



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL

AGILITY TRIALS

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

**Approved by the Australian
National Kennel Council 05/2000**

**Revised
2008
2011**

This booklet is intended to be used as a guide for Judges only and is designed to clarify issues and give ideas on some areas not covered in the Rule Book. These guidelines are not to be interpreted as a set of Rules.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

Refusals

- A refusal should be called when the dog fails to make an attempt at an obstacle
- Approaching an obstacle turns away or stops in front of the obstacle it should be negotiating.
- the table, a dog goes past the back plane of the table i.e. the furthest point of the table from the approach side;
- the broad jump, a dog does not enter between the 2 front poles;
- the weaving poles, a dog runs past the first pole to the left of the weavers or past the second pole to the right of the weavers;
- the dog walk, a dog comes off the obstacle before reaching the horizontal section;
- the scramble, a dog comes off the obstacle before the apex;
- the seesaw, a dog comes off the obstacle before the pivot point;
- winged hurdles, a dog jumps the wing i.e. not over the bar;
- The dog walk or seesaw, a dog has passed the end of the contact colour on the approach side.

Designing Courses

Points that should be adhered to when designing courses.

Novice Classes

- no less than 3 challenges
- approach angles to any obstacle shall generally not be greater than 90 degrees.
- Angle into or out of the hoop and spread should not be greater than 45 degrees

Excellent Classes

- no less than 5 challenges
- approach angles to any obstacle shall generally not be greater than 135 degrees.
- Angle into or out of the hoop should not be greater than 45 degrees

Master Classes

- no less than 7 challenges
- approach angles to any obstacle shall generally not be greater than 180 degrees.
- Angle into or out of the hoop should not be greater than 45 degrees

Challenges consist of the following:

CALL-OFF - Is a challenge on the course in which there is an incorrect obstacle directly in the dog's path. The dog must be "called off" with a directional command to turn toward the correct obstacle.

OPTIONS - Is a point on the course where the dog has a choice of direction, similar to a "fork in the road".

OBSTACLE DISCRIMINATION- Is a point on the course in which two obstacles are placed in close proximity, requiring the handler to direct the dog to the correct choice.

SIDE CHANGES -

Is a place where the course requires the handler to switch from handling the dog on the left to handling on the right, or vice versa. A handler who opts not to switch sides is forced to run around the outside of the obstacles and must run faster than the dog to keep up.

LEAD-OUT ADVANTAGE -

Is an incentive for the handler to leave the dog at the start line or table and "lead out" to a position several obstacles ahead to ensure he will be in position for an upcoming control point on the course.

ANGLED APPROACHES TO OBSTACLES –

The greater the angle of approach to an obstacle, the more skill is required of the dog and/or the handler. The burden falls mostly on the skill level of the dog in high-speed situations, or when the handler is at a significant distance from the dog.

HANDLER RESTRICTIONS -

The placement of an obstacle near a barrier or near another obstacle can restrict the handler from handling on a particular side or may force the handler to control the dog at a distance.

Points for judges to remember when designing courses.

- Remember that on exiting a tunnel the dog is disoriented.
- Think about the flow of the course after the Seesaw and try to limit the possibility of handlers running into it when it is on its way back up.
- into or out of the hoop should not be greater than 45 degrees
When judging the hoop Judges should position themselves so that they can effectively determine if a fault has occurred.
- When judging broad jumps a Judge should not stand side on to the obstacle as it may be difficult to determine whether the dog entered through the two front poles and exited through the two rear poles.
- When judging winged hurdles or solid jumps, a Judge should not stand side on to these obstacles as it may be difficult to determine whether the dog has jumped the bar and not the wing, or has not knocked down part of the solid – for example, one brick dislodges from the top of a pseudo brick wall.

Unsafe Performance

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 shall be disqualified.

The following could be considered as an unsafe performance of an obstacle including the dog:

Slipping
Fly offs
Crashing
Unsafe dismounts

Some examples are:

- Dog walk reaches the horizontal and comes off the obstacle
- Scramble dogs comes off before the apex
- See saw fly off
- Scramble – if a medium or large jumps before or from the apex and does not touch the down ramp, a small dog jumps from well above the colour and leave the Scramble
- Where dog goes under an Scramble, dog walk and seesaw depending on construction
- Severely angled approach to contact equipment that causes the dog to come of the obstacle or causes the dog to exercise great physical effort to negotiate the obstacle
- Crashes into an obstacle i.e. jump uprights

This is not a definitive list but provides a guide to judging

Measuring Courses

The Judge, using a Measuring Wheel, will measure the ground distance of a course by walking through the centre of all jumps and on the right side of all remaining obstacles with a measuring wheel. Consideration should be given to exit points of all sized dogs on obstacles so as not to cut corners. The Judge should ensure that the measuring starts on the start line and finishes at the finish line.

Rates for Classes

With consideration given to the design of the course, weather and ground conditions, the following Rates should be applied:

<i>Class</i>	<i>Agility Class</i>	<i>Jumping Class</i>
Novice	1.8 to 2.2 mps	2.8 to 3.3 mps
Excellent	2.3 to 2.8 mps	3.4 to 3.9 mps
Master	2.9 to 3.5 mps	4.0 to 4.5 mps

Measuring Dogs

An example of a measuring hoop.

