

*The Irish Kennel Club Pathway back to Dog Shows
Within Irish Government Covid-19 Guidelines.*



June 2021

I.K.C. Pathway back to proposals for the running of shows within Irish Government Covid 19 guidelines

The protocols are within current Irish Government guidelines but will be subject to change in line with changing government guidelines.

The guidelines are not specific to the National Show Centre but must be applied to all proposed venues. Currently guidelines both North and South are similar but obviously shows run in Northern Ireland will have to also adhere to their local guidelines.

It is recommended that initially shows will take place on a small scale i.e. Breed shows followed by group shows and ultimately all breed shows. The running of smaller shows initially will allow for issues with the processes to be rectified before larger events take place.

Advice for Clubs

- A written contract should be sought from the venue hirer regarding any special measures the show committee may have to undertake during their hiring of the venue. (Sample Available from the IKC)
- All Clubs must undertake their own Covid-19 specific risk assessment and copy returned to the I.K.C. prior to the issuing of the show licence. If the risk assessment is not tailored to the club's own show it cannot help it to meaningfully address the risks and it will not be demonstrating that the club has actively managed the risks for the safety of all participants.
- An independent IKC show inspector(s) will be assigned to the event to ensure compliance with IKC guidelines. Clubs to pay travel expenses incurred by inspectors. (Diesel/Petrol).

Risk Assessment in two phases:

1. Venue & Facilities – to be carried out by hosting club and submitted to the IKC prior to issuing of the show licence
2. Event/Show assessment – will be carried out by the designated IKC show inspector and Show Manager prior to judging.

Forms will be supplied by the IKC.

- The pre show risk assessment must be available for show inspector prior to start of show. Show Inspector must assess the measures.
- The importance of post event risk assessment evaluation and show inspectors reports cannot be underestimated. It will be an invaluable resource for clubs and societies in the planning of upcoming shows.
- There must be a designated show manager who will have the responsibility of ensuring Covid guidelines are adhered to, assistant managers may also be required.
- Noncompliance by attendees will result in them being asked to leave the venue, in the case of an exhibitor being asked to leave the venue their entry will be forfeited.
- The show organising committee will be required to record contact details for all attendees including phone numbers for contact tracing purposes.
- The refund policy in the event of a show cancellation due to Government restrictions must be clearly specified in the schedule
- Attendance should be restricted to essential people only e.g. handler and assistant
- Junior handling and stakes classes are not recommended in the initial phase.
- Only designated Photographer(s) are allowed to take photographs in the ring,

Schedule of Show

The following must be noted in the schedule.

- A statement must be included in all schedules to state that if a competitor, or anyone in their household, has Covid-19-related symptoms or has tested positive for Covid-19, they must self-isolate in line with government advice. The competitor must not attend the event.
- A reference to face masks also includes face coverings as detailed in government guidance must be provided.
- Masks/face coverings will be required to be worn in the ring for the foreseeable future.
- Only online entries accepted no paper transactions.
- Carpark to be paid in advance no cash on the day.
- Catalogues online only (to be downloaded by the exhibitor).
- Ring numbers if handed out on day should be in envelopes, collect from allocated area.
- Where possible exhibitors should only handle dogs from their own Household, in the event that an additional handler is required, we suggest the exhibitor uses someone from their own travel pod.
- **Covid declaration forms must be completed and handed in before entry to the show venue.** These should be available for download with the show schedule.(or IKC).
No admittance to the show grounds allowed without first submitting completed form(s).

Venue:

- A written contract should be sought from the venue hirer regarding any special measures the show committee may have to undertake during their hiring of the venue. (SAMPLE Available from IKC)
- The venue must be suitable to allow for Government guidelines for events and Social distancing.
- It must be large enough to include:
 - Show ring
 - Collection ring
 - Holding area
 - Parking which allows for 2 m social distancing
- The number of attendees MUST be limited to meet the Government guidelines in place at time of the event.

Toilets:

- Toilets will require constant marshalling to ensure adherence to health guidelines.
- There must be facilities for handwashing and soap and hand sanitiser provided at all events in public areas.

Catering:

- It is advised that show societies use professional caterers who will have the responsibility to be compliant to government guidelines. No self-service allowed.
- It is advised that smaller shows will only provide teas and coffees
- It is recommended that there is no consumption of alcohol in the venue

Trade stands:

- If allowed must comply strictly to government guidelines in place at the time.

Tents/gazebos

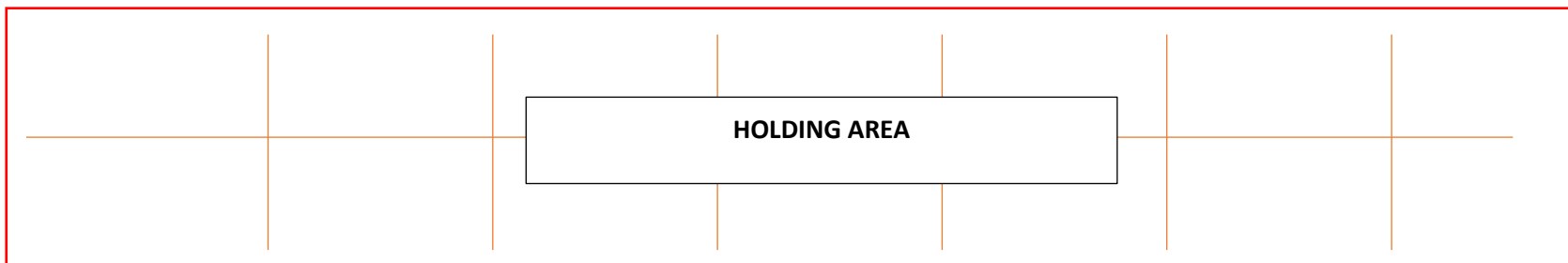
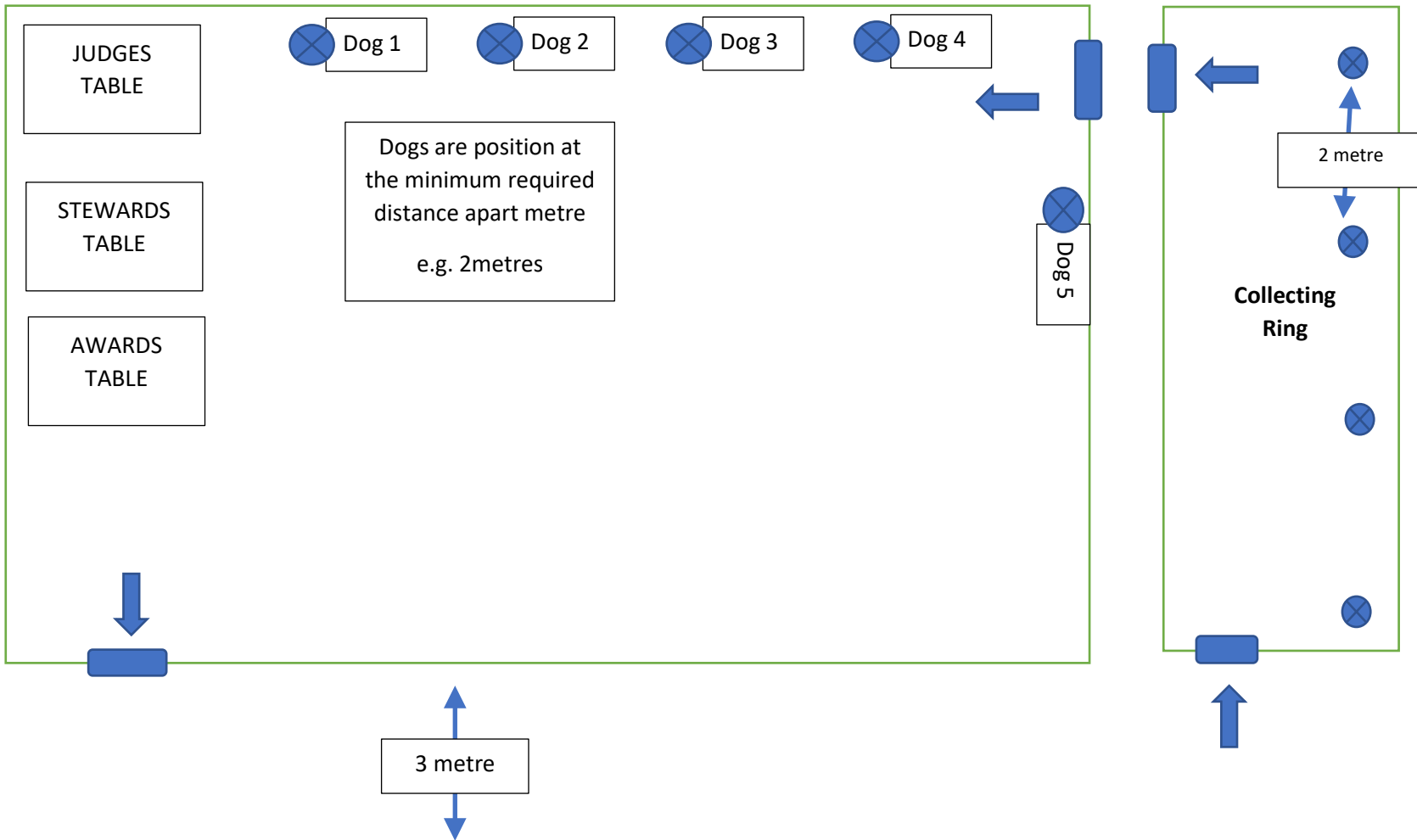
- An area for tents/gazebos may be allocated if there is available space.
- There will be no seating available at the show and no crates set up around the ring.
- Exhibitors may bring their own tents/gazebos and seating for use only which must be placed inside their tent/gazebo.
- Tents/Gazebo must only be for their use by their family/travelling pod.
- All tents/gazebos must be 2 metres apart.
- All exhibitors are reminded not to have parties in each other's tents/gazebos and to comply with the social distancing requirements.

Car Park:

- Car parks should have sufficient car park attendants to ensure safe distancing is maintained
- One-way system should be operated.
- Marshalls should be available to escort exhibitors to/from their rings
- No overnight camping allowed on the venue or car park.
- It may be necessary to dictate the types of vehicles that cannot be accommodated (Caravans/Motorhomes), as they may require additional space.
- No play pens allowed anywhere on the venue.

Ringside:

- Exhibitors will not be allowed to setup at the ring side.
- Each ring must have a designated collection area with clearly marked entrance and exit.
- 2m spaces in the collection ring and exhibiting ring should be marked on the ground
- Each ring should have a designated grooming area.
 - With clearly marked entrance and exit.
 - Designated Grooming areas should be located sufficiently away from the show ring, e.g. minimum of 3m.
- Collection and grooming areas will be available to breeds 30 minutes prior to judging of their breed.
- Exhibitors must vacate the area on completion of judging of their breed
- Group Competition:
If Group competitions are to take place, it is expected that only Best of Breed winners remain at the venue after breed competition is complete.



Judging:

- There should be a maximum number of dogs per judge 50/70 would be suggested as the maximum for Group & All Breed shows, breed club shows may facilitate more.
- The judge and steward should be provided with a face shield which is preferable to a mask.
- The judge must clean his hands after each exhibit with alcohol wipes and/or hand sanitiser gel. Organising bodies should include adequate hand sanitising products in the Judge's box.
- The exhibitor must show the dogs bite to the judge.
- It is recommended that dogs are not measured. If measuring is undertaken, equipment must be cleaned after each dog, by the steward.
- The judge must complete their own paperwork.
- Table dogs should be examined on a separate table away from Judges & Stewards table.
- Prize cards and any other paperwork should be available for collection on a separate table.
- It may be necessary for dogs to be in the ring on rotation if the ring is not large enough to accommodate all exhibits in one go with social distancing.

Exhibitors in the ring:

- All exhibitors must wear masks or shields, this will be compulsory for all gatherings going forward.
- Where possible exhibitors should only handle dogs from their own Household, in the event that an additional handler is required, we recommend the exhibitor uses someone from their own travel pod.
- No hairdryers or blasters allowed.
- ****All PPE equipment and rubbish must be disposed of correctly to avoid the spread of the virus ****

Failure to comply will result in severe repercussions, fine, removal from the show or award being withheld.

All above are now deemed to be additional requirements for shows and will fall under the I.K.C. disciplinary rules, until further notice.

As and when government Covid guidelines are lifted, the board of the IKC will review same.