

Summary of changes to Agility Regulations – effective 1 July 2011

The following is designed to provide a guide to the 1 July 2011 Agility Regulations changes. Please refer to the full Regulations for exact wording.

1. New Regulation which will see a dog disqualified if it has only been able to complete an obstacle due to the physical assistance of the handler, i.e. the handler touching or holding the dog so as to guide or control it through or over an obstacle, where the dog would (in the opinion of the judge) have been unable to complete the obstacle otherwise.
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2. Changes to Regulations regarding judging the Crossover.

Judges may require that dogs enter the cross-over from any direction. Dogs must be directed to exit either left or right and must never be directed to exit straight ahead. The dog must go up and down the ramps as designated by the judge.

A refusal will apply on the Crossover if

- once having been presented to the crossover, the dog goes past the designated up ramp with no attempt to perform the crossover
- once having commenced the designated up ramp, the dog leaves the crossover (i.e. touches the ground) prior to placing a minimum of one foot on a ramp other than the designated up ramp

In Novice, Intermediate and Senior classes, up to three refusals may be awarded on the Crossover (thereby incurring disqualification).

If a dog attempts to descend an incorrect ramp by putting more than two paws on the ramp it is a fault. In this instance, the dog must continue down the ramp to the ground and return to the designated up ramp and negotiate the obstacle correctly before continuing. The off contact point of the incorrect ramp is not judged.

A dog failing to complete the descent of an incorrect ramp once it has placed more than two paws on the incorrect ramp, or attempting to ascend the crossover by other than the designated up ramp is disqualified.

In Novice, Intermediate and Senior classes a maximum of one fault is incurred for descending an incorrect ramp, no matter how many times the dog does it. Additional faults or disqualification may be awarded on the crossover for any other reason that may apply as described within the Agility Regulations (e.g. failure to touch a contact point, handler interaction with the equipment, touching the dog, physically assisting the dog).

3. Changes to Regulations regarding judging the Weaving Poles.

A refusal will apply on the Weaving Poles if

- the dog passes the second weaving pole with no prior attempt to enter the weave (this applies to either side of the weaving poles)

No additional refusal or fault will be scored subsequent to having incurred the refusal, until such time as the dog returns to the start of the weaving poles and is re-presented to the obstacle.

In Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Senior classes, up to three refusals may be awarded on the Weaving Poles (thereby incurring disqualification).

Refusals are not marked on the Weaving Poles in Elementary classes.

Subsequent to incurring a refusal, a disqualification may still be assessed (as defined below).

A fault will apply on the Weaving Poles if

- the dog enters the weaving poles with the first weaving pole on the dog's right-hand side
- the dog (once it has correctly entered the weaving poles) negotiates the weaving poles incorrectly
- any part of the handler's body passes between two weaving poles, or touches a weaving pole

In Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Senior classes, a maximum of one fault may be awarded on the Weaving Poles.

Faults are not marked on the Weaving Poles in Elementary classes.

Subsequent to incurring a fault, a disqualification may still be assessed (as defined below).

Disqualification will occur if

- the dog back-weaves, which is defined as passing between the two end poles (i.e. the two furthest from the start of the weaving poles) as if it were negotiating or attempting to negotiate the weaving poles in the wrong direction
 - the dog fails to complete correct negotiation of the weaving poles before negotiating the next obstacle (or where the weaving poles are the final obstacle, finishing the course)
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4. Regulation re handler touching the dog re-defined, so that
- if the handler deliberately touches the dog it is a fault
 - accidental contact between handler and dog is a fault if the dog receives an advantage it otherwise wouldn't have had
 - accidental contact between handler and dog is not a fault if the dog receives no advantage as a result
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5. Regulation re handler touching equipment re-defined, so that a fault is incurred if (in the opinion of the judge) the handler
- deliberately or accidentally touches, jumps or straddles any obstacle, if in the instance of doing so provides indication to the dog of the performance of the obstacle with which the handler interacted
 - deliberately or accidentally places any part of their body within the aperture of a Hoop or Tunnel, if in the instance of doing so provides indication to the dog of the performance of the obstacle with which the handler interacted
 - deliberately places any part of their body between any two weaving poles at any time
 - goes under any part of any obstacle at any time
 - breaks the start or finish beam of an electronic timer
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6. Several Regulations amended due to name change from National Dog Training Assembly (NDTA) to New Zealand Dog Agility Championship (NZDAC).
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7. NZDAC inter-zone teams are now only to be selected from separate trials, not based on performance from shows.
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8. All dogs must have an interim height measurement certificate at 18 months and a permanent height measurement certificate at 2 years, including those competing only at Ribbon Trials.
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9. Agility Regulations Index updated accordingly.
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