

Dogs A.C.T.

A.C.T Canine Association inc.

Dogs A.C.T. Regulations - Part 8 – Dog Sports

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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 classes/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 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.
- l) Details for Scent Work events are in Regulation 20.

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: (Amended 14.12.2022)

- 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 and Rally 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 and Rally 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: (Amended 12/2023)

- a) It is the Trial Manager's or other trial official's responsibility to ensure that only correctly awarded qualification certifications (signed or unsigned variants) are issued to a competitor. (Added 12/2023)
- b) Trial Managers must provide marked Catalogues to the Dogs A.C.T. Administrator as soon as possible but within seven (7) days of the event.
- c) Trial Managers must also indicate on the marked Catalogue the number of runs entered at individual event.
- d) Catalogues must be clearly marked with all results. An email copy of the results is also required for publication.
- e) 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.
- f) 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.
- g) 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 event Official appointed by the affiliate on the day of such event;
 2. Not to be a committee member of the affiliate conducting such event;

3. Not to be a relative of a judge or event official on the day, or committee member of the affiliate conducting such event;
 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 representative's report attached to a marked catalogue as soon as practicable but within 7 days of such event, 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 seven (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: (Amended 14.12.2022)

- 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 and/or Rally 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.
- c) 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.
- d) An affiliate may conduct a restricted Obedience, Rally and/or Agility trial but the restriction is to be a Group, partial Group or Breed only.
- e) 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 four (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 Class NFC (Agility): Amended June 2021

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 building the confidence of dogs and handlers prior to starting formal competition by allowing them to attempt either a full course or sections of a course and allow handlers to train by rewarding their dogs with a toy in the ring; allowing dogs returning to the sport following injury; and veteran dogs, to continue to participate by jumping at a lower heights and/or in a lower class.

8.13.1 Summary of NFC Class

NFC entry in any class will replace the competition run in that group of classes. It 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 replace the dog's competition run in that class and not entitle dogs to additional runs.

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.

8.13.2 Entry into NFC Class

8.13.2.1 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 e.g. a Masters 400 dog can choose to do a NFC run in the Excellent class (e.g. ADX) at 300 height - the NFC run would replace the dog's Masters class (e.g. ADM).

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

8.13.2.3 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.

8.13.2.4 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 is entitled. For instance, a Novice titled dog could not be entered into a Masters class even though it may jump a lesser height.

8.13.2.5 Provided the dog is entered in that class, a competitor can request a change to a NFC run when entering the ring but the dog can only be run at the height and class nominated on the entryform.

8.13.2.6 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.

8.13.2.7 There will be no separate class, course or judge for NFC entries.

8.13.2.8 NFC entries will be at the discretion of the Affiliated club for any classes at an ANKC sanctioned competition. A NFC entry that is nominated on the entry form may have a reduced fee at the club's discretion.

8.13.3 Trial Procedures.

8.13.3.1 The judge and ring stewards shall still perform their normal duties, except no faults shall be indicated or recorded, and no time shall be recorded for a NFC entry. The judge shall ensure that the conduct of the handler and dog is appropriate and that the course or parts of the course attempted by the dog and handler are attempted safely within the rules of Agility and the capabilities of the dog.

8.13.3.2 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 the handler indicates or if the handler triggers the electronic timing gate. If manual timing is used, the time will start when the dog or handler passes this first obstacle.

8.13.3.3 The dog and handler shall enter the ring, indicate that this is a NFC run and take up position in front of the first obstacle to be attempted. The judge will indicate when the run can be commenced.

8.13.3.4 A NFC run allows a dog to perform the whole course in the order as set out by the judge or parts of the course, provided that any parts of the course chosen by the competitor follows the numbers in the order as set out by the judge. For example, a competitor may choose to perform obstacles 5 to 14 but may not perform these obstacles backward.

8.13.3.5 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 judge and stewards 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 dog's number on the score sheet.

8.13.3.6 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 rewarding or training in the ring.

8.13.3.7 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 are to be used in the ring. Although the toy or training aid can be visible to the dog, a handler who is running NFC may not use the toy/training aid when entering the ring to take up position. Once the judge has confirmed that the run is NFC the toy/training aid can be used, otherwise the handler may be dismissed.

8.13.3.8 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.

8.14 Dunbar Awards:

- 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 (CD, CDX, UD) title.
- 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 e.g., for the second, third or fourth titles, the owner must live in the ACT and its 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 & 14.12.2022)

- 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 Trial, Test or Competition in the ACT at which he or she is officiating as a judge.
 - i. No member of the judge's family shall enter or exhibit a dog at an event at which he or she is officiating as a judge except in respect of child handler classes.
 - ii. No member of a Judge's family shall be permitted to handle a dog in a class in an event in which he or she is officiating as a Judge, but may enter and/or handle in another class at that event.
- 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.

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- 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 Judge may compete in Obedience/Rally 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 event or competition with the exception of dogs competing in the ring at that event.