**Dances with Dogs**

## DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITIONS

Current rule:

### Titling Classes

The following titling classes are available in the Freestyle and Heelwork to Music divisions of Dances with Dogs competitions.

### Freestyle

1. **FREESTYLE STARTER**: For dogs that have not qualified for the Starter title.
2. **FREESTYLE NOVICE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Starter’ (FS.S.).
3. **FREESTYLE INTERMEDIATE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Novice’ (FS.N.).
4. **FREESTYLE ADVANCED**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Intermediate’ (FS.I.).

### Heelwork to Music

1. **HEELWORK TO MUSIC STARTER**: For dogs that have not qualified for the Starter title.
2. **HEELWORK TO MUSIC NOVICE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Heelwork to Music Starter’ (HTM.S.).
3. **HEELWORK TO MUSIC INTERMEDIATE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Heelwork to Music Novice’ (HTM.N.)
4. **HEELWORK TO MUSIC ADVANCED**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Heelwork to Music Intermediate’ (HTM.I.).

Proposed amendment:

### Titling Classes

The following titling classes are available in the Freestyle and Heelwork to Music divisions of Dances with Dogs competitions.

### Freestyle

1. **FREESTYLE STARTER**: For dogs that have not qualified for the Starter title.
2. **FREESTYLE NOVICE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Starter’ (FS.S.).
3. **FREESTYLE INTERMEDIATE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Novice’ (FS.N.).
4. **FREESTYLE ADVANCED**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Intermediate’ (FS.I.).
5. **FREESTYLE CHAMPION**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Freestyle Advanced’ (FS.A.).

### Heelwork to Music

1. **HEELWORK TO MUSIC STARTER**: For dogs that have not qualified for the Starter title.
2. **HEELWORK TO MUSIC NOVICE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Heelwork to Music Starter’ (HTM.S.).
3. **HEELWORK TO MUSIC INTERMEDIATE**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Heelwork to Music Novice’ (HTM.N.)
4. **HEELWORK TO MUSIC ADVANCED**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Heelwork to Music Intermediate’ (HTM.I.).
5. **HEELWORK TO MUSIC CHAMPION**: For dogs that have qualified for the title of ‘Heelwork to Music Advanced’ (HTM.A.).

Rationale: To accommodate the Championship class and to ensure that the Advanced title is gained/title applied for, prior to progressing to the Championship class. Recognises the championship as a separate class.

**3.1.3 Progression through titling classes**

Current Rule

3.1.3.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant division.

Proposed amendment:

3.1.3.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant division.

A competitor may be required to show proof of application to their relevant Canine Member Body. Receipt of application from the relevant Canine Member Body is not required.

Rationale

To enable interstate competitors to be transferred to the next higher class whilst competing in multiple competitions over a period of days.

**6.2 Entries**

Current Rule

6.2.3 A dog may be entered in both Freestyle and Heelwork to Music divisions, but shall be entered in only one class within a division.

Proposed amendment:

6.2.3 A dog may be entered in both Freestyle and Heelwork to Music divisions, but shall be entered in only one class level within a division. Multiple classes may be offered at the same Dances with Dogs event.

Rationale:

The current wording could be construed that multiple rings (and hence classes) cannot be offered and hence entered at a Trick Test event. I believe this makes the intent of the rule clearer.

## THE ROUTINE

Current rule:

9.1.1 The standard and quality of the work presented by the handler and dog team should be higher and, shall be judged accordingly, as they progress through the classes. In particular, there should be an increase in achievement levels of content, technical merit and musical interpretation as competitors move into higher level classes.

Proposed amendment:

9.1.1 The standard and quality of the work presented by the handler and dog team should be higher and, shall be judged accordingly, as they progress through the classes. In particular, there should be an increase in achievement levels of content, technical merit and musical interpretation as competitors move into higher level classes. There is also an expectation that this be demonstrated by an increase in the difficulty of moves, reduction in obvious visual cues and in freestyle, an introduction of distance and behind work. In heelwork, there is an expectation that as there is progression though the classes, the more heelwork positions are to be demonstrated.

Rationale: To raise the standard of performance in the higher classes and provide a guide to competitors

* 1. **Dog Attire**

Current rule:

* + 1. During the routine, dogs may only wear a decorative/co-ordinated neck collar, scarf and/or fixed collar, or no collar.

Proposed Amendment:

* + 1. During the routine, dogs may only wear a decorative/co-ordinated neck collar, scarf , limited slip and/or fixed collar or no collar.

Rationale: Provides for more flexibility for handlers

**9.2 Dog Attire**

Current rule:

9.2.3 A dog must not wear any kind of shock, prong or pinch collar (made of chain or any other material) anywhere in the precinct of the test venue.

Proposed Amendment:

9.2.3 A dog must not wear any kind of shock, correction, prong or pinch collar (made of chain or any other material) anywhere in the precinct of the test venue.

Rationale: To eliminate the use of correction collars