

NZKC Agility Committee

Consultation Part Two on judging the weaves.

WEAVE PENALTIES.

The Agility Committee received a number of communications on the proposed regulation change. As a result of this feedback, the Agility Committee would like its members to consider the following points, and presents a revised regulation at the end.

1. The aim is that dogs will be trained to complete the weave under a variety of situations similar to those that may be presented to them in the ring. Even so, we can expect less experienced dogs to have more errors in the weave.
2. Errors on all other obstacles are marked, and the weave should be no exception. A change to the regulation would create more consistency.
3. Where other obstacles are faulted (bar down, contact missed) the dog/handler carry on. If they go back and have a second attempt they are disqualified. Applying similar criteria to the weave would make the regulations more consistent.
4. Repeating weaves in the ring was mentioned as essential for training purposes, but a competition is not a place to do training, and in fact our regulations specifically disallow training in the ring.
5. Repeating the weave in the ring is not as useful a training aid as people may think.
 - a. Often the handler will try to correct a pop at pole 10 by putting the dog back into the weave at that point, which is obviously not training the dog to do the whole weave.
 - b. Repeating the weave from the start may be successful, but often it is the events/obstacles leading up to the weave that contributed to the mistake, and this is not repeated, so the weave is not trained properly.

Club is the place to train the weaves. Obstacles/toys/distractions placed close by the weave should be practised. Training all the approaches to the weave should be done at top speeds and in a variety of different sequences. This will improve weaving in the ring.
6. Removing the requirement to go back and repeat the weaves would also:-
 - a. help classes flow faster, especially at Elementary, Starters and Novice level.
 - b. lessen stress on dogs that cannot weave in a particular situation in the ring.
 - lessen stress on handlers who know if their dog doesn't get the weave they can carry on.
 - increase enjoyment of judges officiating at all levels as they wont need to watch multiple failures at the weave.
 - improve spectator enjoyment and understanding as obstacles are treated similarly, and multiple attempts at any obstacle doesn't make for a good spectacle.
 - look after ground conditions especially when wet/slippery, dry/slippery, muddy
 - be healthier for dogs, as weaving does create stresses on the body not found when negotiating other pieces of equipment, and multiple attempts accentuate this.
7. Penalising the weave in Elementary A is warranted because:-
 - a. A clear round in this class means the dog is excluded from entering it again. Additionally, if there is no penalty for getting 6 poles wrong the dog may be pushed up to Starters (with 12 poles). If it cannot weave 6 poles it should be able to enter that level again, which may not happen if the weave is not penalised.
 - b. Handlers in Elementary A are more experienced, often competing with their second dog. Even if handlers and dogs are less experienced they will have done Elementary B already.
 - c. Elementary A is a natural progression with only 6 weave poles, and a penalty for a mistake is appropriate, as all the other obstacles will receive the same penalties for mistakes at the next level.

Revised regulation.

It is proposed that where a dog makes a mistake in the body of the weave it will be faulted, and it can move on to the next obstacle without further penalty. The handler can also choose to have one more attempt to get the dog to weave correctly, but if they have another attempt they will be disqualified.

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.

13.8.1.1.2 Re-attempts at the weave. If a dog makes a mistake in the weave and incurs a fault, the dog may move on to the next obstacle without further penalty. One reattempt is permissible. Any further re-attempts will result in disqualification.

13.7.3 Mandatory Disqualification

Add

If the dog has already incurred a fault in the weave, two or more re-attempts result in disqualification.

Delete

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.

Other changes (in italics).

Gamblers.

17.1.2.5 Judging during the PAP.

17.1.2.5.1 Mistakes made during a run.

Knocked poles and missed contacts score no points. 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. The weave will gain points only if it is negotiated correctly. One reattempt is permissible. Any further re-attempts will result in no points being scored. Refusals are not judged during the PAP.

BlackJack.

17.4.6 Judging

Refusals are not judged in Blackjack. Missed contacts and knocked rails result in that obstacle not being scored. The weave will gain points only if it is negotiated correctly. One reattempt is permissible. Any further re-attempts will result in no points being scored. The judge calls the value of each obstacle correctly completed which are noted by the scribe. If an obstacle is not scored the judge will call "No".

Feedback by 1/11/2016

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