



# The info letter for NZ Agility JUDGES

Issue 5

**This issue:**

- Processes for going up a panel
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- 4m rule

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!!

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



## Changes to Judges panels.

Goodbye and thankyou for all  
your hard work:- Judy Young.

# Thinking of applying to go up a panel?

If you are thinking of applying to advance up a panel you need to be aware of the regulations as they relate to this, and also that there are deadlines for applications to be made.

FOR EXAMPLE, if applying to go on the Agility panel you will need to source and attach the following information to your application...

- Written proof of a minimum of 1 year on the Ribbon Trial Panel.
- Written proof of judging a minimum of 8 agility classes at Ribbon Trials. This must incorporate a minimum of one full set of standard agility classes and 2 standard jumper's classes.
- Favourable reports from the applicant's mentors.
- Attendance at an agility seminar in the 12 months immediately prior to application, OR evidence of other forms of continuing education (\*)

*Appointments are subject to the approval of the NZKC Agility Committee and will be confirmed at the NZKC Executive meeting in April/September of each year. Successful applicants will be informed and added to the official NZKC Agility Senior Panel, effective either 1<sup>st</sup> May or 1<sup>st</sup> October in that year.*

\* this could include:- participation in discussions on the Agility Judges yahoo-group (see application information on the website), complete the various quizzes on the website, interaction with Mentors etc.

The application form and supporting evidence must be forwarded to:  
Agility Committee Secretary, NZKC AGILITY COMMITTEE  
PO BOX 40438, UPPER HUTT 5140

Applications must be made no later than the **28<sup>th</sup> of February or 31<sup>st</sup> of August.**

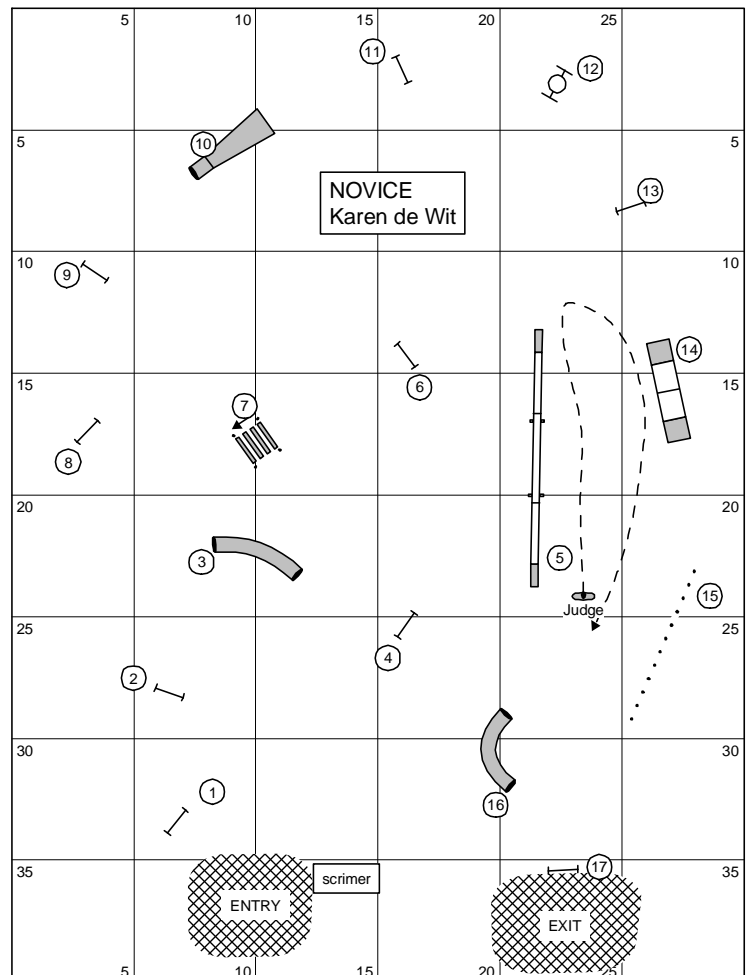
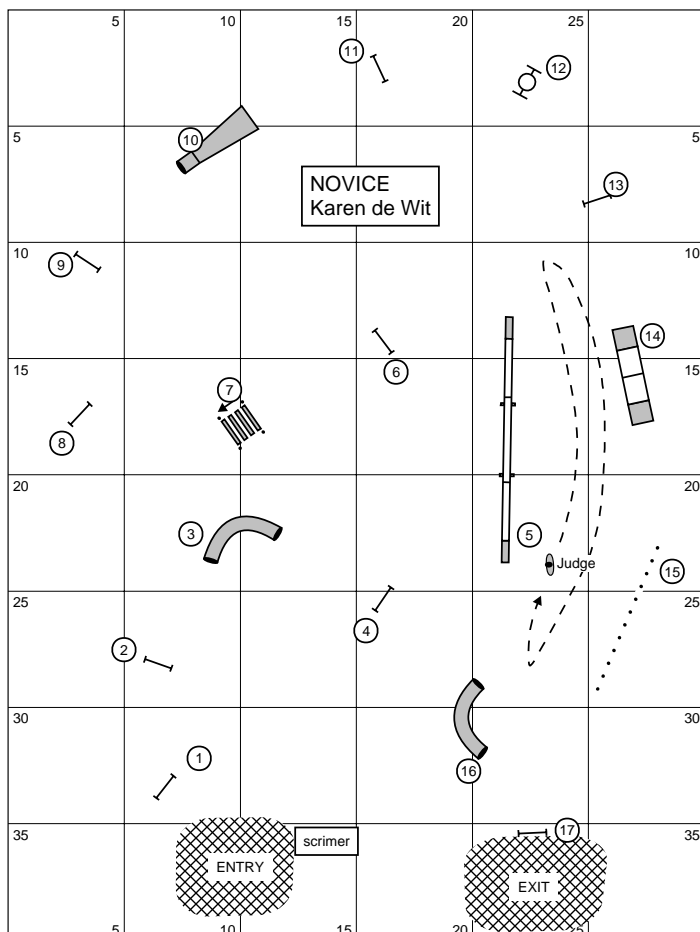
You can find the forms and more information on the Agility website  
[http://www.dogagility.org.nz/judge\\_forms.html](http://www.dogagility.org.nz/judge_forms.html)



# CHECKING YOUR COURSE

At a recent event I was reminded again of how important it is to check your course has been set up correctly. The course plan on the left is what I intended to judge, and the course on the right represents what was pegged and what I judges on the day. Any ideas as to what problem was created and what happened on the day?

REMINDER: Check your Judges path again after the obstacles have been placed/pegged.



# Connecting with competitors.

**In Australia the Judges are very polite. They will communicate to the competitor that they can start by talking to them “You may go now”, and indicating with a nod that it is time to start the run.**

**In NZ there is no such convention.**

Sometimes competitors start before the Judge is ready. What do you do when the dog has already completed part of the course and you haven't seen any of it?

To avoid such a thing happening to you, consider the following:-

1. Start your judging path close to the first obstacle so that you can talk and be heard by competitors
2. Get in the habit of telling people “You may go now” or nodding kindly at them.
3. If anything happens that means you must take your eye off the competitor make sure you tell them **DONT GO YET!** before you go and deal with whatever it is.

**What do you do if the competitor leaves and does part of the course?**

**There is nothing in the regulations that would support a judge eliminating the person. A re-start is in order, and you should seriously consider 1-2-3 above.**

## What obstacles do the timers work best on?

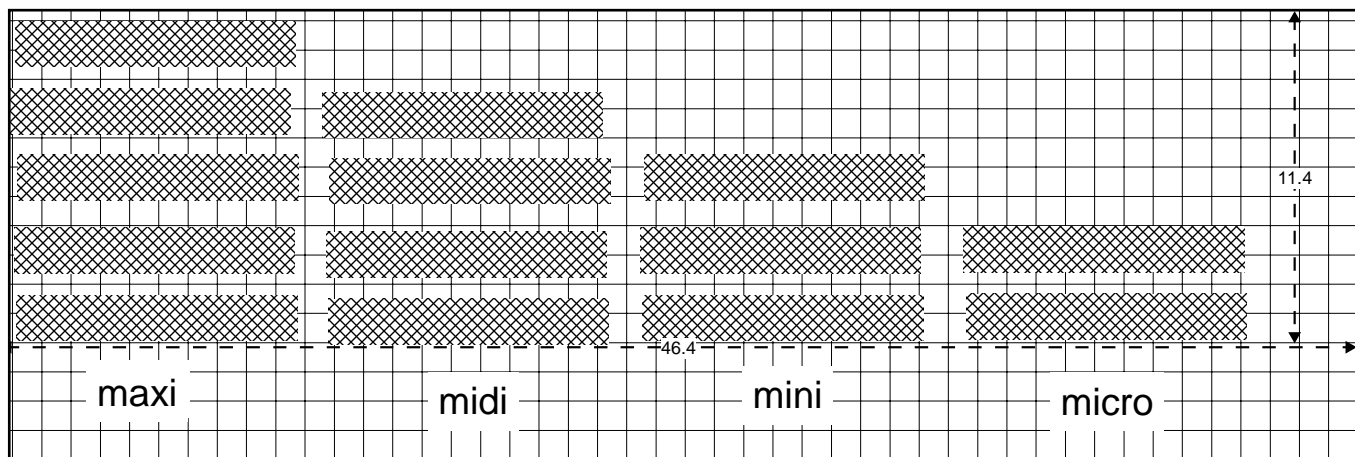
In the USA, home of the electronic timing system, the *contact obstacles and weave poles* are not allowed as the first or last obstacles on course.

*The long jump* is never used to start a course but has been used on occasion at the end of a course. The adjustable light curtains do not reliably capture the finish time as the heights they are calibrated to anticipate are for the dog either jumping a specific height or coming out of a tunnel. As a result, we don't recommend using a broad jump at the end of a course with the adjustable light curtains.



**If a club has the full-height light curtains**, they can be substituted for the back two corner markers of the broad or long jump and will record the finish time as they will capture a dog at whatever height he passes through the beams.

If you use the long jump as your last obstacle remember that the length of the course must be the SAME for all height dogs, so you will need to take that into account when altering the long jump.

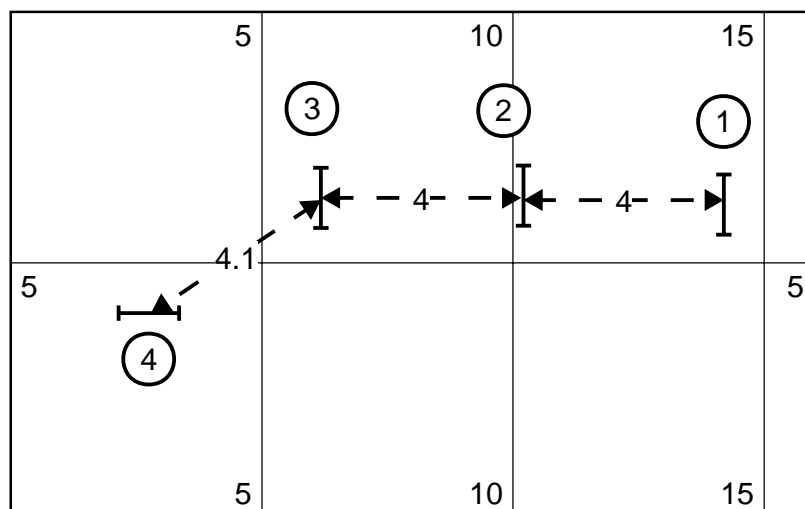


For the full article on electronic timers by the man himself, go to the Judges page on the NZKC Agility Committee website.

Mark Kuznitz is the founder and owner of Signature Gear. Signature Gear manufactures and sells agility and flyball electronic timing systems, including wireless microphone systems. Signature Gear systems are used exclusively at virtually every major competition in the world including AKC Nationals, USDAA Nationals, AAC Nationals, CKC Nationals, CPE Nationals, NADAC Nationals, Australian Nationals, New Zealand Nationals, and FCI World Championships. Mark competes in agility with Australian Shepherds Maverick and Viper.

## THE 4m RULE.

This rule applies where the dog can travel a straight line between jumps. The jumps 1-2-3 are obviously in a straight line so must be a minimum of 4m apart. The distance from Jump 3-4 must also be a minimum of 4m as a dog could jump them in a straight line.



## CHECKING YOUR COURSE (from page 3)

### So what problems did you see?

The tunnel No.3 was pegged incorrectly.

### What happened on the day?

I could see the entrance adequately (phew) if I moved forward from the dogwalk. However, this gave me a longer judging path and given that there were over 100 dogs entered this was important to me! The biggest problem was that I could not see the same entrance when the dogs were running from 7 to 8. For some reason a number of them (despite their handlers racing off up the course!!) saw the tunnel lying there and decided that after the long jump they would head towards it. A few dogs actually went into the tunnel and ran right through it and were disqualified. My problem was that I had no idea if a dog had put its head in the tunnel opening, and a few were very close. I decided early on that I could only mark what I could see (or hear).