

Dogs A.C.T.

A.C.T Canine Association inc.

Dogs A.C.T Regulations - Part 8 – Obedience & Agility.

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8.1 General:

- a) Unless otherwise stated, all approved trials in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) are run under the rules and regulations of Dogs A.C.T in conjunction with ANKC regulations and trial rules.
- b) A copy of the applicable ANKC rule book should be available for each ring or class being held at that event.
- c) Except in respect of an event conducted by the Dog Section, Royal National Capital Agricultural Society (RNCAS) the regulations shall apply to a trial conducted by Dogs A.C.T or an affiliate of Dogs A.C.T.
- d) If an exhibitor is not a financial member of an Australian State Canine Control at the date of the event for which they have entered - their exhibit and any award made to it at that event shall be cancelled and an entry made in the Trial Reps report.
- e) If a dog is unregistered at the date of an event for which it has been entered the entry and any award made to it at that event shall be cancelled.
- f) Details of non-official events to be conducted at Trials may be included on the schedule. Where an affiliate invites competitors to compete in such an event, their non-acceptance shall not cause the loss of any other award won at the trial. Best in Trial is a non-official event and its conduct is left to the discretion of the affiliate conducting the trial.
- g) Applications by affiliated clubs for approved event dates shall close on 30th September, 12 months preceding the year of the event. No subsequent alteration or additions will be made without permission of the Dogs A.C.T Council and in except in exceptional circumstances or where a new club is affiliated.
- h) If an affiliate wishes to cancel an event, parade or trial as a result of a decision made at a properly convened meeting, a request for approval of such action must be forwarded to the Dogs A.C.T Administrator in writing within 48 hours of such meeting. Such written advice must include detailed

reasons why such action became necessary.

- i) The entry fee payable in respect of each dog entered in an event shall be paid at the time of the lodging of an application for the entry. An entry fee shall be forfeited if an application for entry of a dog is accepted and the dog is not exhibited or if the regulations are not observed.
- j) An event, trial or parade, especially an evening trial shall be completed in a timely manner and should not inconvenience judges, competitors or organisers by any unnecessary delays.
- k) A competitor in any event or trial shall not display inside or in view of the judging ring:
 - 1. Any cards, ribbons or trophies (other than those won at such event); or
 - 2. Any advertising matter; or
 - 3. Display on their wearing apparel; their prefix; the name of their exhibit; or anything which indicates or might indicate their connection with the Event Committee or their status as a judge.

8.2 Classification:

- a) Approved Event - An event shall not be conducted as an approved event unless:-
 - 1. An application in the prescribed form (draft schedule) has been lodged with and where the proposed date of the event has been approved by the Dogs A.C.T Council;
 - 2. It is conducted in the ACT in accordance with these regulations and in accordance with any supplementary regulations as the Dogs A.C.T Council may approve.
 - 3. The annual subscription (affiliation) of the affiliate is NOT in arrears.
- b) Unauthorised Event - An event which is not conducted under Dogs A.C.T Regulations, ANKC Regulations or conducted without the approval of Dogs A.C.T Council.
- c) Agricultural Event – An approved event run by the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society (RNCAS) conducted under its own rules and regulations or under/in conjunction with these regulations.
- d) Event Venue - Unless with approval of the Dogs A.C.T Council, all approved events are to be held at the Dogs A.C.T grounds, Exhibition Park (EPIC), Flemington Road, Mitchell, A.C.T.

8.3 Approval of an Event:

- a) An application for the approval of an event (draft schedule) shall be in such form as may from time to time be prescribed by the Dogs A.C.T Council and will include:
 - 1. The date, venue, type and time of commencement of such event;
 - 2. Details of the classes in accordance with trial discipline;
 - 3. Particulars of the judge/s who will officiate at such event, including a copy of the signed judges' contract/s.
 - 4. All necessary particulars of the event secretary including name, address, phone number and where available email address.
 - 5. Closing date for entries.

6. Any special condition that is specific to that event and is necessarily information important to the competitors or participants of that event.
 7. Will include one (1) copy of the schedule in the format for publication in the Dogs A.C.T journal and on the Dogs A.C.T web site.
- b) Affiliates shall submit to Dogs A.C.T Administrator, the draft schedule for their events, parades or other events, on the approved form, at least one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the allocated date; and the draft schedule is to be accompanied by a fee prescribed by Dogs A.C.T Council.
 - c) Special dispensation has been given for Draft Schedule for obedience trials; to be submitted at least sixty (60) days prior to the allocated date; but all other conditions of the draft schedule must be met.
 - d) If the draft schedule is submitted to Dogs A.C.T Administrator inside one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the allocated date; Obedience inside sixty (60) days; the draft schedule may still be considered and approved at the discretion of the Dogs A.C.T Council but will be subject to a penalty fee prescribed by the Dogs A.C.T Council.
 - e) A schedule may be approved at the discretion of Dogs A.C.T but until a schedule is approved the event is not authorised.
 - f) All approved events must be published in the Dogs A.C.T Journal prior to the closing dates of entries. The cost of the publication will be determined by the space required for publication.
 - g) Schedules or information related to them must not be distributed or submitted for publication prior to their approval by Dogs A.C.T Council.
 - h) Wherever possible affiliated clubs must advise competitors prior to the dates of Events, Trials or Parades of any change to the schedule and the breeds or classes concerned.

8.4 Trial Managers:

- a) Trial Managers must provide marked Catalogues to the Dogs A.C.T Administrator as soon as possible but within 7 days of the event.
- b) Trial Managers must also indicate on the marked Catalogue the number of runs entered at individual event.
- c) Catalogues must be clearly marked with all results. An email copy of the results is also required for publication.
- d) The checking of bitches at trials and endurance tests is to be done by an examining officer appointed by the affiliate. This person should have sufficient and suitable knowledge to determine if a bitch is in oestrus. The examining officer must be provided with hand washing facilities and white tissues.
- e) Where a steward is convinced that a legitimate reason exists for a dog not competing in the catalogue order, the trial manager may approve a change in the order of competition.
- f) In such case of an obedience trial, the dogs will compete in the 'stay' exercise in the order in which they competed in the individual exercises.

8.5 Dogs A.C.T Trial Representative:

- a) The event committee shall appoint one or more persons to represent Dogs A.C.T at an approved event who shall be the event representative and who is a member of the ACTCA. Such person appointed shall:
1. Not to be a judge or Show Official appointed by the affiliate on the day such show;
 2. Not to be a committee member of the affiliate conducting such show;
 3. Not to be a relative of a judge or show official on the day, or committee member of the affiliate conducting such show;
 4. Not be a junior or associate member;
- b) The Dogs A.C.T Representative is appointed to attend, observe and report to the Dogs A.C.T Council on the general administration and conduct of the affiliate and its event committee and report on any incident which occurs at the event that should be brought to the attention of the Dogs A.C.T Council.
- c) Where an incident arises and there is a conflict or perceived conflict of interest with the appointed Representative, the affiliate shall appoint an alternative Representative on behalf of Dogs A.C.T to deal with that conflict.
- d) Where the event is conducted by Dogs A.C.T itself then the requirements of sub paragraphs 8.3.a.1 of this regulation, shall be waived. The affiliate shall appoint a representative who conforms to the requirements of the remaining sub paragraphs of Section 8.3.a of this regulation.
- e) The Dogs A.C.T Representative is to prepare and forward a representatives report attached to a marked catalogue as soon as practicable but within 7 days of such show, to the Administrator of Dogs A.C.T for the attention of the Dogs A.C.T Council.

8.6 Event Catalogue or running sheet:

- a) In the case of an approved event there shall be a catalogue or running sheet of all entries which shall list the entries in order of judging within each class and the entry shall be listed in numerical order through the catalogue.
- b) There shall appear in the catalogue:-
1. A statement on the cover that such event is conducted under the regulations of Dogs A.C.T and that a copy of such regulations may be perused at the event office;
 2. The name of an event representative;
 3. The names of the event officials;
 4. The names of the judges and the classes which each is to Judge;
 5. The details of all awards to be made at such event.
- c) A marked event catalogue must be provided to Dogs A.C.T Administrator within 7 days of the event clearly marked with all results. An email copy of the results is also required for publication.

8.7 Absentees:

- a) An entrant's number shall be called at least three (3) times in such manner as the entry ought reasonably to have heard such call, and if the call is not acknowledged the entry shall be called absent from that class and be ineligible to compete in any further classes. This does not affect an entry that has been voluntary withdrawn from that class participating in a subsequent class.

- b) If the event schedule has published the name of the judge who will adjudicate in a class, a dog may be withdrawn as an entry from such class if some other person is appointed to judge there at.
- c) A notice in writing of the intention to withdraw the entry must be given by the entrant to the event committee prior to the commencement of that class by the replacement judge. Then the entry fee of any entry withdrawn in accordance with this regulation must be refunded to the entrant by the Affiliate conducting the event.

8.8 Event Stationery:

- a) Only official Dogs A.C.T award cards, judge's books and steward's cards or other approved stationery shall be used by affiliates for approved events.
- b) Judges Book - Means a separate book, cards or forms for each officiating judge, upon which the judge or steward shall enter all placing's awarded by that Judge.

8.9 Event Judging Procedure:

Event judging procedure will be in accordance with the ANKC rules related to the discipline of each trial.

8.10 Classes for Entry at an Event

- a) At any event, classes for entry will be in accordance with the ANKC rules related to the discipline of each trial.
- b) Any obedience trial conducted in the ACT must be for all breeds and offer all levels of competition unless the entry will be such that limitations should be applied.
- b) Trials and Endurance Tests must include Pure Bred Registered and Associate Registered Dogs without any discrimination. Pure bred registered and associate registered dogs are to compete equally in the same classes in the same rings.
- c) An affiliate may conduct a restricted Obedience and/or Agility trials but the restriction is to be a Group, partial Group or Breed only.
- d) The total number of general classes at an event for any one breed shall not exceed the maximum number approved from time to time by DOGS A.C.T Council.

8.11 Order of Judging

At any event, the order of judging or judging procedure will be in accordance with the ANKC rules related to the discipline of each trial.

8.12 Tracking Trials:

- a) A dog may be tested in Tracking Trials more than once on the same day for different tests in the same class.
- b) Tracking Qualification Tests may be held in any of the following ways:
 1. In conjunction with a Tracking Trial,
 2. By an affiliate,
 3. By Dogs A.C.T on application from a prospective competitor.

- c) Dogs A.C.T is to be notified at least 4 weeks in advance of details for holding of Tracking Qualification Tests and afterwards of the dog tested and any qualifying certificates awarded.

8.13 Not For Competition (NFC) Class (New 1 April 2015)

Purpose of Not For Competition (NFC)

To allow dog and handler to participate in any class they are eligible to enter as Not For Competition (NFC), for the purpose of training/rewarding in the ring, practice and/or confidence building and also for veteran dogs to continue to participate by jumping lower heights. NFC allows for new handlers and dogs to gain confidence before starting to compete. A NFC run will replace the dog's competition run in that group of classes. For example a Masters 400 dog can choose to enter a NFC run in the Excellent class at 300 height - the NFC run would replace the dog's Masters class. NFC will replace the competition run and not entitle dogs to additional runs.

13.1 Summary

A NFC entry allows a dog to be entered in a class at an equal or lesser standard than it would normally compete and also allows the dog to jump an equal or lesser height than it would normally jump. For example a 500 Masters dog could enter NFC Excellent class at 400 jump height. A NFC run will allow the handler to use a non-audible toy for reward in the ring but the toy must not leave the handlers person. No food will be allowed in the ring on a NFC run. A NFC entry can be nominated on the entry form at a reduced fee (at the club's discretion) or requested when entering the ring, but there is no reduced fee if NFC was not nominated on the entry form. A NFC run will replace the dog's competition run in that class and not entitle dogs to additional runs.

13.2 Entry

13.2.1 The competitor shall nominate on the entry form under Entered In Class: NFC plus the class they wish to enter (for example "Novice Jumping") and under Height At Shoulder: they shall nominate the height they wish to be entered in (for example, a 600 dog can nominate 500, 400, 300, 200. The handler/owner must state these three details (NFC, Class & Height Category). A NFC run will replace the dog's competition run in that group of classes for eg. a Masters 400 dog can choose to do a NFC run in the Excellent class (eg. ADX) at 300 height - the NFC run would replace the dog's Masters class (i.e. ADM).

13.2.2 Trial Secretaries will include the entry in the catalogue with a NFC number and the entry shall be added into the class nominated.

13.2.3 The dog may be entered in a height that is equal or lower than its competition height, with the exception of 200 dogs, but the dog cannot be entered in a height greater than its competition height.

13.2.4 The dog may be entered in a class that is equal or lower than its competition class with the exception of Novice dogs but the dog cannot be entered in a class higher than it would ordinarily be eligible for. For instance, a Novice titled dog could not be entered into a Masters class even though it may jump a lesser height.

13.2.5 A NFC Entry is non-competitive, no cards of any kind (qualifying or non-qualifying) are to be awarded and a NFC entry will not be eligible for ribbons/trophies or prizes.

13.2.6 There will be no separate class, course or judge for a NFC entry.

13.2.7 The NFC entry that is nominated on the entry form may have a reduced fee at the club's discretion.

13.2.8 A NFC run can be nominated when entering the ring but will not be eligible for a reduced fee.

13.2.9 A NFC run can be requested when entering the ring by the competitor but can only be run at the height and class nominated on the entry form.

13.2.10 NFC will be at the discretion of the Affiliated club for any/all classes at a DogsACT sanctioned competition.

13.3 Trial Procedures.

13.3.1 The judge and ring stewards shall still perform their normal duties, however no time or faults shall be recorded for a NFC entry.

13.3.2 The judge shall ensure that the conduct of the handler and dog is appropriate and that the course is attempted safely within the rules of Agility and the capabilities of the dog.

13.3.3 A NFC run can be requested when entering the ring by the competitor but can only be run at the height and class as nominated on the entry form.

13.3.4 When the handler enters the ring with their NFC number displayed, or if they have chosen to change to a NFC run when entering the ring, it is the handlers responsibility to clearly indicate to the stewards and judge both verbally and by using a T signal time-out (tips of fingers of one hand touching the palm of the other hand) with their hands that it is a NFC run. The judge will confirm the signal back to the handler and scribe. No time will be recorded for NFC runs. The scribe will enter NFC against the dogs number on the score sheet.

13.3.5 The handler may not enter the ring for a competition run and then once in the ring change their mind and swap to NFC. That decision must be clearly indicated to the judge before they start their round and/or undertake any training in the ring.

13.3.6 NFC runs will allow handlers to use non-audible toys in the ring but the toy must not be dropped or leave the handlers person. No food or toys containing food to be used in the ring. A handler who is running NFC may not use the toy/training aid while in the 3 metre exclusion zone or when entering the ring - the toy/training aid can only be used once the judge has confirmed the run is NFC, otherwise the handler may be dismissed.

13.3.7 A competitor running NFC will only be given time in the ring up to the Standard Course Time (SCT). Timing for NFC will start when the dog negotiates the first obstacle or if the handler triggers the electronic timing gate. In the case of manual timing, the time will start when the first part of the dog's body crosses the plane of the first obstacle.

13.3.8 The scribe/ timekeeper is to sound a horn, blow a whistle or otherwise indicate to the handler that their time is finished at the end of the SCT for a NFC run. At the end of the SCT the handler should promptly remove their dog from the ring. Failure to quickly exit the ring at SCT may result in the judge dismissing the competitor. Repeated dismissals will be reported to Dogs ACT.

8.14 Dunbar Award:

- a) The Dunbar Awards, which are financed by the ACT Companion Dog Club Inc in honour of Redvers Dunbar, are a series of medallions, Bronze, Silver and Gold, which are awarded by Dogs A.C.T to members whose dogs obtain an event championship and an obedience title (CD, CDX, and UD).
- b) The conditions for the Awards are:
 1. A dog will be eligible for all levels of the award, regardless of when the championship title is obtained,
 2. The dog must be in the same ownership at the time of obtaining its qualifying titles appropriate to a particular Dunbar award,

3. The dog may qualify for its first title whilst the owner is not resident in the ACT or its owner is not a member of Dogs A.C.T.
4. At the time of qualifying for each award, i.e. for the second, third or fourth titles the owner must live in the ACT & it's region covered by post codes 2620, 2621, 2622, 2582 & 2581 and be a member of the ACTCA,
5. Owners of eligible dogs must apply to Dogs A.C.T by 31 July for presentation at the AGM in August.

8.15 Discipline: (Amended 14.6.2012)

- a) There shall be no smoking by competitors, stewards or judges in the judging ring while judging is in progress. The operation of the event shall not be held up by the judge or steward leaving the vicinity of the judging ring to smoke.
- b) With the exception of sub-section 2 of this section - No person shall be permitted to enter, exhibit or handle a dog at any Parade or Obedience, Field or Retrieving Trial in the ACT at which he or she is officiating as a judge.
 1. No member of the judge's family shall enter or exhibit a dog at a Parade or Gundog Trial at which he or she is officiating as a judge except in respect of child handler classes.
 2. No member of a Judge's family shall be permitted to handle a dog in an Obedience, Agility, Field or Retrieving rings in which he or she is officiating as a Judge, but may enter and/or handle in other Obedience, Agility, Field or Retrieving rings at the same time.
- c) A contracted Agility Judge may compete in Agility and other competitions at the same trial in which they are contracted, providing they are not the classes they have been contracted to judge.
 - i. The judge is not permitted to suspend or interrupt their judging in order to compete.
 - ii. Presentations and additional activities are considered as activities separate to the judging contract for this purpose.
 - iii. Agility includes Jumping and all games.
- d) A contracted Obedience or Rally Obedience Judge may compete in Obedience/Rally O competition at the same trial for which they are contracted providing they are not competing in the class/s they have been contracted to judge.
 - i. The judge is not permitted to suspend or interrupt their judging in order to compete. Presentations and additional activities are considered as activities separate to the judging contract for this purpose.
 - ii. Trial managers may reorganize the running of a trial in order to accommodate a contracted judge's wish to compete.
 - iii. These arrangements must be made clear to all other competitors before the commencement of the trial.
 - iv. Trial schedules must include the note '...contracted Judges may compete provided they do not do so in classes they have been contracted to judge
- e) Dogs A.C.T will maintain a list of persons under disqualification in Australia and advise affiliates of additions and deletions to this list as they occur.
- f) No dog shall be permitted to be off the lead on the ground at any time on the day of an Obedience or Agility Trial, Parade or competition with the exception of dogs competing in the ring at Obedience, Agility, Jumping or Gundog Trials.

8.16 Links to ANKC trial rules:

Rules for the conduct of Agility Trials –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=1064

Rules for the conduct of Agility Games –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=1065

Rules for the conduct of Obedience Trials –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=855

Rules for the conduct of Endurance Test –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=1069

Rules for the conduct of Tracking Trials –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=2263

Rules & Guidelines for the conduct of Track & Search Dog Trials –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=2262

Rules for the conduct of Retrieving Ability Tests for Gundogs –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=2261

Rules for the conduct of Retrieving Trials for Gundogs –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=1871

Rules for the conduct of Field Trials for Pointers & Setters –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=859

Rules for the conduct of Field Trials for Spaniels and Retrievers –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=1870

Rules for the conduct of Field Trials for Utility Gundogs –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=2260

Rules for the conduct of Utility Gundog Ability Tests –

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=862

Rules and Regulations for Herding Trials – (effective 1 January 2014)

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=2258

Rules for the conduct of Dancing with Dogs Competitions – (effective 1 January 2014)

http://www.ankc.org.au/media/scripts/doc_download.aspx?did=2175