



THE KENNEL CLUB CRUFTS INTERNATIONAL FREESTYLE COMPETITION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Eligibility

1. Handlers from around the world are invited to compete in the International Crufts Freestyle competition after completion and submission of the application form which is attached.
2. One representative from each country can compete.
3. Handlers must be resident in the country they are going to represent.
4. Overseas entries are restricted to 11. The first 11 entries to complete the attached application form **and** submit their music to the Crufts HTM Competition Manager will be accepted. Music must be in MP3 format only.
5. It is advisable for competitors to contact their Kennel Club to obtain permission to represent their country prior to submitting any application. In the event of more than one competitor applying for a place in this competition from the same country; the dog and handler team which is supported by their Kennel Club will be accepted. Each country may wish to organise a qualification process to select their representative.
6. Closing date for applications (with the exception to the United Kingdom representative) is **Saturday 11th November 2023** or as soon as the restricted number has been filled.
7. Successful applicants will be advised of the entry fee for the competition and how to enter upon acceptance.

Qualification for Representatives of the United Kingdom (including the Isle of Man).

- (a) The highest placed handler in the Crufts Freestyle Final will be invited forward to represent the United Kingdom in the Crufts International Freestyle competition.

Definition of Freestyle

A freestyle routine will be the dog working off lead and contain movements in any position. Heelwork (as described below) is acceptable although such movements must not exceed one third of the routine.

Heelwork is defined as the dog working off lead in the heelwork position, on the left or right-hand side of the handler, facing forward or backward, across the front or back of the handler, moving in any direction, at any pace. The shoulder should be approximately level with, and reasonably close to, the handler's leg.

Welfare of Dogs

A competitor whose dog is entered at a Kennel Club licensed event should take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog(s) are met, and should not knowingly put their dogs' health and welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise. A breach of this Regulation may be referred to the General Committee for disciplinary action under Kennel Club Rules and Regulations.

Entry

1. Overseas Pedigree dogs must have an 'Authority to Compete' (ATC) number from the Kennel Club. For further information on how to obtain your ATC number please refer to the Kennel Club website at www.thekennelclub.org.uk

Please note: If you currently do not have your ATC number, you can still enter the competition providing you have applied and obtained your ATC number at the time of the competition.

Non-pedigree dogs may also enter the competition and must also obtain an 'Authority to Compete' number from the Kennel Club. Please refer to the following link for registering a non-pedigree dog to compete in this competition www.thekennelclub.org.uk on the Activities Register.

2. Only dogs aged 18 months and over on the day of the competition are eligible to compete.
3. No dogs with cropped ears will be allowed to compete.
4. No bitch in season is allowed to compete.
5. A running order will be produced for the competition and will be emailed to each competitor prior to the event.
6. All dogs entered must be kept under control.
7. Each handler will be given one dog and handler pass into Crufts only. Persons travelling with the dog and handler must purchase their own entry tickets.
8. Your dog will be allocated a bench on the day of the competition only. If you bring your dog into Crufts on days other than the day of the Competition a bench can not be allocated to you.

Routine

1. The dignity of the dog must be respected throughout the routine.
2. Routines may start and end wherever the handler chooses, provided both the handler and dog are in the ring.
3. The following moves are NOT permitted during any routine. If any of the following moves are used the dog and handler will be eliminated from the competition.



Dog balanced on handlers' shoulders
Whilst handler is standing



Head stand (also known as tripod)
or any variation of this move where
dog is balanced on its nose and front
feet with back feet off of the ground



Dog balanced on handlers upturned feet
or any variation of it



Hand stand
where dog is independently balanced on
its front feet; either moving or statically

**Dog balanced on a narrow object such
as a stick, beam or tightrope, or similar object**



Forward or Backward roll
Or any variation of this move
where dog is required to roll
backwards or forwards

4. Other moves should not be used which may be viewed as harmful or injurious to the dog. For example, a very large dog jumping/walking for a long time on its hind legs may not be beneficial to its structure and conformation. Likewise, a dog being carried on the handler's back and being asked to jump off at head height may be viewed as not appropriate to the dog's structure and conformation if landing could cause injury. The floor surface should be taken into consideration.
5. Routines should make good use of the available ring space.
6. Handlers costume appropriate to the routine is encouraged, however, you are reminded that Crufts is a family show and we ask that your dress remains respectable throughout your routine.
7. Dogs may only wear dressed collars.

8. Props are allowed provided they are an integral part of the routine and are not used to threaten the dog. No real or realistic firearms may be used as props. Simulated gunshot may not be used.
9. The use of voice and body language is encouraged; handlers may make contact with the dogs.
10. Dogs will be marked for excessive barking and noise unless cued and it is obviously a part of the routine. The Judges may deduct up to 4 points each from a routine dependant on how excessive they consider the barking or noise from the dog is. This deduction is then averaged to give an overall deduction from the handlers overall score. For example if Judge One deducts 2 points for barking; Judge Two deducts no points for barking and Judge three deducts 1 point for barking the points are added up and divided by three to give an overall deduction (2pts + 0pts + 1pt = 3pts divided by 3 (Judges) gives an overall deduction of 1 pt from the handlers overall score).
11. Food and toys are not allowed to be carried in the ring.
12. No handler shall impugn the decision of the judges.
13. Competitors are responsible for ensuring they are available to compete at the time of their running order.
14. No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of any dog at any time within the precincts of the competition.
15. Once a dog has entered the ring to compete, no further practice may be carried out.
16. Once a routine has been performed at the Crufts finals the handler may not repeat it again at future Crufts finals in any form for 5 years from the date it was originally performed.

The working surface is astro turf. The ring area will be rectangular and approximately 34 metres x 28 metres. Judges will be seated on the short side of the ring.

Music

1. Each handler must email to the Crufts HTM Manager their chosen music in MP3 format only with their completed application form and any other required documentation.
2. The length of the music may be up to 4 minutes.

3. A small programme overrun will be overlooked but more than approximately 5% (12 seconds) will be penalised by 2 marks.
4. All routines will be timed by an official timekeeper provided by the organisers. A routine starts when the music begins and ends when the music finishes.
5. Music may not be changed after the competition closing date has passed.

Judging

There will be three judges seated separately along the short side of the ring. Each judge will mark all three sections of the judging criteria as follows:

Content & Flow - 10 marks

1. The programme content conforms to the definition of Freestyle and should be varied with no excessive repetition of movement and content being appropriate to the routine.
2. All movements should be appropriate to the structure and conformation of the dog.
3. The content should flow naturally and be formulated in order to create an interesting routine that makes good use of ring space.
4. Degree of difficulty of movements should be taken into account.

Accuracy and Team Performance - 10 marks

1. Movements from the team including heelwork should be accurately and smoothly executed.
2. The dog should work in a natural, willing and committed manner.
3. The dog should respond promptly and appropriately to cues given. Signals from the handler should be subtle and form part of the handler's movement.
4. The dog and handler should work as a team, presenting a captivating performance for the audience and judges, giving an overall appearance of harmony between dog and handler.

Musical Interpretation - 10 marks

1. Interpretation of the rhythm, phrasing and timing of the music should be apparent; the choice of music should suit the team.
2. Choreography should be apparent with the story or theme being inspired from the music. The choice of moves by both handler and dog should be well represented by the chosen music.
3. Primary emphasis of musical interpretation should be on the dog's movements although the handler should/may be expressive.
4. Handler's dress and any props used should be suitable and applicable to the interpretation of the routine with all props integrated into the

performance.

- (a) In the event of dogs obtaining equal marks the Musical Interpretation mark will decide the result.
- (b) When assessing a routine, the judges should take into account any degree of departure from the regulations for handlers and dogs.
- (c) Where applicable, judges should mark to one decimal place.
- (d) Excessive barking and noise will be penalised in the relevant section of the scoring at the judge's discretion.
- (e) The music and routine must be suitable for a family audience and the spectator appeal of the programme should be apparent.
- (f) If a dog leaves the ring and ceases working, it will be eliminated from the competition but allowed to continue and complete its routine, as long as the music is playing. If a dog accidentally steps outside the ring during a routine, it will not be penalised.

THE KENNEL CLUB CRUFTS INTERNATIONAL FREESTYLE COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

SATURDAY 9th MARCH 2024

Please print clearly and complete all sections of the application form.

Name of Country to be represented:

Name of handler to represent country:

Telephone No (inc STD code):

Email address:

Does the nominated handler reside in your country: yes/no

KC registered name of dog:

KC Registration No or Authority to Compete No:

Pet name of dog:

Breed:

Dog or bitch:

Dogs date of birth:

Title of Music Being Used:

Artist of Music Being Used:

Please tell us about you and your dog.

This information may be used to introduce you into the Arena and on YouTube

Please indicate here how you will signal to the Crufts music men that you would like them to start your music i.e. I will raise my right hand or nod my head etc.

Please enclose a photocopy of the handler's passport details.

I agree to submit to and be bound by the Kennel Club Rules and Regulations in their present form or as they may be amended from time to time in relation to all canine matters with which the Kennel Club is concerned and that this is made upon the basis that all current single or joint registered owners of this dog have authorised/consented to this entry. I also undertake to abide by the Regulations of this competition and not to bring to the competition any dog which has contracted or been knowingly exposed to any infectious or contagious disease during 21 days prior to the day of the competition or, which is suffering from a visible condition which adversely affects its health or welfare. I further declare that I believe, to the best of my knowledge, that dogs are not liable to disqualification under Kennel Club Regulations.

Signature of handler:

Date:

Please return to:

Gina Pink, Crufts HTM Competition Manager, busydogs@icloud.com