



# The SWAT Team Sprint

*Revised for clarification April 2024.*

The 'SWAT Team Sprint' is a competition for teams of four dogs and handlers, run as a relay over a simple jumping course. It is designed as a sprint event with spectator appeal, accessible to all grades of handlers and all heights of dogs. There will be separate awards for each height of dog. There are qualifying heats throughout the country. The top two teams from each heat, qualify for the final held at the SWAT Early August show – August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024. **It is a requirement of this competition that the course contains no traps and is of 'fast and flowing style'.** A simple course, suitable for grade 1 dogs, such as a figure of eight, or a largely circular or helter-skelter style course is most appropriate. All dogs will compete over the same course with a baton changeover box.

1. The competition is classified under Kennel Club Regulations as Combined Grades 1 to 7 and Special and will be held under KC Rules and Show Regulations H & H1 as in force at the date of the competition. Additional rules apply as described below. Competitors entering this Competition are deemed to have agreed to abide by these rules. It is the competitor's responsibility to ensure their dog is of a suitable temperament for the event.
2. All teams must consist of four to six dogs of the same height classification and their handlers. On the day of competition, the team will select the four dogs to run, handled by four separate handlers. (For administration purposes, entries will be recorded initially as four running and (up to) two reserves.)
3. A dog does not need to be entered in other classes at the show and Reserves may be unavailable for a heat but good for the Final.
4. Conditions remain the same for all teams except that the height of equipment will be appropriate to the height of the team of dogs competing.
5. Additions or substitutions to teams (handlers or dogs) are permitted in the heats, provided that (i) the substitute(s) is/are already entered in the heat (as a team member or reserve) (ii) rule 6. is not breached and (iii) alterations to teams are made before the run to include removing dogs/handlers from the team to retain a maximum of six dogs.
6. Handlers may compete in more than one team in a heat, providing they handle a different dog in each team. A handler may not run two dogs in the same team. Dogs may only compete in one team in any given heat.
7. The course must contain a changeover box, clearly marked on the ground (Handler 1 may use a recall start).
8. The course each dog is required to negotiate shall contain no less than 14 and no more than 20 obstacles. All dogs will run over the same course.
9. This is a relay event, and a suitable baton must be provided. All baton changes must be completed with the handlers and dogs who are currently running, within the changeover box. Failure to comply with this, or an incorrect baton change (i.e., throwing or dropping the baton at changeover) will incur a penalty of 50 points on each occasion. Stewards may be appointed by the judge to adjudicate changeovers if required. The baton must be held in the hand by a handler within the box at all times. It is not necessary for the other handlers and their dogs to be in the box.

10. For each dog an elimination on the course incurs a single penalty of 100 points, however the judge will continue to mark the faults of all remaining dogs. Each dog must complete the course even if they have been eliminated. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
11. The team with the fastest time and the least faults, wins. The top two teams from each heat qualify for the final. The team will consist of the four, five or six dogs and handlers listed on the scribe sheet for the heat. A dog may only be listed in one team for the Final.
12. Once qualified, dogs may compete in the remaining heats for that season and finish in a qualifying position. However, the team will not be invited to the Finals (since one or more dogs have already been listed in a qualifying team).
13. Only the members of an original qualifying team including the reserves (as specified on the scribe sheet at the time of the run) will be allowed to compete in the final. Changes are at the organiser's discretion and only under exceptional circumstances.
14. In the event of a team being unavailable for the final, a reserve team may be called from the heat in which the qualifying team qualified.

Awards will be given to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams consisting of Individual rosettes (4 x: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>). A letter of invitation to the final will be emailed out shortly after the event.

The Finals will be held on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024, commencing at 10:00 am. The top two teams from each height will then compete in the Grand Final in the evening after the other rings have closed.