



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 11 June 2013

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Named judges for split classes	The General Committee has approved the recommendation that the named judges should judge both parts of a split class.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view.
2.	Heelwork to Music website	The working party discussed the absence of a focused online presence for HTM such as those which existed for Obedience and Agility. It was agreed that a central website including results, show diary and judges feedback reports would be beneficial to the community. The presence of HTM on the Kennel Club website would be highlighted and the creation of a dedicated website explored.	Show societies, competitors and judges are reminded of the Heelwork to Music page on the Kennel Club website: http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/heelworkto/music
3.	Communication between judges	The working party discussed a request to provide clarity regarding the acceptability of judges liaising with each other during competitions. It was confirmed that if necessary Judges could discuss the performance, in particular in relation to any welfare issues, however unnecessary discussion was discouraged.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. No further action is required from your club / society.
4.	Training Rounds at Rugby Semi-Final show	The working party considered a request to prohibit 'training rounds' at Rugby Semi-Final show as they are inappropriate with the standard of competition at that show. It was agreed that the number of training rounds taking place was a concern and that they would not be permitted specifically for Semi-Final classes.	Competitors to note the Working Party's view. This will be included in the show schedule.
5.	'Opting out' of a qualifier	The working party considered a request that an option be available on entry forms for the Advanced qualifiers to state that teams did not wish to 'go for a qualifier'. It was felt that it was not the responsibility of show management to monitor entries and therefore it was agreed that the letters sent to qualified teams would be updated to require confirmation of the intent to take up the qualifying place.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. No further action is required from your club / society.
6.	Routines Without Music	The working party considered whether routines performed without continuous music, such as a story telling narrative with short linking pieces of music, could be judged. The working party agreed that whilst it was a competitor's decision to risk losing marks for musical interpretation with this type of track it was felt that music should be the main focus of the piece and this practice should be discouraged.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. No further action is required from your club / society.



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7.	Class Progression	The working party was asked to consider the benefit of allowing teams to stay in a lower class, if they desired, until they achieved further wins as some competitors felt they were not ready to move up straight away. It was suggested to the meeting that two routes for progression could be instigated; the first to go up on points and the second to go up on wins having gained enough points. The meeting also considered a proposal for a minimum and maximum level of points for progression. It was agreed that feedback would be sought from the HTM community on the suggestions before further work was undertaken.	Competitors are requested to submit feedback on the potential change to the method of Class Progression to Mr Curtis for consideration at the next working party meeting.
8.	Reserve Judges	The working party considered whether reserve Judges should be named for each class or for the show as a whole on the schedule. The working party agreed that this decision was down to individual societies and that the specimen schedule would be updated to reflect this.	Show societies to note the Working Party's view.
9.	Advertising Shows	The working party considered a request that clubs be encouraged to advertise their shows further in advance, in particular the classes that were being held on each day, to enable competitors to plan their attendance. The working party agreed that this would be beneficial to all competitors and clubs are to be encouraged to advertise their shows earlier.	Show societies to note the Working Party's view.
10.	Handling a dog from outside the ring	The working party was advised of a routine at a recent show where the handler had been outside the boundary of the ring for the entirety of the freestyle routine. It was agreed this was not appropriate and competitors are to be reminded of the need to consider the safety of their dog whilst competing.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view.
11.	Outfits for Dogs	The working party confirmed that dogs were unable to wear 'thunder shirts' during a routine regardless of whether it was a training round. Competitors are reminded that dogs are only allowed to wear a collar which may be decorated (Regulation L10.f) whilst competing.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view.