



# The SWAT Team Sprint Rules 2025

The SWAT Team Sprint is sponsored by CIK9, interactive toy specialists, who are offering all agility competitors a 10% discount with the code SWAT10.

The 'SWAT Team Sprint' is a competition for teams, run as a relay involving four dogs and handlers, over a simple course of jumps and tunnels only. 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 (in each height), qualify for the Finals held at the SWAT Late August show – August 23rd 2025. It is a requirement of this competition that the course contains no traps and is of a 'fast and flowing style'.

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.) All dogs and handlers must be listed on the original entry form at the show closing date.
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. NO CHANGES may be made to teams after the closing date for the show holding the relevant heat.

Therefore, our advice is for competitors to agree their group of six people and stick to that team throughout the summer. This allows teams some flexibility should handlers or dogs become ill, injured or otherwise unavailable.

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. The maximum faults for any one dog is 100 and the maximum faults for a team is 550 (four Es and three baton change failures). Each dog must complete the course even if they have been eliminated. Failure to do so will result in the team being disqualified.
11. The team with the fastest time and the least faults, wins. The top two teams from each heat qualify for the Finals day.
12. Once qualified, teams may compete in the remaining heats for that season and finish in a qualifying position.
13. Dogs can qualify only once for the Finals (see Rule 5) and once listed as part of a qualifying team they are unable to be part of another qualifying team.
14. If a qualified team withdraws from the Finals, those (four, five or six) dogs may not join another team to qualify.
15. Only the members of an original qualifying team including the reserves (as specified on the show entry) will be allowed to compete in the Finals.

Awards will be given to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> placed teams (at each height) consisting of individual rosettes (4 x 1<sup>st</sup>, 4 x 2<sup>nd</sup>). A letter of invitation to the Final will be emailed out shortly after the event to the nominated team captain using the email address held on file by Agility Plaza.

The Finals will be held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2025, commencing at 10:00 am. The top two teams from each height will then compete in the Grand Finals in the evening after the other rings have closed. Awards will be made to first and second placed teams in each height category.

