

HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 13 December 2012

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Ensure that judges are seen to be judging independently and in accordance with Regulations	An amendment to Regulation L17 has been approved by the General Committee. Judges are now required to sit at least two metres apart (wherever feasible). Competition organisers are permitted to appoint either two or three judges (instead of being required to appoint three judges as previously).	A Press Release has been published giving full details of the amendments to Regulation L17, which took effect from 1 January 2013.
2.	Progression – wording of Regulation L(A)4.	An amendment to the wording of Regulation L(A)4 has been approved by the General Committee. The amendment states that once they have become eligible to progress to a higher class, competitors must do so and may not opt to remain in the lower class. The amendments also clarify that once they have won out of Starters, by gaining 14 or more points with a single dog, handlers may not enter Starters classes with any further dogs at any future time.	A Press Release has been published giving full details of the amendments to Regulation L(A)4., which took effect from 1 January 2013.
3.	The judge of each class to be named on the Schedule for the competition	The General Committee approved the introduction of a requirement for judges to be named for each official class on the schedule. In response to a query on this issue the working party clarified that the named judges should ideally judge both parts of the class and that societies could schedule a different class between the two parts to provide a break for the judges if necessary.	A Specimen Schedule has been published on the Kennel Club website including this requirement, which took effect from 1 January 2013. Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's clarification.
4.	Definition of 'heelwork position'	The working party was presented with a document clarifying the definitions of permissible heelwork positions following a request for clarification at the June 2012 meeting. The document was approved by the working party and will be included in the Guide for Heelwork to Music Judges.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the amended document when issued. No further action is required from your club / society.
5.	Size of rings for Crufts heats	The working party considered a request that the minimum ring size of 15m x 20m for future venues applying to hold Crufts heats be expanded to include all existing venues holding heats. It was agreed that this was not a widespread issue of concern and that handlers generally planned their routines based on an awareness of the dimensions of the ring at the specific show for which they had entered. Two venues were highlighted as a particular concern and the issue will be addressed with them directly.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. No further action is required from your club / society.
6.	Training Rounds	The working party was asked to consider the instigation of a requirement that 'training rounds' are undertaken at the end of classes as they can have a detrimental affect on the running time of a show. It was agreed that this concern should be addressed by show management when the issue arose.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. No further action is required from your club / society.
7.	Judges Marking Criteria	The working party discussed a request to remove the banding guidance on Judges score-sheets which provides assistance for marking as many judges were relying too heavily on it. It was agreed that a press release would be issued to re-iterate that the banding is for guidance only and that the judges marking criteria must be the main reference that is used for decisions.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. A Press Release will be issued in due course. No further action is required from your club / society.
8.	Heelwork to Music World Championships	The working party noted that the Heelwork to Music 2014 World Championships will be held in Helsinki. It was agreed that an open invitation would be extended to both intermediate and advanced level competitors to apply to make up a UK team. Applications would need to be received by the end of November 2013 to be reviewed at the December 2013 working party meeting.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the dates for application. A Press Release will be issued in due course. No further action is required from your club / society.