

2019 Part 2 - Proposed Regulation Changes & Rationale

The attached proposal outlining proposed changes has come from several sources.

1. We asked judges for input earlier in the year on regs they felt were unclear or needed better wording.
2. We looked at the changes in heights and how they related to distance requirements between obstacles
3. We had input from handlers who wanted some areas clarified where there was a variety of judging in relation to startline actions etc.
4. We wanted to help encourage safe straight approaches to contact obstacles.

The Startline proposal incorporates a desire for clarity in terms of commencement of a run and when judging starts along with ensuring that safety is a consideration. We already have regulation that backside approaches may only be made with winged hurdles for safety reasons and preventing slingshot starts (which currently some judges allow, and some do not) is a natural extension of this.

The runup regulation has been widened to incorporate all obstacles (not just jumping ones as previously) and moved to 5m after feedback from judges. This prevents some combinations which we have seen over the years which were simply not safe. The 6m for long jump and spread has been removed due to the shortening and lowering of these obstacles to the point where the 6m min run up is no longer of any value.

(No other association has different runup rules for each obstacle)

Changes to the intent or significant alteration to existing regulation are in red.

Any changes resulting from this proposal would come into effect on 31 March 2020. (after EC approval)

Comments welcome and should be sent to: secretary@dnzac.nz by 1 December 2019.

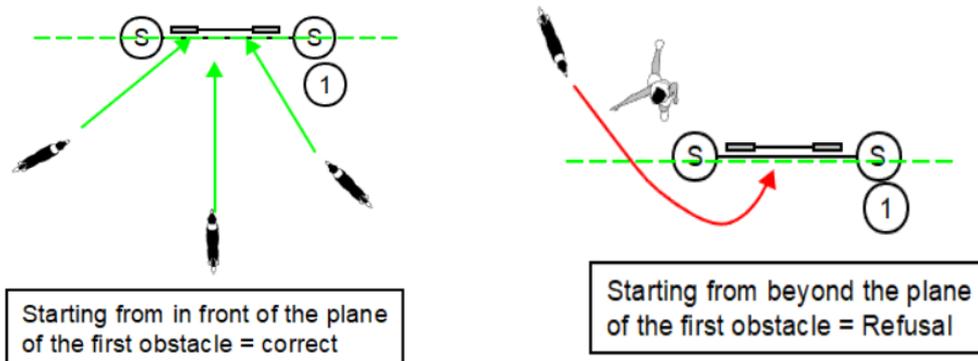
*START LINE AND FINISH LINE – Clarification

Request as judges are all judging the start line differently. This is an attempt to standardise the way we deal with start line actions to give clarity to handlers.

13.3.1 STARTLINE

The handler must be ready to enter the ring and be ready to start as soon as the previous dog has completed the course or at a time as specified by the judge. They should take up a position on the approach side of the first obstacle and await the judge's signal that they are ready.

- Taking any obstacle before the judges has signalled that he is ready will result in elimination.
- The dog must be set up to commence the run on the approach side of the first obstacle. Taking the dog past the plane of the first obstacle prior to the start of the run will result in a refusal.



Once the judge has signalled that they are ready, the handler should commence the run in a timely manner. The following apply once the judge has signalled they are ready.

- Resetting the dog where the handler has not passed the plane of the first hurdle on leadout.
 - No penalty for touching the dog
 - A refusal can be called if the dog is deemed to have moved so close to the first obstacle that it constitutes a refusal when taken back.
- Resetting the dog where the handler has passed the plane of the first hurdle on leadout.
 - 5f for touching the dog
 - A refusal can be called if the dog is deemed to have moved so close to the first obstacle that it constitutes a refusal when taken back.
- General startline
 - If the handler sends the dog around their legs in a circle prior to starting, this will not be called as a refusal unless the dog passes the plane of the first obstacle while doing the

circle or deviates and is deemed by the judge to have approached the first obstacle and been recalled.

- If the dog passes the plane of the first obstacle without taking that obstacle or commits a refusal during its performance (for example, going under the bar of the first jump), the dog will earn a refusal regardless of whether he has triggered the start-line sensors. Handlers must fix the refusal error and have the dog take the obstacle correctly in the direction specified by the judge or it will result in elimination.
- A dog cannot be called for a significant hesitation refusal on the start jump. It can be penalised for running past or turning away once on approach. If one of these refusals is called then the dog will be deemed to have begun and normal judging begins.
- If the handler triggers the start line sensor of the timing system instead of the dog, they will earn 5 faults.

13.3.2 FINISH LINE

- If the handler triggers the finish-line sensors of the timing system instead of the dog in any class they will be eliminated.
- Once a dog has negotiated the last obstacle, stopping the clock, judging of the course will cease unless the performance of this obstacle is faulted; for example, bar knocked and falling late.

13.5.3.3 Handler interacting with Equipment

A fault shall be incurred if the handler deliberately or accidentally

- interacts with any obstacle by touching, jumping or straddling or stepping over any part of it.
- places any part of their body within the aperture of a Hoop, Collapsible Tunnel/ or Rigid Tunnel.
- places any part of their body between any two weaving poles at any time
- goes under any part of any obstacle at any time
- breaks the start ~~or finish~~ beam of an electronic timer

13.7.2 Harsh handling

Disqualification by judge.

Examples of harsh handling include but are not limited to

- lifting the dog's front legs off the ground by the collar or the scruff of the neck
- physical assault to the dog
- Shaking, grabbing in anger, jerking, kicking at the dog
- Swearing, yelling or verbal abuse directed toward the dog or the judge. The tone is more important than actual words.
- Forcefully throw or drop a dog at any time in the ring
- Any other action which in the opinion of the officiating judge is unacceptable in terms of interaction with of the dog.

(Specific examples to aid judges as requested by judges)

13.13 Distance Between Obstacles.

13.13.1 Consecutive **Jumping** Obstacles

Consecutive **Jumping** obstacles ~~(other than spread and long jumps)~~ must have a minimum of five metres between the centre of the point of exit of one to the centre of the entry point of the next measured in a straight line. ~~If either or both of the obstacles is a spread or long jump this distance must be increased to a minimum of six metres.~~

The distance between the exit edge of a contact obstacle and the entry to a tunnel where the dog is travelling from contact to tunnel is exempt from any minimum distance requirement provided that the tunnel is located under that contact obstacle.

13.13.2 Unimpeded Run Up

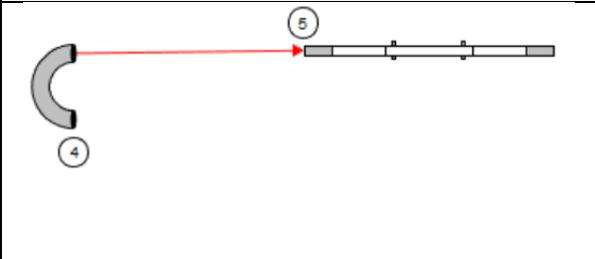
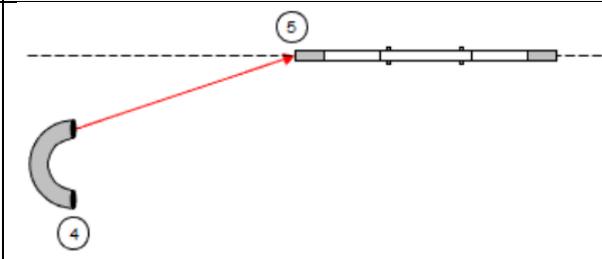
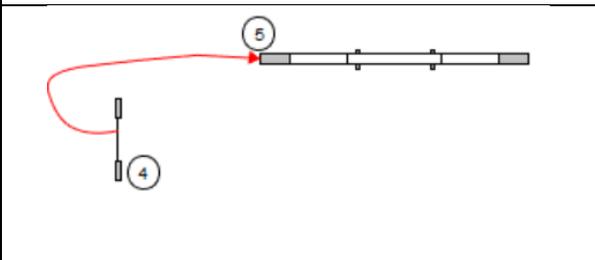
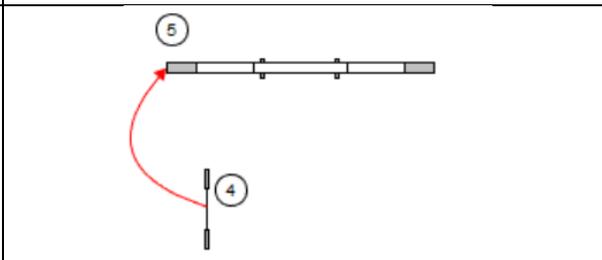
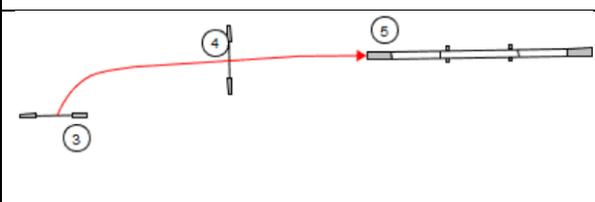
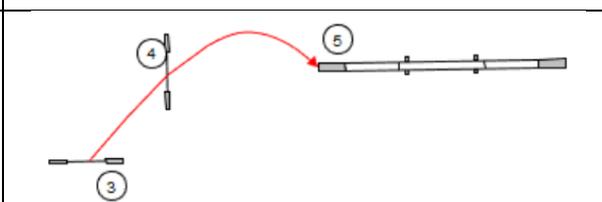
There must be a minimum of five metre unimpeded run up before and after **Jumping** obstacles. ~~For long and spread jumps this distance must be a minimum of six metres. Asymmetrical spread jumps and Multiple bar ascending spread jumps must not be situated on a corner or with a tight turn required either before or after.~~

13.3.3 Obstacle Placement

13.3.3.1 Contact Placement

Contact obstacles must be placed so that the natural line of the dog from the previous correct obstacle provides an approach which is in line with the dog's direction of travel over the contact obstacle.

Should the handler choose to not to take the provided naturally good line to the contact obstacle or the dog has been disqualified and is not on the natural line as a result, the responsibility lies on the handler to ensure a safe approach and travel over the obstacle by manipulating the line. Failure to do so may result in disqualification under Regulation 13.7.3.2

ACCEPTABLE	UNACCEPTABLE
<p>The natural line to the obstacle is the same as the direction of travel over it meaning the dog can remain in balance</p>	<p>The natural line to the obstacle is NOT the same as the direction of travel over it meaning the dog will struggle to balance on the obstacle</p>
	
	
	

13.13.3.2 Hoop Placement

The hoop must be placed so that the natural line of the dog from the previous correct obstacle gives the opportunity for the dog to approach in a straight line.

14.1.1.1.2 Elementary B – Open to new handlers who are handling new dogs. A new handler is defined as the handler never having won an Elementary B or Elementary A class on a clear round, placed 1st to 3rd in any other standard agility **or jumpers** class on a clear round or attained the title of AD or JD with any dog. Open to dogs that have never won an Elementary class on a clear round, placed 1st to 3rd in any other standard agility **or jumpers** class on a clear round or attained the title of AD or JD.

(Update as Elementary B only uses jumping obstacles so a jumpers class win or place should take you out of the class)