



## HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 12 May 2015

	<b>Proposed</b>	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>Action</b>
1.	Level qualification	The General Committee approved an amendment to Regulation L(A)6 to clarify that a dog was only qualified at one level and was only eligible to compete at that level at any show in each category. The amendment would come into effect January 2016.	Show organisers, judges and competitors to note.
2.	Activities Health & Welfare Sub-Group	The General Committee approved Mrs Brocklehurst's appointment as the Heelwork to Music representative on the Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group to replace Mr Curtis.	No action required.
3.	Score structure	The Working Party recommended that the bandings which formed part of the score structure (Regulation L18.e.refers) should only appear within the Guide for Judges and not within the Regulations. Accordingly it recommended that Regulation L18.e. be deleted with effect from 1 January 2016.  Show organisers are asked to note that there is no requirement for the bandings to appear in a show schedule.	Show organisers, judges and competitors to note.
4.	YKC Handlers at Crufts	The Working Party was keen to ensure that all YKC handlers were aware of the points system for qualifying for Crufts and recommended that all interested handlers should make themselves aware of the guidelines.	YKC handlers to visit <a href="http://www.ykc.org.uk/media/7023/html-qualifier-regulations-2015.pdf">http://www.ykc.org.uk/media/7023/html-qualifier-regulations-2015.pdf</a>
5.	Development of the discipline	The Working Party acknowledged the necessity to encourage new participants to the discipline. It wished to consult grass-roots competitors as to how best to do so.  Accordingly it was agreed that views should be sought from trainers, competitors, and anyone with an interest in Heelwork to Music, as to their perception of the barriers facing those wishing to take a first step into competing, and how those barriers could be overcome.  In particular, views were sought on the following options: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of a new Elementary class, below Starters.</li> <li>• Provision of expanded guidelines for competitors in</li> </ul>	Competitors or those interested in competing to make their views known to members of the Working Party. Contact details may be found at: <a href="http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/heelwork-to-music/heelwork-to-music-working-party/">www.thekennelclub.org.uk/activities/heelwork-to-music/heelwork-to-music-working-party/</a>



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		<p>Starters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of a Kennel Club progress test/development award scheme</li> <li>• Introduction of a Starters Stake, to include a final at Crufts</li> </ul>	
6.	Championship Status	The Working Party considered that good progress was being made towards achieving Championship status for the discipline but that as yet the standard was not sufficiently high. The issue would be reviewed again in 2016.	No action required.
7.	Judges Marking Criteria	<p>The General Committee had approved the following amendments to Regulations L18.a, b and c. to allow for emphasis to be placed on motivation and the partnership between the handler and the dog. The amended Regulations would come into effect on 1 January 2016.</p> <p>Regulation L18  <b>TO:</b></p> <p>a. <del>Programme Content</del> <b>and Flow</b> - 10 marks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) The programme content conforms to the definitions for Heelwork to Music or Freestyle and should be varied, with no excessive repetition of movement, and <b>the</b> content being appropriate to the routine.</li> <li>(2) <b>All movements</b> <del>Movement</del> should be appropriate to the structure and conformation of the dog.</li> <li>(3) <del>The movements of the dog should have a greater impact than those of the handler.</del> <b>The content should flow naturally and be formulated in order to create an interesting routine that makes good use of the ring.</b></li> <li>(4) Degree of difficulty of movements should be taken into account.</li> </ol> <p>b. <del>Accuracy and Execution of Movement</del> <b>Team Performance</b> - 10 marks</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Movements <b>from the team</b> including heelwork <del>are</del> <b>should be</b> accurately and smoothly executed.</li> <li>(2) The dog should work in a natural, <del>and</del> willing <b>and committed</b> manner.</li> </ol>	Judges and Competitors to note.



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- (3) The dog should respond promptly and appropriately to the cues given (~~including use of props~~). **Signals from the handler should be subtle and form part of the handler's movement.**
- (4) ~~Bearing and deportment of the handler is appropriate and should be appropriate to the routine;~~ **The dog and handler should work as a team-, presenting a captivating performance for the audience and judges, giving an overall appearance of harmony between dog and handler.**

c. Musical Interpretation - 10 marks

- (1) Interpretation of the rhythm, phrasing and timing **of the music** should be apparent; the choice of music should suit the team.
- (2) Choreography should be apparent, ~~flowing and not a series of disjointed moves. The routine should include balance, structure and making best use of available space~~ **with the story or theme being inspired by the music. The choice of moves by both handler and dog should be well represented by the chosen music.**
- (3) Primary emphasis of musical interpretation should be on the dog's movements although the handler ~~should~~ may be expressive.
- (4) Handlers' dress and any props used should be suitable and applicable to the interpretation of the routine **with all the props integrated into the performance.**

(Deletions underscored; insertions in bold.)



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8.	Crufts Draw	The Working Party had been requested to reconsider its decision made at the meeting on 4 June 2014 regarding the way in which the Crufts draw was made as there was a perception within the Heelwork to Music community that the procedure which had been agreed was unfair. After consideration, it agreed that a random draw should be carried out by Mrs G Pink on a day subsequent to completion of the semi final at Rugby Dog Training Club's Heelwork to Music show.	Competitors to note.
9.	Training rounds	The Working Party clarified that it was not acceptable for a handler and dog to leave the ring during a training round in order to give the dog a food reward, and that the handler should remain in the ring, and therefore under the jurisdiction of the judge, at all times.	Judges and competitors to note.
10.	Ring entrances and exits	In response to a query, the Working Party confirmed that there was no requirement within Kennel Club Regulations relating to entrances and exits and it was up to show organisers to decide whether or not gates should be provided and if so whether these should be open or closed.	Show organisers to note.
11.	Physical disciplining of dogs	The Working Party clarified that any judge may cease marking if aware that a physical disciplining of a dog had taken place in the ring. Head judges, if aware of such disciplining, should take appropriate action and may eliminate a handler.	Judges and competitors to note.