



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL

AGILITY TRIALS

**Rules for the conduct of
Agility Trials**

(Effective from 1st July 2011)

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Agility is a dog competition open to all dogs.

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

1.2 The overall objectives of Agility Trials are:

- To encourage a graded progression through the sport.
- To encourage new participants and new ideas and the continuance of Agility as a unique canine discipline.
- To encourage an increased level of fitness for dog and Handler.
- To encourage safe and pleasant competition for all.

1.3 Interpretation of these rules should not be necessary, however should there be a need for individuals to seek clarification, application must be made by the Canine Control to the appropriate committee of the ANKC, whose decision shall be binding.

1.4 Any person making an entry in an Agility Trial does so at their own risk and no Canine Control or Affiliate shall be responsible for any injury or damage to any dog.

1.5 Moratorium on rule changes

Maintain the moratorium at five years for equipment changes except in extenuating circumstances. The National Agility Committee may review and change the rules every two years.

2.0 DEFINITIONS

2.1 Canine Control

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

2.2 Affiliate

An 'Affiliate' is a member body of a Canine Control conducting a Trial.

2.3 Contact Area

A contact area is an area painted a different colour to the body of an obstacle, onto which a dog must step whilst negotiating that obstacle, except for the Scramble where contact is required only on the down side.

2.4 Standard Course Time (SCT)

Standard Course Time is the time set by the Judge within which a dog is required to complete the course in order to be clear of time faults.

2.5 Starting and Finishing Lines

Starting and Finishing Lines are defined lines across which the dog is required to pass in the nominated direction of the course when starting or finishing.

2.6 Wrong Course

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.

3.0 AGILITY TRIALS

Agility Trials are open to dogs registered with the Canine Control of either sex and 18 months of age or over. The scheduling of an event or events and classes shall be subject to approval of the Canine Control. Events are Agility, Jumping, Games and any other activity that the ANKC determines. The following Games are approved: Snooker, Gamblers and Strategic Pairs. The affiliate must schedule Master, Excellent and Novice at an event. The Open class is optional. All scheduled classes will be conducted with one round only. All references to Agility to include Jumping and other Events.

3.1 Classes

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

The following Class description applies to Agility, Jumping and Games

- (α) NOVICE CLASS: For dogs that are not eligible for the Novice title.
- (β) EXCELLENT CLASS: For dogs that have qualified and applied for the Novice title and are not eligible for the Excellent title.
- (γ) MASTER CLASS: For dogs that have qualified and applied for the Excellent title or Master title.
- (δ) OPEN CLASS: Open to all dogs. (Note: There is no Open class in Games.)

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	OPEN
Title	AD/JD	ADX/JDX	ADM/JDM	ADO/JDO
Number of Certificates	3	5	7	5
Number of Judges	2	2	3	3

Multiplier suffixes for ADM/JDM 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 five certificates gained e.g. 15 ADO qualifications is equal to ADO 3.

Multiplier suffixes only apply to certificates awarded after 1st July 2006.

3.2.3 Agility Champion (commencing 1st July 2011)

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 in each category of which 100 points from Agility and 100 points from Jumping must be after 1st July 2011.

Agility – after completion of their ADM title – earn 500 points. Points are awarded as follows:

1st place Qualifying score = 25 points

2nd Place Qualifying score = 20 points

3rd Place Qualifying score = 15 points

Qualifying score only = 10 points

Jumping - after completion of their JDM title – earn 500 points. Points are awarded as follows:

1st place Qualifying score = 25 points

2nd Place Qualifying score = 20 points

3rd Place Qualifying score = 15 points

Qualifying score only = 10 points

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

All qualifications earned before 1st July 2011 shall count as qualification score 10 points only.

Dogs may continue to accumulate places under the Agility Championship rules (2006) up to and including 31/12/2011 and will be entitled to apply for an Ag Ch

If an existing Ag Ch is to apply for an Ag Ch height category, this will supersede the existing title.

The prefix to be used will be **AG CH. 200, AG CH. 300, AG CH.400, AG CH.500, and AG CH.600**

- 3.2.4** Applications for the Title must be accompanied by the prescribed fee and, upon approval, a TitleCertificate will be issued to the applicant authorising the use of the letters and numbers concerned.

3.3 Decisions

- 3.3.1** Decisions of the Committee conducting the Agility Trial shall be subject to appeal to the Canine Control.

- 3.3.2** The Rules of the Canine Control shall apply to all Trials and to any Affiliate conducting the Trial. In the event of any inconsistency the Canine Control rules shall prevail.

- 3.3.3** Anyone taking part in an Agility Trial who openly impugns the actions or decisions of the Judge shall render themselves liable to be debarred from further participation in the trial and may be ordered from the grounds and further dealt with at the discretion of the Canine Control.

3.4 Rings

- 3.4.1** 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.

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

- 3.4.3** No bunting is to be placed on ring ropes. However, where a second rope is used, bunting may be placed on that rope.

- 3.4.4** 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.

4.0 EXHIBITS REQUIREMENTS

- 4.1** All entries are to be made in advance in accordance with the Canine Control rules. The height category of the dog shall be specified on the entry form in order that the Affiliate can arrange the dogs in the 200, 300, 400, 500 and 600 categories.

- 4.1.1** Affiliates are encouraged to schedule classes for dogs to compete separately in their height categories except in the Open Class where all heights must compete together.

- 4.2** Prior to a dog competing in a trial, 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.

- 4.3** Exhibits may be required to be inspected or vetted.

4.4 Measuring Dogs

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

Height Category

200	Up to and including 270 mm
300	271 mm up to and including 365 mm
400	366 mm up to and including 455 mm
500	456 mm up to and including 545 mm
600	546 mm and over

The Judge may check at random the height of the dog by requesting to sight the dog's Official Height Card and/or utilize an ANKC approved measuring device on a hard level surface. This includes the use of measuring hoops.

4.5 Bitches in Oestrus

Bitches in Oestrus or showing a coloured discharge of any sort must not be permitted to compete in trials or to be within the precincts of the trial.

4.6 Entry Number

The Handler will be provided with the dog's catalogue number, which the Handler will wear where it can be clearly seen.

5.0 EQUIPMENT

5.1 Measuring Devices

5.1.1 Dog measurement

Affiliates conducting trials shall provide a device, of an ANKC approved design, for measuring dogs.

5.1.2 Course measurement

Affiliates shall provide a measuring wheel, which displays total distance for measuring the course.

5.1.3 Timing Devices

Adequate timing devices shall be supplied by the Affiliate conducting the Trial. A separate device is optional for timing the five (5) seconds on the Table.

5.2 Jump Height Categories

The obstacles, which are adjustable for the five (5) jump heights, must conform as follows:
200 mm, 300 mm, 400 mm, 500 mm, 600 mm.

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 construction and of light colour unless otherwise specified in the description of that particular piece of equipment.

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.

5.4 No equipment can be touched or moved by the Handler to assist the dog whilst negotiating the course.

5.5 The maximum deviation from the specified measurement of equipment shall not exceed 10%, however the measurements stated as "minimum to maximum" sizes shall be considered as such with no deviation allowed.

5.6 Judging Chart

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

6.0 OBSTACLES

6.1 All contact equipment shall have an effective all weather non slip surface – these include Scramble, Dog Walk, See Saw and Table.

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 of between 100 mm and 250 mm. For convenience, the width of 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. Boards used for 200 and 300 height must be 100 -150mm high.

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
200	400 mm	2
300	600 mm	2
400	800 mm	3
500	1000 mm	4
600	1200 mm	4

6.3 Dog Walk

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

The length of each plank shall be 3500 mm. The width shall be a minimum of 300 mm to a maximum of 330 mm. The horizontal plank is to be set 1200 mm off the ground. From the grounded end of the planks, there will be a contact area of 1100 mm painted a different colour to the remainder of the obstacle. This contact area is to be painted on all visible sides.

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.

6.5 Hurdles

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

Hurdles are to be adjustable for each height category. The uprights, which may be winged, are to be a minimum of 1200 mm high. The distance between the uprights is to be between 1200 mm 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 approximately 35 mm in diameter, and be painted in contrasting colours in alternate sections of approximately 75 mm. Nails or spikes are not to be used to support the bars. All centre sections of Hurdles, whether bar or other, must be able to be dislodged if hit hard enough in EITHER direction.

The 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.

Wings are optional, but must be approved by the Judge and be a minimum of 1200 mm in height beside the upright.

6.6 Spread Hurdle

A Spread Hurdle consists of two (2) bar Hurdles. The base support projection from the side of the jump must be a maximum size of 300 mm.

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

Height Category	Distance between hurdles	Height of first bar to the ground	Height of second bar to the ground
200	150 mm	150 mm	200 mm
300	225 mm	225 mm	300 mm
400	300 mm	300 mm	400 mm
500	375 mm	375 mm	500 mm
600	450 mm	450 mm	600 mm

6.7 Scramble

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

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

The length of the obstacle along the ground to form the base of the "A" is to be 3850 mm for planks of 2500 mm and 3700 mm for planks of 2400 mm length.

From the grounded end of the planks, there will be a contact area of 1100 mm painted a different colour to the remainder of the obstacle. This contact area is to be painted 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.

6.8 Seesaw

A Seesaw is a plank poised on a near central bracket.

The length of the plank should be 3500 mm. The width is to be a minimum of 300 mm to a maximum of 330 mm. The height of the near central bracket is to be 300 mm from the ground.

The see saw should have a droppage rate of minimum of 1.5 seconds to a maximum of 2.2 seconds. This is determined by placing a 1kg weight at 150 mm from the up end of the seesaw and recording the time to hit the ground.

Contact areas 1100 mm from both ends of the plank are to be painted on all visible sides and should be a different colour to the remainder of the obstacle. The obstacle must be stable. The plank is to be designed to return to the original position once the dog has alighted.

6.9 Table

The top of the Table is to be 1000 mm square. It is to be adjustable for 200 mm (Dog heights 200/300) and 400 mm (Dogs Heights 400/500/600).

6.10 Collapsible Tunnel

The Collapsible Tunnel consists of 1 metre of **Flexible** tunnel, to which a chute is attached. The opening of the entrance section shall not be elevated. The **Flexible** entrance shall be 600 mm in width and height. It must be secured so that it will not move whilst in use.

The length of the chute shall extend 2 metres past the end of the **Flexible** portion, made of a suitable lightweight opaque material and extended in a straight line with the entrance section. The exit of the chute must be secured to the ground. The chute is to be gradually flared to measure 2500 mm in circumference at the exit end.

6.11 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 four (4) metres to a maximum of eight (8) metres long. The tunnel is to be flexible so that one or more bends can be shaped. It must be secured so that it will not move whilst in use.

6.12 Weaving Poles for Agility and Jumping (Refer to Games rules for Games)

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 1200 mm in height and a minimum of 20 mm to a maximum of 40 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 path. Pegs to be fitted into holes drilled into metal base. No pegs are allowed in the dog's path.

7.0 HANDLER REQUIREMENTS

7.1 Calls

Any Handler who does not answer the Ring Steward's third call may be marked 'absent'.

7.2 Entering and Exiting the Ring

7.2.1 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 and follow the Steward's and/or Judge's instructions. The lead must be removed and the collar may be removed and handed to a Steward.

7.2.2 A Handler may enter the ring (with the dog on lead) whilst the previous dog is completing its run.

7.2.3 The only items that a dog can wear whilst competing in the ring are a fixed, flat collar with no fixtures or tags etc. and/or ribbons or bands to keep the hair away from the face.

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

7.2.5 On completion of the dog's run, the Handler will exit the ring via the exit point with the dog on lead.

7.3 Handler receiving orders

The Handler shall wait for the Judge to give the various orders. Failure to comply with this rule may incur a minimum penalty of five faults and up to disqualification.

7.4 Commands

Handlers may speak, whistle and use hand signals as they deem fit, but may be called to order by the Judge for making unnecessary noise or for any disorderly conduct. A Handler may give any number of commands to the dog whilst competing.

7.5 Misbehaviour

If before, during or after the test, the dog or Handler is guilty of any breach of the Rules, or other misbehavior, a minimum penalty of five faults and up to disqualification shall be incurred. A competitor shall not be penalised by spectator participation.

7.6 Reprimands

Reprimands, either verbal or physical, must not under any circumstances be used in the ring, and shall incur a minimum penalty of five faults and up to disqualification.

8.0 JUDGING PROCEDURES

8.1 Course inspection

8.1.1 Before judging commences, Handlers may familiarise themselves with the course without their dogs. Only Handlers entered in the class are allowed to walk the course, except with the express permission of the Judge.

8.1.2 Judges may split the number of Handlers, to eliminate large numbers on course inspection.

8.1.3 No dogs are permitted in the ring prior to the commencement of judging.

8.1.4 Any objection by a competitor to the equipment or layout of the course must be lodged with the Judge in the first instance. If an agreement cannot be achieved then the objection may be lodged with a Club Official. Any objections must be lodged prior to judging.

8.2 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 all timing devices fail, the handler should be given the option of a re-run (providing the dog would have had a clear round except for timing failure). The re run totally supersedes the original run and no aspect of the original run is to be retained.

8.3 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.

8.4 Course Length (CL)

The Course Length is that distance measured by a Judge using a measuring wheel.

8.5 Speed of Travel (rate)

Speed of Travel (Rate) is the speed determined by the Judge.

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 and adding five (5) seconds for the Table pause, where used.

$$\text{SCT} = \frac{\text{CL} + 5}{\text{Rate}}$$

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

$$\text{Then SCT} = \frac{120 + 5}{2.0} = 65 \text{ seconds}$$

8.7 Maximum Course Time

Where required a club has an option of setting a Maximum course time which would be twice the SCT i.e. SCT X 2 at which point a hooter will sound and the competitor is to leave the ring

8.8 Judge's Briefing

The Judge should provide a briefing for handlers prior to commencement of the trial, notifying them of the Standard Course Time (SCT). The Judge will also notify Handlers of the course length and the rate used to calculate the SCT and include clear instructions on issues that they consider relevant to the safe negotiation of the course and in particular any unsafe action or practice that will not be accepted or tolerated. Instructions on Judging procedures and course to be given as a group briefing prior to the commencement of judging.

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 recross the Starting Line or return to the dog unless there is a refusal.

Penalty disqualification.

The judge must call when a refusal occurs during a run.

8.10 Starting and Finishing Lines

The Starting and Finishing Lines are to consist of poles, clearly visible, a minimum of 1200 mm in height to signify a line across which a dog must cross to start and/or finish the run. These poles must be a minimum of six (6) metres apart and no more than one (1) metre from the first and last obstacle.

Where Starting and Finishing Lines are used, timing will start when the dog crosses the Starting Line and stop when any portion of the dog crosses the Finishing Line, provided the dog has not refused the last obstacle. In this case the dog must correctly negotiate the last obstacle before timing is stopped.

Competitors and dogs must have a clear, straight and unobstructed path through the Starting and Finishing Lines when used in a course.

If electronic gates are used, the Handler is not permitted to go through the Starting or Finishing device at any time.

Where Electronic Timers are used, timing will start when the dog negotiates the first obstacle and stop when the dog negotiates the last obstacle. Electronic Timers should be placed as close as possible to the first and last obstacle. If the dog were to refuse the first or last obstacle it would not be entitled to a qualification so an exact time of the course would be irrelevant.

8.11 Removal of a dog

The Judge may order the removal and disqualification from all competitions on the day any dog that attacks and must lodge a report with the Canine Control. The Judge may order removal from competition of any dog which does not obey its Handler, any Handler who interferes willfully with any competitor or a competitor's dog or whose behaviour is objectionable and must exclude from competition any dog which the Judge considers unfit to compete.

8.12 Withdrawal of exhibits

A dog may be withdrawn at any time before it commences its run by informing the Assembly Steward or with the Judge's permission once they have entered the Ring.

If a competitor is leaving the ring with the judge's permission, dog and handler must leave in an orderly manner.

The choice to withdraw from one class will not affect the dog and handler's ability to compete and qualify in other classes at the trial. It is at the Judge's discretion to decide if a dog is not physically able to continue the course and whether the immediate withdrawal of such an exhibit should be ordered.

8.13 Judge

The Judge must be appropriately licensed to judge the Event and Class scheduled. All final decisions shall be the Judge's responsibility.

8.14 Stewards

Stewards shall not be used to fulfill the Judge's duties but may assist in the following positions.

Timekeeper: To time each dog as it runs the course from start to finish. The Timekeeper should be positioned where both of the poles, which make up the Starting and Finishing Lines, are visible so that the reference point is the same for each dog. For consistency, the same Timekeeper should be used in the one class. A backup Timekeeper is recommended. The Judge must be notified immediately if the timing of the dog fails.

Scribe: To record the time and faults incurred by each dog as directed by the Judge.

Assembly Steward: To line up the competitors thereby ensuring that the ring is run as efficiently as possible. The Assembly Steward will have at least one competitor ready to enter the Ring before the previous competitor completes his/her run.

Ring Steward: To perform general maintenance duties in the ring i.e. helping the Judge to set the course, checking equipment between dogs, replacing dislodged bars etc.

Timekeepers and Scribes are not to own or have an interest in any dog competing in the class for which they are stewarding.

9.0 DESCRIPTION OF TRIAL for AGLITY/JUMPING (Refer to Games rules for Games).

- 9.1 Entries will be catalogued as 200, 300, 400, 500, and 600. The relevant obstacles will be adjusted in size with respect to the jump height categories.
- 9.2 In order that no event becomes stereotyped and to test both the dog's agility and the Handler's control, the Judge appointed by the Affiliate conducting the Trial should decide the order of the obstacles.
- 9.3 A Tunnel under the Scramble or Dogwalk must not be used in the Novice Class.
- 9.4 Obstacles are to be numbered in sequential order. Number markers to be marked as minimum 50 mm high lettering on one side only, and placed in the pre-determined direction so they can clearly be seen by the Handler while negotiating the course. They must be manufactured so as not to cause injury if contacted by the Handler or dog.
- 9.5 Every obstacle must be attempted in the correct order and direction as designated by the Judge.
- 9.6 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 four (4) metres to a maximum of eight (8) 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 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 Category	Minimum	Maximum
200mm	2 metres	8 metres
300mm	3 metres	8 metres
400mm	4 metres	8 metres
500mm	4 metres	8 metres
600mm	4 metres	8 metres

- 9.7 Only obstacles that are to be negotiated by the dog are to remain in the ring.

9.8 Scoring

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

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

9.9 Faults

9.9.1 Course Faults

Five (5) faults, (i.e. one Course Fault), are scored for each mistake a dog makes.

9.9.2 Time Faults

The time taken to complete the course will be measured and recorded up to 1/100 second. Time faults are scored as actual time over the SCT i.e. 3.38 seconds over the SCT scores 3.38 time faults.

9.9.3 Penalty Faults

Penalty Faults are those faults e.g. (disciplinary) incurred by the dog or Handler in addition to any time or course faults.

9.10 Total faults

A dog's total faults are the sum of the course faults, time faults and penalty faults.

9.11 Placings

When working out the placings the following is to be taken into account:

- a) Clear rounds and fastest times.
- b) Total faults, which are, course faults plus time faults plus penalty faults.
- c) In cases where the total faults are the same, then the dog with the least course faults will be placed first. Except if that dog has Penalty faults. Any dog with penalty faults must not be considered for a placing due to the seriousness of their nature.
- d) In cases where the total faults and the course faults are the same then the fastest dog will be placed first.

9.12 Tied Score

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

9.13 The Course

To successfully negotiate the course the dog must (where applicable):

- a) Jump the Broad Jump by entering between the front poles, jumping the boards and exiting between the rear poles. The Broad Jump may be jumped from both directions when the highest board is in the middle.
- b) Go up the plank of the Dog Walk, placing at least one (1) foot or part of a foot in the contact area, negotiate the top section and then descend the down plank placing at least one (1) foot or part of a foot in the contact area.
- c) Jump through the Hoop.
- d) Jump the Hurdles and the Spread Hurdles.
- e) Clearly negotiate the Scramble by climbing up and by climbing down. The dog must place at least one (1) foot or part of a foot in the contact area of the Scramble on the way down.
- f) Go up the Seesaw, placing at least one (1) foot or part of a foot in the contact area, cross the balance point and descend, placing at least one (1) foot or part of a foot in the contact area. The dog must not leave the Seesaw until the plank has touched the ground.
- g) Land on the Table and remain there, for the count of five (5) seconds and until the Judge indicates to continue the course.
- h) Go through the Tunnel/s from the front and exit at the other end.
- i) Enter the Weaving Poles through the space between the first two poles, with the first pole on the dog's left. Then the dog must weave between each Weaving Pole.

9.14 Course faults

Five faults will be incurred if:

- a) the dog enters through the two front poles of the Broad Jump and exits through the side. Also if the dog displaces, lands on or fails to jump the boards while negotiating the Broad Jump. Dogs clipping boards to be penalised only when boards are displaced.
- b) the dog misses the contact area of the Dog Walk either on the way up or on the way down. If both are missed it must be counted as two (2) faults.
- c) any part of an obstacle including the hoop is dislodged by the dog or the Handler whilst negotiating that obstacle.
- d) the dog misses the contact area on the Scramble on the way down.
- e) the dog leaves the plank of the Seesaw before it has touched the ground.
- f) the dog fails to touch the 'up' contact area of the Seesaw on the way up or the 'down' contact area on the way down. If both are missed it must be counted as two (2) faults.
- g) the dog leaves the table before the Judge says "Go", it must get back on the table and the five (5) seconds count must start again.
- h) In the Weaving Poles, after the dog has entered correctly, the dog fails to negotiate a gap. No further penalties will be incurred for the dog not negotiating any other gaps. Dog must continue after missing a gap. Repeating any part of the weaving poles will be judged as wrong course
- i) any obstacle is refused.

9.15 Refusal of an obstacle

It is the Judge's decision as to when a refusal to take an obstacle has occurred and the Judge will immediately advise the Handler by calling 'Refusal'. The obstacle must be re-attempted.

A refusal should be called when:

- a) the dog fails to make an attempt at an obstacle
- b) approaching an obstacle turns away or stops in front of the obstacle it should be negotiating.
- c) Attempting the Broad Jump a dog does not enter between the two (2) front poles or does not attempt to jump the boards.
- d) Attempting the Dog Walk a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before reaching the horizontal section.
- e) Attempting the Hurdles a dog fails to pass between the two uprights.
- f) Attempting the Scramble a dog fails to ascend the up ramp or comes off the obstacle before the apex.
- g) Attempting the Seesaw a dog fails to ascend the plank or comes off the obstacle before the pivot point.
- h) Attempting the Table a dog goes past the back plane of the Table i.e. the furthest point of the Table from the approach side. After the refusal has been called, the dog may negotiate the Table from any side.
- i) 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.

9.16 Disqualification

A dog will be disqualified if:

- a) the dog accumulates three refusals.
- b) the dog does not re-attempt a missed or refused obstacle.
- c) any dog takes the wrong course in any class.
- d) in the Weaving Poles, if the dog repeats any gap either missed or completed.
- e) the dog fouls while under the control of the judge.
- 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 alters the position of any equipment in the ring without the judges 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 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, unless a refusal has occurred.
- l) Any dog that performs an obstacle in any manner in which the judge feels the dog has clearly endangered itself, the handler, or anyone else.
- m) Where the handler fails to obey a judge's order
- n) If 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.

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

10.0 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, Table and Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

MANDATORY

Broad Jump
Dog Walk
Hoop
Single Hurdle/s
Spread Hurdle
Scramble
Table
Flexible Tunnel/s
Weaving Poles-12

OPTIONAL Collapsible

Tunnel

11.0 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, Table and Weaving Poles, which are not to be negotiated more than once.

MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s Dog
Walk
Hoop/s
Single Hurdle/s
Spread Hurdle
Scramble
Seesaw
Flexible Tunnel/s
Weaving Poles-12

OPTIONAL Collapsible Tunnel
Table

12.0 MASTER AGILITY CLASS (20-24 OBSTACLES)

With the exception of those obstacles marked "optional", all obstacles listed below must be performed. The Weaving Poles can only be negotiated once.

MANDATORY

Broad Jump/s
Dog Walk
Hoop/s
Single Hurdle/s
Spread Hurdle/s
Scramble
Seesaw
Flexible Tunnel/s
Weaving Poles-12

OPTIONAL

Table
Collapsible Tunnel/s

13.0 OPEN AGILITY CLASS (16-20 OBSTACLES)

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

MANDATORY

Dog Walk
Scramble
Seesaw
Single Hurdle/s
Flexible Tunnel/s
Weaving Poles-12

OPTIONAL

Broad Jump/s
Table
Spread Hurdle/s
Hoop/s
Collapsible Tunnel

14.0 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
Hoop
Flexible Tunnel/s
Single Hurdle/s
Spread Hurdle

OPTIONAL Collapsible
Tunnel

14.0 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/s
Flexible
Tunnel/s Single
Hurdle/s
Spread Hurdle/s

OPTIONAL

Collapsible Tunnel

16.0 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/s

Flexible Tunnel/s Single Hurdle/s Spread Hurdle/s

17.0 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. The Judge may select obstacles from the following list to use in the course. The Weaving Poles must be used, but can only be negotiated once.

MANDATORY

Weaving Poles-12

Broad Jump/s

Hoop/s

Single Hurdle/s

Spread Hurdle/s

Flexible Tunnel/s

OPTIONAL

Collapsible Tunnel

18.0 DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF OPEN AGILITY AND OPEN JUMPING

The Open Agility and Open Jumping Classes are only to be conducted with all height categories competing together on the same course and with the same Standard Course Time.

The Open Agility Class and the Open Jumping Class must be designed to at least Excellent Class standard and must contain a distance handling challenge:

- a) The Distance Handling Challenge is a section of a course that requires the Handler to handle the dog from beyond a Distance Handling Line.
- b) The Distance Handling Line is a line over which a Handler must not cross during the distance handling challenge.
- c) A dog will be disqualified if the handler steps on or over the Distance Handling Line during the challenge.
- d) The Distance Handling Line is to be between five (5) to seven (7) metres from to the centre of the obstacle at the furthest point of the challenge.
- e) The number of obstacles to be used in the Distance Handling Challenge is to be three (3) to (five) 5.
- f) The Obstacles used in the Distance Handling Challenge may be selected from Flexible or Collapsible Tunnels, Single Hurdle/s, Spread Hurdle, Scramble, and Broad Jump.

READY REFERENCE GUIDE

Height Category	200	300	400	500	600
Dog Heights	Up to and including 270 mm	271 -365 mm inclusive	366-455 mm inclusive	456-545 mm inclusive	546 mm and over
Jump Heights	200 mm	300 mm	400 mm	500 mm	600 mm
Spread. Distance between bars	150 mm	225 mm	300 mm	375 mm	450 mm
Spread. Height of first bar	150 mm	225 mm	300 mm	375 mm	450 mm
Spread. Height of second bar	200 mm	300 mm	400 mm	500 mm	600 mm
Broad distance	400 mm	600 mm	800 mm	1000 mm	1200 mm
Broad. Number of boards	2	2	3	4	4

Contact areas:

Dog Walk, Seesaw & Scramble	1100 mm
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Weaving Poles and Number of Obstacles

	NOVICE	EXCELLENT	MASTER	OPEN
Number of Weaving Poles:				
Agility	12	12	12	12
Jumping	nil	nil	nil	12
Number of obstacles:				
Agility/Jumping	14-16	16-20	20-24	16-20

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 and adding five (5) seconds for the Table pause.

$$\frac{\text{SCT CL (metres)} + 5}{\text{Rate (metres per second)}}$$

Example:

$$\text{SCT } 120 + 5 = 65 \text{ seconds } 2.0$$

