



**NZKC AGILITY COMMITTEE
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AGILITY STANDING ORDERS

**Agility procedure and policy
not otherwise documented in
NZKC Agility Regulations
or Show Regulations**

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Introduction

This handbook has been created to provide NZ Agility clubs and competitors with information related to Agility matters.

It is the intention that all matters not otherwise provided for in Agility Regulations or other NZKC rules/regulations be provided for in this handbook.

Compliance

Policy contained in this handbook has been passed by the NZKC Agility Committee. With this in mind, it is the intention that all clubs and individuals be required to comply with such policy.

These policies have been formulated from combining and restructuring the old Zone Standing orders to enable continuity of policy wherever possible. The Agility Committee will frown upon evidence of deliberate non-compliance and may choose to raise such non-compliances with the NZKC.

Running of Elementary Agility Classes

Introduction

Elementary is designed as an introductory level of competition in Agility. The ultimate goal of elementary is to attract newcomers to the sport. Whilst it is not the intention to over-regulate elementary, uniformity between clubs and areas is desirable as new people need some idea what to expect when entering the sport.

Clubs are responsible for advertising Elementary by way of flyers or details in champ show schedules. Elementary classes are compulsory at Agility Ribbon Trials and optional at Championship Events. There are two levels of Elementary classes which clubs may run. These are to be known as Elementary B and Elementary A respectively.

Eligibility

As detailed in Agility Regulations 14.1.1.1 and 14.1.1.2.

Judges

Judges may be any person (not including a member disqualified by the NZKC) that is appointed by the show or club committee. It is preferred that the person judging this class has applied for, or intends to apply for the Agility Trainee panel. It is also preferable that an Agility Panel judge is available to assist with any queries that may arise.

Courses

A set of courses is available for use for the running of Elementary courses. These courses are available from www.dogagility.org.nz and one of the courses will be drawn at random for use by the judge on the day. Judges who are on the Agility Fixtures judging panel may use a course of their own provided that it meets the parameters detailed in Agility Regulations 14.1.1.3 and 14.1.1.4. Elementary judges who are not on any Agility Fixtures panel must use one of the set courses.

Non-Competitive Entries

No non-competitive entries may run in Elementary. Clubs may at their discretion run another (novelty) class over the elementary course at the conclusion of the Elementary classes for the purpose of allowing others to run the course.

General

- All Elementary classes are considered to be at Ribbon Trial level, even if held in conjunction with a Championship Event.
- Elementary classes are considered to be part of one set of Agility classes. Dogs entered in Elementary A or B may not also be entered in the Novice class which comprises the same set of classes as the Elementary class.

- If only one Elementary A and B is run at a show with multiple Agility classes, the Elementaries will be deemed to be attached to the first set of classes.
- If more than one Elementary A and B is run at a show with multiple Agility classes, the Elementaries will be deemed to be attached the set of classes bearing the same number (e.g. Elementary A2 is attached to Novice 2).
- As Elementary classes are deemed to be at Ribbon Trial level, Agility Regulation 11.3.4 applies - Prizes must be ribbons, rosettes or cards only.
- As Elementary classes are deemed to be at Ribbon Trial level, the closing date (and therefore eligibility date) is always “on the day”, whether or not pre-entries are taken.

Other Regulations

It is up to the club on the day to specify whether there is a jump height reduction for Elementary dogs. All other regulations including judging, scoring, age of dogs, heights of dogs and anything else not otherwise included above, will be as per NZKC Agility Regulations.

NZDAC Team Selection Process

Introduction

Each Zone shall run a team trial or trials in order to select team members for competition in the Agility Inter-zone Teams Event at the New Zealand Dog Agility Championship. A complete team consists of one dog and handler from each Agility class.

General Rules for Conduct of Team Selection Process

Zone Co-Ordinator

- Each Zone will require a person willing to coordinate the Teams Selection process in that zone. The Agility Committee will assist if required in locating an individual who is willing to take on this role.
- The Zone Coordinator will ensure that all clubs/interested individuals in the zone have an input with regard to the selection of judges/venues/entry fees and all other matters pertaining to the running of the Agility team selection trial/s.
- The Zone Coordinator will ensure that the name and contact details of the Agility Team Manager for their Zone is notified to the NZDAC management by 15 September.

Entry

- Date of close of nominations for Teams Selection shall be up to each zone.
- A nomination fee should be charged per dog. This is to cover all Trials, and is non-refundable, regardless of number of Trials attended.
- All entrants must be financial members of the NZKC.
- All entrants must be intending to attend NZDAC

Team Member Requirements.

- Team members are required to travel to the NZDAC and enter the Teams event.
- Team members are required to wear the Zone uniform, some of this will be supplied by the NZKC Agility Committee from and the rest may need to be supplied by the individual Team member.
- Team members must complete and sign an official NZKC entry form for the NZDAC team event, and pass this to the Zone Teams Coordinator as soon as possible after the team selection is complete.

Selection Of Judges For Trials.

- Zones are free to select such judges as they wish for the running of any specific Team trial. It is recommended that the judges for team trials are sought from the Senior panel.

Bitches In Season.

- As NZDAC Team Trials are a recognised and approved “fixture”, bitches in season will not be allowed to attend.

NZKC Agility Committee Subsidy

- The Agility Committee may provide a subsidy where applicable to each team member, to assist with travel and uniform expenses.
- The subsidy will vary depending on the area that is being travelled to. The Agility Committee will determine the amount to be paid each year to each member of each Zone Team.
- The subsidy is paid to each team member as soon as practicable after receipt by the Agility Committee of the team member's details.
- Any team member who becomes unable to attend the NZDAC prior to travelling to the NZDAC must repay the subsidy in full.
- Any team member who becomes unable to compete in the Zone Teams Event after travelling to the NZDAC must provide a current doctor's certificate or vet's certificate that specifically precludes that team member, or their dog, from competing on the day. They need not refund any travel subsidy they have received.
- Reserve dogs and/or handlers who are brought into the team during the NZDAC will not receive any subsidy.

Announcement Of Teams

The Agility team will be announced at the conclusion of the final trial. This must be done and the team forwarded for entry by 15 September.

Zone Meetings

Introduction

Whilst the traditional Zone meetings are no longer required under the NZKC Agility structure, it may be advantageous for Zones to hold informal meetings as may be required to discuss local competition etc.

These meetings may take any form suitable for the Zone including teleconference or by email agreement.

Attendees

Any person residing in the Zone may and should be encouraged to attend a Zone meeting.

Interclub Competitions

Introduction

The Zone Interclub day is designed to be a fun day which allows all clubs and their members to get together in an environment that is more social and less competitive than normal shows.

This Interclub can be as formal or informal as each Zone wants to make them and is to include any mini-assembly held in a Zone.

Interclub Days should be inclusive events and should be designed to encourage and support new handlers.

Mini-Assembly

Previous Standing Orders for mini-assemblies (where areas wish to run these) will stand and should be used for any future event. These can be found in Appendix IV of this document.

Changing Interclub Policy

Changes to Interclub below policy will be by way of majority vote of delegates from each Zone club.

Time, Frequency and Venue of Interclub

The Timing of any Interclub is to be mutually agreed and decided by the host clubs each year. The venue is also at the discretion of the host clubs.

Rules for Interclub

Any Interclub event must be run according to the NZKC Agility Regulations. The format for an interclub day will be set by the host club.

Zone Awards

Introduction

Zones may offer a range of awards for Agility. Only members of that Zone's clubs are eligible for these awards.

Zone awards are calculated during one full calendar year, and prize giving is as soon as practicable after the results are tabulated

Changing Zone Awards Policy

Changes to the policy will be by way of majority vote of delegates after consultation with Zone clubs.

Points Coordinators

Points coordinators are appointed annually by the Zone clubs and clubs are responsible for sending all show results to these coordinators where appropriate.

General Information

National Agility Calendar

The following procedures have been adopted when drafting calendars. The NZKC Agility Committee reserves the right to make changes to these procedures if circumstances require it.

- Any date currently held by a club for any event (ribbon or champ) will be held for all future agility calendars. Dates will roll over to the corresponding week each year.
- Any club wishing to hold an event on a date already held by another club, will not be approved unless the club holding the date wish to relinquish this date.
- Negotiation between the two clubs should be done at club level. The Agility Committee will only become involved if the club holding the date is willing to relinquish.
- Clubs wishing to hold an event on a date already held by another club, may apply to do so to the Agility Committee, only if the event is to be held somewhere where it is probable the entries will not impact on the club already approved to be holding an event (for example in another island, or at extreme ends of an island, or a ribbon trial wanting to be held on the same date as an existing champ show being held three hours away geographically).
- Clubs wishing to relinquish held dates must inform the Agility Committee by a deadline set by the Agility Committee when the draft calendar is distributed.
- Free dates and relinquished free dates will become available to all clubs on a date set by the Agility Committee. Clubs may then apply for these dates by another deadline set by the Agility Committee. After this deadline, any new dates applied for will be distributed to clubs. In the case of two clubs wanting to hold an event on the same date in geographic closeness, the Agility Committee will make a decision and this will be final. Where possible, clubs who are not successful in their application for a new date, will be given first option on other free dates available. When this is the case, the club will be given a two week deadline from notification to accept the suggested date. After this deadline, the date will become available if not accepted by the club.
- AD and ADX allocations will be made by the Agility committee to ensure the dates are spread throughout the calendar both in time and location. These decisions will be non negotiable.
- AD and ADXA classes will be distributed to Clubs each year to try to ensure every Club in each Zone has the opportunity to hold an AD and ADXA in any one year if a Club would like to do that when it is offered to them by the Agility Committee. These decisions will be non negotiable.
- Clubs whose dates are susceptible to outside influences such as movable festivals will be accommodated where possible, and other clubs' dates may be moved slightly to allow this. Clubs whose dates are changed slightly each year will be notified. A list of these movable show dates are contained in Appendix V.

- A final calendar will be published after all deadlines have occurred. This calendar will then be submitted to the NZKC for approval.
- Any free dates existing on the final calendar can be applied for throughout the year by applying to the Agility Committee. Any decision regarding allocation of these free dates will be made by the Agility Committee and this decision will be final.

The NZKC Agility Committee will publish a timeline for the application of dates on www.dogagility.co.nz each year.

Event Levies

NZKC Agility Committee levies are payable on the appropriate form to the Agility Committee, prior to the first day of the show, as detailed in Agility Regulation 6.5.

The levy amount will be advised by the NZKC Agility Committee annually.

Measuring of Dog's Heights

NZKC Agility Committee will appoint measurers to conduct official measuring of dog's heights for Agility. Appointments for measuring should be arranged directly with the measurer.

Refer Appendix VI for instructions.

Unruly or Aggressive Dogs

At any Agility fixture, the NZKC Show regulations with regard to the exclusion of dogs unfit for exhibition due to disease or savage disposition apply. An Agility fixture is defined in the regulations as The New Zealand Dog Agility Championship, Championship Agility Event or Championship Jumpers Event, Agility Open Event or Jumpers Open Event, Agility Ribbon Trial, Jumpers Ribbon Trial, or Games Ribbon Trial, AD Class, ADX Advanced Class, Agility Interclub or Club Day, Jumpers Interclub or Club Day, or Games Interclub or Club Day.

Where there is an issue with a dog and its behaviour at other than the above agility fixture, (e.g. club training), the club hosting the training is responsible for any preventive or disciplinary action. The club is however encouraged to seek guidance from the Agility Committee if in any doubt as to possible corrective or preventive measures it may wish to employ.

The NZKC Agility Committee has put together a method in which investigation of any incident either on club grounds or at a club organised fixture (excluding shows under the provision of the NZKC Show Regulations) is to be done. This is attached to these Standing Orders as Appendix I

Where such action is taken, a copy of any written material should be forwarded to the Agility Committee for its records.

Policy for Control of Dogs at Shows

- Attached as Appendix II

Running of AD and ADX Advanced Trials

The NZKC Agility Committee delegates the authority of running such trials to the clubs that have had trials approved on the calendar. Club secretaries are responsible for arranging, signing and issuing certificates and for the provision of any Top Qualifier sashes required. All entry money collected for the running of the AD and ADX Advanced Trials is retained by the club running the Trial, with the exception of the NZKC Agility Committee levy.

Clear Round Milestone Awards

Clear round Milestone awards recognise those dogs who have gained clear rounds in Agility and Jumpers classes. There are five levels of award:-

- Jade (100)
- Ruby (250)
- Sapphire (500)
- Emerald (750)
- Diamond (1000)

Milestone Awards - Eligible Certificates

The following certificates gained at Championship, Open or Ribbon Competitions, are eligible to be counted for milestone awards

- Prior to 1-1-2009: Clear round certificates in any standard agility class, which includes:
 - agility (Starters, Novice, Intermediate, Senior), and
 - AD and ADX Advanced.
- From 1-1-2009 clear round certificates and qualifying certificates any standard class, which includes:
 - agility (Elementary, Starters, Novice, Intermediate, Senior),
 - jumpers (Grades A,B & C) and
 - games classes (Grades A,B & C) , and
 - AD and ADX Advanced.

To be eligible, a minimum of one certificate must be gained on or after 1 January 2009.

Competition guidelines

The competitor is deemed to be under the jurisdiction of the judge from the time they enter the assembly area before the run, until they depart the assembly area after completion of, or disqualification from, the run.

Judges are advised that a standard dog lead is not considered a training aid, and therefore the dog may be taken to its starting position on lead. Dogs that tug on a lead prior to commencing the run should not be disqualified.

Leads must be removed and discarded prior to commencing the run (including commencing a lead out).

Handlers should commence their run as soon as possible after the previous dog has completed their run; however handlers must ensure the judge is ready before commencing their run.

Judging of the run will commence when either the competitor or dog passes the refusal plane of the first obstacle, or when the dog commences, or attempts to commence, negotiation of the first obstacle.

During the run, training should be kept to a minimum. If handlers wish to train during a run, they should undertake one instance only and then continue their run or leave the ring. In this regard, handlers and judges are reminded of Agility Regulation 6.7.4 **Judge May Stop Judging** - A judge may ask a competitor to leave the ring if in the opinion of the judge the competitor is not competing seriously.

NZKC Agility Committee Contacts

For any further information, please contact the Agility Committee.

NZKC Agility Committee
PO Box 40-438
Upper Hutt

nzkcac@gmail.com

Committee members' contact details are shown on www.dogagility.org.nz.

APPENDICIES

Appendix I – Clubs complaints procedures

This procedure is designed to help clubs deal with “in house” complaints not arising from any NZKC sanctioned event. It is not designed to be contrary to, or take the place of, the procedures for complaints arising from an NZKC Show as defined under the NZKC Rules and Regulations.

Where possible, matters that can be resolved informally should be so resolved if all parties agree. It is preferable that matters not be allowed to escalate due to time delays in procedure.

In the event that a Club receives a formal complaint, specific action should be taken to investigate the complaint promptly, appropriately and fairly.

Natural Justice

Clubs should observe the processes of fairness and natural justice, covered within this document. We offer you this extract from a Court judgement of Lord Justice Lawton in *Maxwell v Department of Trade and Industry* [1974] 2 All ER 122 where he said:

"From time to time ... lawyers and judges have tried to define what constitutes fairness. Like defining an elephant, it is not easy to do, although fairness in practice has the elephantine quality of being easy to recognise. As a result of these efforts a word in common usage has acquired the trappings of legalism: 'acting fairly' has become 'acting in accordance with the rules of natural justice', and on occasion has been dressed up with Latin tags. This phrase in my opinion serves no useful purpose and in recent years it has encouraged lawyers to try to put those who hold inquiries into legal straitjackets.... For the purposes of my judgment I intend to ask myself this simple question: did the [decision-maker] act fairly towards the plaintiff?"

Fairness and natural justice do NOT mean the club cannot hear a complaint, come to a decision, and impose a penalty. But the club must act fairly.

Rules

Each club must make sure it operates in accordance with its own written rules. These are what give the club the power to operate. For the benefit of all involved, the rules should include the formal aspects of a complaints procedure. If a club is not sure that

their rules are adequate, they are welcome to consult the Director/Secretary of the NZKC.

Disputes Committee

Each club should have a Disputes Committee made up of the President and/or Vice-President and between 3 and 5 other members who should also be members of the club committee. However knowledgeable non-committee members may be included and in addition, an external knowledgeable person may be appointed to this committee at the time it is convened.

Any member of the Disputes Committee with a conflict of interest in a matter should stand aside for that matter. In a club where everyone knows everyone it may not be obvious when a conflict of interest exists. When in doubt, seek advice.

The President may wish to nominate an external person to chair meeting/s.

Timing

The Disputes Committee should be convened within 21 days of the complaint being lodged with the club. In any event, all reasonable steps should be taken at the time of the alleged event, to prevent a recurrence of the behaviour on which the complaint is based prior to the Disputes Committee being convened.

The club may ask that some person/s or dog/s do not attend events (for example, weekly training) until the Disputes Committee meets.

Investigation

The President of the Club (or Vice-President in his/her absence) may appoint two members of the Disputes Committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the events reported in the complaint. If appointed, these investigators will conduct the following interviews and write up a report to be completed a minimum of 48 hours prior to the date and time of the Disputes Committee Hearing.

If appointed, the investigators will interview:

- the complainant
- the respondent (the person accused) and
- any witnesses to the event

A support person may be present with each party while they are interviewed if desired.

The investigators will advise all parties of the necessity of confidentiality and consequent breaches.

The investigators will prepare a report regarding the facts of the situation based 'on balance of probabilities'. The report will include:

- the basis of the complaint
- the response of the respondent to the allegation(s)
- a summary of any information provided by witnesses
- any reasons why one persons evidence is preferred over another's
- details of the investigation
- when appropriate, any recommendation to the organisation about how to prevent this type of thing happening again

Disputes Committee Hearing

Notice of the date and time of the hearing shall be provided to all parties no less than 7 days prior to the hearing taking place. Both the complainant and the respondent shall in addition, be given copies of the report from the investigators at least 24 hours prior to the hearing date and time.

The President of the club, Vice-President in his absence, or any other person nominated by the President, will Chair the Hearing. Meeting decorum must be strictly observed during the Hearing process with all comments/statements being directed to the Chair.

Rights of the Respondent

The respondent must be given the opportunity to:

- understand that the investigation/hearing is unbiased, where both sides have the right to be heard
- know what the complaint is about and who it is made by
- respond to the complaint and have their account heard

Decision Making

The committee will:

- receive the investigators report
- consider the report
- provide the complainant and the respondent with the opportunity to respond to it and comment on what they feel is appropriate action
- determine whether the complaint is to be upheld
- determine what (if any) disciplinary action is appropriate
- determine if any changes are needed to the way the policy and procedures are put into practice

Possible disciplinary actions

These may include:

- verbal or written apology
- a letter of reprimand
- restrictions on the freedom of dogs on the grounds
- exclusion from the grounds of dog or handler
- temporary suspension
- any other measures the disciplinary committee considers appropriate and is within their Club rules/Constitution
- a combination of any of the above

Record keeping

A confidential record must be kept of formal complaints. This record should include a record of the investigation, the decision of the Disputes Committee and what action was taken. A copy of the record of any upheld complaint should be forwarded to the NZKC Agility Committee (and NZKC Obedience Committee if appropriate).

Retaliation

Retaliation against an individual who has filed a complaint, participated in any procedure under the policy, or been associated with a person who filed a complaint, will be treated as harassment and will not be tolerated.

Support for the parties involved

The Club will ensure that both the complainant and respondent have the opportunity to have access to appropriate support. The support person or people are also bound to confidentiality.

Everyone has the right to seek advice.

Confidentiality

All parties involved in the investigation of complaints are required to keep any and all information on the complaint confidential during the course of the investigation and should be advised that ongoing confidentiality may be required.

Clubs must adopt a privacy policy. An example could be: This club collects some information about members, who have a right to inspect and correct any inaccuracies. Where a complaint is made, a record will be kept of the complaint and any decision reached. People have rights under the Privacy Act.

Right of appeal

The club must adopt a policy on appeals. It should be worded similarly to the following example.

Either the complainant or the respondent may appeal against a decision or penalty. An appeal in writing must be lodged within 14 days of the decision or penalty being imposed. The party lodging the appeal must write to the club and the NZKC, stating their grounds for appeal. The NZKC will consider the matter fairly and render a decision in good time.

A club adopting this policy can take it as read from this document that NZKC agrees to be the appeal authority. A club may adopt an alternative appeal policy as long as it is fair.

Appendix II – Control of dogs policy

(A) AT SHOWS

Recommendations for Clubs

- Provide clearly defined entry and exit holding areas for all rings.
- Ensure a minimum of 5m between adjoining rings.
- Ensure callboards are placed in an area where there is as little congestion as possible.
- If possible provide an second unattended callboard at a second location.
- Add grounds policy to prevent dogs being tied up and left unattended.
- Keep a tent-free 5m perimeter around ring edges.
- Provide lead runners to ease handler exit from the rings.
- Remind handlers of their responsibility to have control of their dogs at all times.

Recommendations for Judges

- The first and last obstacles must be placed to allow a minimum of a 5m run-up within the ring and at least a 5m run-out within the ring. Consider having a minimum of 7m between the ring edge and the first and last obstacles on courses to allow handlers to have sufficient room to set the dog up within the ring boundary and to have the dog under control prior to exiting.
- The first and last obstacles must be at least 6m apart. The first and last obstacles on a course must be placed so as to prevent finishing dogs interfering with those about to start.

Recommendations for Handlers

- Ensure that at all times all dogs are either contained in a crate/vehicle or trailer or on lead unless toileting them or warming up.
- Do not stake or tie out and leave unattended, any dog in any position on the Show grounds where they are able to lunge out at dogs or people.
- Pay attention to your dog while walking them on lead and keep the lead short enough to prevent them causing problems for people/other dogs passing.
- Take care with the use of flexi-leads to ensure that they do not extend to the point where they pose a hazard to others.
- When dogs are off-lead ensure that they are directly and visually attended at all times.
- Show courtesy in the warm-up ring and do not stand talking or walk through the warm up area unnecessarily with dogs (either on or off lead).

- Muzzle any dogs which have given or may give cause for concern in terms of biting or rushing at other dogs or people.
- Bring your dog into the ring on lead.
- Have your dog under control (i.e. on lead) prior to leaving the ring.
- Do not allow your dog to charge out of the ring under any circumstances.
- Do not throw toys for your dog in congested areas or into a group of other dogs.
- Do not leave toys and food unattended around the ring edge.

(B) AT CLUB AND TRAINING

Recommendations for Clubs

- Provide sufficient room for all classes without having them interfering with each other for space.
- Educate all handlers of their responsibilities re control of their dogs in general.
- Have clear grounds policy regarding the tying up of dogs and when/where on the grounds dogs may be off-lead.
- Grounds policy should discourage handlers from staking or tying out and leaving unattended any dog that is not involved in the training class in a situation where they are able to lunge out at dogs or people, or be otherwise disruptive.
- Ensure all instructors know the grounds policy and pass it on to their students.
- Encourage all instructors to lead by example in their own control and containment of their dogs.
- Foster good relationships between all club members to enable open discussion of potential problem areas/issues.
- Welcome input from all members on the safety and control of dogs on the grounds.

Recommendations for Instructors

- Set a good example in the way you control your own dogs.
- Be clear with your students as to what is expected in terms of off-lead areas/time before, during and after class.
- Remind any student of the what is required quietly if they are at all inappropriate with the control of their dog.
- Encourage ongoing training and reinforcement of basic manners and control throughout the dog's time at club.

Recommendations for Handlers

- Ensure that your dog is under control in accordance to your club's grounds policy at all times.

- Pay attention to your dog while walking them on lead and keep the lead short enough to prevent them causing problems for people/other dogs passing.
- When dogs are off-lead ensure that they are directly and visually attended at all times.
- Show courtesy to other classes.
- Bring your dog into class on lead and have it on lead when it is not actually working.
- Teach your dogs excellent basic manners.
- Do not throw toys for your dog in congested areas or into a group of unknown dogs.
- Take care with the use of flexi-leads to ensure that they do not extend to the point where they pose a hazard to others.
- Seek help from your instructor if you have any issue with regard your dog in and around others.

Appendix III – Dog assessment policy

Introduction

This protocol has been drafted in order to provide guidelines to those asked to assess the temperament and/or disposition of a dog as instructed by the NZKC Agility Committee.

An assessment will generally be called for subsequent to a dog being the subject of a complaint laid under Show Regulation 19.13. It is seen as a method of determining whether a dog, having had an issue and perhaps having had some remedial training, is deemed fit to return to Agility competition. This will provide a good link between the “punishment” phase of the system and assistance to the handler in ensuring the dog is ready to be observed in the ring. It is not intended that a negative assessment should be a permanent impediment to the dog’s return to the ring but rather a signal that more work is required prior to the dog competing again.

Method

The assessment should be conducted by one or two experienced Agility people. The dog should be assessed in terms of basic control in the face of normal “Agility-type” distractions. At all times, all measures should be taken to ensure the safety of all people and dogs involved in the assessment or in the vicinity.

The Assessors

The Assessor(s) should:

- Be as impartial as possible
- Have a good understanding of behavioural training
- Have a good understanding of the requirements of dogs in the Agility environment.

Assessment Detail

The assessment should include tests to establish that:

- The dog has a reliable recall to handler – first done with no distractions (no formal present required)
- The dog’s recall is solid with the distraction of a dog playing with a handler off to the side of the path of the dog to the handler.
- The dog can run short sequences of obstacles without reacting adversely to a person imitating the actions of an Agility judge during a normal run. This is to include the “judge” running a parallel path to that of the dog, running on a converging path, standing still and being in proximity to (particularly) contact obstacles.

Training Not Assessed

The assessment should include reference to training only as far as it relates to the control of the dog. The assessor shall not take into account:

- Dog breaking a start-line stay to start running the course early (unless the dog then behaves in an inappropriate manner)

- Missed contacts or any other poor obstacle execution.
- Poor Handling in terms of running the course from the handler.

Report

Following the assessment, the assessor(s) will produce a written report and forward it to the Chairman of the NZKC Agility Committee who will pass it on to the appropriate person within the NZKC Head Office. A copy of the assessment shall be retained by the Agility Committee. The report shall contain:

- Detail of the Assessment date, venue, subject etc.
- Name(s) of the Assessors.
- Detail of the tests conducted.
- Detail of any recommendations on the future requirements in terms of the dog returning to Agility.

Appendix IV – Mini Assembly

Introduction

A Club runs the Mini Assembly on behalf of the Zone.

General Format

The Club runs the Assembly and it must be conducted along the general lines agreed to. Any radical departures require the approval of a consensus of Zone clubs. The rules and regulations of the NZKC shall be upheld at all times during the Mini Assembly.

Essential Elements

The Assembly has the following essential elements

- The Inter-Club Obedience competition
- The Inter-Club Agility competition
- The Inter-Club Obedience and Agility combined competition

Host Club and Venue

The honour of hosting the assembly is on rotation through the Zone clubs. The host club will select a suitable venue.

Judges

Regulations consider a Mini Assembly to be an Inter-Club event. These regulations state that an Inter-Club event may be judged by any person not being a disqualified person under the Rules and Regulations of the NZKC.

Historically, the Mini Assembly has had the same consideration as would a COT and CAE. Therefore the host club should endeavour to contract Test "C" and Senior Agility Panel Judges.

Team Entries

Club teams shall be submitted by the club secretaries to the host club for entry into the Inter-Club competitions on official NZKC entry forms as is the requirement for COT & CAE, with the entries closing on the Friday of the weekend 3 weeks prior to the date of the Mini Assembly.

Catalogue

The catalogue will include:

- Obedience Inter-Club score sheets for each test and a summary score chart standard layout.
- Agility Inter-Club score sheets for each class and a summary score chart standard layout.
- Combined discipline Inter-Club score sheets for each test/class and a summary score chart standard layout

Catalogue distribution

A copy of the catalogue will be provided free to:

- All Judges
- All competitors
- Team captains
- Club Presidents
- Senior stewards

Sufficient catalogues should be produced for sale.

Ribbons and Sashes

- Ribbons for 1st place in all tests and classes, stating:
 - Mini Assembly (*year*)
 - Winner (*name of the test/class*)
 - Sponsors name or logo if any
- Ribbons for winning team members in all three competitions stating:
 - Mini Assembly (*year*)
 - Obedience, Agility or Combined Obedience & Agility
 - Winning Team
 - Sponsors name or logo if any

Perpetual trophies

- Inter-Club obedience shield (*donor name*)
- Inter-Club agility shield
- Inter-Club combined discipline shield

Scoreboard

Scoreboards should be provided of sufficient size to show the running totals of obedience disciplines and another to show the running totals of clubs in the teams' event

Disputes Committee

A disputes committee must be appointed prior to the Assembly to hear any disputes arising.

Announcer

The host club should provide an announcer (ideally using a P.A. system) to introduce each competitor on entry to the competition ring and to announce the winners.

Inter-Club format

- Team photos - allow 1/2 hour
- Shields to be placed in the ring and team sashes (if requested by the sponsor) to be arranged for the presentation.

- Teams to be assembled ready to enter the ring.
- Obedience teams enter the ring led by the trophy holders (teams to consist of 5 obedience members only) followed by the host team with the order of the remaining 3 teams decided by the host club.
- Agility teams enter the ring led by the trophy holders (teams to consist of 4 agility members only) followed by the host team with the order of the remaining 3 teams decided by the host club.
- Inter-Club trophies received by a representative of the host club.
- Team sashes presented by sponsor representative and host club representative (if requested by the sponsor).
- Speeches if any.
- Teams file out of the ring, order the same as entry.
- Competition to start no later than 30 minutes later.

Obedience Judging Order

Start with Special Beginners, then Novice, Test A, Test B, Test C.

Special Beginners - host zone first, then the remainder in geographical order south from host, then north to south. The club that ran last in the previous test runs first in the next, with the remainder in the same sequence.

- Special Beginners team members, judge and steward enter ring for introduction.
- At completion of Special Beginners Test the winner is presented with a ribbon by the judge, the winner does a lap of honour round the ring.
- Novice introduction, competition, winner presentation
- Test A introduction, competition, winner presentation
- Test B introduction, competition, winner presentation
- Test C introduction, competition, winner presentation

Agility Judging Order

Start with Starters, then Novice, Intermediate, Senior.

Starters - host zone first, then the remainder in geographical order south from host, then north to south. The sequence is regardless of dog size. The club that ran last in the previous test runs first in the next, with the remainder in the same sequence

- Starters team members, judge and steward enter ring for introduction
- At completion of Starters class the winner is presented with a ribbon by the judge, the winner does a lap of honour round the ring.
- Novice introduction, competition, winner presentation
- Intermediate introduction, competition, winner presentation
- Senior introduction, competition, winner presentation

Trophy Presentations

- Teams to be assembled ready to enter the ring in finishing order and line up behind flags or shields.
- Obedience Trophy presented by a Zone representative.
- Winning team Ribbons/Medals presented by sponsor representative or host club President.
- Repeat presentation of trophy, ribbons/medals for Agility and the Combined discipline competitions.
- Club representative from the host club for the following year issues general invitation to club presidents to attend the next Mini Assembly.
- Thanks to the organising committee, and sponsor by a Zone representative.
- Teams leave the ring after a lap of honour by the winning teams
- Sponsors product (if any) to be handed out to team members as they leave the ring, by the sponsor representative or their nominee.

Rules for conduct of Inter-Club obedience and Agility Competitions

Inter-Club Obedience competition shall be scored on a scale of points awarded on placings.

Allocation of points

Points will be allocated to each handler according to their placing in the nominated test i.e. 1st = 1 point, 2nd = 2 points etc.

Equal individual scores (Agility)

In the case of equal faults and equal time for first place there will be a run off. If dogs are tied on equal faults and equal time for places other than first, they will receive a formulated ranking by adding the rankings and dividing by the number of dogs (e.g. if 2 dogs are tied in 2nd place, both dogs receive a ranking of 2.5)

Team total

The points gained by each of the handlers are added to form a team total.

Winning team

The winning team is the team with the lowest total of points.

Tie

In the event of a tie between 2 clubs at the conclusion of the competition the club with the highest placings will be declared the winner. If a tie still exists the club with the highest overall test points will be declared the winner.

Composition of teams

Obedience: The teams shall each consist of 5 handlers and dogs, selected to compete in the 5 approved obedience tests.

Agility: The teams shall each consist of 4 handlers and 4 dogs, selected to compete in Starters, Novice, Intermediate and Senior. Micros, minis, midis and maxis are eligible.

An exception to this would be if a club can show evidence that there are insufficient competing members able to attend the mini assembly in that discipline to field a full team. Under these circumstances the club may put forward a team consisting of fewer handlers and multiple dogs or select a dog from the pool.

Pool dogs

The host club will take names of handlers prepared to offer their dogs as replacements if needed. If two or more clubs require dogs for the same test or class, the pool dogs will be selected by ballot for each club.

Eligibility to enter

Dogs must be eligible to compete in the appropriate test on entries closing date.

Replacement dog

If a team dog is unable to compete, a replacement may be chosen from any eligible dog, from the same club, present at the Mini Assembly or a dog may be chosen from the Pool. The Team Captains and Show Manager are to be consulted before any replacement takes place.

Reasons for withdrawal

Dogs may not be withdrawn from the teams' competition for any reason other than the following:

- Sickness and/or disability of the dog certified by a veterinary certificate, which should be presented to the Show Manager.
- Sickness and/or disability of the handler.

Scoring

Scoring/Judging will be as per NZKC rules and regulations.

Scoring elimination (Agility)

The scoring will be as for a standard agility event, except that eliminated dogs must complete the course with additional faults added and receive 50 faults for each elimination.

Posting Scores

The completed test scores will be posted prior to the next competitor being announced to enter the ring. The stay test scores will be posted on the completion of the test.

Rules for the conduct of Inter-Club Combined Discipline Competition

Scoring

The allocation of points taken from the final team placings from the two individual discipline events i.e.:

1st Team in Ob or Ag = 1 point, 2nd Team in Ob or Ag = 2 points, etc.

Winning Club Teams

The combined total of the two disciplines points will determine the winning Club. The winning team is the team with the lowest total of points.

Tie

In the event of a tie between 2 or more clubs at the conclusion of the competition the club with the highest placings in both disciplines will be declared the winner.

In the event that this still results in a tie the Trophy will go to the club with the highest combined total of Team Obedience Scores minus Team Agility Faults.

E.g.

Team	SB	N	A	B	C	Total	ST	N	I	S	Total
A	60	92	139	209	294	794	55	0	5	0	60
B	63	95	120	198	280	756	0	5	10	0	15

Team A = $794 - 60 = 734$ & Team B = $756 - 15 = 741$,
Therefore Team B would be declared the Winner

Appendix V – Movable show dates

Clubs, events and dates that will be given special consideration when allocating dates each year:

- Waitangi Weekend/Master Games – A club holding agility at the New Zealand Master Games (in the South Island) will hold this weekend. CCATS will hold Waitangi weekend on years when agility is not offered at the New Zealand Masters Games. If agility is being held at the New Zealand Master Games, CCATS will be given the last weekend in January as an alternative date. (This historic arrangement has existed since 2009 between CCATS and Masters Games organisers)
- Easter weekend – CCATS, Wanganui, South Rangatiki and Counties held dates will move to Easter weekend each year.(This may have to change once Nationals takes Easter – at such time these clubs will be given first option on any free dates)
- April – Orari show held by SCDTC – as this show is being held in conjunction with a breed show and off site from the club, SCDTC will be given the date allocated to the breed show each year, until such time as they chose not to run with the breed show.
- ANZAC Day – When ANZAC Day falls on the WAG weekend, WAG may choose to have a one day event. They will be given back their two day placement for that weekend if ANZAC Day does not fall on the weekend for future years.(This is to allow for complications with their grounds and respecting ANZAC Day restrictions)
- May– Leeston show held by MCCOC – as this show is being held in conjunction with a breed show and off site from the club, MCCOC will be given the date allocated to the breed show each year, until such time as they chose not to run with the breed show.
- Queen’s Birthday Weekend – NDTC, BDTC and Gisborne will be allocated the weekend that Queens Birthday falls on each year.
- Nationals Weekend – any club who is influenced by the placement of the National Show each year will be given first opportunity to negotiate a date as close as possible to their original date.
- Labour Weekend – this date will be allocated to the NZDAC each year.

Appendix VI – Measuring instructions

Dogs must be measured by two people – one person listed on the Official list of Measurers (hereafter referred to as Measurer 1) and either another official measurer, or senior agility judge, or member of the Agility Committee. These two people are to measure the dog together and come to an agreement.

If there is any dispute over a measure (either between measurers or with the owner) do not issue a certificate and report the matter to the Agility Committee for a decision. It is Measurer 1's responsibility to supply the certificate and stick.

Dogs at 18 months of age are to be measured to the mm. The owner is issued with an interim certificate signed by both measurers. Details of the dog are to be given to the Agility Committee.

Dogs at 2 years of age are to be re-measured to the mm and the owner is issued with a permanent certificate signed by both measurers. Details of the dog are to be given to the Agility Committee.

Measurer 1 is to inform the Agility Committee Administration Officer with the official name of the dog, NZKC number, breed and height, owner's name and NZKC number and date of measure. It is preferable to send this information as an excel file with the columns in the order listed above if possible.

All measuring sticks registered to official measurers are the same. Any request for repair replacement or modification must be reported to the Agility Committee. No measure is to be conducted on anything other than an official measuring stick.

To keep the blade sliding on the pole well, wipe the pole with oil when not in use and use wet and dry sandpaper to remove any trace of rust. CRC Dry glide is helpful to keep the stick operating smoothly when in use especially when taking numerous measures.

How to Measure a Dog

Dog must stand in a natural stance. Front feet level and dog standing square, with head up. Back feet should also be level. Front feet should be straight down from the shoulder blade on most breeds. Some, like Poodles, have the shoulder blade quite high up the neck. Must feel for the shoulder bones and be sure the blade sits across this part of the dog.

Dog must be on solid level ground to obtain correct measure. A concrete or wooden floor is ideal, grass is not.

If the dog will not stand correctly or shows signs of aggression advise the owner to take the dog away and arrange for another time.

Ensure the dog is standing properly then bring the measuring stick in with the stick close to the dog's foreleg and bring the blade down as quietly as possible not upsetting the dogs stance.

Measure stick should be placed on the top of the shoulder blade where the two bones are raised up. Stick to sit flat across both of these bones.

Lock the blade and remove the stick from the dog. Take the measure, measuring from the underside of the blade closest to where it was sitting on the dog to the floor.

Keep measuring until you get two measures the same. This could take 6 or more attempts to achieve. If you are getting wildly different measures it is likely the dog is not standing consistently, in this case you make wish to keep trying or ask the owner to try another day.

Appendix VII – Agility Regulation 13.6.4.3

The following is to provide clarification of Agility Regulation 13.6.4.3. This Regulation has been approved for amendment as at 1 July 2011 as follows:

13.6.4.3 Handler interacting with Equipment

A fault shall be incurred if the handler

- (a) deliberately or accidentally interacts with any obstacle by touching, jumping or straddling any part of it, if (in the opinion of the judge) in the instance of doing so the dog has received indication of the performance of the obstacle with which the handler interacted; or
- (b) deliberately or accidentally places any part of their body within the aperture of a Hoop, Collapsible Tunnel/Tube or Pipe Tunnel if (in the opinion of the judge) in the instance of doing so the dog has received indication of the performance of the obstacle with which the handler interacted; or
- (c) deliberately (in the opinion of the judge) places any part of their body between any two weaving poles at any time; or
- (d) goes under any part of any obstacle at any time; or
- (e) breaks the start or finish beam of an electronic timer

With regard to clause (d) the rationale applied is that all obstacles are considered as being a complete obstacle from top to ground. Therefore a hurdle as an obstacle goes from the top of the upright to the ground. Should a handler attempt to jump a hurdle, they would need to jump the entire hurdle (i.e. completely clear the uprights) otherwise they would be deemed to have gone under a part of the obstacle and thus breached 13.6.4.3 (d).

This interpretation means that handlers can jump a tunnel or step over the end of an obstacle (such as the dogwalk or collapsible tunnel) without penalty, unless in doing so they breach 13.6.4.3 (a).