**Section 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.

**3.1 Classes**

Classes are defined as Novice, Excellent, Master, Elite and Open and any other class that the ANKC determines. Qualifications up to and including the date of closing of entry, shall count as eligibility to compete in any Class. At the discretion of the Trial Secretary, a competitor who completes the necessary passes to a title and has applied for that title, after the closing of entry, may request and be transferred to the next higher class.

The following Class description applies to Agility, Jumping and Games

1. NOVICE CLASS: For dogs that are not eligible for the Novice title.
2. EXCELLENT CLASS: For dogs that have qualified and applied for the Novice title and are not eligible for the Excellent title.
3. MASTER CLASS: For dogs that have qualified and applied for the Excellent title or Master title.
4. ELITE CLASS: For dogs that have qualified and applied for the Master title or Elite Title. (Note: There is no Elite in games)
5. OPEN CLASS: Open to all dogs. (Note: There is no Open class in Games.)

Note: where an affiliate offers both Master and Elite classes at an event, a dog may not be entered in both classes.

**(WA) Proposed Change 3. & 3.1**

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 and Rookie 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.

**3.1 Classes**

Classes are defined as Rookie, Novice, Excellent, Master, ~~Elite~~ and Open and any other class that the ANKC determines. Qualifications up to and including the date of closing of entry, shall count as eligibility to compete in any Class. At the discretion of the Trial Secretary, a competitor who completes the necessary passes to a title and has applied for that title, after the closing of entry, may request and be transferred to the next higher class.

The following Class description applies to Agility, Jumping and Games

1. ROOKIE CLASS: For dogs that are not eligible for the Novice title and have not competed in the Novice class. (Note: There is no Rookie class in Games.)
2. NOVICE CLASS: For dogs that are not eligible for the Novice title. A dog may enter and compete in the Novice class without having gained a Rookie title. A dog may not be entered in both Rookie and Novice classes at an event.
3. EXCELLENT CLASS: For dogs that have qualified and applied for the Novice title and are not eligible for the Excellent title.
4. MASTER CLASS: For dogs that have qualified and applied for the Excellent title or Master title.
5. ~~ELITE CLASS: For dogs that have qualified and applied for the Master title or Elite Title. (Note: There is no Elite in games)~~
6. OPEN CLASS: Open to all dogs. (Note: There is no Open class in Games.)

~~Note: where an affiliate offers both Master and Elite classes at an event, a dog may not be entered in both classes.~~

**(WA) Rationale 3 & 3.1**

This is a two-part proposal:

1. Include an entry level class “Rookie” structured at a lower level than Novice to encourage new handlers into the sport. The class is not mandatory and competitors may enter straight into the Novice class if they wish which may suit more experienced handlers. Class has a title associated with it. Considered to be a good place for juniors and brand new competitors to start. The title “Rookie” is just a suggestion for discussion, there may be a more suitable title for the class.
2. Remove the Elite class – the take up of this class has been poor and numbers entered in the class are low.

**3.2 Titles**

**3.2.2** The Canine Control will receive application for the use of the relevant title letters after the name of each dog, when the dog has gained a qualification certificate at the following specified number of Trials under the specified number of Judges.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Novice | Excellent | Master | Elite | Open |
|  | AD / JD | ADX / JDX | ADM / JDM | ADE / JDE | ADO / JDO |
| Number of Certificates | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Number of Judges | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

**(WA) Proposed Change 3.2 Titles**

**3.2.2** The Canine Control will receive application for the use of the relevant title letters after the name of each dog, when the dog has gained a qualification certificate at the following specified number of Trials under the specified number of Judges.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Class | Rookie | Novice | Excellent | Master | ~~Elite~~ | Open |
|  | ADR / JDR | AD / JD | ADX / JDX | ADM / JDM | ~~ADE / JDE~~ | ADO / JDO |
| Number of Certificates | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | ~~7~~ | 6 |
| Number of Judges | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | ~~3~~ | 3 |

**(WA) Rationale 3.2.2**

Table changes if Elite is removed and Rookie is approved.

**3.2.3.** Agility Champion (commencing 1st January 2021)

A dog will be eligible for the title of Agility Champion 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 when they have attained 1000 points, these can only be gathered at the completion of the Masters title by competing in either the Master or Elite in each category of which 10 points from Agility and 10 points from Jumping must be after 1st January 2021.

To achieve the title, at least 500 points must be earned from qualifying runs only in each of Agility and Jumping, from the Master or Elite Classes.

Points are awarded as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agility and Jumping | 1st Place Qualifying Score | 2nd Place Qualifying Score | 3rd Place Qualifying Score | Qualifying Score |
| Master | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 |
| Elite | 30 | 25 | 20 | 15 |

**(WA) Proposed Change 3.2.3 Titles**

**3.2.3.** Agility Champion (commencing 1st January 2026)

A dog will be eligible for the title of Agility Champion 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 when they have attained ~~1000~~ 500 points, these can only be gathered at the completion of the Masters title by competing in ~~eithe~~r the Master class ~~or Elite in each category~~ of which 10 points from Agility ~~and 10 points from Jumping~~ must be gained after 1st January 2026.

To achieve the title, at least 500 points must be earned from qualifying runs only in ~~each of~~ Agility ~~and Jumping~~, from the Master ~~or Elite~~ Class~~es~~.

Points are awarded as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Agility ~~and Jumping~~ | 1st Place Qualifying Score | 2nd Place Qualifying Score | 3rd Place Qualifying Score | Qualifying Score |
| Master | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 |
| ~~Elite~~ | ~~30~~ | ~~25~~ | ~~20~~ | ~~15~~ |

**3.2.~~3~~.** Jumping Champion (commencing 1st January 2026)

A dog will be eligible for the title of Jumping Champion 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 when they have attained 500 points, these can only be gathered at the completion of the Masters title by competing in the Master class of which 10 points from Jumping must be gained after 1st January 2026.

To achieve the title, at least 500 points must be earned from qualifying runs only in Jumping, from the Master Class.

Points are awarded as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Jumping | 1st Place Qualifying Score | 2nd Place Qualifying Score | 3rd Place Qualifying Score | Qualifying Score |
| Master | 25 | 20 | 15 | 10 |

**New clause – Grand Agility Champion**

 For a dog that has achieved both Agility Champion and Jumping Champion titles.

**New clause – Supreme Agility Champion**

A dog that has attained its Grand Agility Champion title and achieved ten (10) first places in Master Agility and ten (10) first places in Master Jumping won after the dog has attained its Grand Agility Champion title. Two wins in Master Agility and Master Jumping must be attained after 1 January 2026.

**(WA) Rationale 3.2.3 and two new clause numbers**

Differentiate Agility and Jumping dogs allowing them be recognised in separate Champion titles and then recognise the dogs that have achieved both Champion titles with a Grand Champion title.

The Supreme Champion title to recognise a dog with excellence in both Agility and Jumping and is not based on any places except first place.

Current Agility Champion titles to be converted to Grand Agility Champion as they have already met the criteria for the Grand Agility Champion title.

**New clause – National Agility Champion**

A title given to a dog that has won an open (not a restricted event) National Agility Trial in its height in the Master class in either Agility or Jumping.

**(WA) Rationale new clause – National Agility Champion**

To recognise a dog that has beaten all others to be the National Champion. Other sports award this title for National wins (Retrieving).

**3.4 Rings**

The Ring shall be a minimum of 800 square metres except with the approval of the Canine Control. Each ring will have separate entry and exit points with a minimum of a three (3) metres corridor between the rings where practicable.

A second rope may be erected outside the ring at a distance of approximately two (2) metres. Recommend that inside the Ring shall be an area of 10m x 6m before the first obstacle, the ‘entry area’ and an area of 10m x 6m after the last obstacle, the ‘exit area’. Only the dog & handler about to start the course shall be permitted in the entry area. Only the dog & handler finishing the course are permitted in the exit area.

Recommend that the ring have a clear space for entry and exit to the ring of at least 5 metres long by 2 metres wide. Dogs waiting to enter the ring can be assembled and separated from the general trial area in this entry trial area. A maximum of 3 teams may be assembled in this area at any time.

No bunting in the form of “flags on ropes” is to be placed on ring ropes. However, where a second rope is used, bunting may be placed on that rope. Barrier mesh or similar is to be distinguished from bunting and can be placed on ring ropes.

**(WA) Proposed Change 3.4 Rings**

**3.4 Rings**

The Ring shall be a minimum of 800 square metres except with the approval of the Canine Control. Each ring will have separate entry and exit points with a minimum of a three (3) metres corridor between the rings where practicable.

A second rope may be erected outside the ring at a distance of approximately two (2) metres. 4

~~Recommend that~~ Inside the Ring there shall be an area of 10m x 6m before the first obstacle, the ‘entry area’ and an area of 10m x 6m after the last obstacle, the ‘exit area’ except with the approval of the Canine Control. Only the dog & handler about to start the course shall be permitted in the entry area. Only the dog & handler finishing the course are permitted in the exit area.

Recommend that the ring have a clear space for entry and exit to the ring of at least 5 metres long by 2 metres wide. Dogs waiting to enter the ring can be assembled and separated from the general trial area in this entry trial area. A maximum of 3 teams may be assembled in this area at any time.

No bunting in the form of “flags on ropes” is to be placed on ring ropes. However, where a second rope is used, bunting may be placed on that rope. Barrier mesh or similar is to be distinguished from bunting and can be placed on ring ropes.

**(WA) Rationale 3.4 Rings**

Remove the words “Recommend that” from the third paragraph to mandate a clear area allowing 6m before the first obstacle and after the last obstacle to ensure that dogs remain in the ring for the entirety of their round. This is a safety issue.

Allow approval from the Canine Control to change this where approval has been given for small rings at specific events ie: Royal shows etc

**Section 4. Exhibits Requirements**

**4.2 Scheduling**

Affiliates are to schedule Novice, Excellent, Master and Elite Agility and Jumping classes to compete separately in their own heights.

In Games, the affiliate has the option of scheduling dogs to compete in separate height categories or all heights together.

If an affiliate has less than 30 dogs entered in the trial, the affiliate may schedule for all heights to compete together.

In Open Agility and Jumping, all height categories compete together.

**(WA) Proposed change 4.2**

**4.2 Scheduling**

Affiliates are to schedule Rookie, Novice, Excellent, Master and Open ~~Elite~~ Agility and Jumping classes to compete separately in their own heights.

In Games, the affiliate has the option of scheduling dogs to compete in separate height categories or all heights together.

If an affiliate has less than 30 dogs entered in the trial, the affiliate may schedule for all heights to compete together.

~~In Open Agility and Jumping, all height categories compete together~~.

**(WA) Rationale 4.2**

This is a two-part proposal:

1. Include “Rookie” class into scheduling and remove “Elite” class assuming that those proposals are approved
2. Australia is the only country in the world that still allows Agility trials to be run where the little dogs must beat the big dogs. WA has proven that even small country trials can be run in separate heights with no adverse impact on the trial running costs.

Also listed in the Introduction of our Rule Book are the Overall Objectives for our Sport -
• To encourage a graded progression through the sport.
• To encourage new participants and new ideas and the continuance of Agility as a unique canine discipline.
• To encourage an increased level of fitness for dog and Handler.
• To encourage safe and pleasant competition for all.

Graded progression is not limited to attaining titles - it also includes measuring oneself and one's dog against LIKE sizes and breeds/crossbreeds - separate heights allows this to happen across both the spectrums of "GRADED progression"
- "Encourage new participants" that includes owners of all dogs”

"Encourage increased level of fitness" it is not encouraging when you have fit handlers and their fit small dogs running their hearts out and never seeing a top three placement.
- It's more pleasant for the owners of the little dogs that start out and the experienced ones to receive a fair and equal playing field.

**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  |

The Judge may check at random the height of the dog by requesting to sight the dog's Official

Height Card and/or utilise an ANKC approved measuring device on a hard level surface.

This includes the use of measuring hoops.

The dog will be required to compete under this rule in all classes in which it is entered during the current competition.

The handler may challenge the measurement for future competitions undertaking the formal measurement process conducted by authorised persons as specified in the ANKC Rules for the conduct of Agility Trials and obtaining an official Height of Shoulder Card duly signed at that measurement.

**(WA) Proposed change 4.5 Measuring Dogs**

**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 200 mm |
| 300 | 201 mm up to and including 300 mm |
| 400 | 301 mm up to and including 400 mm |
| 500 | 401 mm up to and including 500 mm |
| 600 | 501 mm and over  |

The Judge may check at random the height of the dog by requesting to sight the dog's Official

Height Card and/or utilise an ANKC approved measuring device on a hard level surface.

This includes the use of measuring hoops.

The dog will be required to compete under this rule in all classes in which it is entered during the current competition.

The handler may challenge the measurement for future competitions undertaking the formal measurement process conducted by authorised persons as specified in the ANKC Rules for the conduct of Agility Trials and obtaining an official Height of Shoulder Card duly signed at that measurement.

The handler may nominate their dog to compete in a height one above their measured height, once they have nominated the higher height the dog cannot compete in its measured height until the dog has attained eight (8) years of age.

**(WA) Rational 4.5 Measuring Dogs**

The proposal ensures that dogs do not jump a height higher than their own height at shoulder. The sport is now a very fast paced sport with a significant amount of strain being placed on dog’s shoulders and spines by take-off and landing when jumping and tight turns.

Dogs compete in the sport for many years and we are keen to reduce risks of injuries and promote longevity in the sport.

The proposal also gives the handler some flexibility to nominate a higher height for the dog to compete in with some restrictions.

**Section 6. Obstacles**

**6.3 Dog Walk**

The Dog Walk consists of three (3) connected planks; one plank angled up from the ground to the end of an elevated horizontal plank and the other angled from the other end, down to the ground and must be a light and visible colour i.e. white or a pale colour. This obstacle must not have cleats fitted to the planks.

The length of each plank shall be 3500 mm. The width shall be a minimum of 300 mm to a maximum of 330 mm. The horizontal plank is to be set 1200 mm off the ground. 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.:

**(WA) Proposed change 6.3 Dog Walk**

The Dog Walk consists of three (3) connected planks; one plank angled up from the ground to the end of an elevated horizontal plank and the other angled from the other end, down to the ground and must be a light and visible colour i.e. white or a pale colour. This obstacle must not have cleats fitted to the planks.

The length of each plank shall be 3500 mm. The width shall be a minimum of 300 mm to a maximum of 330 mm. The horizontal plank is to be set ~~1200~~ 1000 mm off the ground. 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.:

**(WA) Rational 6.3 Dog Walk**

The challenge of this obstacle should not be dominated by the height. The challenge should be in the dog being able to balance on a narrow plank whilst moving at speed in a safe manner (that's why we have contact zones - to keep the obstacle performance as safe as possible).

With the increasing popularity of training running contacts and in general the increased speed at which dogs are currently moving over this obstacle reducing the height is one way to reduce the impact of errors on this obstacle.

This change for most modern manufactured dog walks would not be difficult as most dog walks are adjustable these days. Having this obstacle at 1m height is still a significant enough height challenge for dogs and doesn't require a major overhaul of equipment.

**6.5 Hurdles**

Hurdles consist of two (2) uprights, which support a bar or other centre section. The base support projection from the side of the hurdle must be a maximum length of 300 mm.

Hurdles are to be adjustable for each height category. The uprights, which may be winged, are to be a minimum of 1000 mm and a maximum of 1200mm high. The distance between the uprights is to be between 1200 and 1500 mm. Bars are to be made of any material that is unlikely to injure if they are displaced. The bar is to be a between 30 to 50 mm in diameter, and be in contrasting colours in alternate sections. Nails or spikes are not to be used to support the bars. All centre sections of Hurdles, whether bar or other, must be able to be dislodged if hit hard enough in EITHER direction.

Hurdle cups are not to have sharp edges

The other centre sections may consist of fill-in bars, crossed bars or a solid section of any construction e.g. brush fence, solid wall, pseudo brick wall etc. but must be able to be dislodged. The total width of the wing including the upright to be a maximum of 600mm.

**(WA) Proposed change 6.5 Hurdles**

**6.5 Hurdles**

Hurdles consist of two (2) uprights, which support a bar or other centre section. The base support projection from the side of the hurdle must be a maximum length of 300 mm.

Hurdles are to be adjustable for each height category. The uprights, which may be winged, are to be a minimum of 1000 mm and a maximum of 1200mm high. The distance between the uprights is to be between 1200 and 1500 mm. Bars are to be made of any material that is unlikely to injure if they are displaced. The bar is to be a between 30 to 50 mm in diameter, and be in contrasting colours in alternate sections. Nails or spikes are not to be used to support the bars. All centre sections of Hurdles, whether bar or other, must be able to be dislodged if hit hard enough in EITHER direction.

The only hurdle cups that are to remain on the jump uprights are the cups for the height being jumped, all other cups must be removed from the uprights. Hurdle cups are not to have sharp edges

The other centre sections may consist of fill-in bars, crossed bars or a solid section of any construction e.g. brush fence, solid wall, pseudo brick wall etc. but must be able to be dislodged. The total width of the wing including the upright to be a maximum of 600mm.

**(WA) Rational 6.5**

Hurdle cups have the potential to cause injury to dogs slicing or wrapping the jump, the proposal is to remove all cups not required for the current height being jumped.

We acknowledge that this may add some time to height changes but the priority is the safety of the dogs.

**6.9 Flexible Tunnel**

The Flexible Tunnel is an open opaque flexible concertina type tube. It is to measure approximately 600 mm inside diameter and be a minimum of three (3) metres to a maximum of eight (8) metres long. The tunnel is to be flexible so that one bends can be shaped. If using a tunnel which is less than four (4) metres long it can only be set in a straight line. It must be secured so that it will not move whilst in use.

The securing method must not reduce or affect the height / shape of the tunnel.

**(WA) Proposed change 6.9 Flexible Tunnel**

**6.9 Flexible Tunnel**

The Flexible Tunnel is an open opaque flexible concertina type tube. It is to measure approximately 600 mm inside diameter and be a minimum of three (3) metres to a maximum of eight (8) metres long. The tunnel is to be flexible so that one bends can be shaped. If using a tunnel which is less than four (4) metres long it can only be set in a straight line. It must be secured so that it will not move whilst in use.

The securing method must not reduce or affect the height / shape of the tunnel. A recommended number of tunnel bags is one bag per metre length of the tunnel plus one set. e.g. a five-metre tunnel would have five sets of bags plus one set, so six sets of bags for a five-metre tunnel.

**(WA) Rational 6.9 Flexible Tunnel**

The recommendation for calculating how many bags per tunnel is to ensure the safe anchoring of the tunnel while it is being performed at speed.

**Section 7. Handler Requirements**

**7.2** 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.

**(WA) Proposed change 7.2 Handler Requirements**

**7.2** 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 may be 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. Alternatively, the handler may either place the lead/collar in a pocket whilst running the course or wear it on them (e.g. clipped around their waist like a belt). If any of these items fall to the ground or the dog grabs the lead while running the course this will result in a disqualification. The lead/collar must be inaudible and if not, this will result in a disqualification.

**(WA) Rational 7.2 Handler Requirements**

Propose to provide flexibility for clubs and competitors and incorporate the temporary Covid rule into the existing rule. There is difficulty for clubs to provide enough stewards for an event.

**7.2.c** A dog shall not be physically touched after the Judge has indicated that they may go.

**(WA) Proposed change 7.2.c Entering and Exiting the Ring**

**~~7.2.c~~** ~~A dog shall not be physically touched after the Judge has indicated that they may go.~~

**(WA) Rational 7.2.1 Entering and Exiting the Ring**

Delete the requirement for the handler to not touch the dog after the Judge has indicated that they may go so that a handler can hold / pat the dog until the dog has commenced the course. This is to support a nervous dog and provide assurances for the handler that the dog cannot run off. The rules already cover the touching of the dog while it is competing under disqualification rule 9.16.g

**Section 8. Judging Procedure**

**8.9 Orders from the Judge**

The handler shall start their run on the instruction or signal of the judge.

After the Judge has indicated that the Handler may start the run and the Handler has crossed the Starting Line, the Handler cannot re-cross the Starting Line or return to the dog unless there is a refusal.

**WA) Proposed change 8.9 Orders from the Judge**

**8.9 Orders from the Judge**

The handler shall start their run on the instruction or signal of the judge, the signal may be verbal or a flag or whistle and the handler may go when ready.

After the Judge has indicated that the Handler may start the run and the Handler has crossed the Starting Line, the Handler cannot re-cross the Starting Line or return to the dog unless there is a refusal.

The Judge must clearly call at the end of each round “CLEAR” if the dog has performed the round without any course or penalty faults or “NOT CLEAR” if there are course or penalty faults.

**(WA) Rational 8.9 Orders from the Judge**

This is a two-part proposal:

1. Allow the Judge to use a whistle or flag to indicate that they are ready and then the competitor can go when they are ready. Start line procedure to be less formal and Handler can go when they are ready after being given the signal from the Judge, there is no requirement for the Handler to acknowledge the Judge.
2. Calling “CLEAR” or “NOT CLEAR” rather than signalling to the scribe so that the competitor is aware of the outcome of their run. Competitors have thought that their runs were clear only to find out at presentations that they were not, this gives them the ability to ask why at the time rather than later when the Judge is unable to remember individual runs.

**Section 9. Description of Trial**

**9.3 A Tunnel under the Scramble or Dog Walk**

A tunnel under the scramble or Dog Walk must not be used in the Novice Class.

**(WA) Proposed change 9.3 A Tunnel under the Scramble or Dog Walk**

**9.3 A Tunnel under the Scramble or Dog Walk**

A tunnel under the scramble or Dog Walk must not be used in the Rookie or Novice Class.

**9.4 Back Side Hurdles**

Where a course is designed with a send to the backside of a hurdle, then the hurdle must be winged. This includes a bi-directional hurdle that is used twice.

**(WA) Proposed change 9.4 Back Sides of Jumps**

**9.4 Back Side Hurdles**

Where a course is designed with a send to the backside of a hurdle, then the hurdle must be winged. This includes a bi-directional hurdle that is used twice. Backside hurdles must not be used in the Rookie Class.

**(WA) Rational 9.3 & 9.4**

Changes in line with the proposal at 3.1 to incorporate a Rookie class

**9.15 Refusal of an Obstacle**

It is the Judge's decision as to when a refusal to take an obstacle has occurred the obstacle must be re-attempted.

A refusal can only be called when the following conditions are met:

* The dog is on the take-off side of the obstacle
* The dog is on the approach side of the obstacle
* The refusal line does NOT become active until the dog has started the approach to the obstacle.

A refusal is called when:

1. the dog fails to make an attempt at an obstacle
2. Approaching an obstacle turns away, hesitates, deviates or stops within one (1) metre in front of the obstacle it should be negotiating.
3. Attempting the Broad Jump a dog does not enter between the two (2) front poles or does not attempt to jump the boards.
4. Attempting the Dog Walk a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before reaching the horizontal section.
5. Attempting the Hurdles a dog fails to pass between the two uprights.
6. Attempting the Scramble a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before the apex.
7. Attempting the Seesaw a dog fails to ascend the plank or comes off the obstacle before the pivot point.
8. Attempting the Weaving Poles a dog runs past the first pole to the left of the Weaving Poles or past the second pole to the right of the Weaving Poles

**~~(WA) Proposed change 9.15~~**

**~~9.15 Refusal of an Obstacle~~**

~~It is the Judge's decision as to when a refusal to take an obstacle has occurred the obstacle must be re-attempted.~~

~~A refusal can only be called when the following conditions are met:~~

* ~~The dog is on the take-off side of the obstacle~~
* ~~The dog is on the approach side of the obstacle~~
* ~~The refusal line does NOT become active until the dog has started the approach to the obstacle.~~

~~A refusal is called when:~~

1. ~~the dog fails to make an attempt at an obstacle~~
2. ~~Approaching an obstacle turns away, hesitates, deviates or stops within one (1) metre in front of the obstacle it should be negotiating.~~
3. ~~Attempting the Broad Jump a dog does not enter between the two (2) front poles or does not attempt to jump the boards.~~
4. ~~Attempting the Dog Walk a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before reaching the horizontal section.~~
5. ~~Attempting the Hurdles a dog fails to pass between the two uprights.~~
6. ~~Attempting the Scramble a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before the apex.~~
7. ~~Attempting the Seesaw a dog fails to ascend the plank or comes off the obstacle before the pivot point.~~
8. ~~Attempting the Weaving Poles a dog runs past the first pole to the left of the Weaving Poles or past the second pole to the right of the Weaving Poles~~

 **(WA) Rational 9.15**

Remove the refusal clause completely, the dog is penalised by wasting time and this is reflected in their course time. Obstacles that are not successfully completed will result in a DQ if the dog goes onto the next obstacle without completing the obstacle. If the refusal rule is deleted then references to it must be removed from throughout the rules:

8.9 Orders from the Judge

9.16.a disqualification

9.16k disqualification

**(WA) Proposal for equipment requirements**

Propose that Judges can choose two of the three mandatory pieces of equipment from the Broad Jump, Hoop and Spread.

**(WA) Rational for equipment requirements**

These obstacles all require a straight approach for safety reasons and it would assist course design if Judges could select only two of the three if needed.

The equipment lists in all classes would all need to be updated if this proposal was approved.

**(WA) Proposal for two new clauses**

**10. ROOKIE AGILITY CLASS (10-14 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 Optional**

Broad Jump/s Spread Hurdle

Dog Walk Weaving Poles – 12

Hoop/s

Hurdle/s

Scramble

Flexible Tunnel/s

**16. ROOKIE JUMPING CLASS (10-14 OBSTACLES)**

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

**MANDATORY Optional**

Broad Jump/s Spread Hurdle

Hoop/s

Hurdle/s

Flexible Tunnel/s

**(WA) Rational 10 & 16**

Class details if the proposal for a Rookie class is approved

**21 READY REFERENCE GUIDE**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **HEIGHT CATEGORY** | **200** | **300** | **400** | **500** | **600** |
| **DOG HEIGHTS** | **UP TO AND INCLUDING 270MM** | **271 – 365 MM INCLUSIVE** | **366 – 455 MM INCLUSIVE** | **456 – 545 MM INCLUSIVE** | **546 MM AND OVER** |
| Jump Heights | 200 mm | 300 mm | 400 mm | 500 mm | 600 mm |
| Spread. Distance between bars | 150 mm | 225 mm | 300 mm | 375 mm | 450 mm |
| Spread. Height of first bar | 150 mm | 225 mm | 300 mm | 375 mm | 450 mm |
| Spread. Height of second bar | 200 mm | 300 mm | 400 mm | 500 mm | 600 mm |
| Broad distance | 400 mm | 600 mm | 800 mm | 1000 mm | 1200 mm |
| Broad. Width of Boards (mm) | 100 - 150 | 100 - 150 | 100 - 200 | 100 - 200 | 100 - 200 |
| Broad. Height of Boards (mm) | 100 + 150 | 100 + 150 | 100 + 150 + 200 | 100 + 150 + 200 + 250 | 100 + 150 + 200 + 250 |
| Broad. Number of boards | 2 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 4 |

**(WA) Proposed change 21 Ready Reference Guide**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **HEIGHT CATEGORY** | **200** | **300** | **400** | **500** | **600** |
| **DOG HEIGHTS** | **UP TO AND INCLUDING 200MM** | **201 – 300 MM INCLUSIVE** | **301 – 400 MM INCLUSIVE** | **401 – 500 MM INCLUSIVE** | **501 MM AND OVER** |
| Jump Heights | 200 mm | 300 mm | 400 mm | 500 mm | 600 mm |
| Spread. Distance between bars | 150 mm | 225 mm | 300 mm | 375 mm | 450 mm |
| Spread. Height of first bar | 150 mm | 225 mm | 300 mm | 375 mm | 450 mm |
| Spread. Height of second bar | 200 mm | 300 mm | 400 mm | 500 mm | 600 mm |
| Broad distance | 400 mm | 600 mm | 800 mm | 1000 mm | 1200 mm |
| Broad. Width of Boards (mm) | 100 - 150 | 100 - 150 | 100 - 200 | 100 - 200 | 100 - 200 |
| Broad. Height of Boards (mm) | 100 + 150 | 100 + 150 | 100 + 150 + 200 | 100 + 150 + 200 + 250 | 100 + 150 + 200 + 250 |
| Broad. Number of boards | 2 | ~~2~~ 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |

**(WA) Rational 21 Ready Reference Guide**

Table change in line with proposed change of 4.5 Measuring Dogs

**23 WEAVING POLES AND NUMBER OF OBSTACLES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **NOVICE** | **EXCELLENT** | **MASTER** | **ELITE** | **OPEN** |
| **Number of Weaving Poles** |
| **Agility** | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| **Jumping** | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| **Number of Obstacles** |
| **Agility / Jumping** | 14-16 | 16-20 | 20-24 | 22-28 | 16-20 |

**(WA) Proposed change 23 Weaving Poles and Number of Obstacles**

**WEAVING POLES AND NUMBER OF OBSTACLES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **ROOKIE** | **NOVICE** | **EXCELLENT** | **MASTER** | **~~ELITE~~** | **OPEN** |
| **Number of Weaving Poles** |
| **Agility** | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 | ~~12~~ | 12 |
| **Jumping** | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | ~~Nil~~ | Nil |
| **Number of Obstacles** |
| **Agility / Jumping** | 10-14 | 14-16 | 16-20 | 20-24 | ~~22-28~~ | 16-20 |

**(WA) Rational 23 Weaving Poles and Number of Obstacles**

Table change in line with proposed change of included a Rookie class at 3.1

**GAMES**

**STRATEGIC PAIRS**

**1. Introduction**

Strategic Pairs is a pair’s relay; two dog-and-handler teams are on the course at the same time.

It is conducted on a single course with 20 to 25 sequentially numbered obstacles.

One dog of the pair may compete in the next height above or below their classification. Both dogs of the pair may compete in the next height above or below their classification providing that one dog is jumping above and one below their measured height class.

Teams are free to move anywhere on course as they see fit. The teams can switch as many times as is necessary or is strategically planned. They can switch at any time, regardless of faults

The team not performing the current “active” obstacle is not judged, but may cause disqualification of both teams if the judge considers a performance to be unsafe or the team incurs the appropriate penalty

A whistle or similar device will be used to signal faults or maximum course time.

**(WA) Proposed change 1**

**1. Introduction**

Strategic Pairs is a pair’s relay; two dog-and-handler teams are on the course at the same time.

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The team not performing the current “active” obstacle is not judged and may be restrained, but may cause disqualification of both teams if the judge considers a performance to be unsafe or the team incurs the appropriate penalty

A whistle or similar device will be used to signal faults or maximum course time.

**3.9 Performance**

Once the run has started dogs cannot be physically restrained in any way. Penalty: disqualification.

**(WA) Proposed change 3.9**

**~~3.9 Performance~~**

~~Once the run has started dogs cannot be physically restrained in any way. Penalty: disqualification.~~

**(WA) Rational 1 & 3.9**

Safety - Allow the non-active dog to be held to ensure that it doesn’t interfere with the active dog.