

NZKC AGILITY COMMITTEE

PROPOSED NEW REGULATION CHANGES.

These proposed regulation changes were presented for consultation in June 2016 as a result of survey responses received in July 2014 (from Judges) and January 2015 (from all agileers). The Agility Committee considered all the submissions as a result of consultation, and has come to the following conclusions:-

- A. *New regulations to be submitted to the Executive Council in November and subsequently included in the Agility regulations unchanged, Jan 1st 2017*
 - *Up contacts on A-frame*
 - *Stepping over equipment*
 - *Starts – Judges indicating.*
 - *SCT for timer errors*

- B. *Minor changes to be made and then to be submitted to the Executive Council in November and subsequently the Agility regulations, Jan 1st 2017*
 - *Starts – dealing with broken lead-outs*
 - *Back jumps*
 - *Wings*
 - *Entry fee refunds*

- C. *New regulations to be added Jan 1st 2017.*
 - *Collapsible tunnel – added as a result of safety concerns*
 - *Running orders*
 - i. *minis and micros together.*
 - ii. *changing running order*
 - *Run-offs and re-runs*
 - *Carrying of leads*

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

Submissions may be made to:

NZKC Agility Committee, Email address: nzkcac@gmail.com

Postal Address: Secretary, NZKCAC, c/o NZ Kennel Club, Private Bag 50903, Porirua 5240

by closing date 1/11/2016

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

The regulation allowed for one restart, and disqualification on the second restart, and this is to be added to the Mandatory disqualification regulation.

Judges must be able to penalise dogs/handlers for making mistakes before they actually begin a run (for example during a false start or restart) so this has been added to the regulation.

Add

13.14. Starting and finishing a run.

A run 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 after a false 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. Refusals, faults and disqualifications apply during the false start or restart. A run finishes once the dog completes the last numbered obstacle.

Add to **13.7.3**

Mandatory Disqualification

- *Restarting the dog a second time.*

2. BACKSIDE.

Additions to the proposed regulation are:-

Definition of what a back side approach is
A backside must not be used on a spread jump.

Proposed regulation.

5.4.3 Safety of Dog

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5.4.3.1 *Back side approach on jumps.*

A back side approach is when the handler must send or escort the dog to a point that the front plane of the jump comes into the dog's view. Where a back side approach is required a wing jump must be used. Judges must not set a backside approach on a spread jump.

3. WING JUMPS are not to be pegged.

Safety of the dog considerations mean that wing jumps should not be pegged, so this is to be added into the regulations.

Add to regulations:-

5.4.3.2. *Wing jumps are not to be pegged.*

The Agility Committee considered communications that requested at least one other wing jump to be a normal approach, but it was felt that judges have already recognised this as a challenge and it should be left to course design rather than a regulation.

4. DISCUSSION REGARDING THE SHOW REGULATIONS AND ENTRY FEE REFUNDS .

The Agility Committee considered the submissions and decided to add “handler” and “doctor” to the regulation, as it is not always the dog that gets sick or injured. Although in many of these cases a handler will get someone else to run their dog, they should be given a refund if that does not happen.

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 doctor or veterinary proof, and shall be entitled to deduct any New Zealand Kennel Club Show levies paid, before any refund is made.

NEW REGULATIONS.

1. 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 was the best approach.

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.

2. RUNNING ORDERS, MINIS AND MICROS TOGETHER

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.

11.1.2.1 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.

Add to regulations.

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.

Add to regulations.

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

3. 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.

4. RUNOFFS AND RE-RUNS.

Re-runs: Add what will happen when a handler does not want 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.

Add to 13.10.2

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

Add to the regulations

13.10.4 Run Offs

13.10 Re-runs and Run-offs

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

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. Run-offs.

Run-offs must be held if more than one dog obtains the same time on any placing for which prizes, trophies, awards or sashes are to be contested. The Judge shall determine on which course the run off shall occur. A run-off will be deemed a new run and normal marking and timing will apply.

5. CARRYING LEADS DURING A RUN TO BE OPTIONAL.

If a handler chooses to carry a lead they will quickly be able to regain control over their dog at the end of a run. This will create a safer environment for everyone and be more convenient for some handlers and ring staff.

The existing regulation reads.

“5.4.5 Collars

No check chains are to be worn while a dog is training or competing. Flat collars which may have a D ring but no other attachment may be used while competing. No lead may be carried (whether visible or not) by the handler or be attached to the dog while running the course. Leads must be removed and discarded prior to commencing the round.”

Change this to read

5.4.5 Collars and leads

No check chains are to be worn while a dog is training or competing. Flat collars which may have a D ring but no other attachment may be used while competing. No dog may compete with a lead attached.

A lead may be carried (out of sight, during the entire run) by the handler while running the course. If a lead is not carried it must be removed and discarded prior to commencing the run.

And add to 13.7.3 Mandatory Disqualification

Where a lead carried during a run does not remain out of sight.

NB. 13.14 on Page 2 above defines when a run ends.