



Consultation on AD/ADXA, Graduation, Points and Variable Splits

The Agility Committee is currently conducting a comprehensive survey about AD/ADXA, graduation through the classes, the points system and variable splits. This survey will ask your opinions on the current systems and offer some proposals for change.

Because of the volume of background information, the survey has been split into two parts. This second part will deal with Points and the option of Variable Splits.

This document has been released ahead of the survey to give everyone time to read, digest, discuss and read again.

We suggest that this Survey document be read in conjunction with the current Agility Regulations which can be downloaded here <http://www.dogagility.org.nz/cont/regulations.html> The relevant sections of the Regulations are referenced throughout.

Background

Our graduation, qualification and title systems were initially partly based on Obedience and Conformation (breed showing) graduation, titles and qualifications. As Agility has forged its own path, some parts of those systems have become outdated and perhaps no longer make sense in the context of modern Agility.

There has been discussion and correspondence relating to the split system with variable splits being presented as an option. It is apparent that the current split system is causing a disparity between those areas where splits are the norm and those where splits rarely or only sometimes happen.

The points system which was introduced prior to splits is now somewhat outdated. Points are another way of graduating through the classes without wins. Our option for a revamped points system seeks to make points more relevant in those areas of the country where class numbers exceed 15.

When considering the options, we ask that you look at these not only from your own point of view, but from the point of view of others who walk a different path from you. We acknowledge that there will be discussion on social media, and we ask that this remains polite and respectful.

Consultation Timeline

The updated timeline for the consultation is as follows:

- Survey #1 closes—2 February
- Consultation document #2 released for Q&A—2 February
- Q&A questions close – 8 February
- Q&A responses published—11 February
- Survey #2 released—12 February
- Survey #2 closes—18 February
- AC recommends regulation changes to Executive Council—April
- Any regulation changes come into effect—1 July

Please read this consultation document carefully. If you have any questions, please email these to consultation@dnzac.nz by 8 February. Questions will not be answered individually, or on social media, but a Q&A document forged from your questions will be released on 11 February.

The surveys are only open to people currently active in agility and for this reason your Dogs NZ membership number and the permanent number of your youngest competing dog will be required fields. You may complete each survey only once.

Variable Splits

Current Regulation 11.1.2.1 – Standard Classes Split by Height Groups

Currently, classes are split by height when entry numbers in each height group in a class reach 15 or more. There is a maximum of four possible separate height groups being: 240, 300's (incorporating 320 and 380), 500, 600.

There are currently three types of split:

- a) Unsplit competitions where (as a minimum) at least one group of either the 600, 500 or the Small group have failed to reach 15 or more.
- b) Three Way Split competition where a 600, a 500 and a Small group is formed of 15 or more in each height group.
- c) Four Way Split competition where a 600, a 500, a 300's and a 240 group of 15 or more are formed in each height group.

In some regions a three-way split is common (primarily Zones 1 and 2). In others it is rare (Zones 3, 4 and 5), and this is perceived as a barrier to graduation and titles, particularly for small dogs who always have to compete in unsplit classes.

The proposal is to introduce variable splits to enable two-way splits where three-way splits are not possible. Note that if a three-way or four-way split is possible this will still happen.

This would mean that if the largest group of dogs numbered 15 or more and the other two groups together numbered 15 or more then the smaller two groups would combine to form one split. Most frequently this would mean that Small and 600 dogs would combine in one split with 500 dogs in the other split, however, if 600s were the largest group then smalls would then combine with 500 dogs in one split with 600 dogs in the other split.

Split 1 (largest group)	Split 2 (two smallest groups combined)
500	Small + 600
600	Small + 500

Note that for variable splits the small dogs (240/320/380) would always remain together.

A variable split of small dogs in one split and 500/600 dogs in the other is technically possible, however we could not find any example of an unsplit class where the smalls were the largest group.

Some real-life examples of how this would look are:

Any class that would currently split three ways = no change

Waimakariri Dog Training Club – Jumpers C1 – June 2021

Small	500	600
16	30	26

Any class that would currently split four ways = no change

Tokoroa Dog Training Club – Novice 1 – January 2021

240	300s	500	600
16	29	59	59

Any class with less than 15 dogs in all height groups = no change (remains unsplit)

Southland Dog Training Club – Senior 2 – January 2021

Small	500	600
3	8	14

In the following two examples, 500s are the largest group so remain on their own. The two smaller groups, small and 600 dogs combine into the second split

Dog Agility Wellington Group – Jumpers A1 – February 2021

Current Unsplit

Small	500	600
13	21	7

Variable Split

500	Small + 600
21	20

Selwyn Dog Training Club – Senior 1 – July 2021

Current Unsplit

Small	500	600
11	23	16

Variable Split

500	Small + 600
23	27

In the following two examples, 600s are the largest group so remain on their own. The two smaller groups, small and 500 dogs combine into the second split

North Shore Dog Training Club – Starters 1 – February 2021

Current - Unsplit

Small	500	600
14	9	21

Variable Split

600	Small + 500
21	23

Otago Canine Training Club – Intermediate 1 – September 2021

Current - Unsplit

Small	500	600
9	18	25

Variable Split

600	Small + 500
25	27

The survey will ask your opinions on the introduction of variable splits.

Points

Current Regulation 5.5.1 – Allocation of Points for Graduation in Agility Fixtures

Current Regulation 14.2 – Graduation in Agility Classes

Current Regulation 15.2 – Graduation in Jumpers Classes

Currently, where entry numbers exceed 75 dogs in an unsplit class or 75 dogs in a split, points are allocated for placings based on the following table. Points are accumulated to count towards graduation.

The following table shows the number of points currently available to place getters in Agility and Jumpers as defined by the number of dogs entered in the class. It should be noted that this system was developed prior to the introduction of splits and was used in classes when the norm was class sizes of around 120-150 dogs.

No of Dogs Entered *	1st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th	5 th	6 th
0 – 75	Win					
76 – 100	Win	1 point				
101 – 150	Win	2 points	1 point			
151 – 200	Win	3 points	2 points	1 point		
201 – 250	Win	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	
251 – 300	Win	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point

*For numbers of dogs entered exceeding 300, the table will continue adding a point for each place for each additional 50 dogs.

If a dog can graduate with a Win from a class of 15 dogs, then it stands to reason that those dogs in classes greater than multiples of 15 should also be recognised for their achievements.

Proposed change

No of Dogs Entered	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th
0-15	Win					
16-30	Win	1 point				
31-45	Win	2 points	1 point			
46-60	Win	3 points	2 points	1 point		
61-75	Win	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point	
76-90	Win	5 points	4 points	3 points	2 points	1 point

Examples of how the proposed change would work:

Example 1: Spot is a 600 dog competing in the North Island.

Result	Score	Event
Novice - 600s: 2nd out of 64	4 points	Huntly - Champ 7/8 Nov 2020
Novice - 600s: 2nd out of 41	2 points	Manukau DTC - Champ 15 Nov 2020
Novice - 600s: 1st out of 34	WIN	North Shore DTC - Champ 13/14 Feb 2021

14.2.2 Graduation from Novice to Senior

14.2.2.1 Criteria for Graduation

A dog will become eligible to enter Senior classes when they have achieved:

- 3 wins with clear rounds in Novice and/or Intermediate classes or,
- 2 wins with clear rounds in Novice and/or Intermediate classes plus a further 3 points (or ADX) gained in such classes or,
- 1 win with a clear round in Novice and/or Intermediate classes plus a further 6 points (or 3 points plus ADX) gained in such classes.

Spot would now graduate to Senior

Example 2: Stripe is a 380 dog competing in the South Island.

Result	Score	Event
Starters - Unsplit: 2nd out of 55	3 points	Mid Canterbury DTC Champ 8/9 Feb 2020
Novice - Small: 1st out of 18	WIN	South Canterbury DTC Champ 20/21-3-2021

14.2.1 Graduation from Starters to Intermediate

14.2.1.1 Criteria for Graduation

A dog will become eligible to enter Intermediate classes when they have achieved:

- 2 wins with clear rounds in Starters and/or Novice classes or,
- 1 win with clear rounds in Starters and/or Novice classes plus a further 3 points gained in such classes or,
- the award of the AD qualification.

Stripe would now graduate to Intermediate.

Numbers of Dogs for Challenges

Current Regulation: 11.1.5 – Challenge Certificates

Currently the number of challenges to be awarded in Senior and Jumpers A is dependent on the number of dogs entered as follows:

Dogs Entered	Challenges Awarded
1-14	0
15-24	1
25-74	2
75-124	3
125-174	4
175+	One additional challenge for every additional 50 dogs entered

The survey will ask your opinion about changing these numbers so that the number of dogs required for challenges increases evenly. Our proposal is for increments of 15 dogs as this is the number required for splits. i.e:

Dogs Entered	Challenges Awarded
1-14	0
15-29	1
30-44	2
45-59	3
60-74	4
75+	One additional challenge for every additional 15 dogs entered

Consequences and Considerations:

- Classes or splits where the entry numbers are between 25 and 29 will now only have one challenge awarded, not two.
- Based on current entry numbers and splits, the overall number of Senior challenges available annually increase slightly (4 extra)
- Based on current entry numbers and splits, the overall number of Jumpers A challenges available annually increase significantly (77 extra)