### 3.1.1. Not for Competition

Not for Competition (NFC) runs are permitted during a trial  
  
**(Vic) Propose Changes 3.1.1**

**3.1.1. Not for Competition**

~~Not for Competition (NFC) runs are permitted during a trial~~

A competitor may choose to run NFC in any class which they have entered at an Australian ANKC Agility Trial (excluding Snooker, Gamblers, Strategic Pairs and major competitions such as State Trials, National Trials and Royal Shows).   
  
A competitor may only enter a dog in a class and at the jump height they are eligible to compete in.

The handler must inform the Judge, after entering the ring but before the run starts, that they are running NFC. This can be done in accordance with the Judge’s instructions or, if no instructions are given, by indicating to the Judge the run is NFC by the handler crossing their arms at the wrist in front of their face (making an X) or by showing a toy.

The Judge and ring stewards shall perform their normal duties; however, no scoring shall be recorded for an NFC entry.

The Judge shall ensure that the conduct of the handler and dog is appropriate and safe. At the Judge’s discretion, a dog not under control or obviously not capable of executing any obstacle may be asked to leave the ring.

During NFC runs handlers may use non‐audible toys in the ring. The toy must not be thrown in any way that causes it to leave the handler’s person. Release of the toy to the dog’s mouth is acceptable. A handler who is running NFC may not use the toy/training aid within 5‐ metre of the ring (note, this does not include tugging on a lead which is permitted under the Agility Rules).

A handler running NFC will be given time in the ring up to the Standard Course Time (SCT). Timing for NFC will start when the dog is on the ground with the lead removed and the Judge either commences timing on their own timing device or indicates to the scribe to start timing. Competitors will be instructed, at the Judge’s briefing, of the method used to indicate when SCT has been reached (e.g., whistle, buzzer etc.). At the end of the SCT, the handler shall promptly remove their dog from the ring. Not leaving the ring immediately when directed may result in the handler being disqualified for the remainder of the trial.

Handlers running NFC are not required to complete the whole course and are not required to start the course at the first obstacle or end the course at the last obstacle. If a handler running NFC is attempting a sequence of obstacles, the obstacles must be taken in the numerical order as set by the Judge. If a handler running NFC wishes to repeat an obstacle, or sequence of obstacles, they may do so provided they make a safe approach to the obstacle or the first obstacle in that sequence.  
  
(Vic) Rationale 3.1.1

There has been too much controversy around NFC runs in the past. Including a more detailed rule in the ANKC rules will make the procedure uniform for every State.

### 3.2. Titles

3.2.1. All dogs eligible to be entered in Agility Trials in accordance with these rules shall be

eligible to receive Title Certificates upon qualification and subsequent application.

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 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Number of Certificates | 5 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 6 |
| Number of Judges | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

**(Vic) Propose Changes 3.2**

**3.2. Titles**

3.2.1. All dogs eligible to be entered in Agility Trials in accordance with these rules shall be

eligible to receive Title Certificates upon qualification and subsequent application.

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 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Number of Certificates | 5 | 6 | 7 | **~~7~~  5** | 6 |
| Number of Judges | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

**(Vic) Rationale 3.2**

Rationale: I believe that currently there is a vast difference between Masters Jumping courses being set – this means that a JDM title can be obtained with very different experiences. There needs to be more variety for a dog to be able to obtain the Masters Title.  
In regards to Elite however, this class is not offered on a regular basis – so it is unfair for dogs to have to wait years to collect enough cards if the class is only offered once or twice per year within their region.

### 

### 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 |

Where classes are not scheduled in separate height categories points will be awarded as if they were.

**(Vic) Propose Changes 3.2.3**

**3.2.3.Championship Titles**

**3.2.3.1. Agility Champion (commencing 1st Jan 2026)**

A dog will be eligible for the title of Agility 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 either the Master or Elite in each category of which 10 points from Agility and 10 points from Jumping must be after 1st January 2026. To achieve the title, at least 500 points must be earned from qualifying runs only in Agility, 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.

Suggested title ACH500 (A) or ACH500

**3.2.3.2. Proposal of new Title - Jumping Champion**

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 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 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.

Suggested ACH500(J) or JCH500

**(VIC) Rationale 3.2.3.1 & 3.2.3.2**

Rationale: Agility and Jumping are separate classes and titles within Dogs Australia and a require a totally different skillset and far greater amount of equipment to have access to in order to train a dog to Masters and beyond level. (For example, this would be comparable to only being able to obtain an Obedience Champion title if the dog achieved a certain level and Qualifying scores in Obedience AND Rally – which are two separate ANKC sports that require different skillsets). Separating the Agility and Jumping Championship titles also allows dogs who may not be able to physically compete in Agility an opportunity to achieve a Championship title in solely jumping. The same goes for competitors who may live regionally or not have regular access to agility contact equipment at local clubs to still be able to attain a Jumping Champion title.

**3.2.3.3. Proposal of new Title – Agility Grand Champion**

A dog will be eligible for the title of Agility Grand Champion 200, 300, 400, 500, 600 when they have attained Agility Champion, Jumping Champion, Open Jumping and Open Agility titles. This title will supersede the Agility Champion and Jumping Champion on the dog’s Dogs Australia Certified Pedigree once applied for.

Suggested title AGrCH

**(VIC) Rationale 3.2.3.3**

Rationale: There is currently no Grand Champion title for Agility and the current arrangement for ‘Agility Champion’ does not require competitive teams to enter Open classes. Having the Grand Champion title will provide a higher-level title to work toward attaining and showcase the versatility in a dog to achieve greater distance handling skills whilst in turn, also encouraging more competitors to enter the Open classes.

### 5.3 Suitability of Obstacles

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.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 5.3**

**5.3 Suitability of Obstacles**

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~~ a colour suitable for the obstacle and the dog’s vision 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.

**(VIC) Rationale 5.3**

There is now information available that indicates that obstacles being of ‘light’ colour not be advantageous to the dog being able to see it better. Colours such as black and blue are highly visible to the dog and in some circumstances may be easier for the dog to see depending on the grounds, lighting conditions etc.

### 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.

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. 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 2016.

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 and150mm | 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 |

**(VIC) Proposed Change 6.2**

**6.2 Broad Jump**

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

Each section 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) sections 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 and150mm | 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 |

**(VIC) Rationale 6.2**

It may be easier for the dog (particularly smaller dogs) to see this obstacle as separate pieces (rather than one flat board) if the boards could be painted different colours. OR if sections of the broad could contain different colours which could assist the dog seeing the direction the obstacle should be negotiated. Ie painted with a V or vertical strips.

### **6.4. Hoop**

The Hoop shall have an inside diameter of 600 mm and a minimum fascia depth of 75 mm and thickness of 75 mm, the base of which must be secured to the ground. All hoops must be of a breakaway design which does not impede the dog’s progress when broken away. Any base supports used on the side must be a maximum of 300mm and no higher than 30mm.

The height of the Hoop from the inside rim to the ground is to be adjustable for each height category. The inside of the Hoop must be closed as a safety measure and padded if it is of a solid material

**(Vic) Proposed Change 6.4**

**6.4. Hoop**

The Hoop shall have an inside diameter of 600 mm and a minimum fascia depth of 75 mm and thickness of 75 mm, the base of which must be secured to the ground. All hoops must be of a breakaway barn door design which does not impede the dog’s progress when broken away. Any base supports used on the side must be a maximum of 300mm and no higher than 30mm.

The height of the Hoop from the inside rim to the ground is to be adjustable for each height category. The inside of the Hoop must be closed as a safety measure and padded if it is of a solid material.

As of the 1st January 2026, all hoops must comply with this rule.

**(Vic) Rationale 6.4**

There are still many clubs who are not complying with the above rule and do not have breakaway or padded hoops.

### 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 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.

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 6.9.**

**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 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.~~ with at least 1 set of tunnel bags per 1m of tunnel length to minimize movement whilst in use,

Definition: 1 set of tunnel bags is; 1 bag per side of the tunnel that connects together over the top of the tunnel

Refer to below table for minimum individual tunnel length requirements

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Tunnel Length (metres) | Number of tunnel bag sets |
| 3 metre tunnel | 4x sets of tunnel bags |
| 4 metre tunnel | 5x sets of tunnel bags |
| 5 metre tunnel | 6x sets of tunnel bags |
| 6 metre tunnel | 7x sets of tunnel bags |
| 7 metre tunnel | 8x sets of tunnel bags |
| 8 metre tunnel | 9x sets of tunnel bags |

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

Tunnels must be stretched as best possible to ensure minimal bunching

**(Vic) Rationale 6.9.**

Tunnels should be secured so the tunnel has minimal movement whilst the dog is inside to prevent injuring the dog.

Tunnels should not be used bunched up to make them shorter, this creates a trip hazard inside the tunnel for the dog.

### **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.

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:
   1. 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
   2. Ribbons or bands to keep the hair away from the face.
3. A dog shall not be physically touched after the Judge has indicated that they may go.
4. 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.
5. 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.

**(Vic) Proposed Change 7.2**

**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

* placed in the competitors pocket
* or securely tied around the competitors body.
* Or handed to a Steward, - provided by either the club or competitor
* 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:
   1. 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
   2. Ribbons or bands to keep the hair away from the face.
3. A dog shall not be physically touched after the Judge has indicated that they may go.
4. 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.
5. 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.
6. The club must advise in the catalogue whether lead stewards will be provided.

**(Vic) Rationale 7.2**

Lead runners/stewards are not required, we have successfully run trials without them for several years now, this change gives Clubs the option to use lead runners or not if they prefer.

### **7.7. Rewards**

Rewards for a dog (such as food or toys) must not be left within 5 metres of the ring, whether on the ground or on an item.

**(VIC) Proposed Change 7.7**

**7.7. Rewards**

Rewards for a dog (such as food or toys) must not be left within 5 metres of the ring, whether on the ground or on an item.

The handler is permitted to carry on their person a small noiseless toy or a small sealed food container which are to remain completely concealed whilst in the ring.

**(VIC) Rationale 7.7**

Allowing handlers to carry a small toy and/or food allows the competitor to reward their dog as soon as they get outside the ring. Dogs can currently be rewarded with their lead (as this is not seen as being a toy), however non-tug dogs do not currently have the same option.

Adding this rule may result in competitors being less inclined to leave rewards outside the ring, which can cause issues.

The carrying of food in a sealed container is allowed in other disciplines and is not seen to be an issue.

Note: If rule is accepted then rule 9.16i will need to be updated.

### 

### **7.7. Rewards**

Rewards for a dog (such as food or toys) must not be left within 5 metres of the ring, whether on the ground or on an item.  
  
**(Vic) Proposed Changes 7.7**

**7.7. Rewards**

Rewards for a dog (such as food or toys) must not be left within 5 metres of the ring, whether on the ground or on an item.

Once a competitor is asked to move to the designated line up area, they are permitted to keep their dog engaged with quiet games using a leash and/or food treats provided it is not disruptive to other dogs.  
  
**(Vic) Rationale 7.7**   
The addition of this wording makes it very clear that competitors are permitted to keep their dog engaged while making their way to the entry point even if they are in a designated line up area.

### 8.6 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 / Rate Example: if CL = 120m, Rate = 2.0m/s

Then SCT = 120/ 2 = 60 seconds

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 8.6**

**8.6 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 / Rate Example: if CL = 120m, Rate = 2.0m/s

Then SCT = 120/ 2 = 60 seconds

The Standard Course Time will apply to the 500 mm Height Category. The remaining Height Categories’ course times will be calculated as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Height Category | 600 | 400 | 300 | 200 |
| Course Time | SCT + 5% or greater | SCT + 5% or greater | SCT + 15% or greater | SCT + 20%  or greater |

**(Vic) Rationale 8.6**

The purpose of this rule change proposal is to provide reasonable equity between height categories. Extensive, documented analysis by experienced Agility organisations, both in Australia and overseas, suggests our competition would be fairer and more consistent for all dogs with an addition to Rule 8.6, that defines the % extra times that 200, 300, 400, and 600 height categories are to be given over the SCT, which will continue to apply to the 500 height category. These changes do not impact 500 dogs. The proposed % extra times for each height category are based on research, summarised below, which shows:

(i) that dogs in each of the 200, 300, 400 and 600 height categories are significantly slower than those in the 500 height category, and the average percentage by which dogs in each height category are slower than those in the 500 height category;

(ii) the conditions that have applied since the 2018 rule change, with emphasis on the 2023 season, and

(iii) the percentage extra time that international organisations give to height categories other than the 500 category, to allow for these differences and enable efficient, well-paced dogs of all heights to be able to achieve a qualifying score;

**Research Summary**

**(i) Comparison of Average Speed by Height (Ref. 1)**

**Australian Results:** Deborah Apthorp in her ANOVA statistical analysis of 17902 no course faults runs recorded on the K9Entries website, calculated the average speed (ROT) by height and class of those runs. Combining all class averages at each height gives the following:

**Average % Slower then 500 Height Category Dogs**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **200 mm** | **300 mm** | **400 mm** | **600 mm** |
| **Average**  **Difference** | **27% slower** | **20% slower** | **9% slower** | **9% slower** |

\*See Appendix 1 & 2 for graphs of speed by height and averages all classes by height

**(ii)** **Current Situation for 200 and 300 dogs**: Pre the last rule change 200 and 300 dogs in Victoria were routinely given 10% extra time, though 200 dogs are on average **9%** slower than 300 dogs and **27%** slower than 500 dogs (Appendix 3). Even with the 10% allowance it was a struggle for most 200 and some 300 dogs to meet the adjusted SCT’s.

In the 25 2023 trials whose results I have analysed, 49% of 287 events gave 200 dogs less than 10% extra time. Only 2% of events had the adjusted SCT’s of at least 20% that more fairly reflect the real differences between 200 and 500 dogs. Allowances ranged from 0% to 32%. Conversations with fellow 200 and 300 height competitors have revealed both a lot of unhappiness with this situation and with the discrepancy between the expectations of the 500 class and those placed on the 200 and 300 classes.

The larger course lengths and distances between obstacles introduced in the last rule change have added to this struggle. 200 dogs (and all dogs) can be expected to sprint up to 220m at Masters level (there have been instances of course distances of more than 220 m being set at this level). Competitors have had to reduce the number of runs entered per trial to allow for this, further limiting their chances for success, and reducing trial income for clubs.

**(iii) Bad Dog Agility** (Reference 2) analysed the average speed by height of all Masters’ runs (9360 runs) in AKC trials in 2013-2014. The 500 (20”) height category dogs were the fastest with the % differences for other heights being:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **200 mm (8”)** | **300 mm (12”)** | **400 mm (16”)** | **600 mm (24”)** |
| **JWW\*s** | 20% slower | 14% slower | 8% slower | 6% slower |
| **Agility** | 23% slower | 15% slower | 8% slower | 7% slower |

\*JWW is Jumpers with weaves

(**iv) International Allowances: AKC** (Reference 3) specifies the run rate for each height and each level. Calculation of the % extra time each height category gets over the 500 dogs’ rate gives the following:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| ***% EXTRA TIME PER HEIGHT*** | | | | |
| ***Class*** | ***200 mm (8”)*** | ***300 mm (12”)*** | ***400 mm (16”)*** | ***600 mm (24”)*** |
| **Masters JWW\*** | 19% | 13% | 7% | 5% |
| **Masters Agility** | 19% | 15% | 8% | 6% |
| **Excellent JWW\*** | 19% | 13% | 7% | 5% |
| **Excellent Agility** | 19% | 15% | 8% | 6% |
| **Open JWW\*** | 20% | 14% | 7% | 6% |
| **Open Agility** | 15% | 11% | 6% | 4% |
| **Novice JWW\*** | 23% | 17% | 8% | 7% |
| **Novice Agility** | 18% | 11% | 4% | 2% |
| **Average** | **19%** | **14%** | **7%** | **5%** |

\*JWW is Jumpers with weaves

**CKC** allowances are similar to AKC

**UKA** and **UKI** are not directly comparable as their height categories are different from ours. However, small dogs (16”, 12”, 8”) get up to 20% extra time depending on the class. Furthermore, the set ranges of rates of travel are generally lower than those set down in our Judges’ Guidelines, with Masters Jumping rates being 22% and 29% lower, respectively.

**NADAC** (Reference 4) also specifies the run rate for each height. Calculation of the % extra time each height category gets over the 500 (20”) dogs’ rate gives, at all levels:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **100 mm (4”)** | **200 mm (8”)** | **300 mm (12”)** | **400 mm (16”)** |
| **Jumpers** | 36% extra | 35% extra | 14% extra | 7% extra |
| **Regular Agility** | 41% extra | 29% extra | 15% extra | 8% extra |

\*NADAC has no 600 Height Category, 20” (500mm) being the highest jump height. Most dogs jump one or more heights below their measured height category.

NADAC regularly assesses the validity of these allowances.

(v) In addition, the low number of 200 Height Category dogs competing in ANKC competitions is a concern. The main reason handlers of the 20 to 30 dogs, measured as being in the 8” (200) height category and jumping 4” (100 mm) or 8” (200 mm) at NADAC trials in Victoria, give for not competing at ANKC trials is that the run rates expected of these dogs are too fast and only the fastest poodles, papillons and shelties can achieve them.

At present we have a competition where multiple dogs in one height can complete a course in less than the SCT, meaning slower dogs in that height comfortably complete the course successfully, while in other heights only the fastest dogs with near perfect runs can succeed. Accurate slower dogs cannot and the tiniest dogs running flat out struggle. Surely all heights deserve the same chance of success.

In other words, an efficient, reasonably paced 500 dog under the current guidelines can make time whereas the dogs in other height categories have to run at near maximum pace to do so. Given that Agility Rule 1.2 d. states that the overall objective of Agility Trials is to encourage safe and pleasant competition for all, the proposed change to rule 8.6 should allow this objective to be met at all trials under all judges and remove bias against 200 and 300 dogs.

Rule 1.1 also states that Agility is a dog competition open to all dogs. The principle that dogs of all physical attributes should be welcome in our sport is already accepted by having different jump heights. No one expects a 200 dog to be physically able to jump the same height as a 500 dog. Neither should we expect them to run at approximately the same speed. Recognising that all fit, well-trained dogs of different heights are not physically able to run at the same rate is the reason for the proposed change to Rule 8.6

**Summary**

The research shows on average that the 500 dogs are fastest with the 600 and 400 dogs being approximately ~10% slower, 300 dogs ~20% slower and 200 dogs ~30% slower. International organisations recognise this and allow extra time commensurate with these differences. This proposal endeavours to give all dogs a fairer go by specifying in the rules the % extra times to be given to each height category as tabled below:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Height Category | 600 | 400 | 300 | 200 |
| Course Time | SCT + 5% or greater | SCT + 5% or greater | SCT + 15% or greater | SCT + 20% or greater |

References

1. Apthorp, Deborah Agility course Times: A statistical comparison of heights and their speeds
2. <https://baddogagility.com/a-look-at-speed-by-height/>
3. <http://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/REAGIL.pdf> , pages 51-53, 55, 56
4. [NADAC-Exhibitor\_MasterFile-Rev-12.24.22.pdf](https://www.nadac.com/WPsite/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/NADAC-Exhibitor_MasterFile-Rev-12.24.22.pdf), page 30-31

**Appendix 2: Comparison of Average Speed by Height (ANKC)**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Comparison of Average Speed by Height ANKC Results** | | | | |
|  | **Class** | **% Slower** | **% Slower** | **% Slower** | **% Slower** |
|  |  | **200vs 500** | **300vs 500** | **400 vs 500** | **600 vs 500** |
| **Jumping** | **Novice** | 35% | 26% | 13% | 12% |
|  | **Excellent** | 32% | 20% | 11% | 12% |
|  | **Masters** | 23% | 19% | 10% | 9% |
|  | **Open** | 23% | 20% | 3% | 9% |
| **Av Slower Jumping** | | **28%** | **21%** | **9%** | **10%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Agility** | **Novice** | 28% | 20% | 11% | 12% |
|  | **Excellent** | 31% | 16% | 5% | 7% |
|  | **Masters** | 21% | 17% | 10% | 10% |
|  | **Open** | 22% | 18% | 6% | 4% |
| **Av Slower Agility** |  | **25%** | **18%** | **8%** | **8%** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Average Slower all classes** | | **27%** | **20%** | **9%** | **9%** |
| Ref: Deborah Apthorp: ANOVA Study | | | |  |  |
|  | |  |  |  |  |

**Appendix 3: Comparison of Average ROT: 200 – 300 height categories, ANKC Results**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  | | **Comparison of Av ROT 200 vs 300 ANKC Results** | | | |
|  | |  | | **Av ROT 200** | **Av ROT 300** | **% DifferenceROT** | |
|  | |  | |  |  | **between 200 and 300** | |
| **Jumping** | | **Novice** | | 3.20 | 3.63 | 12% | |
|  | | **Excellent** | | 3.12 | 3.71 | 16% | |
|  | | **Masters** | | 3.65 | 3.82 | 4% | |
|  | | **Open** | | 3.63 | 3.76 | 3% | |
| **Average Slower** | | | |  |  | **9%** | |
| **Av Jumping ROT** | | | | **3.40** | **3.73** |  | |
|  | | | |  |  |  | |
| **Agility** | | **Novice** | | 2.60 | 2.86 | 9% | |
|  | | **Excellent** | | 2.58 | 3.14 | 18% | |
|  | | **Masters** | | 3.18 | 3.33 | 5% | |
|  | | **Open** | | 3.07 | 3.21 | 4% | |
| **Av Slower Agility** | | | |  |  | **9%** | |
| **Av Agility ROT** | | | | **2.86** | **3.14** |  | |

Ref: Deborah Apthorp: ANOVA Study

### **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.

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 8.9**

**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.

The handler may set up their dog past the plane of the first obstacle.

**(Vic) Rationale 8.9**

Allow Handler the flexibility on where they position themselves and their dog at the startline by removing the interpretation by some Judges of current rule of not allowing Handler to set themselves or their dog up on opposite side of first obstacle, ie. Slingshot start.

### 

### **8.13 Judge** The Judge must be appropriately licensed to judge the Even and Class scheduled. All final decisions shall be the Judge’s responsibility.

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 8.13**

**8.13 Judge**The Judge must be appropriately licensed to judge the Events and Class scheduled. All final decisions shall be the Judge’s responsibility.  
  
A judge may judge any dog regardless of ownership, part ownership, lease, or where the dog resides.

A judge may judge any handler of a dog (other than themselves) including owners or handlers that are immediate family. Immediate family means a spouse, partner, parent, parents-in-laws, sibling or child and includes all persons who reside at the same address.  
  
**(Vic) Rationale 8.13**  
There is a belief that judges can’t judge family members, yet there is no rule that states this in the current ANKC rules for Agility Trials and Agility Games.  
  
Adding this wording to the rules will make it clear that we trust the integrity of our judges and encourage more people to become judges once they know it will not adversely affect their family members.

### 

### **9.5. Obstacles are to be numbered in sequential order.**

Number markers to be marked as minimum 50 mm high lettering on one side only, and oriented in the pre-determined direction so the number can clearly be seen by the

Handler while negotiating the course. Numbers markers to be placed to clearly indicate the direction that obstacle is to be taken. They must be manufactured so as not to cause injury if contacted by the Handler or dog.

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 9.1**

9.5. Obstacles are to be numbered in sequential order.

Number markers to be marked as minimum 50 mm high lettering on one side only, and oriented in the pre-determined direction so the number can clearly be seen by the Handler while negotiating the course. Numbers markers to be placed to clearly indicate the direction that obstacle is to be taken. They must be manufactured so as not to cause injury if contacted by the Handler or dog. No option of direction is permissible, the entry / approach MUST be designated by the judge.

**(Vic) Rationale 9.1**

Some judges have placed a number in the centre of a tunnel and stated that the dog can enter either end. This not only does not pre-determine the direction, but also contradicts rule 9.6 (Attempt in the correct order), ‘Every obstacle must be attempted in the correct order and direction as designated by the Judge.’

### **9.5. Obstacles are to be numbered in sequential order.**

Number markers to be marked as minimum 50 mm high lettering on one side only, and oriented in the pre-determined direction so the number can clearly be seen by the Handler while negotiating the course. Numbers markers to be placed to clearly indicate the direction that obstacle is to be taken. They must be manufactured so as not to cause injury if contacted by the Handler or dog.

**(Vic) Proposed Change 9.5**

**9.5. Obstacles are to be numbered in sequential order.**

Number markers to be marked as minimum ~~50 mm~~ 80mm high lettering on the approach side ~~on one side only~~, and oriented in the pre-determined direction so the number can clearly be seen by the Handler while negotiating the course. Small lettering is permitted on the reverse side, no greater than 40mm in height. Numbers markers to be placed to clearly indicate the direction that obstacle is to be taken.

They must be manufactured so as not to cause injury if contacted by the Handler or dog. No sharp edges of any material used.

**(Vic) Rationale 9.5**

50mm can be too hard to see in grass so 100mm allows bigger numbers to be seen easier by all.

There is no reason why lettering needs to be on only 1 side. The number is to be placed clearly indicating the direction the obstacle is taken therefore what is written on the back doesn’t change anything.

### 

### **9.7. Distance between obstacles**

The straight line distance between the end of one obstacle to the start of the next obstacle measured from the centre of the exiting face to the centre of leading face of the next obstacle is to be a minimum of five (5) metres to a maximum of ten (10) metres.

Except that subject to rule 9.3 the distance between the end of a contact obstacle and the entry to a flexible tunnel under that contact may be less than 4 (four) metres when the direction of the course is from the contact to the tunnel.

Where individual height categories are scheduled then the minimum and maximum distance between obstacles are as follows;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HEIGHT** | **MINIMUM** | **MAXIMUM** |
| 200mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |
| 300mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |
| 400mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |
| 500mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |
| 600mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 9.7**

**9.7. Distance between obstacles**

The straight line distance between the end of one obstacle to the start of the next obstacle measured from the centre of the exiting face to the centre of leading face of the next obstacle is to be a minimum of five (5) metres to a maximum of ten (10) metres.

Except that subject to rule 9.3 the distance between the end of a contact obstacle and the entry to a flexible tunnel under that contact may be less than ~~4 (four)~~ 5 (five) metres when the direction of the course is from the contact to the tunnel.

Where individual height categories are scheduled then the minimum and maximum distance between obstacles are as follows;

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **HEIGHT** | **MINIMUM** | **MAXIMUM** |
| 200mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |
| 300mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |
| 400mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |
| 500mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |
| 600mm | 5 Metres | 10 Metres |

**(VIC) Rationale 9.7**

Correction to meterage which used to be 4m and is now 5m

### **9.7 Distance between obstacles**

The straight line distance between the end of one obstacle to the start of the next obstacle measured from the centre of the exiting face to the centre of the leading face of the next obstacle is to be a minimum of five (5) metres to a maximum of ten (10) metres.

Except subject to rule 9.3 the distance between the end of a contact obstacle and the entry to the flexible tunnel under the contact may be less than four (4) metres when the direction of the course is from the contact to the tunnel.

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 9.7**

~~Except subject to rule 9.3 the distance between the end of a contact obstacle and the entry to the flexible tunnel under the contact may be less than four (4) metres when the direction of the course is from the contact to the tunnel.~~

Entry from contact into tunnel under contact is no longer allowed.

**(Vic) Rationale 9.7**

The challenge of turning a dog from the end of a contact to an adjacent tunnel was initially designed for dogs with stopped contacts. Now that more and more dogs have running contacts, this challenge is no longer safe and even for a dog with a stopped contact this abrupt turn into a tunnel entry can place a great degree of strain on the body which may contribute to potential injury.

Sharp angled entries into tunnels are to be avoided

### **9.7.1. Maximum course length for Agility and Jumping**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Maximum Course Length** |
| Novice | 180 Metres |
| Excellent | 200 Metres |
| Masters | 220 Metres |
| Elite | 240 Metres |

**(VIC) Remove Rule 9.7.1**

**~~9.7.1. Maximum course length for Agility and Jumping~~**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **~~Class~~** | **~~Maximum Course Length~~** |
| ~~Novice~~ | ~~180 Metres~~ |
| ~~Excellent~~ | ~~200 Metres~~ |
| ~~Masters~~ | ~~220 Metres~~ |
| ~~Elite~~ | ~~240 Metres~~ |

**(VIC) Rationale 9.7.1**

The course length is not measured from middle point of obstacle to middle point of obstacle, but rather the dogs likely path. Therefore a maximum course length is unrealistic given each course design is very different and therefore dogs likely paths are going to be very different lengths regardless of the middle to middle point of obstacle.

This in turn has an impact on the course time a judge can allocate to a course.

### 

### **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:

1. The dog is on the take-off side of the obstacle
2. The dog is on the approach side of the obstacle
3. The refusal line does NOT become active until the dog has started the approach to the obstacle.
4. The dog fails to make an attempt at an obstacle
5. Approaching an obstacle turns away, hesitates, deviates or stops within one (1) metre in front of the obstacle it should be negotiating.
6. Attempting the Broad Jump a dog does not enter between the two (2) front poles or does not attempt to jump the boards.
7. Attempting the Dog Walk a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before reaching the horizontal section.
8. Attempting the Hurdles a dog fails to pass between the two uprights.
9. Attempting the Scramble a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before the apex.
10. Attempting the Seesaw a dog fails to ascend the plank or comes off the obstacle before the pivot point.
11. 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

**(VIC) 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:

1. The dog is on the take-off side of the obstacle
2. The dog is on the approach side of the obstacle
3. The refusal line does NOT become active until the dog has started the approach to the obstacle.
4. The dog fails to make an attempt at an obstacle
5. Approaching an obstacle turns away, hesitates, deviates or stops within one (1) metre in front of the obstacle it should be negotiating.
6. Attempting the Broad Jump a dog does not enter between the two (2) front poles or does not attempt to jump the boards.
7. Attempting the Dog Walk a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before reaching the horizontal section.
8. Attempting the Hurdles a dog fails to pass between the two uprights.
9. Attempting the Scramble a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before the apex.
10. Attempting the Seesaw a dog fails to ascend the plank or comes off the obstacle before the pivot point.
11. 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
12. The dog goes through the tunnel from the front and then exits the front.

**(VIC) Rationale 9.15**

This is judged as a refusal however, it isn’t specifically worded as such in the rules. This addition clarifies this.

### **9.16. Disqualification**

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 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 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, k, o the handler and dog

will be permitted to complete the course.

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 9.16**

9.16. Disqualification

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 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 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.

For all contact obstacles, once the colour contact zone has been passed and prior descending the down side, should complete the obstacle or be disqualified for unsafe performance.

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, k, o the handler and dog

will be permitted to complete the course.

**(Vic) Rationale 9.16**

Deeming what is ‘Unsafe performance’ for contact obstacles is very open to interpretation under the rules for Agility. This is contrary to the rules for the 3 games where are definitions stating when to disqualify. Adding the disqualification criteria would introduce consistency for judges and handlers alike.

*The games rules for reference*

*Snooker*

*10.6. Once the Colour contact zone has been passed, the dog should complete the obstacle or be disqualified for unsafe performance.*

*Gambler*

*5 f. Once the Colour contact zone has been passed, the dog should complete the obstacle or be disqualified for unsafe performance.*

*Strategic Pairs*

*7.3. Once the Colour contact zone has been passed, the dog should complete the obstacle or be disqualified for unsafe performance.*

### **9.16. Disqualification**

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 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 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, k, o the handler and dog will be permitted to complete the course.

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 9.16**

**9.16. Disqualification**

A dog will be disqualified if:

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

**(VIC) Rationale 7.7**

If rule 7.7 is accepted the above change to the disqualification will need to be amended.

### **9.16 Disqualification**

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.

**(Vic) Proposed Change 9.16**

**9.16 Disqualification**

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, t~~he 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.

**(Vic) Rationale 9.16**

Allow Handler choice on where they chose to set themselves and their dog up at startline, ie. Slingshot start. Removing this clause from rule allows Handler’s greater choice, instead of the Judge’s interpretation of acceptable startline position.

### **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

**(VIC) Proposed Change 10**

**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 Optional – must use at least one (1)**

~~Broad Jump/s~~ Broad Jump/s

Dog Walk Hoop/s

~~Hoop/s~~  Spread Hurdle

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle~~

Scramble

Flexible Tunnel/s

Weaving Poles - 12

**(VIC) Rationale 10**

Having all obstacles as mandatory limits course design and may have an impact on safety. It makes nesting courses more difficult as the identified obstacles don’t suit all angles of approach when the course is modified between classes.

Whilst currently rules allow the removal of an obstacle under 5.3 it then has to be reported to the controlling body within 7 days. This tends to only apply to when there is a fault to the equipment.

Allowing these obstacles to be optional gives much more flexibility with course design. And allows a judge to remove an optional obstacle on the day if they deem it to not be appropriate for the flow and safety of the course.

### 

### **11. 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

**(VIC) Proposed Change 11**

**11. 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 Optional – must use at least one (1)**

~~Broad Jump/s~~ Broad Jump/s

Dog Walk Hoop/s

~~Hoop/s~~  Spread Hurdle

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle~~

Scramble

Seesaw

Flexible Tunnel/s

Weaving Poles-12

**(VIC) Rationale 11**

Having all obstacles as mandatory limits course design and may have an impact on safety. It makes nesting courses more difficult as the identified obstacles don’t suit all angles of approach when the course is modified between classes.

Whilst currently rules allow the removal of an obstacle under 5.3 it then has to be reported to the controlling body within 7 days. This tends to only apply to when there is a fault to the equipment.

Allowing these obstacles to be optional gives much more flexibility with course design. And allows a judge to remove an optional obstacle on the day if they deem it to not be appropriate for the flow and safety of the course.

### **12. 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

**(VIC) Proposed Change 12**

**12. MASTER 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, with the exception of the Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

**MANDATORY Optional – must use at least one (1)**

~~Broad Jump/s~~ Broad Jump/s

Dog Walk Hoop/s

~~Hoop/s~~  Spread Hurdle

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle~~

Scramble/s

Seesaw/s

Flexible Tunnel/s

Weaving Poles-12

**(VIC) Rationale 12**

Change to the first paragraph makes the wording consistent with other classes.

Optional Equipment

Having all obstacles as mandatory limits course design and may have an impact on safety. It makes nesting courses more difficult as the identified obstacles don’t suit all angles of approach when the course is modified between classes.

Whilst currently rules allow the removal of an obstacle under 5.3 it then has to be reported to the controlling body within 7 days. This tends to only apply to when there is a fault to the equipment.

Allowing these obstacles to be optional gives much more flexibility with course design. And allows a judge to remove an optional obstacle on the day if they deem it to not be appropriate for the flow and safety of the course.

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

It is expected that challenges should be greater than that for the Master 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 4 to less than 12 weave poles

Dog Walk/s

Hoop/s

Hurdle/s

Spread Hurdle/s

Scramble/s

Seesaw/s

Flexible Tunnel/s

Weaving Poles-12

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 13**

**13. ELITE AGILITY CLASS ~~(22-28)~~ (20-24) OBSTACLES)**

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

~~All equipment is mandatory~~

~~All obstacles below must be performed~~

There is no limit to the number of times an obstacle can be used, with the exception of the Weaving Poles, which

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

**MANDATORY Optional – must use at least one (1)**

~~Broad Jump/s~~ Broad Jump/s

Dog Walk Hoop/s

~~Hoop/s~~  Spread Hurdle

Hurdle/s

~~Spread Hurdle~~  **Optional**

Scramble/s 4 to less than 12 weave poles

Seesaw/s

Flexible Tunnel/s

Weaving Poles-12

**(VIC) Rationale 13**

Number of Obstacles

The Elite class can be made more difficult without having to increase the number of obstacles from Masters. Increasing the number of obstacles also does not take into consideration any of the following:

* Available space within the ring - ring sizes remain the same (ie generally 30x40m but can be smaller). Adding additional obstacles may be difficult and make the course harder to negotiate as more obstacles can be in the way. Or forcing judges to use the obstacles multiple times which increases the chances of dropped bars having to be renegotiated.
* Availability of equipment – more obstacles may not be available. This then forces the judge to have to reuse obstacles.
* Course nesting – makes nesting course more difficult as judges have to add obstacles.

Wording of first paragraph

Change to the first paragraph makes the wording consistent with other classes.

Optional Equipment

Having all obstacles as mandatory limits course design and may have an impact on safety. It makes nesting courses more difficult as the identified obstacles don’t suit all angles of approach when the course is modified between classes.

Whilst currently rules allow the removal of an obstacle under 5.3 it then has to be reported to the controlling body within 7 days. This tends to only apply to when there is a fault to the equipment.

Allowing these obstacles to be optional gives much more flexibility with course design. And allows a judge to remove an optional obstacle on the day if they deem it to not be appropriate for the flow and safety of the course.

### **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

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 15**

**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 Optional – must use at least one (1)**

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop~~

Flexible Tunnel/s Broad Jump/s

Hurdle/s Hoop

~~Spread Hurdle~~ Spread Hurdle

**(VIC) Rationale 15**

Having all obstacles as mandatory limits course design and may have an impact on safety. It makes nesting courses more difficult as the identified obstacles don’t suit all angles of approach when the course is modified between classes.

Whilst currently rules allow the removal of an obstacle under 5.3 it then has to be reported to the controlling body within 7 days. This tends to only apply to when there is a fault to the equipment.

Allowing these obstacles to be optional gives much more flexibility with course design. And allows a judge to remove an optional obstacle on the day if they deem it to not be appropriate for the flow and safety of the course.

### **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

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 16**

**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 Optional – must use at least one (1)**

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop~~

Flexible Tunnel/s Broad Jump/s

Hurdle/s Hoop

~~Spread Hurdle~~ Spread Hurdle

**(VIC) Rationale 16**

Having all obstacles as mandatory limits course design and may have an impact on safety. It makes nesting courses more difficult as the identified obstacles don’t suit all angles of approach when the course is modified between classes.

Whilst currently rules allow the removal of an obstacle under 5.3 it then has to be reported to the controlling body within 7 days. This tends to only apply to when there is a fault to the equipment.

Allowing these obstacles to be optional gives much more flexibility with course design. And allows a judge to remove an optional obstacle on the day if they deem it to not be appropriate for the flow and safety of the course.

### **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

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 17**

**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 Optional – must use at least one (1)**

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop~~

Flexible Tunnel/s Broad Jump/s

Hurdle/s Hoop

~~Spread Hurdle~~ Spread Hurdle

**(VIC) Rationale 17**

Having all obstacles as mandatory limits course design and may have an impact on safety. It makes nesting courses more difficult as the identified obstacles don’t suit all angles of approach when the course is modified between classes.

Whilst currently rules allow the removal of an obstacle under 5.3 it then has to be reported to the controlling body within 7 days. This tends to only apply to when there is a fault to the equipment.

Allowing these obstacles to be optional gives much more flexibility with course design. And allows a judge to remove an optional obstacle on the day if they deem it to not be appropriate for the flow and safety of the course.

### **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

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 18**

**18. ELITE JUMPING CLASS (~~22-28~~ 20-24 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 Optional – must use at least one (1)**

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop~~

Flexible Tunnel/s Broad Jump/s

Hurdle/s Hoop

~~Spread Hurdle~~ Spread Hurdle

**(VIC) Rationale 18**

Number of Obstacles

The Elite class can be made more difficult without having to increase the number of obstacles from Masters. Increasing the number of obstacles also does not take into consideration any of the following:

* Available space within the ring - ring sizes remain the same (ie generally 30x40m but can be smaller). Adding additional obstacles may be difficult and make the course harder to negotiate as more obstacles can be in the way. Or forcing judges to use the obstacles multiple times which increases the chances of dropped bars having to be renegotiated.
* Availability of equipment – more obstacles may not be available. This then forces the judge to have to reuse obstacles.
* Course nesting – makes nesting course more difficult as judges have to add obstacles.

Optional Equipment

Having all obstacles as mandatory limits course design and may have an impact on safety. It makes nesting courses more difficult as the identified obstacles don’t suit all angles of approach when the course is modified between classes.

Whilst currently rules allow the removal of an obstacle under 5.3 it then has to be reported to the controlling body within 7 days. This tends to only apply to when there is a fault to the equipment.

Allowing these obstacles to be optional gives much more flexibility with course design. And allows a judge to remove an optional obstacle on the day if they deem it to not be appropriate for the flow and safety of the course.

### **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

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 19**

**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 Optional – must use at least one (1)**

~~Broad Jump/s~~

~~Hoop~~

Flexible Tunnel/s Broad Jump/s

Hurdle/s Hoop

~~Spread Hurdle~~ Spread Hurdle

**(VIC) Rationale 19**

More consistent with the Open Agility class (and all other classes) where these obstacles are optional.

Having all obstacles as mandatory limits course design and may have an impact on safety. It makes nesting courses more difficult as the identified obstacles don’t suit all angles of approach when the course is modified between classes.

Whilst currently rules allow the removal of an obstacle under 5.3 it then has to be reported to the controlling body within 7 days. This tends to only apply to when there is a fault to the equipment.

Allowing these obstacles to be optional gives much more flexibility with course design. And allows a judge to remove an optional obstacle on the day if they deem it to not be appropriate for the flow and safety of the course.

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### **4. Agility Games Champion**

A dog will be eligible for the title of Agility Games Champion when they have attained 10 Qualifying Rounds in each of Master Snooker and Master Gamblers and 10 Qualifying Rounds in Master Strategic Pairs after the completion of the Master tile in each category. A dog who has achieved the Agility Games Champion is eligible to have the prefix Ag Games Ch displayed before their name. All qualifications earned at any time shall account towards this title.

**(Vic) Proposed Changes 4**

**4. Agility Games Champion**

A dog will be eligible for the title of Agility Games Champion when they have attained 10 Qualifying Rounds in each of Master Snooker and Master Gamblers and 5 Qualifying Rounds in Master Strategic Pairs after the completion of the Master tile in each category. A dog who has achieved the Agility Games Champion is eligible to have the prefix Ag Games Ch displayed before their name. All qualifications earned at any time shall account towards this title.

**(Vic) Rationale 4**

For Strategic Pairs – the qualification is based not only on the handler, but also the team member chosen. The dog trying to obtain the title does not have 100% control over the situation and therefore should only be expected to receive 50% of the cards required for the champion title.