

# HANDS UP



## The info letter for NZ Agility JUDGES

Issue 9 July 2013

**This issue:**

- Distance between obstacles
- Contracts & Mileage rate
- New regulations
- No. of contacts in agility courses (results of poll)
- Making judging easier.

Hi there,

This is an information letters for Agility judges. The aim is to provide some information and stimulate some discussion, and any/all response will be welcomed!! The info-letters are now on the website, so feel free to read them and to pass them on to anyone else who might be interested.

Also on the website are a range of quizzes and articles of interest to judges. Go take a look!!

We also have a few sets of short courses that you can complete as part of the requirements for going up a level and maintaining Senior Panel status.

Regards,  
Karen de Wit  
NZ Agility Committee (Judges)

## NZ AGILITY JUDGES EMAIL LIST.

To subscribe to this group, send an email to:  
AgilityJudgesNZ-subscribe@yahoo.com



## Distance between obstacles.

A judge is often asked to check that there is at least 4m between jumps. Even competitors know this regulation!

The regulation refers to the ability of the dog to travel in a straight line between them – it does not refer to the path the judge **thinks** they should take but the path they **could** take.

A straight line is a straight line and not a curve.

The regulations state:-

### 13.13 Distance between Obstacles.

#### 13.13.1 Consecutive Jumping Obstacles

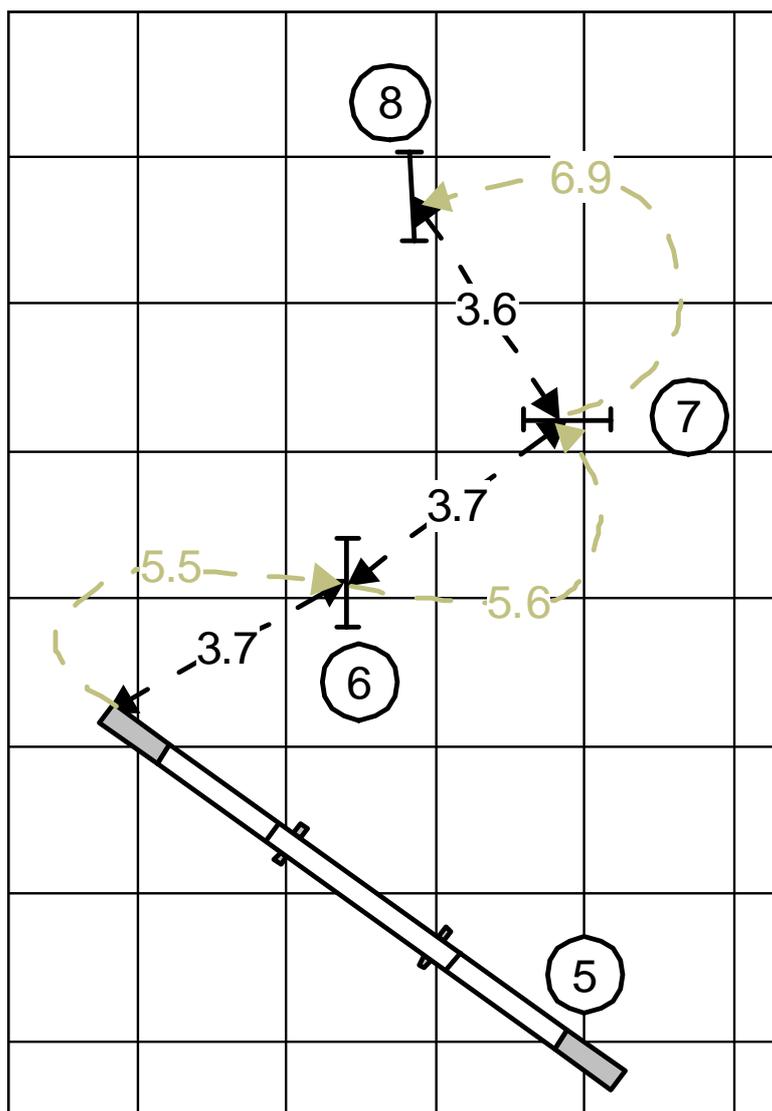
Consecutive jumping obstacles (other than spread and long jumps) placed so that the dog can travel in a straight line between them must have a minimum of four metres between centres. If either or both of the obstacles is a spread or long jump this distance must be increased to a minimum of six metres.

See diagram to the right.

Note that whilst the curved lines (pale colour) might give the dog more than 4m between the obstacles the dog could actually make a straight line between

6-7 and 7-8

So these jumps should be altered to at least 4m.



## UNIMPEDED RUNUP.

Additionally there must be at least 4m unimpeded run-up before and after a jumping obstacle.

This means for example that where a course goes obstacle then jump, the dogs coming out of tunnels or off contacts or out of weaves etc must have at least 4m between that and the jump.

### 13.13.2 Unimpeded Run Up (see diagrams below)

There must be a minimum of four metre unimpeded run up before and after jumping obstacles. For long and spread jumps this distance must be a minimum of six metres.

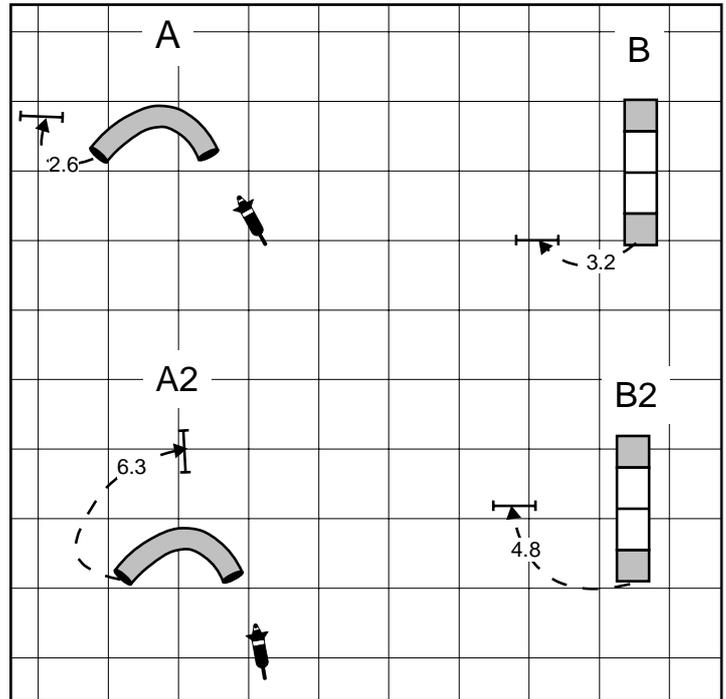
#### DIAGRAM Top Right.

A = there is only 2.6m from the tunnel exit to the jump, which is less than the 4m unimpeded run-up required before a jumping obstacle. DOES NOT COMPLY with the reg.

A2 = a similar setup with a much more acceptable distance before the jump. ✓ COMPLIES.

B = there is only 3.2m from the bottom of the A-frame to the jump, which is less than the 4m unimpeded run-up required before a jumping obstacle. DOES NOT COMPLY with the reg.

B2 = a similar setup with a much more acceptable distance before the jump. ✓ COMPLIES.

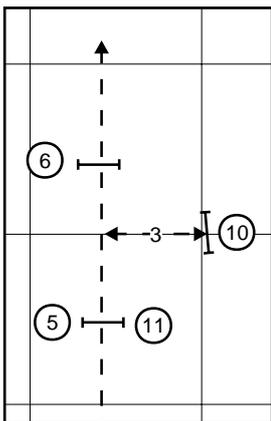


#### DIAGRAM Bottom Right.

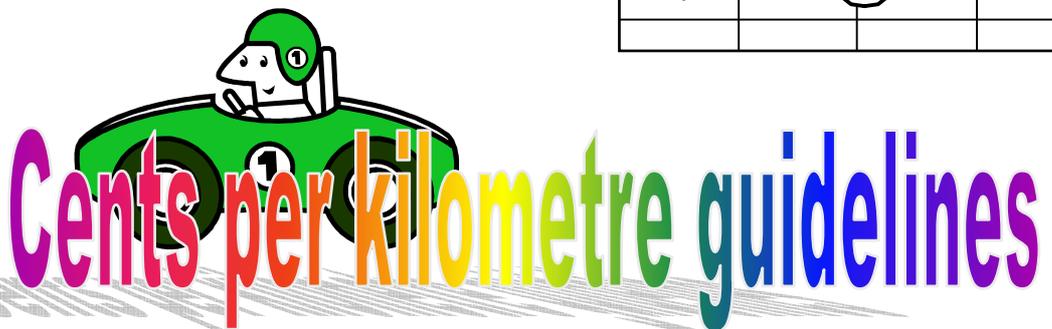
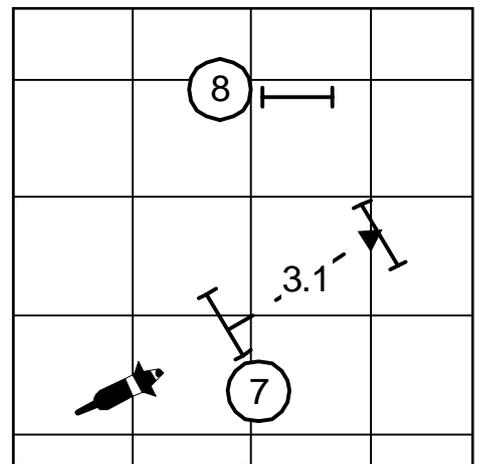
In this case the off-course jump is less than 4m after the #7 jump. Given the direction the dog is travelling in it would be reasonable to expect the off-course jump to be at least 4m away.

#### DIAGRAM left.

There is a different situation where the off course jump is to the side of the direction of travel as in the example below.



There are specific recommendations for how close this can be.  
ie. In Jumpers C it may be no closer than 3m from the line of travel.



We are often asked by judges – “What should I charge?”

The AC is guided by half the AA rate. This varies for different types of vehicles, but is currently, for an average vehicle, 41c/km

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# JUDGES RENEWAL FORMS.

Thankyou to those of you who have responded – the AC will pay your Judges fee. To those who responded in the first hour- you will each receive a small gift as a thankyou for being so prompt!!

## FAST JUDGES!!!

They are:-

1st – Cam List 8.26pm,

2nd - Graeme Lawson - 8.27pm,

3rd - Fiona Hodgson - 8.39pm,

4th - Rebecca Sidwell - 8.41pm,

5th - Kirstin Graves - 8.43pm,

6th - Jo Rennell - 9.00pm

# SENIOR JUDGES

Did you know that there are certain obligations you must meet according to our regulations?

These were introduced to ensure that our top judges remain up to date with the sport they are officiating over.

They include training or competing in agility, judging, fulfilling short course or seminar requirements, good behaviour.

The regulations state:-

**7.6.3.2** Senior Agility Judges will be reappointed every 2 years subject to meeting the conditions outlined in Agility Regulation 7.8.5.

### **7.8.5 Maintaining Senior Agility Panel Status**

To maintain a Senior Agility Panel status, a Senior Agility Judge must:

**7.8.5.1** Renew their judging licence every year.

**7.8.5.2** Show evidence within two years, prior to the application for renewal, that they **have trained and/or competed** with a dog in agility, or actively been involved in training other people at a club or professional level.

**7.8.5.3** Have judged **one full set of agility classes** at any level in the previous two years prior to application for renewal.

**7.8.5.4** Have attended at least one **short course or seminar** that is approved by the NZKC Agility Committee in the previous two years prior to application for relicensing.

**7.8.5.5** **Absence of any negative reports or disciplinary action** relating to the applicant's behaviour in and outside of the ring. Applicants may request a waiver of this criterion, if sufficient evidence of improvement can be made to the NZKC Agility Committee.

**7.8.5.6** The NZKC Agility Committee has the right to waive any or all of these criteria in special cases. Request of waiver of any criteria needs to be made at time of application.

# CONTRACTS by EMAIL.

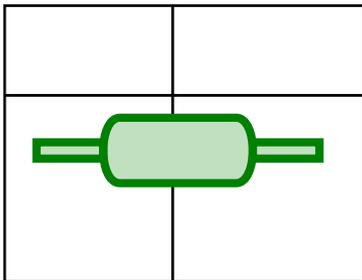
**Many Clubs are sending contracts out by email. It has been agreed that an email returned from the judges email address does not need to be signed.**

**AD and ADX advanced course updates. These courses are being reviewed mainly for ease of judging. A new set will be available shortly, and you will be notified. In the meantime if there are any courses you have concerns about please contact us.**

**EQUIPMENT – brush jumps – the regulations state that this should be**

## **12.2.3 Brush Fence**

Consists of a supported bar which is displaceable upon impact. The area below the full length of the bar must comprise a material which blocks vision from one side to the other.



The Agility Committee resolved that the area below the bar does not have to be composed of a solid material. Various brush jump designs enable the dog to have some visibility of what is on the other side, even if it is somewhat impaired of a normal jump.

**Right: Agility Stuff jump approved to be used as a BRUSH jump.**



# Judges ongoing education

One of our fellow judges brought this up as an idea for discussion – what do you think?



I think the questions on the list are great (but not everyone responds to them) and the newsletters are fantastic (but you don't know who in fact actually reads them) but what about requiring an annual "exam" that is required when the judge applies for renewal? It doesn't need to be as complex as the initial exam but something that covers the current rule changes or questions issues that may have been brought up for discussion on the list. The quiz may not even need a passing grade but it could provide that answers at the end of the quiz. Or maybe it could require a passing level but judge is allowed to look up the (current) regulations. But, each judge would then be required to actually be aware of the current rules before automatically renewing their application.

Agree? Disagree? Worth Looking at?  
Not???

## Touching on the Regulations.

### Long Jump refusals and faults.

REFUSALS. (diagram left)

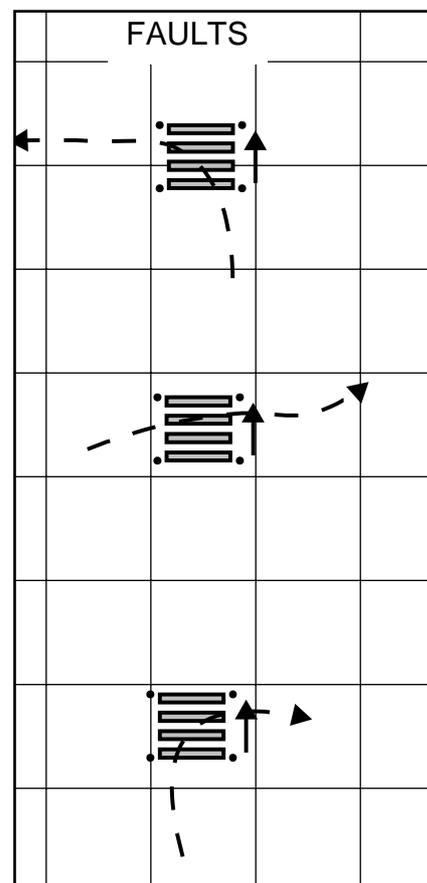
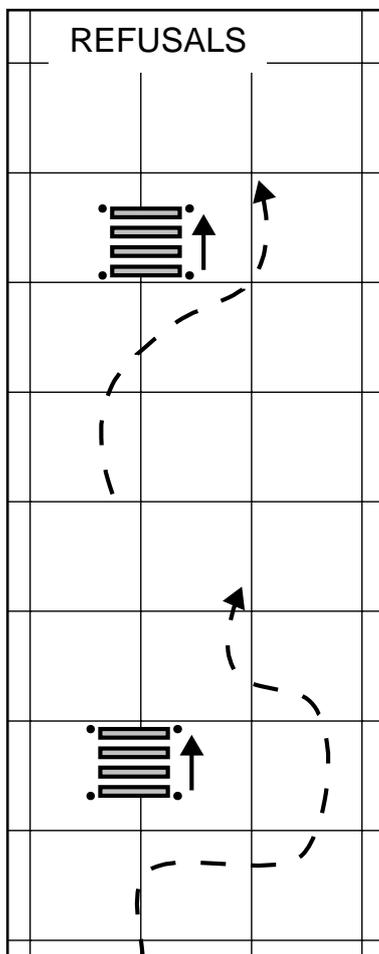
#### 13.5.4.6 Long Jump

Dog running past without jumping or jumps parallel but to one side.

FAULTS. (diagram right)

#### 13.6.3.4 Long Jump

Dog runs through the Jump, cuts a corner or knocks over any part of the jump.



# NUMBER OF CONTACTS in COURSES.

The available agility obstacles are:-

- Weave
- Dog walk
- Aframe
- Seesaw
- Crossover.

**There are restrictions on their use ie.**

- Starters – weave only.
- Novice– weave, A-frame, crossover and dog walk can be used.
- Senior and Intermediate – all the above and additionally the seesaw.



The difference between Jumpers and Agility is the presence of the weave and contact obstacles so it follows that an Agility course should have a number of contacts in it.

*A Poll was conducted to seek the opinion of Judges.*

## Results of the Poll.

Judges who responded to the poll were divided over the question of whether judges should be able to choose the number of contacts they use. 42% said a recommendation was good, especially for new judges. 57% said the Judge should be able to put in as many as they liked at all levels.

On the questions of number of contacts in specific classes there was a definite trend.

Novice 1-2 contacts

Intermediate 2-3 contacts

Senior. Judges most strongly felt that the number in Senior should be at Judges discretion (50%), with the next most popular option being 3-4. Everyone thought the weave should be in every Senior course.

Class	1 contact	1-2 contacts	2-3 contacts	3-4 contacts	judges decide
Novice	10 %	50%	15%	0%	25%
Intermediate	0	10%	65%	0	25%
Senior	0	0	15%	35%	50%

Did you know the Agility Committee website has a page dedicated to judges?

It is available at [http://www.dogagility.org.nz/judge\\_news.html](http://www.dogagility.org.nz/judge_news.html)

Here you can find up to date information relating to judges.

For a look at some articles including Judges infoletters go to:- [http://www.dogagility.org.nz/judge\\_articles.html](http://www.dogagility.org.nz/judge_articles.html)

To try out some quizzes, or the short courses, go to:- [http://www.dogagility.org.nz/judge\\_quiz.html](http://www.dogagility.org.nz/judge_quiz.html)

# NEW REGULATIONS.

**Have you read the new regulations?**

**Do you know how they affect YOU the judge?**

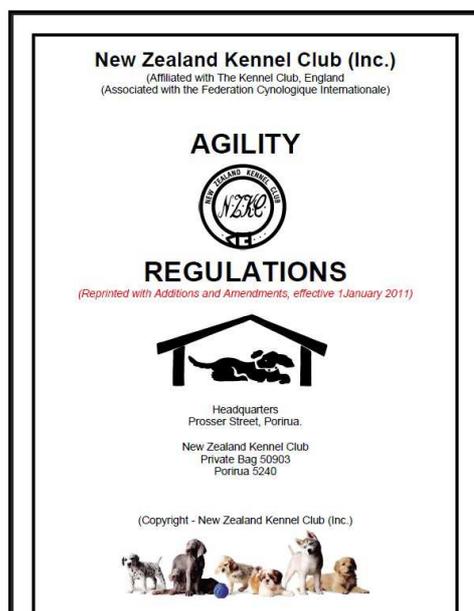
**When do they start? NOW!!!**



**When is your next appointment? Isn't it time to REALLY read the regulations/reports, familiarize yourself with them, and make sure you are aware of what you should be doing?**

**There are changes to:-**

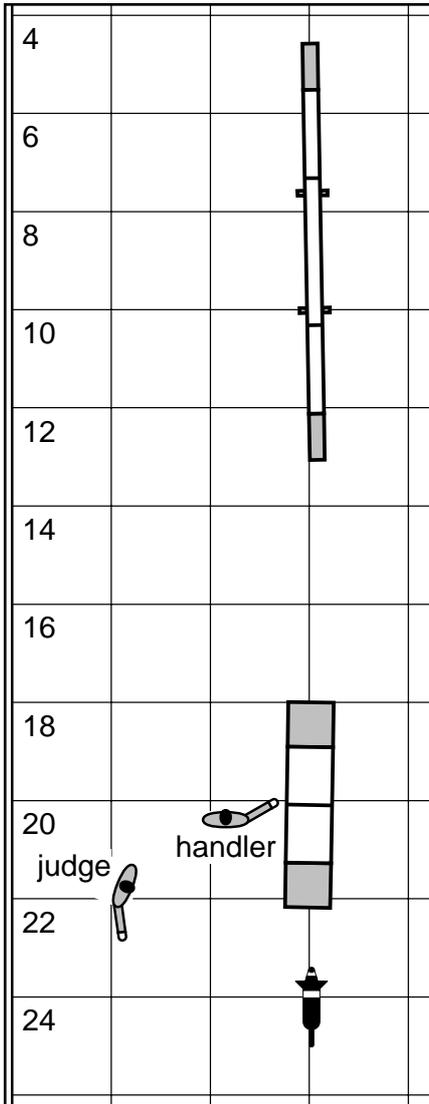
- 1. reruns**
- 2. measuring a course**
- 3. defining Rate of travel, QCT and MCT**



**They can be found  
on the Agility committee  
website.**

**<http://www.dogagility.org.nz/regulations.html>**

# Making JUDGING easier.

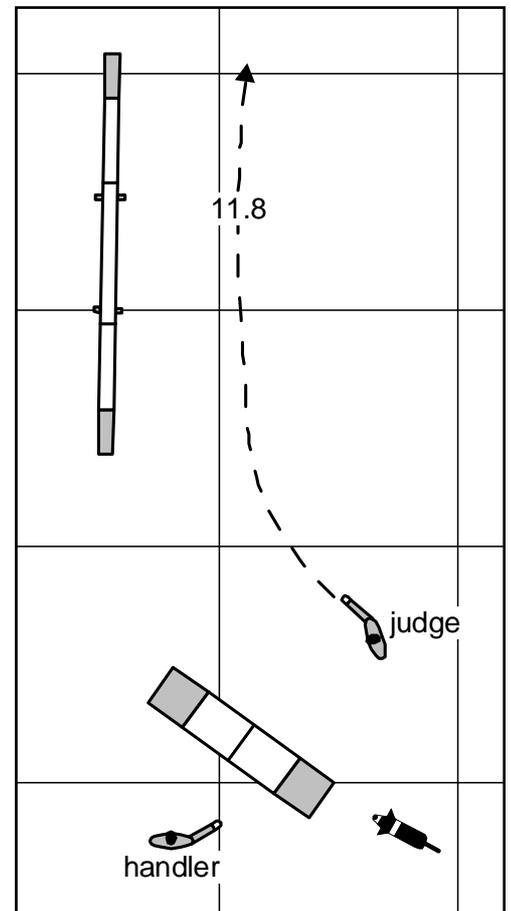


The sequence illustrated LEFT of A-frame → -dogwalk would create real difficulty for the Judge due to the challenges of adequately judging all of the below in quick succession. ie. the

1. up Aframe
2. down Aframe
3. up dogwalk
4. down dogwalk

This is made even harder when many dogs have fast running contact performances.

An alternative design that would be easier to judge is illustrated below. This has the handler on the opposite side, and the judge has a much shorter, easier path from the A-frame to the dog-walk.



Try to make judging path easier by designing it so that

- handlers are on the opposite side at contacts and weave
- you don't have to run flat out to see contacts.

Remember that the scrimer may find signals confusing or coming in a rush, when you have these obstacles in sequence.

**Comments and Questions to  
Karen de Wit  
E: [kpde Wit@xtra.co.nz](mailto:kpde Wit@xtra.co.nz)  
Or on the Agility Judges list.**