

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL LTD

**Rules for the Conduct of**

**Dances with Dogs Competitions**

**(Encompassing Dances with Dogs Freestyle**

**& Heelwork to Music)**

**(Effective from 1st January, 2024)**

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the**

**Australian National Kennel Council Limited 2008**

Amended

October 2010

February 2011

August 2013

July 2018

October 2023

**Adopted by the Member Bodies of the**

**Australian National Kennel Council Limited**

**AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

Dogs ACT

PO Box 815

DICKSON ACT 2602

Phone: (02) 6241 4404 Fax: (02) 6241 1129

Email: [admin@dogsact.org.au](mailto:admin@dogsact.org.au)

**WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Dogs West

602 Warton Road

SOUTHERN RIVER WA 6110

Phone: (08) 9455 1188 Fax: (08) 9455 1190

Email: [k9@dogswest.com](mailto:k9@dogswest.com)

**QUEENSLAND**

Dogs Queensland

PO Box 1136

MT OMMANEY QLD 4074

Phone: (07) 3252 2661 Fax: (07) 3252 3864

Email: [info@dogsqueensland.org.au](mailto:info@dogsqueensland.org.au)

**NORTHERN TERRITORY**

Dogs NT

PO Box 37521

WINNELLIE NT 0821

Phone: (08) 8984 3570 Fax: (08) 8984 3409

Email: admin@dogsnt.com.au

**NEW SOUTH WALES**

Dogs NSW

PO Box 632

ST MARYS NSW 1790

Phone: (02) 9834 3022 Fax: (02) 9834 3872

Email: [info@dogsnsw.org.au](mailto:info@dogsnsw.org.au)

**SOUTH AUSTRALIA**

Dogs SA

PO Box 844

PROSPECT EAST SA 5082

Phone: (08) 8349 4797 Fax: (08) 8262 5751

Email: [info@dogssa.com.au](mailto:info@dogssa.com.au)

**TASMANIA**

Dogs Tasmania

PO Box 116

GLENORCHY TAS 7010

Phone: (03) 6272 9443 Fax: (03) 6273 0844

Email: [tca@iprimus.com.au](mailto:tca@iprimus.com.au)

**VICTORIA**

Dogs Victoria

Locked Bag K9

CRANBOURNE VIC 3977

Phone: (03) 9788 2500 Fax: (03) 9788 2599

Email: [office@dogsvictoria.org.au](mailto:office@dogsvictoria.org.au)

2

**CONTENTS**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | **Page** |
| 1. | Introduction | 4 |
| 2. | Definitions | 4 |
| 3. | Dances with Dogs Competitions | 5 |
| 4. | Titles | 6 |
| 5. | Rings | 8 |
| 6. | Exhibit requirements | 8 |
| 7. | Removal of a dog | 10 |
| 8. | Withdrawal of a dog | 10 |
| 9. | The Routine | 10 |
| 10. | Competing | 11 |
| 11. | Judges and Judging | 12 |
| Appendix A Dances with Dogs Judges Mark Sheet | | 15 |
| Appendix B Official Dances with Dogs Entry Form | | 16 |
| Appendix C Guidelines for Dances with Dogs Schedules | | 17 |

Page numbers to be amended once the rules are complete.

3

**RULES FOR THE CONDUCT OF DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITIONS (ENCOMPASSING FREESTYLE AND HEELWORK TO MUSIC)**

**1.0** **INTRODUCTION**

1.1 Dances with Dogs competitions provide handlers and their dogs with an opportunity to demonstrate a skilful, choreographed routine, performed to music.

1.2 Dances with Dogs encompasses two separate divisions: (a) Freestyle and (b) Heelwork to Music.

1.3 Dances with Dogs has its foundation in traditional obedience heelwork. However, in the discipline of Dances with Dogs, the inclusion of innovative and creative moves, and movement in time to and interpretation of the music are expected.

1.4 The discipline requires a good rapport between dog and handler, reflected in a high level of teamwork.

1.5 Dances with Dogs performances should have spectator appeal.

1.6 In the event that interpretation of these Rules is required, clarification should be sought, in writing, through the relevant Member Body, from the Dances with Dogs Committee of the ANKC, the decision of which will be binding.

1.7 Any person making an entry in a Dances with Dogs competition does so at their own risk.

1.8 The National Dances with Dogs Committee shall review and may recommend to the ANKC change(s) to these Rules at five-yearly intervals.

**2.0** **DEFINITIONS**

Where referred to in these Rules, the following words will have the meanings assigned to them below:

“Affiliate”: a Member Body of a Canine Control conducting a Dances with Dogs competition.

"ANKC Ltd Member Body" or "Member Body": the ANKC Ltd Member Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**2.0 DEFINITIONS**

**NEW RULE**

“Classes”: refers to Starter, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced within a Division.

**2.0 Rationale**

Provide written clarity in the rules for Titling Classes and rule 10.3

**RULES CONTINUE**

“Dances with Dogs”: an ANKC approved canine sport which encompasses both (a) Freestyle and (b) Heelwork to Music divisions.

“Freestyle”: a division of Dances with Dogs, in which the dog works off lead and in which the routine may, subject to the provisions of these Rules, encompass a variety of moves, including heelwork and non-heelwork moves to present an interpretation of their music; there is no prescription as to the nature of moves or the level of heelwork required in Freestyle routines.

“Heelwork to Music”: a division of Dances with Dogs in which the dog works off lead in any of the following heel positions, moving at any pace and in any direction:

(a) (a) Dog on Right Hand Side of handler: 1- facing forwards   
 2- facing backwards  
(b) Dog on Left Hand Side of handler: 3- facing forwards   
 4- facing backwards

(c) Dog across front of handler: 5 - facing left  
 6 - facing right

(d) Dog across back of handler: 7 - facing left  
 8 - facing right

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW ADDITIONAL RULE:**

Under “Heelwork to Music”

(e) Dog between handler’s legs: 9 – facing forwards

10 – facing backwards

**Rationale**

Additional positions proposed, akin to those acceptable in HTM in Europe. These positions are already accepted in many other countries. These give additional options to handlers to provide variations in their routines.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

2.0 Proposed new additional rule (e) and onwards

(e) have all feet on the same level as the handler.

The handler must be in a standing position or an otherwise mutually

agreed position which accommodates a handler with mobility issues,

frames, sticks or alternative ways of moving provided the dog stays a

consistent distance from the handler.

**2.0 Rationale (e)**

Provide written clarity in the rules which removes any ambiguity as to handler position since under the current definition a handler could be on knees. The current rules on face value only make reference to general handler position. While the handler is assuming this kneeling position, the dog is able to move freely, at any pace and in any direction, in much the same way it would if the handler was standing.

The proposed amendment also removes any ambiguity regarding having a dog with front feet on a prop and this being considered a freestyle move rather than a heelwork to music move.

**CONSEQUENTIAL NOTE: if both these submissions are accepted one will be (e) and one (f).**

**RULES CONTINUE**

The dog must:

(a) move parallel to the handler in one of the nominated heelwork positions;

(b) keep the same distance in relation to the handler in all positions;

(b) move in the same direction as the handler;

(c) move at the same pace as the handler.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW ADDITIONAL RULE:**

Any component of a routine where a dog is not on at least 3 legs or is in in a static sit, drop or stand position or the dog is transitioning from one heelwork position to another is regarded as a non-heelwork position. Crawling in a heelwork position is acceptable as a heelwork move.

**Rationale:** This minor change is designed to provide clarification regarding potential variations of types of posture/stance.

**RULES CONTINUE**

At any class level a minimum of 70% of a Heelwork to Music routine must consist of heelwork, during which the dog’s shoulder should be reasonably close to the handler’s leg; the percentage of heelwork in a routine is based on the time spent undertaking heelwork positions; a routine which contains less than 70% in heelwork will be awarded a non-qualifying score and the result will be recorded as NQ. The remainder of the routine may consist of freestyle. Both the Heelwork to Music and non-Heelwork to Music moves must be taken into account in awarding the score.

DOGS NSW PROPOSAL

**NEW ADDITIONAL RULE**

In Freestyle the dog must:

Show independent moves in the routine.

At any class level a minimum of 70% of a Freestyle routine must consist of freestyle moves. The percentage of freestyle in a routine is based on the time spent undertaking freestyle moves. The remainder of the routine may consist of heelwork.

**Rationale**: To show the difference between an already established heelwork section the Freestyle section should showcase the handler and dog abilities to show moves independent of the handler. There is already a percentage rate in HTM and FS should be no different. Bringing us into line with other countries and giving clarity to our competitors.

**DOGS WEST PROPOSAL**

At any class level a minimum of 70% of a Heelwork to Music routine must consist of heelwork, during which the dog’s shoulder should be reasonably close to the handler’s leg; the percentage of heelwork in a routine is based on the time spent undertaking heelwork positions. The remainder of the routine may consist of freestyle.

**NEW ADDITIONAL RULE**

In Freestyle the dog must:

Show independent moves in the routine.

At any class level a minimum of 70% of a Freestyle routine must consist of freestyle moves; the percentage of freestyle in a routine is based on the time spent undertaking freestyle moves. The remainder of the routine may consist of heelwork.

**Rationale:** To show the difference between an already established heelwork section the Freestyle section should showcase the handler and dogs abilities to show moves independent of the handler. There is already a percentage rate in HTM and FS should be no different. Bringing us into line with other countries and giving clarity to our competitors.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**3.0** **DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITIONS**

The scheduling of any Dances with Dogs competition shall be subject to the approval of the relevant Member Body. An Affiliate conducting a Dances with Dogs competition shall offer all of the titling classes listed in section 3.1 below.

**3.1 Titling Classes**

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

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

**3.0** **DANCES WITH DOGS COMPETITIONS**

The scheduling of any Dances with Dogs competition shall be subject to the approval of the relevant Member Body. An Affiliate conducting a Dances with Dogs competition shall offer all of the ~~titling~~ classes listed in section 3.1 below.

**3.1 ~~Titling~~ Classes**

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

**Rationale** 3.1: Referring to ‘titling classes’ seems unnecessary. Simply referring to them as classes is adequate.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**3.1.1 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.).

**3.1.2 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.).

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

**3.1.1 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.).

**3.1.2 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.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**3.1.3** **Progression through titling classes**

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

**3.1.3** **Progression through ~~titling~~ classes**

**Rationale** proposed change 3.1.3. Referring to ‘titling classes’ is unnecessary. Simply referring to them as classes is adequate.

**RULES CONTINUE**

3.1.3.1 A dog shall not be entered for any class in either division without previously having qualified, and an application having been lodged, for the title at the level of the previous class.

3.1.3.2 A dog which has gained sufficient Qualifying Certificates for the title of FS.S., HTM.S., FS.N. or HTM.N. shall not be eligible to compete in any further class at that level except in a competition for which entries closed before the final qualification score required for that title was gained.

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.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**NEW ADDITIONAL PARAGRAPH IN 3.1.3.3**

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.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**3.2 Non-titling Classes**

An Affiliate conducting a Dances with Dogs competition may, at its discretion, offer non-titling classes.

**4.0 TITLES**

**4.1 Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must gain the following from at least two (2) of the three judges:

(a) a score of at least ten (10) points in each of the three (3) judging categories; and

(b) a total score of at least forty-five (45) points.

**4.2 Dances with Dogs titles**

4.2.1All dogs eligible to be entered in a Dances with Dogs competition in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Rule 4.2.2 below.

4.2.2The Member Body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

…….

1. ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains a further seven (7) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points or more, under at least three (3) different Judging Panels.

…….

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE TO PROPOSAL FOR 11.1**

**4.0 TITLES**

**4.1 Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must gain the following from at least two (2) ~~of the three~~ judges:

(a) a score of at least ten (10) points in each of the three (3) judging categories; and

(b) a total score of at least forty-five (45) points.

**4.2 Dances with Dogs titles**

4.2.1All dogs eligible to be entered in a Dances with Dogs competition in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Rule 4.2.2 below.

4.2.2The Member Body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

…….

1. ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains a further seven (7) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points1 or more, under at least three (3) different Judging Panels.

….

1. In the case of competitions conducted with a Judging Panel of two (2) licensed Judges under Rule 11.1.2, the average of the scores awarded by the two (2) judges will be added to the scores of those two (2) judges to calculate the aggregate score.

**4.0** **TITLES**

**4.1** **Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must gain the following from at least two of the three judges:

1. a score of at least ten (10) points in each of the three (3) judging categories; and
2. a total score of at least forty-five (45) points.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**New Proposed Changes to** **4.1**

**4.1 Qualifying Certificates**

To be awarded a Qualifying Certificate, a competitor must gain ~~the following~~

from at least two of the three judges~~:~~

~~(a) a score of at least ten (10) points in each of the three (3) judging categories; and~~

~~(b)~~ a total score of at least forty-five (45) points.

**Rationale** 4.1To simplify the rule.

Deletion of 4.1(a) and making (b) part of the main rule. 4.1(a) requires a score of at least 50% in each category. While a reasonable requirement in itself, it is unnecessary and complicates the Scoring Steward’s role. It would be difficult to imagine any dog scoring 45 out of 60 (i.e. an overall score of 75%) and failing to get at least 10 in any one category (e.g. a dog scoring say 9 in one category, would need to average 18 out of 20 in each of the other two categories – which is virtually impossible to do as such a poor showing in one category is bound to affect negatively to a large degree the other categories).

**RULES CONTINUE**

**4.2 Dances with Dogs titles**

4.2.1 All dogs eligible to be entered in a Dances with Dogs competition in accordance with these Rules shall be eligible to receive Title Certificates upon meeting the requirements set out in Rule 4.2.2 below.

4.2.2 The Member Body will receive applications for the use of the relevant title letters in connection with the name of each dog, when the dog has gained Qualifying Certificates in accordance with the following requirements:

1. ‘FS.S’/ ‘HTM.S’ signifying Freestyle Starter/Heelwork to Music Starter in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Starter class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.
2. ‘FS.N’/ ‘HTM.N’ signifying Freestyle Novice/Heelwork to Music Novice in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Novice class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.
3. ‘FS.I’/ ‘HTM.I’ signifying Freestyle Intermediate/Heelwork to Music Intermediate in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Intermediate class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.
4. ‘FS.A’/ ‘HTM.A’ signifying Freestyle Advanced/Heelwork to Music Advanced in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of three (3) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.
5. ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains a further seven (7) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points or more, under at least three (3) different Judging Panels.

Those additional seven (7) Qualifying Certificates must include at least three (3) different pieces of music, which may include music used for the Advanced title. Evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the Championship title.

In the case of dogs which have attained Qualifying Certificates towards the Championship title prior to 1 January 2014, those Qualifying Certificates may be counted in accordance with the rules effective to 31 December 2013. Qualifying Scores achieved after 1 January 2014 must satisfy the requirements of this Rule.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**PROPOSED CHANGE**

(e) ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains a further five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points or more, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

Those additional five (5) Qualifying Certificates must include at least two (2) different pieces of music, which may include music used for the Advanced title. ~~Evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the Championship title.~~

**Rationale**: Removal of the sentence regarding supplying evidence of the different pieces of music is removed as it places an unnecessary burden on both the handler and the Member Body. The details of the music used are already in the marked catalogues.

~~In the case of dogs which have attained Qualifying Certificates towards the Championship title prior to 1 January 2014, those Qualifying Certificates may be counted in accordance with the rules effective to 31 December 2013. Qualifying Scores achieved after 1 January 2014 must satisfy the requirements of this Rule.~~

**Rationale**: The last paragraph in (e) is removed as it is no longer applicable.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

(f) ‘FS.Gr.Ch’/’HTM.Gr.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Grand Champion/Heelwork to Music Grand Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.Ch or HTM.Ch title respectively and thereafter gains a further five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points or more, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

Those additional five (5) Qualifying Certificates must include at least two (2) different pieces of music other than any used for their Advanced or Championship title.

**Rationale**: It is proposed that a Grand Champion title be introduced in each division, in line with other disciplines e.g. Obedience, Track & Search. To ensure a Grand Champion title is achievable in a dog’s working life the requirement for the Champion title is shortened. See below:

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**PROPOSED CHANGE AS PART OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A GRAND CHAMPION TITLE:**

(e) ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains a further five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division, with aggregate scores of 160 points or more, under at least two (2) different Judging Panels.

Those additional five (5) Qualifying Certificates must include at least two (2) different pieces of music, which may include music used for the Advanced title. Evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the Championship title.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES:**

4.2.3 The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Dances with Dogs title in each division awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** | **Champion** | **Grand Champion** |
| **Title** | FS.S  HTM.S | FS.N  HTM.N | FS.I  HTM.I | FS.A  HTM.A | FS.Ch  HTM.Ch | FS.Gr.Ch  HTM.Gr.Ch |
| **Number of certificates** | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 5 (subsequent to Advanced title) with aggregate scores of 160 points or more and including at least 2 different pieces of music | 5 (subsequent to Champion title) with aggregate scores of 160 points or more and including at least 2 different pieces of music not used for Advanced or Champion titles |
| **Minimum number of Judging Panels** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 4.2.2(e)**

4.2.2

(e) ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion in connection with, and before the name of, each dog which has gained its FS.A or HTM.A title respectively and thereafter gains ~~a~~ further ~~seven (7)~~ Qualifying Certificates in the Advanced class in the relevant division~~, with aggregate scores of 160 points or more~~ that accrue 100 Championship Points, under at least three (3) different Judging Panels. Championship Points are awarded for the qualifying score ranges as follows:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Advanced Qualifying Score Ranges | Range Criteria | Score % | Championship Points |
| 135.00 to 143.99 | Marginal | 75.00% - 79.99% | 0 |
| 144.00 to 152.99 | Competent | 80.00% - 84.99% | 3 |
| 153.00 to 159.99 | Good | 85.00% - 88.88% | 10 |
| 160.00 to 170.99 | Very Good | 88.89% - 94.99% | 15 |
| 171.00 to 180.00 | Excellent | 95.00%- 100.00% | 20 |

Those additional ~~seven (7)~~ Qualifying Certificates must include at least three (3) different pieces of music, which may include music used for the Advanced title. Evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the Championship title.

Dogs which have attained ‘FS.Ch’/’HTM.Ch’ signifying Freestyle Champion/ Heelwork to Music Champion prior to 1 January 2023 are not affected by the rules effective from 1 January 2023.

In the case of dogs which have attained Qualifying Certificates towards the Championship title prior to 1 January ~~2014~~ 2024, those Qualifying Certificates may be counted in accordance with the rules effective ~~to 31 December 2013~~ from 1 January 2024. Qualifying Scores achieved after 1 January **~~2014~~** **2024** must satisfy the requirements of this Rule**.**

**Rationale** 4.2.2(e)

Changes to achieving Champion Titles - this rule change also impacts Rule 4.2.3.

Each sport sets an appropriate Champion level for that sport, and as a result there is no consistent rule that can be applied. However, there should be an expectation that an average well trained dog and handler team should be able to gain a Champion title over their active sporting life. As DWD is a challenging sport, many dogs don’t start until they well over one year of age. Additionally, there are generally fewer competitions per annum in DWD compared to many other sports and with a lag between entries once a team titles, as they create a new routine/music/costume. These challenges are doubled for teams that wish to gain Champion titles across both Divisions. As a result, some dogs are becoming too old to achieve the require number of Champion level scores. Additionally, the recent and ongoing COVID restrictions have severely hampered many dogs in most states in competing – making it a challenge for the current cohort of dogs to achieve champion.

Sports that may have a high % score to gain champion (e.g. Rally-O has a 10 Rally Master at scores of at least 90%) also have well-defined requirements that can be practised beforehand. DWD is not such a sport and so very high scores is not the only way to asses Champion level. For each Division of the sport the current Champion requires 7 Advanced qualifiers at a minimum score of 160 out of 180, i.e. 88.88% (as opposed to the Advance Qualification that requires only 75%), all under 3 different judging panels – plus needs 3 separate pieces of music/choreography/costume.

The proposed change allows exceptional dogs to gain Champion under the existing rule, but also allows for a more inclusive approach to all breeds/ages of dogs by adding an option for dogs which qualify but at scores lower than 160 when seeking their Champion title(s).

The Rule does not affect any dogs which have already attained a Champion title as they would qualify under both the existing and new rules.

The Rule is proposed to be retrospective, so any dogs which have Qualifying Certificates that meet the new points rule, along with the Judging panel and different music requirements will be eligible to apply for a title and/or count past qualifiers towards a future Champion title application.

**RULES CONTINUE**

4.2.3 The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Dances with Dogs title in each division awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** |  | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** | **Champion** |
| **Title** |  | FS.S | FS.N | FS.I | FS.A | FS.Ch |
|  |  | HTM.S | HTM.N | HTM.I | HTM.A | HTM.Ch |
| **Number of** |  | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 7 (subsequent to |
| **certificates** | |  |  |  |  | Advanced title) with |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | aggregate scores of |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 160 points or more |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | and including at least 3 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | different pieces of |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | music |
| **Minimum** |  | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |
| **number of** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Judging** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Panels** |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | | | |  |

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 4.2.3**

4.2.3 The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Dances with Dogs title in each division awarded to the dog ~~shall~~ must be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ~~Class~~ | Starter | Novice | Intermediate | Advanced | Champion |
| Title | FS.S  HTM.S | FS.N  HTM.N | FS.I  HTM.I | FS.A  HTM.A | FS.Ch  HTM.Ch |
| Number of Certificates | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | ~~7~~ 100 Championship Points or more (subsequent to Advanced title) ~~with aggregate scores of 160 points or more~~ as defined in Rule 4.2.2(e) and including at least 3 different pieces of music |
| Minimum Number of Judging Panels | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

**Rationale** 4.2.3

Consistent with rule change in 4.22(e) and to improve the clarity of rule.

This change is made so as to be consistent with the proposed changes to Rule 4.2.2(e) that changes the qualification of Champion Title to be based on a points system.

Use of “must” not “shall” is preferred as “shall” rarely occurs in everyday conversation and can be ambiguous (e.g. “You *shall* meet me tomorrow!” vs “*Shall* we meet tomorrow?”), whereas “must” is a plain language word that clearly means mandatory.

**RULES CONTINUE**

4.2.4 Application for title.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Applications for all titles must be submitted on the appropriate form, |  |
| accompanied by the prescribed fee. Upon approval by the Member Body, a | |
| title certificate authorising the use of the letters concerned will be issued to the  applicant.  **DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**  **CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE**  **4.2.4 Application for title**  Applications for all titles must be submitted on the appropriate form, accompanied by the prescribed fee. In the case of applications for Champion and/or Grand Champion titles, evidence of the use of different pieces of music must be supplied to the Member Body when applying for the relevant title.  Upon approval by the Member Body, a title certificate authorising the use of the letters concerned will be issued to the applicant. | |

**RULES CONTINUE**

**4.3 Decisions**

4.3.1 Decisions of the Committee of the Affiliate conducting any Dances With Dogs competition shall be subject to appeal to the relevant Member Body in accordance with the rules of that Member Body.

4.3.2 The rules of the Member Body shall apply to any Dances With Dogs competition and to any Affiliate conducting competitions. In the event of any inconsistency, the Member Body rules shall prevail.

4.3.3 Anyone taking part in a competition who openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judging Panel shall render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the competition and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with in accordance with the rules of the relevant Member Body.

**5.0** **RINGS**

5.1 Except with the approval of the relevant Member Body, the ring shall be a minimum of 12m by 15m or an area of 170sq metres. Dimensions of the ring must be stated in the Schedule.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

Proposed Changes to 5.1

5.1 Except with the approval of the relevant Member Body, the ring shall be a minimum of 12m by 15m or an area of ~~170sq~~ 180sq metres. Dimensions of the ring must be stated in the Schedule.

**Rationale** 5.1 Additionally, it is assumed the intent of the current rule is to have the two options of minimum sized rings being of the same area, i.e. 12m x 15m = 180m2. The current rule has 12m x 15m or 170m2.

**RULES CONTINUE**

5.2 Where competitions are held indoors, the floor must have or be covered with a non-slip surface.

5.3 Ropes or markers indicating the ring perimeter must be highly visible to competitors and the Judging Panel and not obscure the Judging Panel’s vision of competitors.

5.4 All ring equipment necessary for the proper conduct of a competition shall be provided by the Affiliate conducting the competition.

5.5 A distance of at least one metre from the ring perimeter is to be cordoned-off.

Spectators must remain outside the cordoned area.

5.6 The allocated judging area must be separated from all spectators.

5.7 The ring entrance and competitor assembly area must be kept free from spectators throughout the competition.

5.8 Dogs, other than exhibits, must not be within four (4) metres of the competition ring perimeter.

5.9 The ring may be available for access by all competitors and their dogs prior to commencement of the competition, as advised by the Competition Manager or nominee in consultation with the Judging Panel.

5.10 No dog or handler shall be permitted to enter the competition ring after the Judging Panel has confirmed the suitability of the ring, except for the purpose of competition.

5.11 Once a competitor has exited the ring, the next competitor may use food, a training toy or motivator up to the ring entrance.

5.12 No food, training toy or motivator shall be left within 6 metres of the competition ring.

5.13 No items of any kind shall be thrown by any person into the ring at any time during a competition.

**6.0** **EXHIBIT REQUIREMENTS**

**6.1** **Eligibility of exhibits**

Dances with Dogs competitions are open to dogs that are:

1. registered with the relevant Member Body;
2. 12 months of age or over on the first day of a sanctioned event which includes a Dances with Dogs competition.

**6.2 Entries**

6.2.1 All entries must be made in a format providing the required data as per the example at Appendix B and in accordance with the Member Body rules and the timelines published in the Schedule.

6.2.2 A separate entry form must be submitted for each entry as scheduled.

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.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

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. We believe this makes the intent of the rule clearer.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Deletion** of 6.2.3

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.~~

**Rationale** 6.2.3 To simplify the rule.

The existing rule is confusing and appears redundant. Rules 3.1.3 cover the entry of dogs within Classes and Divisions and does not allow for dogs to be entered in multiple classes within a Division, while Rule 6.2.4 covers Intermediate titled dogs that may enter either Intermediate or Advanced, but not both classes.

**RULES CONTINUE**

6.2.4 A dog with an Intermediate title may only compete in either Intermediate or Advanced class within a division at the one competition.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change** to 6.2.4

6.2.4 A dog with an Intermediate title in a division may only compete in either Intermediate or Advanced class within ~~a~~ that division at the one competition.

**Rationale** 6.2.4: This is ambiguous. If a dog has an HTM.S title and a FS.I title, the current wording does not allow the dog to compete in HTM.N. as well as FS.A. at the one competition.

**RULES CONTINUE**

6.2.5 A dog may be entered in both titling and non-titling classes when the latter are offered by the Affiliate conducting the competition.

**6.3 Music and costume**

6.3.1 Music in the public domain is acceptable and encouraged, provided it is not offensive or sexually suggestive in language. Competitors may obtain their music by creating it new, purchasing it, or receiving it free. Competitors do not need to hold music licenses for routines entered in Member Body events[1](#4d34og8).

6.3.2 Costume, music and/or routine must not be offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation. Violations of this rule shall result in the routine being disqualified.

6.3.3 Competitors should wear some type of appropriate2 footwear, that complies with the safety requirements of the Member Body.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 6.3.3**

6.3.3 Competitors ~~should~~ may wear either some type of appropriate~~2~~footwear, or may be bare -footed or in stockinged feet, unless being unshod is in contradiction of ~~that~~  ~~complies with~~ the safety requirements of the Member Body.

**Rationale** 6.3.3 - Remove unnecessary restriction on competitors.

UK/European competitions allow bare feet and this practice appears to enhance the handler’s mobility and also is better for dog welfare as any close movement that results in the handler accidentality stepping on the dog’s feet will result in less harm to the dog if the handler is bare-footed and/or is wearing just stockinged feet.

Additionally, it is hard to see how unsafe either indoor or outdoor surfaces could be for a handler.

The footnote reference “2” previously existed in an earlier version of the rules but was removed in the 2019 rules but the footnote reference “2” still exists in the current rules and should be removed also.

**RULES CONTINUE**

6.3.4 All handlers are responsible for providing the Music Steward with one (1) copy of their music, labelled with competitor’s name, division, class, music selection and duration, at least thirty minutes before commencement of the competition. Music must be in a suitable audio format as specified in the competition schedule.

6.3.5 Music checks will be available before commencement of the competition.

Handlers are responsible for the quality of recorded material.

6.3.6 At the discretion of the Affiliate, a competitor may change the details of the music (the music selection/title, duration etc) at the point of registration. Details of the change must be provided to other relevant officials at the competition and be recorded on the marked catalogue submitted to the relevant Member Body.

6.3.7 Once handlers have provided their music to the Music Steward and the music check has been completed, the music must remain with the Music Steward until completion of at least that class of the competition.

6.3.8 Handlers are responsible for the collection of their music at the end of the competition.

**6.4 Registration and attendance**

6.4.1 Handlers are responsible for registering their presence with the Secretary or nominee prior to the commencement of the competition, as specified in the Schedule.

6.4.2 The handler and dog shall be available to the ring steward at the conclusion of the routine of the competitor prior to them.

**6.5** **Welfare of Dogs**

6.5.1 All handlers whose dogs are entered at a Member Body sanctioned event shall take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog are met, and shall not put their dog’s health or welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise.

6.5.2 Exhibits may be required to be inspected in accordance with the requirements of

the relevant Member Body.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**New Addition as part of 6.5**

6.5.3 Listed below are those areas of which the handler must be aware when performing a routine. Where any of these areas are not adhered to the judging panel will order the performance to stop and the Handler to exit the ring.

1. The routine emphasizes the qualities of the dog (breed, personality, physical abilities, mental abilities, etc.). The handler has considered the dog’s body structure and temperament while choosing the moves. The dog’s physical and mental characteristics are portrayed positively in the routine.
2. Health and safety of the dog. When putting together a routine, the handler has considered the capabilities of the dog and does not demand of it anything that would cause it harm or discomfort. The dog is physically and mentally able to easily perform all the moves asked. None of the moves are repeated excessively or performed for substantial periods at a time. The handler has taken into consideration the surface of the ring and the speed of the dog when choreographing their routine. The dog must appear stable and in control of its body when performing any moves.
3. Props are stable and without any obvious danger so that the moves can be performed safely.
4. The handler’s costume and the handler’s movement is also safe for the dog. The dog does not show sign of excessive stress or significant signs of physical exertion. It is important that the judging panel be able to differentiate between when the dog is over-excited and happy from when the dog is over-excited and stressed and begins to struggle in their confident performance.
5. Partnership. If the dog struggles in anyway during the routine, the handler must offer support without delay. Companionship is reflected in the atmosphere of the team working together; there is nothing harsh or forceful about the handling; and the team displays mutual respect towards one another. In the case of injury; if the dog is injured during the routine, the nominated head judge can stop the routine. The judging panel may discuss on how to proceed in each individual case.

**Rationale**:

In today’s world the general public perception of any dog sport is paramount to the continuing acceptance and high regard of our activities. To encompass such rules as above will help in assuring that our sport is accepted as being both responsible and respectful of our dogs. These rules are similar to rules already in the FCI Dog Dancing Rules.

**DOGS WEST PROPOSAL**

**Welfare of the Dog**

Addition 6.5.3

It is important that no moves in DWD or Tricks be used that may cause an injury to the dogs. Any moves that are not natural (see list below) and not good for the dogs structure and conformation or indeed degrade the dogs must be avoided and if put into a routine will cause the judges to demand immediate removal of the dog from the ring.

The following are examples of types of tricks which are likely to be unsuitable for the vast majority of dogs:

* The dog balanced on handler’s shoulders while the handler is standing;
* Dog Standing on Hindlegs for more than 30 Seconds at any one time during the routine
* The  dog being carried on the handler’s back and being asked to jump off at head height;
* A head stand (also known as tripod) or any variation of it, whereby the dog is balanced on his nose and front feet with his back feet off the ground;
* A hand stand or any trick where the dog is independently balanced on his front feet, either moving or statically;
* The dog sitting  on the handler’s upturned feet or performing any other behaviour in that position, and having no contact with the floor;
* Forward or backward roll/somersault (eg where the dog turns head over heels in the air or on the ground and lands or finishes on their feet);
* Other moves which may be viewed as potentially harmful or injurious to the dog.

**Rationale**: We wish to promote at all times the safety of the dog whilst competing, making it clear to competitors unsafe moves will not be tolerated

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

6.5.4 Judges will scrutinise closely and penalise heavily any move (or component) which is inappropriate or potentially unsafe, having regard to the dog’s size, structure and conformation. The following are examples of types of tricks which are likely to be unsuitable for the vast majority of dogs (based on Great Britain Kennel Club rules for Freestyle competitions):

* the dog balanced on handler’s shoulders while the handler is standing;
* the dog being carried on the handler’s back and being asked to jump off at head height;
* forward or backward roll/somersault (eg where the dog turns head over heels in the air or on the ground and lands or finishes on their feet);
* other moves which may be viewed as potentially harmful or injurious to the dog.

**Rationale**:

Handler clarification on what moves would be unacceptable and a description on a penalty for using dangerous moves.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**6.6 Bitches in Oestrum**

Bitches in oestrum or showing a coloured discharge of any sort shall not be permitted to compete in any competition or to remain within the precincts of the competition venue.

**7.0** **REMOVAL OF A DOG**

7.1 Any dog that attacks or displays aggressive behaviour towards any person or another dog shall be removed and disqualified from all competition on the day, and the matter shall be addressed in accordance with the incident reporting procedures of the Member Body.

7.2 The Judging Panel –

1. may order the removal from competition of any dog which is deemed disorderly or unmanageable, any handler who interferes wilfully with another competitor or a competitor’s dog or whose behaviour is objectionable; and
2. shall exclude or order the removal from competition of any dog which the Judging Panel considers unfit to compete.

**8.0** **WITHDRAWAL OF A DOG**

8.1 A competitor may withdraw a dog before or during judging but, following such withdrawal, that handler/dog team will not be able to take any further part in that class of the competition, unless the Judging Panel, in exceptional circumstances, otherwise approves.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes** to 8.1

8.1 A competitor may withdraw a dog before or during judging but, following such withdrawal, that handler/dog team will not be able to restart or complete the routine from which they have withdrawn ~~to take~~ ~~any further part in that class of the~~  ~~competition~~, unless the Judging Panel, in exceptional circumstances, otherwise approves.

**Rationale** to 8.1

The intent of the current rule can only be inferred. Not even certain what it means which is not good. There has been confusion from competitors as to whether if they withdraw from Starters Class (eg Freestyle) in one Division whether they may still do their Starter in the other Division (eg HTM) as only ‘class’ is singled out in the ring. The rule is appearing, though it is not absolutely clear in the wording to be referring to the performance under the one catalogue number.

The proposed amendment clarifies exactly the requirements of a withdraw and how it works.

**RULES CONTINUE**

8.2 If, for any reason, a competitor requests that the music be stopped and that they be allowed to leave the ring, then the competitor is regarded as having withdrawn. A competitor who wishes to withdraw must provide a clear indication of this intention to the judges and to the music steward and may not thereafter continue with the routine.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes** to 8.2

8.2 If, for any reason, a competitor requests that the music be stopped and that they be allowed to leave the ring, then the competitor is regarded as having withdrawn. A competitor who wishes to withdraw must provide a clear indication of this intention to the judges and to the music steward and ~~may~~ must not thereafter continue with the routine.

**Rationale** 8.2 To clarify the rule.

“May” means purely optional and does not imply that the writer recommends that option to the reader, whereas “must” is a plain language word that clearly means mandatory, and “must not” clearly means prohibited.

**RULES CONTINUE**

8.3 If a competitor withdraws, no scores will be allocated for any of the scoring categories and the score sheet shall be marked “Withdrawn (W/D)”. If a competitor withdraws, no placing shall be awarded to that entry.

**9.0** **THE ROUTINE**

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.

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**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.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes** to 9.1.1

9.1.1 The standard and quality of the work presented by the handler and dog team ~~should~~ is expected to be higher for all aspects of the Judge’s marking criteria (see Rule 11.3) and, ~~shall~~ must 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~~.

**Rationale** 9.1.1 To clarify & simplify the rule.

Note this rule is related to rule 11.3.

“Should” is similar to “ought to” and is only a recommendation. While teams may, or may not, present higher standards of work, it is expected by the judges and the rule should make this requirement clear.

“Shall” rarely occurs in everyday conversation and can be ambiguous (e.g. “You *shall* meet me tomorrow!” vs “*Shall* we meet tomorrow?”), whereas “must” is a plain language word that clearly means mandatory.

The deletion of the last part of the rule is a simplification, as the detail in the current rule is covered by Rule 11.3. The proposed rule simply refers to the Judging Criteria in 11.3.

**RULES CONTINUE**

9.1.2 The routine must start, continue, and finish within the confines of the ring.

9.1.3 The duration of a routine must be a minimum of one (1) minute and a maximum of four (4) minutes. It is expected that the duration of routines in the lower class levels will be towards the minimum end of the nominated time and towards the maximum end of the nominated time for routines in the higher classes.

The following guidelines regarding the minimum duration of routines are provided for competitors:

Starter

minimum of 1 minute

Novice

minimum of 1 minute 30 seconds

Intermediate

minimum of 2 minutes 15 seconds

Advanced

minimum of 3 minutes.

**9.2 Dog attire**

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

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Amendment:**

9.2.1 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

**RULES CONTINUE**

9.2.2 Dogs may, when entering and exiting the ring, wear a collar or harness with lead attached, or slip lead.

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

**DOGS VIC PROPOSAL**

**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.

**RULES CONTINUE**

9.2.4 A dog may not be artificially coloured.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 9.2.4**

9.2.4 A dog ~~may~~ **must** not be artificially coloured.

**Rationale** 9.2.4 To clarify the rule.

“May” means purely optional and does not imply that the writer recommends that option to the reader, whereas “must” is a plain language and “must not” clearly means prohibited.

**RULES CONTINUE**

9.2.5 A hair band (on the head) for long coated dogs is allowed in order to allow the dog to see clearly. The purpose is primarily to improve visibility of the dog, and the hairband should not be considered decoration.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 9.2.5**

9.2.5 A non-decorative hair band (on the head) for long coated dogs is allowed in order to allow the dog to see clearly. ~~The purpose is primarily to improve~~  ~~visibility of the dog, and the hairband should not be considered decorative.~~

**Rationale 9.2.5**

Reduced wordiness of the rule.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**9.3 Props and other items**

If props are used, they must be an integral part of the routine and must be used by the handler and/or dog. Violation of this rule shall result in a one (1) penalty point deduction per prop. No props may be included or removed from the ring once the routine has commenced. Each Judge shall deduct such point(s) in the ‘Deductions’ section on the score sheet.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 9.3**

**9.3 Props and other items**

If props are used, they must be ~~an integral part of the routine and must be used by the handler and/or dog~~ applicable to the interpretation of the music with all the props integrated into the performance. Violation of this rule ~~shall~~ must result in a one (1) penalty point deduction per prop. ~~No props may~~ Props must not be included or removed from the ring once the routine has commenced. Each Judge ~~shall~~ must deduct such point(s) in the ‘Deductions’ section on the score sheet.

**Rationale 9.3** Clarification of the rule.

Most props are often used once or twice and no penalty is being applied. The current wording implies the prop should be integral to the routine – not just integrated into the routine - so a single use would not fit this interpretation of “integral” and so should incur penalties. The current practice of not penalising appears to fit with the UK’s “Judges Guide to HTM”, where the prop only has to be integrated into the routine, and so that wording is proposed here.

“May not” means purely optional and does not imply that the writer recommends against that option to the reader, whereas “must” is a plain language word, and “must not” clearly means prohibited.

Use of “must” not “shall” is preferred as “shall” rarely occurs in everyday conversation and can be ambiguous (e.g. “You *shall* meet me tomorrow!” vs “*Shall* we meet tomorrow?”), whereas “must” is a plain language word that clearly means mandatory.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**10.0** **COMPETING**

10.1 Any person who carries out punitive correction or harsh handling of any dog at any time within the precincts of the competition venue shall be reported and dealt with under the Member Body rules.

10.2 Verbal commands and/or encouragement may be provided by the handler to the dog and shall not be penalised at any level.

10.2.1 When during a routine a move is required to be repeated, the handler may repeat the chosen cue provided that the dog is obviously performing the behaviour cued. Repeating a cue due to the dog's refusal or inattention is to be penalised.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 10.2.1**

10.2.1 When during a routine a move is required to be repeated, the handler may repeat the chosen cue provided that the dog is obviously performing the behaviour cued. Repeating a cue due to the dog's refusal or inattention is to be ~~penalised~~ marked down in the appropriate Judging Category.

**Rationale 10.2.1** To clarify the rule to support the current practice.

There is ambiguous use of the words “penalised”, “deductions” and “scored/marked”. In Rules 11.4 the heading “Penalised” is used but is clarified in 11.4.1 as really meaning the penalty must be a “deduction” which is to be shown at the base of the Judges’ Mark Sheet in Appendix A. The use of the term “penalised” here in 10.2.1 could be interpreted in a similar manner. However, it is the practice that it is not and thus rule is interpreted as meaning the scores assigned against the relevant Judging Categories meed to be marked down accordingly, probably under the “Technical Merit – Extent of mistakes and refusals” section, but also possibly under “Musical Interpretation – Level of teamwork … …Natural and willing manner…”.

**Proposed Change to 10.2.1**

10.2.1 When during a routine a ~~move~~ cue is required to be repeated, the handler may repeat the chosen cue as a ‘keep going’ cue provided that the dog is obviously performing the behaviour cued. ~~Repeating a cue~~ ~~due to the dog's refusal or inattention is to be~~  ~~penalised.~~

**Rationale to 10.2.1**

No mention under Penalties 11.4. when repeating a command or dog’s inattention. This is particularly harsh for any handler in Starters division. Judges would just mark a lower score for Technical Merit. No need to penalise as well.

**RULES CONTINUE**

10.2.2 Physical touch as encouragement or reward before or after completion of a routine shall not be penalised at any level.

10.3 After a dog has commenced competing in a class, no substitution of handler is permitted in that class.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 10.3**

~~10.3 After a dog has commenced competing in a class, no substitution of handler is permitted in that class.~~ The handler must be as listed in the entry, unless exemption from the competition manager is sought. A dog may have different handlers in different classes and competitions in order to achieve their title.

**Rationale 10.3** Increase clarity.

The current rule is open to the interpretation that once a handler qualifies a dog in a class, all further qualifications must be with the same handler until a title is gained. Amending the wording of this rule would remove any ambiguity and make it clear that further qualifications towards any particular title do not necessarily need to occur with the same handler. This is consistent with other ANKC sports which allow the option of multiple handlers to contribute the dog gaining a particular title.

RULES CONTINUE

10.4 Handlers with disabilities may compete, provided such handlers can move about the

ring without physical assistance. The use of a wheelchair, crutches or cane is acceptable. The dog is to perform all necessary requirements of their routine as stated in these rules.

10.5 At the Judging Panel’s discretion, if a dog’s performance was prejudiced by peculiar or unusual conditions, the Panel may re-judge the entire routine.

10.6 For the duration of the competition, all dogs must be on a lead (or otherwise restrained [e.g. in a crate]) except when competing or practising prior to the competition. Dogs will enter and leave the competition ring on lead under the control of the handler. At any point after entering the ring, the competitor will remove the lead and hand it to the ring steward who will return it to the handler on completion of the routine. A dog who exits the competition ring off lead at any time may be penalised, up to disqualification, in accordance with Rule 7 and Rule 11.5.1(b).

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Change 10.6 (part)**

… At any point after entering the ring, the competitor will remove the lead and ~~hand it to the ring steward who will return it to the handler on completion of the routine.~~ place it on the ring perimeter or out of sight. …

**Rationale 10.6 (Part)**

As we are in the midst of a pandemic clarity is sought on how to deal with the lead. Under normal circumstances at the conclusion of the routine, the steward would enter the ring to hand over the lead. Currently handlers are hanging their lead on the perimeter of the ring or placing in a pocket. Costumes do not always allow this. Moving to the perimeter of the ring risks the dog accidentally leaving the ring. There is variation on expectations from judges, making it difficult to train ring entry protocol. Some judges do not want the lead to be visible to the dog within the ring. Any amendment can remain in place post pandemic.

**Proposed Change 10.6 (part)**

… A dog who exits the competition ring off lead at any time ~~may~~ shall be penalised, up to disqualification, in accordance with Rule 7 and Rule 11.5.1.(b).

**Rationale 10.6 (part)**

To provide consistency of terminology- Currently there is confusion between

judges on the use of the words Shall and May in the rules 10.6 and 11.5.1. The

following shall /may result in disqualification.

**RULES CONTINUE**

10.7 The competition Secretary will allocate handlers a competition number for each entry submitted. Handlers are not required to wear numbers during competition. Numbers and names of the handler and dog, together with other relevant information, will be listed in the competition catalogue and the name of the handler and dog will normally be announced as they enter the ring. Other on-site displays of names of competitors and their dogs are permissible.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

10.7 Carrying the dog into and out of the ring.

While entering and/or leaving the ring, the handler may carry the dog in his or her arms. The dog is still required to be on lead as per the rules. Carrying the dog in a prop is not permitted. Before starting the routine, the dog has to be put on the ground, lead removed, and take the starting position voluntarily. When ending the routine and, whether the ending position is the dog on or the dog off the ground in some form then, before carrying the dog out of the ring, it must be on the ground and the lead attached.

**Rationale:**

There is becoming quite a higher percentage of small breed dogs in our sport. Many handlers find it faster, easier and safer to carry their dog in and, especially, out of the ring. While this should be acceptable it should also be shown that these dogs are under control.

**Consequential:**

**Current 10.7 changed to 10.8**

**RULES CONTINUE**

**11.0** **JUDGES AND JUDGING**

**11.1** **Composition of Judging Panels**

11.1.1 Each class in a titling Dances with Dogs competition will be judged by a Judging Panel comprised of three licensed Judges.

11.1.2 Persons participating in a Judging Panel at any titling Dances with Dogs competition must have been approved by the relevant Member Body for judging at the relevant level.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE 11.1.2**

11.1.2 In the case of competitions conducted at locations more than 100 km from the CBD of the relevant capital city, the Judging Panel may be comprised of two (2) licensed Judges.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE -** Renumber present sub-rule 11.1.2 to 11.1.3.

**Rationale:**

At present a DWD judging panel consists of 3 judges. In most states there is only a relatively small pool of licensed DWD Judges.

Member Bodies have been conscious of the fact that DWD by its nature – and particularly given the requirement for 3 judges – has basically been confined to metropolitan areas. This has disadvantaged those handlers who live in more regional areas.

With the introduction of Tricks this has sparked an interest by new handlers in DWD. Regional Clubs to assist in off-setting costs will frequently run multi-sport events and contract judges who can judge more than one discipline. This, again, reflects negatively on the requirement for 3 judges.

Having 3 DWD judges has always been seen as a way of balancing the otherwise sometimes subjective aspects of DWD judging. In order to open the possibility of DWD being offered in locations outside city metropolitan areas, this proposal suggests that, for any club located more than 100 km from the relevant capital city, the number on the judging panel could be reduced to 2 judges.

At present, teams can achieve a qualifying score by gaining at least 45 points under 2 judges, even if the third judge’s score is below 45. In this proposal, teams covered by this geographic variation would still need to qualify under 2 judges in order to obtain a qualifying certificate.

The situation in which total/aggregate scores are relevant is in relation to

Championship titles. In this case it is proposed that the ‘third score’ be

calculated as the average of the other two scores

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.1.1 and 11.1.2**

11.1.1 Each class in a ~~titling~~ Dances with Dogs competition will be judged by a Judging Panel comprised of three licensed Judges.

11.1.2 Persons participating in a Judging Panel at any ~~titling~~ Dances with Dogs competition must have been approved by the relevant Member Body for judging at the relevant level.

**Rationale to 11.1.1 and 11.1.2**

Referring to ‘titling Dances with Dogs competition’ seems unnecessary. Simply referring to a Dances with Dogs competition seems adequate.

**RULES CONTINUE**

11.2 Competitors are under the jurisdiction of the Judging Panel the entire time they are in the competition ring, not just during the performance of the routine.

**11.3 Judges’ marking criteria**

Each judge will mark all three sections of the Judging criteria as follows:

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.3**

**11.3 Judges’ marking criteria**

Each judge ~~will~~ must mark all three sections (unless a dog is disqualified or withdrawn) of the Judging criteria on the Judge’s Mark Sheet (as shown in Appendix A) as follows:….

**Rationale 11.3** To clarify the rule.

The Individual Judges’ Mark Sheet which is in the appendices is currently not referred to within the rules.

Use of “must” is preferred and clearly means mandatory, whereas “will” conveys a future obligation. Legislative drafting avoids the use of ‘will’ or ‘shall’ in favour of ‘must’ which always suggests an absolute obligation.

We have also included ‘unless a dog is disqualified or withdrawn’, in order to expedite judging and prevent judges having to utilise a mark sheet of a dog that will clearly not qualify.

**RULES CONTINUE**

* 1. Routine Content – 20 points
     1. Variety of moves/ positions.
     2. Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of moves/positions.

1. Technical Merit – 20 points
   * 1. Accuracy and fluency of positions/ moves.
     2. The extent of mistakes and/or refusals.
2. Musical Interpretation – 20 points
   * 1. Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves.

Apparent and flowing choreography and use of available space.

1. Level of teamwork, harmony and relationship demonstrated between the dog and handler.

Natural and willing manner of working demonstrated by the dog.

1. Extent to which costume is appropriate to and enhances the routine.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.3**

**11.3 Judges’ marking criteria**

(a)  Routine Content – 20 points

(i) Variety of moves/ positions.

(ii) Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of moves/positions.

(b)  Technical Merit – 20 points

(i) Accuracy and fluency of positions/ moves.

(ii) ~~The extent of mistakes and/or refusals.~~ Level of harmony and engagement of the partnership.

(c)  Musical Interpretation – 20 points

~~(i) Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves.~~

~~Apparent and flowing choreography and use of available space.~~

~~(ii)   Level of teamwork, harmony and relationship demonstrated between the dog and handler.~~

~~Natural and willing manner of working demonstrated by the dog.~~

~~(iii)   Extent to which costume is appropriate to and enhances the routine.~~ The performance shall encompass innovative and creative choreography, through rhythm, phrasing and mood of the music with costuming to create Spectator Appeal.

The routine shall make good use of the available space.

**Rationale to 11.3**

***There are three elements to the proposal. The elements are not connected and either can be adopted on their own.***

***The elements are;***

***Scoring Three Categories instead of Seven***

***Wording of the Judges’ Marking Criteria***

**Scoring Three Categories instead of Seven**

**Rationale Summary**

Going to three categories instead of seven:

1) gives a very balanced reflection of the routine;

2) will speed up the marking providing flow on effects of competition spectator

appeal;

3) aid competitors and;

4) provide incentive to clubs to hold DWD Competitions.

Explanation of Key Points

1. Gives a very **balanced reflection of the routine**.

The current distribution of points also subtracts teamwork components from the Musical Interpretation score:

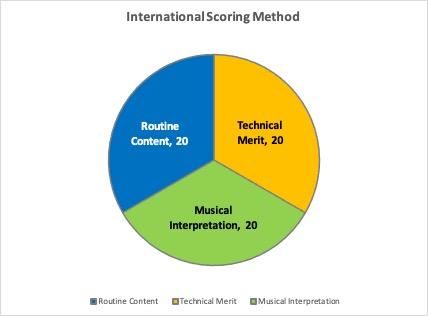
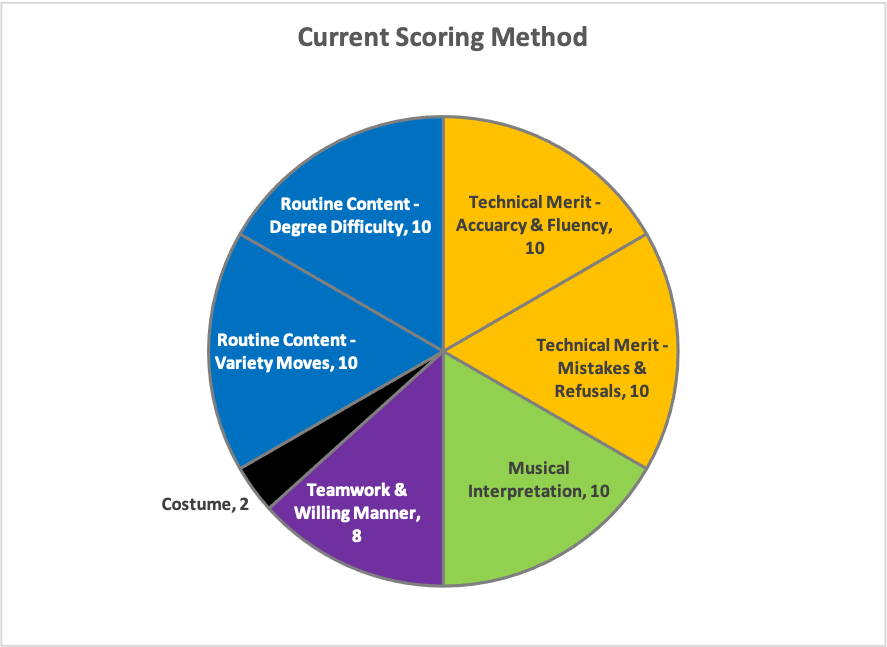
ie:

*‘Level of teamwork, harmony and relationship demonstrated between the dog and handler. Natural and willing manner of working demonstrated by the dog. (8 Points)’*

Whereas the level of teamwork or lack thereof may be better reflected in the area of Technical Merit. Accuracy and fluency of positions/moves, mistakes and/refusals IS a direct reflection of teamwork.

In its present location “Level of teamwork etc” dilutes the Musical Interpretation Score by 8 points (20 minus 8 =12). Musical Interpretation is the key point of difference of DWD to other canine sports.

Below are two pie charts comparing the distribution of points under the current points break down of the categories (shown on the left) compared with the proposed three category distribution (the scoring method used internationally) which shows a balanced representation which is easy for judges and competitors to conceptualise.

.

A sub point about Short Term Memory. Research has shown that short term memory is only capable of storing information for a maximum of about a minute and then the memory rapidly degrades. While watching routines the judge is making complex evaluations, translating the evaluations to only three scores will assist.

2) ‘International Scoring’ will **speed up the marking providing flow for the competition and spectator appeal**.

Judging by the current seven category method takes in the order of four to five minutes per competitor, which means the ring is sitting silent and empty for vastly more time than performances are gracing the ring and makes for a stilted and potentially lacklustre event.

In contrast during International events (eg Crufts, FCI) where the judges’ score sheet contains three categories, the scoring by all three judges typically takes under one minute.

Some of our judges may wish to add comments. There is room for working notes on the proposed scoresheet instead of using scrap pieces of paper. If the average time to score and jot down a comment or two was a couple of minutes this time saving would greatly improve the atmosphere and interest at competitions. For a competition with say 30 routines to judge, the judging time could reduce from about **three hours** (2 minutes for the average routine plus 4 minutes to judge) down to **two hours** (2 minutes times 30 routines). A **double** competition down from **six hours to four hours**.

1. Aid to Competitors.

The scores competitors receive will focus in on the three categories of Content, Technical Merit and Musical Interpretation which will be simpler for competitors to follow. Using the current 7 category sheet, we often see variation between the ways the scores are awarded. The total score by each judge is often similar but there can be variation between the way those scores are attributed which can reduce competitor confidence in the judges. The proposed three category sheet will reduce that variability.

With regard to the time reduction between routines. Competitors will know they can enter the ring shortly after the competitor in front of them has finished their routine, that will help their flow into the ring instead of working through a long and more variable pause. DWD would work more like other dog sports where competitors are accustomed to shorter scoring waits before entering the ring.

The time saving for the overall length of competition will work to minimise to some extent possible changes in conditions.

Especially relevant for outdoor competitions, were weather conditions and lighting can change significantly.

1. Incentive for clubs to hold DWD Competitions.

With a significant reduction in the time to score, Clubs can hire venues for shorter duration and save on hire fees. It will also be more feasible to run evening competitions.

The lowered time commitment will make it easier to get helpers and officials.

The Scribe’s job will be simpler and it will be easy to post results in a timely manner for competitors to view.

***Wording of the Judges’ Marking Criteria***

***for Technical Merit***

**Rationale**

The two sub categories of Technical merit, also create challenges because ‘Accuracy and fluency of positions/moves’ in the first subdivision is intrinsically inter-related to ‘Extent of mistakes and/or refusals’ in the second subdivision, making it difficult to separate the scores.

Further, as we don’t deduct specific marks and instead mark the performance before us there are not specific actions to take for each ‘mistake/refusal’.

Removing ‘Extent of mistakes and/or refusals’ and replacing the Technical Merit Marking Criteria explanation instead with;

Accuracy and fluency of position/moves. Level of harmony and engagement of the partnership. Covers all aspects of Technical Merit.

Application of the words; **‘Level of harmony and engagement of the partnership’** in place of; ‘*Level of teamwork, harmony and relationship demonstrated between the dog and handler. Natural and willing manner of working demonstrated by the dog’, creates a vision of harmony and two-way partnership and reflects fluency, thoughtful cuing, flow and togetherness, the level of expectation in this area is a key point of uniqueness with DWD and a ‘performance’.*

***Wording of the Judges’ Marking Criteria***

***for Musical Interpretation***

**Rationale**

Innovative and Creative Moves is stated in the Introduction, 1.2, as a key point of difference in DWD to ‘traditional obedience heelwork’. 1.5 dictates that performances should have ‘spectator appeal’ and yet neither of these two elements is highlighted in the judging criteria. These are elements that define our dog sport. Let’s recognise these aspects by including them as assessable components.

The proposed description adds in the key components above and also maintains the current criteria in the description. The modified wording also provides a clear mental image for competitors of the performance of good musical interpretation.

*‘The performance will encompass innovative and creative choreography, through rhythm, phrasing and mood of the music with costuming to create Spectator Appeal. The routine will make good use of the available space’.*

***Wording “Appropriate to the class” added to the beginning of the Judges’ Marking Criteria***

**Rationale**

To convey to competitors and judges that performance criteria in all Categories is not as high in the lower classes and to encourage potential newcomers the sport to not feel to overwhelmed to try.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**11.4 Penalties**

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.4**

**11.4. Penalties (Deductions)**

**Rationale 11.4** To clarify the heading.

There is ambiguous use of the words “penalised” and “deductions”. In Rule 11.4 the heading “Penalised” is used and is clarified in 11.4.1 as meaning the penalty must be a “deduction” which is to be shown at the base of the Judges’ Mark Sheet in Appendix A. Therefore “Deductions” is added to the heading to clarify.

**RULES CONTINUE**

11.4.1 The penalties referred to in this rule relate to a deduction from the total score awarded by each individual Judge.

11.4.2 Barking may incur a penalty of up to four (4) points, provided that barking which is cued and is obviously part of a routine shall incur no penalty. Continuous barking shall result in disqualification.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.4.2**

11.4.2 Barking may incur a penalty of up to four (4) points, except ~~provided that~~ barking which is cued and is obviously part of a routine ~~shall incur~~ ~~no penalty~~. Continuous barking ~~shall~~ will result in disqualification in accordance with Rule 11.5.1(j).

**Rationale 11.4.2**

To make concise and clarify the rule, and to ensure consistency with the related rule 11.5.1(j). The reference to the related rule in 11.5.1 is made to ensure these two related rules are viewed together.

‘Will’ when used in the first person, conveys an obligation, whereas ‘shall’ merely refers to a future intention. Conversely, when used in the second or third person, ‘will’ conveys a future obligation, whilst ‘shall’ imports compulsion and obligation.

**RULES CONTINUE**

11.4.3 Inclusion in the performance of a prop which is not integral to, and used by the handler and/or dog during the routine shall incur a penalty of 1 point per prop.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.4.3**

11.4.3 Inclusion in the performance of a prop which is either not ~~integral to, and used by the handler and/or dog~~ applicable to the interpretation of the routine or not integrated into the performance will ~~during the routine~~ ~~shall~~ incur a penalty of 1 point per prop in accordance with Rule 9.3.

**Rationale 11.4.3** To ensure consistency with rule change in 9.3.

The reference to the related rule in 9.3 is made to ensure these two related rules are viewed together.

**RULES CONTINUE**

11.4.4 Physical management, manipulation of the dog or harsh verbal commands or corrections in the competition ring shall incur a penalty up to disqualification, according to the level of management/manipulation or harsh verbals undertaken.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**(SA) Proposed Changes to 11.4.4**

11.4.4 Physical management, manipulation of the dog or harsh verbal commands or corrections in the competition ring ~~shall~~ willincur a penalty of up to ~~disqualification~~ four (4) points according to the level of management/manipulation or harsh verbals undertaken. Excessive physical management/manipulation or harsh verbals will result in disqualification in accordance with Rules 11.5.1(c) & (d).

**Rationale 11.4.4**

To clarify the rule and to introduce consistency with other “up to disqualification” rules.

Currently the quantum of the penalty up to disqualification has not be defined in the rule. A common practice has been to apply the approach outlined for “barking” in the similar rule 11.4.2. This change makes the 2 rules read the same.

The reference to the related rules in 11.5.1(c) & (d) is made to ensure these related rules are viewed together.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**NEW RULE**

11.4.5 A dog disconnecting from the handler may incur a penalty of up to 4 points. This applies from entry to exit of the ring.

**RATIONALE:**

This clarifies what penalty should be applied for a dog disconnecting from the handler.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed New Rule - 11.4.5**

11.4.5 A dog that is not on lead when they enter or leave the competition ring, or that exits the competition ring off lead at any time, will incur a penalty up to disqualification, depending on the severity of the breach of Rule 10.6, 7.2 or 11.5.1(b).

**Rationale 11.4.5**

To clarify the penalty for breaches of the requirement of rule 10.6.

Rule 11.5.1(b) covers dogs leaving the ring during a routine but in the past there has been some ambiguity about dogs leaving the ring before and/or after a routine but while they are still in the ring and therefore under the control of the Judges. To correct this a previous rules review changed rule 10.6 to include an option to penalise or disqualify dogs who do not enter and leave the ring under the control of the handler and on lead.

This new rule follows the practice of including all rule that lead to penalties in this section (i.e. 11.4). Therefore, the requirement of 10.6, which is supported by 7.2 and 11.5.1(b), is included here for consistency.

Additionally, to add consistency on hoe penalties less than disqualification are to awarded, the wording similar to ‘barking” in 11.4.2 has been included.

***NOTE: If both these submissions are accepted one will be 11.4.5 and the other 11.4.6***

**RULES CONTINUE**

**11.5. Disqualification**

11.5.1 The following shall result in disqualification of the dog and handler and their immediate removal from the ring:

1. a dog fouling/eliminating at any point between entering and exiting the ring;
2. the dog and/or handler leaving the ring at any time during their routine; if a dog or handler accidentally steps outside the ring during a routine they will not be penalised;

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.5.1(b)**

11.5.1

(b) the dog and/or handler leaving the ring at any time during their routine, in accordance with Rule 9.1.2; if a dog or handler accidentally steps outside the ring during a routine they will not be penalised;

**Rationale 11.5.1(b)**

Consistency - the reference to the related rule in 9.1.2 is made to ensure these related rules are viewed together.

**RULES CONTINUE**

1. harsh or punitive treatment of the dog in the competition ring;

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.5.1(c)**

11.5.1

(c) harsh or punitive treatment of the dog in the competition ring, in accordance with Rule 6.5.1;

**Rationale 11.5.1(c)**

Consistency - the reference to the related rule in 6.5.1 is made to ensure these related rules are viewed together.

**RULES CONTINUE**

1. excessive physical manipulation of the dog in the competition ring;

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**AMENDED RULE**

(d) ~~excessive~~ physical manipulation of the dog in the competition ring.

**Rationale:** Handlers should not touch or physically manage their dog at any time during a routine other than when it is a clearly choreographed action appropriate to the music and the routine.

**RULES CONTINUE**

1. any violation of the rules relating to dog attire or adornment, including artificial colouring;

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.5.1(e)**

11.5.1

(e) harsh or punitive treatment of the dog in the competition ring, in accordance with rule 10.1.

**Rationale 11.5.1(e)**

Consistency - the reference to the related rules in 9.2.1, 9.2.2, 9.2.3, 9.2.4 & 9.2.5 is made to ensure these related rules are viewed together.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**AMENDED RULE (g)**

(e) any violation of the rules relating to dog attire or adornment, including artificial colouring;

(f) costume, music, or routine offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation;

(~~g~~) ~~(i) using a real or replica weapon of any kind;~~

~~(ii) using any prop in a manner which simulates or portrays~~  ~~threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any~~  ~~person, or other violence or aggression;~~

~~(iii) using live or recorded weaponry or explosive sounds;~~

(g) using any prop, action or recorded sound in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person.

**Rationale:** Clarification and simplification on what is acceptable. In today’s Society perception of any type of ‘harm’ to the dog or any person must be discouraged.

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE:**

Delete footnotes 3 and 4.

**RULES CONTINUE**

(f) costume, music, or routine offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation;

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.5.1(f)**

11.5.1

(f) costume, music, or routine offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation, in accordance with Rules 6.3.1 & 6.3.2;

**Rationale 11.5.1(f)**

Consistency - the reference to the related rule in 6.3.1 & 6.3.2 is made to ensure these related rules are viewed together.

**RULES CONTINUE**

(g) (i) using a real or replica weapon[2](#26in1rg) of any kind;

* 1. using any prop in a manner which simulates or portrays threatening, attacking, injuring or otherwise harming the dog or any person, or other violence or aggression;
  2. using live or recorded weaponry or explosive sounds[3](#26in1rg);

1. use of, or having on the person of the handler, during a performance, any food or training toy of any kind;

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.5.1(h)**

11.5.1

(h) use of, or having on the person of the handler, during a performance, any food or training toy of any kind, in accordance with Rule 5.1.2.

**Rationale 11.5.1(h)**

Consistency - the reference to the related rule in 5.1.2 is made to ensure these related rules are viewed together.

**RULES CONTINUE**

1. use of any human or animal prop;
2. continuous barking;
3. a routine which significantly contravenes the time specified in rule 9.1.3.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed New Rule to 11.5.1(m)**

11.5.1

(m) aggressive behaviour by a dog in accordance with Rule 7.1;

**Rationale 11.5.1(m)**

To provide consistency in how rules that can lead to disqualification are included in this section (i.e. 11.5).

Therefore, the requirement of 7.1, is included here for consistency.

Rule 7.1 requires dogs that are aggressive towards another person and/or dog to be disqualified from competing in the competition.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed New Rule to 11.5.1(n)**

11.5.1

(n) A dog which significantly contravenes Rules 10.6, 7.2 or Rule 11.5.1(b) in regards to not entering or leaving the competition ring on lead under the control of the handler, or which exits the competition ring off lead at any time;

**Rationale 11.5.1(n)**

To provide consistency in how rules that can lead to disqualification are included in this section (i.e. 11.5).

Therefore, the requirement of 10.6, is included here for consistency.

This rule is an extension of the new penalties rule proposed in 11.4.5.

**RULES CONTINUE**

11.5.2 If a competitor is disqualified, the score sheet must be marked “Disqualified (D/Q)”.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**AMENDED RULE**

11.5.2 If a competitor is disqualified, no scores will be allocated and the score sheet must be marked “Disqualified (D/Q)”.

**Rationale:** Editorial clarification.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed New Rule 11.5.3**

11.5.3 A Heelwork to Music routine which contains less than 70% in heelwork must be awarded a non-qualifying score and the result be recorded as NQ in accordance with definition of “Heelwork to Music” within Rule 2.0.

**Rationale 11.5.3**

To provide consistency in including penalties and disqualification covered in earlier rules to be include also in 11.4 and 11.5.

While this reference to Rule 2.0 relates to a NQ result rather than a DQ, there is no obvious place in 11.4 (Penalties) or 11.5 (Disqualifications) in the rules to include it. Therefore, the requirement of the HTM definition in Rule 2.0 is included here for consistency.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**11.6 Marks and placings**

11.6.1 The results for each class, including marks and Judge’s name, must be displayed on the day and be accessible to all competitors.

11.6.2 The aggregate score (the sum of all Judges’ marking) will determine placings.

Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores for placings.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**AMENDED RULE**

11.6.2 The aggregate score (the sum of all Judges’ marking) will determine placings. Qualifying scores take precedence over non-qualifying scores for placings. Competitors that are disqualified are not eligible for a place.

**RATIONALE:** For clarification. Dogs which have been disqualified should not be eligible for a place.

**RULES CONTINUE**

11.6.3 In the event of a tied score, a decision will be on the following criteria:

1. Highest total score for Technical Merit; if scores remain tied, use criterion

(b).

1. Highest score for Routine Content; if scores remain tied, use criterion (c).
2. Highest score for Musical Interpretation; if scores remain tied;
3. Determined at the discretion of the Judging Panel.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to 11.6.3**

11.6.3 In the event of a tied score within the Heelwork to Music Division, a decision ~~will~~ must be on the following criteria:

(a) Highest total score for Technical Merit; if scores remain tied, use criterion (b).

(b) Highest score for ~~Routine Content~~ Musical Interpretation; if scores remain tied, use criterion (c).

(c) Highest score for ~~Musical Interpretation~~ Routine Content; if scores remain tied;

(d) Determined at the discretion of the Judging Panel.

**Rationale 11.6.3.**

Allows for tie breakers to be more appropriate for the two Divisions – this rule impacts related new rule 11.6.4.

This change does not affect how HTM ties are treated but allows for Freestyle to be treated differently to the current rules.

The approach here mirrors the UK’s KC “Judges Guide to HTM” where HTM tie breakers are more focussed on technical aspects while Freestyle is more focussed on musical interpretation.

‘Will’ when used in the first person, conveys an obligation, whereas ‘shall’ merely refers to a future intention. Conversely, when used in the second or third person, ‘will’ conveys a future obligation, whilst ‘shall’ imports compulsion and obligation.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed new Rule 11.6.4**

11.6.4 In the event of a tied score within the Freestyle Division, a decision must be on the following criteria:

(a) Highest total score for Musical Interpretation; if scores remain tied, use criterion (b).

(b) Highest score for Routine Content; if scores remain tied, use criterion (c).

(c) Highest score for Technical Merit; if scores remain tied;

(d) Determined at the discretion of the Judging Panel.

**Rationale 11.6.4**

While the current rule is appropriate for HTM, the Freestyle Division should have a focus placed musical interpretation – this rule is required due to change in 11.6.3.

This approach is consistent with UK’s KC “Judges Guide to HTM” approach where “In the event of dogs obtaining equality of marks in Heelwork to Music competitions, the Accuracy and Team Performance mark will decide the result. In Freestyle competitions, the Musical Interpretation mark will decide the result. Where there is still equality of marks the order shall be decided at the discretion of the lead (head) judge”.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed New Rule 11.6.5**

11.6.5 The Judges’ Chart as shown in Appendix D, must be:

(a) a separate Judges’ Chart for each Class within each Division;

(b) provided to the Scoring Steward who shall summarise and record the scores from the individual Judges’ Mark Sheets to the Judges’ Chart;

(c) kept by a responsible Competition Official, along with the Judges’ Mark Sheets, until all Judges have signed the Judges’ Chart- after personally verifying the points awarded; and

(d) It is the Judge's responsibility to see that Judges’ Charts are checked, scores correctly recorded, signed and delivered to a responsible Trial Official immediately judging of the competition is completed.

**Rationale 11.6.5**

This new rule introduces consistency with the approach in Trick Dog, and other sports, where the individual Judging sheets may be given to competitors and the summary sheet is used for the necessary administrative purposes by the Competition Secretary – this rule is related to the proposed new rule 11.6.6.

The Judges’ Chart proposed here may be used as the means to display scores as required in Rule 11.6.1.

Accordingly, this rule change will also require the removal of the judge’s signature from Appendix A to ease the scoring process (similar to Trick Dog) and the transfer of the signature to the summary Judges’ Mark Sheet in the new Appendix D.

As the summary Judges’ Chart can’t be checked by the Judges prior to signing unless the Judges’ Mark Sheets are retained, the rule doesn’t allow the handing out of Judges’ Mark Sheets until after the competition is complete and the checking and signing by judges has been undertaken.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed New Rule 11.6.6**

11.6.6 As the Judges’ Chart as shown in Appendix D is the official record of scores, the Individual Judges’ Mark Sheets (as shown in Appendix A) may be provided by the Affiliate conducting the Competition to each Handler, once all the Judges have completed the requirements of Rule 11.6.5.

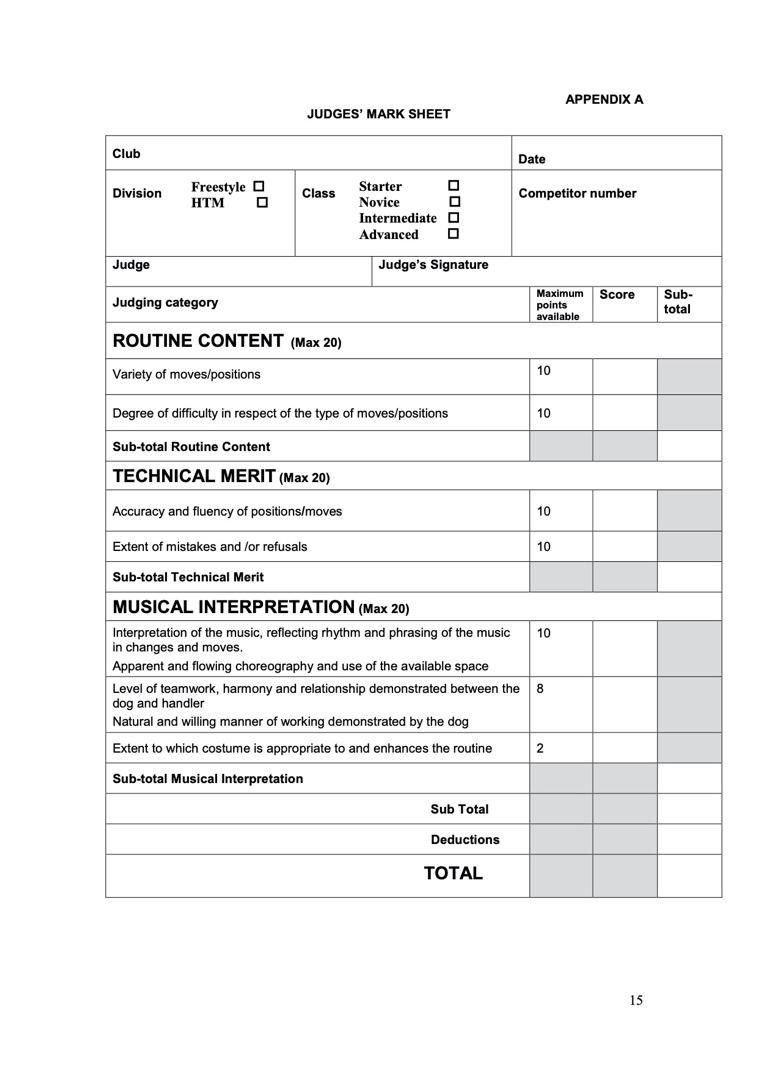
**Rationale 11.6.6**

This new rule follows the approach in Trick Dog, and other sports, where the individual Judging sheets may be given to competitors and the summary sheet is used for administrative purposes – made possible by proposed new rule 11.6.5.

This rule also requires a new Appendix D to provide the Judges’ Chart template.

**RULES CONTINUE**

Appendix A



**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**APPENDIX A** Proposed Changes

**JUDGES’ MARK SHEET**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club** |  | **Date** |  |
| **Division Freestyle ☐**  **HTM ☐** | **Class Starter ☐**  **Novice ☐**  **Intermediate ☐**  **Advanced ☐** | **Competitor Number** |  |
| **Judge** | |  |  |
| **Judging category** |  | **Maximum**  **Points**  **Available** | **Score** |
| **ROUTINE CONTENT**  *Variety of moves/ position*  *Degree of difficulty in respect of the type of moves/positions* | | **20** |  |
| *Comment*s | | | |
| **TECHNICAL MERIT**  *Teamwork, Accuracy and fluency of positions/ moves*  *The extent of mistakes and/or refusals.* | | **20** |  |
| *Comments* | | | |
| **MUSICAL INTERPRETATION**  *Interpretation of the music, reflecting rhythm and phrasing of the music in changes and moves*  *Apparent and flowing choreography and use of available space*  *Extent to which costume is appropriate to and enhances the routine* | | **20** |  |
| *Comments* | | | |
| **Sub Total** | |  |  |
| **Deductions** | |  |  |
| **TOTAL** | |  |  |

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**APPENDIX A Rationale**

***Rationale***

*There are three elements to the proposal. The elements are not connected and either can be adopted on their own.*

***The elements are;***

***Scoring Three Categories instead of Seven***

***Wording of the Judges’ Marking Criteria***

**Scoring Three Categories instead of Seven**

**Rationale Summary**

Going to three categories instead of seven 1) gives a very balanced reflection of the routine. Further, 2) will speed up the marking providing flow on effects of competition spectator appeal, 3) aid competitors and 4) provide incentive to clubs to hold DWD Competitions.

**Explanation of Key Points**

1. Gives a very **balanced reflection of the routine**.

The current distribution of points also subtracts teamwork components from the Musical Interpretation score:

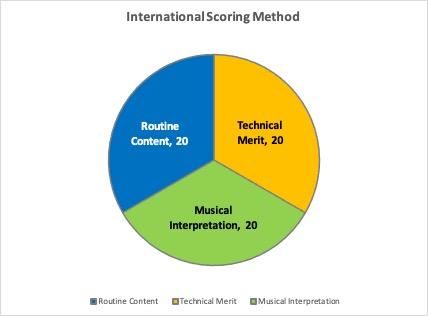
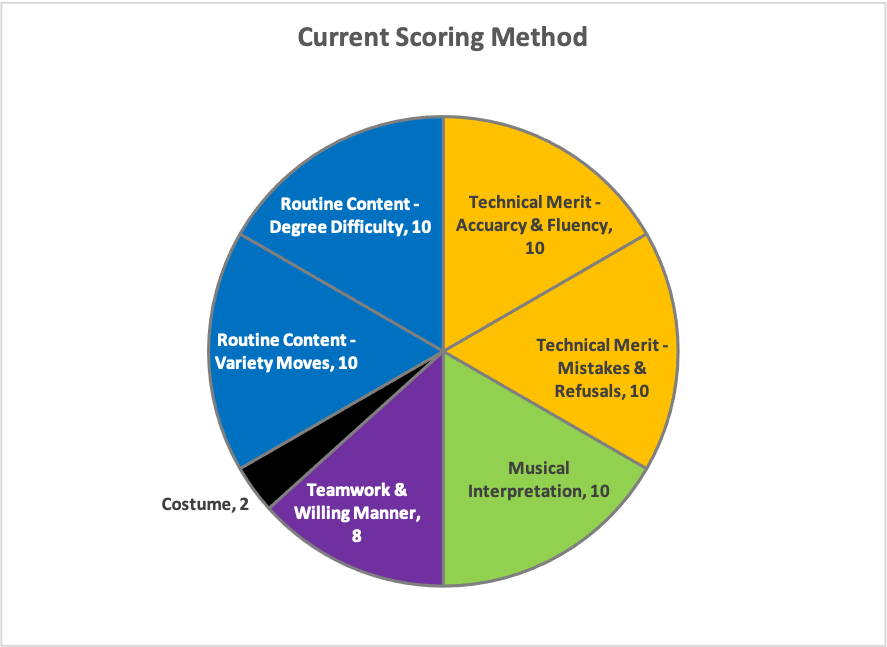
ie:

*‘Level of teamwork, harmony and relationship demonstrated between the dog and handler. Natural and willing manner of working demonstrated by the dog. (8 Points)’*

Whereas the level of teamwork or lack thereof may be better reflected in the area of Technical Merit. Accuracy and fluency of positions/moves, mistakes and/refusals IS a direct reflection of teamwork.

In its present location “Level of teamwork etc” dilutes the Musical Interpretation Score by 8 points (20 minus 8 =12). Musical Interpretation is the key point of difference of DWD to other canine sports.

Below are two pie charts comparing the distribution of points under the current points break down of the categories (shown on the left) compared with the proposed three category distribution (the scoring method used internationally) which shows a balanced representation which is easy for judges and competitors to conceptualise.

.

A sub point about Short Term Memory. Research has shown that short term memory is only capable of storing information for a maximum of about a minute and then the memory rapidly degrades. While watching routines the judge is making complex evaluations, translating the evaluations to only three scores will assist.

2) ‘International Scoring’ will **speed up the marking providing flow for the competition and spectator appeal**.

Judging by the current seven category method takes in the order of four to five minutes per competitor, which means the ring is sitting silent and empty for vastly more time than performances are gracing the ring and makes for a stilted and potentially lacklustre event.

In contrast during International events (eg Crufts, FCI) where the judges’ score sheet contains three categories, the scoring by all three judges typically takes under one minute.

Some of our judges may wish to add comments. There is room for working notes on the proposed scoresheet instead of using scrap pieces of paper. If the average time to score and jot down a comment or two was a couple of minutes this time saving would greatly improve the atmosphere and interest at competitions. For a competition with say 30 routines to judge, the judging time could reduce from about **three hours** (2 minutes for the average routine plus 4 minutes to judge) down to **two hours** (2 minutes times 30 routines). A **double** competition down from **six hours to four hours**.

3) Aid to Competitors.

The scores competitors receive will focus in on the three categories of Content, Technical Merit and Musical Interpretation which will be simpler for competitors to follow. Using the current 7 category sheet, we often see variation between the ways the scores are awarded. The total score by each judge is often similar but there can be variation between the way those scores are attributed which can reduce competitor confidence in the judges. The proposed three category sheet will reduce that variability.

With regard to the time reduction between routines. Competitors will know they can enter the ring shortly after the competitor in front of them has finished their routine, that will help their flow into the ring instead of working through a long and more variable pause. DWD would work more like other dog sports where competitors are accustomed to shorter scoring waits before entering the ring.

The time saving for the overall length of competition will work to minimise to some extent possible changes in conditions.

Especially relevant for outdoor competitions, were weather conditions and lighting can change significantly.

4) Incentive for clubs to hold DWD Competitions.

With a significant reduction in the time to score, Clubs can hire venues for shorter duration and save on hire fees. It will also be more feasible to run evening competitions.

The lowered time commitment will make it easier to get helpers and officials.

The Scribe’s job will be simpler and it will be easy to post results in a timely manner for competitors to view.

***Wording of the Judges’ Marking Criteria***

***for Technical Merit***

**Rationale**

The two sub categories of Technical merit, also create challenges because ‘Accuracy and fluency of positions/moves’ in the first subdivision is intrinsically inter-related to ‘Extent of mistakes and/or refusals’ in the second subdivision, making it difficult to separate the scores.

Further, as we don’t deduct specific marks and instead mark the performance before us there are not specific actions to take for each ‘mistake/refusal’.

Removing ‘Extent of mistakes and/or refusals’ and replacing the Technical Merit Marking Criteria explanation instead with;

Accuracy and fluency of position/moves. Level of harmony and engagement of the partnership. Covers all aspects of Technical Merit.

Application of the words; **‘Level of harmony and engagement of the partnership’** in place of; ‘*Level of teamwork, harmony and relationship demonstrated between the dog and handler. Natural and willing manner of working demonstrated by the dog’, creates a vision of harmony and two-way partnership and reflects fluency, thoughtful cuing, flow and togetherness, the level of expectation in this area is a key point of uniqueness with DWD and a ‘performance’.*

***Wording of the Judges’ Marking Criteria***

***for Musical Interpretation***

**Rationale**

Innovative and Creative Moves is stated in the Introduction, 1.2, as a key point of difference in DWD to ‘traditional obedience heelwork’. 1.5 dictates that performances should have ‘spectator appeal’ and yet neither of these two elements is highlighted in the judging criteria. These are elements that define our dog sport. Let’s recognise these aspects by including them as assessable components.

The proposed description adds in the key components above and also maintains the current criteria in the description. The modified wording also provides a clear mental image for competitors of the performance of good musical interpretation.

*‘The performance will encompass innovative and creative choreography, through rhythm, phrasing and mood of the music with costuming to create Spectator Appeal. The routine will make good use of the available space’.*

***Wording “Appropriate to the class” added to the beginning of the Judges’ Marking Criteria***

**Rationale**

To convey to competitors and judges that performance criteria in all Categories is not as high in the lower classes and to encourage potential newcomers the sport to not feel to overwhelmed to try.

**Additionally:** Note that the judge’s signature has been removed. This is for consistently with our proposed new Rules 11.6.5 and 11.6.6.

Just as in Trick Dog, there will now no need to sign each of the Judges’ Mark Sheets as the official Competition record will be the new Judges’ Chart.

**APPENDIX B**

**RULES CONTINUE**

**OFFICIAL DANCES WITH DOGS ENTRY FORM**

**(ENCOMPASSING FREESTYLE AND**

**HEELWORK TO MUSIC)**

To be held under the Rules and Regulations of the State Member Body

**Note**: Writing must be in ink, and all names of dogs and owners must be in block letters.

Use a separate form for each entry.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Club Date of Competition **/ /**

(Name of club for which entry is made)

**EXHIBITOR’S DECLARATION** I hereby apply to enter the following exhibit in terms of and upon the conditions set out in the State/Territory Member Body’s Constitution Rules and Regulations by which I agree to be bound, and I hereby certify to the correctness of the particulars endorsed hereon.

BREED \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF EXHIBIT\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Details of dog entered must be identical with the registration of the Canine Control with which the dog is registered

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Sex \_\_\_\_\_\_ Registered No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

State D or B

Name of Registered Owner/Lessee\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

(Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss - BLOCK LETTERS please)

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Membership No\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Postal

Address\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_\_Phone \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Email\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Name of handler (if different from owner/lessee):**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Entered in | Freestyle **** | Starters | Novice | Intermediate | Advanced |
| Please √ | HTM **** | **** | **** | **** | **** |
| Title of Music | \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | |
| Artist\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ | | | | | |
| Duration of Music\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Minutes & \_\_\_\_\_\_\_Seconds CD | | | | **** USB or other\* | **** |

I certify that this exhibit has not within a period of three months been in kennels affected with Distemper, Canine Hepatitis, Parvo Virus or any other contagious or infectious disease and that the dog has been vaccinated.

Usual Signature of owner/lessee(s)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Entry Fees \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Catalogue \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Sundries \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Cheque No.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\*If permitted in accordance with Schedule.

1

**RULES CONTINUE**

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Deletion of APPENDIX C**

**~~APPENDIX C~~**

**~~GUIDELINES FOR DANCES WITH DOGS SCHEDULES~~**

~~Subject to Member Body requirements, published Schedules for Dances with Dogs competitions normally include the following information:~~

1. ~~The name of the Affiliate conducting the competition.~~
2. ~~The date and venue at which the competition is to be conducted.~~
3. ~~Details of the venue (such as whether it is an open or roofed/enclosed area, the surface of the ring [eg grass, carpet etc] and the specific dimensions of the ring).~~
4. ~~The closing date for entries.~~
5. ~~The address to which entries should be forwarded.~~
6. ~~Entry fees.~~
7. ~~Divisions and classes offered and the members of the Judging Panel(s) for each.~~
8. ~~Commencing time of vetting, submission of music, music checks and judging.~~
9. ~~Contact phone number (mobile) for the Affiliate on the day of the competition.~~
10. ~~Such other information specific to the competition as the Affiliate considers appropriate.~~

**Rationale to deletion of APPENDIX C**

Dogs SA approves and therefore sets out which is required to be included in a schedule. This appendix is therefore of no purpose.

**RULES CONTINUE**

**APPENDIX C**

**GUIDELINES FOR DANCES WITH DOGS SCHEDULES**

Subject to Member Body requirements, published Schedules for Dances with Dogs competitions normally include the following information:

1. The name of the Affiliate conducting the competition.
2. The date and venue at which the competition is to be conducted.
3. Details of the venue (such as whether it is an open or roofed/enclosed area, the surface of the ring [eg grass, carpet etc] and the specific dimensions of the ring).
4. The closing date for entries.
5. The address to which entries should be forwarded.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Proposed Changes to APPENDIX C**

5. The address to which entries ~~should~~ must be forwarded.

**Rationale APPENDIX C**

To clarify the rule - “should” is similar to “ought to” and is only a recommendation, whereas “must” is a plain language word that clearly means mandatory.

Note that if this is only if the proposed change to remove Appendix C altogether is removed.

**RULES CONTINUE**

1. Entry fees.
2. Divisions and classes offered and the members of the Judging Panel(s) for each.
3. Commencing time of vetting, submission of music, music checks and judging.

**DOGS WEST PROPOSAL**

**AMENDED RULE - APPENDIX C**

8. Commencing time of ~~vetting~~, submission of music, music checks and judging.

**NEW RULE**

9. **Vetting: exhibits may be required to be inspected or vetted**

**Rationale**: There is already in the rules 6.6 that bitches in Oestrum are not allowed to compete as we do with other nq points such as carrying food, we do not search handlers to make sure that is not happening. The suggested change brings us in line with other sports. The last two years where close contact has not been allowed the extra work for clubs having an extra steward just to check bitches has not been allowed, yet there has been no bitches in season or showing discharge presented so proving it is just another impost on the club. The suggested addition does, however, allow the club to check a bitch if the need occurs.

**DOGS WEST PROPOSAL**

**CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGE**

10.(renumber)Contact phone number (mobile) for the Affiliate on the day of the competition.

11.(renumber)Such other information specific to the competition as the Affiliate considers appropriate

**DOGS NSW PROPOSAL**

\*\* This rule 9 does not exist in the present rulebook. The rule 9 submitted to be deleted is actually a part of Dogs West’s submission (see above).

**Delete Rule 9**

**GUIDELINES FOR DANCES WITH DOGS SCHEDULES**

Subject to Member Body requirements, published Schedules for Dances with Dogs competitions normally include the following information:

1. The name of the Affiliate conducting the competition.
2. The date and venue at which the competition is to be conducted.
3. Details of the venue (such as whether it is an open or roofed/enclosed area, the surface of the ring [eg grass, carpet etc] and the specific dimensions of the ring).
4. The closing date for entries.
5. The address to which entries should be forwarded.
6. Entry fees.
7. Divisions and classes offered and the members of the Judging Panel(s) for each.
8. Commencing time of vetting, submission of music, music checks and judging.
9. ~~Vetting exhibits may be required to be inspected or vetted~~
10. Contact phone number (mobile) for the Affiliate on the day of the competition.
11. Such other information specific to the competition as the Affiliate considers appropriate.

**Rationale**: We already have in the Rules that 6.6 that bitches in oestrum are not allowed to compete as we do with other nq points such as carrying food, we do not search handlers to make sure that isn’t happening. The suggested change brings us in line with other sports. The last two years where close contact has not been allowed the extra for clubs having an extra steward just to check bitches has not been allowed, yet there has been no bitches in showing discharge presented so proving it is just another impost on the club. The suggested addition does allow however the club to check a bitch if the need occurs.

**RULES CONTINUE**

1. Contact phone number (mobile) for the Affiliate on the day of the competition.
2. Such other information specific to the competition as the Affiliate considers appropriate.

**DOGS QLD PROPOSAL**

**ADDITIONAL RULE**

**11.** The Schedule should also include advice on the acceptable audio formats for music at the nominated competition.

**Rationale:** To provide clarification for competitors and club officials.

**DOGS SA PROPOSAL**

**Rationale Appendix D**

As justified in new proposed rule 11.6.5.

**SA) Proposed Change - Creation of Appendix D**

**APPENDIX D**

**ANKC LTD DANCES WITH DOGS JUDGES’ CHART**

***[NB: A separate Judges’ Chart is required for each Class]***

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Club:** | **Date:** | **Division:** | **Class:** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Judge (*Initials)*** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Competitor Number** |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |
| **TOTAL *(max 60)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **GRAND TOTAL (max 180)** |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |
| **Result: SCR, WD, NQ, D/Q or Q.** |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Competitor Number** |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |
| **Judge‘s Initials** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** | **J1** | **J2** | **J3** |
| **TOTAL *(max 60)*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **GRAND TOTAL (max 180)** |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |
| **Result: SCR, WD, NQ, D/Q or Q.** |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |  | | |

**J1 Judge’s Name: Signature :   
 ………………………………………………………… ……………………………………………………………………………...**

**J2 Judge’s Name: Signature :   
 ………………………………………………………… ……………………………………………………………………………...**

**J3 Judge’s Name: Signature :   
 ………………………………………………………… ………………………………………………………………………….**