



YKC OBEDIENCE (YKCOBD)



OBEDIENCE COMPETITIONS RULES 2025 (CRUFTS 2026)



YKC OBEDIENCE (YKCOBD)



HANDLERS

1. The following three YKC Obedience competitions are available for members to compete in, each with three age subcategories:

YKC Basic Obedience

- Handler 06-11 Years
- Handler 12-17 Years
- Handler 18-24 Years

YKC Novice Obedience

- Handler 06-11 Years
- Handler 12-17 Years
- Handler 18-24 Years

YKC High Flyers Obedience

- Handler 06-11 Years
- Handler 12-17 Years
- Handler 18-24 Years

2. Handlers may not be swapped after the closing date of the show.
 - i. This means no on-the-day swapping of YKC handlers at any obedience qualifier.
 - ii. If the entered handler is not running the dog, that entered dog must withdraw from the competition.
3. Only current YKC members may compete in YKC competitions.
4. Use the YKC member's age on the first day of the show to work out which age category a YKC member should enter.

DOGS

1. Standard Kennel Club rules regarding which dogs may enter an obedience class apply.
2. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in any YKC obedience competition.
3. Once a dog has competed with a given YKC handler in an obedience qualifier, that dog may only compete with that handler in any future obedience qualifiers for the rest of the qualifying season.
4. Each of the YKC Obedience competitions are only open to dogs that are eligible to enter specific standard Kennel Club obedience classes, these are as follows:



- i. **YKC Basic Obedience** may be entered by dogs that are eligible to compete in the following standard Kennel Club obedience classes:

- a. Introductory
- b. Pre-Beginners



- ii. **YKC Novice Obedience** may be entered by dogs that are eligible to compete in the following standard Kennel Club obedience classes:

- a. Pre-Beginners
- b. Beginners
- c. Novice



- iii. **YKC High Flyers Obedience** may be entered by dogs that are eligible to compete in the following standard Kennel Club obedience classes:

- a. Novice
- b. Class A
- c. Class B

- (1) Dogs only eligible for Class C may only be used if the dog is registered in the name of the YKC member or immediate parent and that member has trained the dog to its current standard.



C ■ YKC OBEDIENCE COMPETITION RULES

1. The qualification period for **Crufts 2026** is: **01-Jan-2025 till 31-Oct-2025**
2. Unless otherwise specified in this document, YKC Obedience classes will be subject to all in-force Kennel Club regulations for obedience competitions. Including, but not limited to:
 - i. (G) Obedience Show Regulations
 - ii. (O) Regulations for The Young Kennel Club
3. The YKC obedience competition courses will be set by the judge.
4. Each of the different YKC Obedience competitions will feature the following exercises:



i. **YKC Basic Obedience**

- a. [10 Points] – Play or Motivate your dog for 20 seconds
- b. [10 Points] – Heel on lead
- c. [10 Points] – Recall with finish to heel position
- d. [10 Points] – Examination of the dog (Handler to show the judge)



ii. **YKC Novice Obedience**

- a. [10 Points] – Play or Motivate your dog for 20 seconds
- b. [20 Points] – Heel on lead
- c. [20 Points] – Heel Free (Heelwork off lead)
- d. [10 Points] – Recall with finish to heel position
- e. [20 Points] – Retrieve own article with finish to heel position.



iii. **YKC High Flyers Obedience**

- a. [10 Points] – Play or Motivate your dog for 20 seconds
- b. [40 Points] – Heel Free (Heelwork off lead) – Normal / Slow / Fast Paces
- c. [25 Points] – Sendaway & Down on command
- d. [15 Points] – A-Recall with commands
- e. [30 Points] – Retrieve article (Provided by the judge) with finish to heel position.
- f. [30 Points] – Scent

iv. **A full breakdown and explanation of these exercises can be found on the YKC Website**

5. In all tests, handlers may use as many commands and signals as necessary unless specified (Scent).
6. All heelwork tests may contain circles but must also include straight lines and a combination of turns appropriate to the level being judged.
 - i. This is detailed in the full class breakdown available on the YKC website.
7. Any play exercise must not last longer than 20 seconds but can be 15 seconds if the judge is satisfied with the standard of the dog and handler.
 - i. Toys may not be carried in the ring.
 - ii. Where an exercise includes a toy, check with the judge or steward on how to obtain the toy.



D: YKC OBEDIENCE QUALIFIERS

1. **By entering a YKC qualifier, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct**
2. There will be a prize giving ceremony.
3. Members may enter YKC Obedience competitions even if they have already qualified.
4. There is no limit on the number of dogs a YKC member can work.
5. A dog may only be entered into a competition once (even if another handler is in a different age group)
6. Practice Rounds are permitted.
 - i. You must let the judge/steward know before entering the ring
 - ii. The practice round will take the place of your normal round at the show
 - a. i.e. once you are doing a practice round in Basic Obedience, you cannot have the same handler & dog complete a competitive round in the Basic Obedience class at the same show.
 - iii. You will have "withdrawn" marked against your name on the final scoresheet
7. YKC members & dogs must only enter YKC Obedience competitions that they are eligible to enter at the point of entry i.e:
 - i. During a qualifying year, if a dog progresses into a higher standard Kennel Club class, this will affect which YKC competition you can enter.
8. **A YKC member is only eligible to qualify for Crufts if, during their obedience round, none of the exercises score full marks.**
 - i. Judges should judge in the same manner in which they would judge a standard class.
 - a. Failure to complete an exercise should result in maximum marks for that exercise.
9. YKC Obedience qualifiers are listed on the YKC website
 - i. Only qualifiers listed on the YKC website will be eligible for qualification, please ensure that you are entering a valid YKC qualifier.



E:

WHO QUALIFIES FOR THE YKC OBEDIENCE FINALS?

1. **First & Second places** at any YKC Obedience qualifier during this season will guarantee a space in the final.
 - i. **This is providing that qualification space is not withheld via rule D.8.**
2. The YKC reserves the right to amend this qualification method if we are vastly oversubscribed for the final at Crufts **OR** if not enough spaces were filled.
 - i. The YKC will only amend qualification criteria in exceptional circumstances.
3. The handler may NEVER be substituted.
4. The YKC will let you know which dogs you may pick from to enter each YKC Obedience final.
5. Once entries for Crufts have closed, there will be no additional dogs invited to enter the YKC obedience finals

F:

HOW MANY DOGS CAN I QUALIFY FOR THE YKC OBEDIENCE FINALS?

1. **A YKC MEMBER MAY ONLY ENTER 2 DOGS INTO EACH OBEDIENCE COMPETITION IN THE YKC RING AT CRUFTS**
 - i. **i.e.:**
 - a. **2x Dogs in Basic**
 - b. **2 x Dogs in Novice**
 - c. **2 x Dogs in High Flyers**
 - ii. **This means a YKC member can qualify a maximum of 6 dogs across all YKC obedience competitions.**
2. If either a dog or handler cannot compete at Crufts, neither can be substituted and the qualification place is forfeited – except:
 - i. If you have qualified an additional dog; you may substitute this dog with another that you have qualified for the relevant YKC Obedience Class.

G:

YKC OBEDIENCE FINALS AT CRUFTS

1. **By entering a YKC competition, the YKC member and anyone representing them (parent/guardian etc) agree to abide by the YKC's Code of Conduct**
2. The YKC Obedience finals are held at Crufts in the YKC ring.
3. When qualifying for YKC Obedience final, a YKC member & dog will compete in the competition that they qualified for, even if that YKC member & dog combination is no longer eligible for that competition.
 - i. For example, if a YKC member and dog have qualified in YKC Basic Obedience, but between that qualifier and Crufts that dog has progressed to competing in the Beginners class, they will still be able to enter the Basic Obedience competition final at Crufts.
 - ii. This rule only applies to the YKC Obedience Crufts final.
4. At Crufts, the YKC will calculate the which age category each competitor shall be in based on the YKC members age on the first day of Crufts.
 - i. This may be a different age category to the one the YKC member qualified in.
 - ii. Handlers who turn 25 before the first day of Crufts are not eligible to compete at Crufts in the YKC ring – any qualifications gained for the YKC will be forfeit.
5. At Crufts, dogs **MUST** run in strict running order;
 - i. if you are not in position with the collecting ring steward when it is your turn to compete, you will have missed your turn and will not be allowed to compete later.
 - ii. The running order for the final will be determined in a pseudo-random nature.
 - a. Any handlers with more than one dog in a YKC Obedience competition final will have at least three other dogs between their turns where possible.
 - (1) If this is not possible, there will be a 1-minute period between turns.