



**YKC AV STAKES
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 1:
YKC STAKES GENERAL RULES**

YKC STAKES GENERAL RULES

A: **DEFINITION**

1. The YKC hosts seven stakes competition finals at Crufts culminating in a Grand final in the Main Arena.
2. To qualify for the finals, members must compete in YKC Stakes classes held at Championship breed shows throughout the year, these classes can be found at www.ykc.org.uk.
3. Stakes qualifiers run from March to February for the following Crufts.
4. The previous year's Crufts counts as a qualifier for the next Crufts
 - i. Specifically: the 7 individual stakes competitions finals will be qualifier
5. YKC stakes differs from many other disciplines because the competition is judged solely on the confirmation of the dog.
6. The aim of YKC stakes classes is to give YKC members the opportunity to compete in a normal breed class with their pet dog. It is not designed for members to borrow someone else's dog with the sole purpose of winning.

B: **CLASSES**

1. There are seven classes for members to enter:
 - i. AV Gundog
 - ii. AV Working
 - iii. AV Pastoral
 - iv. AV Terrier
 - v. AV Hound
 - vi. AV Utility
 - vii. AV Toy
2. Once you have handled a group at a show, you may not enter another dog in that group at the same show.
 - i. If a four-day show has a YKC handling qualifier on each day, you may not enter each handling qualifier at that show with the same group.
3. YKC AV Stakes classes may be the first and only entry for a dog at a show
 - i. You do not have to enter your dog in the relevant breed class at the same show

YKC STAKES GENERAL RULES

C: HANDLERS

1. There are no age categories for YKC members.
 - i. Ages 6-24 will all compete for the same awards.
 2. Once a dog has qualified with one handler, it may not qualify again with a different handler.
 3. No substitute handlers are permitted
 - i. the dog must be handled by the same person who entered the qualifier.
 4. If a member is competing with two separate dogs in the same competition, another YKC member may hold the dog, but may not show the dog other than to complete group exercises that would be impossible with one handler.
 5. In order to enter any YKC competition, you must be a fully paid-up member at the time of entry and competition. If you enter a Crufts qualifier and you have not previously paid your membership fee then any award will be forfeited
 6. If a YKC member turns 25 on or before the first day of Crufts, that member will be **unable** to compete in the finals at Crufts
 7. You must be a member of the Young Kennel Club before entering any Young Kennel Club classes.
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DOGS

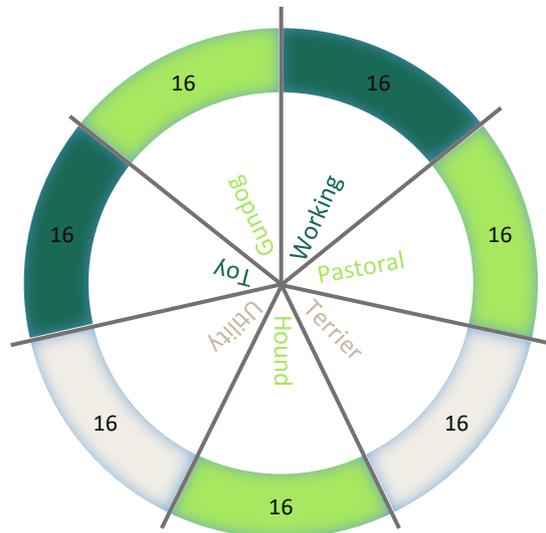
D:

1. All competing dogs must be six calendar months of age or over on the day of competition.
2. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in YKC qualifying classes nor at Crufts
3. All pedigree dogs are eligible to take part provided the dog is registered on the Kennel Club Breed Register.
4. The dog must be registered;
 - i. Solely or jointly in the member's name or
 - a. In the name of a member of the family (i.e. a group of people related by blood or marriage)
 - b. Under these circumstances the dog must be resident at the YKC member's address
5. In certain cases, members may be permitted, through permission from the YKC Office, to show a dog that is not registered in their name, the family name or registered at their address and must write into the YKC office, stating their reasons, for permission to show which will then go forward to a Management Meeting for approval.
 - i. This must be approved by the Management Meeting before entering ANY qualifier and not after the member has qualified at a show.
 - ii. Permission to show will be for the competing year of the request. Separate permission must be gained for subsequent year.

YKC STAKES GENERAL RULES

At Crufts, across all days, there is a cap of 112 spaces available for members to qualify for in YKC Stakes.

1. The allocation of spaces will be as follows:
 - i. 112 spaces per day split into:
 - a. 16 spaces for AV Hound
 - b. 16 spaces for AV Terrier
 - c. 16 spaces for AV Utility
 - d. 16 spaces for AV Toy
 - e. 16 spaces for AV Working
 - f. 16 spaces for AV Pastoral
 - g. 16 spaces for AV Gundog
2. There will be no redistribution of spaces.



E:
**QUALIFICATION
 SPACES
 AVAILABLE**

*If there are more than 16 unique
 1st places in any all YKC Handling qualifiers,
 the YKC will honour each of them even if that
 means more than 16 total competitors

F:

QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

The waterfall qualification method will be used to determine who qualifies YKC Stakes competitions:

STEP 1

1. This method is a modification of a roll down system and will be described in detail below:
2. **Step 1: First Places**
 - i. Win a qualifier in your age and dog group category during the qualification year.
 - ii. First place will guarantee you a qualification space.

PLEASE NOTE: STEP 2 WILL NOT APPLY TO ANY SHOWS HELD BETWEEN DECEMBER AND CRUFTS (*Typically Boston and Manchester*)

STEP 2

3. **Step 2: Cascade**
 - i. The second step is only used if step 1 did not fill all of the available qualification spaces, after all qualifying shows have finished.
 - ii. All those who have not yet qualified but received a 2nd place are then considered:
 - a. If there are more 2nd place competitors than we have qualification spaces left to fill, then all of the 2nd place competitors names will be placed into a random draw.
 - (i) If you received multiple 2nd places throughout the year in a particular group, your name will go into the draw only once*
 - (ii) Members will be selected at random until all qualification spaces have been filled for that subcategory. At which point step 2 ends.
 - b. If inviting all of the 2nd place competitors would fill all of the remaining qualification spaces exactly, then all 2nd place competitors fill the qualification spaces and step 2 ends
 - c. If inviting all of the 2nd place competitors does not fill up all of the remaining qualification spaces, all of the 2nd place competitors are invited and the process will be repeated for 3rd place, followed by 4th place and so on, until the maximum spaces for the subcategory have been filled.

1. On the next four pages you will find a worked example of the waterfall method in action
2. At the end of this document, you will find an appendix which details the YKC's reasons for selecting this particular qualification method, as well outlining why other methods were not selected.

* This is to stop people feeling they need to "chase" lots of 2nd or 3rd place



YKC STAKES GENERAL RULES

1. WORKED EXAMPLE OF THE WATERFALL METHOD

- i. In this example, we are going to assume the following
 - a. 6 qualifying shows for the year
 - b. 10 places on offer
 - c. These results are for the AV Pastoral category

EXAMPLE

| PLACE | NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NW DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NE DOG SHOW RESULTS | |
|-------|------------------------|--------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG |
| 1 | BOB | STAR | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY | SOPHIE | FIDO | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY |
| 2 | JAMES | BUSTER | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM | SAM | ZIGGY | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM |
| 3 | DAVID | TITAN | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE | TINA | PLUTO | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE |
| 4 | LAURA | CHEDAR | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO | HARVEY | SAMSON | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO |
| 5 | SOPHIE | LEAF | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY | HARVEY | LUDO | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY |
| 6 | BOB | PIPPIN | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER | FRED | TYBALT | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER |

2. Use Step 1

- i. Step 1 looks for every member who has received a first place at a qualifier. Each member with a first place has their Crufts qualification space guaranteed.
 - a. To represent this, we will colour successfully qualified members in yellow
 - b. We will grey any pair combination who qualified at a previous show
 - c. From the example below, only 3 spaces have been filled so far, therefore we need to move to step 2 to fill the remaining positions

| PLACE | NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NW DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NE DOG SHOW RESULTS | |
|-------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | HANDLER | DOG GROUP | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG |
| 1 | BOB | STAR | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY | SOPHIE | FIDO | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY |
| 2 | JAMES | BUSTER | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM | SAM | ZIGGY | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM |
| 3 | DAVID | TITAN | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE | TINA | PLUTO | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE |
| 4 | LAURA | CHEDAR | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO | HARVEY | SAMSON | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO |
| 5 | SOPHIE | LEAF | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY | HARVEY | LUDO | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY |
| 6 | BOB | PIPPIN | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER | FRED | TYBALT | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER |

EXAMPLE

CONT



YKC STAKES GENERAL RULES

EXAMPLE

3. Using Step 2 (x1)

- i. All those who received 2nd places are looked at
 - a. There is no restriction on how many dogs a handler can qualify, so Bob's second dog, "STORM" also qualifies.
 - b. By accepting all the 2nd places not previously qualified, we have 6 out of 10 spaces filled.

| PLACE | NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NW DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NE DOG SHOW RESULTS | |
|-------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | HANDLER | DOG GROUP | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG |
| 1 | BOB | STAR | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY | SOPHIE | FIDO | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY |
| 2 | JAMES | BUSTER | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM | SAM | ZIGGY | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM |
| 3 | DAVID | TITAN | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE | TINA | PLUTO | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE |
| 4 | LAURA | CHEDAR | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO | HARVEY | SAMSON | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO |
| 5 | SOPHIE | LEAF | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY | HARVEY | LUDO | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY |
| 6 | BOB | PIPPIN | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER | FRED | TYBALT | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER |

4. Using Step 2 (x2)

- i. As 4 spaces have still not been filled, 3rd place is now looked at
 - a. Both Tina and Zara have not yet qualified bringing our total to 4

| PLACE | NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NW DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NE DOG SHOW RESULTS | |
|-------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | HANDLER | DOG GROUP | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG |
| 1 | BOB | STAR | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY | SOPHIE | FIDO | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY |
| 2 | JAMES | BUSTER | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM | SAM | ZIGGY | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM |
| 3 | DAVID | TITAN | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE | TINA | PLUTO | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE |
| 4 | LAURA | CHEDAR | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO | HARVEY | SAMSON | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO |
| 5 | SOPHIE | LEAF | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY | HARVEY | LUDO | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY |
| 6 | BOB | PIPPIN | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER | FRED | TYBALT | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER |



YKC STAKES GENERAL RULES

5. Step 2 Repeated (x3)

- i. As there is only one spaces left to been fill, 4th place is now looked at
 - a. There is one space available, but 4 potential candidates for the place.
 - (1) As such, the 4 potential candidates are placed into a hat (marked blue) and one will be selected at random.

EXAMPLE

| PLACE | NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NW DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NE DOG SHOW RESULTS | |
|-------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | HANDLER | DOG GROUP | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG |
| 1 | BOB | STAR | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY | SOPHIE | FIDO | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY |
| 2 | JAMES | BUSTER | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM | SAM | ZIGGY | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM |
| 3 | DAVID | TITAN | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE | TINA | PLUTO | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE |
| 4 | LAURA | CHEDAR | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO | HARVEY | SAMSON | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO |
| 5 | SOPHIE | LEAF | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY | HARVEY | LUDO | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY |
| 6 | BOB | PIPPIN | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER | FRED | TYBALT | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER |

6. Step 2 Conclusion

- i. After the random selection, Heather was selected
- ii. This now concludes the qualification process.

| PLACE | NORTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | SOUTH DOG SHOW RESULTS | | EAST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | WEST DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NW DOG SHOW RESULTS | | NE DOG SHOW RESULTS | |
|-------|------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------------|--------|---------------------|-------|---------------------|-------|
| | HANDLER | DOG GROUP | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG | HANDLER | DOG |
| 1 | BOB | STAR | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY | SOPHIE | FIDO | BOB | STAR | SAM | ZIGGY |
| 2 | JAMES | BUSTER | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM | SAM | ZIGGY | ANNA | SKY | BOB | STORM |
| 3 | DAVID | TITAN | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE | TINA | PLUTO | SAM | ZIGGY | ZARA | CHASE |
| 4 | LAURA | CHEDAR | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO | HARVEY | SAMSON | HEATHER | CHAI | SARAH | ROLO |
| 5 | SOPHIE | LEAF | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY | HARVEY | LUDO | ZARA | CHASE | ANNA | SKY |
| 6 | BOB | PIPPIN | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER | FRED | TYBALT | SAM | TRIP | THEO | ROVER |

G:

COMPETING
AT CRUFTS

1. When competing at Crufts there will be 7 distinct classes
 - a. Gundog
 - b. Working
 - c. Pastoral
 - d. Utility
 - e. Toy
 - f. Terrier
 - g. Hound
- ii. The classes will be grouped in the same manner in which Crufts is grouped:
 - a. Gundog
 - b. Working & Pastoral
 - c. Utility & Toy
 - d. Terrier & Hound
- iii. The winner of each class will qualify for the “YKC Stakes Final” competition on Sunday in the main arena, making 7 finalists.

H:

DOGS

1. All competing dogs must be six calendar months of age or over on the day of competition.
2. Dogs must be registered with the Kennel Club when entering Kennel Club licenced shows.
 - i. Dogs can either be registered on the breed register or the activity register.
 - ii. As of 07/01/2020 dogs entering a handling class as their only entry at a show must be on a Kennel Club breed register **OR** the activity register. If a dog wishes to participate in both a handling class and a breed class at a show, the dog must be on the relevant breed register.
3. Bitches in season will not be allowed to compete in YKC qualifying classes nor at Crufts



**STAKES COMPETITIONS
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 2:
SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION**



SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION

A: DEFINITION

1. This section is for Show Secretaries that are holding YKC Crufts Agility Qualifiers
 2. In this section you will find the following
 - i. Latest schedule wording for YKC classes
 - ii. Suggestions on how you may wish to run the classes
 - iii. What the YKC will supply before your show
 - iv. What the YKC requires to be sent after the competition
-

B: SCHEDULE WORDING

1. YKC AV Stakes
 - i. This schedule information **MUST** be read in conjunction with the full set of YKC Stakes rules available on the Young Kennel Club website
 - a. By entering this class, you confirm that you have read and understood the accompanying full set of YKC rules
 - ii. Members must be a YKC member before entering the competition
 - iii. YKC Stakes Classes have one age category for you to enter
 - a. *06-24 Years*
 - iv. First place in each subcategory will guarantee qualification to Crufts 2024
 - a. Further qualification methods can be viewed by reading the full rules
 - b. You may enter this class even if you have previously qualified in this class
 - v. YKC Classes may be the first and only entry at this show.
-

C:

SUGGESTIONS ON HOLDING YKC STAKES CLASSES

1. When scheduling YKC Stakes classes, please try to avoid any clashes with any YKC handling classes you may also be holding.
2. The YKC recommend holding the YKC Classes either at the beginning or the end of the day to avoid clashes with the breed rings.



SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION

D: WHAT THE YKC WILL SUPPLY

Below is a list of items the YKC will supply for your show:

- i. Handling Qualifier (per day)
 - a. Rosettes & Certificates for the following:
 - (1) 3 sets of 1st – 3rd
 - b. Results Sheet
2. Please note, the YKC will **NOT** supply any of the following:
 - i. Trophies
 - ii. Rosettes or Certificates to lower placings
 - iii. Prize money
 - iv. Results sheet

E: WHAT THE YKC NEEDS BACK FROM YOU

1. A full set of results from each of the YKC qualifying classes including:
 - i. Title: Class Name
 - ii. Place
 - iii. YKC Members Name
 - iv. YKC Membership Number
 - v. Dog's KC name
 - vi. Dog's KC number
 - vii. Dog's Breed
 - viii. Dog's Group
2. The information above shall be required as soon as possible, but no later than 3 weeks after the last day of the show.
3. Please submit via email to: ykc@thekennelclub.org.uk



**AGILITY COMPETITIONS
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 3:
APPENDIX**

A:

CONSIDERED QUALIFICATION METHODS

1. The YKC have considered multiple different qualification techniques to choose which would be the best for our members which will be outlined below:
2. **First place only - Rejected**
 - i. This method would require you to gain a 1st place at qualifying show. No other result would be acceptable.
 - ii. Pros
 - a. Very simple to understand
 - b. Guarantees a high standard of competitor
 - iii. Cons
 - a. If a competitor wins a qualifier, either:
 - (1) Any subsequent wins block other people from qualifying
 - (2) The competitor is forbidden to compete in this competition further
 - b. If one of the classes has no entries or all competitors are eliminated, the qualification space is lost
 - iv. Conclusion
 - a. This method is too simplistic and would result in either 1 person blocking multiple people from qualifying or would bar a competitor from entering heats; both scenarios are opposite to the YKCs dedication to making YKC classes open to all our members and promoting healthy, friendly competition.
3. **League Table – Rejected**
 - i. This method would allocate points to each place (down to 6th) of the qualifier. Dog and Handlers would gain points at each show, with the highest X number of competitors making it through to the finals
 - ii. Pros
 - a. Each win or place gets you one step closer to the final
 - b. Competitors are allowed and encouraged to enter as many shows as possible
 - c. Makes use of all allocated spaces
 - iii. Cons
 - a. This method rewards competitors who are able to travel, rather than the highest skilled competitor
 - (1) Some families may not be in a financial position to travel to every YKC show, therefore making qualification potentially a question of: “are you rich enough to compete”
 - b. Winning a qualifying heat may not qualify you
 - c. You will only know if you have qualified at the end of the year
 - iv. Conclusion:
 - a. The YKC does not wish to implement a system whereby you must continually chase points. It is not our desire to make people poorer for attempting to qualify. League based systems work when qualifiers are all local, as the distance barrier is removed, however on a national scale, such as YKC qualifiers, it is not a fair method.

4. First Place & Roll Down - *Rejected*

- i. This method is similar to the first method discussed, however, instead of previous winners blocking the progress other competitors, if a previous winner did win again, the qualification space would roll down to the next competitor in the category who had not yet qualified.
- ii. Pros
 - a. Largely well understood
 - b. Allows members who have already qualified to compete without withholding places from other competitors
- iii. Cons
 - a. A person coming 2nd at the first event of the season would not qualify whereas potentially a person coming 10th (for example) at the last event of the season might
 - (1) This would give an advantage to those entering shows at the end of the year
 - b. The roll down list would need serious thought into how dogs across different height categories would roll down
 - c. If any delay in gathering results occurs, it would be unclear if you have received a roll down place or not
 - d. It is not possible to guarantee the skill level based on a roll down system
 - e. If one of the classes has no entries or all competitors are eliminated, the qualification space is lost
- iv. Conclusion:
 - a. As the YKC shows are not evenly distributed throughout the UK at all times during the year, certain regions may find more of their shows at the beginning of the year, rather than end. People attending shows at the start of the year have less of a chance of qualifying. It also can be confusing and demoralising when someone who gained 10th place was able to qualify whereas your 2nd place does not.

5. Points based system - *Rejected*

- i. A hybrid between a league and a first place only option, this method awarded points based on whether you came 1st [30 points], 2nd [15 points] or 3rd [10 Points]. If you accrued 30 points across the year then you successfully qualified.
- ii. Pros:
 - a. Once attaining 30 points, you were guaranteed a qualification space
 - b. Allows people who keep coming 2nd or 3rd to the same people a route to still qualify
 - c. Does not force anyone to chase points
- iii. Cons:
 - a. It was still possible for members to block progression for others as the points did not roll down.
 - (1) If there was a roll down of points, too many people would qualify
 - b. It was not clear how many competitors would qualify in a given year
- iv. Conclusion:
 - a. This was the YKC's preferred qualification method until 2023. Upon review, this method just pushes the blocking down to the third-place position, and attaining 3 x third places is challenging, especially in certain competitions. As such the YKC has moved to a different qualification method in 2023.

6. Giant Combined Scoresheet - Rejected

- i. This method would combine all of the results from every YKC qualifier into 1 giant results sheet. Instead of having course time and faults determine the winner, the course time would be converted into average speed (m/sec) by also capturing the course length.
- ii. Pros
 - a. This would capture the fastest dogs completing courses with the fewest faults which should theoretically guarantee a level of skill
 - b. Promotes a healthy competitive scene as going for a steady clear may not be sufficient to gain qualification.
- iii. Cons
 - a. Not all courses are created equal – some courses may feature long winding course sections that will arbitrarily lower any competitors average speed if the judge set a particularly “twisty” course.
 - b. Additionally, weather conditions would also have a major impact on whether or not you had a good chance of qualifying for the finals, as poor weather conditions will adversely affect your average speed.
 - c. Qualification would be unknown until the end of the year
 - d. In practice, skill is not guaranteed as the fastest dog around a simple course with mostly straight lines does not indicate whether the dog would be similarly as good around a more complex course.

7. Random Ballot - Rejected

- i. This method would get rid of all qualifiers and simply allow any member to submit a ballot and receive an equal chance of being selected to compete.
- ii. Pros
 - a. Very simple
 - b. Method of selection is “fair” – although problematic
- iii. Cons
 - a. Has nothing to do with skill
 - b. Does not promote the activity of participating in agility
 - c. No guarantee of any agility prowess
 - (1) Even if you have a grade 7 dog, if the handler has 0 experience, then the dog is not guaranteed to perform well
 - d. Just opting for a ballot removes all YKC qualifiers and removes opportunities for our members to compete against those in a similar age bracket
- iv. Conclusion
 - a. The YKC wants to promote youth competitions, not remove them.

8. Top X invited to a semi-final - Rejected

- i. This method would see the top X number of competitors from each qualifying heat invited to complete in a semi-final (location unknown) before Crufts, with the placings of that determining who is invited to Crufts.
- ii. Pros
 - a. By condensing the qualification process down to a competition, all competitors who make it to the semi-finals have the same chance, over the same course, in the same conditions to qualify.
 - b. Would allow the qualifiers to let through more participants
 - c. Could allow more qualifiers as the burden of qualifying for Crufts is up to the semi-final, not the qualifying heats

-
- (1) One of the largest problems we have for Crufts qualifiers is that Crufts is only 4 days long. Trying to cram every dog discipline with multiple classes, each with 3 age categories is incredibly difficult and heavily restricts the number of qualifiers we are able to offer to clubs.
 - iii. Cons:
 - a. Location. If we were to hold a 1-day semi-final it would have to take place in the midlands (we would need to be as equally unfair to Scotland as we would be to Cornwall). This in itself makes it unfair if you live nowhere near the midlands.
 - b. The semi-final would need to be held in November, after all our qualifiers had concluded. Holding an event in November would necessitate that it must be an indoor venue.
 - iv. Conclusion:
 - a. This option was heavily considered, but ultimately rejected based on the two cons above. Members from Northern Ireland, Scotland and any of the south coastal regions of England would be disenfranchised by a centralised semi-final.

9. Waterfall Method – *Accepted*

- i. This method would see all those getting 1st place qualifying for final. Any qualification spaces not filled by the 1st places would be randomly awarded to competitors who achieved a 2nd place at qualifiers. Any qualification spaces not filled by the 2nd Places would be randomly awarded to competitors who achieved 3rd place. Etc
- ii. Pros
 - a. 1st Place Guarantees qualification
 - b. No member can block the qualification of another member
 - c. All competitors who achieved a certain place are on an equal footing
 - (1) E.g., all 2nd place competitors in a subcategory are just as likely to be selected as each other
 - d. Because qualification is only awarded at the end of the year, all qualification spots can be filled
- iii. Cons:
 - a. One of the most complicated qualification methods
 - b. All those who did not come first will need to wait till the qualification year is over to know if they have qualified
 - c. Randomly allocated spaces can feel unfair if you were unsuccessful
- iv. Conclusion:
 - a. The YKC will try out this new method of qualification across all of its qualifiers, whilst it does have some issues, namely the complexity and the late announcement of who has qualified, the YKC believes this method will strike a balance between allowing previously qualified members to continue competing and to allow those not yet qualified to still have a chance of reaching the finals.