

Planning Future Agility Events following Covid-19 Level 2 V3 – 04/03/2021



It has become obvious that the possibility of re-entry into Level 2 restrictions for COVID-19 response is likely to be in our lives for some considerable time. The Agility Committee will not be instructing clubs into certain choices but are providing some approved options below.

If under Level 2 agility events are to recommence, these will need to be conducted with strong Health and Safety precautions that abide by government advice and protect the wellbeing of all attendees.

Nothing produced here is intended to force clubs to hold shows under Level 2 conditions where they feel uncomfortable doing so and it is important that clubs consider their members who may be at risk. Be kind and understanding and do not expect everyone to be able to assist at shows run under these conditions.

Planning

- Clubs looking at shows for the period up until the end of 2021 are requested to put together a detailed plan which would be enacted in the event that Level 2 restrictions are valid at the time of their show.
- The outline for this plan must be contained in the entry information for their show and provide information about what the club will do should the Level 2 plan need to be enacted. This will provide those planning to enter the understanding of the club's plan prior to them entering the show.

Options for Consideration

- Planned Regional Shows – For the foreseeable future, the Agility Committee will support clubs who choose to specify an area from which it will accept entries for their event. They can restrict entry to the first 100 handlers from that area and run their show in this manner whether or not Level 2 is in force at the date of the show. This approach has the advantage of enabling multiple shows in an island – probably up to 3 or 4 in the North Island and maybe 2 in the South. The advantage to this approach is that there is more surety around what is happening and unless the area moves to Level 3 or higher, the show can go ahead with other suitable considerations to meet the Government Level 2 requirements.
- Unplanned Regional Forced Scratchings – If a show is planned in an area which ends up at Level 2 at the time the show is due to be held, the club may enforce scratchings (and full entry money refunds) for those who are external to the Regional area at a rate to ensure no more than 100 handlers are present at the show. This option would also apply where any region (other than the location of the show) was in a higher COVID-19 level than would allow them to attend.
- Unplanned Other Method Forced Scratchings - If a show is planned in an area which ends up at Level 2 at the time the show is due to be held, the club may choose to enforce scratchings (and full entry money refunds) to ensure no more than 100 handlers are present at the show. The method the club uses to decide who is to be “force scratched” is to be pre-approved by the Agility Committee.

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- Re-arrangement of the show parameters – Changes to the plan for the show which will prevent issues with the Level 2 restrictions in place at the time. This may include dividing the show into groups of handlers by class, a reduction in classes and any other approved alterations to the running of the event.
- Cancellation of the event

Limitations and Recommendations

- If the club's plan involves rescheduling classes, running orders or grouping of competitors at the show, it should be advised to the Judges for that show prior to publication to enable them to raise any potential issues around scheduling etc.
- Any plan for rearrangement of the way the show is to be run (i.e. change to the running order etc) should be approved by the Agility Committee.
- The welfare of the dogs must remain paramount and no approval will be granted for a show schedule which would result in any dog having more than 4 runs in a half-day period.
- A club plan includes forced scratchings MUST ensure that they are done on a location (regional) or other fair and equitable basis and the club may not pick and choose handlers based on how many dogs they run, what height or level they compete at or any other similar criteria. Methods other than Regionalised scratching must be pre-approved by the Agility Committee.
- All provisions of the Level 2 restrictions in place at the time of the show must be met by the club running the show.
- Previous advice around the requirements for the various sections of the event remains in place provided that it is not invalidated by any change to Level 2 criteria (e.g., changes to maximum numbers etc)
- Where forced scratchings are done for any show, the splits and prizes shall be calculated as if those "scratched" due to COVID-19 levels had never entered. For this reason, it is recommended that a decision on the terms under which a show will be run needs to be made at least 12 days prior to the first day of the event. This will enable the show secretary to recalculate the classes and splits effectively.

Judges

- Some judges may elect not to accept/honour contracts while the country is under Level 2 conditions. The AC supports our judges' individual choices at this time. It is recommended that clubs outline their plan to judges, in the event of the show falling at a time when the area is under Level 2 conditions in the judge's contract or when initial contact is made.
- Judges may decline to be billeted under Level 2 – so clubs may need to arrange alternative options.

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Measuring

- Please observe and follow the Dog Measuring Guidelines document for more information.

This document is subject to change without notice.