

British Agility Association

JUDGES HANDBOOK



This handbook was last updated on 1st May 2015 and supersedes all earlier versions.

British Agility Association Judges' Handbook

1. Introduction

The Judges' Handbook was developed from notes and feedback from students arising from our Judges' Training days. In addition to providing general guidelines for judging it also gives an insight into the background of the British Agility Association (BAA). This will hopefully assist judges with their interpretation of the rules and help to attain a high standard of consistency in judging Agility.

These guidelines should be used in conjunction with the current British Agility Association Rules book.

2. British Agility Association

The concept of the British Agility Association was founded by June Bass and Steve Retter in 2002 initially by shows under the umbrella of the East Midlands Dog Agility Club.

Aims and Objectives

The principal aims and objectives of the British Agility Association are:

- To encourage Independent show organizers to run their shows under a proven & comprehensive set of rules to assist in the assurance of the long-term wellbeing of the dog.
- To provide a governing body & a collaboration of Results Points & Promotion
- To promote and develop dog agility in a way that positively encourages newcomers to the sport
- To welcome all participants so that they always have a positive experience at BAA events whatever their performance
- To allow more dogs/handlers to be able to participate at a level at which they can reach achievable goals
- To offer flexibility in equipment to extend the agility careers of many dogs

3. British Agility Association Rules

Rules are present so that everyone is treated fairly.

The BAA have created rules that are thought to best fit BAA supporters with respect to the well-being of their dogs and to the equipment in use at training clubs. Handlers have an element of choice because the BAA believes that handlers know what is best for their dogs.

BAA rules continue to evolve as we all gain experience in the sport. By remaining an independent organization the BAA rules can be modified quickly if it is deemed necessary. The BAA rules are designed to ensure that:

- All agility enthusiasts and their dogs are treated in an equitable manner
- There is an Introductory level to encourage newcomers to the sport
- Choice of jump heights / less taxing contact equipment are offered to extend a dog's agility career in a safe environment
- At each level everyone has the same number of runs available and can choose equipment to suit their dog – the handler has an element of choice in their level with respect to their skills, dog's age or fitness
- If a dispute arises rules provide points of reference to resolve the situation.

British Agility Association Independent Rules

Many of our rules are common to all agility organizations. The differences are:

- Dog size classification
- Actual jump heights / lengths
- No tyre
- Flexible height of contact equipment
- Obstacle marking
- Levels of difficulty
- Method of progression

Dog Size Classification

BAA size classification is defined in section 3.1 of the rulebook. The measurement at the dog's withers (in brackets) determines whether it is classed as MICRO (<13"), MINI (>14"), MEDIUM (>17") Maxi (> 21") or MAXI-PLUS (>24")

Dogs measuring over 21ins & weighing 25-35kg may run at Medium height. Dogs measuring over 21ins & weighing 35-45kg may run at Mini height. This is not to encourage fat dogs but to help with the long-term well-being of large boned dogs.

This then determines:

- Maximum height of standard hurdle
- Maximum height and spread of rising spread jump
- Maximum height and length of the long jump
- Maximum height of the table

Dimensions of Agility Obstacles

The dimensions for the varying levels in Table 1 are referenced from table A in the rulebook. Please refer to the rulebook for metric dimensions. Dimensions are also available on a laminated sheet in the ringbox. Please note all dimensions are MAXIMUM and lower dimensions can be used.

Obstacle	Dimension	Micro	Mini	Medium	Maxi	Max i
Hurdle	Max height	9"	13.75"	17.75"	21"	24"
Rising Spread	Max height	9"	13.75"	17.75"	21"	24"
	Max spread	4"	7"	9"	10.5"	12"
Long jump	Max height	6"	8"	10"	13"	15"
	Max length	18"	27"	36"	42"	48"
	Elements	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	4-5
Table	Max height	9"	13.75"	17.75"	21"	24"

Table 1. Maximum dimensions of agility obstacles with respect to size classification.

No Tyre

The tyre is not recognized as an agility obstacle by the BAA.

Flexible height of the contact equipment

The heights of the A-frame and dogwalk in the rulebook are maximum heights. A show organizer or judge could choose to lower the dogwalk or A-frame for a class.

Obstacle Marking

There is NO marking of UPWARD contacts on the contact equipment, i.e. A-frame, dogwalk and seesaw. This allows the dog to take a natural stride and approach to the obstacle.

In Introductory and Pawsability classes:

- Refusals are NOT marked to increase confidence and avoid elimination (**BUT standard BAA marking applies at the weaves**)
- SILENT toys are allowed in the ring

Levels of Difficulty

There are seven levels of difficulty at BAA shows:

- Introductory (for newcomers to the sport)
- Primary
- Novice
- Graduate
- Masters (for dogs/handlers with most experience)
- Veteran
- Pawsability

Introductory to Masters classes represent standard competitive agility with progression through the classes as dogs/handlers achieve.

Veteran classes allow the older dog (>7 years) to prolong their agility careers. The following rules apply:

- Handlers may choose the jump height for their dog (maximum height permitted is the MEDIUM jump height)
- NO Weaves
- NO Seesaw
- Contact equipment is lower
- Competition is within the veteran group of dogs

Pawsability is a class for dogs who for whatever reason cannot normally perform at their designated jump height, e.g. disability, disinclination etc. The following rules apply:

- Handlers may choose the jump height for their dog (maximum height permitted is the MEDIUM jump height)
- NO Weaves
- NO Seesaw
- Contact equipment is lower
- This is a “not for competition” class. Clear round rosettes only are awarded
- Levels of difficulty can also be defined with a plus (+) or minus (-) affix to indicate inclusion of dogs/handlers from levels of difficulty above or below, respectively. For instance, Novice Plus is a class for Novice plus dogs in the levels above, i.e. Novice, Graduate and Masters dogs.

JUNIOR classes must NOT contain weaves, as there are many Veteran dogs competing in Junior classes.

Method of Progression

- Promotion is by wins and/or consistency
 - If desired promotion can occur after 2 class wins in the same discipline, i.e. two jumping wins or Two Agility wins. Dogs gaining 12 wins (Jumping or Agility) by 1 April of each season automatically moves up to the next level in that element at the next show (that has not yet passed the closing date.)
- Promotion can also occur at the end of the season by a consistent performance
 - A successful dog/handler achieving promotional status can opt to remain at their current competitive level for entire show season to gain confidence prior to promotion if desired
 - There is separate status for jumping and agility although dogs often have the same for both
 - Dogs no longer able to compete at their level (age / fitness) have the option to compete in either Veteran or Pawsability classes.

4. The British Agility Association JUDGE

Judges' Qualities

We are looking for judges who have the following qualities:

- Enthusiasm
- Broad shoulders
- Commitment
- Fairness
- Consistency

It is NOT necessary to have competed at high levels. Some of our best judges are still in Introductory and many very experienced handlers are poor judges.

Judges' Responsibilities

The rulebook states:

1.3 Responsibilities of Judges

1.3.1 Judges must judge in accordance with these Rules and Regulations

It IS necessary:

- To be familiar with the BAA rules (a copy of the rules and judges' handbook is always provided)
- To be able to interpret them in a FAIR and HONEST manner
- To be able to make instant decisions and to justify them

1.3.2 The Judge is responsible for the design of their course and must at all times give total consideration to the safety of the dog and handler

It IS necessary:

- To be familiar with setting up all agility equipment SECURELY
- To ensure that during a class the agility equipment remains SECURE
- That obstacles are planned so that there is no danger of injury to the handler, dog or judge

1.3.3 Judges must submit course plans as and when requested by the show organizers

Submission of courses in advance enables:

- Show organizers to assemble the course ready for judges' inspection in advance
- Ensures that all courses conform with BAA rules
- Allows show organization to order any extra equipment required, e.g. extra tunnel

1.3.4 Judges must observe the dog and handler at all times whilst they are in the ring

It IS necessary to be vigilant in the ring at all times:

- To ensure proper conduct of dog/handler
- To supervise safe completion of the course even if the dog/handler are eliminated
- To ensure that the finishing dog is under control and leaves the ring before the next dog attempts the course.

Judges and Show Management

Judges are acting on behalf of show organizers. Please remember that show managers are running the show and have ultimate responsibility for the safety of the show and show conduct. Everyone is keen to have a smooth efficiently running show. The venue may have to be vacated by a particular time.

Planned running orders are organized to minimize any ring conflicts. However please remember that any delays or changes that a judge may require can have knock on effects to the rest of the show.

It IS necessary to be able to seek help and advice from show organizers. They are there to help you and would be glad to:

- Advise on any matters – course / equipment / safety
- Help with any problems – disgruntled competitors / suncream

Judges Conduct

The conduct of the judges is crucial to an enjoyable and successful show. BAA shows are all about positive encouragement of participants and providing competition opportunities in a relaxed and pleasant atmosphere. A pleasant, friendly attitude is essential. A smile and words of praise are appreciated by all competitors.

Applaud clear rounds. This helps the competitors and the scribe!

Consult with show organisers regarding Judges Specials rosettes, If any, how many per class Etc.

Be helpful, where appropriate. However do NOT:

- Offer unwanted advice
- Offer advice that could be construed as being impartial
- Help any competitors on how to run the course
- Offer directions – if a competitor gets lost on the course and they are still being judged then do not advise them of the correct route

Judging for the BAA

The BAA relies on committed volunteers taking part in the shows as judges. We have a half day rule so that our volunteers judge for half a day only leaving them free to enjoy the rest of the show.

Judges may compete during the half-day when they are judging, However, they must not leave their judging post until a suitable substitute/temp has been found/organised. The rings may carry on and change heights, but will not close the class until you have had chance to run your dog/s. Often it is necessary to wait until the end of the class and run your dogs then.

Why judge for the BAA?

Judging for the BAA is:

- Great fun
- Gives a sense of achievement and reward
- Enables you to enjoy working as part of a team
- Provides a greater understanding of dog agility
- Gives a feeling of putting something positive back into the sport

5. Judging the Obstacles

Remember that refusals are NOT marked in Introductory and Pawsability classes. **(Except at the Weaves)**

KEY: 5R = refusal or runby; 5F = 5 faults; E = Elimination

Standard Hurdle / Rising Spread

- Dog runs past : 5R (runby)
- Dog runs past and runs back under jump: E
- Dog jumps wing: 5R
- Dog jumps between poles (double-poled or in spread): 5R
- Pole / wing falls: 5F

- Pole/wing falls and jump repeated, dog must pass through wings
- Dog backjumps: E
- Failure to complete: E

Long Jump

- Dog runs past : 5R (runby)
- Dog jumps out the side: 5R
- Dog enters from the side: 5R
- Stepping through: 5R (casual contact not faulted)
- Any element falls: 5F
- Dog backjumps: E
- Dog fails to complete: E

Pipe Tunnel

- Dog runs past : 5R (runby)
- Starts to enter then comes back out 5R (refusal)
- Tunnel is next obstacle and dog jumps over it: 5R
- Tunnel is not next obstacle and dog jumps over it: E
- Enters wrong end: E

Weaves

Dog should enter with first pole on dog's left. If even number of poles dog should exit from side OPPOSITE to entrance, if odd number of poles dog should exit from the SAME side as entrance.

- Dog runs past second pole: 5R (runby)
- Failure to enter correctly: 5R
- 5R may be marked 3 times: 3 x 5R: E
- Dog makes error after entry: 5F
- Error after entry only marked ONCE
- Failure to complete: E
- 3 REFUSALS, ONE FAULT only should be marked in the weaves

A-frame

The apex distinguishes refusal (ascent) from faults (descent).

- Up contacts NOT marked
- Dog runs past : 5R (runby)
- Leaves A-frame on ascent: 5R (refusal)
- Failure to complete before descent: E
- Leaves A-frame on descent: 5F (missed contact)

Dogwalk

The start of the downplank distinguishes refusal from faults.

- Up contacts NOT marked
- Dog runs past : 5R (runby)
- Leaves dogwalk before downplank: 5R (refusal)
- Failure to complete before downplank: E
- Leaves dogwalk after touching downplank before contact: 5F (missed contact)

Seesaw

The pivot point distinguishes refusal from faults.

- Up contacts NOT marked
- Dog runs past : 5R (runby)
- Leaves seesaw before pivot point: 5R (refusal)
- Failure to complete before pivot point: E

- Leaves seesaw after pivot point : 5F (missed contact)
- Touches contact but plank fails to hit ground: 5F

Table

- Use discouraged
- May only be used as start / finish obstacle
- Marked at judges' discretion

Contacts

- The dog must place any part of at least one paw on the DOWN contact area
- When marking, focus on the contact area to see if dog makes contact rather than following the dog
- If unsure if dog has got contact give the benefit of the doubt
- Handlers may obscure judge's view (legitimate): consider view in course design and judge's path
- Watch for dogs that have been trained with the 2 on 2 off method. If all 4 paws reach the ground without hitting the contact (dog has completed obstacle) but then the dog puts its back paw(s) on the contact that is an elimination

Refusals and Runbys

- Each instance of a refusal or runby should be faulted with the EXCEPTION of the Introductory and Pawsability classes.
- Not a Refusal: Dog spinning is not a refusal. Dog approaching obstacle then turning away is not a refusal.
- A Refusal is when the dog runs past the plain of the obstacle

Dummy Obstacles

Obstacles that are not part of the course may be placed in the ring. Such obstacles are "dummy". They may be:

- Placed deliberately as traps
- Left over from a preceding course but not cleared from the ring, e.g. when weaves are omitted in a veteran course

If the dog attempts the dummy obstacle then it is marked as "taking the wrong course": E

Handler Faults

- Deliberately touching obstacle: 5F
- Accidentally touching obstacle: no faults
- Deliberately touching dog: 5F (touch)
- Accidentally touching dog: no faults
- Deliberately touching dog to guide through obstacle, e.g. by collar: E
- Handler running between jump wings or across weaves: 5F (deliberately touching obstacle)
- Handler jumping over tunnel or under dogwalk or A-frame: no faults but should be unnecessary if course design is safe

Outside Influences

- Wind dislodges poles: no faults but dog must pass between wings to complete course
- Double handling: E (E.G. person outside ring encouraging dog over last obstacle/s)

Training in the Ring

Blatant training in the ring is to be discouraged unless the competitor has declared that they are running Not For Competition (NFC). However, if the competitor asks to pop their

dog back over a piece of equipment for safety purposes (eg, dog jumping off contacts too high), then please allow it as its in the best interests of the dog in the long run.

With regards to non-standard classes (eg TFO), once eliminated, some competitors will choose to train instead of leaving the ring, this is to be discouraged unless they declared NFC before their run started.

Definition

- Redoing a contact
- Redoing Weaves after elimination
- Redoing a sequence
- Redoing Tunnels

Elimination

The rulebook states:

2.1.1.2 Elimination - The following occurrences must be marked as elimination. It is at the judges' discretion whether a competitor may be allowed to complete the course.

- a) **Exceeding the maximum course time (2x standard course time)**
 - **Three refusals/runbys (Introductory and Pawsability classes excepted)**
- b) **Out of Control**
- c) **Leaving the ring**
- d) **Taking the wrong course**
- e) **Dog fouling the ring**
- f) **Harsh handling**
- g) **Dogs wearing Non Regulation collars whilst competing**
- h) **Food being carried in the ring**
- i) **Toys being carried into the ring (Introductory and Pawsability classes excepted)**
- j) **Contravention of Rule 1.2.12 (use of toys in Introductory or Pawsability classes)**
- k) **Handler interference to timing equipment**

Other events

- If jump pole is not replaced after being dislodged by previous dog: no fault but currently competing dog must pass between wings to complete course
- If jump is done more than once during the course and the pole / wing has fallen when the dog retakes the jump: no fault but dog must pass between wings to complete course – brief ring party on when to replace pole

Harsh Handling: Definition and What To Do

- Every case is different and it is always subjective
- If you see a handler do ANYTHING that makes you feel uncomfortable, then it probably is harsh handling
- If you judge an instance of harsh handling, the judgment must be ELIMINATION and courteously ask the individual to leave the ring immediately
- Do not get angry or confront handler, just repeat your request if necessary
- All instances of harsh handling MUST be reported immediately to the show management for further investigation
- The ring manager is able to contact the Show Manager via the walkie talkie immediately
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Disgruntled competitors – What to do

- Always be courteous
- Do not enter into an argument with a disgruntled competitor
- If the problem is not easily resolved refer to show management
- The ring manager is able to contact the show manager via the walkie talkie immediately

Aggressive Dogs

Outside the ring when dogs are on a lead, it is usually a controllable and easily manageable situation. Inside the ring where dog is loose, whether it is dog to dog or dog to person aggression, this is a major problem. Thankfully, it is very rare. The basic rule is safety, which means getting the dog under control, as quickly and safely as possible. This is always best done by handler!

- Always avoid confrontation both with dog & handler.
- Always report incident to show management, for further action/investigation.

Presentation

If you are asked to present rosettes / trophies for your winners please turn up when asked, again smile, be friendly and congratulate your winners!

6. Course Design

Where to start

Be familiar with:

- What classes you are judging
- What levels of difficulty
- Ring size
- Agility equipment available
- BAA rules

Design Aids

- Pencil & paper (and rubber!)
- Computer software programmes (Agility Blues, Course Designer 3 (Clean Run) are advantage as you can easily work to scale – free trial versions available
- Agility Maps is a free online course design program

Ring size

- Minimum ring size 35 yds x 35 yds (32m x 32m)
- Smaller rings are permitted at indoor shows (minimum area of 500 sq yards with shortest ring side a minimum of 20 yds (18.5m)

Agility Equipment

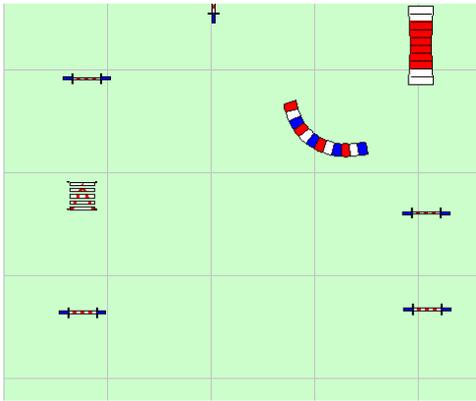
A standard set contains:

- 14 standard hurdles
- 1 long jump
- 2 pipe tunnels
- Seesaw
- Dogwalk
- A-frame
- Weaves (up to 12)

Basic Rules

- A course consists of a minimum of 15 obstacles and maximum of 20 obstacles

- For pairs or teams classes the number of obstacles is at the judges' discretion
- Minimum spacing is 5 yards (15 Feet) (4.75m) between obstacles (centre to centre)



- Keep obstacles well away from ring boundaries (5 yards (15 Feet) if dog jumping toward fencing)
- All jumps must be set at the same height for each class – with the exception of Teams.

Start and Finish

- Keep start and finish well separated to allow smooth-running of the ring and to prevent finishing dogs colliding with next competitor
- Separation of start and finish also stops finishing handler/dog having to exit past the queue
- Allow plenty of space for the dog starting and finishing from the ring boundaries
- Standard hurdle is recommended as start and finish obstacle (see timing)

Timing Equipment

The electronic timing equipment is a series of parallel beams that starts or stops if two of the beams are interrupted at the same time. As each beam is broken the time since the previous beam was broken is added on. Be aware that if the last pole falls, the polepicker should not replace it until the scribe has the course time.

- The timer significantly changes the look of an obstacle and is best used with the standard hurdle rather than any of the other obstacles

Course Shape

A basic course shape is helpful:

- Circles
- Lanes
- Figure of 8, M, S, W shape

Obstacle Sequences

The list of obstacle sequences is endless and up to the imagination of the judge. Common obstacle configurations include:

- Jumping lanes
- Stars / pinwheels
- Box
- Flick-flack
- Dummy obstacles may be used appropriately

Further Course Considerations

Consider your course from 3 points of view:

- ***The handler's path***
- Safety is paramount
- Seesaw plank rise in handler's path – steer handler away from rising plank and not across it
- Dogwalk / tunnels may trip handler if in path
- Note effect of even or odd number of weave poles on likely course of dog / handler
 - ***The dog's path***
 - Ensure correct spacing
 - Check turns are not too tight – suitable for all sizes of dog
 - Ensure appropriate approach to contact equipment / weaves
 - Veteran courses have only permitted equipment
- ***The judge's path***
 - Where can you see what you need to judge accurately
 - Especially note positions of contacts, weaves
 - Dogwalk, rising seesaw and other obstacles may be a hazard if in your path
 - A-frame and dogwalk may restrict view of remainder of the course
 - It can be difficult to judge runbys on all obstacles
 - Avoid a judging path that is likely to impede the handler (and they can be difficult to predict)
 - Check your course is actually able to be judged effectively
 - Once you have chosen your position you need to remain there for the entire class in fairness to all competitors so ensure that you are happy with your position prior to class starting

Nesting Courses

Course nesting is the ability to change the level of difficulty of a course by moving as little equipment as possible. This enables the courses to be changed quickly to ensure the smooth running of the ring. Show managers do not appreciate a long “down” time of a ring between classes.

To achieve course nesting some suggestions are:

- Try to keep the contact equipment and pegged obstacles in the same position
- Minor changes in jump positions are easy
- For variation change the order of the obstacles
- Keep the timing jumps (start/finish) in the same position although the start and finish may be switched easily

Setting the Correct Level of Difficulty

- Set the appropriate course for the level of difficulty that you are judging – this gets easier with experience
- Always err on the side of caution – make it easier since handlers will always make mistakes without the judge's help
- Don't try to be too clever and over complicate designs – it's harder for you to judge as well
- Having an understanding of how a dog runs a course with both natural and difficult paths and possible handling techniques is helpful
- Dogs always veer towards the handler or to other equipment
- Curves are easier than straight lines
- Paths and turns that curve away from the handler are the most difficult
-

Consider gently increasing the course difficulty within each level as the season progresses

Some suggested guidelines for course levels of difficulty are:

Introductory

- Fairly straight lines
- Gentle curves
- Straight approaches to contacts and weaves
- One very mild obstacle trap

Primary

- More curved obstacle sequences
- Simple set obstacle configurations
- One or two mild obstacle traps

Novice & Graduate

- More angled sequences
- More complex set obstacle configurations
- Increased angled approach to weaves
- One or two acute obstacle traps

Masters

- Complex obstacle combinations
- More variation in obstacle spacing
- Multiple side changes
- Multiple severe traps

These are not definitive guidelines but just a suggestion that the levels of difficulty have some, but not necessarily all of these elements. It is the overall level of the course as a whole that counts and a good objective is to aim for a course that flows when handled well.

7. Course Building

With enough helpers it should be possible to build an agility course ready to run in less than 15 minutes and a jumping course in less. Some suggestions are:

- Place poles on the floor initially to space out the course
- Position all remaining obstacles in approximate positions
- Adjust to your course plan
- Check your spacing (and adjust course plan if necessary)
- Check you are happy with the course
- Secure and peg

Adapting to Conditions

Remember that all course designs are one thing on paper, but when built are not always as intended. If they are not right, adjust them.

You may have to do this anyway because size of ring or equipment is not as expected, or ground condition is less than perfect so be prepared to be adaptable.

Course Changes

Course changes should be implemented rapidly and as a guide they should be possible to complete within 5-10 minutes! This is possible with course nesting.

A complete rebuild is not appreciated. However, sometimes conditions dictate a rebuild, e.g. if the ground is cut up after heavy rain - sometimes the entire ring has to be moved. SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT.

Testing the Course

It is quite acceptable to run a dog once around the course to test it and then adjust it, provided that the dog is not entered in the class. Do not use this as a training opportunity for you or your friends – not appreciated by the show organizers!

Complaints about the course?

Complaints are usually code for “I haven’t trained my dog to do that!” However always recheck your course and give the complaint consideration. If there is any doubt consult the show managers.

SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT!

8. A Judges’ Half Day

Preparation Pre-Competition

- Design your courses well ahead of time
- Submit course plan in advance to the show organizers and then they can assemble your course before you get there– this saves any delays to the start of the show
- Ensure that courses for the various levels of difficulty are nested to ensure smooth and efficient course changes
- Advise show organizers if you require any extra agility equipment above the standard set
- If you are judging a special class do any rules need printing out for display at the ring?

Personal Survival

- Be prepared for all weathers – waterproof clothing / comfortable appropriate footwear / suncream / insect repellent / sunglasses
- Refreshments are available at the ring

Before class starts at the ring

Arrive in good time at your ring so that you can check:

- Layout and spacing of the course
- Condition of the ground – any holes / unevenness / mud that might cause injury to dog / handler / judge and if necessary do any course modification
- All equipment is secure, pegging is completed (all tunnels, weaves, seesaw and in windy conditions, hurdles)
- The course is safe for dog / handler / judge
- Confirm your judge’s path – where you are going to judge from?
- Familiarize yourself with the timers and how your course will work, especially if pairs / teams
- Ring party briefing

Ring Party Briefing

Your ring manager will ensure the smooth running of the ring. It is helpful to brief him / her) on any specific instructions for the course, eg, when to pick poles up if the same jump is to be run twice, timing requirements, additional rules.

Brief the scribe:

- Gently remind him / her to look at you and not watch the dog
- Agree who will start the dog
- Make clear what your hand signals are for faults, refusal, elimination, handling the dog

Before class starts at the show office

- Attend judge's briefing with the show organizers if requested
- Provide a competitors' briefing if required

Competitors' Briefing

Include:

- Any special instructions, e.g. start, finish, timing, baton changes for teams, additional rules at ringside
- Standard course time (minimum of **60** seconds PER DOG is BAA standard course time for ALL courses)
- Remind beginner classes about basic rules, e.g. collars, no food, silent toys only where appropriate
- BAA rules apply
- Enjoy the day

It is the responsibility of the competitors to have heard your briefing.

Judging the Course: SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT

Make a final check of the course for equipment / handler safety. During the class constantly check for:

- Loose pegs
- Movement of equipment – straighten tunnels
- Safety in changing weather – water on the flat tunnel, slippery contacts, (sand in an indoor venue on the contacts)
- At change of dog size all heights/ lengths have been changed correctly by the ring party (dimensions are available at the ring)
- ALWAYS watch the dog and handler even if they are eliminated early
- DO NOT let the next dog start until previous dog is under control and/or left the ring

9. Feedback

These guidelines are notes to help you when judging and we hope you find them useful. Please feel free to submit any ideas or further information that could be included to help future judges.

10.And Finally!

Please ensure that you enjoy judging!

Please smile and keep the atmosphere as relaxed as possible

.....And don't forget that the Show Organizers are there to help you...

ADDITIONAL NOTES FOR JUDGES

Judges must Judge in accordance with BAA rules & policies.

- Judges are to set appropriate courses for each level, as defined in the Judges Handbook.

Courses are expected to be aimed at the lower end of each level at the start of the BAA season progressing toward the higher end of each level by the end of the BAA season.

PLEASE USE A MEASURE

Judges must ensure that obstacles are spaced **at least** the minimum permitted distance = **15 feet**, this includes obstacles that are facing toward the edge of the rings, & at the finish.

This also includes obstacles set side by side or on corners, regardless of which direction the dog is

expected to take the obstacles, as illustrated in the Judges Handbook. Distance is based on “distance between obstacles” not “dog’s path”

Use a measure to mark out & provide an accurate pacing distance.

- Angles to contact equipment must be carefully considered, sharp angles must be avoided at all times. (a straight approach is preferable)
- Show organisers are to check & sign off courses ready for walking.

Dogs measuring over 21ins & weighing 25-35kg may run at Medium height.

Dogs measuring over 21ins & weighing 35-45kg may run at Mini height. This is not to encourage fat dogs but to help with the long-term well-being of large boned dogs. Competitors are to be discouraged from continually changing from one height to another, please encourage them to choose a lower height & stick with it.

Junior Classes must NOT contain weaves, as there are many Veteran dogs competing in junior classes.

3) Veteran Classes:

Judges to provide more Open, Flowing & less twisty courses for veteran dogs.

4) A Frame:

The A Frame is to be set at 5ft to the Apex for Standard & 4ft for Veterans.

5) Agility:

Maximum of 3 contacts to be completed & Minimum of 2. 1 piece may be completed 2 or 3 times if required.

6) Tunnels:

MUST be FULLY STRETCHED and carefully anchored without internal protrusion by any anchoring equipment causing the diameter to be less than the permitted.(24”)
Tight U or V shapes are not permitted.

REMINDER

- Minimum Distance between obstacles in all directions is 15ft
- Safe angles onto contact equipment
- Ensure the correct level of difficulty for each level, if you combine classes please aim at the lower level.
- Nest your courses to avoid delays
- BAA maintain strict policies on

1) Training in the ring

2) Food in the ring (including in pockets etc.)

Judges are requested to please be consistent with these policies.

NB: Additional reminders may be added here as necessary.

For further information contact:

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Coventry
CV7 8RH

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