

Proposed Regulation changes - effective May 1st 2016

The Agility Committee presents the following proposed regulation changes to the agility community for consultation. The consultation period will end on March 14th.

The final draft of the regulations will be presented to the NZKC Executive Council in April.

Any feedback can be submitted to the Agility committee by

1. Email to nzkcac@gmail.com
2. Post to Agility Committee, c/o NZKC, Private Bag 50903, Porirua

The Regulation changes cover the following areas.

1. Making it easier for people to become judges.
2. Allowing AD and ADX Advanced entries to be taken on the day if the Club wishes.
3. Making changes to use of AD/ADXA entry forms.
4. Changes to be made to Elementary courses
5. Certificate of fitness timeframes and procedures.
6. Changes to graduation for Ribbon trials from Grade B jumpers to Grade A.
7. Allowing changes to be made to a Jumpers Pairs entry under certain circumstances.
8. Change level for Grade B Games to Senior.
9. Rates of travel for games.
10. Add information about when you can do obstacles in the gamble area.

Changes to judging regulations to make it easier for new judges to start.

The Agility Committee has proposed to make it easier for anyone wanting to become an agility judge.

Exams will be held twice a year instead of the current once a year.

The new regulation also reflects what happens at exam time, with the Agility committee organising them, not the NZKC.

Current regulation

7.7.5 Date and Time of Examination

The Agility Committee shall set a date and time for the examination in February of each year. The Executive Council will appoint suitable independent members of NZKC to supervise the examinations. The locations of the examinations will be decided by the coordinator who will be appointed by the NZKC Agility Committee.

7.7.6 Permission to Sit Examination

Any person who has been approved by the NZKC Agility Committee to be appointed to the Agility Trainee Panel can sit the examination in February of each year.

New regulation would read

7.7.5 Date and Time of Examination

The Agility Committee shall set dates for the examination, which shall be held twice a year. The Agility Committee will appoint suitable independent members of NZKC to act as coordinator and to supervise the examinations. The location of the examinations will be agreed by the coordinator and the examinee.

7.7.6 Permission to Sit Examination

Any person who has been approved by the Agility Committee to be appointed to the Agility Trainee Panel can sit the examination.

Changes to allow AD and ADX Advanced entries to be taken on the day at a Championship event or Agility Ribbon Trial if the Club wishes.

Existing regulation

11.4.4.2 Closing Date

The closing date of AD Classes and ADX Advanced Classes being held in conjunction with Championship Events shall be no later than seven days prior to the date of the class.

11.4.4.2.1 Where any AD and/or ADX Advanced Class are being held in conjunction with an agility Ribbon Trial, competitors may enter on the day. Competitors will still be required to supply an official NZKC entry form.

New regulation would read

11.4.4.2 Closing Date of AD Classes and ADX Advanced Classes.

Closing date may be:

11.4.4.2.1 At Championship Events:- on the day if the club has published that entries will be taken on the day in the schedule, otherwise no later than seven days prior to the date of the class.

11.4.4.2.2 On the day at Ribbon trial events.

AD and ADX Advanced - Entry form changes.

Current regulation reads.

5.2.8 Official Entry Form

All entries for Championship or Open Events, AD Class or ADX Advanced Class must be on an Official NZKC Entry Form, or by online entry if the club is using this format for the taking of entries.

Proposed change would read

5.2.8 Official Entry Form

Entries for Championship or Open Events, must be on an Official NZKC Entry Form, or by online entry if the club is using this format for the taking of entries.

Entries for AD or ADX Advanced classes may be on an official NZKC entry form, online, or on the day into a computerised entry system that contains all the dog and handler NZKC registration details.

Allowing changes to be made to a standard Elementary course on the day if approved by a Senior judge.

Rationale.

As an example, It may be wet and the removal of the collapsible tunnel and replacement with a flexible tunnel may be considered for the safety of the dogs. Currently this would not be allowed. The change is proposed so that a trainee judge may make a change provided it is approved by a Senior judge on the day.

Current regulation reads.

14.1.1.6 Judge of Elementary Class

Judges of any Elementary class can be any person not being a disqualified person under the Rules or Regulations of the NZKC. Trainee judges and other people who are not on any Agility Judges Panel, must use an Elementary Course drawn from the standard courses supplied by the NZKC Agility Committee.

New Regulation would read.

14.1.1.6 Judge of Elementary Class

Judges of any Elementary class can be any person not being a disqualified person under the Rules or Regulations of the NZKC.

14.1.1.6.1 Courses for Elementary classes.

Trainee judges and other people who are not on any Agility Judges Panel, must use an Elementary Course drawn from the standard courses supplied by the NZKC Agility Committee. Changes may be made to the course only if approved by a Senior judge on the day.

Changes to certificate of fitness, creating a firm time line for COFs to occur.

The Agility Committee believes safety of equipment is very important, and if Clubs have certainty as to when their equipment is going to be inspected they will be better able to prepare for it.

The proposal is that clubs from each Zone will be inspected every five years, and this will coincide with the year NZDAC is in that Zone. This will also ensure a high quality of equipment for our national event.

Current Regulation.

12.1.6 Equipment Certificate of Fitness

The NZKC Agility Committee will organise the checking of all Agility obstacles to ensure the ongoing suitability and safety of equipment being used in training and at competitions. A Certificate of Fitness will be issued to the club detailing all of the equipment inspected. Where the report is unsatisfactory the NZKC Agility Committee will inform the Club, and request action be taken to bring the equipment up to standard within a certain time frame. The Club will not be able to use that equipment until the NZKC Agility Committee receives a satisfactory report, and issues the certificate of fitness.

Regulation will read.

12.1.6 Equipment Certificate of Fitness

12.1.6.1 An annual Certificate of fitness programme will be scheduled for those clubs within the Zone holding NZDAC in that year.

12.1.6.2 Certificate of Fitness assessors. The NZKC Agility Committee will delegate the checking of all Agility obstacles to Certificate of Fitness assessors. The Certificate of Fitness assessors have the right to remove any equipment from use at any time if it is unsuitable for purpose.

12.1.6.3 Certificate of Fitness report. This will be issued to the club detailing all of the equipment inspected. Where the report is unsatisfactory the NZKC Agility Committee will inform the Club, and request action be taken to bring the equipment up to standard within a certain time frame. The Club will not be able to use that equipment until the NZKC Agility Committee receives a satisfactory report, and issues the certificate of fitness.

12.1.6.4 All new equipment must be inspected prior to use.

Graduation in Jumpers Classes

Alter wording for graduation at Open and Ribbon trial level, so dogs need to gain 25 crcs and not JDX. This means they can graduate at Open or ribbon trial level using Open or Ribbon Trial clear rounds.

Proposed regulation.

15.2.1.2, 15.2.1.3 and 15.2.2 modified:

Add highlighted sentences.

15.2 Graduation in Jumpers Classes

15.2.1 Graduation from Grade C to Grade B

15.2.1.1 Criteria for Graduation

A dog will become eligible for entry into Grade B classes when it has achieved:

- 2 wins with clear rounds in Grade C Jumpers classes or,
- 1 win with a clear round in Grade C Jumpers classes plus a further 3 points gained in such classes or,
- the award of JD title by gaining 25 clear rounds in Championship Grade C classes.

15.2.1.2 Additional Criteria for Graduation at Open Agility Events

A dog shall become eligible for entry into Grade B classes at Open Agility Events once it has gained:

- any of the criteria in 15.2.1.1, or
- 25 clear rounds in Open Agility Event Grade C classes or,
- A combined total of 25 clear rounds from Open Agility Event and Championship Grade C Glasses

15.2.1.3 Additional Criteria for Graduation at Ribbon Trials

A dog shall become eligible for entry into Grade B classes at Ribbon Trials once it has gained

- any of the criteria in 15.2.1.1 or 15.2.1.2 or
- 25 clear rounds in Ribbon Trial Grade C classes or,
- A combined total for 25 clear rounds from Open Agility Event and Championship Grade C classes or,
- A combined total of 25 clear rounds from Ribbon Trial, Open Agility Event and Championship Grade C classes.

15.2.2 Graduation from Grade B to Grade A

15.2.2.1 Criteria for Graduation

A dog will become eligible for entry into Grade A classes when it has achieved:

- 3 wins with clear rounds in Grade B Jumpers classes or,
- 2 wins with clear rounds in Grade B Jumpers classes plus a further 3 points (or JDX, or 25 clear rounds at the appropriate level) gained in such classes or,
- 1 win with a clear round in Grade B Jumpers classes plus a further 6 points (or 3 points plus JDX or 3 points plus 25 clear rounds at the appropriate level) gained in such classes.

Allow changes to be made to Jumpers Pairs entries.

It seems reasonable that, where two people have entered Jumpers pairs and then lose their partners, they should be able to get together and form a pair and still get to run in the class they entered.

This does not allow for any new entries on the day.

Jumpers pairs is reckoned as a single entry, mainly for the purposes of calculating levies and refunds.

Existing regulation

17.3.2.2 Entering Jumpers pairs.

An entry for Jumpers pairs is reckoned as a single entry, and conditions will apply as for single entries. Where an entry for Jumpers pairs is accepted, it cannot be altered after entries have closed.

Proposed new regulation to read

17.3.2.2 Entering Jumpers pairs.

An entry for Jumpers pairs is reckoned as a single entry.

17.3.2.2.1 Altering a pair.

Once entries have closed, alterations may only be made if two pairs are each affected by the withdrawal of a partner. In this case, at the discretion of the club, the remaining member of each pair may form a new pair.

Eligibility for Games Grade B and C.

The current regulation states that if a dog was in Senior in July 2014 it is in Grade B for games. This was relevant at the time, but as time passes, people cannot remember what grade their dog was in at that time. It was decided in 2014 that dogs competing at Senior level have appropriate skills for Grade B Games, and this has not changed.

The proposed change to the regulations deletes the old transition rule and adds an extra criteria to Grade C graduation. This means that any dog, once it graduates to Senior, can no longer compete in Grade C games, and instead will become eligible to compete in B-grade games. The transition rule for gaining the GD award will apply in this situation.

Note: reg 8.3.1 Transition rule for GD title ...still applies

Those dogs which start in Grade B will need to collect TEN Grade B championship qualifying certificates (including at least 2 Snooker and 2 Gamblers) in Grade B Games before they can apply for the GD title.

Existing regulation.

16.1. Transition rule: Dogs at Senior agility level on July 1st 2014 will start in Grade B for all games classes. All other dogs will be in Grade C games classes.

Proposed new regulation.

Delete. 16.1 Transition rule.

Add extra criteria for graduation from Grade C games.

Currently reads.

16.4.1 Graduation from Grade C

A dog will become eligible for entry into Grade B classes when it has achieved one of the following:

- 3 wins (or 2 wins and 1 point, or 1 win and 6 points) in Grade C Games classes. They must gain at least 1 qualifying certificate in each of Gamblers and Snooker, or
- gained the GD title. Graduation is optional in this case.

Proposed new regulation.

16.4.1 Graduation from Grade C

A dog will become eligible for entry into Grade B classes when it has achieved one of the following:

- 3 wins (or 2 wins and 1 point, or 1 win and 6 points) in Grade C Games classes. They must gain at least 1 qualifying certificate in each of Gamblers and Snooker, or
- Graduated from Senior agility, or
- gained the GD title. Graduation is optional in this case.

Games rate of travel.

This adds the rate of travel directly to the games part of the regulations rather than having a reference to elsewhere in the regulations.

Existing regulation.

16.5 Rates of Travel

The rate of travel of the dog for the purposes of qualifying certificates must be within the ranges specified for agility classes for Gamblers, Snooker and Black-jack and for jumpers classes for Jumpers pairs. Grade C is equivalent to Novice or Grade C Jumpers, Grade B to Intermediate or Grade B jumpers, and Grade A to Senior or Grade A Jumpers.

New regulation would read

16.5 Rates of Travel

The rate of travel of the dog for the purposes of qualifying certificates must be as specified.

16.5.1 Gamblers, Snooker and Blackjack.

Rate of travel (minimum) is 2.5 m/s (Grade C), 2.75 m/s (Grade B) and 3 m/s (Grade A)

16.5.2. Jumpers pairs.

Rate of travel (minimum) is 2.75 m/s (Grade C), 3.25 m/s (Grade B) and 3.75 m/s (Grade A)

Negotiating Obstacles in the gamble area.

This regulation makes it clear when you can negotiate obstacles within the gamble area during the Points accumulation period (PAP), and what the penalty is if you negotiate more than one at a time.

Current regulation

17.1.2.3. Negotiation of obstacles during PAP.

The dog may negotiate an obstacle from any direction (except for the seesaw and collapsible tunnel) any number of times. Obstacles may not be taken back to back.

New regulation

Add: 17.1.2.4 Negotiation of gamble obstacles during the Points accumulation period (PAP).

The dog may negotiate one obstacle in the gamble at a time, from any direction. During the Points accumulation period (PAP) the handler may go inside the gamble area. If the horn sounds to signal start of gamble period, the handler must exit the handler restriction area before beginning the gamble sequence.

Current regulation reads.

17.1.2.5 Judging during the PAP.

Knocked poles and missed contacts score no points. A dog must reach the contact point before the obstacle can be scored. Poles are not replaced during the round so that when a pole is knocked that jump is not worth any points should it be negotiated later in the run. Weave will gain points if correctly negotiated. Refusals are not judged during the PAP.

New regulation

17.1.2.5

ADD: If a dog negotiates two or more gamble obstacles without putting a non-gamble obstacle in between the dog is disqualified.