



GUIDELINES FOR AGILITY PROBATIONARY APPOINTMENTS

This set of guidelines is intended to aid judges and probationary judges when they are asked to assess and report on a prospective agility judge by fulfilling a probationary appointment. They outline what should be expected from the applicant, how the probationary should go and what knowledge the applicant should be expected to display.

Who can undertake probationaries?

Trainee Judges and Ribbon Trial Panel judges can undertake probationary appointments.

Who conducts probationaries?

Senior Agility Judges

At what events and on what classes can a probationary be done?

Any class at any championship, open or ribbon trials, with the exception of Senior and Jumpers A which cannot be done at a Championship Event. The intention is that the judge gets practice judging weaves and contacts, so all four should be agility classes, with Jumpers additional. In total a judge must officiate a total of 200 or more dogs over a minimum of four appointments. The appointments should cover all levels including senior at ribbon trials

What permission is needed when applying to do a probationary?

The permission of the Club conducting the fixture.

Does the club need to publish details of the probationary?

Yes. Competitors must be informed. Where an agility Trainee or Ribbon trial panel judge is conducting a probationary appointment they must be listed either in the schedule for the event, or in a notice on the website, email list or Club flyer. The class in which they are to conduct their probationary must also be stated. The notice must be published at least one week before entries close.

How many probationary appointments can be held over a weekend?

A maximum of one probationary appointment can be conducted per day at an event. So that means that two can be held over a weekend.

Who writes a report on the probationary appointment?

The officiating judge must send a report to the NZKC Agility Committee. A standard form is available from the website.

What should the applicant do before the day?

Ensure the probationary appointment is advertised. The applicant **MUST** submit a course to the officiating judge in sufficient time **PRIOR** to the event to enable feedback and possible redesign of the course. They should also prepare other things they will need on the day such as:- measuring tape, copy of Agility regulations, and a calculator if required to determine course times. The officiating judge might discuss general things such as suitable dress, behaviour etc.

What should happen on the day?

The judge should meet with the applicant in good time before the course is to be set up and ensure they are prepared for the task.

Setting up the course.

The applicant should be allowed to work with the ring staff to have it set up as per the plan. They should supervise the course measuring and work out a SCT.

The officiating judge should then walk the course with the applicant to discuss:-

- areas of challenge and appropriateness to the level of competition;
- possible problems with the course in terms of judgeability;
- judge's line of travel around, and positioning on the course for each type of obstacle;
- dangerous placement of obstacles and possible remedies;
- the rules regarding faults and refusals appropriate to the level of the course;
- the flow of the course;
- the measuring of the course and factors affecting time setting;

Liaison with ring staff and setting timers.

The applicant should brief his/her ring staff.

The judge should point out the importance of ensuring everyone knows their job.

The applicant should demonstrate an understanding of how timers work and how to set them correctly for each height and piece of equipment.

Equipment specifications.

The applicant should demonstrate an awareness of the appropriate bar and hoop heights for each height class, as well as the length of long jump.

Liaison with competitors walking the course.

Both the applicant and the officiating judge should be present during the competitors' course walk. The applicant should address any concerns the competitors may have, with the officiating judge there to back them up if required.

Judging of the course.

Discuss and agree on the path both the applicant and officiating judge will take. The applicant should demonstrate a sound knowledge of the rules of agility.

Who is in charge of decisions made in the ring?

The officiating judge remains in charge of the ring. They must remain in the ring at all times to assist the applicant. The final decision on any judging matter rests with the officiating judge.

What happens after the class has been judged?

At the conclusion of the class, the course should be discussed, how it ran, and any possible improvements. The judge and applicant should discuss any difficult judging calls.

The officiating judge might also wish to discuss other subjects such as:- filling in contracts and Judges responsibilities (assembly areas, situation of callboards, running your own dog etc.)

What happens after the event?

The officiating judge writes a report and sends it to the Agility committee, with a copy to the applicant.

A downloadable pdf is available from the Agility website, under "Other forms"

http://www.dogagility.org.nz/judge_forms.html

It is essential that the officiating judge be honest and fair. If they think the understanding of either the rules or of the concept of course design need to be improved then they should say so. It is preferable that an applicant receives more training if they require it.

(refer to the regulations for more detail on Probationary appointments)

Last update: February 2013