

Kennel Club Agility Liaison Council

Governance Panel Report – May 2023

The Role of the Competition Manager

This matter was discussed at the last three meetings of the Agility Liaison Council and by the Judges Sub Group.

All KC licensed show required that there is a single person appointed as Competition Manager for the event. The purpose of this proposed regulation change is to clarify what the role of this person is, what skills they need and how they relate to other people involved in running the show.

A new regulation should be added as H(1)9.c.

The person appointed as Competition Manager should be aware of their responsibilities as laid out in Annex H (1) (E) of these regulations and should meet the criteria for this role.

The current regulation H(1)9.c. and all those following to be renumbered accordingly.

This regulation should come into force from the 1st January 2024.

There would be a new annex in the regulations. The proposed annex is attached to this paper.

The requirement would be that all Competition Managers at Agility Show must have passed the online judges exam on the Kennel Club Academy, within the last 5 years.. It is not a requirement that the person is a fully qualified judge. This is a suitable test to see that they are keeping up to date with the regulations and any changes.

The Guide for Agility Judges and Stewards would need to be updated as a consequence of the rule changes.

Capping Classes

At the last two ALC Meetings the Council discussed a proposal to reduce the Cap on progression classes. Further discussion at the Activities Committee considered that reducing the cap too low had the potential to result in very small classes. The Governance Panel has reconsidered these issues.

Currently we are concerned that many classes at shows are already very small with some in single numbers. This is likely to be due to reduced numbers of competitors, people restricting the number of shows they attend (for financial reasons) and a continuing increase in the number of shows. It is hoped that with time these issues will start to resolve again and we will gradually return to the pre-pandemic status. We do not want to encourage clubs to schedule classes with low numbers and the original proposed change to the Cap would do that.

The main rationale for proposing a reduction to the Cap was to enable clubs to put on shows at smaller venues, in particular indoor venues during the winter months.

Venues with limited capacity are used by some clubs all year round, so a seasonal ability to cap shows is not a solution and could be considered to be unfair. The flexibility in scheduling classes already allows clubs to limit entries by the classes they schedule, which along with knowledge of their potential

customer base and closing shows well in advance will also facilitate planning for venues. Many clubs do use venues which allow for just one or two rings successfully using these techniques.

We therefore recommend that no change to the Cap is made at the current time.

Measuring

Measurement of Large/Intermediate Dogs

Currently it is possible for an owner of a dogs to choose that their dog will jump Large irrespective of their actual height.

It is inappropriate that our measuring systems allows owner to opt to jump their dogs at a height higher than that which they measure into. The height classification system is there to ensure competition between dogs is equitable but also to help ensure that the dog's health and welfare is taken into account. Now that our Intermediate height is well established there is no need for this regulation to still exist.

Measurers would still have the option of striking through the second measure for dogs that measures substantially into the Large Height Category.

We also have the anomaly that competitors are allowed to choose to move their dog up a height if they wish. This should also be removed as it allows handler to choose to jump their height over that which is deemed appropriate for a dog of that size.

We therefore propose the following regulation changes to ensure that all dogs are measured before competing.

H(1)(B)

From

(2) Dogs competing in small, medium or intermediate height categories must be measured for competition and must be at least 15 months old before their first measurement. Competitors must ensure that their dog is measured prior to their first competition and that the dog's Agility Record Book has been signed and dated by the measuring officials.

To

(2) ~~Dogs competing in small, medium, or intermediate height categories~~ **All dogs** must be measured for competition and must be at least 15 months old before their first measurement. Competitors must ensure that their dog is measured prior to their first competition and that the dog's Agility Record Book has been signed and dated by the measuring officials.

(deletion struck though and insertion in bold)

From

4) Large dogs entered for competition will not require an official Kennel Club measurement. Once a dog has competed in any Class in the Large Height category at a Kennel Club licensed event it may not change to a different height.

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(deletion struck though and subsequent paragraphs renumbered)

From

(12) A dog will be eligible to compete in small, medium or intermediate height categories only after the official measurement has been carried out. Where a dog is measured out of the height category in which it has been entered it is permissible, at the discretion of the organising club, for entries to be altered in order that the dog can compete at the correct height category.

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(deletion struck though)

From

20) At any time should an owner request to move a dog into the next higher height category they may do so, and it will be for the lifetime of the dog, with no further changes of height permitted. If the dog's owner(s) wish to take this course of action the dog's record book should, with the written permission of the owner(s) or in the presence of an owner, be signed by 2 senior measurers without being measured. In the case of a dog in joint ownership written permission must be provided from all of the owners. Alternatively the record book should be sent to the Kennel Club with a request that the dog's height be amended with a letter from the owner(s) giving consent for this to happen.

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Training and Assessments for new measurers

Training and assessment sessions have continued with a further two session planned later this summer. This will then complete the current round of assessments. Number of measurers and demand will then be monitored.

Senior Measurers

A review is now needed of the Senior Measurers with a view to appointing additional senior measurers where these are required.

We would also like to see the role of Senior Measurers reviewed to include ensuring effective communication with local measurers in their area, assisting with training of new measurers and monitoring existing measurers including that ability to carry out checks on measuring sessions.

Ongoing re-certification of measurers

The intention is to develop an online examination that can be used to help ensure that measurers are keeping up to date with any changes to the regulations and best practise. This will be in a format similar to the current online Judges exam. All existing measurers will be required to take this exam at least once every three years. A bank of questions will be designed – the timescale for implementation depends on how soon the KC will be able to set this up.

In addition the film relating to measuring is out of date and needs to be updated as soon as possible.

Measuring Guidelines

The current measuring guidelines have a number of errors, and areas needing improvement. This particularly came to light during the training of new measurers. The guidelines are being updated following consultation with those involved in running the recent assessments. This will be completed by the end of the summer with a view to the updated document being available from January 2024.

*Sara Hawkswell
ALC Governance Panel Chair
3 May 2023*

H(1) (E) INSTRUCTIONS AS TO THE DUTIES OF AGILITY COMPETITION MANAGERS

1.. Experiences and Qualifications

- a. The Competition Manager should have a sound knowledge of the Kennel Club Rules and H Regulations, and a familiarity with the Kennel Club complaints procedure.
- b. The Competition Manager must have completed and passed the online part of the agility judges examination on the Kennel Club Academy within the last five years.

2. Responsibilities.

- a. The Competition Manager's responsibilities are to at all times ensure that competitors and judges abide by the Kennel Club Rules and H Regulations.
- b. The Competition Manager acts as decision maker in all matters relating to the Kennel Club Rules and H Regulations for the duration of the show.
- c. The Competition Manager must fully document all decisions and actions taken in relation to the H Regulations in the show's Kennel Club incident book.
- d. The Competition Manager supports the show management team in the smooth running of the show.

3. Duties.

- a. The show committee shall appoint a Competition Manager whose name must be announced in the schedule, and who must not enter for competition a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership or handle any dog at the show.
- b. In the event of extreme adverse conditions at a show a judge may remove mandatory equipment from a class as deemed appropriate at the time but must always obtain full agreement of the Competition Manager, unless in an emergency situation. The Competition Manager must be advised of the change and the reasons for it at the earliest opportunity. Any alterations must be recorded in the Incident Book and be reported, by the show management, to the Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show.
- c. Should a judge be prevented from completing a class which has already started, the Competition Manager shall decide what action is to be taken. Guidance is covered in the Guidance for Agility Judges and Stewards.
- d. The Competition Manager and the show management must act to remove a dog from the show under the conditions of Regulation H13.
- e. If there are any concerns over the suitability of a course the Competition Manager must consult with the relevant judge, and if available Accredited Trainers, and agree the proposed course of action
- f. Any complaints or matters arising at the show should be referred, in the first instance to the Competition Manager, who may consult with other members of the show team before taking appropriate action. All incidents, even if they are resolved on the day of the show, must be recorded in the Incident Book and be reported, by the show management, to the Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show.