



**MEETING OF THE AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON
THURSDAY 8 JULY 2021 AT 10.00 AM VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS -
AGENDA**

ITEM 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2021 (copies previously distributed).

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING/RESULTS OF RECOMMENDATIONS

- a. The Board, at its meeting on 13 April 2021, approved the following amendment Regulation H(1)(B)3.
TO:
3. Obstacles.—The following obstacles meet with the approval of the Board of The Kennel Club. Any changes to current obstacles (such as materials used, structure or style) or any other new obstacles must be submitted for approval by The Kennel Club before being made available for use at its licensed events. **All measurements of 1000mm or under may have a tolerance of plus or minus 5mm and measurements of over 1000mm may have a tolerance of plus or minus 10mm.**
(Insertion in bold)
(Effective 1 January 2022)
- b. Proposed amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)3.i.
The Activities Committee, at its meeting on 18 March 2021, noted the above proposal which specified the number of poles which may be used in a standard class. It accepted the principle of the recommendation, however, it had noted that the Council would be considering separately whether there was any necessity to amend the dimension size of weave poles. As the regulation also contained dimensions relating to the size of weave poles, it was agreed that it would be preferable to make a single amendment to cover both issues rather than two separate amendments. Accordingly, consideration of the proposal was deferred until the Council had discussed the matter further. The Council is invited to note that, following confirmation of Board approval of the amended Regulation relating to tolerances, the Equipment Panel would consider the matter and provide recommendations to the Council at its meeting in January 2022.
- c. Proposed amendment to Regulation H(1)9.a.
 - (i) The Committee also noted the proposed amendment to the above regulation in order to provide greater flexibility to show organisers in respect of ring sizes. However, Mr Cavill, in his role as Chairman of the Council, requested that the recommendation be withdrawn and referred back to the Council for further consideration in view of concerns that the proposed wording may contain ambiguities relating to the use of enclosed outdoor arenas and the Committee noted that a proposal would be resubmitted following the Council's July meeting.

The wording recommended by the Council at its February meeting was as follows:

Regulation H(1)9.a.

TO:

- a. Test area shall have a suitable surface and measure a minimum of 32m x 32m for outdoor venues rings and 450 square metres for indoor or permanently enclosed rings. ~~Indoor~~



~~venues may be smaller but must be appropriate to the size of the test.~~ **No side of an indoor or permanently enclosed ring may measure less than 15m. The ring area includes space for officials, including the scime and ring party, but where possible the ring tent should be outside the ring area.**

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold)

The Council is invited to consider a revised proposal submitted by Mr Tait as follows:

Regulation H(1)9.a.

TO:

- a. Test area shall have a suitable surface and measure a minimum of 32m x 32m for outdoor ~~venues-rings.~~ ~~Indoor venues may be smaller but must be appropriate to the size of the test.~~ **Indoor rings are recommended to be 600 square meters but must be a minimum of 450 square metres with no one side measuring less than 15m. For outdoor all weather arenas of one or more rings that are enclosed by structure, fence or permanent barrier each ring is recommended to be 800 square meters but must be a minimum of 600 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. All indoor and outdoor all weather permanently enclosed rings for Prestige Events and/or Championship classes must be a minimum of 800 square metres with no one side measuring less than 20m. The ring area includes space for officials, including the scime and ring party, but where possible the ring tent should be outside the ring area.**

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold)

Further information is provided in the attached annex paper.

(Annex A refers)

- d. Activities Health and Welfare Sub-Group

As Mr MacDonald was no longer able to represent the Council on the SubGroup, the Council wished to nominate Mr Tait to undertake the role. The Committee noted the recommendation, which was subject to approval by the Dog Health Group at its meeting on 16 June 2021.

A verbal update will be provided at the meeting.

- e. Covid-compliant shows

The Committee considered whether it would be permissible for classes to be run in the following manner:

A ring would be set up for use in two classes without any changes to the equipment in between. The two different courses would be marked with the obstacles numbered in different colours, such as red for one, and blue for the other. Six competitors would walk the course and then run it, using the first set of numbers and would then vacate the area. A second group of six competitors would then walk the course, using the second set of numbers, and would then run it.

The Committee accepted that this would allow for two cohorts of six competitors to use the same set-up, which would be helpful to show organisers, and raised no objection to classes being conducted in this way.

- f. Capping of entries

The Council had noted that at present Regulation H(1)(A)12 had been relaxed to allow for a minimum capping limit of 50 dogs for a standard class. It wished to suggest that an option to cap entries should be extended to cover Kennel Club qualifiers and championship classes, as a temporary measure, in order to assist societies to be able to plan Covid-compliant championship shows.



The Committee was of the view that care should be taken to protect the integrity of prestige events, and for this reason, it did not support the Council's suggestion. Further, it was hopeful that restrictions currently in place due to Covid-19 would soon be lifted and that shows would be able to proceed as normal without the need for special measures.

g. Long Jump

At its previous meeting, the Council considered a discussion item relating to the standardisation of the number of long jump units for each height, and to set a maximum length per height. It had noted that feedback from competitors indicated general support for the principle of Mr Ellis' suggestion, and it was in agreement that it warranted progression, subject to resolution of some concerns, as outlined below:

- The proposed maximum length for Intermediate dogs was greater than the minimum length for Large dogs, which appeared inconsistent.
- There was considered to be an unduly large difference between the maximum length of the long jump for Small dogs, and the minimum length for Medium dogs.
- The suggested height of 153mm for unit 2 appeared to be too small, and it was suggested that a height of 173mm or 176mm would be preferable. It was also considered advisable to hold discussions with equipment suppliers prior to setting any specific height.

Subject to the above provisos, the Council was in agreement that a full proposal should be submitted for consideration at its next meeting. Accordingly, it is invited to consider the following proposal, which has been formulated by Mr Smith, on behalf of the Equipment Panel, in collaboration with Mr Ellis.

Regulation H(1)(B)3.f.

TO:

Long Jump—Each unit a minimum length of 1.2m.

Large Dogs - to comprise ~~3 to 5~~ **5** units, the overall length to be between ~~1.2m~~ **1.3m** and 1.5m. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be 381mm. Intermediate Dogs – to comprise ~~3 to 5~~ **4** units, the overall length to be between 1m and ~~1.3m~~ **1.2m**. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be ~~381mm~~ **305mm**. Medium Dogs - to comprise ~~3 to 4~~ **3** units, the overall maximum length to be between 700mm and 900mm. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be ~~305mm~~ **229mm**. Small Dogs - To comprise ~~2 to 3~~ **2** units, the overall maximum length to be between 400mm and ~~500mm~~ **600mm**. The height of the front unit to be 127mm and the height of the rear unit to be ~~229mm~~ **170mm**.

Marker poles with a minimum height of 1.2m shall be used, these should not be attached to any part of the obstacle.

(Deletions struck through. Insertions in bold.)

Rationale

To provide a more consistent approach to the use of the obstacle for agility judges with simplified and up to date guidance that better represents what the obstacle is aiming to test.

Further guidance

Where the above proposal seeks to clarify the minimum/maximum length for use at each competition height as well as the height of each unit, Mr Ellis wishes to request that the Judges Guide to Agility Equipment be updated to reflect the original wording on the discussion item regarding the number of units at each height:

Small dogs – 2 units (Units 1 & 2) - length 400-600mm

Medium Dogs – 3 units (Units 1, 2 & 3) - length 700-900mm

Intermediate Dogs – 4 Units (Units 1, 2, 3 & 4) - length 1.0-1.2m

Large Dogs – 5 Units (Units 1, 2, 3, 4 & 5) - length 1.3-1.5m



ITEM 4. ACTIVITIES HEALTH AND WELFARE SUB-GROUP

The Council is invited to note a written report from Mr Tait following the Sub-Group's meeting on 15 April 2021. Mr Tait attended the meeting as a guest pending approval of his membership of the Sub-Group by the Dog Health Group.

(Annex B refers)

ITEM 5. REPORT FROM THE EQUIPMENT PANEL

a. The Council is requested to note that the Panel is planning to review the H Regulations to assess whether any simplification is possible in view of the Board's approval of the amendment to Regulation H(1)(B)3. which specifies tolerances for obstacles.

b. At the Council's previous meeting, Mr Smith, on behalf of the Panel, had requested that its remit be reviewed. Accordingly, the Council is invited to review the revised remit, as follows:

The Equipment Panel acts as an advisory group on matters related to agility equipment. It will:

- Review any new equipment for Kennel Club approval prior to use
- Review any modifications of design or materials for equipment currently in use for Kennel Club approval prior to introduction of modified design
- Review currently approved equipment to ensure specifications are still relevant in today's agility arena
- Consider concerns raised by the agility community in relation to equipment
- Monitor equipment issues raised in incident books
- Hold discussions with equipment manufacturers
- Report to the Council at meetings

ITEM 6. REPORT FROM THE AGILITY GOVERNANCE PANEL

a. The Council is requested to consider a report from the Agility Governance Panel. (Annex C refers)

b. Measuring review

The Council is requested to consider the recommendations made by the Panel in respect of measuring, summarised as follows:

- New measurers to be recruited in all regions
- An allowance to be made immediately for dogs on the Isle of Man who have not yet been measured to start competing with unmeasured dogs. If necessary deadlines for getting dogs in Northern Ireland a second measure should be extended.
- Development of regular training for Senior Measurers together with guidelines for them to run refresher courses for other measurers, which should be a requirement every 5 years
- Measurers should be required to send in an annual return
- All measurers to be sent a copy of the Measuring Guidelines plus the up to date spreadsheet and asked to respond to ensure that details are up to date.

ITEM 7. REPORT FROM THE JUDGING PANEL AND OTHER JUDGING ISSUES

a. The Council is requested to note that no issues have been raised with the Judging Panel since the Council's previous meeting.



b. Activities Judges Sub-Group

(i) The Council is invited to note a written report following the meeting of the Activities Judges Sub-Group which took place on 22 April 2021.

(Annex D refers)

(ii) Minimum standards for Competition Managers/Chief Stewards The Sub-Group had previously noted that there were currently no regulations specifying a minimum standard for Competition Managers for agility, and it had wished to recommend that such standards should be introduced for the discipline. It noted a draft discussion document provided by Mr Jolly, in which it was highlighted that at many shows the person appointed as Competition Manager did not compete in agility, but was appointed due to the provisions of Regulation H(1)9.c. which stated that the competition manager must not enter for competition a dog which was recorded in their ownership or part ownership, or work a dog at that show. In many cases, it was the Show Secretary who would deal with any issues arising at an agility show, as he/she often had a better understanding of H Regulations than the Competition Manager.

The Sub-Group was in full agreement that set criteria should be in place for Competition Managers in order to ensure that they were competent to undertake the role. It requested that the views of the Agility Liaison Council should be sought in terms of the necessary criteria, after which it would be referred to the Activities Committee.

Accordingly, the Council is invited to consider a proposal for a new Regulation as follows:

New Regulation H(1)9.c.

TO:

The person appointed as Competition Manager should be aware of their responsibilities as laid out in these regulations and should as a minimum have competed in agility and have knowledge of the current regulations.

(Insertion in bold. Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered)

Further details of the full rationale for the proposal are shown in the annex document.

(Annex E refers)

c. Judges Guide to Agility Equipment

The Council is invited to note that the Guide is currently undergoing editing. It is hoped that a draft will be available for review at the meeting.

(Annex F refers – to follow)

d. The Council is invited to consider a discussion paper in relation to suggested criteria for new agility judges.

(Annex G refers)

ITEM 8. INTERNATIONAL AGILITY FESTIVAL

The Council is invited to note that plans are in hand for The Kennel Club International Agility Festival, due to be held on 12-15 August 2021, but are all subject to potential change at short notice should circumstances dictate.



ITEM 9. AGILITY TEAM GB

The following events have been cancelled by the organisers:

- The Junior Open Agility World Championships (JOAWC) due to be held 15- 18 July 2021 in Portugal.
- European Open Agility Championship due to be held 22-25 July 2021 in Portugal
- FCI Agility World Championships due to be held in Estonia 23rd – 26th September 2021.

The Open Showcase online event took place on 25 April 2021, however in the view of the above, the Pre-Selection qualifier and Agility World Championships try-outs which were due to take place 30-31 May 2021 and 10-11 July 2021 respectively have also been cancelled.

ITEM 10. PROPOSALS FROM SOCIETIES/PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS

No proposals have been received.

ITEM 11. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- a. Mr M Hallam
Championship judges
The Council is request to consider concerns regarding the pool of judges available to undertake appointments at championship level. The current list of approved judges includes a number who have retired from judging championship classes, or who are no longer actively involved in the discipline. Further, it appears that very few new judges are coming forward for assessment in order to become approved to judge at this level. As a result there is some concern that there are reduced options for show organisers to select from when appointing judges for championship classes. The Council is invited to discuss whether any action is required.
- b. Ms C Harding Mr M Tait
Reporting of incidents at agility shows
Ms Harding wishes to suggest that any show official, judge, ring manager, or other show official making an entry into the Incident Book should receive a confirmation email from The Kennel Club within 42 days of the show.

ITEM 12. REVIEW TIMETABLE

The Council is invited to note the current review timetable which provides a three year rolling programme of reviews and proposal timeframes from each of the Panels.
(Annex H refers)

ITEM 13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Please give at least two weeks' advance notice of matters to be raised under 'AnyOther Business' as this assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Chairman.

ITEM 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting will be confirmed in September 2021.



NOTES:

1. The Kennel Club will reimburse standard rail fares to all representatives attending the meeting, from their addresses as recorded at The Kennel Club. Claim forms will be available at the meeting.
2. Those resident in Northern Ireland or Scotland may apply in advance for authority to substitute shuttle air travel for standard rail fare, although it is requested that tickets are booked well in advance to take advantage of any reduction in fares.
3. Please give advance notice of matters to be raised under Any Other Business. This assists the office if research is required. These items are discussed at the discretion of the Council Chairman.
4. Kennel Club Liaison Council Regulations state that The Kennel Club will bear the cost of all reasonable and externally incurred costs connected with a Council, if agreed in advance. Therefore, representatives should apply to The Kennel Club for approval of any costs they may wish to claim prior to the expense being incurred.

THE KENNEL CLUB'S MISSION STATEMENT AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

'The Kennel Club is the national body which exists to promote the general improvement, health and well-being of all dogs through responsible breeding and ownership' *This is to be achieved through:-*

- Promoting The Kennel Club as the leading national organisation for referral and advice regarding all canine related matters.
- Encouraging the responsible breeding of pedigree dogs.
- Encourage the responsible ownership of dogs.
- Facilitating the breeding of healthy dogs
- Promoting the positive benefits of dogs in society.
- Promoting and regulating canine activities and competitions.
- Providing opportunities for education and training through Kennel Club led initiatives.
- Investing in canine health and welfare.
- Engaging with the wider dog owning audience/fraternity.