

Young  
Royal  
Kennel Club



YRKC HTM  
(HTM & FREESTYLE)



HEELWORK TO MUSIC  
RULES 2026 (CRUFTS 2027)



# YRKC HEELWORK TO MUSIC

## YRKC HANDLING RULES - CHANGE LOG

1. Changes Dated 27/03/2026 – (v1.0 to v1.1).
  - i. Changed all YKC logos to YRKC.
  - ii. Changed all mention of YKC to YRKC.
  - iii. Changed all mention of Kennel Club to Royal Kennel Club.
  - iv. Added a new section (G) to the document to outline Crufts health testing requirement for RFG breeds.
  - v. Reworded section H.1.ii and H.1.ii.a for syntax



# YRKC HEELWORK TO MUSIC

## A: HANDLERS

1. The following two YRKC Heelwork competitions are available for members to compete in:
2. Only current YRKC members may compete in YRKC competitions.

### YRKC HTM: HEELWORK

- STARTERS
- NOVICE
- INTERMEDIATE
- ADVANCED

### YRKC HTM: FREESTYLE

- STARTERS
- NOVICE
- INTERMEDIATE
- ADVANCED

3. Members must be between 06-24 Years old on the first day of Crufts to be eligible to submit points for qualification.

## B: DOGS

1. Dogs must be at least the following age
  - i. Heelwork competitions: 12 calendar months
  - ii. Freestyle competitions: 18 calendar months.
2. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YRKC HTM competitions.
3. Dogs must be registered with the Royal Kennel Club when entering Royal Kennel Club licenced shows.
  - i. Dogs can either be registered on the breed register or the activity register.
4. Food & Toys shall not be carried in the hand or given to a dog in the ring.

## C: YRKC HTM JUDGING CRITERIA

1. YRKC HTM classes are judged using the same criteria as would be expected for the standard Royal Kennel Club classes (L Regulations).
2. If this document should clash with a rule in the L regulations, this documents rule will supersede the L regulations.
3. All requirements on track length and marking criteria will be in line with the L regulations in force at the time.

## D: YRKC HTM QUALIFICATION POINTS

1. To qualify for YRKC HTM at Crufts, YRKC members may submit their highest single score (out of 30) that they achieved during the qualifying year
  - i. The mark must have been awarded at a Royal Kennel Club licenced show in a standard class.
  - ii. The mark must have been obtained both;
    - a. between 01-Nov-2025 and 31-Oct-2026 for qualification to Crufts 2027.
    - b. By the YRKC member and dog combination looking to qualify.
2. After the closing date for submitting scores has passed, two leaderboards will be created;
  - i. One for HTM Heelwork and one for HTM Freestyle
    - a. The highest 8 submitted scores on both leaderboards will be invited to compete at Crufts 2026.
      - (1) This will NOT be further subdivided by level or age, instead, all members who submit scores will be placed in the leaderboard together.
3. The points will be submitted on the YRKC website via a form.
4. A Dog may only appear on each leaderboard once.



# YRKC HEELWORK TO MUSIC

## E: HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR HTM?

1. You may submit scores for up to two dogs per class i.e.
2. **Up to 2 dogs for HTM: Freestyle**
3. **Up to 2 dogs for HTM: Heelwork**
  - i. The YRKC will add your dog with the highest score to the leaderboard first
  - ii. If there are still spaces left to fill after everyone's highest scoring dogs have been added, the YRKC will add in members 2<sup>nd</sup> highest to the leaderboard until all spaces are filled.
4. Any member submitting points for 3 or more dogs will have the dog with the lowest removed from the entries until only 2 remain.
5. The YRKC will invite successful YRKC members to enter Crufts via email before Christmas

---

## F: YRKC HTM AT CRUFTS

1. **By entering a YRKC class, the YRKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YRKC's Code of Conduct.**
2. Unless otherwise specified in this document, YRKC HTM classes will be subject to all in-force Royal Kennel Club regulations for HTM competitions. Including, but not limited to:
  - i. (L) Regulations for Heelwork to Music
  - ii. (O) Regulations for The Young Royal Kennel Club
3. If you have successfully qualified for Crufts, you and your dog must compete at the level you would compete at when entering a standard Royal Kennel Club class.
4. The classes at Crufts must be run in strict running order, if you miss your allocated time, you will be unable to compete.
5. The running order will be generated pseudo-randomly
  - i. The YRKC will initially do a completely random draw, if a YRKC member does have two dogs in a class, and those dogs get drawn one after the other, the YRKC may manipulate the running order to ensure there is a gap between dogs to ensure the smooth running of the ring. If the YRKC does do this, we will NOT alter which of the two dogs is set to be run first.
6. In each class, the levels of dog will be grouped together. The levels will always be run;
  - i. Starters
  - ii. Novice
  - iii. Intermediate
  - iv. Advanced
7. You must submit your music to the YRKC with your Crufts entry
  - i. The music should be in MP3 format
  - ii. When naming your MP3 – please call it the song name, then your name and the class
    - a. E.g. "Night Fever – Joe Bloggs – Freestyle"
  - iii. The music must not contain any profane language and the lyrics and content must be suitable for all ages
  - iv. Please edit the track to begin and end where you require.
8. You will also be required to bring a CD of your track as a backup



## G ■ ■

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

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



# YRKC HEELWORK TO MUSIC

## H ■ COSTUMES, PROPS & SPONSORSHIP

1. You are permitted to use props in line with the L regulations
  - i. In addition to the L regulations:
    - a. NO FIREARMS (real or imitation)
      - (1) Anything that looks like a gun is off limits
    - b. NO EXPLOSIVES (Real or imitation)
  - ii. Ensure your props are able to free-stand and remain in position once placed
    - a. *n.b. Please note that the air conditioning in the NEC is quite strong.*
  - iii. Props may not feature any sponsorship logo.
2. Any outfit worn must be in line with L regulations
  - i. In addition, any costume must be suitable for a family friendly audience.
    - a. The competitor shall ensure that the costume is suitable for the planned routine, and that, if there is a possibility that the costume may become revealing during the routine, sufficient clothing should be worn beneath the costume to ensure the competitors modesty.
    - b. Costumes should be free from sponsorship logos/brands.

---

## ■ YRKC HTM - PRESENTATION

1. The following awards will be presented in the YRKC ring for the YRKC HTM Finals:

### YRKC HTM: HEELWORK

- STARTERS
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- NOVICE
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- INTERMEDIATE
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- ADVANCED
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

### YRKC HTM: FREESTYLE

- STARTERS
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- NOVICE
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- INTERMEDIATE
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>
- ADVANCED
  - 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>

2. All YRKC unplaced competitors in the YRKC HTM finals will receive a YRKC Finalist Rosette, these must be collected upon exit from the presentation.