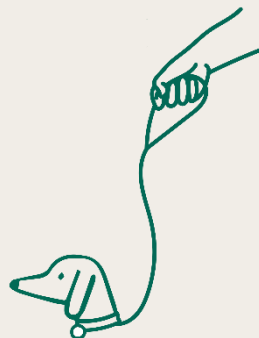




**YKC HANDLING
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 1:
YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES**

YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES

A: DEFINITION

1. The YKC hosts twelve handling competition finals at Crufts culminating in a Grand final in the YKC ring at Crufts to determine the YKC handler of the year.
 - i. To qualify for the finals, members must compete in YKC handling classes held at shows throughout the year, these classes can be found at www.ykc.org.uk
2. Handling qualifiers run from the 1st January to the 31st December for the following year's Crufts

B: CLASSES

1. There are three classes for members to enter:
 - i. YKC Handling 06-11 Years
 - ii. YKC Handling 12-17 Years
 - iii. YKC Handling 18-24 Years
2. When entering a show, you are entering both the above age category and also the dog you handle enters you into the relevant subcategory:
 - i. Terrier
 - ii. Hound
 - iii. Working
 - iv. Pastoral
 - v. Utility
 - vi. Toy
 - vii. Gundog
 - viii. Crossbreed
3. To enter YKC handling class at a show, you must select a dog from either the Breed Register or the Activity Register.
 - i. Once you have entered a dog into a YKC handling class, you may only swap that dog for dog that is entered in the show AND from the same group as the dog you originally entered.
4. 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.
5. YKC Handling 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
6. Crossbreeds may compete in these competitions
7. You may only exhibit once per class
 - i. i.e. you may not take more than one dog into a YKC handling class

EXAMPLE

YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES

C: HANDLERS

1. Age categories for YKC members are defined as:

6+

6-11 Years

(Handlers 6 years and up to, but not including 12th birthday)

12+

12-17 Years

(Handlers 12 years and up to, but not including 18th birthday)

18+

18 –24 Years

(Handlers 18 years and up to, but not including 25th birthday)

2. When entering a qualifier, enter the age category that the member will be on the first day of the show hosting the qualifier (even if the class isn't on the first day)
 - i. When entering Crufts, enter the age category that the member will be on the first day of Crufts
 - a. The YKC will place you in the correct age category for Crufts
 - b. If you turn 25 on or before the first day of Crufts, you will be unable to compete in the finals at Crufts
 3. You must be a current member of the Young Kennel Club before entering any Young Kennel Club classes.
-

D: 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

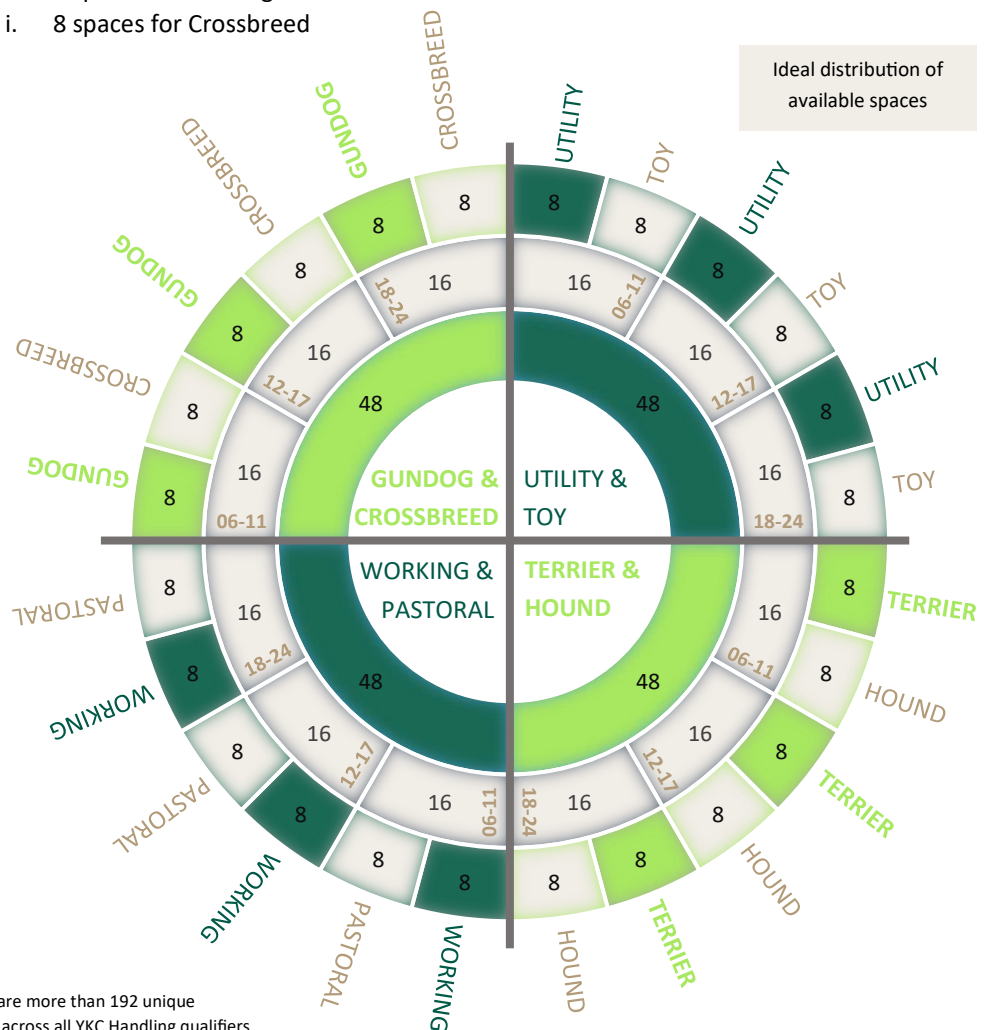


YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES

E:

QUALIFICATION SPACES AVAILABLE

1. At Crufts, across all days, there is a soft-cap* of 192 spaces available for members to qualify for in YKC Handling.
2. The allocation of spaces will be as follows:
 - i. 48 spaces per day split into:
 - a. 16 spaces for 06-11 Years
 - b. 16 spaces for 12-17 Years
 - c. 16 Spaces for 18-24 Years
3. Each age category will be further split into each group as follows
 - i. 8 spaces for every subcategory e.g.
 - a. 8 spaces for Utility
 - b. 8 spaces for Terrier
 - c. 8 spaces for Hound
 - d. 8 spaces for Working
 - e. 8 spaces for Pastoral
 - f. 8 spaces for Utility
 - g. 8 spaces for Toy
 - h. 8 spaces for Gundog
 - i. 8 spaces for Crossbreed



*If there are more than 192 unique 1st places across all YKC Handling qualifiers, the YKC will honour each of them even if that means more than 192 total competitors



YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES

4. If a subcategory, does not manage to fill all 8 qualification spaces, the remaining spaces will be distributed to the other group featured on that day

EXAMPLE

i. Example:

- a. If subcategory: [06-11 – Working Group] only has 5 qualification spaces filled at the end of the qualifying year, the remaining 3 spaces will be given to the [06-11 – Pastoral Group] which would result in the following space allocation:

(1) [06-11 – Working Group] = 5

(2) [06-11 – Pastoral Group] = 11

- (i) The overall 06-11 age category total for working and pastoral day is still 16

5. If an age category is unable to fill all 16 allocated spaces, the spaces will be offered to the other 2 remaining age categories, with half of the available spaces going to each (if an odd number of spaces are available, the youngest eligible age category will be offered the slightly larger share of spaces.) The spaces in each age group will be offered randomly (but evenly) between each group

i. Example

EXAMPLE

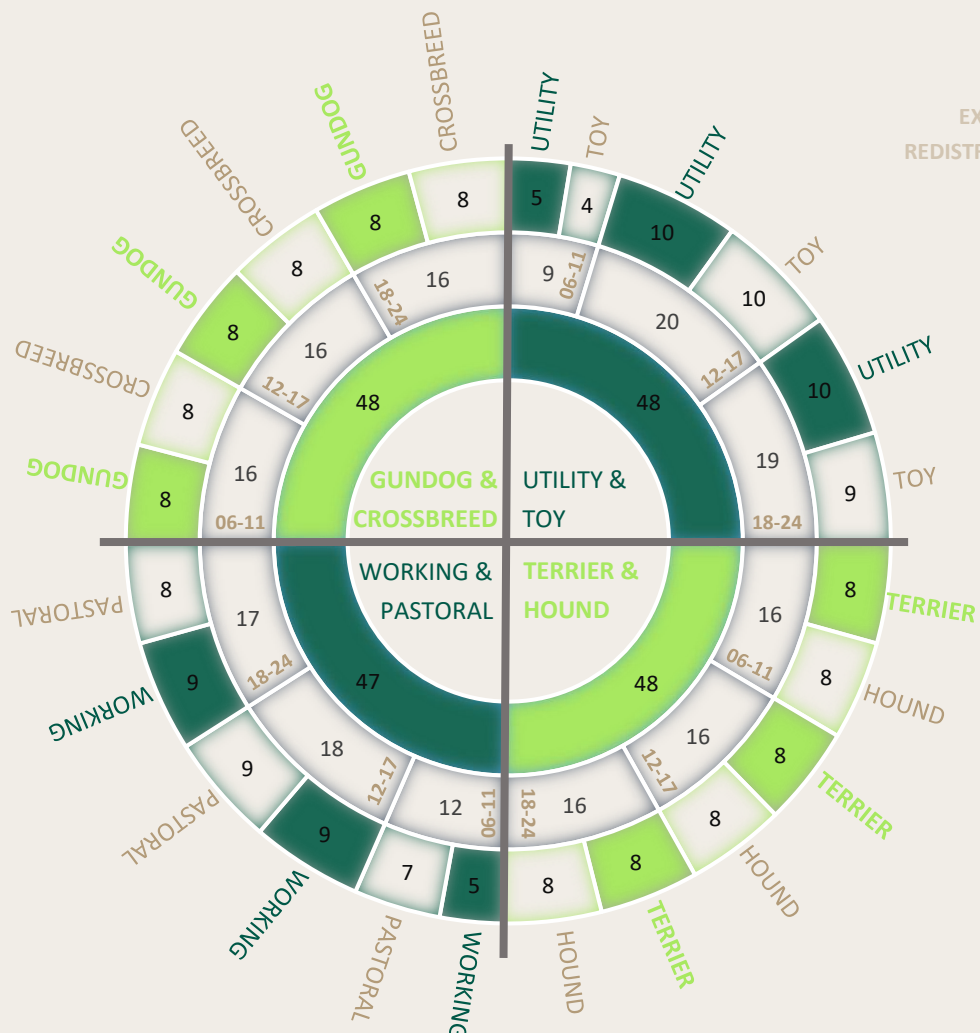
- a. If the [6-11 Utility & Toy] category could only fill 9 spaces out of the 16 max,

(1) 7 spaces would be split between evenly between:

(i) 4 spaces to: [12-17 Utility & Toy]

(ii) 3 Spaces to: [18-24 Utility & Toy].

- (2) These spaces will be randomly (but evenly) split between the two groups. See below an example





YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES

6. If, as in the Working & Pastoral example above, the total number of members for a day is less than the maximum 48, any spaces not used are lost.
 - i. These spaces are NOT transferred to increase the numbers on other days.

F: QUALIFICATION CRITERIA

STEP 1

1. The waterfall qualification method will be used to determine who qualifies YKC Handling competitions:
2. This method is a modification of a roll down system and will be described in detail below:
3. **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.

STEP 2

4. **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 HANDLING GENERAL RULES

EXAMPLE

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. 8 places on offer
 - c. These results are for the "12-17" age category
 - d. We are just going to look at the "Pastoral" group for this 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	PASTORAL	BOB	PASTORAL	SAM	WORKING	SOPHIE	GUNDOG	BOB	GUNDOG	SAM	PASTORAL
2	JAMES	HOUND	ANNA	HOUND	BOB	PASTORAL	SAM	UTILITY	ANNA	XBREED	BOB	XBREED
3	DAVID	GUNDOG	SAM	TERRIER	ZARA	WORKING	TINA	PASTORAL	SAM	TOY	ZARA	PASTORAL
4	LAURA	PASTORAL	HEATHER	GUNDOG	SARAH	WORKING	HARVEY	WORKING	HEATHER	GUNDOG	SARAH	GUNDOG
5	SOPHIE	HOUND	ZARA	XBREED	ANNA	TERRIER	HARVEY	TOY	ZARA	TERRIER	ANNA	UTILITY
6	BOB	TERRIER	SAM	HOUND	THEO	XBREED	FRED	PASTORAL	SAM	PASTORAL	THEO	PASTORAL

2. Use Step 1

- i. First, as we are only looking at Pastoral results, we will remove the other non-pastoral results
- ii. 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 out Bob's 2nd win as he does not receive 2 qualification spaces
 - c. From the example below, only 2 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	PASTORAL	BOB	PASTORAL							SAM	PASTORAL
2					BOB	PASTORAL						
3							TINA	PASTORAL			ZARA	PASTORAL
4	LAURA	PASTORAL			SARAH	PASTORAL						
5							HARVEY	PASTORAL				
6							FRED	PASTORAL	SAM	PASTORAL	THEO	PASTORAL



YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES

EXAMPLE
CONT

3. Using Step 2 (x1)

- i. All those who received 2nd places are looked at
 - a. Bob has already qualified in pastoral, so we can grey them out
 - b. No other pastoral handlers came 2nd in qualifiers

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	PASTORAL	BOB	PASTORAL							SAM	PASTORAL
2					BOB	PASTORAL						
3							TINA	PASTORAL			ZARA	PASTORAL
4	LAURA	PASTORAL			SARAH	PASTORAL						
5							HARVEY	PASTORAL				
6							FRED	PASTORAL	SAM	PASTORAL	THEO	PASTORAL

4. Using Step 2 (x2)

- i. As 8 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	PASTORAL	BOB	PASTORAL							SAM	PASTORAL
2					BOB	PASTORAL						
3							TINA	PASTORAL			ZARA	PASTORAL
4	LAURA	PASTORAL			SARAH	PASTORAL						
5							HARVEY	PASTORAL				
6							FRED	PASTORAL	SAM	PASTORAL	THEO	PASTORAL



YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES

5. Step 2 Repeated (x3)

- i. As 8 spaces have still not been filled, 4th place is now looked at
 - a. Laura and Sarah are both given spaces as that brings the total qualified to 6

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	PASTORAL	BOB	PASTORAL							SAM	PASTORAL
2					BOB	PASTORAL						
3							TINA	PASTORAL			ZARA	PASTORAL
4	LAURA	PASTORAL			SARAH	PASTORAL						
5							HARVEY	PASTORAL				
6							FRED	PASTORAL	SAM	PASTORAL	THEO	PASTORAL

6. Step 2 Repeated (x4)

- i. Again, 8 spaces have still not been filled; 5th place is now considered
- ii. Harvey is given a space which brings the total qualified to 7

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	PASTORAL	BOB	PASTORAL							SAM	PASTORAL
2					BOB	PASTORAL						
3							TINA	PASTORAL			ZARA	PASTORAL
4	LAURA	PASTORAL			SARAH	PASTORAL						
5							HARVEY	PASTORAL				
6							FRED	PASTORAL	SAM	PASTORAL	THEO	PASTORAL



YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES

7. Step 2 Repeated (x5)

- i. Again, 8 spaces have still not been filled; 6th place is now considered
- ii. Sam has already qualified and is greyed out
- iii. Only 1 space is available, but two people are eligible to filled the space: Fred and Theo (Blue)
 - a. To choose which of the two handlers goes through, both their names are put into a random draw
 - b.

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	PASTORAL	BOB	PASTORAL							SAM	PASTORAL
2					BOB	PASTORAL						
3							TINA	PASTORAL			ZARA	PASTORAL
4	LAURA	PASTORAL			SARAH	PASTORAL						
5							HARVEY	PASTORAL				
6							FRED	PASTORAL	SAM	PASTORAL	THEO	PASTORAL

8. Step 2 conclusion

- i. Of the 2 names in the draw, 1 was selected at random
 - a. Fred's name was picked from the draw, therefore he does qualify
 - b. Theo does not qualify
- ii. 8 spaces have now been filled and the qualification steps end.

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	PASTORAL	BOB	PASTORAL							SAM	PASTORAL
2					BOB	PASTORAL						
3							TINA	PASTORAL			ZARA	PASTORAL
4	LAURA	PASTORAL			SARAH	PASTORAL						
5							HARVEY	PASTORAL				
6							FRED	PASTORAL	SAM	PASTORAL	THEO	PASTORAL

YKC HANDLING GENERAL RULES

G:

COMPETING AT CRUFTS

1. The same dog may not be handled by two or more separate handlers in the same class
2. When competing at Crufts there will be 4 distinct classes each with 3 different age groups making a total of 12 classes.
 - i. The classes will be grouped in the same manner in which Crufts is grouped:
 - a. Gundog & Crossbreed dogs
 - b. Working & Pastoral dogs
 - c. Utility & Toy dogs
 - d. Terrier & Hound dogs
 - ii. The winner of each class and age group will qualify for the “Handler of the Year” competition on Sunday making 12 finalists.
 - a. These finalists should handle the same dog as they qualified for the final with.
 - (1) Exceptional circumstances will be considered if the same dog cannot be used.
 - iii. All 3 age groups will compete together to try to win the “Handler of the Year” award.



**HANDLING JUDGING CRITERIA
RULES 2023 (CRUFTS 2024)**



**SECTION 2:
HANDLING JUDGING CRITERIA**

A:

JUDGES & JUDGING

1. Judges at Kennel Club Handling Competitions are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and appropriate Codes of Best Practice as published from time to time.
2. Judge's discretion prevails and Judges' decisions are final.
3. It should be reinforced that it is not the dog that is being judged, but how well the show handler handles the dog.
 - i. *N.b. The dog which stands perfectly and has immaculate pattern work is not necessarily being handled by the best handler.*
4. The dog need not be a close match to the breed standard, but should be still be healthy and able to complete all pattern work.
5. Bitches in season shall not be permitted to compete in YKC handling classes.
 - i. Upon discovery that a bitch in season is about to, or has entered the YKC class, the judge shall quietly move the dog and handler to one side and ask for them to remove themselves from the class.
6. Shortlist: In large classes, the judge may select the best performing handlers thus far and ask all other competitors to leave the ring.
 - i. From this point onwards, only the shortlisted dogs remain in the competition.
 - ii. The judge is not permitted to shortlist all handlers bar one (1)
 - iii. The judge is also not permitted to shortlist n+1 handlers where n is the number of places awarded in the class.
 - iv. The judge is not allowed to shortlist if the class size is less than or equal to the number of places on offer.
 - v. As part of the shortlist, the judge may ask the handlers to perform more pattern work. The new pattern work may be selected from any of the approved patterns, even if they have already been used.
7. In the event of handlers being deemed as equal by the judge, places will be distinguished by the 'Unobstructed View' ruling.
8. Any handling that may be injurious to the dog must be penalised by immediate elimination from the ring.
9. Judges should ask handlers to relax during periods of inactivity should the circumstances warrant it. Handlers should remain aware of the judge during this time, and should be expected to present at a moment's notice. Appropriate conditions include, but are not limited to:
 - i. Large class sizes
 - ii. Adverse weather conditions (too hot, cold, damp etc)

B:

JUDGING CRITERIA

1. There should be a single judge to assess each handler entered into the class. The judge will mark all five sections of the Judging Criteria as follows: The following twelve subcategories will be open for members to compete in:
 - i. **Unobstructed View also known as "the Golden Rule"**
 - a. Every effort should be made to allow the judge a clear view of the dog at all times.
 - b. Where required, the handler should alter their position to ensure they do not obstruct the judge's view of their dog, this should be done discretely, without drawing the judge's attention from the dog to the handler
 - c. When the dog is being presented, the judge may manoeuvre around the dog, at a steady and considered walking pace. During this time, handlers should 'shadow' the dog.

HANDLING JUDGING CRITERIA

- (1) Shadowing is the process where the handler should stand adjacent to the dog's leg that is furthest away from the judge at any given time.
 - (2) Any movement that is required during shadowing must be conducted discretely.
 - d. If a dog should be part of a line, adequate space should be left between each dog to allow for the judge to comfortably step between each dog and allow a clear view of the dog's front.
 - (1) Handlers should be penalised for not allowing enough room between their dog and other objects (dog, ring perimeter, table etc).
- ii. Ring Entry**
- a. When entering the ring, handlers should be aware that the judge will be observing them as they walk into position.
 - (1) Handlers should have their dogs standing or moving to advantage as they collect ring numbers from the steward and also observe the "golden rule" during this time.
 - (2) Judges may request that table dogs and floors dogs are put into a group together, if not, handlers must choose their position carefully while remaining courteous to other competitors.
 - b. Handlers should leave an adequate gap between them and the preceding handler before entering.
 - (1) The size of the gap left should depend on the speed of the dog in front relative to the speed of the next handler's dog.
 - c. There must be no overtaking of any dog.
 - (1) Any group work must commence in the order the dogs entered the ring unless specifically moved into another position by the judge.
 - d. After entering the ring, handlers must form a single file straight line.
 - (1) The dog at the front of the line should be used as the reference point for all other dogs.
 - (2) All other handlers must position their dogs to be perfectly in line with the first dog, not necessarily the dog directly preceding them.
 - (i) Should the class be too large to form a single straight line, the first handler who does not have adequate room to stand their dog should form a new line, perpendicular to the first and parallel to the ring edge.
 - (ii) That handler is now considered the first dog for the new line.
 - e. As soon as the handler is in their position in the line, they should either freestand or stack their dog.
 - (1) No preference should be given to either method, although the end result should be the dog's legs forming the corners of a regular rectangle, the legs themselves should not be over or under extended.
- iii. Individual Assessment**
- a. Dogs should be appropriately stood, either on the floor or on a table where required.
 - b. Judges are permitted to move a dog's leg during the initial presentation. The handler will be penalised if they do not notice and immediately correct the stance.
 - c. The handler will be asked to display the dog's teeth, the handler must

HANDLING JUDGING CRITERIA

demonstrate the left-side, front and right-side teeth, in any order.

- (1) The act of displaying the teeth must be considerate to the dog, and must not cause any distress. Some breeds do not show their teeth in the breed ring, if this is the case, the handler should attempt to display the teeth as best they can.

iv. Pattern work

- a. All Pattern work should be executed with the dog at a moderate trot, the pace being dictated by the breed of dog. The dog walking or galloping should be penalised, especially if the handler doesn't immediately correct the dog's pace accordingly.
- b. If the pattern would call for a straight line, the dog and handler should demonstrate a perfectly straight line, free from deviation.
- c. Handlers should begin most pattern work directly in front of the judge approximately 2-3 paces away. Handlers should begin setting off in the direction indicated by the judge's feet position.
- d. The judge may set the same series of pattern work exercises, in the same order, for each competitor. If the judge wishes to set different patterns for each competitor, the pattern combination should be approximately the same length for each competitor.
- e. The judge may only select a pattern or patterns from the approved patterns list
- f. The judge may choose to finish the pattern work with one final presentation of the dog.
 - (1) The final presentation is optional, handlers should listen closely to the instructions given by the judge before commencing any pattern work.
- g. Where the judge utilises a shortlist, they may pick any number of patterns from the approved patterns list to repeat as a further test, even if the pattern has already been used.
- h. When completing pattern work, handlers are permitted to use the entire area of the ring to complete the required patterns.
 - (1) Handlers should only be penalised if, when completing the patterns, they do not utilise enough space for the judge to clearly assess the dog's movement.
- i. The judge may ask, either before or after all pattern work is complete, for all handlers to perform a Single Lap of the ring as a group.

v. Lap of the ring

- a. Path: Circle just inside the perimeter of the ring.
 - (1) The single lap of the ring requires all handlers to traverse one lap around the ring, starting with the first dog in the line-up.
 - (2) All handlers should follow on from one another, taking care not to get too close to the dog in front. The Handler should pay attention to the specific section of the ring the judge is viewing, and time their handling according.
 - (3) It may be necessary for the handler to hold their dog back while a slower dog in front is being judged.
 - (4) The judge may indicate that more laps of the ring are required, Handlers should pay close attention to the judge's hand signals towards the end of their first lap.

HANDLING JUDGING CRITERIA

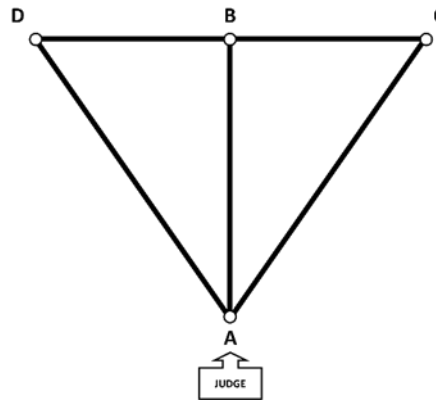
- (5) Handlers should also be aware of the judge changing position from the centre of the ring to the side of the ring during the circle.
 - (i) They will have to change hands accordingly so as not to obstruct the judge's view of the dog.
- vi. Sportsmanship and Best Practice**
 - a. The judge's decision is final.
 - b. Handlers should be gracious, whether they have won, received a placing, or not made the shortlist.
 - (1) The judge may change the order of placings at any time until the awards have been handed to the competitors.
 - (2) Handlers should continue to display good handling etiquette until out of the ring.
 - c. The handler should demonstrate a strong rapport with their dog.
 - (1) During pattern work, the handler should communicate with the dog and be seen to be looking at the dog regularly during movement and stacking or free-standing.
 - (2) Handlers should spend the majority of their time watching their dog on the move and in the stand, handlers staring at the judge during assessment is to be penalised.
 - d. Handlers shall not display harsh handling at any time.
 - e. The handler should display awareness of the direction they are traveling in, the line their dog is taking, and the position of the judge.
 - f. Handlers must be in complete control of their dog at all times.
 - g. Handlers should use a 'show lead' appropriate for the size of dog they are showing.
 - (1) The lead should be held without too much slack.
 - (i) The handler will be penalised if a lead is too tight as to make the dog uncomfortable.
 - (2) Any excess lead should be coiled and hidden from view within a clenched fist.
 - (3) Handlers should begin most pattern work with the lead in their left hand.
 - h. Handlers must display their exhibit number clearly about their person at all times.
 - i. Handlers may use treats to bait their dogs. Should any treats, either deliberately or accidentally, fall to the floor, the handler should immediately pick them up. Failure to do so should be penalised.
 - j. If a dog fouls in the ring, the handler is expected to clean up after the dog.
 - (1) If a handler does not have adequate provision to do so (i.e. no poo bag) this shall be penalised.
 - (2) While the handler is cleaning up after their dog, the judging will be halted and will resume as soon as the ring has returned to a state whereby no other dogs will be distracted by the fouling.
 - k. Handlers are expected to be courteous to the judge and ring stewards at all times, including thanking the judge after their pattern work is completed.
 - l. Consideration should be given to appearance of the dog and handler partnership.

HANDLING JUDGING CRITERIA

- (1) The handler's choice of outfit should be selected to mirror the breed ring, typically opting for smart attire.
- (2) No items of clothing should distract the judge's attention away from the dog.
- m. Judges should take note that if the class is scheduled for young competitors, they are likely to be less experienced due to age.
 - (1) Judges in this instance shall offer simple instructions when judging handlers in the younger age group (e.g. 6-11 years).
 - (2) Judges should use their discretion when selecting which patterns are to be used.
 - (3) If the judge has decided that some handlers are too young to understand some of the more complicated patterns, they must not use those patterns deemed too complex for any competitor in the same class; the judging must remain fair for all being judged.
 - (i) In certain competitions, complex movements could be introduced if the winner of the younger class is in a run off with winners of other classes.

HANDLING JUDGING CRITERIA

The following section details the approved list of patterns that a judge may select from. The judge is permitted to ask the handler to complete the patterns as a standard exercise (dog on the handler's left side to begin) or as a reverse exercise (dog on the handler's right side to begin). Figure 1 - Handling Paths a) Individual Patterns



The Triangle

Standard Path: A → C → D → A

Reverse Path: A → D → C → A

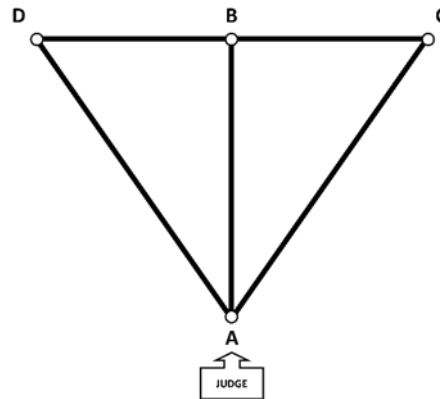
Description: 'The Triangle' should be made of 3 approximately equal length lines. The first straight line should begin with the handler and dog moving away from the judge towards the right-hand side. The handler should then make a left turn, bringing the dog exactly perpendicular to the judges view and start the second straight line by proceed forward approximately the same distance as the first straight line. The Handler should then perform their final left turn to face the judge and proceed forward. At each of the corners, the handler should take the outside line with the dog on the handler's left-hand side throughout. Handlers should not need to switch hands at corners "C" or "D"

Up and Down

Standard Path: A → B → A

Reverse Path: A → B → A

Description: The Up and down pattern should feature two straight lines, one directly away from, and one directly towards, the judge. The handler should set off in the direction that the judge's feet are pointing. The style of turn should be at the discretion of the handler but as long as the golden rule is not broken.



The 'L'

Standard Path: A → B → D → B → A (fig.1)

Reverse Path: A → B → C → B → A (fig.1)

Description: The "L" pattern is designed for the judge to see the movement of the dog from each of its sides. The 'L' should be made of 4 lines. For the initial straight line, the handler should set off in the direction that the judge's feet are pointing. The handler should then make a 90° left turn and walk in a straight line for approximately the same number of paces as the first straight line. Upon finishing the second straight line, the handler should perform an inward-turn, during which they will be required to swap the lead into their other hand. The Handler should then retrace their steps back to the judge beginning with a straight line, followed by a 90° right hand turn, followed by a final straight to the judge.

The 'T'

Standard Path: A → B → D → C → B → A (fig.1)

Reverse Path: A → B → C → D → B → A (fig.1)

Description: The "T" pattern is a more complicated form of the L pattern. The 'T' should be made of 5 lines. For the initial straight line, the handler should set off in the direction that the judge's feet are pointing. The handler should then make a 90° left turn and walk in a straight line for approximately half the number of paces as the first straight line. Upon finishing the second straight line, the handler should perform an inward-turn, during which they will be required to swap the lead into their other hand. The Handler should then proceed straight for approximately the same number of steps as the first line. A second inward-turn should be performed along with an accompanying swapping of hands. The handler should then proceed straight, using around half the number of paces as the first line. To finish, the handler should then turn 90° to the left and walk back towards the judge.



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



**SECTION 6:
SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION**



SHOW SECRETARY INFORMATION

A: DEFINITION

1. This section is for Show Secretaries that are holding YKC Crufts Handling 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 Handling**
 - i. This schedule information **MUST** be read in conjunction with the full set of YKC Handling 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 Handling Classes have 3 different age categories for you to enter
 - a. *06-11 Years*
 - b. *12-17 Years*
 - c. *18-24 Years*
 - iv. May enter a dog from one of the 8 different groups:
 - a. *Utility*
 - b. *Toy*
 - c. *Terrier*
 - d. *Hound*
 - e. *Working*
 - f. *Pastoral*
 - g. *Gundog*
 - h. *Crossbreed*
 - v. Bitches in season are not allowed to compete in YKC Handling classes
 - vi. A record of the dog's Kennel Club registered name along with the handler handlers name will be kept, this will determine which class they enter at Crufts (and by extension which day)
 - a. After entries have closed, competitors may only switch dogs if both:
 - (1) The dog is in the same group
 - (2) The dog is already entered at the show
 - vii. Members should enter the age category they would be on the first day of this show.
 - viii. 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

C: GUIDELINES ON HOLDING YKC HANDLING CLASSES

1. When holding a YKC handling competition you will be effectively holding 3 classes per qualifier.
 - i. Most shows will also hold one qualifier per day their show is running.
 - ii. The YKC recommend holding the YKC Classes either at the beginning or the end of the day to avoid clashes with the breed rings
2. Bitches in season shall not be permitted to compete in YKC handling classes, this is to ensure the safety of all young handlers in a ring. If a judge deems a dog to be in season, the show secretary must do their utmost to uphold the decision of the judge.



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



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



**SECTION 7:
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 YKC's 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. 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 handling
 - c. No guarantee of any handling prowess
 - 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.

7. 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, via the same judge, 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.

8. 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.