Changes to Agility Regulations for 2027

The Royal Kennel Club has approved the following changes to the regulations for Agility.

The below deletion removes an outdated regulation for unlicenced events.

Removal of Regulation H6
TO:
~~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.~~

(Deletions struck through. Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The following is an addition to the H regulations for all disciplines to clarify the position regarding refunds issued following the closing date of entries.

Addition to regulations H10.e
TO:
The closing date for entries shall form the contract between the competitor and the society. Where a dog is withdrawn from competition after the closing date for entries, no refund of fee(s) paid shall be due.

(Insertion in bold. Subsequent regulations to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The below amendment relates to the removal of the objection fee as part of the complaints process.

Regulation H25.a
TO:
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.~~

(deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Regulation H(1)(B)4.(12)

TO:

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.~~

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The below amendments to the H regulations change the number of standard classes permitted at Limited shows to 5 due to the addition of Micro height in 2027 and also includes additional clarification for all show types.

Regulations H(1)3 and H(1)(D)

TO:

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 **per dog** 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 **per dog** 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 **per dog** 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~~ **five** standard classes **in total (with a maximum of four per dog)** and any number of special classes may be scheduled, other than qualifying heats for Royal Kennel Club competitions. (Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through.)

   (Effective 1 January 2027)

Regulation H(1)(D)2. Type of show.

TO:

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~~ **five** 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.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

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

TO:

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

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The below amendment allows for multiple heights to walk the course together if there are low entries.

Regulation H(1)(B)1.c.

TO:

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. **It is permitted to combine a maximum of 3 consecutive heights for course walking when there is less than 40 combined entries across the heights. If the decision is made to combine heights for course walking it must be communicated prior to the day of the show to competitors and ideally at the time of publication of the ring plan.**

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

The following amendments remove the restriction to the tyre to open to 90-140. It also corrects the wording to align with the removal of the Wishing Well in 2025 and removes the option to use the tyre as a start/finish obstacle, due to the potential impact on the timing gates.

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

TO:

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.

(Deletions struck through.)

Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(7)

TO:

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.

(Deletions struck through.)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Micro Height

The following amendments to the H regulations relate to the introduction of Micro height. Find out more about the new Micro Height category here: Positive steps for Agility with the introduction of a new Micro Height category.

Regulation H(1)(B)2

TO:

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 **over 280mm and measuring** 350mm or under at the withers

e. Micro Dogs - For dogs measuring 280mm or under at the withers.

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Regulation H(1)(B)3

TO:

3. Obstacles

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**, and 200mm for Micro Dogs.**

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 **and 200mm for micro dogs**.

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. **The rising spread jump is not permitted to be used for Micro Dogs.**

e. Hoop - (Tyre) - Aperture diameter 533mm minimum. Aperture centre from the ground: Large Dogs - 800mm. Intermediate Dogs - 650mm. Medium Dogs - 550mm. Small **and Micro Dogs** - 490mm.

f. Long Jump - Small **and Micro 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.

(Insertions in bold)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

<u>Regulation H(1)(B)4</u>

TO:

(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

‘**micro’**, 'small', 'medium', 'intermediate' or 'large' as determined by the official measurement.

(Insertions in bold.)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Regulation H(1)(B)4

TO:

(11) A dog will be eligible to compete in ~~small, medium or intermediate~~ **any** 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.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)

Regulation H(1)(A)1:

TO:

This classification should apply to competitions for large, intermediate, medium ~~and~~, small **and micro** dogs.

(Insertions in bold. Deletions struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2027)