

Annex H – ALC Agenda and minutes

ALC Agenda January 2015 Item 7.d.

Proposed Amendment of Regulation H 28.a.(9) (Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)

The above Regulation came into effect on 1st January 2012 but has posed problems for show societies in the organisation of classes and judging appointments due to restrictions in classes that judges are able, and willing to, judge. It has also led to a large number of experienced judges withdrawing from judging. Unlike some other disciplines where judging is subjective rather than based on time and accuracy, agility judges are not able to determine a result to the same degree. It should be noted that judges are bound by Kennel Club Regulations to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice, and are open to investigation by the Kennel Club should an objection be lodged

It is understood that in the past some judges, prior to the regulation being introduced, had family members or spouses winning in their classes which allowed grade progression, qualification for Kennel Club Finals, or awarding of Championship Agility Certificates. However there is no current restriction on judges who in some cases may be professional agility trainers, judging their own students or club members. The proposal would allow judges to judge a spouse, immediate family member or resident at the same address, in all classes at Kennel Club Licenced shows with the exception of Championship Agility Classes and in Kennel Club Qualifiers.

TO: Regulation H 28.a.(9) (Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)a. A dog may be disqualified by the General Committee from any award whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proved amongst other things to have been; (9)Handled by the scheduled judge's spouse, immediate family or resident at the same address as the scheduled judge in Championship Classes and Kennel Club sponsored qualifiers. This shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency.(Insertion in bold)

ALC Minutes January 2015 (52-58)

Proposed Amendment of Regulation H 28.a.(9) (Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)

52.The proposed amendment was proposed and presented by Mr Cavill on behalf of the Welsh Agility Community. It was seconded by Mr Huckle.

53.The Regulation, which provided for a dog to be disqualified from any award if it was proved to have been handled by the scheduled judge's spouse, immediate family or resident at the same address, came into effect on 1 January 2012. Mr Cavill was of the view that its introduction had posed problems for show societies who had experienced difficulties in appointing judges who wished to restrict which classes they were willing to judge as their spouse or other family member may wish to compete at the same show. Some experienced judges had withdrawn from judging as a result of the introduction of the Regulation, which created additional problems by reducing the pool of judges. Mr Cavill noted that there was no current restriction on judges who in some cases may be professional agility trainers, judging their own students or club members.

54.The Council accepted that difficulties in appointing judges did exist as a result of the Regulation being in place, and as a result some shows were experiencing planning problems, particularly as judging appointments were arranged well in advance of a show.

55.It was acknowledged that all judges should be judging impartially and honestly according to Kennel Club Regulations regardless of their relationship to the competitor, however there was a risk of the perception of bias occurring in respect of a competitor being judged by his or her spouse or family member. There was also some concern that there may be some ambiguity in the proposal to allow judges to judge spouses or family members in some classes but not in Championship classes.

56.However, it was accepted that agility judging was based on time and accuracy and that judging was not subjective. Agility judges were not able to determine a result to the same degree as in some other disciplines.

57.The Council's view was that the agility community had worked within the current Regulation since 1 January 2012 but due to the resulting difficulties experienced by show organisers, it considered that the Regulation should be amended to allow for a judge to judge dogs handled by his or her spouse, immediate family or resident at the same address as the scheduled judge other than in Championship Classes and Kennel Club sponsored events, which would include Discover Dogs, Crufts and Olympia qualifiers.

58.Accordingly, it supported the proposal with the proviso that the term 'Kennel Club sponsored qualifiers' be replaced by 'Kennel Club sponsored events' and recommended for approval the following amendment:

Regulation H 28.a.(9) (Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)TO:

a. A dog may be disqualified by the General Committee from any award whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proved amongst other things to have been;(9)Handled by the scheduled judge's spouse, immediate family or resident at the same address as the scheduled judge in Championship Classes and Kennel Club sponsored events. This shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency.(Insertion in bold)

ALC Agenda June 2015 Item 3.e.

Proposed Amendment of Regulation H 28.a.(9) (Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)

At its meeting on 19 March 2015, the Activities Sub-Committee had considered the Council's recommendation for an amendment to the above Regulation at its meeting which would allow for a judge to judge dogs handled by his or her spouse, immediate family or resident at the same address as the scheduled judge other than in Championship Classes and Kennel Club sponsored events. The Sub-Committee had accepted that agility had special challenges in view of the high number of judges required but had expressed a concern the proposed amendment would result in different criteria being applied to agility to those in other disciplines and that it would also imply that more trust was placed in judges at open shows than those at Championship shows. In the interests of consistency, it did not recommend the amendment for approval.

ALC Agenda January 2019 Item 16.f.

Regulation H 28.a.(9) (Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)Ms Cuddy wishes the Council to discuss a suggested amendment to the above Regulation as follows:

Regulation H28.a.(9)TO:A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proved amongst other things to have been;(9)Handled by the scheduled judge's spouse, immediate family or is resident at the same address as the scheduled judge. This shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency.(Deletion struck through.)

Under the terms of the suggested amendment, judges would be permitted to judge a spouse, immediate family member or resident at the same address in all classes at Kennel Club Licenced shows, with no exceptions.

Rationale

Since its introduction in January 2012 the above Regulation has caused problems for both show organisers and competitors alike:

- Experienced judges have withdrawn from judging due to the restrictions it places on their immediate family when competing, which has a negative impact on Agility.
- Show organisers have found it much more difficult to find a good range of different judges for their shows to support a broad range of challenges being tested.
- Assigning judges to classes once a contract is accepted has become more problematic for show organisers. Often judges' classes need to be reassigned and show organisation reworked once shows are closed and entries known.
- Competitors may enter classes at a show, to find that their entry is no longer allowed due to a change in a judge's class allocations.

A proposal to address these issues was discussed by the Council at its meeting in January 2015 but its recommendations were not recommended for approval by the Activities Committee due to concerns regarding different criteria being applied for agility to those in other disciplines. However, in both breed and field trial competitions the above regulation is not in force Agility judges are bound to judge by the H Regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice, and as such their decisions are highly objective, producing results which are based on timing and accuracy. A clear appeal path is also in place should there be any cause for concern. It should also be noted that this issue has been addressed by the FCI due to similar concerns and arguments and amendments have recently been agreed to allow judges to judge spouses and family members.

ALC Minutes July 2019 (79-81)

Proposed amendment to Regulation H 28.a.(9)(Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)

79.At its January meeting, the Council considered an amendment to the above Regulation under the terms of which judges would be permitted to judge a spouse, immediate family member or a dog

resident at the same address in all classes at Kennel Club Licenced shows, with no exceptions. The Judging Panel had been requested to formulate a formal proposal.

80.The Council considered the proposal. It was of the strong view that the existing Regulation implied a lack of integrity on the part of judges, which was not justified. It did not consider that the singling out of spouses was appropriate when it remained acceptable, under the existing Regulation, for a competitor to be judged by his or her trainer or business partner. Further, it highlighted that judging of agility was not subjective in nature.

81.Accordingly, it unanimously recommended for approval the following amendment:

Regulation H 28.a.(9)Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards TO: a. A dog may be disqualified by the Board from any award whether an objection has been lodged or not, if proved amongst other things to have been;(9) Handled by the scheduled judge's spouse, immediate family or is resident at the same address as the scheduled judge. This shall not apply to a judge appointed in an emergency. (Deletions struck through. Subsequent paragraphs to be renumbered).(Effective 1 January 2020)

ALC January 2020 minutes (7-8)

Proposed amendment to Regulation H 28.a.(9) (Disqualification and Forfeit of Awards)

7.The Activities Committee had discussed the proposed amendment to the above Regulation, under the terms of which judges would be permitted to judge a spouse, immediate family member or a dog resident at the same address in all classes at Kennel Club Licensed agility shows, with no exceptions.

8.Whilst the Committee acknowledged the Council's strong views on the matter and the rationale supporting its recommendation, it raised concerns that other activities were subject to similar regulations whereby a judge may not judge his or her spouse, and that a press release had recently been issued in respect of breed shows and the necessity for judging to be perceived as fair and impartial. It was also of the view that most other activities were judged by way of a scoring system and may be considered to be objective, and that agility could not be viewed as being different in that respect. For these reasons, the Committee did not support the proposal and accordingly did not recommend it for approval