



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 14 June 2012

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Ensure that judges are seen to be judging independently and in accordance with Regulations	An amendment to Regulation L13.g. has been approved by the General Committee. Timekeepers should record the time of each routine but only advise judges of the time if there has been an over-run (or at the judge's request in order to provide useful feedback to the competitor after judging is complete). Judges reminded there should be no deductions simply because a routine takes less than the permitted maximum time.	A Press Release has been published giving full details of the amendments to Regulation L13.g., which will take effect from 1 January 2013.
2.		The Working Party recommended an amendment to Regulation L17, to go forward for approval by the General Committee, requiring judges to sit at separate tables at least two metres apart (wherever feasible). The Regulation will also permit competition organisers to appoint either two or three judges (instead of being required to appoint three judges as at present). The working party did not support a proposal that three judges should be appointed but each judge should judge only one of the three marking categories.	This item is currently under review by Kennel Club Committees. No further action is required from your club / society. Any changes to the Regulations will be published and a Press Release issued in due course. Changes will take effect from 1 January 2013.
3.		It was agreed that 'shadowing' of experienced judges, both at informal events and at Kennel Club licensed shows, was an effective means of giving prospective new judges the necessary experience and confidence.	The encouragement of more 'shadowing' opportunities for prospective new judges will be added as an item to the strategic plan. Competition organisers and existing judges are encouraged to consider providing shadowing opportunities where appropriate.
4.	Identify specific moves which are unacceptable due to risk of injury or negative impact on the welfare of the dog, and prohibit their use in competition.	Amendments to Regulation L10. (Competing) and Regulation L17. (Judging Criteria) to prohibit unacceptable moves which risk the health or welfare of the dog or which are degrading to the dog were recommended by the Working Party at its previous meeting and have now been approved by the General Committee.	The proposals will come into force from 1 January 2013. A Press Release giving full details of the amendments has been published (copies available from the Kennel Club).



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5.	World HTM and Freestyle Championship and European Open Championship 2012.	The Working Party noted that no team had been entered in the World HTM Championship 2012 due to a lack of applications. It considered a request to reverse its previous decision not to provide further support for teams to attend the European Open, but did not support the request as it was felt that the rationale for the decision - to avoid diluting resources and funds - remained valid. It continued to recommend therefore that the Kennel Club should send a team only to the World Championships and not to the European Open. Individuals would still be able to enter the European Open as individuals or teams, but not as the official national team (which under EO rules must be entered by the national Kennel Club).	Societies are reminded they are free to fund-raise and to send individuals or teams to the European Open in 2012 if they so desire. The closing date for entries is 29th August 2012 at 8am.
6.	Entry level for dogs resident overseas.	The Activities Sub-Committee has approved the working party's recommendation that as a matter of policy dogs resident overseas should enter HTM and Freestyle classes in the UK at Novice level unless they are currently competing in the lowest class or grade in their native country.	The Activities Sub-Committee has amended its policy statements and a Press Release has been issued clarifying the matter.
7.	Progression – wording of Regulation L(A)4.	The working party recommended a series of amendments to the wording of Regulation L(A)4 to clarify 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.	This item is currently under review by Kennel Club Committees. No further action is required from your club / society. Any changes to the Regulations will be published and a Press Release issued in due course. Changes will take effect from 1 January 2013.
8.	The judge of each class to be named on the Schedule for the competition	The working party recommended that the Activities Sub-Committee should approve the introduction of a requirement for judges to be named for each official class on the schedule, and requested that a Press Release should be issued to this effect in due course	This item is under review by Kennel Club Committees. No further action is required from your club / society. Any changes to the Regulations will be published and a Press Release issued in due course. Changes will take effect from 1 January 2013.



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9.	Sound of gunshot on music track	It was confirmed that a music track containing a gunshot or simulated gunshot does not contravene Regulation L10.h. prohibiting the use of firearms or simulated gunshot and is permissible.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. No further action is required from your club / society.
10.	Deductions and score sheets	The working party confirmed that only deductions (of up to 4 points) for barking or excessive noise were acceptable; no other deductions should be made by judges (timekeepers would adjust judges' scores as necessary for timing over-runs). The working party recommended that judges' education should emphasise this point, and that score sheets should have only a single deduction box clearly labelled to state that up to 4 points for barking or excessive noise could be deducted and that no other deductions were valid.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. Societies to ensure that score sheets provided to judges have only a single box for deductions, clearly labelled as recommended by the working party.
11.	Marking of barking or excessive noise	The working party did not support a proposal that the graduated deduction (of from 1 to 4 points) for barking or excessive noise should be replaced by a single fixed penalty (similar to the 2 point deduction for a timing over-run).	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. No further action is required from your club / society.
12.	Clarify the distinction between toys and props	The working party agreed that any prop may be used without penalty (and should not be regarded as a 'toy') if it is relevant to the performance and used appropriately and safely as stated in the Regulations, with the dog interacting with prop(s) only as cued by the handler. The handler must not however use the prop in order to motivate the dog or to keep its attention whilst in the ring. The Judges Working Party was requested to ensure that judges' education clarified this point.	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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13.	Definition of 'heelwork position'	The working party discussed a request for clarification on whether the heelwork position 'across the front of the body' in Regulation L(A)1.a. is satisfied where the dog's right shoulder is on the handler's left leg (and vice versa) or whether the only acceptable position is where the dog's right shoulder is on the handler's right leg (and vice versa). It noted that similar considerations apply to judging a wheelchair user, and that the matter was complicated by differences in height and breed of the dog. It was agreed that draft guidance on the matter would be prepared and discussed further at the next working party meeting.	This item is under review by the working party, for consideration at its next meeting.
14.	Use of Heelwork rounds to train for Freestyle rounds or vice versa	The working party agreed that the concept of 'training rounds' had already become well established and that competitors wished them to continue, provided time permitted and the routine conformed to the provisions of the class entered. However it was agreed that using a class in one category to practise for a class in another category was entirely contrary to the spirit and intention of the Regulations and was unsportsmanlike behaviour. The same would apply to competitors practising Freestyle moves with a dog under 18 months of age in a Heelwork to Music class. The working party did not consider it necessary at this stage to recommend an amendment to the Regulations, but the situation would be monitored in case of further instances occurring.	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. The matter is subject to further monitoring to consider whether a Regulation amendment would be required.
15.	Approval of Judges	The working party was informed that the Judges Working Party had recommended a new Regulation L14.d. containing identical wording to that applicable to other Kennel Club activities such as Agility, Working Trials and Obedience, stating that the General Committee of the Kennel Club shall have the power to grant, withhold, suspend or cancel the approval of any judge.	This item is under review by Kennel Club Committees. No further action is required from your club / society. Any changes to the Regulations will be published and a Press Release issued in due course. Changes will take effect from 1 January 2013.
16.	Size of rings for Crufts heats	It was confirmed that for future venues applying to hold Crufts heats, a ring size of at least 20m x 15m would be required, but venues already approved would not be disqualified if they did not have a ring of that size .	Show societies, competitors and judges to note the Working Party's view. No further action is required from your club / society.