



**THE KENNEL CLUB**

*Making a difference for dogs*

# **Judge's Guide**

**to**

# **Agility Equipment**

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## **NOTES TO JUDGES**

**Regulation H(1)2.** – Agility Shows are considered to be “fun competitions” designed for enjoyment by competitors, their dogs and for appeal to spectators. Informality is encouraged and maximum discretion is granted to Societies within the constraints of safety and these Regulations. Nothing may be included in an Agility Show which could endanger the safety of the dogs competing, the handlers or the spectators.

**Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(1)** – Test area shall have a suitable surface and measure a minimum of 32m x 32m (35yds x 35yds) for outdoor venues. Indoor venues may be smaller but must be appropriate to the size of the Test.

**Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(3)** – Design: The course should require a dog to traverse at least 10 obstacles, but not more than 20 and all jump obstacles should be the same height. Obstacles which the dog is required to clear should have a minimum of 3.6m (4yds) between centres except that this may be reduced to 2.74m (3yds) when the following obstacle is placed at 90 degrees or more to the preceding one. The distance between the finishing poles should be wide enough to allow a dog to pass through without impediment.

**Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(4)** – Safety: Obstacles and equipment in the test area must not include unnecessary protrusions and where “wings” or side supports are part of an obstacle they must be appreciably higher than the part to be cleared by the dog.

**Regulation H(1)(B)1a.(5)** – Under NO circumstances may any obstacle involve the use of FIRE.

**Regulation H(1)(B)1.b** – The Judge is responsible for the design of the course and must at all times give total consideration to the safety of the dog.

**Regulation H(1)(B)1.c** – No practice is allowed on the course save that competitors will be allowed to walk the course without their dog(s) before the class begins.

## Positioning for all hurdles:

Obstacles which the dog is required to clear should have a minimum of 3.6m (4yds) between centres except that this may be reduced to 2.74m (3yds) when the following obstacle is placed at 90 degrees or more to the proceeding one.

## OBSTACLES

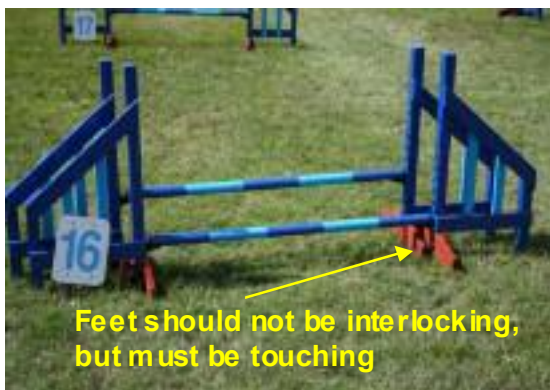
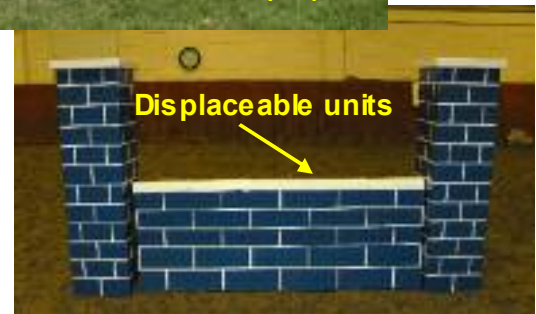
### Hurdles

The height of the hurdle for each height must be as follows:

<b>Large Dogs -</b>	65cm (2ft 1.6ins)
<b>Medium Dogs -</b>	45cm (1ft 5.7ins)
<b>Small Dogs -</b>	35cm (1ft 1.75ins)
<b>Width -</b>	1.219m (4ft minimum)



The top bar or plank must be easily displaced by the dog. A wall should have displaceable units on the top. Where 'wings' or side supports are part of an obstacle they must be appreciably higher than the part to be cleared by the dog. The height of hurdles in special classes may be lower from those listed above but the height must be included in the schedule.



### Rising Spread Jump

A maximum of 2 single hurdles placed together to form a double spread, there must be no more than 2 elements to this obstacle. The top bar on the first hurdle must be at least 150mm (5.9ins) to 250mm (9.8ins) lower than the top bar on the second hurdle. The maximum spread to be:

<b>Large Dogs -</b>	550mm (1ft 9.6ins)
<b>Medium Dogs -</b>	400mm (1ft 3.7ins)
<b>Small Dogs -</b>	300mm (11.8ins)

There must be only one pole on the back hurdle. The feet of the side supports (wings) should not be interlocking, but touching and must not be out of line by more than 76mm (3ins) (*This means the feet must not be fixed, but should be parallel and the hurdles not more than 3 inches out of line*).

### Brush Fence

Dimensions and details are the same as for the hurdle. This obstacle must have an easily displaceable top unit.

### For all of the above:

Judging – A dog should not be faulted if any part of the obstacle is touched and does not fall.

*Recommended – Fault if any of the bars are lowered or the wings are knocked over by the dog or handler. If the obstacle is knocked over by the handler before the dog reaches it, the dog should be eliminated, as it cannot complete the course in the correct order.*

Refusal – If the dog runs under the bar, jumps the wing, or runs past the line of the wings or if the dog stops, or turns away when in a position to jump the hurdle.

Elimination – Dog should be eliminated if it jumps or runs under the hurdle in the wrong direction, or out of sequence.



## Hoop (Tyre)

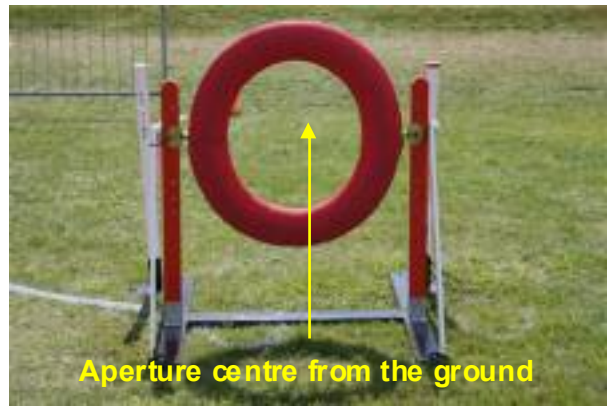
The dimensions for this obstacle are as follows:  
**Aperture diameter 533mm (1ft 9ins) minimum.**

Aperture centre from the ground:

<b>Large Dogs-</b>	80cm (2ft 7.5ins)
<b>Medium Dogs-</b>	55cm (1ft 9.6ins)
<b>Small Dogs -</b>	49cm (1ft 7.3ins)

The hoop must be of a consistent shape, constructed of an impact-absorbing material.

The height of the hoop should not be lowered. The tyre/hoop must be directly mounted in a substantial frame structure which must be secured in such a way that dogs cannot knock the obstacle over from either direction; the frame shall not have a beam across the top.



**Positioning** – The tyre should be positioned so that the dog has a straight approach to the tyre. It is also advisable for the dog to have a fairly straight approach to a following obstacle.

*Recommended* – Refusal if the dog goes under, or over the tyre, or hits the tyre and falls back. Refusal if dog runs past the line of the tyre, or stops or turns around when in a position to jump the tyre.

**Elimination** – If the dog runs or jumps back through any part of the obstacle.

## Table and Pause Box



**Table**

94.1cm (3ft) square minimum and should be of stable construction with a non-slip surface.

**Height:**

<b>Large Dogs -</b>	60cm (1ft 11.6ins)
<b>Medium Dogs -</b>	40cm (1ft 3.75ins)
<b>Small Dogs -</b>	30cm (11.8ins)

**Pause Box**

Defined area 1.219m x 1.219m (4ft x 4ft).

**Judging** – Faulted at Judge's discretion.

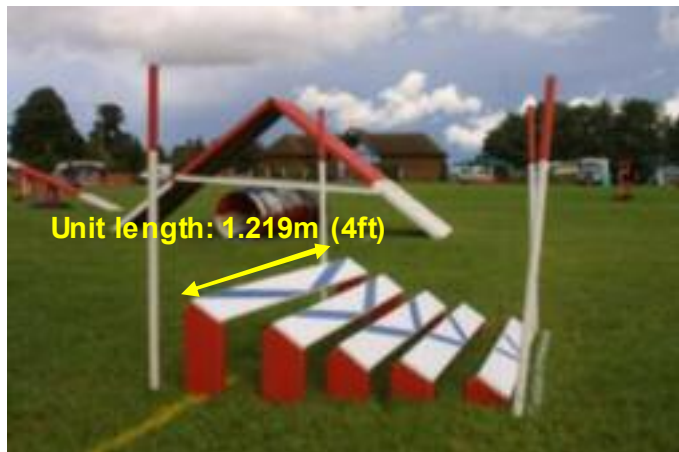
*Recommended* – In the briefing the Judge should state which position the dog should be in on the table/pause box, and the order of the count. It is usual to award a refusal if the dog goes under the table, passes the line of the furthest point of the table/pause box or jumps onto the table or enters the pause box from the reverse side. The usual count is 5, but with a large number of dogs in a class, it is now acceptable to have a down and immediate release. If a dog jumps off the table or leaves the pause box before the end of the count, or before it goes into the specified position, then the dog should return to the table to complete the exercise. The dog should be faulted if it jumps off the table before completing the count/position specified. If there is movement away from the position on the table, the count should be halted, and then restarted when the dog resumes the correct position. If this method is to be adopted, then full explanation should be given in briefing.

**Elimination** – If the dog takes the next obstacle before completing the exercise on the table/pause box (the specified position and count on the table/pause box).

## Long Jump

Each unit must be a minimum length of 1.219m (4ft).

**Large Dogs (3 – 5 units):** The overall maximum length to be between 1.2m (3ft 11.2ins) and 1.5m (4ft 11ins). The height of the front unit to be 12.7cm (5ins) and the height of the rear unit to be 38.1cm (15ins).



**Medium Dogs (3 – 4 units):** The overall maximum length to be between 70cm (2ft 3.8ins) and 90cm (2ft 11.4ins). The height of the front unit to be 12.7cm (5ins) and the height of the rear unit to be 30.48mm (12ins).

**Small Dogs (2 – 3 units):** The overall maximum length to be between 40cm (1ft 3ins) and 50cm (1ft 7.7ins). The height of the front unit to be 12.7cm (5ins) and the height of the rear unit to be 22.86cm (9ins).

Marker poles with a minimum height of approximately 1.219m (4ft) shall be used, these should not be attached to any part of the obstacle.

*Positioning (Recommended) – Dogs should have a straight approach to the long jump.*

Judging – A clean attempt should be made to clear the obstacle. Casual contact with the fore or hind legs will not be faulted. However, running past, jumping in and out to the side of the marker poles, or walking on or between the elements where no attempt has been made to clear the obstacle will be faulted as a refusal. Knocking down one or more elements will be marked as 5 faults.

## Water Jump

The overall maximum spread should be:

**Large Dogs –** between 1.2m (3ft 11.2ins) and 1.5m (4ft 11ins).

**Medium Dogs –** between 70cm (2ft 3.8ins) and 90cm (2ft 11.4ins).

**Small Dogs –** between 40cm (1ft 3ins) and 50cm (1ft 7.7ins).

A low hurdle or brush may be placed in front of the water, with a maximum height of:

**Large Dogs -** 61cm (2ft)

**Medium Dogs -** 35.6cm (1ft 2ins)

**Small Dogs -** 22.8cm (9ins)



Marker poles with a minimum height of approximately 1.22m (4ft), should be placed at all 4 corners, these should not be attached to any part of the obstacle.

Judging – A clean attempt should be made to clear the obstacle. 5 faults should be awarded for contact with the water.

Refusal – Stopping in front of, or jumping out to the side of the marker poles, or the running past the line of the front should be faulted as a refusal.



## Wishing Well

This obstacle must be of stable construction and will be able to be fixed to the ground. To ensure the safety of the dog, it will have no sharp edges. Should a design be utilised which involves a removable centre section then the resultant corners must be rounded or padded. It will have a roof of which the bottom will be no less than: Large Dogs – 150cm, Medium Dogs – 122cm, Small Dogs – 95cm from the ground. The roof must not project beyond the width or depth of the base. It will have a displaceable top bar the height of which will be: Large Dogs – 65cm, Medium Dogs – 45cm, Small Dogs – 35cm.

The minimum space from the top of the bar to the top of the base will be: Large Dogs – 16cm, Medium Dogs – 15cm, Small Dogs – 10.5cm. The overall width of the base will be between 90cm & 140cm. The depth of the base which the dog jumps will be a maximum of: Large Dogs – 55cm, Medium Dogs – 40cm, Small Dogs – 30cm.

*Positioning – A straight approach is recommended.*

*Judging – A dog should be faulted if it touches the base or dislodges the pole.*

*Recommended – 5 faults for knocking the bar off, or for banking on the well.*

*Refusal – Stopping in front of, or running past the line of the well, or for turning away when in a position to jump the well.*

## Collapsible Tunnel

Diameter: 60.9cm (2ft) minimum. 76.2cm (2ft 6ins) maximum. Length 3.048m (10ft) minimum. Circular of non-rigid material construction. It must have an entrance of rigid construction with a depth of at least 45.7cm (1ft 6ins) that can be fixed or weighted to the ground. Minimum entrance height 48.3cm (1ft 7ins) clear (with suitable padding), if entrance has a floor this must have a non-slip surface.



## Pipe Tunnel

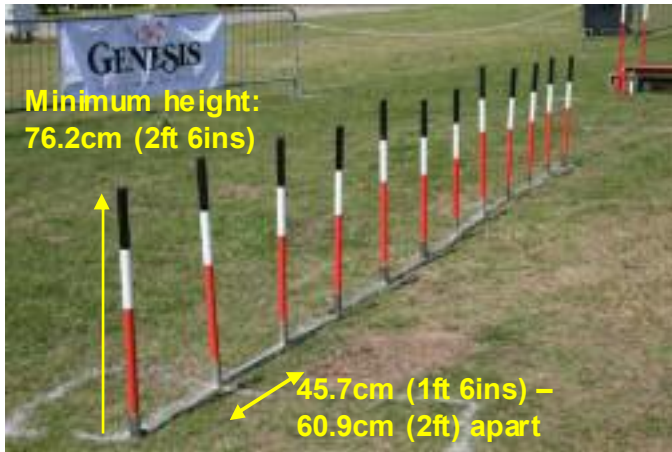
This obstacle should have a diameter of a minimum of 60.9cm (2ft) and should be a minimum of 3.048m (10ft) in length.

*Judging – Refusal for running past the line of the front of the tunnel or entering the tunnel and coming back out of the same entrance.*

*Note – A dog jumping over the tunnel when attempting to complete the obstacle is dealt with as a refusal. However, when not attempting the tunnel as the next obstacle, a dog jumping over the tunnel during a round is normally dealt with as an elimination.*



*Elimination – For entering or touching the wrong entrance to the tunnel.*



## Weaving Poles

The minimum number of poles should be 5 and the maximum number 12 and they should be in a continuous line, as straight as possible. They should be a minimum of 45.7cm (1ft 6ins) and a maximum of 60.9cm (2ft) apart, between the poles. The poles must be of rigid construction and with a minimum height of 76.2cm (2ft 6ins) and a diameter between 1.9cm (3/4 in) and 3.8cm (1 1/2 ins).

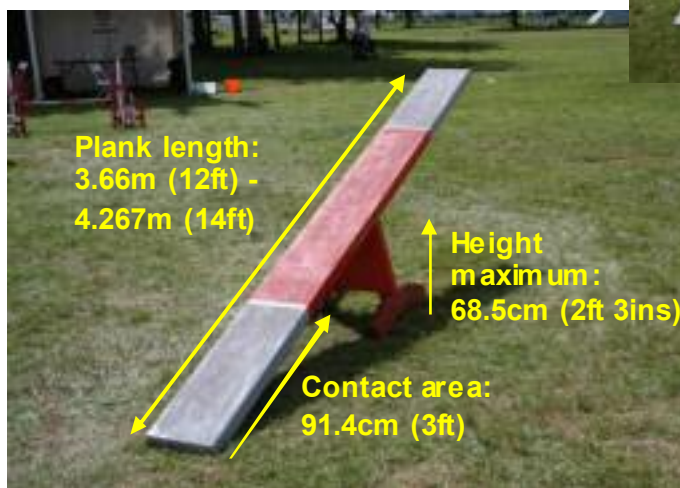
Judging – The dog must enter the weaving poles with the first pole adjacent to its left side. Each incorrect entry should be marked as a refusal, with an elimination once a dog has collected 3 refusals, an error after a correct entry is a maximum of 5 faults. This means a dog can only incur one unit of ‘5 faults’ for errors in completing the weaves (excluding refusals); further errors should not be given faults. However any handling of the dog i.e. by knee or hand should be faulted with 5 faults as usual. Deliberate handling to help a dog through the weaves should be an elimination.

Elimination – Failure to complete correctly before negotiating any further obstacle. Running back through the weaving poles whilst negotiating the obstacle, suggest two gates, or at any other time during the course by dog constitutes an elimination. A handler running through the weaving poles during the course of a ‘run’ should be eliminated.

## CONTACT EQUIPMENT

### A Frame

Two ramps 2.74m (9ft) long by 91.4cm (3ft) wide hinged at the apex 1.7m (5ft 7ins) from the ground. The last 1.067m (3ft 6ins) from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp must have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 15.2cm (6ins) of the start of the contact area.



### See-Saw

This obstacle will consist of a plank firmly mounted on a central bracket. The length of the plank should be a minimum of 3.66m (12ft) and a maximum of 4.267m (14ft). The width should be 25.4cm (10ins) minimum and 30.5cm (12ins) maximum with the height of the central bracket being a maximum of 68.5cm (2ft 3ins) from the ground. The last 91.4cm (3ft) from each end should be a different colour to indicate

the area with which the dog should make contact. The plank should have a non-slip surface with no slats.

## Dog Walk

A walk plank of approximately 1.372m (4ft 6ins) high with firmly fixed ramps at either end. The planks should be a minimum 3.66m (12ft) and a maximum 4.267m (14ft) in length and a minimum of 25.4cm (10ins) and a maximum of 30.5cm (12ins) in width. The last 91.4cm (3ft) from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp should have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 15.2cm (6ins) of the start of the contact area.



### All Contact Equipment:

Positioning – Entry onto the contact equipment should be reasonably straight. There should be sufficient room for the dog to get the required speed to reach the top of the obstacle. Consideration should be given to weather conditions at all times.

Judging – Fault if the dog fails to make contact with the contact area.

*Recommended – The rules only state that a fault should be given if the dog fails to make contact. A dog that leaves the obstacle, and then puts a paw back onto the obstacle should be eliminated. There is no guidance on what part of the dog should touch the contact area, but it is suggested that it should be a paw, or part thereof. A judge should be in such a position that both the up and down contacts can be properly judged.*

Refusal – Refusal if the dog stops or turns away when in a position to take the obstacle, or if it runs past the line of the furthest point of the first contact area. A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the down ramp or plank (i.e. the down ramp on the A Frame, the pivot point on the See-Saw and the down plank on the Dog Walk). Specific to the See-Saw: Fault if the exit end of the plank is not touching the ground before the dog alights from the obstacle. An additional fault should be given if the dog alights before touching the contact area. A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the pivot point.

Eliminations – A dog should be eliminated if it touches or alights the obstacle from the wrong direction.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES

- All other obstacles – 5 faults for failure to negotiate correctly.
- Handler deliberately touching any piece of equipment or their dog – 5 faults (assisting a dog to complete an obstacle should be an elimination).
- Contact area – 5 faults for each failure to make contact.
- Refusal/run out – 5 faults for each refusal/run out.
- Three refusals/run outs – elimination.
- Out of control – elimination.
- Taking the wrong course – elimination.
- Fouling the ring – elimination.
- Harsh Handling – elimination.
- Dog wearing incorrect style of collar – elimination.
- Judging decisions should be consistent throughout a class.



## Course time

The course time is set by the Judge, and should give the majority of dogs the time to complete the course without time faults. Consideration should be given to weather and ground conditions. The following is a guideline (metres per second):

### Grade 1

Agility: 2 to 2.5m

Jumping: 2.5 to 3m

### Grade 2

Agility: 2.5 to 3m

Jumping: 3 to 3.5m

### Grade 3

Agility: 2.75 to 3.25m

Jumping 3.5 to 3.75m

### Grade 4

Agility: 3 to 3.5m

Jumping: 3.75 to 4.25m

### Grade 5

Agility: 3.5 to 3.75m

Jumping: 3.75 to 4.5m

### Grade 6

Agility: 4 to 4.75m

Jumping: 4.5 to 5m

### Grade 7

Agility: 4.5 to 5.25m

Jumping: 4.75 to 5.5m

## TIME = DISTANCE / SPEED

*Consideration should be added to the total time for an Agility course with a table / pause box. It is usual for a dog to be allowed to continue once it has been eliminated, but it is permissible, and sometimes necessary for the handler to be asked to leave the ring, once the course time has been reached. Again this should be stated during briefing. It is recommended that course times are rounded up to a whole second.*

## Start

When electronic timing is not used the time should start when any part of the dog passes the line of the start. When it is used, and the dog runs past the starting gates, the dog should be faulted a refusal, and the time started when the dog correctly enters the course. A dog taking the first obstacle before being instructed may be eliminated.

## Finish

When electronic timing is not used the time should finish when any part of the dog passes the line of the finish. When it is used this is not possible therefore any dog going over the line outside of the gates should be faulted a refusal, and the time taken when the dog passes through the finishing gates. It is suggested that the finish line is as near as possible to the last obstacle, or if away from the obstacle, the finish poles should be sufficiently far apart, so that it does not constitute an additional obstacle.

## Cumulative Marking/Time Faults

Faults incurred for failure to negotiate obstacles will be added to the faults incurred for failure to complete the course within the time set. A single fault or part thereof will be added for each second over the set time. Actual time will be recorded as displayed by the timing equipment.

## Re-runs

Should the judge deem a re-run is required, any result and/or faults gained in the previous run must be discounted.

## Other Marking

Any variation in the form of marking must be clearly defined to all competitors prior to competition. There will be no variation to standard marking in standard classes.

## Standard Classes: H(1)(A)9

Only first prizes and points gained in standard classes at Kennel Club licensed Agility Shows may be used for progression through the classes. (A dog is only eligible for one grade). In defining the eligibility of the owner or handler for Grade 1, the three jumping wins and points progression referred to in the definition apply only to one dog and not an accumulation of dogs.

**a. Grade 1 (Elementary)**

For owners, handlers or dogs which have not gained a first place in an Agility Class or three first places in Jumping Classes at Kennel Club licensed Agility Shows. *N.B. Owners, handlers or dogs previously qualified out of Grade 1, (Elementary) are not eligible for this class.*

**b. Grade 2 (Starters)**

Open to dogs which are not eligible for Grades 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and have not gained a first place in an Agility Class or three places in Jumping Classes at Grade 2 at Kennel Club licensed Agility Shows, or elected to progress on points from Grade 1. *N.B. Owners, handlers or dogs previously qualified out of Grade 2 (Starters) are not eligible for this class.*

**c. Grade 3 (Graduate)**

Open to dogs which are not eligible for Grade 1 or 2 or have elected to progress on points from Grade 2 at Kennel Club licensed Agility Shows and dogs which are not eligible for Grade 4, 5, 6 or 7.

(This is where dogs owners or handlers who have previously won out of Grade 2 (Starters) would start with a new dog)

**d. Grade 4 (Novice)**

Open to dogs which have gained a first place in an Agility Class or three first places in Jumping Classes at Grade 3 or elected to progress on points from Grade 3 at Kennel Club licensed Agility Shows and are not eligible for Grade 3, 5, 6 or 7.

**e. Grade 5 (Intermediate)**

Open to dogs which have gained a first place in an Agility Class or three first places in Jumping Classes at Grade 4 or elected to progress on points from Grade 4 at Kennel Club licensed Agility Shows and are not eligible for Grade 3, 4, 6 or 7.

**f. Grade 6 (Senior)**

Open to dogs which have gained a first place in an Agility Class or three first places in Jumping Classes at Grade 5 at Kennel Club licensed Agility Shows and are not eligible for Grade 3, 4, 5 or 7.

**g. Grade 7 (Advanced)**

Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of 4 first places at Grade 6 at Kennel Club Licensed Agility Shows, 2 first places must be gained in Agility (not Jumping) Classes.

*Wins gained up to 31 December 2006 at Intermediate, Senior or Open classes will count towards progression to Advanced.*

**h. Championship Class.**

Open to dogs having qualified to compete in Grade 7. To consist of 2 qualifying rounds of Standard Kennel Club Classes, 1 Agility Class and 1 Jumping Class and a final round of Agility to be held at the same Show.

## **Championship Agility Class**

### **H(1)5 – Championship Agility Certificates (Large, Medium and Small Dogs)**

- a. A Kennel Club Agility Certificate will be awarded to any Large Agility Dog, Medium Agility Dog or any Small Agility Dog winning a Championship Agility Class provided such a dog has no faults in the final round of the Class. If the winning dog does have faults in the final round of the Championship Agility Class the award must be withheld.
- b. A Reserve Agility Certificate will be awarded to any Large Agility Dog, Medium Agility Dog or any Small Agility Dog placed second in the Championship Agility Class provided it has gained a clear round in the final round of the Class. If the second placed dog has faults in the final round the award must be withheld.

### **H(1)6 – Agility Championships**

- a. The Kennel Club will offer at Crufts Dog Show each year the Kennel Club Agility Championships Large Dog, the Kennel Club Agility Championships Medium Dog and the Kennel Club Agility Championships Small Dog. A dog awarded one or more Agility Certificates during the calendar year preceding Crufts Dog Show shall be entitled to compete.
- b. The Test for the Agility Championships shall be those required in the Championships Class in these Regulations. If the winning dog(s) do not gain a clear round in the final round the Championship Award shall be withheld.

### **H(1)7 – Ballot for Championship Running Orders**

- a. Agility Round and Jumping Round – A draw for the running order of the Agility and Jumping Rounds must be made prior to the Show. The relevant competitors must be notified before the day of the Show. The dogs must run in the order in which they are drawn.
- b. Final Agility Round - Dogs to run in reverse order to their combined placings at the end of the first two rounds.
- c. A dog must have the same handler for each round of the Championship Agility Class.

### **H(1)8. Format of the Championship Class**

- a. The top 50% of the entry, up to a maximum of 20 dogs from the combined results of the 2 qualifying rounds will contest a final round of Agility to determine the overall winner. The top 50% up to a maximum of 20 places will be determined by combining the accumulated placings gained by the dogs in the qualifying rounds. Where there are an uneven number of entries in classes numbers will be rounded up.
- b. The first placed dog in the final round, having achieved a clear round, will be awarded a Championship Agility Certificate.
- c. The second placed dog in the final round, having achieved a clear round, will be awarded a Reserve Championship Agility Certificate.
- d. A dog having been eliminated in either qualifying round will not be eligible for the final, even if placed in the top placings.

### **H(1)9. Management – Societies are responsible for the following:**

- d. Electronic Timing Equipment. For the Championship Class societies must provide suitable electronic timing equipment. Time will also be recoded manually but electronic time will take precedence.

### **H(1)(A)10 – Championship Agility Class**

- a. Points will be awarded for placings in the Agility round and Jumping round: 1st place - 1 point, 2nd placed - 2 points etc. to the final placed dog, eliminated dogs excepted.
- b. The top 50% of the entry up to a maximum of 20 dogs with the lowest accumulated total will be eligible to compete in the final round.
- c. Elimination in either of the qualifying rounds will exclude the dog from competition on the final round.
- d. In the event of any tie the time/faults will be taken into account for both qualifying rounds to determine the placings, on the following basis:-
  - (1) The dog with the least course faults in both the Agility and Jumping rounds takes the higher place.
  - (2) In the event that these dogs are still equal the dog with the fastest combined time takes the higher place.

### **Obstacles to be used in a Championship Class**

#### *Regulation H(1)(B)1(2)*

- (i) The Agility Rounds (Large, Medium and Small) must contain the following elements: "A" Ramp, Dog Walk, See Saw, Hurdles, Hoop (Tyre), Long Jump, Pipe Tunnel, Collapsible Tunnel and Weaving Poles, together with any other obstacles as described in these Regulations, at the discretion of the judge.
- (ii) The Jumping Round (Large, Medium and Small) must contain the following elements: Hurdles, Hoop (Tyre), Long Jump, Pipe Tunnel, Collapsible Tunnel and Weaving Poles and must exclude contact obstacles.
- (iii) The Final Agility round (Large, Medium and Small) may contain the Table obstacle and must contain all the obstacles described in (i) of this Regulation, together with any other obstacles as described in these Regulations, at the discretion of the judge.
- (iv) In the event of extreme adverse weather conditions at a show a Judge, with the full agreement of the Competition Manager, may alter the compulsory equipment as deemed appropriate at the time. Any alterations to the equipment must be reported by the management to the Kennel Club within 14 days of the date of the show.

Regulation booklets are updated yearly and can either be downloaded from the Kennel Club website in the agility section or purchased from the Online Shop facility:

<http://www.thekennelclub.org.uk>

If you have any other queries regarding agility equipment, please contact:

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