

Summary of Changes implemented in Agility Regulations 9th Edition, January 2010

It should be noted that this is a Summary, please refer to the Agility Regulations for a full version.

General

The new Regulations are effective 15 January 2010.

ADAA can approve a delegate to sign Clear Round/Qualifying/International Certificates (in lieu of the officiating Judge).

Jumping Tests (all Standards) may no longer include the Table.

The Additional Regulations have been restructured/rewritten and now include the following topics – Regulations applying to all Competitions, Regulations applying to all Dogs (including Dog under Quarantine), Regulations to all Competitors (complying with Drug and Alcohol Policies), Regulations applying to all Handlers, Owners and Members (complying with ADAA Policies) and Competition Etiquette.

Classes

Regular-Advanced class added, Clear Round Certificates being issued.

Mandatory reduction for Rate of Travel for short Advanced/Regular-Advanced Tests, optional reduction for Open/Regular-Open Tests

Titles

All 4 height classes (Toy, Mini, Midi & Maxi) must be offered for Combined Pairs and Team Games. Teams may continue to comprise any combination of IP and/or RP Dogs.

New title introduced AAAD (Advanced Australian Agility Dog) – 7 Advanced Cards (must have minimum 2 Agility and 2 Jumping), all cards must be dated on or after 15/1/10

New title introduced R-AAAD (Regular-Advanced Australian Agility Dog) – 7 Regular-Advanced Cards (must have minimum 2 Agility and 2 Jumping), all cards must be dated on or after 15/1/10

R-EAD title being phased out, R-AAC title added (as there are multiple heights for teams)

Gamblers Dog, Snooker Dog, Regular-Gamblers Dog and Regular-Snooker Dog titles now have multiples (at least one certificate to be dated on or after 15/1/10)

Junior Diamond Achievement award added (150 Junior cards)

Training and Rewarding in the Ring

Agility Competitions are conducted for the purpose of testing the Handler and Dog's teamwork and ability to successfully complete the standard/challenges set by the Judge. However at various times throughout a Dog's competition life a Handler may wish, for a period of time, to train and/or reward their dog under Competition conditions. The Board has recognised such a requirement and provided the ability for the Handler to participate in a Test as "Not For Competition" (NFC). In all other circumstances it is expected the Handler will participate with no intention/expectation of rewarding their Dog during the round, until the Dog has completed the last obstacle.

If a Competitor does not indicate they are participating as NFC then **no** training in the Ring (or repeating an obstacle/contact) is allowed at all. A Competitor will not be Dismissed for abandoning a round or for the Dog getting back on course. Handlers may tug on the lead with their Dog after the Dog has finished all obstacles, provided the Handler leaves the Ring promptly.

A Competitor may participate in Tests (International, Regular and/or Junior Programme) they are eligible to enter as Not For Competition (NFC), for the purpose of training/ rewarding in the ring, practice and/or confidence building. NFC will not be offered for Advanced Tests, Regular-Advanced Tests, Open Individual Games, Regular-Open Individual Games, Combined-Open Team/Pairs Games, Challenge Events and/or Invitational Events, Major competitions such as Grand Prix, Dogmania, WAC try-outs etc.

NFC Rules

Normal Regulations for NFC except:

- o Certificates, prizes or rosettes.

Enter as per normal and pay full entry fee, can only enter classes Dog and Handler are qualified to enter.

Handler to indicate to the Judge verbally and by using a Time-out signal (tip of the fingers of one hand touching the palm of the other hand), they are participating as NFC and the Judge will confirm the signal back to the Handler and Scribe. Once Handler has started to run they cannot change to NFC or vice versa. NFC must be clearly indicated to Judge before they start their round and/or undertake any training in the Ring. If a Handler does not state NFC, and the Judge deems them to be training in the Ring, they will be Dismissed.

“NFC” to be recorded on Scribe and Scoresheets. No Faults or Dog’s Time to be recorded.

Will only be given time in the Ring up to the SCT. At the end of the SCT (indicated by scribe hitting horn or blowing whistle) the Handler to promptly remove their Dog from the Ring.

Timing will start when the Dog negotiates the first obstacle or if the Handler triggers the electronic timing.

A Dog may not wear a collar or lead whilst participating in a NFC round.

Under no circumstances is food to be used in the Ring. Toys with food inside them are not to be used.

Handler may hold/use a toy for rewarding their Dog, including the Dog holding/tugging with the toy. Toy must remain in control of the Handler at all times (ie it must not be thrown nor must the Handler let go of the toy).

No audible training aid/tug toys.

A Handler may not use a toy/training aid while the previous Dog is in the Ring.

The Handler may choose to repeat an already completed obstacle or sequence of obstacles.

A Handler may not lift a Dog onto equipment or physically hold a Dog in the Contact Area.

The Judge shall continue to watch to ensure safety, good sportsmanship and fair treatment of the Dog and that the Competitor is complying with the Regulations whilst in the Ring.

Training and Rewarding during Competition Rounds

Under no circumstances is training/rewarding in the Ring to be tolerated (under penalty of Dismissal). A Handler is able to abandon a round, for any reason, and in such case the Competitor should take a direct route back to the finish and out of the Ring without penalty of Dismissal.

“Training” includes and is not limited to:

- Unless the specific rules of a Game allow it, a Handler may not direct the Dog to repeat an already completed obstacle (unless it is a Refusal). It is not considered “training” or grounds for Dismissal if a Handler is “redirecting” their dog over an obstacle, or through a set sequence, after an error (often Wrong Course) so as to place both themselves and their Dog back on the forward flow and direction of the course set by the Judge.

- The Dog, prior to finishing the last obstacle, getting/holding its lead in its mouth.

A Dog that takes its own path and is not “directed” by the Handler cannot be subject to Dismissal for “Training in the Ring”. Tugging the lead after the last obstacle has been completed and on the way out of the Ring is not considered to be Training in the Ring.

Faults & Refusals

Clarification that a Refusal will be incurred for stopping/turning away within 1 metre from front plane of obstacles, including weave poles and contacts, and for the Dog passing the Refusal Plane (more than 1 metre away)

A Course Fault will be incurred for the Dog knocking the Tyre over, however Elimination will apply if the Tyre is used twice (and it was knocked over the first time around). If the Tyre is used twice and split open/pulled apart but the Dog can jump through the aperture and safely complete the intent, no Fault shall apply otherwise Elimination.

A Refusal will be incurred for walking through/not attempting the Long Jump. Other errors of performance (in correct direction) will be a Course Fault (including multiple feet down).

The Refusal plane for the Weave Poles has been clarified.
Dog that turns around and sticks head out of entrance of a Tunnel will incur a Refusal

Eliminations

Dog out of control if it leaves the Ring.
Board can approve Dogs must leave Ring if Eliminated (for large/major events).

Dismissal

Dog considered by Judge to be out of control for an extended period (usually > 10 seconds).
Aggression or biting handler (but excludes excited mouthing).
Dog fouling ring, including prior to starting.
Foul language/swearing.
Handler causing excessive delay at start or finish.
Training in the ring now included as one of the reasons for Dismissal from Multiple events.
A Dog that has been administered prescription drugs as a means of allowing them to compete.

Gamblers

The Dog has to be on the approach of first gamble obstacle before starting to judge Closing Sequence.
No Judge's discretion for back-to-back 3 or 4 pointers

Snooker

Spreads no longer allowed

Equipment

Tyre – support arms may not be more than 450 mm high/long (phase-in period for existing Tyres allowed to 31/12/10)
Weave poles – must have alternating legs (min 250 mm up to 450 mm), legs not to swivel (phase-in period for existing Weave Poles allowed to 31/12/10, but must be announced in schedule)
Pipe Tunnel – mandatory if chocks are used, for the Tunnel to be pegged
Dog-Walk – height 1300 mm recommended, but cannot be more than 1350 mm