DogsSA Review of Rules for the conduct of Agility Trials and Agility Games

**2.6. WRONG COURSE**

***Current Rule***

A Wrong Course occurs when the dog negotiates an obstacle out of the numbered order, negotiates an obstacle in the wrong direction, passes under the bar of a Hurdle in the wrong direction or weaves two (2) or more gaps in the weaving poles in the wrong direction.

***Proposed Rule***

A Wrong Course occurs when the dog negotiates an obstacle out of the numbered order, negotiates an obstacle in the wrong direction, passes under the bar of a Hurdle in the wrong direction. ~~or weaves two (2) or more gaps in the weaving poles in the wrong direction.~~

***Rationale***

This section of the sentence is redundant as the dog would be negotiating an obstacle out of the numbered order.

**3.2.2.**

***Current Rule***

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 |

Multiplier suffixes for ADM/JDM and ADE/JDE may be awarded for multiples of seven certificates gained e.g. 21 ADM qualifications is equal to ADM 3.

Multiplier suffixes for ADO/JDO may be awarded for multiples of six certificates gained e.g. 18 ADO qualifications is equal to ADO 3. Existing multiplier suffixes (awarded for multiples of 5 certificates) remain unchanged, but any Open class multiplier suffix applied for after 1 January 2021 requires 6 certificates per multiplier.

Applications may be made for any multiplier suffix title without requiring applications for any predecessor suffixes i.e. an owner may apply directly for ADO7 without any requirement to apply and pay for ADO2, ADO3, ADO4, ADO5 and ADO6 titles.

***Proposed Rule***

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~~ 3 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Number of Judges | ~~3~~ 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

Multiplier suffixes for ADM/JDM and ADE/JDE may be awarded for multiples of seven certificates gained e.g. 21 ADM qualifications is equal to ADM 3. Multiplier suffixes for ADO/JDO may be awarded for multiples of six certificates gained e.g. 18 ADO qualifications is equal to ADO 3. Existing multiplier suffixes (awarded for multiples of 5 certificates) remain unchanged, but any Open class multiplier suffix applied for after 1 January 2021 requires 6 certificates per multiplier.

Applications may be made for any multiplier suffix title without requiring applications for any predecessor suffixes i.e. an owner may apply directly for ADO7 without any requirement to apply and pay for ADO2, ADO3, ADO4, ADO5 and ADO6 titles.

***Rationale***

It is the members view that the number of certificates required for an AD/JD title reduce to 3 from the existing 5. This is to ensure that competitors don’t get discouraged and subsequently leave the sport if it takes a number of attempts.

The members are not suggesting amending excellent, masters, elite, or open qualifications passes because as the levels increase in difficulty, the more experience one gets, the more successful they will become in the higher levels.

As mentioned previously, novice is to encourage handlers into the sport of agility and if the qualifications passes are decreased and the chances of getting first titles increase, more handlers will compete in the higher levels.

**3.2.3. AGILITY CHAMPION**

***Current Rule***

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 |

Where classes are not scheduled in separate height categories points will be awarded

as if they were.

***Proposed Rule***

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. A JDO and ADO title must also be attained before a dog is eligible for Agility Champion 200/300/400/500 or 600. Competitors currently in the process of their Agility Champion point accumulation are not impacted by the change of the rule.

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 |

Where classes are not scheduled in separate height categories points will be awarded

as if they were.

***Rationale***

Open agility and jumping skills are not currently recognised in any champion category and are thus undervalued. A champion of the sport should have these skills.

**3.4. RINGS**

***Current Rule***

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.

***Proposed Rule***

The Ring shall be a minimum of ~~800~~ 1200 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.

***Rationale***

With the increase in maximum distances and the inclusion of the Elite Class it is believed the current minimum ring size makes the courses too cramped. And safety of the dog is paramount.

**4.3. HEIGHT CARD**

***Current Rule***

Prior to a dog competing in a trial for the first time, an Official Height Card, signed by

TWO (ANKC) Agility Judges or other persons approved by the Canine Control

specifying the height or the height category of the dog must be obtained. The height of

the dog is to be measured at the highest point of the withers no more than two months before that trial. The Height Card is valid for the life of the dog if they are over 2 years old or the dog is measured at the 600 Height Category. If the dog is under 2 years old a temporary height card will be issued and the dog will be required to be remeasured when the dog is 2 years of age. A permanent Height Card would then be issued. Any pass cards issued to the dog during the period of the temporary height card will remain valid.

***Proposed Rule 1***

Prior to a dog competing in a trial for the first time, an Official Height Card, signed by

TWO (ANKC) Agility Judges or other persons approved by the Canine Control

specifying the height or the height category of the dog must be obtained. The height of

the dog is to be measured at the highest point of the withers ~~no more than two months~~

~~before that trial~~ at no earlier than 16 months old. The Height Card is valid for the life of the dog if they are over 2 years old or the dog is measured at the 600 Height Category. If the dog is under 2 years old a temporary height card will be issued and the dog will be required to be remeasured

when the dog is 2 years of age. A permanent Height Card would then be issued. Any pass cards issued to the dog during the period of the temporary height card will remain valid.

***Rationale 1***

A dog should be able to be measured close to when it is eligible to enter a trial so that the handler can ensure that they are training the dog on the correct height as early as possible, however not have pressure to enter a dog in a trial before they believe they are ready to enter. If the dog is measured at no earlier than 16 months, then people can still have their dog measured 2 months before the dog is eligible to compete (as the current rule would allow) and at an age when most dogs have reached their full height. If they have had the dog measured before 2 years old but have not entered a trial, they should still be required to re-measure at 2 years old before they enter a trial.

***Proposed Rule 2***

Prior to a dog competing in a trial for the first time, an Official Height Card, signed by TWO (ANKC) Agility Judges or other persons approved by the Canine Control specifying the height or the height category of the dog must be obtained. The height of the dog is to be measured at the highest point of the withers no more than two months before that trial. With the exception of the chondrodystrophic dogs which are characterised by their short legs in comparison to their body size and length which can nominate to compete in the height category below that which they have been measured. The Height Card is valid for the life of the dog if they are over 2 years old or the dog is measured at the 600 Height Category. If the dog is under 2 years old a temporary height card will be issued and the dog will be required to be remeasured when the dog is 2 years of age. A permanent Height Card would then be issued. Any pass cards issued to the dog during the period of the temporary height card will remain valid.

***Rationale 2:***

* Chondrodystrophic dogs are dwarf breeds ; the most recognised breeds are the Welsh Corgi Cardigan, Welsh Corgi Pembroke, Dachshund & Basset Hound.
* Dogs thatexhibit Achondroplasia (dwarfism) may jump 100mm lower than they would jump as determined by their wither measurement.
* These breeds are typically short legged with long bodies with a heavier weight to height ratio. ie: the corgi is a medium sized dog on short legs; The name corgi is derived from the Welsh words cor and ci, meaning "dwarf" and "dog", respectively.
* To consider the safety/welfare of the dwarf dog, specifically the Welsh Corgi Cardigan and Welsh Corgi Pembroke (known working /cattle dog) as the heavier of the true dwarf breeds.
* An acceptance of a preferred jump height for the dwarf breeds would support longevity in the sport.
* As an example, the breed height standard for the Pembroke Corgi is 250 – 300mm straddles the 270mm measure to jump 200mm.
* A dog with a greater weight ratio to height (250 -300mm) jumping greater than 200mm has a higher potential of shoulder and spine injuries. Literature confirms that “when keeping a Chondrodystrophic dog healthy, you need to keep their diet, exercise, SPINAL STRESS and routine veterinary exams in mind.”
* A dog of sound conformation is very capable of successfully competing in a sport that will support consideration of their dwarf structure.
* There are many Welsh Corgis Cardigan and Pembrokes that successfully compete in the sport of agility overseas where their dwarf structure is recognised and are offered a preferred jump height.
* NADAC Australia and Agility Dog Association of Australia, although not ANKC/Dogs Australia, consider preferred jump heights for the breeds, why not Dogs Australia?
* An option to seek an exemption for a preferred jump height should be available for those dogs that have been crossed with a recognised dwarf breed. ie: a dog that weighs more than 2.5 times of its height.

**5.3. SUITABILITY OF OBSTACLES**

***Current Rule***

All ring equipment necessary for the proper conduct of a Trial shall be provided by the Affiliate conducting the Trial, and must be approved by the Judge.

All equipment shall be made of suitable materials, be of sturdy and safe construction and of light colour unless otherwise specified in the description of that particular piece of equipment. There should be no sharp edges or protrusions that may cause injury.

The judge has the option to remove mandatory obstacles which in their opinion may cause a safety concern or are unfit for competition. When a mandatory obstacle is not used it must be reported in writing within 7 (seven) days to the controlling body.

Octopus straps are not to be used for tie downs for equipment.

***Proposed Rule***

All ring equipment necessary for the proper conduct of a Trial shall be provided by the Affiliate conducting the Trial~~,~~ and must be approved by the Judge.

All equipment shall be made of suitable materials, be of sturdy and safe construction and of light colour unless otherwise specified in the description of that particular piece of equipment. There should be no sharp edges or protrusions that may cause injury.

The judge has the option to remove mandatory obstacles which in their opinion may cause a safety concern or are unfit for competition. When a mandatory obstacle is not used it must be ~~reported in writing within 7 (seven) days to the controlling body.~~ Reported to the Control representative on the day.

Octopus straps are not to be used for tie downs for equipment.

***Rationale***

The reporting on the day eases the judge’s responsibility and prevents them forgetting to make a report.

**5.5. JUDGING CHART**

***Current Rule***

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 Rule***

A properly compiled Judging Chart, as described in these Rules, shall be provided for the Judge officiating at a Trial. The Judge and the Scribe 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.

***Rationale***

The inclusion of the Scribe would assist if there are any queries about the score sheet. It would also be able to assist if there were any mistakes recorded on the sheet.

**6.2. BROAD JUMP**

***Current Rule***

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 200 mm | 100 – 200mm |
| 500 | 1000mm | 4 | 100, 150, 200 and 250mm | 100 – 200mm |
| 600 | 1200mm | 4 | 100, 150, 200 and 250mm | 100 – 200mm |

***Proposed Rule***

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~~ must be built to telescope. Broad jumps can only be completed in one direction.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 150 mm | 100 – 150mm |
| 300 | 600mm | 2 | 100 and 150 mm | 100 – 150mm |
| 400 | 800mm | 3 | 100, 150 and 200 mm | 100 – 200mm |
| 500 | 1000mm | 4 | 100, 150, 200 and 250 mm | 100 – 200mm |
| 600 | 1200mm | 4 | 100, 150, 200 and 250 mm | 100 – 200mm |

***Rationale***

This will allow the dog better sight of the boards if they are being jumped from either direction. Standardising of equipment to ensure dogs are able to view and extend a jump with safety. Larger dogs (500/600) have the maximum length and if a non telescopic broad jump is used they are not able to determine the length and therefore are not able to jump with extension resulting in faults.

**6.5. HURDLES**

***Current Rule***

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.

***Proposed Rule***

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 of 1500 mm length are to be used for 500 and 600 dog’s if the expected direction of travel a slice is likely. 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. Uprights should have only one cup each for each height level.

Hurdle cups are not to have sharp edges. Stick in the ground hurdles should not be used in any circumstance. Clubs have until 1 January 2027 to upgrade their hurdles to comply with this rule amendment. Any new equipment purchased or made after 1 January 2026 must comply with rule amendment.

The other cent

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.

***Rationale***

The 1200 mm length bar does not give enough room for a large dog to slice safely. Bars which are too large for the cups are easily dislodged. The construction of the stick in the ground hurdles makes them less stable and they often slant outwards or twist, which means that when the bars are placed higher they are often only just on the cups. Therefore, they are dislodged much more easily than when placed on lower heights. Multiple cups create a hazard for dogs.

Consistency of equipment, safe approach to hurdles and decreasing the pressure on all dog’s body bending and flexibility. Wing jumps are a safe insurance is dislodged and deem not risk of harm to bar if dislodged. Allowing the extension of bars on difficult approaches such as a slice decreases the stress impact on large dogs’ athletic ability. Hurdles can be clearly viewed by all dogs of all heights.

**6.7. SCRAMBLE**

***Current Rule***

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.

***Proposed Rule***

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.

***Rationale***

2006 is 18 years ago. Clubs have had a significant time in which to update equipment. Dogs who have been taught to stride over the Scramble may miss contacts with a 2500 mm plank.

**6.9. FLEXIBLE TUNNEL**

***Current Rule***

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 bend 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 to minimize movement whilst in use.

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

***Proposed Rule***

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 four (4) metres to a maximum of ~~eight (8)~~ seven (7) metres long. The tunnel is to be flexible so that one bend can be shaped. Tight “U turn” bends must not be used; thus the ends of the tunnel should not be closer than 4 metres apart. ~~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 to minimize movement whilst in use.

The securing method must not reduce or affect the height / shape of the tunnel. Where tunnel bags are used, the tunnel bag should weigh at least 10 kg, and a set should be used for each 1 m of tunnel to prevent movement as the dogs negotiate the tunnel.

***Rationale***

Tunnels are one of the most common obstacles in which dogs are injured. Placement of tunnel bags to be at ever metre of the tunnel to ensure a safe secure tunnel for all dog heights. Tunnels should not move at any time. The proposed rule increases safety.

**6.10. WEAVING POLES**

***Current Rule***

There will be twelve (12) Weaving Poles for all classes that have Weaving Poles. The

poles are to be set vertically in a straight line 600 mm apart (centre to centre) without

any 10% variation. They are to be a minimum of 1000 mm to a maximum of 1200 mm in height and a minimum of 20 mm to a maximum of 32 mm in diameter. No bar is to be fixed along the top of the poles. The Weaving Poles must be made of a lightweight and flexible material, e.g. similar to PVC, allowing the dog to flex the poles as it is weaving. The base of the pole may be rigid to a maximum height from the ground of 200 mm.

The Weaving Poles will have a flat metal bar along the centre with metal legs extending laterally; the legs and bar must be fixed and secured, where possible, with a non-slip surface. The legs must be offset to the dog's correct path. Pegs to be fitted into holes drilled into metal base. No pegs are allowed in the dog's correct path.

***Proposed Rule***

There will be twelve (12) Weaving Poles for all classes that have Weaving Poles. The

poles are to be set vertically in a straight line 600 mm apart (centre to centre) without

any 10% variation. They are to be a minimum of 1000 mm to a maximum of 1200 mm without any 10% variation in height and a minimum of ~~20 mm~~ 25 mm to a maximum of 32 mm in diameter. No bar is to be fixed along the top of the poles. The Weaving Poles must be made of a lightweight and flexible material, e.g. similar to PVC, allowing the dog to flex the poles as it is weaving. The base of the pole may be rigid to a maximum height from the ground of 200 mm.

The Weaving Poles will have a flat metal bar along the centre with metal legs ~~extending laterally~~ attached to the base of each pole on the opposite side to the dog’s path; the legs and bar must be fixed and secured ~~where possible, with a non-slip surface~~ by ‘flat’ headed fixtures or tape. The legs must be offset to the dog's correct path. Pegs to be fitted into holes drilled into metal base. No pegs are allowed in the dog's correct path. The start and finish to the bar may have an extension no greater than 5 cm and these will be secured in the same way as the legs.

This must occur with all new Weaving sets and otherwise by 2030.

***Rationale***

These are safety considerations. Many weavers are currently flexible, fast large dogs get caught up in the poles. Many bases are light and flexible and move or lift off the ground when dogs negotiate the weaving poles therefore harm to dog can potentially happen.

**7.2 ENTERING AND EXITING THE RING**

***Current Rule***

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.

1. A Handler may enter the ring (with the dog on lead) whilst the previous dog is completing its run.
2. The only items that a dog can wear whilst running the course are:
3. A fixed, flat collar with no fixtures or tags etc. dangling from the collar, with the exception of D or O rings which form part of the collar.
4. Ribbons or bands to keep the hair away from the face.
5. A dog shall not be physically touched after the Judge has indicated that they may go.
6. On completion of the dog's run, the Handler will exit the ring via the exit point with the dog on lead. Dogs are permitted to be carried out of the ring providing the lead is attached to the collar.
7. e. The lead shall not be considered a training aid. A dog may interact or play with their lead inside the ring provided it is not disruptive to other dogs.

***Proposed Rule***

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 handlers will maintain their leads and they are to be placed in a pocket or other suitable location i.e. around their waist or neck. No disqualification if the lead accidentally drops to the ground during the run. ~~The steward will remove items after the dog/handler team commences their run.~~

1. A Handler may enter the ring (with the dog on lead) whilst the previous dog is completing its run.
2. The only items that a dog can wear whilst running the course are:
3. A fixed, flat collar with no fixtures or tags etc. dangling from the collar, with the exception of D or O rings which form part of the collar.
4. Ribbons or bands to keep the hair away from the face.
5. A dog shall not be physically touched after the Judge has indicated that they may go.
6. On completion of the dog's run, the Handler will exit the ring via the exit point with the dog on lead. Dogs are permitted to be carried out of the ring providing the lead is attached to the collar.
7. The lead shall not be considered a training aid. A dog may interact or play with their lead inside the ring provided it is not disruptive to other dogs.

***Rationale***

The ‘COVID-19’ management of the lead proved highly successful even though there were protestations in the beginning. The removal of the need for a steward to manage the leads is both time consuming and takes up valuable time for them to be conducting their duties.

**8.2. UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

***Current Rule***

If an unusual circumstance occurs which in the opinion of the Judge disadvantages the dog, the Judge may allow the dog to be rerun if the run was clear up to that point.

If all timing devices fail, the handler may be given the option of a re run or at the judge’s discretion the handler may be offered the SCT at the completion of an otherwise clear run, where in the opinion of the judge, the dog has completed the course within the SCT.

The re-run totally supersedes the original run and no aspect of the original run is to be

retained.

***Proposed Rule***

If an unusual circumstance occurs which in the opinion of the Judge disadvantages the dog, the Judge may allow the dog to be rerun if the run was clear up to that point.

If all timing devices fail, the handler may be given the option of a re run or at the judge’s discretion the handler may be offered the SCT at the completion of an otherwise clear run, where in the opinion of the judge, the dog has completed the course within the SCT.

~~The re-run totally supersedes the original run and no aspect of the original run is to be~~

~~retained.~~ If the judge allows a re run no penalties will be applied up to the point of the cause of the re run, except for disqualification for fouling, reprimands, and unsafe performance. The handler is required to perform the course in a safe and consistent manner (guide for this is the original run) and must complete all obstacles. The re run will occur as soon as practicable.

***Rationale***

This amendment clearly defines the protocol for both judge and handler if a re run was offered. It also prevents the handler from going flat out around the course until the point where the re run reason occurred, thus preventing an unrealistic course time.

**8.3. OBSTACLE NOT IN PLACE**

***Current Rule***

Should part of an obstacle not be in place before a dog negotiates the obstacle, provided the dog properly negotiates that part of the obstacle which remains, no penalty will be imposed and a rerun will not be ordered. Exception to the rule is the seesaw that has not returned to its correct position, the dog may run past this obstacle without penalty. Handlers are not to try to right the seesaw for the dog to attempt.

***Proposed Rule***

Should part of an obstacle not be in place before a dog negotiates the obstacle, provided the dog properly negotiates that part of the obstacle which remains, no penalty will be imposed and a rerun will not be ordered. Exception to the rule is the seesaw that has not returned to its correct position, the dog may run past this obstacle without penalty. Handlers are not to try to right the seesaw for the dog to attempt. Any obstacle that is on the ground in the path of the dog that is considered ‘unsafe’ the judges or handler will direct the dog around the obstacle.

***Rationale***

This is a safety issue and leads to confusion for both judge and handler. The preference is for the judge to make the determination; however, the handler can make the call as necessary.

**9.3. A TUNNEL UNDER THE SCRAMBLE OR DOG WALK**

***Current rule***

A Tunnel under the Scramble or Dog Walk must not be used in the Novice Class.

***Proposed Rule***

~~A Tunnel under the Scramble or Dog Walk must not be used in the Novice Class.~~

***Rationale***

In the wrong place. Now find in section 10 under the heading ‘NOVICE AGILITY CLASS’.

**9.4. BACK SIDE HURDLES**

***Current Rule***

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.

***Proposed Rule***

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.~~ Back side hurdles are NOT permitted in the Novice class.

***Rationale***

For the long-term welfare of the dog the use of the back side hurdles is very problematic and unnecessary for novice dogs.

**9.12. TIED SCORE**

***Current Rule***

In the event of a Tied Score, (identical course faults and course times) the result shall be decided by a run-off.

***Proposed Rule***

In the event of a Tied Score, (identical course faults and course times) the result shall be up to the competitors involved and if no decision can be reached then the result will be decided by a run-off.

***Rationale***

Very often the handler(s) are quite agreeable to deciding the tied score. If they are able to reach an amicable decision it will save the time necessary to arrange a run-off.

**9.16. DISQUALIFICATION**

***Current Rule***

A dog will be disqualified if:

* 1. It accumulates three refusals.
  2. It does not re-attempt a missed or refused obstacle.
  3. It takes the wrong course.
  4. It repeats any gap either missed or completed in the Weaving Poles.
  5. It fouls while under the control of the judge. This includes all bodily excretions excluding saliva.
  6. In the Judge's opinion, the dog is out of control.
  7. The Handler physically contacts the dog in a manner that assists it.
  8. The Handler touches the equipment to assist the dog or deliberately alters the position of any equipment in the ring without the judge's consent.
  9. Any Handler carries food or wears or carries aids (balls, bumbags, toys, dummies etc.) into the Ring.
  10. Any Handler ducks under or jumps over any obstacle, or steps (or goes) through the weavers whilst negotiating the course.
  11. After the Judge has indicated that the Handler may start and the Handler has crossed the Starting Line, the Handler returns across the Starting Line. Handlers may not cross the start line plane if the dog runs past the start line unless a refusal has occurred.
  12. It performs an obstacle in any manner in which the judge feels the dog has clearly endangered itself, the handler, or anyone else.
  13. the handler fails to obey a judge’s order.
  14. the handler physically assists the dog over the line at the start.
  15. The handler steps on or over the distance handling line in the open class during the challenge.
  16. The handler in the opinion of the judge unduly delays starting the course or exiting the ring once finished.

In the event that a dog is disqualified under items a, b, c, d, k, o the handler and dog will be permitted to complete the course.

***Proposed Rule***

A dog will be disqualified if:

a. It accumulates three refusals.

b. It does not re-attempt a missed or refused obstacle.

c. It takes the wrong course.

d. It repeats any gap either missed or completed in the Weaving Poles.

e. It fouls while under the control of the judge. This includes all bodily excretions excluding saliva.

f. In the Judge's opinion, the dog is out of control.

g. The Handler physically contacts the dog in a manner that assists it.

h. The Handler touches the equipment to assist the dog or deliberately alters the position of any equipment in the ring without the judge's consent.

i. Any Handler carries food or wears or carries aids (balls, bumbags, toys, dummies etc.) into the Ring.

j. Any Handler ducks under or jumps over any obstacle, or steps (or goes) through the weavers whilst negotiating the course.

k. After the Judge has indicated that the Handler may start and the Handler has crossed the Starting Line, the Handler returns across the Starting Line. Handlers may not cross the start line plane if the dog runs past the start line unless a refusal has occurred.

l. It performs an obstacle in any manner in which the judge feels the dog has clearly endangered itself, the handler, or anyone else.

m. the handler fails to obey a judge’s order.

n. the handler physically assists the dog over the line at the start.

o. The handler steps on or over the distance handling line in the open class during the challenge.

p. The handler in the opinion of the judge unduly delays starting the course or exiting the ring once finished.

In the event that a dog is disqualified under items a, b, c, d, g, k, o the handler and dog will be permitted to complete the course.

***Rationale***

The handler is sometimes not aware that they have physically contacted the dog in a manner that assist it. For example, judges have seen dogs collide with their handlers and it just happens to assist their entry to the weavers or stop them negotiating the correct obstacle. The handler and dog team should be able to continue the course and the judge can brief them at the end. Otherwise it can result in the judge yelling to the handler to leave the ring.

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

***Current Rule***

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

***Proposed Rule***

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. No tunnel/s are to be placed under contact equipment i.e. Scramble and/or Dog Walk. No Back Side Hurdles are allowed.

MANDATORY

Dog Walk

Hurdle/s

Scramble

Flexible Tunnel/s

Weaving Poles – 12

TWO (2) OUT OF THREE (3) OF THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT MUST BE USED

Hoop/s

Spread Hurdle/s

Broad Jump/s

***Rationale***

To design a safe and flowing course judges need to ensure a straight approach to the extension obstacles and also need to allow enough distance following the obstacle for the dog to turn when necessary to negotiate the next obstacle. This limits course design and means the extension obstacles nearly always are at the beginning and the end of a course. It is particularly significant in agility where straight approaches need to be ensured to the contacts as well.

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

***Current Rule***

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

***Proposed Rule***

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

TWO (2) OUT OF THREE (3) OF THE FOLLOWING EQUIPMENT MUST BE USED

Hoop/s

Spread Hurdle/s

Broad Jump/s

***Rationale***

To design a safe and flowing course judges need to ensure a straight approach to the extension obstacles and also need to allow enough distance following the obstacle for the dog to turn when necessary to negotiate the next obstacle. This limits course design and means the extension obstacles nearly always are at the beginning and the end of a course. It is particularly significant in agility where straight approaches need to be ensured to the contacts as well.

**GAMES DEFINITIONS**

***Current***

No refusals or any interpretation of refusals are to be used in games.

Starting an obstacle:

A dog starts an obstacle only when it places a paw on a ramp, any part of the dog’s body crosses the jump line between the uprights, jumps over or runs under or through a hurdle, or any part of the dog enters a tunnel or any part of the weave poles.

Faulting an obstacle:

A dog cannot be faulted until it ‘starts’ the obstacle – see ‘starting an obstacle’.

A fault will occur if an error is made whilst performing an obstacle after it has been started.

Example:

* 1. A dog that enters the weave poles at any point other than between the 1st and

2nd pole and is not scored for that attempt.

* 1. If a dog places a paw on the dog walk, the retracts the paw or dismounts before

making contact with the down colour has faulted the obstacle and not scored for that attempt.

Refer to individual games rules for information regarding additional attempts.

***Proposed***

No refusals or any interpretation of refusals are to be used in games however

Starting an obstacle:

A dog starts an obstacle only when it places a paw on a ramp, any part of the dog’s body crosses the jump line between the uprights, jumps over or runs under or through a hurdle, or any part of the dog enters a tunnel or any part of the weave poles.

Faulting an obstacle:

A dog cannot be faulted until it ‘starts’ the obstacle – see ‘starting an obstacle’.

A fault will occur if an error is made whilst performing an obstacle after it has been started.

Example:

* 1. A dog that enters the weave poles at any point other than between the 1st and

2nd pole and is not scored for that attempt.

* 1. If a dog places a paw on the dog walk, the retracts the paw or dismounts before

making contact with the down colour has faulted the obstacle and not scored for that attempt.

Refer to individual games rules for information regarding additional attempts.

***Rationale***

There is still quite varied interpretation of the Games Rules and it is believed by adding ‘however’ will indicate to the judges that all of the definitions apply. E.g. incorrect judging of the Weave Poles in Snooker. Once the Weaves have been entered a handler cannot direct the dog to start them again as this is colour to colour and such the handler will be directed to the Closing Sequence.

**SNOOKER**

**9. EQUIPMENT**

***Current Rule***

Equipment for the event will be selected from the following equipment;

Hurdles Scramble

Dog walk Seesaw (Not to be used in novice)

Spread hurdle Broad Jump

Flexible tunnel Weave poles

Hoop

The hurdles used as red jumps are to be clearly identified.

***Proposed Rule***

Equipment for the event will be selected from the following equipment;

Hurdles Scramble

Dog walk Seesaw (Not to be used in novice)

Spread hurdle Broad Jump

Flexible tunnel Weave poles (Not to be used in novice)

Hoop

The hurdles used as red jumps are to be clearly identified.

***Rationale***

If weave poles are not in Novice it may encourage more handlers to enter games if their dogs can’t weave yet.

DOCUMENT: Agility Trials Guidelines for Judges

(Submission submitted by ANKC Judge Rose Ince)

“For discussion, the ANKC Policy regarding the Judges Guidelines not being published. They are for the judges’ eyes only. The problem with this secrecy is that the Judges Guidelines, though terribly out of date, contain crucial information for handlers and instructors on matters such as – types of challenges, angles of approach and rates of travel.

The secrecy also means that simple errors by judges are not corrected – because no one knows that an error has been made. During my trialling career, I have on numerous occasions spoken (quietly) to a judge and ask them to recalculate their course time based on their stated course length and rate of travel so they can fix an arithmetical error.”

As per document of judge’s rationale for rejection/refusal, the judges agreed that the document should be accessible to all involved in Agility.