# 1. INTRODUCTION

**1.1. Agility is a dog competition open to all dogs.**

The aim of this competition is for a Handler to direct his dog around a course of different obstacles to assess and enhance the ability of the dog and Handler to work as a team. It is an educational and sporting activity intended to improve the dog's integration into society. The sport requires a good rapport between dog and Handler, which results in perfect teamwork. Whilst speed of the dog is to be desired, steadiness of work is essential to a faultless performance of the course.

**1.2. The overall objectives of Agility Trials are:**

1. To encourage a graded progression through the sport.
2. To encourage new participants and new ideas and the continuance of Agility as a

unique canine discipline.

1. To encourage an increased level of fitness for dog and Handler.
2. To encourage safe and pleasant competition for all.

1.**INTRODUCTION**

**~~1.1. Agility is a dog competition open to all dogs.~~**

**1.1 Agility is an athletic, sporting competition for both dogs and handlers.**

The aim of this competition is for a Handler to direct ~~his~~ their dog around a course of different obstacles to assess and enhance the ability of the dog and Handler to work as a team. It is an educational and sporting activity intended to improve the dog's integration into society. The sport requires a good rapport between dog and Handler, which results in perfect teamwork. Whilst speed of the dog is to be desired, steadiness of work is essential to a faultless performance of the course.

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1. To encourage an increased level of fitness for dog and Handler.
2. To encourage safe and pleasant competition for all.

## Rationale

Agility is the only sport that proclaims this sport is ‘open to all dogs’. The phrase ‘open to all dogs’ is being interpreted in a number of ways that were not the intention when the Agility Rules were formulated. At that time, Associate dogs were not permitted to enter various competitions such as Obedience and agility wished to ensure that all ANKC members were permitted to enter agility trials. As the time for delineating between Full and Associate dogs has passed there is no need for this opening statement in the agility rules. We need to acknowledge that the sport of agility now requires more speed and stamina from both dogs and handlers than was required when this statement was formulated. We should be clear to members by being upfront about the physicality required as agility is an athletic sport for both dogs and handlers.

Some agility competitions are not open to all dogs such as competitions restricted to specific breeds. Other sports have breed specific entries but they don’t proclaim in their rules that the sport is open to all dogs.

Remove gendered language from rules and use neutral pronouns instead.

### 4.5 Measuring Dogs

The height of the dog at the withers is to be measured as follows:

Height Category

200 Up to and including 270 mm

300 271 mm up to and including 365 mm

400 366 mm up to and including 455 mm

500 456 mm up to and including 545 mm

600 546 mm and over

### 4.5 Measuring Dogs

The height of the dog at the withers is to be measured as follows:

Height Category

200 Up to and including ~~270~~ 299 mm

300 ~~271~~ 300 mm up to and including ~~365~~ 399 mm

400 ~~366~~ 400 mm up to and including ~~455~~ 499 mm

500 ~~456~~ 500 mm up to and including ~~545~~ 599 mm

600 ~~546~~ 600 mm and over

## Rationale

The current height categories have no valid rationale for their selection.

There are many rumours which explain why the categories were set but there is no scientific support for these categories.

We pride ourselves on attempting to ensure agility is a safe and pleasant competition (witness the efforts to ensure the equipment is safe for all dogs).

However, to be safe for all dogs and allow them to enjoy a trialling career which lessens the chance of injury, NO DOG should jump higher than its measured height.

*2. The overall objectives of Agility Trials are: .........*

*d. To encourage safe and pleasant competition for all.*

The proposed height categories ensure that no dog would be jumping higher than its measured height and are thus far safer to all dogs and reflects the overall objectives of Agility Trials set out in the Rules.

## Proposed NEW Rule 4.5.1

4.5.1 **Where a dog measures within 10 mm of a cut off the handler can elect to jump down a height if it is close to the low cut-off for a category, or jump up a height if it is close to the high cut-off for a category. If the dog is over 2 years old this election applies for the life of the dog.**

### Rationale

Until we can get a way to measure dogs that is accurate and reliable then there will always be a margin of error in the measurement and dogs right on the cut-off will be disadvantagedthen we will always have dogs close to a cut-off. This proposal would allow the handlers of these dogs to have the option to jump up or down but it must be for the life of the dog. Note that height cards will need to be changed to record the dog’s jump height election (if applicable).

#### 5.5. Judging Chart

A properly compiled Judging Chart, as described in these Rules, shall be provided for the Judge officiating at a Trial. The Judge shall sign each chart signifying that in good faith the recorded details are an accurate reflection of the results as compiled by the Scribe and Time Keeper.

## Proposed change

5.5 A properly compiled Judging Chart, as described in these Rules, shall be provided for the Judge officiating at a Trial. The judge ~~shall sign~~ may request to sight/sign each chart signifying that in good faith the recorded details are an accurate reflection of the results as compiled by the Scribe and Time Keeper. Where electronic scribing is used, the judge may view a downloaded results report.

### Rationale

Many clubs use online platforms to print catalogue/entry numbers, record results and print qualification cards. This means paper score/judging charts are not often used. The Regulations need to be updated to include current practices.

#### 6.2 Broad Jump

The Broad Jump consists of two (2) to four (4) separate boards. All boards of the broad jump must be the same colour unless otherwise approved.

Each board is to have length of between 1200 mm and 1500 mm and be of a height and width as described in the table below with the front of each board being lower than the back. For convenience the four (4) boards may be built to telescope. There must be four (4) corner posts, which are to be a minimum of 1200 mm high and have a diameter of 20 mm. This applies to equipment made or purchased after 1 January 2021.

The distance that a dog must jump and the number of boards to be used in the Broad Jump will be as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Height Category** | **Jump Distance** | **Number of Boards** | **Board Heights** | **Width of Boards** |
| 200 | 400mm | 2 | 100 and 150mm | 100 – 150mm |
| 300 | 600mm | 2 | 100 and 150mm | 100 – 150mm |
| 400 | 800mm | 3 | 100, 150 and 200mm | 100 – 200mm |
| 500 | 1000mm | 4 | 100, 150, 200 and 250mm | 100 – 200mm |
| 600 | 1200mm | 4 | 100, 150, 200 and 250mm | 100 – 200mm |

#### 6.2 Broad Jump

The Broad Jump consists of two (2) to four (4) separate boards. All boards of the broad jump must be the same colour unless otherwise approved.

Each board is to have length of between 1200 mm and 1500 mm and be of a height and width as described in the table below with the front of each board being lower than the back. For convenience the four (4) boards may be built to telescope. There must be four (4) corner posts, which are to be a minimum of 1200 mm high and have a diameter of 20 mm. ~~This applies to equipment made or~~ ~~purchased after 1 January 2021.~~

The distance that a dog must jump and the number of boards to be used in the Broad Jump will be as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Height Category** | **Jump Distance** | **Number of Boards** | **Board Heights** | **Width of Boards** |
| 200 | 400mm | 2 | 100 and 150mm | 100 – 150mm |
| 300 | 600mm | 2 | 100 and 150mm | 100 – 150mm |
| 400 | 800mm | 3 | 100, 150 and 200mm | 100 – 200mm |
| 500 | 1000mm | 4 | 100, 150, 200 and 250mm | 100 – 200mm |
| 600 | 1200mm | 4 | 100, 150, 200 and 250mm | 100 – 200mm |

**Rationale:**

The above provisions where included in the last Rule change and probably no longer apply to current competing dogs in Agility classes.

Clubs have had plenty of time to update equipment to comply with these rules

##### 6.6 Spread Hurdle

A Spread Hurdle consists of a hurdle with or without wings. Each side of the spread hurdle consists of two uprights between 1000 and 1200 mm high which can be connected and may contain a structure to allow easy adjustment of the various jump heights. Each side of the spread hurdle will be independent of each other to enable each side to be dislodged or knocked over if struck from any direction without affecting the other side. The base support projection from each of the sides of the hurdle must be a maximum length of 300 mm away from the middle of the hurdle. No projection toward the middle of the hurdle is permitted for the approach upright of the hurdle.

As of the 1st July 2021, all spread hurdles must comply with this rule.

The Hurdles must be adjustable for each height category as shown below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Height Category** | **Distance Between Hurdles** | **Height of First Bar to the Ground** | **Height of second Bar to the Ground** |
| 200 | 150mm | 150mm | 200mm |
| 300 | 225mm | 225mm | 300mm |
| 400 | 300mm | 300mm | 400mm |
| 500 | 375mm | 375mm | 500mm |
| 600 | 450mm | 450mm | 600mm |

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The Hurdles must be adjustable for each height category as shown below.

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| **Height Category** | **Distance Between Hurdles** | **Height of First Bar to the Ground** | **Height of second Bar to the Ground** |
| 200 | 150mm | 150mm | 200mm |
| 300 | 225mm | 225mm | 300mm |
| 400 | 300mm | 300mm | 400mm |
| 500 | 375mm | 375mm | 500mm |
| 600 | 450mm | 450mm | 600mm |

**Rationale:**

The above provisions where included in the last Rule change and probably no longer apply to current competing dogs in Agility classes.

Clubs have had plenty of time to update equipment to comply with these rules

##### 6.7 Scramble

The Scramble consists of two (2) planks connected at the top in an "A" form.

The length of each plank is to be 2400 mm and the minimum width is to be 900 mm. Existing 2500 mm planks are acceptable providing the angle at the apex is the same as a 2400 mm plank. All Scrambles made after 1st July 2006 are to be made in accordance with the 2400 mm standard. The length of the obstacle along the ground to form the base of the "A" is to be 3850 mm for planks of 2500 mm and 3700 mm for planks of 2400 mm length.

From the grounded end of the planks, there will be a contact area of 1100 mm a different colour to the remainder of the obstacle. This contact area is to be coloured on all visible sides

The planks are to have five (5) half round cleats that have a height of 6 mm and a width of 15 mm set approximately 200 mm apart starting from the apex.

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From the grounded end of the planks, there will be a contact area of 1100 mm a different colour to the remainder of the obstacle. This contact area is to be coloured on all visible sides

The planks are to have five (5) half round cleats that have a height of 6 mm and a width of 15 mm set approximately 200 mm apart starting from the apex.

**Rationale:**

The above provisions where included in the last Rule change and probably no longer apply to current competing dogs in Agility classes.

Clubs have had plenty of time now to update equipment to comply with these rules

##### 7.2 Entering and Exiting the Ring

On the Steward's call of the dog's catalogue number, the Handler will enter the ring via the entry point, with the dog on lead either carried or walked and follow the Steward's and/or Judge's instructions. The lead and harness or head collar must be removed, the collar may be removed and all items handed to a Steward or may be placed on the ground behind or in a provided nearby receptacle. The steward will remove items after the dog/handler team commences their run.

#### 7.2 Entering and Exiting the Ring

On the Steward's call of the dog's catalogue number, the Handler will enter the ring via the entry point, with the dog on lead either carried or walked and follow the Steward's and/or Judge's instructions. Trials may operate with or without a Steward designated to manage Handler items (the lead Steward). The lead and harness or head collar must be removed, the collar may be removed and all items handed to a Steward or securely stored on the Handler. Even if a trial is operating with a lead Steward, the Handler may choose to store the collar/lead on their person. If this is the case, the Handler must notify the Steward before the run begins that they are storing the items on their person. If the collar/lead falls to the ground during the run, then the Handler will be disqualified. Alternatively, items may be placed on the ground behind or in a provided nearby receptacle. The lead steward will remove items after the dog/handler team commences their run.

### Rationale

The removal of the lead steward during the COVID rule changes meant that Handlers were required to store their collars/leads securely on their person during agility runs. This meant that smaller trials could operate without the need for a lead steward if members were notified that the trial would not have a lead steward.

It was observed during the COVID rule change that there was no impact on the flow of the trial by allowing the Handler to store their lead securely before the run began. It enabled faster leashing of the dog at the end of the run as the handler wasn’t searching for where the lead was. It is safer when handlers can quickly get their dog back on lead at the end of the run.

Additionally with this rule change, this provides the flexibility for trial managers to determine staffing requirements and whether a lead Steward is required for smaller trials.

#### 9.9. Scoring

To obtain a CLEAR ROUND a dog must negotiate the course within the SCT and not incur any faults as defined by the rules.

Any dog obtaining a clear round shall receive a Qualifying Certificate signed by the Judge.

## Proposed change

### 9.9. Scoring

To obtain a CLEAR ROUND a dog must negotiate the course within the SCT and not incur any faults as defined by the rules.

Any dog obtaining a clear round shall receive a Qualifying Certificate (digital or physical), either signed by the Judge **(handwritten cards) or with the printed name of the Judge (printed cards).**

### Rationale

As per the June 2022 Special Board Meeting, Dogs Australia agreed that certificates issued by State Member Bodies to exhibits, awarded in accordance with regulations pertaining to the various disciplines, no longer require the signature of the Judge but rather the printed name with the implementation date being at the discretion of the Member Body.

# 10. NOVICE AGILITY CLASS (14-16 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be used, with the exception of the contact obstacles, Spread Hurdle, and Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s

Dog Walk

Hoop/s

Hurdle/s

Spread Hurdle

Scramble

Flexible Tunnel/s

Weaving Poles - 12

1. Description of Agility and Jumpers Classes and associated obstacles

10.1 Special Jumps

The special jumps include the Hoop, Broad Jump and Spread Jump. At least one of these need to be used in each Agility class, and at least two used in each Jumpers class described below.

## 10. NOVICE AGILITY CLASS (14-16 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be used, except for ~~with~~ ~~the exception~~ ~~of~~ the contact obstacles, Spread Hurdle, Hoop and Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

# MANDATORY

~~Broad Jump/s~~

Dog walk

~~Hoop/s~~

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle~~

Scramble

Flexible tunnel/s

Weaving poles (12)

**At least one of the following:**

Broad jump~~/s~~

Hoop~~/s~~

Spread hurdle

# EXCELLENT AGILITY CLASS (16-20 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be used, with the exception of the contact obstacles and Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

## MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s

Dog Walk

Hoop/s

Hurdle/s

Spread Hurdle

Scramble

Seesaw

Flexible Tunnel/s

Weaving Poles-12

### 11. EXCELLENT AGILITY CLASS (16-20 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be used, except for ~~with~~ ~~the exception~~ ~~of~~ the contact obstacles, Spread Hurdle, Hoop and Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

### MANDATORY

~~Broad Jump/s~~

Dog walk

~~Hoop/s~~

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle~~

Scramble

Seesaw

Flexible tunnel/s

Weaving poles (12)

**At least one of the following:**

Broad jump~~/s~~

Hoop~~/s~~

Spread hurdle

# MASTER AGILITY CLASS (20-24 OBSTACLES)

All obstacles listed below must be performed. The Weaving Poles can only be negotiated once.

## MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s

Dog Walk/s

Hoop/s

Hurdle/s

Spread Hurdle/s

Scramble/s

Seesaw/s

Flexible Tunnel/s

Weaving Poles-12

### 12. MASTERS AGILITY CLASS (20-24 OBSTACLES)

~~All obstacles listed below must be performed. The Weaving Poles can only be negotiated once.~~

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be used, except for the contact obstacles, Spread Hurdle, Hoop and Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

### MANDATORY

~~Broad Jump/s~~

Dog walk

~~Hoop/s~~

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle/s~~

Scramble

Seesaw

Flexible tunnel/s

Weaving poles (12)

**At least one of the following:**

Broad Jump~~/s~~

Hoop~~/s~~

Spread hurdle~~/s~~

# ELITE AGILITY CLASS (22-28) OBSTACLES)

It is expected that challenges should be greater than that for the Master Class

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Elite Agility Class.

All equipment is mandatory

All obstacles below must be performed

Whilst 12 weave poles are mandatory further repetitions can be broken down into smaller numbers of poles.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MANDATORY** |  |  | **Optional** |
| Broad Jump/s Dog Walk/s |  |  | 4 to less than 12 weave poles |
| Hoop/s  Hurdle/s  Spread Hurdle/s  Scramble/s  Seesaw/s  Flexible Tunnel/s  Weaving Poles-12 |  |  |  |

## 13. ELITE AGILITY CLASS (22-28 OBSTACLES)

It is expected that challenges should be greater than that for the Master Class.

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Elite Agility Class, except for the Hoop that can only be negotiated once.

~~All equipment is mandatory.~~

~~All obstacles below must be performed.~~

While 12 weave poles are mandatory further repetitions can be broken down into smaller numbers of poles.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MANDATORY** |  |  | **Optional** |
| ~~Broad Jump/s~~ Dog Walk/s |  |  | 4 to less than 12 weave poles |
| ~~Hoop/s~~  Hurdle/s  ~~Spread Hurdle/s~~  Scramble/s  Seesaw/s  Flexible Tunnel/s  Weaving Poles-12 |  |  |  |

**At least one of the following:**

Broad Jump~~/s~~

Hoop~~/s~~

Spread hurdle~~/s~~

# OPEN AGILITY CLASS (16-20 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be used, with the exception of the contact obstacles and Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MANDATORY** |  |  | **Optional** |
| Dog Walk |  |  | Broad Jump/s |
| Hurdle/s |  |  | Spread Hurdle/s |
| Scramble  Seesaw  Flexible Tunnel/s  Weaving Poles-12 |  |  | Hoop/s |

## 14. OPEN AGILITY CLASS (16-20 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be used, except for ~~with~~ ~~the exception~~ ~~of~~ the contact obstacles, Spread Hurdle, Hoop and Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **MANDATORY** |  |  | **Optional** |
| Dog Walk |  |  | Broad Jump~~/s~~ |
| Hurdle/s |  |  | Spread Hurdle~~/s~~ |
| Scramble  Seesaw  Flexible Tunnel/s  Weaving Poles-12 |  |  | Hoop~~/s~~ |

## 15. NOVICE JUMPING CLASS (14-16 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re- negotiated in the Novice Jumping class with the exception of the Spread Hurdle, which can only be negotiated once.

## MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s

Hoop

Flexible Tunnel/s

Hurdle/s

Spread Hurdle

### 15. NOVICE JUMPING CLASS (14-16 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Novice Jumping class, except for ~~with~~ ~~the exception of~~ the Spread Hurdle~~,~~ and Hoop which can only be negotiated once.

### MANDATORY

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop~~

Flexible tunnel/s

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle~~

**At least two of the following:**

Broad Jump~~/s~~

Hoop

Spread hurdle

**16. EXCELLENT JUMPING CLASS (16-20 OBSTACLES)**

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Excellent Class.

## MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s

Hoop

Flexible Tunnel/s

Hurdle/s

Spread Hurdle

### 16. EXCELLENT JUMPING CLASS (16-20 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Excellent Class, except for the Hoop that can only be negotiated once.

### MANDATORY

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop~~

Flexible tunnel/s

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle~~

**At least two of the following:**

Broad jump~~/s~~

Hoop

Spread hurdle

**17. MASTER JUMPING CLASS (20-24 OBSTACLES)**

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Master Class.

## MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s

Hoop

Flexible Tunnel/s

Hurdle/s

Spread Hurdle/s

### 17. MASTERS JUMPING CLASS (20-24 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Master Class, except for the Hoop that can only be negotiated once.

### MANDATORY

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop~~

Flexible Tunnel/s

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle/s~~

**At least two of the following:**

Broad jump~~/s~~

Hoop

Spread hurdle~~/s~~

#### 18. ELITE JUMPING CLASS (22-28 OBSTACLES)

It is expected that challenges should be greater than that of the Master Class

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Elite Jumping Class. All obstacles listed below must be performed.

## MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s

Hoop/s

Flexible Tunnel/s

Hurdle/s

Spread Hurdle/s

### 18. ELITE JUMPING CLASS (22-28 OBSTACLES)

It is expected that challenges should be greater than that of the Master Class.

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Elite Jumping Class, except for the Hoop that can only be negotiated once.

~~All obstacles listed below must be performed.~~

### MANDATORY

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop/s~~

Flexible Tunnel/s

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle/s~~

**At least two of the following:**

Broad Jump~~/s~~

Hoop~~/s~~

Spread hurdle~~/s~~

#### 19. OPEN JUMPING CLASS (16-20 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Open Jumping Class. All obstacles listed below must be performed.

## MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s

Hoop/s

Flexible Tunnel/s

Hurdle/s Spread Hurdle/s

### 19. OPEN JUMPING CLASS (16-20 OBSTACLES)

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be re-negotiated in the Open Jumping Class, except for the Hoop that can only be negotiated once. ~~All obstacles listed below must be performed.~~

### MANDATORY

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop/s~~

Flexible Tunnel/s

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle/s~~

**At least two of the following:**

Broad jump~~/s~~

Hoop~~/s~~ Spread hurdle~~/s~~

**Rationale:**

In essence this proposal will reduce the need to use all three of the “special jumps” (Hoop, broad jump & spread hurdle). In agility, the proposal is that at least one of the “special jumps” must be included. It allows for the judge to include more than 1 of these obstacles if they so choose.

In jumping it proposes that at least two of the “special jumps” must be used but allows the judge to use all three of the jumps if they choose.

The reason for making the proposed changed is that the current requirement to use all three “special jumps” unnecessarily restricts options in course design, particularly in agility where the judge must design safe approaches to contacts as well as the three special jumps. Where a good course design can’t safely accommodate all three special jumps, this new rule would provide judges with flexibility to not use one (jumping) or two (agility) of the “special jumps”.

The proposal also prohibits the renegotiation of the hoop (and for novice, the spread hurdle) in any course. This is because most hoops remain open if hit by the dog when they negotiate the hoop. If they attempted to renegotiate the hoop and it was not properly closed this could result in injury. In addition, because of their inexperience, novice dogs may also have difficulty safely negotiating the spread hurdle more than once. Inexperienced handlers may not be aware the spread should be avoided if knocked over during the first pass.

**General statement suggesting changes that impact numerous parts of the Rule Book.**

#### All rules and regulations should be written in gender neutral language e.g. remove reference to “his/her" and replace with “their”. For example,

**1.1 Agility is a dog competition open to all dogs.**

The aim of this competition is for a Handler to direct his dog around a course of different obstacles to assess and enhance the ability of the dog and Handler to work as a team. It is an educational and sporting activity intended to improve the dog's integration into society. The sport requires a good rapport between dog and Handler, which results in perfect teamwork. Whilst speed of the dog is to be desired, steadiness of work is essential to a faultless performance of the course.

**1.1 Agility is a dog competition open to all dogs.**

The aim of this competition is for a Handler to direct ~~his~~ their dog around a course of different obstacles to assess and enhance the ability of the dog and Handler to work as a team. It is an educational and sporting activity intended to improve the dog's integration into society. The sport requires a good rapport between dog and Handler, which results in perfect teamwork. Whilst speed of the dog is to be desired, steadiness of work is essential to a faultless performance of the course.

#### 24. STANDARD COURSE TIME (SCT)

The Standard Course Time is determined by the Judge measuring the total length of the course (CL) he/she has set and dividing this figure by the Rate.

SCT= CL (metres) / Rate

Example if CL=120m, Rate = 2.0m/s

Then SCT= 120 / 2 = 60 seconds

#### 24. STANDARD COURSE TIME (SCT)

The Standard Course Time is determined by the Judge measuring the total length of the course (CL) ~~he/she has~~ they have set and dividing this figure by the Rate.

SCT= CL (metres) / Rate

Example if CL=120m, Rate = 2.0m/s Then SCT= 120 / 2 = 60 seconds

**Change any reference to ANKC to Dogs Australia, for example:**

##### 2.1 Canine Control

Where referred to in the rules, the words 'Canine Control' shall mean the **ANKC** Member Body in each State or Territory of Australia.

##### 3. AGILITY TRIALS

Agility Trials are open to dogs registered with the Canine Control of either sex and 18 months of age or over. The scheduling of an event or events and classes shall be subject to approval of the Canine Control.

Events are Agility, Jumping, Games and any other activity that the **ANKC** determines. The following

Games are approved: Snooker, Gamblers and Strategic Pairs. The affiliate must schedule Master, Excellent and Novice at an event. The Elite and Open classes for Agility and Jumping are optional. All scheduled classes will be conducted with one round only. All references to Agility to include Jumping and other Events.

###### Suggestions for Judges Guidelines

Judges Guidelines haven’t been updated since 2016 and so much has changed in the last 8 years in course design and also with the skills of handler/dog teams. It is past time that the guidelines be updated to better reflect developments and changes in challenges. One example of this is Rule 6 where rates of travel are addressed:

8.6 SCT

Rates of travel should be reviewed to update the table for todays courses and progression of skills of both handlers and dogs. Rates of travel should be fair for all height categories keeping in mind the sport is an athletic one requiring stamina and speed. It should take into consideration work that has been done to gather statistical information from trials in recent years (such as Deborah Apthorp’s ANOVA statistical analysis) to develop rates of travel that are achievable for dogs in different height categories.

Rates of travel for Elite need to be added to the table in Rule 6 in the Judges Guidelines