



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Working Party Meeting 08 December 2011

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Revision to the wording of the 'score structure' (Regulation L17.e.)	Amended wording has been introduced into the Regulations as from 1 January 2012 to make the score structure more easily understood by competitors, to guide less experienced judges, and to act as an indication of suitable marking in order to discourage judges from awarding inappropriately high or low marks.	Changes took effect from 1 January 2012.
2.	Review the number of judges per class required by the Heelwork to Music Regulations.	The Working Party considered responses received from societies and competitors about reducing the number of judges from three to two or one. Although there was a diversity of responses, the overall reaction had been that we should keep the status quo and continue with three judges. It was noted, however, that most of the responses had considered one judge as an alternative to three, but few had considered two judges. The Working Party will continue consultation and conduct further research, looking particularly at having only two judges.	The Heelwork to Music Working Party will discuss this further and consult with competitors to help develop the discipline in the best manner possible.
3.	Ensure that judges are seen to be judging independently and in accordance with Regulations	The Working Party agreed a draft amendment to Regulation L13.g., for approval by the General Committee, to the effect that timekeepers should record the time of each routine but only advise judges of the time if there had been an over-run (or at the judge's request in order to provide useful feedback to the competitor after judging was complete).	This item is currently under review by Kennel Club Committees. No further action is required from your club / society. Any changes to the Regulations will be published and a Press Release issued in due course. Changes will take effect from 1 January 2013.
4.	Ensure that judges are seen to be judging independently and in accordance with Regulations	The Working Party agreed to draft an amended Regulation for agreement at its next meeting, to go forward for approval by the General Committee, requiring judges to sit at separate tables at least six feet apart.	This item is currently under review by Kennel Club Committees. No further action is required from your club / society. Any changes to the Regulations will be published and a Press Release issued in due course. Changes will take effect from 1 January 2013.



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5.	Identify specific moves which are unacceptable due to risk of injury or negative impact on the welfare of the dog, and prohibit their use in competition.	The Working Party agreed draft amendments to Regulation L10. (Competing) and Regulation L17. (Judging Criteria) to prohibit unacceptable moves which risked the health or welfare of the dog. The proposal will go forward for approval by the General Committee.	This item is currently under review by Kennel Club Committees. No further action is required from your club / society. Any changes to the Regulations will be published and a Press Release issued in due course. Changes will take effect from 1 January 2013.
6.	World HTM and Freestyle Championship and European Open Championship 2012.	The Working Party agreed to invite applications to compete in Team GB at the next Heelwork to Music World Championships, to be held in Salzburg on 18-20 May 2012, once details and entry forms had been received from the Austrian Kennel Club. The next European Open would be held in Prague on 29-30 September 2012. It was agreed that to avoid diluting resources and funds, for 2012 and subsequent years the Kennel Club should send a team only to the World Championships and not to the European Open. Individuals would still be able to enter the European Open as individuals, but not as a country team. The working party agreed to recommend this policy.	Invitations to apply for a place on Team GB at the World Championships 2012 were issued as soon as the Kennel Club received the required paperwork from the Austrian Kennel Club. However in view of the low level of response it was decided that it would not be viable to send a team on this occasion.
7.	Entry level for dogs resident overseas.	The working party agreed that it was inappropriate for dogs which had qualified out of the basic level in their own country to be allowed to compete in Starters classes in the UK, and recommended that as a matter of policy dogs resident overseas should enter HTM and Freestyle classes in the UK at Novice level unless they were competing in the lowest class or grade in their native country.	This item is currently under review by Kennel Club Committees. No further action is required from your club / society. Any changes to the Regulations will be published and a Press Release issued in due course. Changes will take effect from 1 January 2013.
8.	Progression – wording of Regulation L(A)4.	The working party agreed to propose an amendment to the wording of Regulation L(A)4 to clarify that once they had become eligible to progress to a higher class, competitors must do so and could not opt to remain in the lower class. A draft amendment to the Regulations would be discussed at the next Working Party meeting.	This item is currently under review by Kennel Club Committees. No further action is required from your club / society. Any changes to the Regulations will be published and a Press Release issued in due course. Changes will take effect from 1 January 2013.



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9.	Notification of running order by email	In response to an enquiry which had been raised, it was confirmed that shows may notify competitors of their running orders by email, although if a competitor requested running orders on paper, the request must be honoured.	Show societies and competitors to note the Working Party's view. No further action is required from your club / society.