

NZKC AGILITY COMMITTEE

REGULATION CHANGE PROPOSALS MAY 2016

These are presented for consultation and are a result of survey responses received in July 2014 (from Judges) and January 2015 (from all agiliteers).

Matters listed below refer to:-

- *Starts – Judges indicating.*
- *Starts – dealing with broken lead-outs*
- *Up contacts on A-frame*
- *Stepping over equipment*
- *Back jumps/wings*
- *Weave penalties for repeat attempts*
- *SCT for timer errors*

1. STARTS – Judges indicating.

This regulation would require 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.*

2. STARTS – procedure and penalties for restarts on broken lead-outs.

This regulation is brought in as a means to provide consistent judging at the start of a run, when a dog starts before a handler is ready and when the handler brings the dog back to restart. The regulation also makes it clear what penalty is applied if the handler touches the dog during the restart, or not. There is also no distinction between a restart when the dog or handler have reached the first obstacle, or some other arbitrary position. The regulation refers to how the handler reacts to their dog, and what their action is.

Add

13.14. Starting a run.

A run normally starts when the handler indicates to the dog that it may begin. A false start is when the dog starts before the handler has indicated. A restart is when the handler takes the dog back to the start. Where a dog makes a false start the handler may restart the dog once without penalty. If the dog has a second false start, and the handler decides to restart the dog, they will be disqualified.

Add to **13.7.3 Mandatory Disqualification**

- Restarting the dog a third time.

Existing regulation

13.6.4.2 Touching the Dog

13.6.4.2.1 Physical contact between the handler and dog shall incur a fault if, in the opinion of the judge, the instance of making contact was

- (a) a deliberate action by the handler; or
- (b) accidental, but resulted in the dog receiving an advantage that it would not have otherwise received.

13.6.4.2.2 Accidental physical contact between the handler and dog shall not be faulted where the judge deems that no advantage was received as a result of the contact.

Proposed regulation.

13.6.4.2 Touching the Dog

add

13.6.4.2.3 If the handler touches the dog on a restart they shall incur a fault.

3. UPCONTACTS

It is proposed to change regulations on judging the up-contacts on the A-frame. There is strong support for this not to be judged due to safety concerns, when handlers make large dogs slow down or stop before the obstacle. Up-contacts on other equipment do not cause the same concerns, and not judging these would bring in additional concerns about how to ensure safe approaches. As a result judging of up-contacts on the A-frame is the only one that will change.

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.

4. STEPPING OVER EQUIPMENT.

Stepping over equipment - Ramps, tunnels. No change to the regulations. Stepping over equipment will continue to be penalised.

5. BACKSIDE.

Where a back side approach is required, a wing jump must be used. This was deemed to be a safety issue.

Existing regulation.

5.4.3 Safety of Dog

In all agility fixtures at all times the safety and wellbeing of the dog is paramount. No dog shall compete where its safety and/or wellbeing are in jeopardy.

Proposed regulation.

5.4.3 Safety of Dog

In all agility fixtures at all times the safety and wellbeing of the dog is paramount. No dog shall compete where its safety and/or wellbeing are in jeopardy.

Where a back side jump is required a wing jump must be used.

6. WEAVE PENALTIES.

It is proposed to disallow multiple attempts at the weave when a dog makes a mistake (fault). This has a number of advantages:-

- Help classes flow faster, especially at Elementary, Starters and Novice level.
- Create less stress on dogs when they cannot weave in a particular situation in the ring.
- Lessen stress on handlers who know they only need make one attempt at “fixing the weave” and then they can carry on.
- Increase enjoyment of judges officiating at Starters/Novice level as they wont need to watch multiple failures at the weave.

Where a dog makes a fault in the body of the weave it must re-attempt the weave once and then move on to the next obstacle. If the handler re-attempts the weave a second (or further) time they will be disqualified. The body of the weave is defined as past the third pole.

Existing regulation.

13.8 Scoring Specific Obstacles

13.8.1 Scoring the Weaving Poles

- 13.8.1.1 There shall be no points penalty in Elementary classes, but the weave must be completed correctly.
- 13.8.1.2 In Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Senior classes a maximum of one fault may be awarded under Agility Regulation 13.6.3.8.
- 13.8.1.3 In Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Senior classes up to three refusals may be awarded under Agility Regulation 13.5.4.9 (thereby incurring disqualification in terms of Agility Regulation 13.7.3.).
- 13.8.1.4 In Games classes, scoring of the weaving poles may vary depending on the nature of the game and the scoring basis must be outlined within the rules of each Games class.
- 13.8.1.5 In AD and ADX Advanced classes, any refusal or fault on the weaving poles shall negate the dog from achieving a clear round.

Proposed regulation

13.8 Scoring Specific Obstacles

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.

13.8.1.1.2 Second attempt at the weave. If a dog makes a mistake in the weave and incurs a fault, a dog may reattempt the weave once, and then move on to the next obstacle.

13.8.1.2 Refusals.

In Elementary A, Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Senior classes up to three refusals may be awarded under Agility Regulation 13.5.4.9 (thereby incurring disqualification in terms of Agility Regulation 13.7.3.).

13.8.1.3. Disqualification.

- If a dog incurs a fault in the weave, it may have one re-attempt. Any further re-attempt results in disqualification.
- Failure to complete correct negotiation of the weaving poles in terms of Agility Regulation 13.3 either (a) before negotiating the next obstacle, or (b) where the weaving poles are the final obstacle, completing the course by breaking the finish beam of the electronic timer, or crossing the finish line if manual timing is being utilised.
- Taking the weave from the wrong direction. This means the dog passing between the two end poles (i.e. the two furthestmost from the start of the weaving poles) as if it were negotiating or attempting to negotiate the weaving poles in the wrong direction

13.8.1.4 In Games classes, scoring of the weaving poles must be outlined within the rules of each Games class.

13.8.1.5 In AD and ADX Advanced classes, any refusal or fault on the weaving poles shall negate the dog from achieving a clear round.

Delete references to weaves from standard definition.

13.7.3 Mandatory Disqualification

- Taking an obstacle in the incorrect sequence.
- Taking the correct obstacle from the wrong direction. ~~For weaving poles this means the dog passing between the two end poles (i.e. the two furthestmost from the start of the weaving poles) as if it were negotiating or attempting to negotiate the weaving poles in the wrong direction.~~
- Three refusals during a round.
- Outside interference during a run includes “double handling” but does not include cheering during around.
- Taking more than the maximum course time.
- Running out of the ring out of control of the handler.
- Fouling (Vomiting, Urinating or defecating) in the ring.
- If the dog starts the course wearing a check chain or any collar other than that allowed under these regulations.
- If the dog commences it run from outside the roped ring area.
- ~~Failure to complete correct negotiation of the weaving poles in terms of Agility Regulation 13.3 either (a) before negotiating the next obstacle, or (b) where the weaving poles are the final obstacle, completing the course by breaking the finish beam of the electronic timer, or crossing the finish line if manual timing is being utilised.~~
- Where a dog has only been able to complete an obstacle due to the physical assistance of the handler, the dog shall be disqualified. “Physical assistance” shall mean 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.

7. Re-runs and time given.

Where a timer fails, and a competitor chooses not to re-run the dog is disqualified. This has been stated by various Agility Committees over the years (2013-2014) but has never been added to the regulations. This change would make it clear.

Current regulation.

13.10 Re-runs

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.

Proposed regulation.

Add

13.10.4 Failure to re-run.

Should a competitor refuse the re-run, for whatever reason, that run shall be noted as disqualified.

8. Discussion Regarding the Show Regulations and Entry Fee Refunds .

There is no reference to refunds in the Agility Regulations, except where a Judge is changed at short notice and hasn't been notified as the Reserve Judge. It is proposed to add an additional Agility Regulation in 5.2 General Conditions of Entry to reflect the earlier closing dates that agility uses, which is common practice amongst agility clubs, and to clarify under what conditions refunds are given.

Proposal.

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 suffers injury or illness making it unable to attend and compete
- c) If the entry being a bitch entered in the show comes into season
- d) other situations at the Club's discretion

The club may require veterinary proof of any physical condition. The club shall be entitled to deduct any New Zealand Kennel Club Show levies paid from any refund made.