

## DEFINITIONS OF CLASSES.

**1. Official Categories** There are two official categories, Heelwork to Music and Freestyle. Each category has equal status, and the following class structure applies to both categories:-

**a. HEELWORK TO MUSIC**—The principle element of the Heelwork to Music category will be the dog working off lead in the heel work position, on the left or right hand side of the handler, facing forward or backward, across the front or back of the handler, moving in any direction, at any pace. The dog's shoulder should be approximately level with, and reasonably close to the handler's leg. All other positions are defined as Freestyle. A minimum of two thirds of the routine should consist of heel work.

**b. FREESTYLE**— A freestyle routine will be the dog working off lead and contain movements in any position. Heelwork as described above is acceptable although such movements must not exceed one third of the routine.

**2.** In the following definitions of classes all points must be gained in official classes only.

NOTE The points system started 01/01/07 and points must not be claimed retrospectively.

**3.** The following points will be awarded in all Kennel Club standard classes.

1st place—10 points, 2nd place—6points, 3rd place-4 points, 4th place-2points.

On entrance to the next level of classes, the points will return to zero.

**4. OFFICIAL CLASSES.** For one dog and one handler only. When assessing eligibility to enter a competition, wins in one official category will not count for the other official category. At the discretion of the competition organisers dogs may be entered in eligible classes in both categories, however a different routine must be worked.

**A. Starters.** For dogs and handlers which have not gained 14 points or more in official starters classes at Kennel Club licensed Heelwork To Music competitions.

**B. Novice.** Open to dogs or handlers which have gained 14 points or more in official starters classes at Kennel Club licensed Heelwork To Music competitions.

**C. Intermediate.** Open to dogs which have gained 16 points or more in official novice classes at Kennel Club licensed Heelwork To Music competitions.

**D. Advanced.** Open to dogs which have gained 20 points or more in official Intermediate classes at Kennel Club licensed Heelwork To Music competitions.

**5.** A dog cannot be entered in the same class more than once.

**6.** A dog must only be entered in a class for which it is eligible in each category.

**7.** Once a dog has progressed to the next class it is entitled to use the previous class award after its name on entry forms and printed in catalogues, only the highest award may be used. Separate awards should be indicated for Heelwork to Music and Freestyle as follows; HTM St., HTM N., HTM I. for the different classes of Heelwork to Music. FS St., FS N., FS I. for the different classes in Freestyle. Once a dog has gained 24 points in

Advanced classes it will be entitled to have HTM A or FS A after its name as appropriate.

**8. Excellent Qualifications.** If a first place has been won at a particular level, when the required level of points have been gained the dog will also be awarded an excellent qualification and can use the title "Ex" after its class title, such as HTM St Ex.

**9.** All dogs must be in possession of a Kennel Club Heelwork to Music Record Book detailing the points gained and where each award was gained. It is the handlers responsibility to keep a full and accurate account of the points their dog is awarded.

**10. Qualifications obtained prior to 1st July 2002.** Handlers who have entered demonstrations prior to 1st July 2002 and have previously been accepted into classes higher than Starters must enter licensed competitions at the level and in the category for which they previously qualified. Thereafter, once a qualification for class advancement is achieved further entries must be made in accordance with these Regulations.

## ADDITIONAL RULES

1. The non-refundable entry fee is £8.50 per class, spectators free.
2. The competition may be limited at the discretion of the organisers to 80 Entries per day.
3. In estimating the number of awards won, all wins up to and including the seventh day before the closing date of entries shall be counted when entering any class.
4. No bitch in season is allowed to compete.
5. The mating of bitches within the precincts of the competition is forbidden.
6. The committee reserves to itself the right to refuse entries.
7. Should a judge be unable to fulfil their appointment the organisers reserves the right to appoint an alternative judge.
8. **It is the competitors responsibility to be available for their class and running order.**
9. Should circumstances so dictate the organisers, in consultation with the judges, may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes to be reported to the Kennel Club.
10. Only dogs of twelve calendar months and over are eligible to enter for competition.
11. For safety reasons, the organisers reserve the right to refuse admission to any person/dog as necessary.
12. Not for Competition entries will be accepted for dogs aged four calendar months and over, free of charge. Details of each dog must be recorded on the entry form and must be GB Kennel Club registered.
13. All entered dogs must be kept under control and not within two rows of the ring.
14. For the duration of the competition and including those in the exercise area, all dogs must be on a lead except when competing or practising prior to competition.
15. After a dog has commenced competing in a class no substitution of Handler is permitted in that Class.
16. No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of any dog at any time within the precincts of the competition.
17. No competitor shall impugn the decisions of the Judges.
18. All dogs will be entered at this event at their owners risk and while every care will be taken the organisers will not accept any responsibility for loss, damage or injury however caused to dogs, persons or property while at the event.
19. In the event of circumstances making it necessary that the event is cancelled, the organisers reserve unto themselves the right to defray expenses from the entry fees received.

## JUDGES MARKING CRITERIA

There will be three judges for each class, except in exceptional circumstances when the KC will be notified as soon as possible. Each judge will mark all three sections of the Judging Criteria as follows:.

### a. PROGRAMME CONTENT -10 MARKS

1. The programme content conforms to the definitions for Heelwork to Music or Freestyle.
2. The programme should be varied with no excessive repetition of moves.
3. The movements of the dog should have a greater impact than those of the handler.
4. Movements should be appropriate to the structure and conformation of the dog.
5. Degree of difficulty of movements should be taken into account.

### b. ACCURACY AND EXECUTION OF MOVEMENT -10 MARKS

1. Movements are accurately and smoothly executed.
2. The accuracy of heelwork must be taken into account.
3. The bearing and deportment of the handler is appropriate to the routine.
4. The dog should work in a natural and willing manner.
5. The dog responds promptly and appropriately to the cues given.
6. The handler and dog should work as a team.
7. Any props used should be appropriate to the routine.

### c. MUSICAL INTERPRETATION -10 MARKS

1. Interpretation of the music, rhythm and phrasing is apparent.
  2. The programme flows and is not a series of disjointed movements.
  3. Movements are complementary to the programme's concept.
  4. Handlers dress is applicable to the programme.
  5. Emphasis of interpretation is on the dog's movements although the handler may be expressive.
  6. Choreography should be apparent and flowing. The routine should include balance, structure and making best use of the available space.
  7. The harmony and relationship should show the strength of the dog and handler partnership.
  8. Handler and dog should work as a team
  9. The choice of music should suit the team.
- d.** In the event of dogs obtaining equal marks in Heelwork to Music competitions, the Accuracy and Execution of Movement mark will decide the result. In a Freestyle Competition, the Musical Interpretation mark will decide the result. Where there is still equality of marks the order shall be decided at the discretion of the lead (head) judge.
- e.** When assessing a routine the judges should take into account any degree of departure from the regulations for handlers and dogs.
- f.** Where applicable judges should judge to one decimal place.
- g.** The dog should work in a willing and natural manner. Excessive barking must be penalised and a maximum of 4 marks can be deducted from the overall score at the judge's discretion.

Please note Kennel Club Heelwork to Music Competition Regulations paragraphs:- 9, 10, 14, 16.

### Performance rules

1. Food shall not be carried in the ring or given to a dog whilst being judged.
2. Dogs may only wear a collar which may be decorated.
3. No costume or routine should bring discredit to the sport.
4. Props appropriate to the routine may be used. The use of firearms is prohibited nor must any simulated gunshot be used.
5. No activity shall be conducted which may be injurious to the dog.
6. The music and routine must be suitable for a family audience and the spectator appeal of the programme should be apparent.
7. The bearing and deportment should be appropriate to the routine.
8. The decision to withdraw from competition is entirely at the discretion of the competitor, however, a competitor may not withdraw once a routine has been completed and scored.
9. A dog cannot be entered in the same class more than once.
10. Once a dog has entered the ring to compete, no further practice may be carried out.
11. If a dog leaves the ring and ceases working, it should be eliminated from the competition but allowed to continue and complete its routine, as long as the music is still playing. If a dog accidentally steps outside the ring during a routine it will not be penalised.
12. The judges must observe the dog at all times whilst it is in the ring, even after elimination from competition.
13. Judges must exclude a dog from the ring if it fouls in the ring.

### MUSIC

The duration of the routine should be a maximum length as detailed below **An over-run of 5% is permitted, but 2 marks will be deducted from the final score for any time in excess of this.**

Starters maximum time limit –up to 2½ minutes, Novice maximum time limit –up to 3½ minutes, Intermediate maximum time limit–up to 4 minutes, Advanced maximum time limit –up to 4 minutes. Each handler should provide their own music. It can be CD (clearly marked with the track to be used), audio cassette tape with the music at the beginning of a blank tape. It is advisable to bring a spare copy for backup, preferably in another format which should be available for their routine in the event of the original not playing. Handlers should book in and lodge their music with the organisers on arrival.