



AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL KENNEL COUNCIL

AGILITY TRIALS

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

Approved by the Australian
National Kennel Council 5/2000

This booklet is intended to be used as a guide for Judges only and is designed to clarify issues and give ideas on some areas not covered in the Rule Book. These guidelines are not to be interpreted as a set of Rules.

GUIDELINES FOR JUDGES

Refusals

A refusal should be called if when approaching or negotiating and making a focussed approach to:

- any obstacle, the dog fails to negotiate the obstacle or stops (unless in response to the handler's command);
- the table, a dog goes past the back plane of the table i.e. the furthest point of the table from the approach side;
- the broad jump, a dog does not enter between the 2 front poles;
- the weaving poles, a dog runs past the first pole to the left of the weavers or past the second pole to the right of the weavers;
- the dog walk, a dog comes off the obstacle before reaching the horizontal section;
- the scramble, a dog comes off the obstacle before the apex;
- the seesaw, a dog comes off the obstacle before the pivot point;
- winged hurdles, a dog jumps the wing i.e. not over the bar;
- the dog walk or seesaw, a dog has passed the end of the contact colour on the approach side.

Designing Courses

Points that should be adhered to when designing courses.

Novice Classes

- no less than 3 challenges
- approach angles to any obstacle shall generally not be greater than 90 degrees.

Open Classes

- no less than 5 challenges
- approach angles to any obstacle shall generally not be greater than 135 degrees.

Master Classes

- no less than 7 challenges
- approach angles to any obstacle shall generally not be greater than 180 degrees.

Challenges consist of the following:

CALL-OFF -

Is a challenge on the course in which there is an incorrect obstacle directly in the dog's path. The dog must be "called off" with a directional command to turn toward the correct obstacle.

OPTIONS -

Is a point on the course where the dog has a choice of direction, similar to a "fork in the road".

OBSTACLE DISCRIMINATION-

Is a point on the course in which two obstacles are placed in close proximity, requiring the handler to direct the dog to the correct choice.

SIDE CHANGES -

Is a place where the course requires the handler to switch from handling the dog on the left to handling on the right, or vice versa. A handler who opts not to switch sides is forced to run around the outside of the obstacles and must run faster than the dog to keep up.

LEAD-OUT ADVANTAGE - Is an incentive for the handler to leave the dog at the start line or table and "lead out" to a position several obstacles ahead to ensure he will be in position for an upcoming control point on the course.

WEAVE-ON-RIGHT ADVANTAGE -

Is the opportunity for the dog to perform the weave poles from the right side of the handler.

ANGLED APPROACHES TO OBSTACLES -

The greater the angle of approach to an obstacle, the more skill is required of the dog and/or the handler. The burden falls mostly on the skill level of the dog in high-speed situations, or when the handler is at a significant distance from the dog.

HANDLER RESTRICTIONS -

The placement of an obstacle near a barrier or near another obstacle can restrict the handler from handling on a particular side or may force the handler to control the dog at a distance.

Points for judges to remember when designing courses.

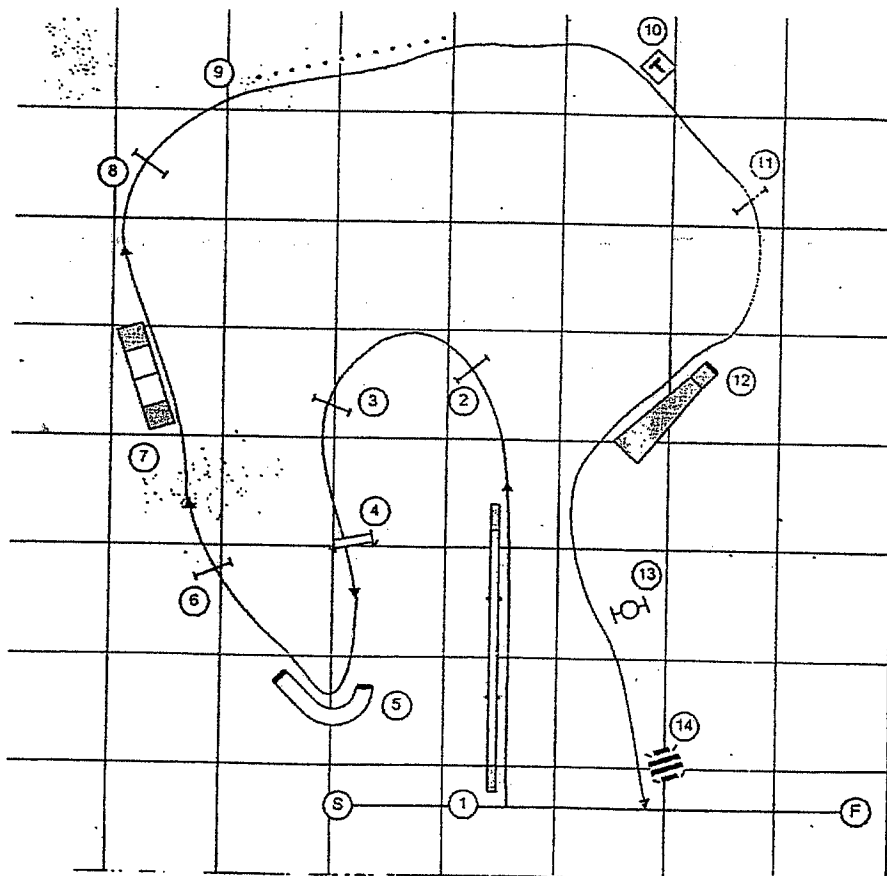
- Remember that on exiting a tunnel the dog is disoriented.
- Think about the flow of the course after the Seesaw and try to limit the possibility of handlers running into it when it is on its way back up.
- When judging the hoop Judges should position themselves so that they can effectively determine if a fault has occurred.
- When judging broad jumps a Judge should not stand side on to the obstacle as it may be difficult to determine whether the dog entered through the two front poles and exited through the two rear poles.

- When judging winged hurdles or solid jumps, a Judge should not stand side on to these obstacles as it may be difficult to determine whether the dog has jumped the bar and not the wing, or has not knocked down part of the solid - for example, one brick dislodges from the top of a pseudo brick wall.

Measuring Courses

The Judge, using a Measuring Wheel, will measure the ground distance of a course by walking through the centre of all jumps and on the right side of all remaining obstacles with a measuring wheel. Consideration should be given to exit points of all sized dogs on obstacles so as not to cut corners. The Judge should ensure that the measuring starts on the start line and finishes at the finish line.

Below is an example of a course and the path where the wheel should be walked in order to be consistent in measuring the course length.



Rates for Classes

With consideration given to the design of the course, weather and ground conditions, the following Rates should be applied:

Class	Agility Class	Jumping Class
Novice	1.8 to 2.2 mps	2.8 to 3.3 mps
Open	2.3 to 2.8 mps	3.4 to 3.9 mps
Master	2.9 to 3.5 mps	4.0 to 4.5 mps