

# Summary of Northwest Agility League Rules and Guidelines

Sponsored by the Columbia Agility Team, Inc.

Fall 2006

The *Site Leader* will:

- Schedule Teams for officiating, hospitality, and course building
- Accumulate Team scores and post the results on the email list
- Resolve any problems at the site
- Coordinate providing supplies for the events

The *Team Leader* will:

- Organize and guide the team

The *League Scorekeeper* will:

- Receive the weekly scores from the Site Leaders.
- Post the accumulated scores at the end of each week, on the announcements only email list.

## 1.9 Course Review and Practice

The courses are available on CAT's web site ([www.Columbiaagility.org](http://www.Columbiaagility.org)) for review and practice. The courses may be set up for training, except practicing is not allowed at the competition site, on the day of the event. A practice jump shall be provided off the regular course.

## 2.1 Selection of a Judge, Scribe and Timer

Each session will have a team or teams providing the officiating. They will provide a Judge, Scribe and Timer. The Teams will be responsible to select members to meet judging and participation restrictions.

Anyone may stand as a judge so long as they have the confidence of the participants.

A judge may show his/her own dog at the session. The restriction is that another judge must judge the competing judge's entire jump height.

The judge's word on any call is final and only the judge may assess course faults.

## 2.2 Jumping standards and Course Times

The handler may choose the jump height at which the dog performs and must continue to jump at this height, throughout the series. This may be any height that the equipment can accommodate and is agreed on by the participants. It is not necessary to measure dogs.

There normally is a Standard Course Time (SCT). (See the SCT section)

## 2.4 Obstacle Performance

Safety is of vital importance. All course setups may be adjusted to allow safe performance due to site restrictions..

## Contact Equipment

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Contacts shall be judged on the down ramp only, except for the see-saw, where both the up and downside shall be judged.

Leaving a contact prior to beginning the ascent will be assessed a minor penalty. The dog has to commit to the obstacle with all four paws first, and then leave to incur this fault. The obstacle must be completed in order to avoid a Failure to Perform (FTP) penalty. However, if the dog jumped off in an uncontrolled, or unsafe manner, or if the dog appears not to be confident enough to perform the obstacle, the judge may tell the handler to go on, without a retry. This will result in the FTP penalty, but will not be assessed the minor penalty in addition.

Making contact with all four paws on the incorrect ramp will be assessed as a wrong course.

Flyoffs on the seesaw are assessed only if the dog leaves the obstacle in a blatantly unsafe manner. This is a judge's call.

## **Table**

If used, the dog must jump onto the table and assume a position of the handler's choosing, either a down or sit for a period of five seconds. If performing a down, both elbows need to be touching the table. If the dog leaves the position or leaves the table the count is restarted, plus there is a 5 fault penalty for the first time the dog jumps off the table.

A minimum of two table heights should be available. Dogs jumping 16" or less should perform a table of about 12" or less. Dogs jumping greater than 16" should perform a table of between 16" and 24".

## **Weave poles**

No refusals or missed pole penalties shall be assessed. However, the obstacle must be completed in its entirety in order to avoid FTP penalty. This means that the dog should eventually enter, and exit correctly, and weave in and out of each pole.

Back weaving will be assessed a wrong course, and will be judged the same as other agility organizations.

## **Spread Hurdles**

If used, the double and triple may be ascending only.

## **Hurdles and Jumps**

These must have a displaceable bar or plank. Bars may be set in the traditional method with two bars or crossed in the middle to provide a lower jump height.

## **2.5 Course Layout**

Obstacles may be placed no closer than 12 feet apart; however, a spacing of 15 - 18 feet is preferred.

In Standard Courses, normally, the first and last obstacle will be the start and finish line due to space constraints. This will be used to start and stop the time, once any part of the dog crosses that line. If the dog

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goes around the last obstacle the time is stopped and a FTP fault is assessed. If there is a fault on the last obstacle it is counted as a normal fault.

While competing, a dog must either be without a collar, or may wear a flat buckle collar with no hanging Dog ID tags.

## 2.6 Course Handling Standards

No Food or toys may be taken onto the course.

Harsh handling either verbally, or physically, is not permitted, and neither is outside assistance in Regular Courses. Good natured team support is expected with the Games Courses.

The handler may not touch the dog or obstacle, except for incidental contact. This is viewed as accidental contact that does not benefit the dog's performance. This includes the handler knocking off a pole after the dog has cleared the jump. A bump which results in the dog changing direction towards the correct obstacle, even if accidental, will result in penalty.

Dogs fouling or leaving the ring will be eliminated. Leaving the ring is defined as when the dog is no longer working, and its attention is not on the handler.

A dog may be penalized or eliminated for continually nipping, or showing some other form of aggression towards the handler.

A dog should work steadily throughout the course. If the dog ceases to work, is out of control, or is performing obstacles unsafely, the dog and handler shall be dismissed from the ring and eliminated.

No refusals, or run-out penalties shall be assessed, unless after having committed all four paws to a contact obstacle, and dismounted the obstacle.

Off course shall be assessed when a dog has committed with all four paws to the incorrect obstacle, wrong end of a contact obstacle, or tunnel, or for performing the obstacle in the wrong direction.

Non-punitive training is allowed in the ring, but will result in elimination. However, the handler is allowed to complete the course. Non-punitive training includes: picking the dog up, and gently placing it back on contact equipment, moderate verbal reprimand, and touching the dog to assist it assume position on the table. It does not include hitting, or striking the dog, shouting or swearing, shaking, or throwing anything at, or near the dog, or any other action, which the judge may interpret as abusive. Should the judge determine such behavior as being inappropriate, the dog will be excused from the ring immediately.

## 2.7 Standard Course Times and Time Faults

A Standard Course Time (SCT) shall be used as needed. The SCT will be calculated by multiplying the number of obstacles by 3.5 sec. for Open Dogs rounded up to the next second (15 obstacles X 3.5 sec. = 52.5 round up to 53 seconds, 20 obstacles X 3.5 sec. = 70 seconds). Mini Dogs, jumping 16 inches and below, will receive 10 % additional time added to the SCT. Time Faults are assessed by deducting any full seconds over SCT from the 100 points available.

## 2.8 Standard Scoring

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The team members are scored for the Individual runs using the following fault system. The faults are deducted from 100. The judges signal is one hand up for 5 faults and two hands up for 20 faults. Elimination is some appropriate gesture.

- Missed contact zones 5 faults
- Leaving contact prior to beginning ascent 5 faults
- Fly-off on see-saw 5 faults
- First occurrence of jumping off table prior to end of count 5 faults
- Anticipation of end of count on table 5 faults
- Displacing top poles or planks from hurdles 5 faults
- Knocking part of broad jump over 5 faults
- Wrong course 5 faults
- Handler touching dog or obstacle (other than incidental) 5 faults
- Failure to Perform (FTP) obstacle 20 faults
- Failing to correct a missed entry or weave pole 20 faults
- Walking over broad jump 20 faults
- Refusals or runouts not penalized
- Missed weave pole entry, or missed pole not penalized
- Dog fouling ring elimination
- Harsh or abusive behavior/language elimination
- Dog aggression elimination
- Dog ceasing to work elimination
- Outside assistance elimination
- Food or devices on course elimination
- Poor sportsmanship elimination

Additionally, any full seconds over Standard Course Time (SCT) will also be deducted as time faults.

The team score is the accumulated total of the best three of the four team member's Individual scores. At the final competition, special scoring may be used.

## 2.9 Game Course Scoring

The Game event may have a SCT, but it is anticipated that most Team runs will have accumulated points. It is the intent to allow various methods to add points to the team's score and the scoring method will be detailed on the course-briefing sheet. For the Game Courses, the best three of four team member's Individual scores are added to the accumulated total, except if it is a team of two or more accumulating a score, then all scores are added to the accumulated total. At the final competition, special scoring may be used.

## 2.11 Misconduct

The respective club's Dog Aggression Policy and Handler Policy shall be used at this event.

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## **2.12 For Exhibition Only**

An exhibition handler runs after all team members have run. The dog must be able to perform all obstacles safely or skip the obstacle. All other league rules apply.

In Regular courses, the exhibition participant will be allowed 1.5 SCT and in games the stated allowed time. There will be no judging or scoring, food or toys may be used on the course and the handler may touch the dog and use a leash

## **3.1 Extra Supplies for league play (arranged by Site Leader)**

2 Whistles

1 Stopwatch

Scribe Sheets, Weekly Scoring Sheets (Downloaded from web site)

Courses with briefings for the week ((Downloaded from web site)

Rules and Guidelines with scoring system

Tape to mark ground boxes and golf tees.