

Happy New Year from the Agility Committee

As we bid a fond farewell to 2021, on behalf of the 8th Agility Committee of Dogs New Zealand, I would like to say Happy New Year to all our Agility family, and I would also like to say another thank you to my team for the ongoing support we have for each other and the achievements we have made during the year.

2021 was a dynamic and eventful year, but mostly for the wrong reasons with the ongoing challenges that COVID-19 throws at us and the multitude of governmental changes that we have seen, but amongst it all we have stayed positive, and worked with it.

The passion that people have for our sport has become very apparant over the past months, and whilst we understand the frustrations with the ever changing situation, we thank you for your patience and understanding, and for working with us rather than against us. We look forward to this continuing in the new year, and hopefully we will be able to keep calm and carry on with what is going to be our latest new normal.

Have a safe and merry festive season, and we will see you all soon for our next round of excitement.

Chris Richardson
Agility Committee Chair



In This Newsletter:

- Update Your Details!
- Take the Lead
- Crossover Survey Results
- Covid Update
- Upcoming Important Consultation
- Start/Finish Lines—Recommendations
- First Dog on the Line—Recommendations

Update Your Details on the Dog Agility Website

We will soon be sending out a very important information on an upcoming consultation survey (see details in this newsletter). To ensure we reach everyone we will be emailing information to all currently active Agility members. Please take a moment to check that your email address, and other details, are correct. Go to the [NZ Dog Agility Website](#) log in and select “my profile” from the menu on the left hand side.

Please also upload a copy of your “My Vaccine Pass”, or proof of age for those under 12, if you haven’t already done so.

Take the Lead Taking Off

It's fantastic to see people embracing the Take the Lead initiative and nominating amazing people in our community for Take the Lead Gamechanger awards.

If you haven't already done so, head over to the [Take the Lead Website](#) to check it out or nominate a Take the Lead Gamechanger.

#**takethelead**dogshz

#**gamechanger**dogshz

CULTURE doesn't change when a coach tells a player that they're wrong.

It changes when **players tell other players** "No, that's not how we do things here."

Jeff Hecklinski



Download these Take the Lead posters from the Club Resources page of the Take the Lead Website—Ideal for your club rooms and call boards.

Future of the Crossover

The results of the binding survey on the future of the Crossover were as follows:

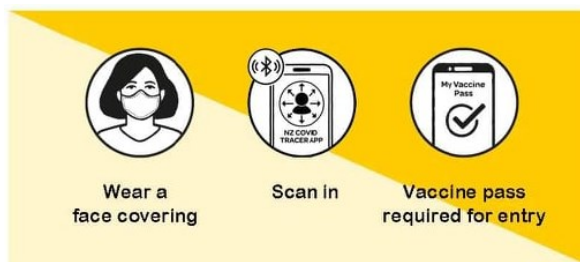
- In favour of removing the crossover from the standard obstacles list: 166 votes. (53%)
- In favour of keeping the crossover and standardising it: 150 votes. (47%)

The AC acknowledges that the vote was very close and there was considerable discussion around the narrow margin, however, given that some clubs do not have a crossover or have crossovers which are in need of repairs and maintenance, it was decided that the binding vote should stand as is and the cross-over be removed completely from the regulations. It would not be reasonable to insist that clubs pay for the standardisation should it be retained as an optional piece of equipment.

The Crossover will therefore be removed from the standard obstacle list in the next regulation update in July 2022. The Agility Committee further resolved to suspend the Crossover from use at competition from 10 January 2022.

Traffic Lights, Wristbands and a Covid Toolkit—Covid Update

The AC have put together a suite of resources for running shows under the Covid-19 Protection Framework, aka Traffic Light System, in our [Covid Toolkit](#) which is accessible from the NZ Dog Agility Website. Please always check the toolkit for the latest versions of the guidelines as these may change frequently as information is released from various sources.



We recently trialed the use of coloured wristbands at events to identify those who had had their vaccine passes verified. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive with the main value to clubs being that it is very easy to scan the event area and quickly identify those who have not had their vaccine passes verified.

We have secured an initial supply of wristbands which will be provided to clubs holding shows in the first part of the year (unless the Government reviews the requirement for vaccine pass verification at sports events) for all Championship Shows and large two-day Ribbon Trials, and will review again as our supplies get low.

The Government's requirement to verify vaccine passes adds extra pressure on club resources on show days and to help clubs and make the verification process as smooth as possible we ask all competitors to:

- Upload your "My Vaccine Pass" or proof of age for competitors under 12 to either the NZ Dog Agility or Show Sec entry systems (you only do this on one system and you will be automatically verified for both).
- Before the show, check the instructions from the club with regards to Vaccine Pass verification, checking in and collecting your wristband. The processes may vary from club to club and we ask everyone to be kind and respect and comply with each club's process.
- Be at the show early to check in and collect your wristband, regardless of what time you will be competing. If you arrive late, make an effort to find the person responsible for issuing the bands. Even if you have verified with your entry, you will still need to pick up your wristband may need to show your Pass again.
- Wear your band on your wrist all weekend (it should be tight enough that it doesn't slip off over your hand but not too tight!) The bands are waterproof so can be worn in the shower, or survive a Championship wetting or the downpours we occasionally get, and are durable enough to last a weekend.
- If you have friends and family coming to visit you at the show, remind them to bring their Vaccine Pass and get them to check in on arrival.

Guidelines:

- Events are limited to 100 people, excluding named officials.
- Record keeping / scanning in with the My Covid app required.
- Face coverings are mandatory when course walking, course building, during gatherings such as the morning briefing, by call stewards and when visiting the call board, during prizegiving, and whenever a distance of more than 1m from another person cannot be maintained, including whilst lining up for your run if other people are in close proximity. Course walking should be limited to a maximum of 20 people at any one time.
- Masks are allowed to be carried in your pocket while running.
- Catering is discouraged – people, including judges should bring their own food.
- Food trucks/coffee carts are allowed provided a record of them being on site is kept – they do not need to be counted in the 100.
- Self-service tea/coffee facilities not permitted.

RED

Guidelines:

- No limit on numbers.
- Record keeping / scanning in with the My Covid app required.
- Face coverings are mandatory when course walking, course building, during gatherings such as the morning briefing, by call stewards and when visiting the call board, during prizegiving, and whenever a distance of more than 1m from another person cannot be maintained, including whilst lining up for your run if other people are in close proximity.
- Masks are allowed to be carried in your pocket while running.
- Catering is allowed but sharing of cutlery/plates etc and sit-down lunches is discouraged.

ORANGE

Important Regulation Change Consultation in the New Year

In response to various proposals received, The Agility Committee will shortly be releasing two comprehensive surveys about AD/ADXA, our graduation, qualification and title systems and variable splits. It has become apparent that some parts of our system which were largely based on Obedience and Conformation (breed showing) have become outdated and perhaps no longer make sense in the context of modern Agility. The surveys will ask your opinions on the current systems and offer some proposals for change.

Consultation documents will be released ahead of the surveys to give everyone time to read, digest, discuss and read again. There will be an opportunity for Q&A prior to the release of the surveys.

The surveys won't be binding, but it is a chance for everyone to give us feedback to inform our decisions. To ensure you receive the information, please make sure you check that your email address is up to date on your profile on the NZ Dog Agility website (see the front page of this newsletter for instructions).

The consultation has been split into two parts because of the amount of information contained in the consultation documents.

Take the time to have your say! Look out for our consultation document and survey coming soon...

The timeline for the consultation will be as follows:

- Consultation document #1 released for Q&A—10 January
- Q&A responses—21 January
- Survey #1 released—24 January
- Survey #1 closes—28 January
- Consultation document #2 released for Q&A—31 January
- Q&A responses—11 February
- Survey #2 released—14 February
- Survey #1 closes—18 February
- AC recommends regulation changes to Executive Council—April
- Any regulation changes come into effect—1 July

Start/Finish Line Recommendations

As previously communicated, in order to mitigate congestion around start/finish lines and the risk of dog-on-dog and dog-on-person incidents and near misses in and around the start/finish areas at competitions we have recommend some enhancement to the setup of the start/finish areas to clubs.

As competitors we can all play our part, so we are asking everyone to consider the following suggestions:

- Please don't crowd around the call boards, once you have checked in and/or established where you are in the running order, move away.
- Keep the entrance and exit to the ring clear so dogs and handlers have a clear path in and out of the assembly area.
- Please don't enter the finish box to place your own leads/toys/rewards. The lead runners should do this for you.
- If you are lead running, please give handlers and dogs as much space as possible.
- One at a time in the start box – don't enter the start box until the team ahead of you has entered the ring proper.
- You must exit via the finish and have your dog on lead prior to leaving the finish box.
- Take responsibility for and be mindful of your own dog – keep dogs on lead around the rings unless using practice equipment and maintain a respectful distance from other dogs. Unless you know them well, treat every dog as if it needs space. Ask before allowing your dog to interact with other dogs.
- If your dog is reactive, consider using a muzzle ringside (with the correct training first of course!). The Agility Committee wholeheartedly endorses the correct use of muzzles as a management tool. [The Muzzle Up Project](#) has lots of great information about muzzles and training your dog to be happy wearing one.
- If you need to, ask the competitor following you to make sure you have your dog on lead before they begin their run. If someone asks you to do this, you can enter the ring and wait with your dog (on lead if necessary) so the judge is not waiting unnecessarily.
- Be positive and kind in your interactions with others.

Break Between Course Walking and Start of Judging

In order to allow the first competitors on the line to have equal time to walk the course as others, and also get their dogs to the ring, the AC is recommending that clubs implement a break of a minimum of 5 minutes between the close of course walking and the start of judging.

Once course walking has closed all competitors must immediately leave the ring and no further course walking is to take place during the break. Once all competitors have left the ring the break begins.

The first competitor is expected to be at the ring, ready to run at the conclusion of the break.