



HEELWORK TO MUSIC - SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

from Kennel Club Working Party Meeting 4 June 2014

	Proposed	Recommended	Action
1.	Listed Status	The General Committee had approved Heelwork to Music Regulations concerning Listed Status. A press release had been issued on 29 April 2014. The press release can be seen at www.thekennelclub.org.uk/press-releases/2014/april/new-listed-status-clubs-to-hold-heelwork-to-music-shows/	Listed status clubs and competitors to note.
2.	Judges Feedback	<p>The Working Party discussed the requirement for Head Judges to provide written feedback on the four highest placed competitors. It noted that not all judges were currently doing so but it wished to encourage the provision of such reports which were of value to competitors. It confirmed that there was no minimum required length or format for a report and that two or three lines would be acceptable. In a situation where the Head Judge was not in full agreement with the final result, he/she would be expected to support it. The judges may confer once judging had been completed in order to produce or report, or should a Head Judge not wish to submit a report, it would be acceptable for the other judge to do so instead.</p> <p>Clubs publishing reports on their websites were requested to publicise their availability as there was a concern that some competitors were not aware that reports were available for them to read. In addition, clubs were encouraged to offer guidance to judges regarding the completion of reports via their newsletters.</p>	Judges, clubs and competitors to note.
3.	Training Rounds	This issue was discussed and the Working Party noted that on occasion a high proportion of training rounds may occur, which was of concern. However it understood that circumstances may arise where what began as a competition round may be changed by the handler to a training round.	Competitors to note.



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4.	YKC	<p>The Working Party noted that there did not appear to be any issues regarding the new YKC Heelwork to Music regulations. It was keen to encourage more young handlers to take part in Heelwork to Music competitions and wished to stress that under the new points-based structure, a high level of points was not required in order to qualify for the YKC Heelwork to Music Finals at Crufts. The Working Party hoped that young handlers who were not able to attend many shows would not be discouraged from attending at least some shows in order to try and qualify.</p>	<p>YKC handlers to note. Full details of the points system can be found on the YKC website: www.ykc.org.uk/news/new-qualifying-points-system-young-kennel-club-heelwork-music</p>
5.	Class progression	<p>Having received feedback from the Heelwork to Music community, the Working Party reviewed the issue of class progression. It considered a range of options including increasing the baseline pass mark, the introduction of 'wins' at every level to enable progression, and increasing the number of points required to progress.</p> <p>After discussion, the Working Party recommended the following structure for class progression:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Starters – points only – no wins required • Novice – points plus one win • Intermediate – points plus two wins <p>A class win and place awards could only be counted if an overall score of at least 21 had been awarded with a minimum of 6 points per section (averaged out from each of the scores from the judges).</p> <p>Further feedback was requested from the Heelwork to Music community in time for the next meeting of the Working Party in December at which point it was hoped that a formal proposal could then be considered and a recommendation made for consideration by the Activities Sub-Committee.</p>	<p>Competitors are requested to submit their feedback on the options for changing class progression to the members of the working party.</p> <p>Please submit feedback to Cheryl Maguire at the Kennel Club at: HTM@thekennelclub.org.uk by 10 November 2014.</p>



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6.	Judging	A concern was raised that some judges were using Judges Guidelines as the basis for their judging rather than the requirements of the Regulations. Judges were reminded that they must judge in accordance with Kennel Club Regulations.	Judges and Accredited Trainers to note the Working Party's comments.
7.	HTM Website	The Working Party noted that the website was live and that a number of show reports were available for competitors to read. Competitors were encouraged to visit the site at www.heelworktomusic.co.uk	Show societies, competitors and judges to note.
8.	Heelwork to Music representation at international events	The Working Party wished to support the attendance of teams from the UK attending international events where it was feasible to do so from 2015. Applications from suitable competitors wishing to attend either the World Championship or the Open European Championship will be requested when a team is to be supported.	Competitors wishing to apply to take part will be requested to contact the Kennel Club at HTM@thekennelclub.org.uk
9.	Creation of an upper age limit for competing dogs	The Working Party discussed the issue but was not of the view that any upper age limit should be specified and that dogs could continue to work as long as they were fit and healthy enough to do so. In the case of any concern relating to the health and welfare of a dog, a report should be made to the Kennel Club.	Competitors to note the Working Party's view.
10.	Number of judges at qualifying events	The Working Party was in agreement with a suggestion that where possible there should be three judges at all qualifying events as was already the case for the semi-final.	Show organisers to note.
11.	Age of competing dogs	The Working Party confirmed that there was no necessity for judges to be aware of the ages of the dogs competing.	Judges and show organisers to note the Working Party's view.



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12.	Check-in times	The Working Party wished to clarify that where a show stated a latest check-in time for competitors to check their music, competitors arriving after the stated time would still be able to check their music but that the specific check-in desk may be closed.	Competitors to note.
13.	Extreme angles	The Working Party did not consider that specific guidance could be issued on what constituted an extreme angle in a "reversing up" move but that judges must use their own judgement on the issue.	Judges to note the Working Party's comments.
14.	Elimination of a dog from a class	It was confirmed that in the case where a handler was considered to have physically disciplined their dog in the ring (Regulation L16.f. refers), the lead judge must decide whether or not the dog should be eliminated. However, under such circumstances the other judge or judges may if they wished award zero scores.	Judges to note the Working Party's view.