



Introduction

Based on several requests from the Obedience Community, the OLC are asking for your views on changing the qualification for Championship C (Ticket) with the aim to increase the numbers able to compete in that class, to make the class more financially viable but at the same time maintaining an acceptable standard for qualification.

You will probably be aware that the OLC recently surveyed the Obedience Community about what your current concerns for the sport were. We were delighted to receive nearly 650 responses on what you said was most important to you. An issue that came up multiple times and has been raised directly to OLC Reps by Community members (in person, on the phone and electronically) is the difficulty in achieving the required win in Open C to qualify for Ticket.

The current requirements to control the numbers competing in Ticket were brought in in the 1990's, when entries could regularly reach 90+ per class. Limiting entries to 60 and the merit point system were brought in to reduce these entries, but the merit points system is now suspended since Championship C classes are much smaller.

In 2016 the average Ticket class size was 38 teams, in 2025 it was only 28 teams, a reduction of 900 Ticket entries annually in less than a decade*.

As such it is a good time to consider if further changes need to be made to the qualification for dogs to work Championship C. The OLC know there are differing views and want to start a conversation to determine if there is a consensus for a change.

It is estimated that there are approximately 180 teams across both sexes currently qualified to compete in Championship C*. That number has remained pretty steady over the past 5 years, with an average of 32 teams retiring each year and 36 teams qualifying. This gives a net gain of just 4 teams a year across both sexes*.

Whilst we may not want to go back to the days of 60 in a Championship C class, we should be looking for ways to increase the entries at the very top of the sport before the classes dwindle further. Moreover, as we continue to lose shows, it would be financially beneficial to clubs running shows to have higher entry numbers in their Championship C classes. In some cases, Ticket classes are not making sufficient contribution to the show income due to low entries.

This is a topic that has been raised before. Since Covid, there have been several discussion items/proposals presented at OLC meetings to attempt to address the issue. None of these progressed any further for consideration past the OLC stage.

This document represents the **FIRST STAGE** in a consultation process, based on existing ideas raised from the Obedience Community, and is the start of a larger conversation with you. We are asking for your views on its content, what may be missing and your thoughts on the potential options (and any additional ones). The next stage will be to include this feedback into a finalised document for the Community to vote on.



The following are Options that have been put forward and we welcome your thoughts via the form below:

OPTION 1 – Do Nothing

The current requirements to qualify for Ticket are one win at Open C plus three 1st to 3rd places in Open C, all under different judges. The 'Do Nothing' option would leave this the same.

OPTION 2 – Introduce a Graded C Class

A Graded C Class would be where 2 sets of awards are given out:

- One set of awards (from 1st to 6th place) for those already qualified for Championship C
- Another set of awards (from 1st to 6th place) for those yet to qualify for Championship C
 - Where a first place could count as a win for Championship C qualification
 - Where second and third place could count as qualifiers for Championship C

OPTION 3 – Introduce a C Class Win for top unqualified team

An additional 1st place is awarded to the highest non-qualified team if the overall class winner is a team already qualified for Championship C.

OPTION 4 – Introduce a Progression on Points system

A 'Progression on Points' system for C would work along similar lines to the other classes where progression into Ticket could be possible when a defined number of points (obtained through placings in Open C) were achieved. Required points to be determined.

OPTION 5 – Introduce a Progression on Places system

A 'Progression on Places' system does not require a win but otherwise reflects the current requirements for Ticket qualification. The win required in C could be substituted for a set number of second or third places (under different judges and in addition to the other three qualifiers already required). For example, you could 'swap' the required win for an additional three 2nd places or, say, six 3rd places.

OPTION 6 – Introduce a Progression on ANY 4 Places in Open C

Qualification with ANY four places 1st to 3rd in Open C, under different judges, removing the need for a C win.

OPTION 7 – Placing for each sex in mixed sex Open C classes

A requirement for shows to award places for both dogs and bitches in a mixed sex Open C class, creating double the opportunity to win Open C and removing some of the potential disadvantages of competing with bitches against dogs. This is already something shows can opt to do. This option would make it compulsory.



Next Steps

We would be grateful if you could review this document and let us know your thoughts. The options provided above are suggestions from people in the Obedience Community but we would like to hear all other ideas. You do not have to be a C/Ticket handler to comment.

The link below will take you to a freehand form, where we would love you to give us anonymous feedback. We will email copies of the draft consultation document to RKC Registered/Listed Status clubs if you would prefer to contact your local RKC club to discuss and feedback. Alternatively you can email your views to the OLC at obediencesurvey@gmail.com or contact your OLC Reps directly (contact details on OLC Facebook group).

We will now:

- leave this document open for your comments and wishes - **until noon on 29th March 2026**

We will then:

- consolidate your feedback into a final discussion document - by 5th April 2026
- poll the Obedience Community to confirm your wishes on this topic – by 19th April 2026

If a change to Ticket qualification is desired by the Community then the OLC will draft a formal Proposal on change for inclusion in the Jun 2026 OLC meeting (and subsequent submission to the RKC Activities Committee meeting). If a change is approved this would come into force in Jan 2027.

LINK FOR FEEDBACK FORM:

<https://forms.gle/TwqjTLiEFuBHBdFy8>

**This is a 'free text' form that allows you to write anything you want us to know on this topic.
You don't have to be an Open C or Ticket handler to comment.**

** The figures quoted are from Debbie Back's 'Championship C Analysis in 2025' and Annette Boulter's paper 'A look at UK Competitive Obedience Show Entries and Judging – 2025'.*

The estimate of 180 teams currently qualified for Championship C is the actual figure of teams entered in 2025 which was 173 and an additional 4% for teams who had also qualified but didn't enter any shows for various reasons.

The average change in qualified teams is calculated from the number of teams retiring vs the newly qualified teams each year. Whilst on average this shows only small growth there has been significant fluctuation year on year, with some years seeing the net loss of 36 teams and others the gain of 30 teams.