

## NZKC AGILITY COMMITTEE

### REGULATION CHANGES, TO COME INTO EFFECT ON JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2017.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016 the Agility Committee considered all the submissions and made the following decisions.

A. *New regulations.*

1. *Up contacts on A-frame will not be judged*
2. *Stepping over equipment – will attract a penalty*
3. *Starts – responsibility of Judges to indicate before competitor may start.*
4. *Collapsible tunnel – 5m before and after*
5. *Weave – consistency with Elementary A mistakes being faulted*
6. *Running orders*
  - i. *minis and micros together.*
  - ii. *changing running order*
7. *Jumpers paired – mixed heights to be default.*

B. *Minor changes to be made to these and then added to Agility regulations*

8. *Back jumps*
9. *Stabilising wing jumps.*
10. *Entry fee refunds*
11. *Run-offs and re-runs*

C. *More consultation required.*

12. *Start lines*

D. *Feedback is requested on:-*

- *Listed items B and C*
- *Stabilisers for wing jumps*
- *Change to weave refusals*

E. *Proposed new regulations that will not proceed.*

13. *Carrying of leads*
14. *Weave fault and carry on*
15. *Games weave regulation*

*An outline of the new regulations, and those that have been changed follows.*

**Any feedback on these changes must be received by December 1st**

**to:- Email:nzkcac@gmail.com**

**Post:NZKC Agility Committee, c/o NZ Kennel Club, Private Bag 50903, Porirua 5240**

## A. New regulations

### 1. UPCONCONTACTS

The up-contact on the A-frame will not be judged.

#### **Existing regulation.**

##### **13.6.3.3 Contact Areas**

If the dog does not touch a contact area on the See-Saw, Aframe, Dog Walk or Cross-over Ramp.

#### **Proposed regulation.**

##### **13.6.3.3 Contact Areas**

*If the dog does not touch a contact area on the See-Saw, A-frame, Dog Walk or Cross-over Ramp, except that the up contact on the A-frame is not to be judged.*

### 2. STEPPING OVER EQUIPMENT.

Stepping over equipment - Ramps, tunnels.

No change to the regulations. 13.6.4.3

Stepping over equipment will continue to be penalised.

### 3. STARTS – Judges indicating.

The new regulation requires all Judges to indicate when a competitor may start, by either a verbal or physical gesture. The penalty for starting the run before the judge has indicated is disqualification. This should ensure improved communication between competitors and judges at the start of a run, and incidents where handlers start before judges are ready should disappear. Furthermore, the penalty if they do this will be consistent across all judges.

#### **Existing regulation.**

##### **7.2.2 Conduct of the Ring**

Judges shall be responsible for the conduct of the Ring, including but not limited to ensuring that stewards instruct handlers in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations and the correct timing of all exercises where this is necessary.

#### **Proposed new regulation.**

##### *7.2.2 Conduct of the ring.*

*7.2.2.1 Judges shall be responsible for the conduct of the Ring, including but not limited to ensuring that stewards instruct handlers in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations and that any ring equipment such as timers is set up correctly.*

*7.2.2.2 Judges will indicate when a competitor may start their run, by either a verbal or physical gesture.*

#### **Add to 13.7.3 Mandatory Disqualification**

- *Starting a run before the judge has indicated.*

#### **4. COLLAPSIBLE TUNNELS ARE TO BE PLACED ON A STRAIGHT LINE.**

There have been safety concerns about asking dogs to turn in and out of collapsible tunnels. The Agility Committee has decided that adding a straight line requirement into the regulations is the best approach at this stage.

The Agility committee will be seeking information on tunnel designs to determine the safer designs.

Add to regulations.

##### **13.13 Distance between Obstacles.**

###### **13.13.2 Collapsible tunnel.**

*There must be a minimum of five metre straight line approach to a collapsible tunnel, and a further five metres straight line to the next obstacle after a collapsible tunnel. A collapsible tunnel must not be situated on a corner, or with a tight turn required either before or after it.*

Renumber 13.13.3 Unimpeded RunUp

#### **5. WEAVE FAULTS – CONSISTENCY.**

The Agility Committee concluded it was sensible to make the penalty for faults in the weave consistent across all classes. Consistency in awarding faults will be done by deleting 13.8.1.1 and adding 13.8.1 to the regulations.

Proposed regulation

##### **13.8 Scoring Specific Obstacles**

*Delete*

*13.8.1.1 There shall be no points penalty in Elementary classes, but the weave must be completed correctly.*

*Change and renumber the rest to read...*

##### **13.8.1 Scoring the Weaving Poles**

###### **13.8.1.1 Faults**

*13.8.1.1.1 In Elementary A, Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Senior classes a maximum of one fault may be awarded under Agility Regulation 13.6.3.8.*

#### **6. RUNNING ORDERS, MINIS AND MICROS TOGETHER**

(i) When the minis and micros are combined to form a small group it is logical and fairer for the group to run at the same time. A change to the regulation reflects this. (11.1.2.4 and 11.3.2.4)

##### **11.1.2.1 Standard Classes Split by Height groups.**

At every Championship Event an individual Standard Class must be split when, at the date for closing of entries, entry numbers in each height group in that class reach 15 or more.

**11.1.2.1.1** For the purpose of splitting by height, mini and micro height groups may be combined to form a Small group of 15 or more.

**11.1.2.1.2** Each height group where numbers exceed 15, will compete as a separate class for separate placings and prizes.

**11.1.2.1.3** Height groups may compete under the same or different judges, and on the same or different courses for that class.

*11.1.2.1.4 In the running orders, when a Small group is formed, the minis and micros must run directly after each other.*

##### **11.3.3 Standard Classes Split by Height groups.**

At every Ribbon trial an individual Standard Class must be split when, at the date for closing of entries, entry numbers in each height group in that class reach 15 or more.

11.3.2.1 For the purpose of splitting by height, mini and micro height groups may be combined to form a Small group of 15 or more.

11.3.2.2 Each height group where numbers exceed 15 will compete as a separate class for separate placings and prizes.

11.3.2.3 Height groups may compete under the same or different judges, and on the same or different courses for that class.

11.3.2.4 *In the running orders, when a Small group is formed, the minis and micros must run directly after each other.*

(ii) *Running orders.* Adds what has been a convention to the regulations.

6.13. *Running orders.*

*In the event of one handler running multiple dogs in one class, the handler may move dogs but may not change the order in which they run.*

## **7. JUMPERS PAIRS - MIXED HEIGHT TO BE DEFAULT AS PER NORMAL PRACTICE.**

It was decided to change this regulation as per convention, so that mixed height pairs is the default, and clubs will have to note in their schedule if they intend to do same height pairs.

### **Change 17.3.2.1.to read**

#### **17.3.2.1 Jumpers Pairs height.**

Clubs may offer Jumpers Pairs at one of two levels: either mixed height team competition or same height team competition. In mixed height the Club may define which course the smallest dog of the pair attempts to minimise the number of jump height changes. Where the type of competition is not defined in the schedule it will be assumed to a mixed height competition.

## B. New regulations that have been modified slightly.

### 8. LANDING SIDE APPROACHES (BACKSIDES).

Additions to the proposed regulation are:-

- Changes to the definition of what a landing side approach is
- Confirm that a stand-alone wing jump must be used not a wing sitting outside a standard jump.

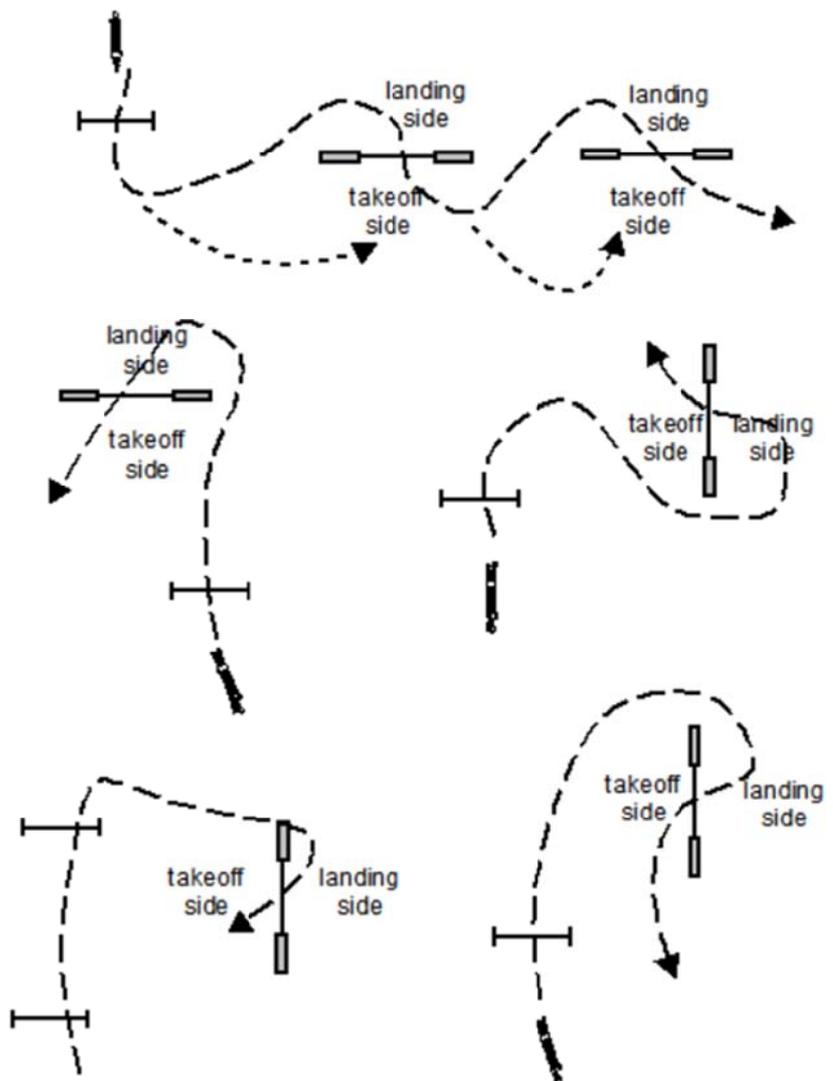
Proposed regulation.

#### 5.4.3 Safety of the Dog

##### 5.4.3.1 Landing side approach on jumps.

*This is where the handler must send or escort the dog to the landing side of a jump so that the correct side of the jump comes into the dog's view. Where a landing side approach is required a stand-alone wing jump must be used. Judges must not set a landing side approach on a spread jump.*

*Examples of landing side approaches.*



## 9. STABILISING WING JUMPS

In adverse weather conditions, where a wing may fall over, stabilisers can be placed **ALONGSIDE** the wing, so that if a dog bangs into it the wing can fall away.

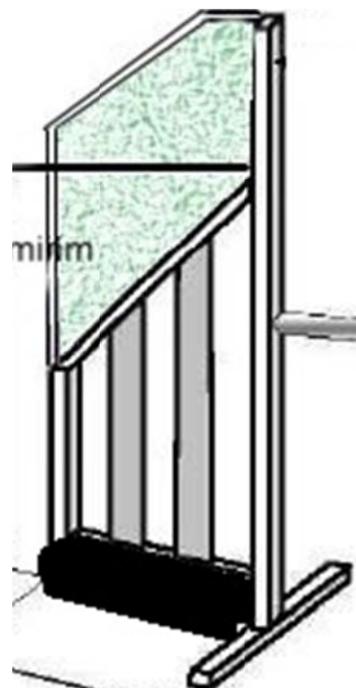
Pegs must not be placed over or through any part of the wing to stabilise the jump. This is a safety consideration for the dog which judges and competitors must respect.

Examples of stabilisers that will work include:- small sandbags, 2l milk bottles filled with water, a small peg banged in alongside the wing. The agility community is encouraged to research and innovate other ideas that will stop a wing from falling but don't immobilise it.

Add to regulations:-

*5.4.3.2. Where adverse weather conditions may cause wings to fall over, a stabiliser may be placed alongside the wing. Pegs must not be placed over or through any part of the wing.*

*Right: Wing with sandbag stabiliser*



## 10. ENTRY FEE REFUNDS .

Doctor and vet has been replaced with "Medical professional" as often it is a physio or some medical professional other than a doctor who can provide evidence.

Proposal with changes would read.

*Add to 5.2 General Conditions of Entry*

*5.2.15. The club shall refund in full any entry withdrawn before the closing date for entries stated in the schedule. Refunds shall be granted after the closing date:*

- a) if the dog is no longer eligible for competition due to suffering from, or exposure to, a contagious or infectious disease*
- b) if the dog or its handler suffers injury or illness making it unable to attend and compete*
- c) if the dog, being an unspeyed bitch, comes into season*
- d) in other situations at the Club's discretion*

*The club may request medical professional proof, and shall be entitled to deduct any New Zealand Kennel Club Show levies paid, before any refund is made.*

## 11. RUNOFFS AND RE-RUNS.

Re-runs: Add what will happen when a handler gets a time and is offered a re-run but does not want to re-run. Handlers will only be disqualified if the re-run is for time, and they choose not to re-run

Run-offs: There is nothing in the regulations to say what procedure should be followed where two (or more) dogs are tied on the same time for a placing, so this has been added. It was decided that running dogs off on the same course was in all likelihood impractical, and as they had had both fairly ended up with exactly the same time and faults they should be awarded the same placing and share any prizes.

***Add to the regulations:-***

*13.10.4 Refusing a rerun.*

*13.10.5 Tied scores*

### **13.10 Re-runs and Tied scores**

#### **13.10.1 Re-runs permitted in some circumstances**

Competitors will be allowed re-runs at the judge's discretion under the following conditions

- (i) Failure of any obstacle.
- (ii) Outside interference.
- (iii) Timing failure.
- (iv) Any other unforeseen circumstance which in the opinion of the judge has unfairly disadvantaged the chances of the dog continuing unimpeded and/or safely.

#### **13.10.2 Timing of Re-run**

In the event of a dog being awarded a re-run the judge shall liaise with the handler to determine when the dog will re-run.

#### **13.10.3 Calculation of Faults on Re-run**

Faults accumulated up until the point at which the incident occurred in the original round will count. No further faults for this part of the course may be incurred, except that the course must ultimately be run correctly. A missed obstacle not corrected will be penalised with elimination.

#### **13.10.4 Refusing a re-run.**

*Should a competitor refuse the re-run the original result will stand, except for the situation where no time has been recorded. In this case, the run shall be noted as eliminated.*

#### **13.10.5. Tied scores.**

*Where more than one dog obtains the same time on any placing for which prizes, trophies, awards or sashes are to be contested, the dogs will be given an equal tied score. Prizes, trophies, awards or sashes may be shared. Where dogs are tied for 1<sup>st</sup> they will both receive a 1<sup>st</sup> place qualification, and a 1<sup>st</sup> challenge where appropriate. In such cases there will be no 2<sup>nd</sup> placing.*

## **C. MORE CONSULTATION REQUIRED.**

### **12. START LINES – procedures and penalties.**

Currently, when a dog breaks its lead-out, the response by judges is inconsistent. Therefore, the Agility Committee wants to clarify the start-line procedure and penalties for the benefit of judges and competitors. The original proposal failed to do this, so the committee seeks input on a revised proposal, which is along the same lines as suggested by a number of respondents.

Many respondents felt that the start timer, whether on a jump, the entrance to a tunnel or other obstacle, is a clear indicator that a person has started running their dog. Most agreed that once a person has gone past the timer, they should continue the run.

As regards penalties, firstly, most respondents agreed that where a competitor, having first gone past the timer, then goes back and corrects their dog by touching it, a fault should be applied. Although the regulations already include provision for penalties should a handler touch their dog it was felt that the start is a special situation and should be specifically clarified.

Secondly, respondents agreed that repeatedly goes back to correct the dog was time wasting and an indication that more training is required. It was agreed that going back multiple times to reset a dog at the start should be penalised by either 5 faults or a disqualification.

Penalties give agiliters a clear message – you need to train good lead-outs (as a part of your total training plan) or you will be penalised.

Finally, Refusals, faults and disqualifications need to apply during a lead-out even if the handler has not gone past the start timer, because a dog which runs off and fouls, does some of the obstacles etc needs to be penalised even if the handler hasnt yet reached the start timer.

The revised regulation would read:-

#### *13.14. Start-lines.*

*During a lead-out, if a handler goes past the start timer, and then*

- returns to their dog and touches it, they receive 5 faults.*
- returns to the dog repeatedly, even if they don't touch it, they receive a disqualification.*

*Refusals, faults and disqualifications apply during a lead-out even if the handler has not gone past the start timer.*

## **D.The following proposed regulations will not proceed.**

### **13.CARRYING LEADS DURING A RUN TO BE OPTIONAL.**

The proposed regulation has been withdrawn as advantages were outweighed by perceived disadvantages.

### **14.WEAVE PENALTIES -CARRYING ON ONCE FAULTED**

No changes to existing regulation.

Failure to correctly complete the weave will result in disqualification.

However, handlers are advised that continuous repetition of the weaves is unlikely to be helpful in the long run.

#### **Please consider and provide feedback on the following:-**

Change the penalty for weaving from the wrong side of the weave to a refusal, rather than a fault. As this mistake occurs at the beginning of the obstacle, and is a failure to enter the weave correctly it is best described as a refusal.

### **15.GAMES REGULATIONS RELATING TO WEAVES.**

There will be no changes.

Handlers can still repeat the waves where appropriate to gain the points after initially making a mistake.

**Any feedback on these changes must be received by December 1st**

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