

**MEETING OF THE AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY 16 JANUARY 2020 AT 10.00 AM IN THE BOARDROOM,
THE KENNEL CLUB, CLARGES STREET**

A G E N D A

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2019 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. Amendments to Regulations H(1)(B)1.a.(iii), H(1)(B)3. And H(1)(B)5.
The Board, at its meeting on 8 October 2019 approved the following amendments:

Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(iii):

TO:

The Final Agility round (Large, Intermediate, Medium and Small) ~~may contain the Table obstacle and~~ 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.

(Deletion struck through)

(Effective 1 January 2020)

Regulation H(1)(B)3.

TO:

3. Obstacles.—The following obstacles meet with the approval of the Board of the 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 Kennel Club before being made available for use at its licensed events.

~~e. Table—914mm square minimum. Height: Large Dogs—600mm, Medium Dogs—400mm, Small Dogs—300mm. To be of stable construction with a non-slip surface.~~

~~k. Pause Box—Defined area 1.219m x 1.219m.~~

(Deletions struck through. Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered)

(Effective 1 January 2020)

H(1)(B)5. Marking.

TO:

- a. Standard marking. All course faults in multiples of 5. For time faults see paragraph b below.

~~(1) Table/Pause Box—faulted at judges discretion.~~

(Deletions struck through. Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered)
(Effective 1 January 2020)

b. Amendments to Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(3).

The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 11 September 2019, considered the Council's recommendation for amendments to Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(3). It supported the Council's proposal that the minimum number of obstacles be increased to 15 but raised some concerns regarding the proposed increase in the maximum number to 22. It acknowledged that obstacles may be used more than once in a course, but there was a possibility that some judges may wish to include 22 separate obstacles which would require additional equipment. It also considered that longer courses would prove to be time-consuming and would result in longer days for show organisers, judges, and ring parties, which was not desirable.

Accordingly it agreed that the minimum number of obstacles should increase to 15, but that the maximum number would remain at 20, and the following amendment was approved by the Board at its meeting on 8 October 2019:

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

TO:

(3) Design—The course should require a dog to traverse at least ~~40~~ **15** obstacles but not more than 20 and 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 2020)

c. Proposed amendment to Regulation H 28.a.(9) (Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)

The Committee discussed the proposed amendment to the above Regulation, under the terms of which judges would be permitted to judge a spouse, immediate family member or a dog resident at the same address in all classes at Kennel Club Licensed agility shows, with no exceptions.

The Committee acknowledged the Council's strong views on the matter and the rationale supporting its recommendation. However, it raised concerns that other activities were subject to similar regulations whereby a judge may not judge his or her spouse, and that a press release had recently been issued in respect of breed shows and the necessity for judging to be perceived as fair and impartial. It was also of the view that most other activities were judged by way of a scoring system and may also be considered to be objective, and that agility could not be viewed as being different in that respect. For these reasons, the Committee did not support the proposal and accordingly did not recommend it for approval.

d. Guidelines for clubs applying to hold Championship Agility Shows.

At its previous meeting, the Council proposed criteria for use when considering applications from clubs wishing to hold Championship Agility shows. It is invited

to note that the proposed criteria are being referred to the Activities Committee and an update will be provided at the Council's meeting.

ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

- a. The Council is invited to note a report from Mr MacDonald following the Sub-Group's meeting held on 23 September 2019.
(Annex A refers)
- b. A verbal presentation will be provided by Mr MacDonald to the Council regarding a comparison conducted by Dr Doyle, on behalf of the Sub-Group, into the accuracy of different measuring methods. It is hoped that Dr Doyle will also attend the meeting.
- c. A verbal update following the Sub-Group's meeting on 13 January 2020 will also be provided.

ITEM 5. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT PANEL

- a. The Council is requested to consider a report from the Equipment Panel.
(Annex B refers)
- b. Ring Equipment
At the Council's July 2019 meeting, consideration was given to the provision of a standard list of equipment that should be supplied to a ring.

It is invited to discuss the Panel's suggestion that the following should be supplied as a minimum for each ring:

Championship	Agility	Jumping
15 Hurdles	15 Hurdles	15 Hurdles
1 Dog Walk	1 Dog Walk	1 Set of 12 weaves
1 A Frame	1 A Frame	2 Pipe tunnels
1 See-Saw	1 See-Saw	
1 Set of 12 weaves	1 Set of 12 weaves	
2 Pipe tunnels	2 Pipe tunnels	
1 Long jump		
1 Tyre		

The Panel requests feedback for hire companies and shows that provide their own equipment.

It would also like the Council to discuss if this should be considered as a guide or if inclusion in the regulations is required.

c. See-Saw

At its previous meeting, the Council discussed issues relating to the see-saw related to the angle or height at the end of the see-saw, the tipping point, and tipping speed.

It noted the Panel's conclusion that it would not be possible to produce a specification which would result in all See-Saws performing consistently at all times, however it was hoped that it may be possible to minimise variations by providing a set specification for dimensions with no range of values, subject to suitable tolerances.

The Council is invited to consider a proposal submitted by the Panel for an amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)3.m. as follows:

H(1)(B)3.m. See-Saw

TO:

This obstacle will consist of a plank firmly mounted on a central bracket. The length of the plank must be 3.66m. The width ~~should be 254mm minimum and 305mm maximum~~ **must be 300mm**. The height measured from the ground to the top of the plank at the central bracket ~~should be 610mm minimum and 685mm maximum~~ **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. **If this is not the case adjustments should be made.** (Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE AGILITY GOVERNANCE PANEL

- a. The Council is requested to consider a report from the Agility Governance Panel and to discuss any issues arising.
(Annex C refers)

b. Results database

At its July meeting, the Council discussed the creation of a results database, noting that development of such a database was part of the backlog list for the Kennel Club's CRM system but it was unlikely to proceed in the foreseeable future for financial reasons.

It suggested that should it not be possible for the Kennel Club to develop its own results database, the development of such a database should be outsourced to an external supplier.

It is invited to note a verbal update from Mr Cavill and Mrs Croxford following discussions with Felinesoft, the company responsible for developing the CRM system.

ITEM 7. REPORT FROM THE JUDGING PANEL AND OTHER JUDGING ISSUES

- a. The Council is requested to consider a report from the Judging Panel. This includes an update following the Accredited Trainers Annual Seminar held on 22 October 2019.
(Annexes D(i) and D(ii) refer)
- b. It is also invited to note a report following the Activities Judges Sub-Group meeting held on 14 November 2019.
(Annex E refers – to follow)

ITEM 8. E02020

To note a report on the European Open 2020 to be held 30 July – 2 August 2020 at Rutland Showground in Rutland.
(Annex F refers)

ITEM 9. INTERNATIONAL AGILITY FESTIVAL

To note a written report on the arrangements for the Kennel Club International Agility Festival, due to be held on 6 – 9 August 2020.
(Annexes G(i) and G(ii) refer)

ITEM 10. AGILITY TEAM GB

The Council is invited to note a report on Agility Team GB's attendance at the 2019 European Open Junior Agility Championships, European Open Championships and World Championships.
(Annex H refers)

ITEM 11. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

Ms A Allan

Mrs Y Croxford

Proposal for amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)3.d.

Ms Allan, an individual, wishes the Council to consider an amendment to the above Regulation, as follows:

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

TO:

Hoop-(Tyre)—Aperture diameter 533mm minimum. Aperture centre from the ground: Large Dogs - 800mm. Medium Dogs - 550mm. Small Dogs - 490mm. The hoop to be of a consistent shape, constructed of an impact-absorbing material. The height of the hoop should not be lowered. The hoop/tyre 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.

Positioning – The hoop/tyre should be positioned so that the dog has a straight approach to the hoop/tyre and to have a straight exit or a turn of not more than 90 degrees in either direction after this obstacle.

(Insertion in bold)

Rationale

The position wording is included in the judges' guide but unfortunately not all judges have followed this guidance and in some cases there have been obscure lines to the tyre, and, in one case, a 180 degree turn after the tyre. It is acknowledged that competitors may raise concerns with the judge and/or show management, but as the guidance is not included in the H Regulations, judges were not obliged to comply with it.

ITEM 12. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Dartmoor Dog Training Club Mr M Tait
The Council is requested to discuss methods of communication between the Kennel Club and registered societies, and to suggest ways in which this could be made more effective.
- b. Mr M Tait
Mr Tait, an individual, wishes the Council to consider a suggestion that judges who have not fulfilled a judging appointment for a period of three years should be required to repeat, and pass, the Kennel Club Agility Judges Seminar (practical assessment) before they can judge again.

Rationale

With the pace at which agility is growing and changing, an individual who is qualified to judge but has not judged for a period of time should undertake a refresher course to maintain their understanding of the practical side of judging. Continuing Personal Development for judges in terms of the requirement for them to pass the online Regulations and Judging Procedure examination every five years (from 2022) is already being implemented, and Mr Tait is of the view that a similar process should exist in relation to the practical aspects of judging.

- c. Mrs C Webster Mr K Smith
Mrs Webster, an individual, wishes the Council to consider whether Regulation H(1)9.e should be reviewed regarding the maximum number of dogs (450) a judge can judge during a judging day. The Regulation states: that: 'The maximum number of individual runs a person shall judge on one day is 450, excluding unforeseen eventualities such as re-runs.'

Rationale

Mrs Webster notes that since the maximum number of dogs was set at 450, several additional changes to Regulations have occurred which have lengthened days for show teams, judges and competitors.

She wishes to suggest that the current regulation which states the maximum number of dogs should be replaced by a guideline that takes into consideration the number of dogs, the number of course changes and the number of classes, with a view to limiting very long days which further impact the number of judges and voluntary ring parties found in agility.

Further details of Mrs Webster's rationale are attached.

(Annex I refers)

d. Mr M Tait

Mr M Tait wishes the Council to discuss whether Regulation H(1)(B)1.a.(1) should be amended to provide for a ring size for indoor venues to be of minimum length/width 20 metres x maximum width/length 40 metres.

Rationale

This would allow show organisers to have more flexibility, and may open up the use of some venues to create greater choice and better facilities for agility shows, and would also ensure that all rings whether indoor or outdoor are suitable for purpose.

e. Ms L Langman

Mr M Tait

Championship classes

In view of the growing number of entries in Championship classes, in excess of 100 to 150 dogs, Ms Langman wishes the Council to discuss whether it is necessary to review the format for Championship classes in order to encourage a 'win' mentality rather than a 'clear round' mentality.

Ms Langman suggests the following possible formats:

- Winner of each round automatically makes the final
- OR reducing the Championship competition to two rounds, with the first round being a knockout from which the top 50% of teams would progress to round 2. The winner of round 2 would then be awarded the Agility Certificate.

Alternatively it is suggested that further discussions take place with Championship handlers to develop a format that would have the potential to produce world championship winners.

ITEM 13. REVIEW TIMETABLE

The Council is invited to note the current review timetable which provides a three-year rolling programme of reviews and proposal timeframes from each of the Panels.
(Annex J refers)

ITEM 14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Please give at least two weeks advance notice of matters to be raised under 'Any Other Business' as this assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Chairman.

ITEM 15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To note that the Council's next meeting will take place on 9 July 2020. Any items for the agenda must be submitted by 10 April 2020.

NOTES:

1. The Kennel Club will reimburse standard rail fares to all representatives attending the meeting, from their addresses as recorded at the Kennel Club. Claim forms will be available at the meeting.
2. Those resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland may apply in advance for authority to substitute shuttle air travel for standard rail fare, although it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.
3. Please give advance notice of matters to be raised under Any Other Business. This assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council Chairman.
4. Kennel Club Liaison Council Regulations state that the Kennel Club will bear the cost of all reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, representatives should apply to the Kennel Club for approval of any costs they may wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.

THE KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

'The Kennel Club is the national body which exists to promote the general improvement, health and well-being of all dogs through responsible breeding and ownership' *This is to be achieved through:-*

- Promoting the Kennel Club as the leading national organisation for referral and advice regarding all canine related matters.
- Encouraging the responsible breeding of pedigree dogs.
- Encourage the responsible ownership of dogs.
- Facilitating the breeding of healthy dogs
- Promoting the positive benefits of dogs in society.
- Promoting and regulating canine activities and competitions.
- Providing opportunities for education and training through Kennel Club led initiatives.
- Investing in canine health and welfare.
- Engaging with the wider dog owning audience/fraternity.