



ANNOUNCEMENT

HEELWORK TO MUSIC REGULATION AMENDMENTS

Judges influence the future of all canine competitive activities, and therefore part of their responsibility is to ensure their chosen activity develops in a sensible and measured way, devoid of exaggeration.

Heelwork to Music is becoming increasingly popular with dog training enthusiasts and members of the public and, as that popularity grows, it becomes ever more important that judges do not reward movements and routines which clearly compromise the health and welfare of the dog. Whilst judges should reward degrees of difficulty of moves within a routine, this must not be allowed to spiral into competitors attempting increased levels of difficulty to gain more points to the detriment of the dog or the sport in general. There is a need to ensure that routines, costumes and props do not give the impression that this activity is less of a dog training competition and more of a show business act. Spectator appeal is important, but routines must not demean this skilful dog training activity or compromise the dignity of the dog.

At its meeting on 13th October 2009, the General Committee of the Kennel Club reviewed the standard of dogs competing and progressing through the classes and also reviewed the criteria for judges at Heelwork to Music shows. A new Judges' Marking Criteria and Scoring System has been introduced. This will clearly identify what should be marked in which section and give judges a clearer indication of how many marks to award for each section. The Heelwork to Music Guide for Judges is also being updated, with explanatory notes on these sections to be included, and the information will also be available on the Kennel Club website. All the regulation amendments become effective on 1st January 2010.

a. Regulation L.17 – Judges Marking Criteria

a. Programme Content – 10 marks

(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 content being appropriate to the routine.

(2) Movement should be appropriate to the structure and conformation of the dog.

(3) The movements of the dog should have a greater impact than those of the handler.

(4) Degree of difficulty of movements should be taken into account.

b. Accuracy and Execution of Movement – 10 marks

(1) Movements including heelwork are accurately and smoothly executed.

(2) The dog should work in a natural and willing manner.

(3) The dog should respond promptly and appropriately to cues given (including use of props).

(4) Bearing and deportment of the handler is appropriate and should be appropriate to the routine; dog and handler should work as a team.

c. Musical interpretation – 10 marks

(1) Interpretation of the rhythm, phrasing and timing 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.

(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.

b. Regulation L.17.e – Judges' Marking Criteria – New Regulation

TO:

When assessing a routine the judges should take into account the following score structure:

0 – 1.9 Not ready on today's performance.

2 – 3.9 Not yet competent at this level.

4 – 5.5 Working at level (with scope for further improvement).

Points will be awarded above this level.

5.6 – 6.9 Correct level for class (routines are good and competent).

7 – 8.9 Highly competent (routine ready to work at next level).

9 – 10 Outstanding (excellence, meets and exceeds the criteria).

(Insertion underlined)

c. Regulation L.17.h - Judges' marking criteria – New Regulation

TO:

Any unnecessary physical assistance must be penalised with points being deducted from the accuracy and execution of movement section.

(Insertion underlined)

d. Regulation L.17.i - Judges' marking criteria – New Regulation

TO:

Any activity that may be injurious to the dog will result in an elimination.

(Insertion underlined)

e. Regulation L.14.b.(i) – Judges Approval

FROM:

All judges should have qualified a dog out of Starters class in either Heelwork to Music or Freestyle classes and have a minimum of one year's experience competing at Kennel Club licensed Heelwork to Music Competitions.

TO:

All judges should have qualified a dog out of Starters class in either Heelwork to Music or Freestyle classes and have a minimum of two years' experience competing in standard classes at a minimum of six Kennel Club licensed Heelwork to Music Competitions.

(Amendment underlined)

f. Regulation L.14.b(ii) – Judges Approval – New Regulation

TO:

A Judge's first three appointments for shows must be restricted to Starters and Novice.

(Insertion underlined)

g. Regulation L.14.c.(v)

FROM:

To have judged at intermediate level in either discipline.

TO:

To have judged a minimum of five classes at intermediate level in either discipline.

(Amendment underlined)

Whilst reviewing the standard of the judges, the General Committee also approved several proposals to increase the standard of dogs competing and progressing through Heelwork to Music classes. It was accepted that it may take a while to see the effect of the changes in the higher classes.

h. Regulation L.13.e. - Management

FROM:

If a class entry received exceeds 20, the class shall be equally divided (to within one dog) by a draw. If the resulting individual class entry, after division, exceeds 20, a further division of the total class entry shall take place so that each equal division of the class is 20 or less. Classes with an entry of 20 or less must not be split.

TO:

If a class entry received exceeds 25, the class shall be equally divided (to within one dog) by a draw. If the resulting individual class entry, after division, exceeds 25, a further division of the total class entry shall take place so that each equal division of the class is 25 or less. Classes with an entry of 25 or less must not be split.

(Amendments underlined)

i. Regulation L(A).4 - Official Classes

FROM:

Advanced - open to dogs which have gained 20 points or more in an official Intermediate class at a KC licensed HTM competition

TO:

Advanced - open to dogs which have gained 20 points or more and at least one first place in an official Intermediate class at a KC licensed HTM competition

(Amendment underlined)

j. Regulation L.15.i – Judges and Judging

FROM:

If the average mark in any one section of the judges' criteria is below 40%, the class points will be withheld for that routine. There shall be at least four awards on offer in every class and printed award cards and rosettes may be given but the associated points would be withheld.

TO:

If the average mark in any one section of the judges' criteria is below 55% (16.5 marks), the class points will be withheld for that routine. There shall be at least four awards on offer in every class and printed award cards and rosettes may be given but the associated points would be withheld.

(Amendment underlined)

The General Committee also amended a couple of regulations to ensure consistency throughout the Regulations and to ensure judges were aware of what action should be taken in certain circumstances.

k. Regulation L.15.d – Judges and Judging

FROM:

Judges must exclude a dog from the ring if it fouls in the ring.

TO:

Judges must eliminate a dog from the ring if it fouls in the ring.

(Amendment underlined)

l. Regulation L.15.f

FROM:

Any physical disciplining of the dog by the handler in the ring or any uncontrolled behaviour of the dog must be penalised by adjusting the dog's score and the Judges(s) may bar the dog from further competition in the class.

TO:

Any physical disciplining of the dog by the handler in the ring or any uncontrolled behaviour of the dog must be penalised by adjusting the dog's score and the Judges(s) must eliminate the dog from further competition in the class.

(Amendment underlined)

ENDS

12th November 2009

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