Royal Kennel Club licensed agility show (other than those judging special classes at a limited agility show) must have completed and passed an Agility Judges examination on the Royal Kennel Club Academy prior to attending a Royal Kennel Club Judges Seminar.
- c. Judges appointed to officiate for the first time at a Royal Kennel Club licensed agility show (other than those judging special classes at a limited agility show) must have attended a Royal Kennel Club Agility Judges Seminar and passed the assessment.
- d. All judges must have completed and passed an agility judges examination on the Royal Kennel Club Academy every five years since passing the Regulations and Judging Procedure examination. This Regulation is effective from 1 January 2022.
- e. Judges at an agility show may not judge a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership; or handle a dog at the show/competition at which they are judging.
- f. Judges at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice as published from time to time.
- g. Judges are not permitted to make a public commentary on the dogs whilst judging.
- h. Any physical disciplining of the dog by the handler in the ring or any uncontrolled behaviour of the dog must be penalised by adjusting the dog's score and the judge may bar the dog from further competition in the class.
- i. The judge must observe the dog at all times whilst it is in the ring, even after elimination from competition.
- j. The committee shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel the appointment of any judge.

### **21. Dog fouling.**

- a. Any owner, competitor, handler or other person in charge of a dog is required to remove, as soon as possible any fouling caused by their dog(s) at any Royal Kennel Club licensed event 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.

### **22. 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 competition management.

### **23. Sponsorship and donations.**

No offer of sponsorship or donation may be made on condition that a specified person is appointed to judge.

#### **24. Payment of sponsorship.**

In the absence of any agreement to the contrary, the liability of the sponsor(s) for any class or classes at an agility show shall be limited to making good any deficiency between entry fees received and any prize money paid out. The show manager must intimate the amount of sponsorship due within one calendar month of the close of the competition 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 manager must report the matter to the Royal Kennel Club.

#### **25. Objections.**

- a. An objection must 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 of £35, or such amount as may from time to time be decided by the Board.

The name and address of the objector.

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

All relevant evidence.

The objection fee may be returned after consideration of the objection.

- b. With the exception of objections made under Regulation H13 (Removal of Dogs from Competition) the dog should be allowed to compete and a full report made to the Royal Kennel Club.
- c. The right to lodge an objection to a dog or any action taken at a show is limited to anyone in attendance at the show not under a term of suspension imposed by the Royal Kennel Club, or the owner of a dog competing or his accredited representative.
- d. No objection shall be invalidated solely on the grounds that it was incorrectly lodged.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.

#### **26. Fraudulent or discreditable conduct at agility shows.**

The secretary of an agility 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 competition which may come under 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 to interfere with the competition of a dog at any event 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.

#### **27. Penalty for infringement of Royal Kennel Club Rules by the agility 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.

#### **28. 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 proved amongst other things to have been;
  - (1) Competing at an unrecognised competition.
  - (2) Handled 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.
  - (4) Entered after the date announced for closing of entries, subject to the condition of Regulation H10.c. or contrary to Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.
  - (5) Suffering from an infectious or contagious disease.
  - (6) In competition in a class for which it was not entered.
  - (7) Judged by their registered owner or handled in the ring by a judge at that competition. This shall not apply to dogs owned by a judge appointed in an emergency, or where a judge has been appointed to judge on the day of a semi-final / final but has qualified for that semi-final / final. The qualifiers must have been held on a different day to the final at the same show and the semi-final / final must be held after the show has closed.
  - (8) Registered or recorded as owned by the scheduled judge within a period of 12 months prior to the competition. This shall not apply to dogs owned by a judge appointed in an emergency.
  - (9) Handled by the scheduled judge's spouse, immediate family or is resident at the same address as the scheduled judge. This shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency.
  - (10) Not correctly registered and recorded in the name of the owner at the Royal Kennel Club or as provided in Regulation H10.e.
  - (11) 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 shall be disqualified by the Board from any awards gained whether an objection has been lodged or not if entered in a class for which it is ineligible and not withdrawn from competition and the competitor 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.

### **29. 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 Dogs 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.'

The right of appeal against directives f) and g) listed above 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.

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.

### **30. Payment and delivery of prize money and printed awards.**

- a. All prize money and printed awards must be available for collection at the competition.
- 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 competition, otherwise they will be forfeited.
- c. Where any money prize is offered in the schedule it must be paid in full, without deduction except in cases where amounts are legally due to the competition organisers.
- d. 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 competition organisers. A failure to comply with any request shall be reported to the Royal Kennel Club and may be dealt with under Rule A11.

**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. Delegated Powers of the Scottish Kennel Club.**

- a. For the purpose of paragraphs 1 and 4 of these Regulations the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any licensed agility show in Scotland, other than a championship agility show, shall be delegated to the Scottish Kennel Club.
- b. For the purposes of these Regulations, all powers of the Board relative to events in Scotland and licensed by the Scottish Kennel Club are delegated to the Executive Council of the Scottish Kennel Club. Applications for licences, objections and allegations of fraudulent or discreditable conduct relative to Agility Shows licensed by the Scottish Kennel Club must be made to the Secretary General of the Scottish Kennel Club, Unit 2 - Ground Floor, Satellite Business Park, Macmerry, Tranent, East Lothian. EH33 1RY.

## SPECIFIC AGILITY SHOW REGULATIONS

These Regulations must be read in conjunction with Royal Kennel Club General Agility Show Regulations H.

1. The following Regulations apply to agility shows and must be read in conjunction with Royal Kennel Club General Regulations H.

2. Agility is a competitive activity for handlers and their dogs, for which the dogs must be fit and healthy. It is designed for the enjoyment of competitors, their dogs and appeal to spectators. Informality is encouraged and maximum discretion is granted to societies within the constraints of safety and these Regulations. Nothing may be included in an agility show which could endanger the safety of the dogs competing, the handlers or the spectators.

**3. Licensed agility 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 are:**

- a. **Championship agility shows** – Open to all competitors, except where a qualification for entry has been approved by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club. Royal Kennel Club Agility Certificates are on offer. A maximum of four standard classes and any number of special classes may be scheduled, including qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club competitions. Only Royal Kennel Club registered societies are eligible for these licences.
- b. **Premier agility shows** – Open to all competitors. A maximum of four standard classes and any number of special classes may be scheduled, including qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club competitions. Only Royal Kennel Club registered societies are eligible for these licences.
- c. **Open agility shows** – Open to all competitors. A maximum of four standard classes and any number of special classes may be scheduled, except qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club competitions.
- d. **Limited Agility Shows** – Shows at which the special classes may be limited by numbers or class entries, overall numbers of entries, specific breeds, residence of competitors, membership of societies or organisations or in any other manner at the discretion of the organisers. A maximum of four standard classes and any number of special classes may be scheduled, other than qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club competitions.
- e. **Matches** - Where entry is limited to the members of societies.
- f. The specific Regulations at H(1)(C) apply to agility matches.
- g. The specific Regulations at H(1)(D) apply to limited agility shows .
- h. Dogs which have won an Agility Certificate or obtained any award that counts towards the title of Agility Champion under the rules of any governing body recognised by the Royal Kennel Club are not eligible for entry in special classes at limited agility shows or in agility matches.

**4. Societies are required to apply for permission to hold Special Events - Applications should be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club by email at least six months before the start of any qualifying heats for the event.**

Special Events are designated as any activity-related event which cannot be included on the schedule of a normally licensed show/trial/competition 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/trials/competitions, special event permission must be sought for the final whether it is held in conjunction with a licensed show/trial/competition or as a separate standalone event. This would not apply where all of the heats are held at the same show/trial/competition at which the final is held.

The regulations relating to the disqualification and forfeit of awards will apply to these events, except that a person may judge/compete at the show at which the Special Event is held and compete/judge at the Special Event, provided it is taking place once the main show/trial/competition has closed.

**5. Marked running orders Championship Class** - The show society must publish a marked running order containing the following:-

- a. On the front outside cover or title page, the name of the 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, a contact address and telephone number and the name of the show manager.
- b. Championship Agility Class - An alphabetical index containing the names of competitors, the number and name of each exhibit and the number of the Championship Agility Class in which it is entered, giving a separate line to the name of each competitor, and the full particulars of the exhibit as given on the entry form completed by the competitor.
- c. Submission of running order - Within fourteen days of the close of the show, a copy of the official marked running order, containing a full and correct list of the entries in the required classes as detailed above, with all the awards correctly marked, must be submitted to the Royal Kennel Club.

**6. Championship Agility Certificates (Large, Intermediate, Medium and Small Dogs).**

- a. A Royal Kennel Club Agility Certificate will be awarded to any Large Agility Dog, Intermediate Agility Dog, Medium Agility Dog or any Small Agility Dog winning a Championship Agility Class provided such a dog has no faults in the final round of the Class. If the winning dog does have faults in the final round of the Championship Agility Class the award must be withheld.
- b. A Reserve Agility Certificate will be awarded to any Large Agility Dog, Intermediate Agility Dog, Medium Agility Dog or any Small Agility Dog placed second in the Championship Agility Class provided it has gained a clear round in the final round of the Class. If the second placed dog has faults in the final round the award must be withheld.

**7. Agility Championships.**

- a. The Royal Kennel Club will offer at Crufts Dog Show each year the Royal Kennel Club Agility Championships Large Dog, the Royal Kennel Club Agility Championships Intermediate Dog, the Royal Kennel Club Agility Championships Medium Dog and the Royal Kennel Club Agility

Championships Small Dog. A dog awarded one or more Agility Certificates during the calendar year preceding Crufts Dog Show shall be entitled to compete.

- b. The Test for the Agility Championships shall be those required in the Championship Class in these Regulations. If the winning dog(s) do not gain a clear round in the final round the Championship Award shall be withheld.

### **8. Ballot for championship running orders.**

- a. Agility Round and Jumping Round - A draw for the running order of the Agility and Jumping Rounds must be made prior to the show. The relevant competitors must be notified before the day of the show. Where a handler has more than one dog entered in the same Championship Class, the dogs will, where entries permit, be drawn with a minimum of 20 places between them. Where there are insufficient entries to allow this spacing, the maximum separation possible must be applied. The dogs must run in the order in which they are drawn.

If handler is competing in more than one championship height category on the same day, the judge, in conjunction with the show manager may relax the running order by no more than 20 dogs.

All such decisions must be recorded in the Show's Incident Book.

- b. Final Agility Round - Dogs to run in reverse order to their combined placings at the end of the first two rounds.
- c. A dog must have the same handler for each round of the Championship Agility Class.

### **9. Format of the Championship Class.**

- a. The top 50% of the entry, up to a maximum of 20 dogs from the combined results of the 2 qualifying rounds will contest a final round of agility to determine the overall winner. The top 50% up to a maximum of 20 places will be determined by combining the accumulated placings gained by the dogs in the qualifying rounds. Where there are an uneven number of entries in classes numbers will be rounded up.
- b. The winner of each round will be invited to the final, in addition to the top 50% of the entry, up to a maximum of 20 dogs from the combined results of the two qualifying rounds, making the final a maximum of 22 dogs. The winner of the jumping round will run first in the final, the winner of the agility round will run second in the final, unless it has qualified through the normal route, in which case it will be in the standard running order. If the winner of either of the two qualifying rounds are in the top 50% of the entry, up to a maximum of 20 dogs, then the 'win on spot' will not transfer down to the 2nd placed dog. The winner of each round must have competed in both qualifying rounds.
- c. The first placed dog in the final round, having achieved a clear round, will be awarded a Championship Agility Certificate.
- d. The second placed dog in the final round, having achieved a clear round, will be awarded a Reserve Championship Agility Certificate.
- e. A dog having been eliminated in either qualifying round will not be eligible for the final, except the winner of the opposing round which will be invited to compete in the final.

**10. Management—Societies are responsible for the following:**

- a. All rings must be square or rectangular and the test area shall have a suitable surface. Outdoor rings must be a minimum of 1,024 square metres with no one side measuring less than 30m. Indoor rings are recommended to be 600 square metres but must be a minimum of 450 square metres with no one side measuring less than 15m. For outdoor all weather arenas of one or more rings that are enclosed by structure, fence or permanent barrier each ring is recommended to be 800 square metres but must be a minimum of 600 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. All indoor and outdoor all weather permanently enclosed rings for Prestige Events and/or Championship classes must be a minimum of 800 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. The ring area includes the space for officials, including the scime and ring party, but where possible the ring tent should be outside the ring area.
- b. The minimum space between adjacent rings marked only with single ropes is 5m. Where the distance is less than 5m at least one ring must have a visible barrier (such as netting). Entrances and exits from different rings should not be opposite each other to avoid congestion in these areas.
- c. No dogs' crates or boxes should be left near or between rings. Societies may, if they wish, designate areas where dogs' crates and boxes may be left in the vicinity of the rings.
- d. No smoking or vaping within the ring area.
- e. Ensuring that all obstacles and equipment in the test area do not include unnecessary protrusions and where wings or side supports are part of an obstacle the inner upright of the wings must be a minimum of 900mm.
- f. The society shall appoint a Show Manager whose name must be announced in the schedule, and who must not enter for competition a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership or work a dog at the agility show. The person appointed must be aware of their responsibilities as laid out in the Instructions as to the Duties of Agility Show Managers Annex.
- g. Electronic timing equipment. For the Championship Class societies must provide suitable electronic timing equipment. Times will also be recorded manually but the electronic time will take precedence. Where the electronic time has successfully been recorded, the manual time can be disregarded.
- h. The maximum number of individual runs a person shall judge on one day is 450, excluding unforeseen eventualities such as re-runs. Where Championship Class entries exceed 200 an additional previously approved championship judge must be appointed for the jumping round. Reserve judges may enter dogs for competition at the show, but may not compete if called upon to judge. Show committees must appoint sufficient judges for the expected entries.
- i. Splitting of classes  
Where combined classes are split, they must be split into parts of equal numbers (to within one dog). Splits must be conducted on a random basis. Where graded classes are split, they must be split by grade. If a subsequent grade or single grade class is split, it must be split into parts of equal numbers (to within one dog). Splits must be conducted on a random basis. Competitors entered therein must be notified of all changes.

- j. If a practice ring is provided, it must be supervised by a responsible adult with agility knowledge.
- k. The handler must set their dog up to start within the ring. Dog and handler must enter the ring together and under no circumstances may a dog be left outside the ring off lead and recalled or sent to the handler in the ring.

### **11. Competing.**

- 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. No competitor shall impugn the decision of the judge or judges.
- c. Dogs must not wear any type of slip, half-slip collar or lead when under test. A single flat, close fitting collar is permitted, providing the only attachment is a plain identification panel as an integral part of the collar i.e.: not attached by a ring.
- d. Handlers working more than one dog in a class must ensure that the dogs compete in the sequence in which they are drawn. Failure to do so may result in elimination.
- e. Except for mobility aids, nothing shall be carried in the hand or given while the dog is under test and food shall not be given to a dog whilst in the ring. Competitors are prohibited from wearing bags or leads whilst under test – elimination.
- f. It is the competitor's responsibility to be available for their class and running order. Competitors must run as close to their running order as possible. Failure to do so may be reported to the Royal Kennel Club.
- g. The dog and handler are deemed to be under test when instructed by the judge or the judge's steward, by signal or voice. The test has concluded when the dog has negotiated the last obstacle, or the handler and dog have voluntarily left the ring.

**12. Eligibility and schedule of classes**—The detailed Regulations for Eligibility and the Schedule of Classes are given in Annex A.

**13. Schedule of classes, courses, obstacles and marking**—The detailed Regulations for shows, courses, obstacles and marking are given in Annex B.

**14. Specific Regulations for Agility Matches**—The detailed Regulations for Agility Matches are given in Annex C.

## ELIGIBILITY AND SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

1. This classification should apply to competitions for large, intermediate, medium and small dogs.

2. In the following definitions of classes first prize or other prize wins are those gained in standard classes at any Royal Kennel Club licensed championship agility, premier agility, open agility or limited agility shows (i.e. special classes and invitational events are excepted).

3. Societies may if they so wish limit the number of classes a dog may enter.

4. Standard classes may be scheduled for agility shows, as agility classes or jumping classes. All standard classes must contain the weaving poles obstacle. Standard agility classes must contain the following elements: 'A Frame', Dog Walk and See-Saw. In the event of mitigating circumstances (i.e. adverse weather conditions) at a show a Judge, with the full agreement of the show manager, may omit any item of compulsory equipment as deemed appropriate at the time. Any omission from the equipment must be reported by the show management to the Royal Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show. With this proviso classes are defined as follows:

5. A maximum of four standard classes may be scheduled for any dog on an individual day of competition including a maximum of two graded classes. Any number of special classes may be scheduled.

### 6. Class Structure.

A class may either be held as a graded class or a combined class. A graded class may be scheduled for a maximum of three consecutive grades with separate results and awards issued for each grade. The eligibility for a graded class is detailed below. A combined class may be scheduled for more than one consecutive grade with one overall set of results. A combined class is open to any combination of dog and handler that qualifies for any of the grades in that class.

7. A class will be won by the dog that has completed the course in the fastest time with the least number of faults, unless otherwise stated for special classes.

### 8. Progression.

Progression from each grade will be determined by the eligibility for the class as referenced in H(1)(A)9. Results from combined classes will only count towards progression from the dog's current grade.

To count for progression wins must be gained in standard classes at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows.

Only a first place with a clear round completed within the course time set by the judge will count towards grade progression.

### 9. Points progression.

At the handler's discretion a dog may progress up to grade 4 by winning 100 points at each grade, using the Agility Warrant points scheme, Regulation K3.d refers. A minimum of 50 points must be gained in agility (not jumping) classes in the relevant grade. If this method of progression is selected, the handler must ensure the show secretary signs the dog's Agility Record Book at the first show entered at the higher grade. There is no time limit on this progression, however, once a dog has progressed, it cannot return to a previous grade.

### 10. Standard Classes.

Only first prizes and points gained in standard classes at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows may be used for progression through the classes. (A dog is only eligible for one grade). In defining the eligibility of the owner or handler for grade 1, the two wins and points progression referred to in the definition apply only to one dog and not an accumulation of dogs.

- a. **Grade 1**  
Open to owners, handlers or dogs which have not gained a minimum of two first places at grade 1 at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows, at least one of which must have been gained in an agility (not jumping) class. *N.B Owners, handlers or dogs previously qualified out of grade 1 are not eligible for this class.*
- b. **Grade 2**  
Open to dogs which are not eligible for grade 1 or have elected to progress on points from grade 1 and are not eligible for grades 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7.
- c. **Grade 3**  
Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of two first places at grade 2 at Royal Kennel Club Licensed Agility Shows, one of which must have been gained in an agility (not jumping) class, or have elected to progress on points from grade 2 and are not eligible for grades 2, 4, 5, 6, or 7.
- d. **Grade 4**  
Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of three first places at grade 3 at Royal Kennel Club Licensed Agility Shows, two of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, or have elected to progress on points from grade 3 and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 5, 6, or 7.
- e. **Grade 5**  
Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of four first places at grade 4 Royal Kennel Club Licensed agility shows, two of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 4, 6, or 7.
- f. **Grade 6**  
Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of four first places at grade 5 at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows, two of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 4, 5, or 7.
- g. **Grade 7**  
Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of five first places at grade 6 at Royal Kennel Club licensed agility shows, three of which must have been gained in agility (not jumping) classes, and are not eligible for grades 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6.

**h. Championship Class.**

Open to dogs having qualified to compete in grade 7 which have had five wins at Full Height in either grade 6 or grade 7, at least three of which must be gained in agility classes. To consist of 2 qualifying rounds of Standard Royal Kennel Club classes, 1 Agility Class and 1 Jumping Class and a final round of agility to be held at the same show.

**11. Championship Agility Class.**

- a. Points will be awarded for placings in the Agility round and Jumping round. 1st place - 1 point, 2nd placed - 2 points etc. to the final placed dog, eliminated dogs excepted.
- b. The top 50% of the entry up to a maximum of 20 dogs with the lowest accumulated total will be eligible to compete in the final round.
- c. Elimination in either of the qualifying rounds will exclude the dog from competition in the final round, except the winner of the opposing round which will be invited to compete in the final.
- d. In the event of any tie the time/faults will be taken into account for both qualifying rounds to determine the placings, on the following basis:-
  - (1) The dog with the least course faults in both the Agility and Jumping rounds takes the higher place.
  - (2) In the event that these dogs are still equal the dog with the fastest combined time takes the higher place.

**12. Special classes.**

- a. At all types of agility show societies may schedule classes other than those defined above, as 'special' classes. The eligibility for special classes must be defined by the society and included in the schedule. The word 'special' must be included in the title of the class.
- b. Where special classes are classified for older and/or inexperienced dogs, the height of the hurdles the A-Frame, and the dog walk, and the length of the long jump, may be reduced below the dimensions specified in these regulations, in which case such dimensions must be included in the class definition in the show schedule.
- c. Marking for special classes may deviate from marking for standard classes, but must be specified in the schedule. Special classes may be capped. Wins, places and clear rounds in special classes will not count towards agility warrant points or grade progression at Royal Kennel Club shows.

**13. Capped classes.**

- a. Organisers of open agility shows may set a capping level on the entries to be accepted in any standard or special class, and may decline entries received after the capping level has been reached.
- b. Organisers of limited agility shows may set a capping level on the entries to be accepted in any standard class, and may decline entries received after the capping level has been reached. Entries into special classes may be limited to any number (Regulation H(1)(D)2 refers).
- c. Wins and places in standard classes capped in accordance with this regulation will count towards progression, points progression and agility warrant points.

- d. The capping level must be set at a minimum of 250 entries received. There is no maximum level at which a cap may be set. Capped classes may be split into two or more parts in accordance with Regulation H(1)10.f.
- e. The capping level for each capped class must be clearly specified in the show schedule.
- f. The capping level applied may be adjusted upwards by a maximum of 10% after the closing date of a show at the discretion of the show organisers. Capping levels may not be adjusted downwards after publication of the schedule except with the prior permission of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club.
- g. Where total entries received exceed a capping level, entries must be processed in the order received. Processing of entry forms, and of online entries where applicable, must be managed so that the date of receipt of each entry is recorded. (It is permissible to set different opening and closing dates for online entries from those applying to postal entries.)
- h. Entry fees for entries which are received after the capping level has been exceeded must be refunded in full.
- i. Entry forms must allow competitors to specify, if their entry for any capped class is declined because the capping level has been reached:-
  - (i) that they wish the dog to remain entered in all other classes, or
  - (ii) that they wish their entire entry for the dog in question to be cancelled, or
  - (iii) that they wish their entire entry for all dogs they have entered at the show to be cancelledIn such cases the relevant entry fees must be refunded in full.
- j. Notifications under Regulation H10.h. (dogs which have progressed to the next grade) must be processed in order of the date of receipt of the notification.

## **SCHEDULE OF TESTS, COURSES, OBSTACLES AND MARKING**

### **1. Courses.**

- a. The following Regulations apply to the construction of courses:
- (1) All rings must be square or rectangular and the test area shall have a suitable surface. Outdoor rings must be a minimum of 1,024 square metres with no one side measuring less than 30m. Indoor rings are recommended to be 600 square metres but must be a minimum of 450 square metres with no one side measuring less than 15m. For outdoor all weather arenas of one or more rings that are enclosed by structure, fence or permanent barrier each ring is recommended to be 800 square metres but must be a minimum of 600 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. All indoor and outdoor all weather permanently enclosed rings for Prestige Events and/or Championship classes must be a minimum of 800 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. The ring area includes the space for officials, including the scime and ring party, but where possible the ring tent should be outside the ring area.
  - (2) Championship Class
    - (i) The Agility round (Large, Intermediate, Medium and Small) must contain the following elements: 'A' Frame, Dog Walk, See Saw, Hurdles, Hoop (Tyre), Long Jump, Pipe Tunnel and Weaving Poles, together with any other obstacles as described in these Regulations, at the discretion of the judge.
    - (ii) The Jumping round (Large, Intermediate, Medium and Small) must contain the following elements: Hurdles, Hoop (Tyre), Long Jump, Pipe Tunnel and Weaving Poles and must exclude contact obstacles.
    - (iii) The Final Agility round (Large, Intermediate, Medium and Small) must contain all the obstacles described in (i) of this Regulation, together with any other obstacles as described in these Regulations, at the discretion of the judge.
    - (iv) In the event of extreme adverse weather conditions at a show a judge, with the full agreement of the Show Manager, may omit any compulsory equipment as deemed appropriate at the time. Any omission to the equipment must be reported by the show management to the Royal Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show.
  - (3) Design—The course should require a dog to traverse at least 15 obstacles but not more than 20, with the exception of championship classes (jumping, agility and final) where the maximum number of obstacles must not exceed 22. All jump obstacles in any class should be the same height.  
All obstacles should have a minimum of 5m and up to a maximum of 10m between centres of consecutive obstacles using the straight line centre-to-centre method.

- (4) The first and last obstacles must be set a minimum of 5m from the edge of the ring, measured along the dog's most likely path when taking the obstacle, taking into account the dog's likely path from obstacle 1 to obstacle 2.
  - (5) Standard Class course time—An appropriate set time for each course shall be calculated by the judge, who shall take into account the course length, the height category of the dogs competing, and the grade or grades of the dogs competing in the relevant class, together with any other relevant factors. The course length must be measured by the judge using a commercially available measuring wheel, using the straight line distance between obstacle centres method. The set time shall be stated by the judge before judging commences.
  - (6) Safety—Obstacles and equipment in the test area must not include unnecessary protrusions and where 'wings' or side supports are part of an obstacle the inner upright of the wings must be a minimum of 900mm.
  - (7) Electronic timing gates—The only obstacles allowed at the start and finish of a Standard Agility or Jumping Course are; Hurdle, Wall, Spread Jump, Brush Jump, Long Jump, Tyre, Wishing Well, Pipe Tunnel. The electronic timing gates should be positioned within 30cm in front of the first obstacle and within 30cm after the last obstacle. The distance between the electronic timing gates should be no less than the width of the part of the obstacle the dog must negotiate. Whenever possible the timing gates should be placed within the width of the hurdle wings, or in the case of the Wall, within the pillars. For the Long Jump, Tyre, Wishing Well and Pipe Tunnel, the timing gates should be placed as close as possible to the outside edge of the obstacle without impeding the dog's natural path.  
N.B. This regulation should also apply if manual timing is used in conjunction with start/finish poles.
  - (8) Under NO circumstances may any obstacle involve the use of FIRE.
  - (9) Electronic timing equipment. For the Championship Class societies must provide suitable electronic timing equipment. Time will also be recorded manually but electronic time will take precedence.
- b. The judge is responsible for the design of the course and must at all times give total consideration to the safety of the dog.
  - c. No practice is allowed on the course save that competitors will be allowed to walk the course set at Small, Medium, Intermediate or Large height without their dog(s) before the class begins.

## **2. Height limit for dogs.**

- a. **Large Dogs** - For dogs measuring over 500mm at the withers.
- b. **Intermediate Dogs** - For dogs measuring over 430mm and measuring 500mm or under at the withers.
- c. **Medium Dogs** - For dogs measuring over 350mm and measuring 430mm or under at the withers.
- d. **Small Dogs** - For dogs measuring 350mm or under at the withers.

### 3. Obstacles.

The following obstacles meet with the approval of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club. Any changes to current obstacles (such as materials used, structure or style) or any other new obstacles must be submitted for approval by the Royal Kennel Club before being made available for use at its licensed events. All measurements of 1000mm or under may have a tolerance of plus or minus 5mm and measurements of over 1000mm may have a tolerance of plus or minus 10mm.

- a. **Hurdle**—The height of the hurdle must be 600mm for Large Dogs, 500mm for Intermediate Dogs, 400mm for Medium Dogs and 300mm for Small Dogs. Width: 1.2m minimum. All bars, planks and fillers must be easily displaced by the dog. The inner upright of the wings must be a minimum of 900mm with no unnecessary protrusions. The height of hurdles in special classes may be lower than those listed above, but the height(s) must be included in the schedule.
- b. **Wall**—The height of the wall must be 600mm for Large Dogs, 500mm for Intermediate Dogs, 400mm for Medium Dogs and 300mm for Small Dogs. Width: 1.2m minimum. All central units must be easily displaced by the dog and not interlocking with the pillars. Pillars with a minimum height of 900mm must be used. Central elements should have a uniform depth of 200mm. The wall must be constructed of an impact-absorbing material.
- c. **Rising spread jump**—A maximum of 2 single jumps as in item a-(Hurdle) placed together to form a double spread, there must be no more than 2 elements to this obstacle. The top bar on the first hurdle must be 400mm for Large Dogs, 300mm for Intermediate Dogs, 300mm for Medium Dogs and 200mm for Small Dogs. The maximum spread to be: Large Dogs - 550mm, Intermediate Dogs - 475mm, Medium Dogs - 400mm, Small Dogs - 300mm. There must be only one pole on each hurdle. The feet of the side supports (wings) should not be interlocking but can be touching and must not be out of line by more than 75mm. The back pole must be 1.5m in length. The front pole must be 1.4m in length.
- d. **Brush Fence**—Dimensions and details as for item a-(Hurdle). This obstacle must have an easily displaceable top unit.
- e. **Hoop-(Tyre)**—Aperture diameter 533mm minimum. Aperture centre from the ground: Large Dogs - 800mm. Intermediate Dogs - 650mm. Medium Dogs - 550mm. Small Dogs - 490mm. The hoop to be of a consistent shape, constructed of an impact-absorbing material. All tyres should have bands diagonally opposite each other in contrast to its basic colour or segments in contrasting colours. The tyre/hoop must be directly mounted in a substantial frame structure which must be secured in such a way that dogs cannot knock the obstacle over from either direction; the frame shall not have a beam across the top.  
All tyres must have easily displaced element(s). For saloon style tyres, both opening sides must have an ability to swing open to 90-140 degrees from the closed hoop position. They must not self-return and must be manually re-set.
- f. **Long Jump**—Each unit a minimum length of 1.2m. Large Dogs - To comprise 5 units the overall length to be between 1.3m and 1.5m. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be 381mm. Intermediate Dogs - to comprise 4 units, the overall length to be

between 1m and 1.2m. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be 305mm. Medium Dogs - To comprise 3 units the overall length to be between 700mm and 900mm. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be 229mm. Small Dogs - To comprise 2 units the overall length to be between 400mm and 600mm. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be 170mm. Marker poles with a minimum height of 1.2m shall be used, these should not be attached to any part of the obstacle. The units must be constructed of an impact-absorbing material & weighted at the base for stability. Each unit should be of uniform depth and a consistent shape.

- g. **Pipe Tunnel**—This obstacle must have a diameter of a minimum of 600mm must be a minimum of 3m in length. The tunnel may only curve in a single direction. The inner surface of the tunnel must have the same finish throughout.
- h. **Weaving Poles**—The number of poles should be six or twelve. The maximum number of weaves in a standard class is 12. They should be in a continuous line, as straight as possible and should be 600mm apart (between the poles). The poles must be of rigid construction and with a minimum height of 762mm and a diameter of 35mm. The base must have support bars at the bottom of each pole and they must be positioned away from the side a dog would normally negotiate each pole. The base must be of a rigid construction and poles must be made from a plastic pipe.
- i. **'A' Frame**—Two ramps 2.74m long by 914mm wide hinged at the apex 1.7m from the ground. The last 1.067m from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp to have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 152mm of the start of the contact area.
- j. **See-Saw**—This obstacle will consist of a plank firmly mounted on a central bracket. The plank must be 3.66m in length and 300mm in width. The height of the central bracket measured from the ground to the top of the plank must be 610mm. The maximum distance from the pivot point to the top of the plank should not be more than 100mm. The last 914mm from each end should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. The plank should have a non-slip surface with no slats. The See-Saw must start to tip and then touch the ground between 2–3 seconds after a weight of 1 kilogram has been placed in the middle of the down contact area.
- k. **Dog Walk**—A walk plank of approximately 1.2m measured from the ground to the top of the plank, with firmly fixed ramps at either end. The planks must be 3.66m in length and 300mm in width. The last 914mm from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp should have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 152mm of the start of a contact area.

#### 4. Height classification of dogs.

- (1) The provisions of sub-paragraphs (2) to (20) below shall not apply to dogs competing only in special classes at Limited Agility shows.

## H(1)(B)

- (2) All dogs must be measured for competition and must be at least 15 months old before their first measurement. Large dogs that are, in the official measurers' opinion, obviously over 500mm (prior to reaching 15 months of age) can be measured. Competitors must ensure that their dog is measured prior to their first competition and that the dog's Agility Record Book has been signed and dated by the measuring officials.
- (3) Dogs must be registered with the Royal Kennel Club on either the Breed or Activity Register before being measured.
- (4) A second measurement must be carried out on any dog that has had a first measurement between 12 and 24 months after the first (This excludes dogs measured Large with the second measure struck out by the measurers).
- (5) If the second measurement places the dog in the same height category as the first, this will be the final measurement. However, if the second measurement places the dog in a different category then a third measurement must be carried out within two calendar months by two measurers. The dog's height category will be that confirmed by two out of the three measurements. The dog should compete in the original height category until the final decision has been made.
- (6) For all measurements, neither measurer must have previously measured the dog nor must the dog be owned or part owned by them, owned by a partner, member of their family or been previously entered for competition by them.
- (7) The dog's signed Agility Record Book must be available for inspection by the show management and/or the judge on the date of any competition entered by the owner/handler.
- (8) The Royal Kennel Club will nominate officials authorised to measure dogs for competition and to sign the Agility Record Book. The record book must be notated 'small', 'medium', 'intermediate' or 'large' as determined by the official measurement.
- (9) Measurement must be carried out on a level and even surface, in a quiet place, separate from other dogs and handlers.
- (10) Measurement of the dog's height will be taken from the ground to the highest point of the withers. The dog must be standing squarely with all four legs on the ground, neither stretched nor crouched. The dog's head should be in a natural position.
- (11) A dog will be eligible to compete in small, medium or intermediate height categories only after the official measurement has been carried out. Where a dog is measured out of the height category in which it has been entered it is permissible, at the discretion of the organising club, for entries to be altered in order that the dog can compete at the correct height category.
- (12) In the event of a dispute over the measuring procedure the Royal Kennel Club will evaluate whether there are grounds for appeal. The owner/handler of the dog may appeal in writing to the Royal Kennel Club, but must do so within seven days of the disputed measure having taken place. Any appeal must be accompanied by a written statement from the owner/handler of the dog with a brief description as to the ground for the appeal and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee.

- (13) An additional measurement may be requested by the Royal Kennel Club or a Royal Kennel Club approved championship agility judge. The dog in question must have already had its final official Royal Kennel Club measurement. The judge need not be officiating on the day the additional measurement is requested but must be in attendance at the show. No fee will be required from either the judge or the handler/owner. Any large dog which has not been through the measuring process shall not be eligible for an additional measurement.
- (14) The request for an additional measurement must be recorded in the show's incident book and lodged in writing at the Royal Kennel Club within 14 days. The Royal Kennel Club will advise the owner/handler of the dog of the requirement for an additional measure.
- (15) The additional measurement must be completed within 2 months of the request being received at the Royal Kennel Club and must be undertaken by two measurers appointed by the Royal Kennel Club from the list of senior measurers.
- (16) The dog will continue competing at its current height until the additional measurement has been completed the Royal Kennel Club will confirm the results of the additional measure in due course.
- (17) The height recorded at the additional measurement will take immediate effect.
- (18) The additional measurement can only be undertaken once in a dog's lifetime
- (19) At any time should an owner request to move a dog into the next higher height category they may do so, and it will be for the lifetime of the dog, with no further changes of height permitted. If the dog's owner(s) wish to take this course of action the dog's record book should, with the written permission of the owner(s) or in the presence of an owner, be signed by 2 senior measurers without being measured. In the case of a dog in joint ownership written permission must be provided from all of the owners. Alternatively the record book should be sent to the Royal Kennel Club with a request that the dog's height be amended with a letter from the owner(s) giving consent for this to happen.

## 5. Marking.

- a. Standard marking.

### **All course faults in multiples of 5. For time faults see paragraph b below.**

- (1) See-Saw—must be touching the ground before the dog alights from the obstacle. A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the pivot point.
- (2) Long Jump—A clean attempt should be made to clear the obstacle. Casual contact with the fore or hind legs will not be faulted. However, running past, jumping in and out to the side of the marker poles, or walking on or between the elements where no attempt has been made to clear the obstacle will be faulted as a refusal. Knocking down one or more elements will be marked as 5 faults.
- (3) Hurdle/Wall—a dog should not be faulted if any part of the obstacle is touched and does not fall.

## H(1)(B)

- (4) Weaving poles—The dog to enter the weaving poles with the first pole adjacent to its left side. Each incorrect entry to be classed as a refusal—further error, maximum 5 faults—failure to complete correctly before negotiating any further obstacle, elimination.
  - (5) A Frame—a dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the down ramp.
  - (6) Dog Walk—A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the down plank.
  - (7) Tyre—5 faults for displacing any part of the tyre. If the dog displaces any part of the tyre without negotiating it and making it impossible for it to be negotiated successfully – elimination.
  - (8) All other obstacles—5 faults for failure to negotiate correctly.
  - (9) Handler deliberately touching any piece of equipment or their dog—5 faults.
  - (10) Refusal/runout—5 faults for each refusal/runout.
  - (11) Start—Starting prior to instruction may result in elimination. If the dog runs by the first obstacle it should be faulted with a refusal.
  - (12) Three refusals/runouts—elimination.
  - (13) Out of control—elimination.
  - (14) Taking the wrong course—elimination.
  - (15) Fouling the ring—elimination.
  - (16) Contact areas  
'A' Frame and dog walk: The dog must touch the ascending ramp. Failure to do so - elimination. The dog must touch the down contact with at least one paw or part of a paw. Failure to do so - 5 faults. The dog is considered to have left the obstacle when all four paws are on the ground.  
See-saw: the dog must touch both the up and down contacts with at least one paw or part of a paw. Failure to do so - 5 faults each time it occurs.  
The dog is considered to have left the obstacle when all four paws are on the ground.
  - (17) Course time—at the judges discretion.
  - (18) Dog wearing incorrect style of collar—elimination.
  - (19) Any double handling or deliberate assistance given to a competitor whilst competing from either inside or outside the ring will result in elimination.
  - (20) Handler traverses over, under or through any piece of equipment – elimination.
- b. Cumulative marking/time faults—Faults incurred for failure to negotiate obstacles will be added to the faults incurred for failure to complete the course in the set time. A single fault or part thereof will be added for each second or part thereof over the set time. Actual time will be recorded and rounding up or rounding down is not permitted.
  - c. Should the judge deem a re-run is required, any result and/or faults gained in the previous run must be discounted.
  - d. Other marking—Any variation in the form of marking must be clearly defined to all competitors prior to competition. There will be no variation to standard marking in standard classes or Championship Agility Classes.

## **SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR AGILITY MATCHES**

The following Regulations must be read in conjunction with Regulations H and H(1)

1. An agility match may be a competition between club members or an inter-club competition between associations, clubs, societies or branches of clubs.

2. Only registered clubs, societies, dog training clubs and listed status agility clubs may hold agility matches.

3. A club may hold up to 12 agility matches per annum. In the case of clubs which have registered branches, each branch may hold up to 12 agility matches per annum.

### **4. Application.**

- a. Application for authority to hold matches is to be included within the annual return required under Regulation C.4.b.
- b. On the day of the event a current public liability insurance document must be held or the event will be deemed to be unrecognised.

### **5. Regulations.**

- a. A dog must, at the time of competition, be registered at the Royal Kennel Club. Exhibits must be the property of members of one of the associations, clubs, societies or branches competing in the agility match.
- b. The committee of the organising club may reserve the right to refuse any entry on reasonable grounds.
- c. No dogs suffering from any infectious or contagious disease or having been exposed to such disease during the period of 21 days prior to the match may compete. Competitors infringing this Regulation will be liable to be fined and/or dealt with under Royal Kennel Club Rule A11.
- d. Prize cards, diplomas or other printed awards may be awarded at Agility Matches provided such awards are clearly over printed 'MATCH'.
- e. Not more than 2 special prizes shall be awarded at agility matches.
- f. The organising club shall keep a list of the names of all competing dogs with awards, and the name and addresses of their owners for a period of 12 months from the date of the match.
- g. Dogs, which have won an agility certificate 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.

## SPECIFIC REGULATIONS FOR LIMITED AGILITY SHOWS

The following Regulations must be read in conjunction with Regulations H and H(1)

### 1. Permission to hold agility shows.

- a. The Board shall have the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any licensed agility show.
- b. Any cancellation or abandonment of a competition without prior permission of the Board must be reported in writing to the Royal Kennel Club without delay.

### 2. Type of show.

**Limited agility shows** are shows at which the classes (except for standard classes) may be limited by numbers of class entries, overall numbers of entries, specific breeds, residence of competitors, membership of societies or organisations or otherwise subject to the approval of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club. A maximum of four standard classes including a maximum of two graded classes, and any number of special classes may be scheduled, other than qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club sponsored or sanctioned competitions.

### 3. Licences.

- a. A Royal Kennel Club registered or affiliated society or other organisation approved by the Board may apply to the Royal Kennel Club for a licence to hold a limited agility show.
- b. Applications for a limited agility licence must be made at least six months before the date of the show, specifying the name of the responsible person to whom the licence is to be issued, the venue, date and relevant fee.
- c. A limited agility show may schedule an unlimited number of special agility classes and up to four standard classes (which may be capped) including a maximum of two graded classes.
- d. Limited agility shows may be held as separate events or in conjunction with other Royal Kennel Club licensed shows or trials including breed, obedience or heelwork to music shows, except that they may not be held in conjunction with any other licensed agility show.

### 4. Jurisdiction and responsibilities.

- a. The responsible person(s) named on the licence of a limited agility show shall be liable for the organisation of the show and that it is run under the rules and regulations of the Royal Kennel Club.
- b. The provisions of Regulation H7 (Jurisdiction and responsibilities) shall apply to the organisers of a limited agility show.

### 5. Schedule.

A schedule must be produced for each show and must conform to the current Royal Kennel Club specimen schedule for the relevant type of show. A copy of the schedule must be available at the show and produced on request.

**6. Entries.**

- a. Dogs over the age of 18 months on the day of competition are eligible to be entered in a limited agility show. They must be registered at the Royal Kennel Club in accordance with Regulation H10.e. (Entry for Competition). Dogs entered in standard classes at limited agility shows must, at the time of competition, have been officially measured for agility.
- b. The closing date for entries to standard classes at limited agility shows must be at least 14 days before the date of the show. The closing date for special classes may be at the organiser's discretion, and organisers may, if they so wish, accept entries for special classes on the day of the event. Closing dates must be specified on the show schedule.
- c. Organisers may limit entries at their discretion on any basis, except that entries for standard classes at limited agility shows may only be limited by being capped in accordance with Regulation H(1)(A)12. – Capped Classes.
- d. Limits and capping levels must be published in the show schedule. Entry fees for entries which are received after the limit or capping level has been exceeded must be refunded in full.
- e. Entry forms must be completed for all dogs entered, including those entered on the day. They must be retained by the show organisers for 12 months from the date of the show and forwarded to the Royal Kennel Club on request.

**7. Documentation.**

Limited agility shows must display on the day of the event the Royal Kennel Club licence and a current third party liability insurance certificate. They must have available at the event all entry forms, a copy of the current Royal Kennel Club Regulations, a copy of the show schedule and an official Royal Kennel Club incident book.

**8. Competition – Standard classes.**

- a. Standard classes at limited agility shows must include the word 'Standard' in the title of the class.
- b. Standard classes must conform to all relevant H Regulations, in particular Regulations H(1) and H(1)(A) regarding eligibility, courses, obstacles and marking.
- c. Wins and places in standard classes at limited shows will count towards progression or points progression to the next Grade, and/or agility warrant points.
- d. Standard classes at limited agility shows may only be limited by being capped in accordance with Regulation H(1)(A)12.

**9. Competition – Special classes.**

The following regulations apply only to special classes held at limited agility shows:-

- a. Special classes at limited agility shows must include the word 'special' in their title.
- b. Eligibility and rules for special classes must be defined by the organisers and published in the show schedule.
- c. Special classes may only make use of the approved agility obstacles set out in Regulation H(1)(B)3., subject to the following:-
  - i. Show organisers may reduce heights, lengths or dimensions of obstacles at their discretion and may define dog height categories which differ from those in Regulation H(1)(B)2 provided that the safety and welfare of competing dogs is not jeopardised.

- ii. However in the interests of the safety and welfare of dogs, the width of the dog walk and see-saw planks and the diameters of the hoop (tyre) or tunnels may not be reduced, nor may dogs be required to negotiate obstacles where the height or length to be cleared exceed those specified in Regulation H(1)(B)3. for their height category.
- iii. The dog height definitions and obstacle dimensions are to be specified in the show schedule.
- d. Marking for special classes may deviate from marking for standard classes; any such deviation must be specified in the show schedule.
- e. Silent toys may be used in the rings, at the discretion of the organisers, but must be used with consideration for other competitors. Except for mobility aids or silent toys, nothing shall be carried in the hand while the dog is under test and food shall not be carried in the hand or given to a dog whilst in the ring - elimination.
- f. Wins, places and clear rounds in special classes will not count towards Agility Warrant points or grade progression at Royal Kennel Club shows.

## **10. Judging.**

At limited agility shows,

- a. judges are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Royal Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice as published from time to time;
- b. there are no specific minimum requirements for judges of special classes, but organisers should ensure that judges are competent to judge;
- c. judges of special classes may judge their spouses or close family members;
- d. judges of special or standard classes may enter/handle a dog in one or more special classes at the show at which they are judging, but not in a standard class nor in a special class which they are judging;
- e. judges of standard classes must meet all the criteria set out in Regulation H19 (Judges and Judging).

## **11. Safety and welfare, control of dogs and conduct.**

For the safety and well-being of dogs and handlers, the following Regulations shall apply fully to Limited Agility shows:

- i. Regulation H3. – Welfare of Dogs
- ii. Regulation H7. – Jurisdiction and responsibilities
- iii. Regulation H11. – Control of Dogs
- iv. Regulation H13. – Removal of Dogs from Competition
- v. Regulation H14. – Competition of Dogs Suffering from Contagious or Infectious Disease
- vi. Regulation H16. – Veterinary Support
- vii. Regulation H20. – Dog Fouling
- viii. Regulation H24. – Objections
- ix. Regulation H25. – Fraudulent or Discreditable Conduct at Agility Shows
- x. Regulation H26. – Penalty for Infringement of Royal Kennel Club Rules by Agility Show Management
- xi. Regulation H28. – Penalties
- xii. Regulation H29. – Payment and Delivery of Prize Money and Printed Awards
- xiii. Regulation H30. – Order of Merit when Dogs are Disqualified
- xiv. Regulation H31. – Delegated Powers of the Scottish Kennel Club.

## INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE DUTIES OF AGILITY SHOW MANAGERS

### 1. Experiences and Qualifications.

The Show Manager should have a sound knowledge of the Kennel Club Rules and H Regulations.

### 2. Responsibilities.

- a. To ensure that competitors and judges abide by the Kennel Club Rules and H Regulations.
- b. To act as decision maker in all matters relating to the Kennel Club Rules and H Regulations for the duration of the show.
- c. To fully document all decisions and actions taken in relation to the H Regulations in the show's Kennel Club Incident Book.
- d. To support the show management team in the smooth running of the show.

### 3. Duties.

- a. In the event of extreme adverse weather conditions at a show a judge, with the full agreement of the Show Manager, may omit any compulsory equipment as deemed appropriate at the time. Any alterations must be recorded in the show's Kennel Club Incident Book and be reported, by the show management, to the Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show.
- b. Should a judge be prevented from completing a class which has already started, the Show Manager shall decide what action is to be taken. Guidance is covered in the Code of Best Practice for Agility Judges and Stewards.
- c. The Show Manager in conjunction with the show management must act to remove a dog from the show under the conditions of the Removal of Dogs from Competition Regulation.
- d. If there are any concerns over the suitability of a course the Show Manager must consult with the relevant judge, and if available Accredited Trainers, and agree the proposed course of action
- e. Any complaints or matters arising at the show should be referred, in the first instance to the Show Manager, who may consult with other members of the show management before taking appropriate action. All incidents, even if they are resolved on the day of the show, must be recorded in the Kennel Club Incident Book and be reported, by the show management, to the Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show.

## 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.
  - (8) Winners of first, second or third Prizes in Championship Agility Class at championship agility shows.

### 2. Championship qualifications.

- g. *Title of Agility Champion (Ag Ch)*. The following dogs shall be entitled to be described as Agility Champion.
  - (1) Large agility dogs.
    - (a) Any dog awarded three Agility Certificates under three different judges, in accordance with the Royal Kennel Club Regulations for the Championship Agility Classes.
    - (b) Any dog which has won a Royal Kennel Club Agility Championship.
  - (2) Intermediate Agility Dogs
    - (a) Any dog awarded three Agility Certificates under three different judges, in accordance with the Royal Kennel Club Regulations for the Championship Agility Classes.
    - (b) Any dog which has won a Royal Kennel Club Agility Championship.
  - (3) Medium agility dogs.
    - (a) Any dog awarded three Agility Certificates under three different judges, in accordance with the Royal Kennel Club Regulations for the Championship Agility Classes.
    - (b) Any dog which has won a Royal Kennel Club Agility Championship.
  - (4) Small agility dogs.
    - (a) Any dog awarded three Agility Certificates under three different judges, in accordance with the Royal Kennel Club Regulations for the Championship Agility Classes.
    - (b) Any dog which has won a Royal Kennel Club Agility Championship.

## Excerpt from K

### 3. Warrants.

#### d. *Agility Warrants*

An Agility Warrant will be issued on application by the registered owner at the time of qualification in respect of a dog that has obtained points in standard agility and jumping classes. At least 25% of points must be gained in agility (as opposed to jumping) classes. Points will be awarded at any level but may not be gained in any part of the Championship class. Points will also only be awarded where the dog has obtained a clear round within the course time. The requirements for the five levels of warrant, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond are:

Bronze	200 points (minimum of 50 points in agility)
Silver	400 points (minimum of 100 points in agility)
Gold	800 points (minimum of 200 points in agility)
Platinum	1200 points (minimum of 300 points in agility)
Diamond	1600 points (minimum of 400 points in agility)

The additional points required for the Platinum and Diamond awards must be gained since 1 January 2016.

The following titles may be used after the name of the dog on show entries and in catalogues.

Bronze	AW(B)
Silver	AW(S)
Gold	AW(G)
Platinum	AW(P)
Diamond	AW(D)

Points awarded will be as follows:

#### **Standard Agility classes**

(clear rounds only)

1st place	20 points
2nd place	19 points
3rd place	18 points
4th place	17 points
5th place	16 points
6th place	15 points
7th place	14 points
8th place	13 points
9th place	12 points
10th place	11 points

#### **Standard Jumping classes**

(clear rounds only)

1st place	10 points
2nd place	9 points
3rd place	8 points
4th place	7 points
5th place	6 points
6th place	5 points
7th place	4 points
8th place	3 points
9th place	2 points
10th place	1 point

## **Excerpt from K**

Points will also be awarded for clear rounds within the course time as follows:

Standard Agility Classes            2 points

Standard Jumping Classes        1 point

Where less than 10 places are awarded in any class a competitor obtaining a clear round not in the places will be awarded the points applicable for a clear round in that class, i.e. 2 points for an agility class and 1 point for a jumping class.

## ROYAL KENNEL CLUB REGULATIONS FOR CLASSIFICATION AND REGISTRATION

*As at 1st January 2026*

### **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.

**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**

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*As at 1st January 2026*

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**5. General**

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

**Contact Details for Liaison Council Representatives - Agility**

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## AGILITY REGULATION AMENDMENTS

### Amendment to regulation H5

Regulation H5. Application

**TO:**

The application for a licence to hold an agility show must be made to the Secretary of the Royal Kennel Club together with the appropriate licence fee, at least ~~6 weeks~~ **six months** before the proposed date of the competition.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

### Amendment to regulation H.9.C.(14)

Regulation H.9.C.(14)

**TO:**

A statement that in estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including ~~25~~ **18** days before the start of the competition shall be counted when entering for any class. For these purposes a competition shall be defined as all classes covered within the same schedule. In the event that a dog becomes eligible for the next grade at a particular show, after the entry for that show has been sent, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the show secretary or the show processor at least 14 days before the date of the show. The dog should then be moved into the appropriate class(es) for the next grade. The dog must be moved into the corresponding number of classes as were entered at the lower grade. If there are fewer or no classes available for the next grade the competitor should be offered a refund of the relevant entry fees. **Failure to notify the show secretary or processor at least 14 days before the date of the show will result in the dog being ineligible to compete at that show.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H.10.h

Regulation H.10.h

**TO:**

In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including ~~25~~ **18** days before the start of the competition shall be counted when entering for any class. For these purposes a competition shall be defined as all classes covered within the same schedule. In the event that a dog becomes eligible for the next grade at a particular show, after the entry for that show has been sent, it is the competitor's responsibility to notify the show secretary or the show processor at least 14 days before the date of the show. The dog should then be moved into the appropriate class(es) for the next grade. The dog must be moved into the corresponding number of classes as were entered at the lower grade. If there are fewer or no classes available for the next grade the competitor should be offered a refund of the relevant entry fees. **Failure to notify the show secretary or processor at least 14 days before the date of the show will result in the dog being ineligible to compete at that show.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H19.b.(4)

Regulation H19.b.(4)

**TO:**

(4) have judged Royal Kennel Club qualifier~~(s)~~**s** in each height category for Crufts, Discover Dogs, or the Royal Kennel Club Agility Stakes (excluding YKC classes) **at a minimum of 2 licensed agility shows**, and

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H19.b.(8)

Regulation H19.b.(8)

**TO:**

(8) have attended a Royal Kennel Club Agility Judges Seminar and passed the assessment **within the last 5 years**, or

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)3.a - c

Regulation H(1)3.a-c.

**TO:**

Licensed agility 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 are:

- a. Championship agility shows – Open to all competitors, except where a qualification for entry has been approved by the Board of the Royal Kennel Club. Royal Kennel Club Agility Certificates are on offer. ~~Any number of standard or special classes may be scheduled,~~ **A maximum of four standard classes and any number of special classes may be scheduled**, including qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club competitions. Only Royal Kennel Club registered societies are eligible for these licences.
- b. Premier agility shows – Open to all competitors. ~~Any number of standard or special classes may be scheduled,~~ **A maximum of four standard classes and any number of special classes may be scheduled**, including qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club competitions. Only Royal Kennel Club registered societies are eligible for these licences.
- c. Open agility shows – Open to all competitors. ~~Any number of standard or special classes may be scheduled,~~ **A maximum of four standard classes and any number of special classes may be scheduled**, except qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club competitions.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)4

Regulation H(1)4. 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)

Amendment to regulation H(1)8.a

Regulation H(1)8.a - Ballot for championship running orders.

**TO:**

Agility Round and Jumping Round – A draw for the running order of the Agility and Jumping Rounds must be made prior to the show. The relevant competitors must be notified before the day of the show. **Where a handler has more than one dog entered in the same Championship Class, the dogs will, where entries permit, be drawn with a minimum of 20 places between them. Where there are insufficient entries to allow this spacing, the maximum separation possible must be applied.** The dogs must run in the order in which they are drawn. ~~and unless agreed otherwise by the judge, in conjunction with the show manager, who may, in exceptional circumstances, relax the running order, by no more than 10 dogs.~~

**If a handler is competing in more than one championship height category on the same day, the judge, in conjunction with the show manager may relax the running order by no more than 20 dogs.**

All such decisions must be recorded in the Show's Incident Book.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)9.b

Regulation H(1)9.b

**TO:**

The winner of each round will be invited to the final, in addition to the top 50% of the entry, up to a maximum of 20 dogs from the combined results of the two qualifying rounds, making the final a maximum of 22 dogs. The winner of the jumping round will run first in the final, the winner of the agility round will run second in the final, **unless it has qualified through the normal route, in which case it will be in the standard running order.** If the winner of either of the two qualifying rounds are in the top 50% of the entry, up to a maximum of 20 dogs, then the 'win on spot' will not transfer down to the 2<sup>nd</sup> placed dog. The winner of each round must have competed in both qualifying rounds.

(Insertions in bold. Effective date - immediate effect.)

Amendment to regulation H(1)9.e

Regulation H(1)9.e.

**TO:**

**A dog having been eliminated in either qualifying round will not be eligible for the final, except the winner of the opposing round which will be invited to compete in the final.**

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)(A).5.

Regulation H(1)(A) 5.

**TO:**

A maximum of four standard classes may be scheduled for any dog on an individual day of competition **including a maximum of two graded classes**. Any number of special classes may be scheduled.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)(A)11.c

Regulation H(1)(A)11.c

**TO:**

**c. Elimination in either of the qualifying rounds will exclude the dog from competition in the final round, except the winner of the opposing round which will be invited to compete in the final.**

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)(B)1.(3)

Regulation H(1)(B)1.(3) Design

**TO:**

Design—The course should require a dog to traverse at least 15 obstacles but not more than 20, **with the exception of Championship classes (jumping, agility and final) where the maximum number of obstacles must not exceed 22.**

All jump obstacles in any class should be the same height. All obstacles should have a minimum of 5m and up to a maximum of 10m between centres of consecutive obstacles using the straight line centre-to-centre method.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)(B)3.l. and H(1)(B)3.m.

Regulation H(1)(B)3.l and H(1)(B) 3.m.

**TO:**

- l. See-Saw—This obstacle will consist of a plank firmly mounted on a central bracket. ~~The length of the plank must be 3.66m. The width must be 295mm minimum and 305mm maximum.~~ **The plank must be 3.66m in length and 300mm in width.** The height of the central bracket measured from the ground to the top of the plank must be 610mm. The maximum distance from the pivot point to the top of the plank should not be more than 100mm. The last 914mm from each end should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. The plank should have a non-slip surface with no slats. The See-Saw must start to tip and then touch the ground between 2–3 seconds after a weight of 1 kilogram has been placed in the middle of the down contact area.
- m. Dog Walk—A walk plank of approximately 1.2m measured from the ground to the top of the plank, with firmly fixed ramps at either end. The planks must be 3.66m in length and **300mm** ~~a minimum of 254mm and a maximum of 305mm~~ in width. The last 914mm from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp should have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 152mm of the start of a contact area.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)(D)2.

Regulation H(1)(D) 2.

**TO:**

Type of show

Limited agility shows are shows at which the classes (except for standard classes) may be limited by numbers of class entries, overall numbers of entries, specific breeds, residence of competitors, membership of societies or organisations or otherwise subject to the approval of the Board of the Royal Kennel Club. A maximum of four standard classes **including a maximum of two graded classes**, and any number of special classes may be scheduled, other than qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club sponsored or sanctioned competitions.

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)(D)3.b.

Regulation H(1)(D)3.b. Licences

**TO:**

- b. Applications for a limited agility licence must be made at least ~~42 days~~ **six months** before the date of the show, specifying the name of the responsible person to whom the licence is to be issued, the venue, date and relevant fee.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

Amendment to regulation H(1)(D)3.c.

Regulation H(1)(D) 3.c.

**TO:**

A limited agility show may schedule an unlimited number of special agility classes and up to four standard classes (which may be capped) **including a maximum of two graded classes.**

(Deletion struck through. Insertion in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2026)

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