



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB

## October 2023 Update to Clubs

### Modification to Recording and Service Fees for Agility, Conformation, Obedience, and Rally

The recording and service fee structure has been modified for Agility, Conformation, Obedience, and Rally events. The fees for the first entry for each dog are unchanged. The fees for each additional entry for a dog will increase by fifty cents. This change makes the fees for Agility, Conformation, Obedience, and Rally events match the fees that are currently required for performance events.

<b>Sport</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>New as of 1/1/2024</b>
Agility & Rally	\$3.50 for the first entry of each dog and \$3.00 for each additional entry of the same dog	\$3.50 for each entry
Conformation & Obedience	\$.50 recording for the first entry of each dog  \$3.00 service fee for the first entry of each dog and a \$3.00 service fee for each additional entry of the dog	\$.50 recording for the first entry of each dog  \$3.00 service fee for the first entry of each dog and a \$3.50 service fee for each additional entry of the dog

These changes are effective for events occurring on or after January 1, 2024. The post-event reports for each sport will be modified and included in the event kits for post-January 1, 2024 events and they will be available on the AKC website in mid-December 2023.

## **Age Limit for Conformation Sweepstakes and Futurities Increased to Up to 24 Months**

The age limit for Conformation Sweepstakes and Futurities has been increased from 18 months to up to 24 months of age. Following COVID, the AKC temporarily allowed clubs to hold Sweepstakes and Futurities for dogs up to 24 months of age. Based on the feedback from clubs and the success of their events, the age limit has been permanently increased to up to 24 months of age. The use of the increased age limit is an option for the club. This is effective immediately.

## **Class Catalog Order for Obedience Trials**

The Obedience Regulations will be modified to state that the Regular and Preferred Open and Utility class entries *may* be listed together in the catalog. This will allow the catalog to be consistent with how the class entries are required to be listed in the judging program and the judge's book. This will be effective for Obedience trials on or after January 1, 2024.

## **Clarification to Junior Showmanship Judging Guidelines**

The Junior Showmanship Judging Guidelines have been modified to clarify that the show qualities, including breed standard disqualifications and/or defined faults, of the dog being exhibited are not to be considered when evaluating the junior.

## **Judging Programs for Multi-Day Events**

The *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* ("Rules"), Chapter 11, Section 6 defines the conditions for which a correction or change of class may be made. For dogs who have completed their championship after the close of entries and are unconfirmed, the transfer must be made with the superintendent/show secretary at least one half-hour prior to the scheduled start of any regular conformation judging at the show. Chapter 11 Section 6 continues to specify that a transfer to Best of Breed/Variety must be made at least one half-hour prior to the start of judging on the first day of the show.

For single shows with multiple days of judging, the first day of a show is the

first day on which there is judging for the regular conformation classes with Sweepstakes and Futurities not considered regular conformation classes (*Rules* Chapter 3, Section 2). For most events, the “first day of the show” equates to the day the puppy dogs class, or first class defined in *Rules*, Chapter 3 Section 3 with entries, is scheduled to be judged.

Exactly when a transfer to Best of Breed/Variety must be completed at shows with multiple days of judging has been a source of confusion and misinterpretation for experienced and novice exhibitors. To aid exhibitors and superintendents/show secretaries participating in single events with multiple days of judging, the date and time that all transfers to Best of Breed (or Variety) must be made with the superintendent/show secretary must be published in the judging program. This requirement is effective for events held on or after January 1, 2024.

Example:

**All transfers to Best of Breed MUST BE MADE with the Show Secretary by 12:30 PM, Wednesday February 7, 2024.**

## **Judges Panel Management (JPM) Tool Available for Clubs to Manage Their Judges Panels**

The new [Judges Panel Management](#) (JPM) tool enables clubs to manage the judges panels for multiple events simultaneously and supports the easy and efficient assignment of a judge to multiple classes/breeds/stakes. Since its release in mid-May, we have received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our users. We recommend all user to review the [Tips for using the JPM Tool](#) before using the tool. The JPM tool is available within the [Online Event Management](#) system.

## **Information for Clubs Holding FSS Open Shows**

Clubs must offer two groups of competition:

- FSS breeds eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class
- FSS breeds not eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class

Four group placements are available for each of the two groups in FSS Open

Shows. There have been instances where clubs/judges have only awarded a Group First for each of the two groups. That is not correct. Based on entries, clubs should be prepared to award up to four group placements for each of these two groups.

The following breed classes must be offered at all FSS Open Shows:

- 4-6 Month Puppy Class
- 6-9 Month Puppy Class
- 9-12 Month Puppy Class
- Bred-By Exhibitor Class
- Open Class

No further division of classes by age is allowed, most notably classes for exhibits 12 months of age or older. Additionally, the consolidation of puppy classes by age is prohibited.

Clubs may elect to divide or combine classes by sex. Division of sexes must be uniformly applied to all breeds and must be published in the premium list.

For more information, the [FSS Open Show Regulations](#) are available on the AKC website at this [link](#).

## AKC Event Operations Blog

The AKC Event Operations team maintains a blog that contains these, as well as other, updates to clubs. The blog is a useful resource of information and can be found at <https://akceventoperations.wordpress.com/>.

Please contact the Event Operations department at [eventnews@akc.org](mailto:eventnews@akc.org) with any questions.



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