

SCHEDULE 05(L) REGULATIONS FOR AGILITY CLASSES

(Effective 01.03.2026)

INTRODUCTION

Agility is a dog competition open to all dogs. The idea is to have the dog negotiate a variety of obstacles to assess and enhance its intelligence and agility. It is an educational and sporting activity intended to improve the dog's integration into society.

The sport requires good rapport between dog and handler, which will result in perfect understanding. Competitors therefore must be familiar with elementary training and basic obedience.

Anything referring to Agility refers to both Contact Agility and Non-Contact Agility unless otherwise stated in this Schedule.

Words importing the singular shall include the plural, words importing the masculine shall include the feminine gender and neuter, and vice versa, unless such interpretation is inconsistent with the context hereof.

1. LICENSING AND SHOW REGULATIONS

- 1.1 The Regulations relating to licensing and to all other matters to do with Shows as set out in Schedule 3 Championship Shows, Schedule 3(A) International Dog Shows (FCI) and Schedule 4 Non-Championship Shows of the Constitution of the Kennel Union of Southern Africa (KUSA) shall apply to competition for Agility Shows so far as they can be relevant to Agility Shows and so far as they do not conflict with the specific terms of this Schedule 5(L).

2. SCOPE OF LICENCE

- 2.1 Any Club affiliated to KUSA and is eligible to hold either Non-Championship or Championship Shows may apply for and be issued with a Licence to hold Agility Classes with any Show or separately there from, but may not hold Championship Agility Classes more than twice in any one (1) calendar year.
- 2.2 Any Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee may apply for not more than four (4) Non-Championship Show Licences in any calendar year. These Licences may not be used for the KUSA South African Agility Championships Event.
- 2.3 In addition, any Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee may apply for not more than eight (8) Agility League Licences in any calendar year, which may only be used for the completion of any non-income generating rounds of the KUSA National Agility League (KUSA NAL) and the KUSA SAAC Regional Trials. However, Handlers may be charged an entry fee to cover venue costs, equipment hire and any other hosting costs that may occur.

2.4 The NAgSC may, on application from Provincial Sub-Committees, apply to Exco for additional Agility League Licences to be held within that Provincial Sub-Committee's geographical centre. This will be limited to non-income-generating rounds of the KUSA NAL and KUSA SAAC Trials.

3. AGILITY HEIGHT CATEGORIES AND GRADES

3.1 Four (4) height categories exist:

- 3.1.1 The "S" (Small) height category: For dogs measuring less than 35 cm at the withers.
- 3.1.2 The "M" (Medium) height category: For dogs measuring 35 cm or more and less than 43 cm at the withers.
- 3.1.3 The "I" (Intermediate) height category: For dogs measuring 43 cm or more and less than 48 cm at the withers.
- 3.1.4 The "L" (Large) height category: For dogs measuring 48 cm or more at the withers.

3.2 Dogs may only jump in their own height category, with the exception of Regulation 6.6. The obstacles must meet the specifications defined for each height category.

3.3 Prior to entering an Agility competition for the first time, the handler must produce the dog's Certificate of Registration to prove the dog's age and the dog must be measured.

- 3.3.1 The dog must be eighteen (18) months old before it may be officially measured by three (3) KUSA Championship Judges appointed by the Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee and the Agility Qualifying Record Cards must be endorsed by all three (3) Judges. The Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee may designate specific measuring days.
- 3.3.2 A dog's height category may only be disputed twice. This can only be done at a Show by the officiating KUSA Agility Championship Judge. Should there be a dispute regarding a dog's height category, it should be re-measured by three (3) different KUSA Agility Championship Judges on the same day and the Agility Qualifying Record Cards must be endorsed by all three (3) Judges.
- 3.3.3 All dogs in all height categories will be required to be measured on a flat hard surface to determine the height at the withers. An acceptable and genuine measuring device must be used.
- 3.3.4 If a dog is re-classified into a different height category, any qualifications won in the previous height category will not count towards Champion status in the new height category. The dog's Agility Qualifying Record Cards must be endorsed that it is no longer in the previous height category.
- 3.3.5 If there is a mandatory amendment to height categories, all qualifications won in the previous height category will be transferred to the new height category.

3.4 Three (3) Grades exist:

- 3.4.1 Grade 1 is only open to beginner dogs and dogs with less than four (4) Qualifications in the Grade (refer to Regulation 4.1).
- 3.4.2 Grade 2 is only open to dogs that have achieved the minimum requirement of at least four (4) Qualifications in Grade 1 (refer to Regulation 4.1).
- 3.4.3 Grade 3 is only open to dogs that have achieved the minimum requirement of at least four (4) Qualifications in Grade 2 (refer to Regulation 4.1).

4. AGILITY QUALIFICATIONS

In all Agility tests, a Qualification shall only be gained if the dog completes the Agility round without accumulating any faults.

4.1 QUALIFICATIONS

- 4.1.1 Any dog that has had four (4) clear rounds in Agility 1 at any event held under a KUSA licence (including Agility League Licences), may then advance to Agility 2. The same will apply to Agility 2 advancing to Agility 3.
- 4.1.2 Any dog that has had six (6) clear rounds in Agility 1 at any event held under a KUSA licence (including Agility League Licences), must advance to Agility 2. The same will apply to Agility 2 advancing to Agility 3.
- 4.1.3 Qualifications gained at competitions held in terms of Schedule 5(D) Regulations for Dog Jumping Grades do not count towards any Qualification in Agility.
- 4.1.4 Any dog that has qualified out of a Grade or has advanced at the discretion of the handler, may not enter that Grade again, with the exception of Regulation 6.6.

4.2 QUALIFYING CERTIFICATES

- 4.2.1 A KUSA Agility Qualifying Certificate in each height category provided for in these Regulations will be awarded at Championship Shows to Agility 3 dogs with the fastest clear rounds, provided that a minimum of one (1) dog has competed in the class. This applies separately to each of Contact Agility and Non-Contact Agility classes.
- 4.2.2 The number of Qualifying Certificates to be awarded per height category is as per the following table:

Number of Dogs:	Number of QC's
One (1) to fifteen (15)	One (1)
Sixteen (16) to thirty (30)	Two (2)
Thirty-one (31) and above	Three (3)

- 4.2.3 A Winner Qualifying Certificate will be awarded to the first placed dog and, where applicable, a Qualifying Certificate will be awarded to the second and third placed dogs with their placing endorsed thereon.

4.3 CHAMPION STATUS

4.3.1 *Champion*

A dog awarded three (3) Agility Qualifying Certificates in Contact Agility 3 or Non-Contact Agility 3 respectively at Championship Shows, in any one (1) height category and each by a different Judge, will qualify as an Agility Champion and a KUSA Certificate to this effect may then be applied for.

i.e.: Champion – Contact Agility
 Champion – Non-Contact Agility

4.3.2 *Grand Champion*

A dog awarded fifteen (15) Agility Qualifying Certificates in Contact Agility 3 or Non-Contact Agility 3 respectively at Championship Shows, in any one (1) height category, will qualify as a Grand Champion and a KUSA Certificate to this effect may then be applied for.

i.e.: Grand Champion – Contact Agility
 Grand Champion – Non-Contact Agility

Note: Subject to the conditions contained in Regulations 3.3.4 and 3.3.5, all Qualifications gained may be counted towards Champion and Grand Champion status.

4.3.3 *International Agility Champion*

A dog that has been awarded an FCI Breed rating of “Good” and has obtained two (2) CACIAG Certificates at licensed FCI (International) Shows within or outside of South Africa, in any one (1) height category and each by a different Judge, will qualify as an International Agility Champion and a FCI Certificate to this effect may then be applied for. Application for an International Agility Champion Certificate must be made through KUSA.

5. REGISTRATION AND ELIGIBILITY OF DOGS FOR COMPETITION

5.1 KUSA CHAMPIONSHIP AND NON-CHAMPIONSHIP SHOWS

- 5.1.1 All dogs must be on a Kennel Union Register or Record or be registered with an Organisation in reciprocity with or with which there is a written agreement with KUSA.
- 5.1.2 All dogs must be eighteen (18) months of age or over on the first day of the Show and must be microchipped.
- 5.1.3 All dogs must possess a separate Qualifying Record Card for Contact Agility and Non-Contact Agility in which qualification results for the relevant Dogsport are recorded.

5.1.4 All dogs are eligible to enter an Agility competition unless they are:

5.1.4.1 Pregnant

5.1.4.2 Apparently ill or hurt

5.1.4.3 Doped

The FCI International Guidelines about Dog Doping as found on the FCI website, is to be viewed in conjunction with this Regulation.

5.1.5 No dog or person entering Agility Shows shall be under suspension or disqualification by KUSA or any Organisation with which it is in reciprocity or with whom KUSA has a written agreement.

5.1.6 Dogs coming from or going to a region infected with Rabies must have a valid Rabies Vaccination Certificate, which must be presented to the Judge or Show Manager. Any dog not possessing such a Certificate shall be ineligible to compete.

5.2 FCI (INTERNATIONAL) SHOWS

5.2.1 All dogs must be twenty-four (24) months of age or older on the first day of the FCI International Show and in possession of a FCI recognised pedigree. Dogs must be microchipped.

5.2.2 When an Agility competition is held under FCI Regulations, all competitors from outside the KUSA area of jurisdiction shall, prior to the start of the competition, hand to the Agility Judge, their Qualifying Record Card/Results Book from their country of residence in order to verify their dog's Agility qualifications.

5.2.3 If a Handler plans to enter and compete at overseas FCI International Agility competitions, such as the European Open Junior and/or Senior Open AWC), he must contact the National Agility Sub-Committee (NAgSC) via his Provincial Agility Sub-Committee representative at least six (6) weeks prior to the closing date of the event.

5.3 ENTRANTS FROM FOREIGN COUNTRIES

5.3.1 Foreign handlers must show they are a member of and their dogs registered with a National Canine Organisation affiliated to the FCI or with whom KUSA has a reciprocal agreement and that they compete in their country of permanent residence and are able to produce a Record Card or Results Book to prove this. All foreign dogs must be microchipped.

5.3.2 When an Agility competition is a National Event held in terms of KUSA Regulations, all entrants from outside the KUSA area of jurisdiction are required to obtain a KUSA Record Card prior to competing. The Agility Qualifying Record Card issued by KUSA shall be endorsed at the level of qualification gained outside the area of KUSA jurisdiction. In such instances, awards obtained outside the KUSA area of jurisdiction are invalid for the

purposes of obtaining a KUSA Agility Champion Certificate. The KUSA office shall issue the Agility Qualifying Record Cards.

6. SHOW ENTRIES

- 6.1 A dog may only enter one (1) Contact Agility and/or one (1) Non-Contact Agility class per Show.
- 6.2 It is permissible to enter a dog for competition in an Agility class in anticipation of the dog qualifying to compete in that Grade at a previous Show, provided that the entry is made in accordance with these Regulations and that the dog qualifies prior to the day of the Show.
- 6.3 It is permissible for a dog to partake in a higher Grade than the Grade entered in advance of a Show, provided that the dog has qualified out of the lower Grade prior to the Show.

6.4 HANDLER OF DOG

- 6.4.1 Either the owner or designated handler may handle the dog but it must be one or the other. Once the dog has commenced with the exercise, an owner must not interfere with his dog if he has deputised another person to handle it.
- 6.4.2 A different handler may handle the dog in the Contact Agility or the Non-Contact Agility round of any Show held under one Licence.

6.5 BITCHES IN SEASON

- 6.5.1 Bitches in season may compete at the discretion of the Show Holding Club and such permission must be published in the Show Schedule. Further, a handler must:
 - 6.5.1.1 Declare the bitch's condition to the Judge at the commencement of the Show.\

6.6 NOT FOR COMPETITION (NFC)

- 6.6.1 Handlers may enter their dogs as 'Not for Competition' (NFC) at any KUSA Show (refer to Regulations 6.1 and 6.6.4).
- 6.6.2 A dog may be entered as 'NFC' on the day of the event, provided it is done prior to the course being built for each respective Grade and must be clearly marked on the score sheet. The Handler and dog will run last in the relevant Class.
- 6.6.3 A dog entered for 'NFC' may be changed to 'for competition' on the day provided it is done prior to the course being built and the dog must run first in its relevant Class.
- 6.6.4 No dispensation in respect of Regulation 10.10 shall be permitted. Dispensations in respect of Regulation 9.3 is allowed. A toy will be allowed without any restriction, however, food/treats will not be allowed in the ring whether concealed on the Handler or in his hand, or in the toy (refer to

Regulation 9.5).

- 6.6.5 Dispensation allowing a Handler to compete in a lower height category than eligible may be permitted but not to compete in a higher height category than eligible. Dispensation allowing a Handler to compete in a lower Grade than eligible may be permitted but not to compete in a higher Grade than eligible.
- 6.6.6 'NFC' entries shall be identified by the Judge/Scribe to the other competitors when the Handler enters the ring and shall be observed throughout by the Judge but not marked and shall not be eligible for prizes or Qualifications. The Handler and dog will be allowed in the ring for the maximum course time (MCT).
- 6.6.7 No dispensation in respect of Regulation 6.8 shall be permitted even if another Handler is entered to handle the dog.

6.7 VETERANS CLASS

- 6.7.1 The Veterans Class may be offered at the discretion of the Show Holding Club.
- 6.7.2 The Class is only for dogs that are a minimum age of seven (7) years and have previously entered other Agility Classes competitively, i.e. the dog must have a Qualifying Record Card for the relevant Dogsport.
- 6.7.3 Dogs entered in the Veterans Class at a Show may only compete in the respective Veterans Class (refer to Regulation 6.1).
- 6.7.4 The Veterans Class will be run over the Contact Agility 2 and Non-Contact Agility 2 courses. However, the Standard Course Time will be determined in metres per second as per the minimum and maximum SCT for Grade 1 (refer to Regulation 12.1.1.1).
- 6.7.5 Obstacles:

Veterans Class	Jump height	Long Jump (Depth)
Small/Medium	20 cm	40 cm
Intermediate/Large	40 cm	50 cm

- 6.7.5 The Tyre and Spread Hurdle are not permitted in the Veterans Class.
- 6.7.6 The running order for the Veterans Class will be at the Judge's discretion.

6.8 COMPETITION BY OFFICIALS AT SHOWS

- 6.8.1 A Judge at a Show may not handle a dog in the same Dogsport (Breed, Obedience, Working Trials, IGP, Dog Jumping, Carting, Contact Agility, Non-Contact Agility, etc.) as that in which he is officiating.
- 6.8.2 An Agility or Dog Jumping Judge at a Show may enter or handle a dog or dogs in the alternate Agility or Dog Jumping Dogsport on the day(s) that he is

officiating providing the following criteria are strictly adhered to:

- The Dogsport he is judging must take preference at all times.
- At no time may the Dogsport he is judging be stopped or halted in any way so that he may compete in another Dogsport.
- The Dogsport he intends entering must have a commencement time before or after the Dogsport he is judging.

6.8.3 A KUSA Representative may not enter, exhibit or handle a dog registered in his name at any KUSA-Licensed Event held at the same venue on the day that he is officiating, nor in the same Discipline held under the same Licence on any day.

6.8.4 An Agility Judge at a Non-championship Show may enter a dog registered in his name to run as “Not for Competition” (NFC) provided it is handled by another person and that it runs last in its Class.

7. AGILITY JUDGES

7.1 All locally domiciled Judges shall be members in good standing with KUSA and shall be over the age of eighteen (18) years at the time when formal studies or activities towards a judging qualification commence, and/or any judging is undertaken.

7.2 Before approving a foreign Judge to officiate at any competition held under this Schedule, the Executive Committee of KUSA shall be satisfied that such Judge is recognised and approved to judge such competitions in his country of permanent residence as is proposed he should judge within the KUSA area of jurisdiction.

7.3 REFRESHER COURSES

7.3.1 A Judge is required to attend an Agility Refresher Course at least once every two (2) years to maintain his judging status.

7.3.2 Such a Refresher Course will be organised by the Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee, however, the content must be approved by the NAgSC (refer to Schedule 5(L) Appendix E Regulation 2.2).

7.3.3 The Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee must monitor and keep a record of the Judges attending the Refresher Courses. The list of Judges’ names having completed each Refresher Course must be sent to the NAgSC, which will in turn supply these names to KUSA for ratification.

7.3.4 Any queries that arise at these Refresher Course and that cannot be resolved must be forwarded to the NAgSC for clarification.

7.4 CANDIDATE JUDGES

7.4.1 Persons wishing to become Agility Judges must be at least eighteen (18) years of age and must make application to the Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee in which they normally reside. In areas where no Provincial Council exists, application must be made directly to KUSA.

7.4.2 Applicants must be eligible and qualify as per the criteria/requirements set out in Schedule 5(L) Appendix E Regulation 3.

7.5 INACTIVE JUDGES

7.5.1 In the event of a Judge not judging for a period of two (2) years or more, such Judge will be required to attend a Refresher Course and judge a minimum of two (2) Grades in both Contact Agility and Non-Contact Agility classes at a KUSA Non-Championship Show under supervision (refer to Schedule 5(L) Appendix E Regulation 2.3).

8. MANAGEMENT OF AGILITY EVENTS

8.1 SHOW MANAGER

8.1.1 The management of Agility classes shall be entrusted to the Show Manager, who must be a member in good standing with KUSA and appointed by the Committee of the Show Holding Club.

8.2 OFFICIALS

The appointment of all Officials may be approved/confirmed by the Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee in conjunction with the Show Holding Club. The Judge shall be assisted by:

- 8.2.1 two (2) timekeepers, or an electronic device and one (1) timekeeper;
- 8.2.2 a scribe or scorer; and
- 8.2.3 any other assistants/helpers as may be required.

8.3 DISPUTES

8.3.1 Any disputed matter requiring a decision on the ground shall be decided by the Show Manager and the Agility Judge(s) officiating on the day.

8.3.2 No handler shall impugn the decision of the Agility Judge. The Judge's decision is final.

8.4 COMPLAINTS

8.4.1 Complaints lodged by any person will be dealt with in accordance with the KUSA Regulations.

8.5 MISCONDUCT AT SHOWS

8.5.1 Physical disciplining of a dog or serious uncontrollable behaviour of a dog at an Agility Show may be penalised at the discretion of the Show Manager by excluding the dog and/or handler from further competition at the Show and/or by ordering the handler of the dog to forfeit any Agility awards, positions or Qualifications gained at the Show.

8.5.2 Harsh handling or unseemly behaviour will be severely condemned and will result in immediate elimination, independently of any complaint that could be lodged against the handler.

8.6 NUMBER OF DOGS TO BE JUDGED

8.6.1 No Judge shall be required to judge more than a total of three hundred (300) dogs in one day. If the number of entries in classes to be judged by one (1) person exceeds these limits, the Committee of the Show Holding Club shall appoint an extra Judge(s) and shall allocate handlers as equally as possible among the Judges by a draw.

8.6.2 If a dog competing in a Championship Agility 3 Show has already been awarded an Agility Qualifying Certificate, the handler shall have the right to claim exemption from the draw if one of the additional appointed Agility Judges is the Judge under whom the dog qualified for the said Certificate.

8.7 CONDITIONS

8.7.1 It is the responsibility of the Show Manager and the Agility Judge(s) to ensure that all dogs competing in a class compete under the same conditions as far as practical.

8.8 WEATHER

8.8.1 When any Agility competition is held at any open-air venue, it shall be at the sole discretion of the Agility Judge whether or not competition in any Agility class should be interrupted on account of inclement weather.

8.8.2 Cancellation of an Agility Show shall be at the sole discretion of the Show Manager in consultation with the Agility Judge(s) officiating on the day.

8.9 STARTING TIMES

8.9.1 All handlers shall be informed of the starting time for their class. Handlers and dogs in each Grade shall be present at the Show venue at least thirty (30) minutes before that time.

8.9.2 If handlers in the class are delayed through competition elsewhere in the Show falling behind schedule, the Judge shall have the discretion to postpone the starting time of a class and the draw for order of competition for a reasonable period.

8.9.3 Such postponement shall be made known to all handlers in the class who are present. Any handler who is not present at the end of such postponement shall be regarded as having withdrawn from the class and shall not be allowed to compete.

8.9.4 The Judge has the discretion to commence a class without all handlers being present.

8.10 ORDER OF COMPETITION

8.10.1 The order of competition shall be determined by a draw among handlers entered for that class, where applicable, supervised by the Agility Judge or any person to whom this authority is delegated, immediately before the first round of the class is due to begin.

OR

8.10.2 The order of competition shall be determined by a random computer draw of exhibit numbers for that class, where applicable, before the Show, supervised by the Agility Judge or any person to whom this authority is delegated. In the case of Non-Championship Shows, if there are late entries (i.e. on the day of the Show), these shall run first.

8.11 AGILITY SHOW RINGS

8.11.1 Whether the competition is held inside or outside, the Agility area shall be a minimum of 24 m x 40 m. Within this area, the ring that the course will be built in must measure at least 20 m x 40 m.

The Show Manager is responsible for the demarcation of the areas to be used for Agility classes and is responsible for ensuring that the surface of the ring is level and clean (e.g. no broken glass, nails, etc.).

8.11.2 When two (2) rings are used, it is advisable to have a closed partition between them or a distance of approximately 10 m.

8.11.3 The perimeter of the ring must be clearly and safely demarcated.

8.12 PROVISION OF OBSTACLES

8.12.1 The Show Holding Club and/or the Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee is responsible for the provision of obstacles, markers and similar objects, which may be required in any class for which entries are accepted. The Provincial Council Agility Sub-Committee is responsible for ensuring that all obstacles, markers, objects and other articles to be used comply with these Regulations.

8.13 OTHER MATTERS

8.13.1 Any matter not provided for in these Regulations or in the KUSA Constitution and Schedules shall be decided upon by a simple majority of all the Agility Judges officiating on the day and the Show Manager. In the case of an equality of votes, the Agility 3 Judge, or if there is no Agility 3 Judge, the Show Manager shall have a casting vote as well as a deliberative vote and the decision made shall be final.

8.13.2 In such instances, the Show Manager shall submit a written report to KUSA setting out all the details within fourteen (14) days of the close of the Show.

9. HANDLERS AND DOGS

9.1 For safety reasons a dog is not permitted to wear a collar or lead whilst under test.

9.2 EXHIBIT NUMBER

9.2.1 Before starting the exercise, handlers must announce their catalogue number to the scribe if requested. However, it is not necessary to wear the exhibit number while in the ring.

9.3 PRACTICE

9.3.1 Handlers will be allowed to practice with their dogs at a Show subject to the provision of Regulation 10.10 but no practice or training may take place in the ring either before the competition commences or while any class is in progress or remains uncompleted, or in such a way as to interfere with or distract competing dogs or handlers.

9.4 WALKING THE COURSE

9.4.1 Handlers will be allowed to walk the course, without their dogs, before the class begins and, at the Agility Judge's discretion, will have a minimum of five (5) minutes and a maximum of ten (10) minutes to do such.

9.4.2 At the Judge's discretion, a white dog may be used to run the course prior to each height category or Grades walking the course.

9.4.3 At the Judge's discretion, each height category may be allowed to walk the course separately for each Grade or a Judge may group certain height categories to walk the course (refer to Regulation 9.4.4).

9.4.4 In the event all height categories in a Grade are competing over the same course with the same course length and the obstacles set at the correct height for each height category, a handler that has a dog in more than one (1) height category may only walk the course once.

9.5 REWARDING DOGS

9.5.1 Food/treats will not be allowed in the ring, whether concealed on the Handler or in his hand. Anyone carrying food/treats into the ring will be eliminated.

9.5.2 A concealed toy will be allowed, but must be concealed prior to entering the ring. It must remain concealed while the Handler is under Judge's orders (before the start) until the dog has completed the round (exited the ring). Any visible toy on the Handler, or if it is dropped on the ground, will result in an elimination. This includes partially visible toys sticking or bulging out of Handler's clothing.

9.5.3 No audible toys will be allowed. Any audible toys (squeak, bell, etc.) carried by the Handler will result in an elimination.

9.5.4 However, words of praise and encouragement are permitted by the Handler

whilst in the ring.

9.6 HANDLER'S COMMANDS

- 9.6.1 In all classes, the handler may use the dog's "call name" and may signal without penalty. The use of any kind of manufactured whistle is prohibited.

9.7 WITHDRAWAL/EXPULSION FROM COMPETITION

- 9.7.1 Any owner or designated handler entering or competing in an Agility class does so at his own and the dog's risk and the dog must compete in the class in which it is entered, unless expelled by the Agility Judge or excused by the Judge on request by the owner or handler and the Show Manager.

9.8 COMMENCEMENT OF EXERCISE

- 9.8.1 The Handler enters the ring placing the dog in either the "Sit", "Down" or "Stand" position behind the start line. If the dog is still on the lead, then the dog's lead and collar are removed. The first obstacle must be negotiated within thirty (30) seconds of the Judge indicating that he is ready, otherwise the time for the exercise will commence running.
- 9.8.2 The handler is not permitted to have any object in his hands. The handler will be penalised with a fault if he crosses through the start line. The handler may position himself anywhere on the course and may only start his dog on the Judge's signal.
- 9.8.3 The time will commence running as soon as the dog or handler crosses through the start line. The run is finished and the time stopped when the dog crosses the finish line by negotiating the last obstacle in the correct direction.
- 9.8.4 A variety of commands and signals are permitted during the exercise. The handler must ensure that the dog traverses the obstacles in the correct order, without him making any physical contact with the dog or any obstacle. The handler may not negotiate any obstacle.
- 9.8.5 The exercise is completed when the dog crosses the finish line. The steward hands the lead back to the handler. The handler puts the dog back on the lead and leaves the ring.
- 9.8.6 Handler and dog are under the Judge's supervision from the moment they enter the ring until both have left the ring.

10. JUDGING OF AGILITY CLASSES

10.1 KNOWLEDGE OF THE REGULATIONS

- 10.1.1 All handlers and Judges must have a thorough knowledge of the Regulations covering the class entered or to be judged.

10.2 ADHERING TO REGULATIONS

- 10.2.1 No Agility Judge shall require any dog or handler to do anything nor penalise a dog or handler for failing to do anything, which is not required by these Regulations and the relevant Schedules.
- 10.2.2 The Agility Judge must deal with all unexpected circumstances and must be consistent at all times.

10.3 FEATURES OF JUDGING

- 10.3.1 The purpose of Agility exercises is to demonstrate the usefulness and agility of the dog as a companion to man. Agility is meant to test the agility, obedience and fitness of the dog as well as the handler's skill to train and direct his dog faultlessly and quickly through an obstacle course.
- 10.3.2 It is the responsibility of the Agility Judge to ensure that the exercises being performed are both interesting for spectators and worthwhile for the handler and the dog.
- 10.3.3 Dogs must be judged on their ability to negotiate the course as laid out and not upon their breed qualities.
- 10.3.4 Standardised judging is of paramount importance. Agility Judges must not introduce their own variations into their judging and must ensure that each handler and dog executes the various obstacles exactly as described. Agility Judges must adhere strictly to the Regulations.
- 10.3.5 Where Federal Council has approved the appointment of an Agility Judge whose normal permanent residence is outside the KUSA area of jurisdiction, it shall be the responsibility of the Show Manager to ensure that such Judge is familiar with and applies the Regulations and terms of this Schedule.
- 10.3.6 The FCI Agility Regulations (Appendix I), the FCI Agility Obstacle Guidelines (Appendix B) and the FCI Judging Guidelines (Appendix H), need to be viewed in conjunction with this Schedule, with the intention that all Agility Judges have the same understanding/interpretation of the Rules/Guidelines.

10.4 DOGS JUDGED SEPARATELY

- 10.4.1 The Judge must judge each competing dog separately and each attempt to negotiate an obstacle must be adjudicated.

10.5 BRIEFING OF HANDLERS

- 10.5.1 Before commencing the competition, the Agility Judge may brief the handlers. He may draw their attention to some of the Regulations, explaining the nature of the competition, Standard Course Time, Maximum Course Time and the manner in which the competition will be run.

10.6 AGILITY JUDGE'S ORDERS

- 10.6.1 The Judge's orders are required to be clearly spoken so heard by everyone following the judging.
- 10.6.2 The handler cannot start the dog before the Agility Judge has signalled that he is ready.

10.7 ADDITIONAL COMMANDS

- 10.7.1 The Agility Judge shall position himself in the ring so as to be aware of physical handling/guiding of the dog, at all times.

10.8 DOGS' QUALIFYING RECORD CARDS

- 10.8.1 No Judge shall permit a dog to compete in any class that he is judging unless the handler produces on request, before the start of such class, his Agility Qualifying Record Card showing that the dog is eligible to compete in that class. The Agility Judge's endorsement on the Record Card for each Qualification received is to be sufficient proof of eligibility for that class.
- 10.8.2 At the conclusion of the judging of a class, it is the responsibility of the Agility Judge of that class to enter in each dog's Agility Qualifying Record Card particulars of the Show with details of appropriate placing and Qualifications awarded when such information is relevant to the dog's eligibility to compete in a higher Grade or to the dog achieving Champion status.

10.9 INTERFERENCE WITH HANDLERS

- 10.9.1 The Agility Judge must expel any dog entered contrary to Regulation 5.1.4 and may remove any dog which behaves in an uncontrollable manner, any handler who wilfully interferes with another handler or his dog. The Agility Judge may expel any dog that he considers unfit to compete, or any bitch, which appears so attractive to males as to be a disturbing and disruptive element.
- 10.9.2 The latter only applies if the Show Holding Club has stipulated that a bitch in season may not compete (refer to Regulation 6.5). In the case of doubt, the Veterinarian on call shall be called to give his opinion but the Agility Judge's decision is final.

10.10 DISCIPLINE OF DOGS

- 10.10.1 From the time the Agility Judge takes control of assembled handlers to begin judging a class until he dismisses the handlers after the results of an class have been announced, no handler in that class shall physically discipline a dog either inside or outside the ring.
- 10.10.2 In the event of such physical disciplining occurring, or in the event of serious uncontrollable behaviour of a dog in the ring, the Agility Judge will severely penalise the dog concerned by adding faults to the total score of the dog. In addition he may, at his discretion, exclude the dog from further participation in

the competition.

10.11 ABNORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES

- 10.11.1 If, in the Agility Judge's opinion, the dog's performance in any exercise was prejudiced by peculiar and/or unusual circumstances, he may re-judge the dog on the entire exercise (refer to Regulation 10.12).
- 10.11.2 In the case of an obstacle not conforming to the correct height or depth for the specific height category, the Handler must immediately bring it to the Judge's attention. This must be done prior to the next dog commencing the exercise and the error must be rectified for the rest of the Class (refer to Regulation 10.12). In the event other dogs have already completed the course with the incorrectly measured obstacle, they may not re-run the course and their recorded results will stand.

In the event the Handler who brings the error to the Judge's attention incurred a fault at the said obstacle, that Handler may re-run the course for time but all other recorded faults will remain valid, excluding those incurred on the incorrectly measured obstacle. If the Handler chooses not to re-run, then the original results will stand.

10.12 FORCE MAJEURE

- 10.12.1 Under circumstances beyond the Handler's control, such as an obstacle at the incorrect height and/or depth, dropped obstacles, obstacle moves, etc., the Agility Judge may stop the Handler and, when the obstacle has been rebuilt, he will restart the dog from the beginning of the exercise.
- 10.12.2 All faults incurred before the dog was stopped will still apply. Up to that point no other faults will be given, however, the handler and dog must still negotiate the course to the best of their ability; i.e. must make a good attempt.
- 10.12.3 Additional faults are incurred only after the point at which the dog was originally stopped.

11. COURSES

11.1 GENERAL

- 11.1.1 The aim is to let the dog negotiate the course correctly and within the Standard Course Time (SCT). The SCT, however, is only a reference and speed should not be the main criterion. An Agility course is about skill, not about speed.
- 11.1.2 A course is built using as many types of obstacles as possible and the manner in which the obstacles are placed determines the degree of difficulty and speed. The dog must complete the course within a predetermined time and the obstacles must be negotiated in the correct order.

Weave poles, tyre and wall can only be negotiated once on the course.

The spread jump, tyre and long jump must always be set up for a straight approach, on the dog's natural path, from the previous obstacle.

The course may include up to a maximum of five (5) tunnel performances.

The weave poles must be used on every course.

11.1.3 The difference between Agility 1, Agility 2 and Agility 3 are:

- the length of the course and its degree of difficulty
- the speed chosen to determine the SCT.

11.2 COURSE DESIGN

11.2.1 The design of the course is left entirely to the Agility Judge's imagination, but the natural handling side must change at least twice.

11.2.2 Before the start of a competition, the Agility Judge will inspect the obstacles put at his disposal and when they meet the necessary standard, he may hand over his course design to the Organising Committee who may then set up the course.

11.2.3 The Agility Judge will check the course and have the length measured precisely.

11.2.4 A well designed course will allow a dog to go round easily and smoothly and should test different skills and abilities of both dog and handler.

11.2.5 The aim is to obtain the correct balance between the control over the dog, avoiding faults on the obstacles and the speed with which the course is negotiated.

11.2.6 It is advisable to change the design of the course and the position of the obstacles frequently in order to avoid any automation in the dogs.

11.3 REQUIREMENTS FOR THE COURSES

11.3.1 The actual length of the course for all height categories will be between 100 m and 220 m.

11.3.2 The first and last obstacle can be any of the jumps (hurdle, wall, tyre or long jump) and there must be at least six (6) metres from the ring boundary for the dog to jump in a natural line at the start and at the finish.

If it is not possible to place the timing device safely on the wall, tyre or long jump, then the obstacle in question must be a hurdle. The first obstacle may not be a spread hurdle.

11.3.3 A Contact Agility course must have three (3) different types of Contact obstacles, (except for force majeure). A maximum of four Contact obstacles may be used in a Contact Agility 2 or Contact Agility 3 course (at the Agility Judge's discretion).

- 11.3.4 Contact obstacles must not be used as the first or the last obstacle on the Contact Agility course.
- 11.3.5 In Contact Agility, a dog will be required to traverse from fifteen (15) but no more than twenty-two (22) obstacles, including at least seven (7) jump obstacles (hurdles, wall, tyre).
- 11.3.6 In Non-Contact Agility, a dog will be required to traverse from twelve (12) but no more than twenty-two (22) obstacles, including a minimum of nine (9) jump obstacles (hurdles, wall, tyre).
- 11.3.7 A standard competition set must contain at least fourteen (14) hurdles with poles and one (1) of each of the following: tyre, wall, long jump, dog walk, see-saw and A-frame as well as weave poles and four (4) tube tunnels (one of these must be 300 cm to 400 cm long).
- 11.3.8 Spread jumps may not be used in Contact Agility 1 and Non-Contact Agility 1.
- 11.3.9 From the position of the numbers, it must be clear from which side the obstacle has to be negotiated (with the exception of a U-shaped tunnel where the number can be placed in the middle to indicate that either side can be taken).
- 11.3.10 In addition, a qualified Agility Judge may be appointed to assist the main Judge. The assistant Judge may be authorised to judge specific obstacles or sequences within the course as pre-determined by the main Judge. The responsibility for all decisions made will be that of the main Judge whose decisions will be final.

11.4 DISTANCES BETWEEN OBSTACLES

- 11.4.1 The minimum distance on the dog's natural path between consecutive obstacles must not be less than five (5) metres.
- 11.4.2 The maximum straight-line distance between consecutive obstacles must not be more than seven (7) metres and the maximum distance on the dog's natural path between consecutive obstacles must not be more than nine (9) metres.
- 11.4.3 All distances must be measured from the nominal point that the dog leaves the obstacle to the nominal point that the dog arrives at the next obstacle.
 - 11.4.3.1 For hurdles, this is the midpoint of the bar.
 - 11.4.3.2 For a tunnel, contact, weaves, etc. it is the nominal entry/exit points of those obstacles.
- 11.4.4 The Handler must be able to pass each obstacle on either side; there must be a minimum of one (1) metre between each obstacle and between an obstacle and the ring boundary. The only exception are tunnels placed under the A-frame or the dog walk.

11.5 OBSTACLE HEIGHTS AND DEPTHS

11.5.1 *Hurdles*

11.5.1.1 Single

Category	Height
Small:	25 to 30 cm
Medium:	35 to 40 cm
Intermediate	45 to 50 cm
Large:	55 to 60 cm

11.5.1.2 Spread

Category	Height	Maximum Depth
Small	25 to 30 cm	30 cm
Medium	35 to 40 cm	40 cm
Intermediate	45 to 50 cm	45 cm
Large	55 to 60 cm	50 cm

11.5.2 *Wall*

Category	Height
Small:	25 to 30 cm
Medium:	35 to 40 cm
Intermediate	45 to 50 cm
Large:	55 to 60 cm

11.5.3 *Tyre*

Category	Height
Small &	55 cm
Intermediate	70 cm
Large:	80 cm

11.5.4 *Long Jump*

Category	Length	Number of Units
Small	40 to 50 cm	Two (2)
Medium	70 to 90 cm	Three (3)
Intermediate	90 to 110 cm	Three (3) to Four (4)
Large	120 to 150 cm	Four (4)

12. TIMING AND SCORES/RESULTS

12.1 TIMING

A course is built with obstacles, the set-up of which determines the degree of difficulty and speed.

The dog must complete the course within a predetermined time and the obstacles must be negotiated in the correct order.

Method of determining SCT is decided by the Agility Judge before commencement of the first dog's run and announced at the Handler's briefing. Judges may not change their decision after the first dog has run.

The course time must be measured with a precision of 0.01 seconds.

If timing equipment is used, it must be placed as close as possible to the first and last obstacle as it defines the start and finish lines. If not, the first and last obstacles define the start and finish lines.

12.1.1 *Determining the Standard Course Time (SCT)*

The speed in metres per second chosen for the course will determine the SCT. The speed chosen will depend on the standard of the competition, the degree of difficulty of the course and the surface that the dog has to run on. All dogs in each Grade will run the same speed and SCT providing all height categories in each Grade are running the same course with the same course length and the obstacles set at the correct height for each height category.

12.1.1.1 Stipulated below are the minimum and maximum course times in metres per second, except for Agility 3 that only has a minimum:

Agility 1	Between 2.5 to 3.0 metres per second
Agility 2	Between 3.0 to 3.8 metres per second
Agility 3	Minimum of 3.8 metres per second

Non-Contact Agility	Between 3.0 to 3.5 metres per
Non-Contact Agility	Between 3.5 to 4.2 metres per
Non-Contact Agility	Minimum of 4.2 metres per second

The SCT (in seconds) will be determined by dividing the length of the course by the chosen speed (in m/s):

Example: A course is 160 m long and the chosen speed is 4.0 m/s
The SCT will be 40 seconds (160 ÷ 4.00)

OR

12.1.1.2 The SCT (in seconds) is determined by the time of the fastest dog, in each height category, with the fewest course faults + 15%, rounded up to the nearest second.

To ensure the minimum speed is still achieved in Contact Agility and Non-Contact Agility Grades 1, 2 and 3, the course must be measured and the time of the fastest dog with fewest course faults will be used to check if the minimum speed stated in the table above has been attained. If the minimum speed is not attained, no Qualifying Certificates or Qualifications may be

issued.

12.1.2 Determining the Maximum Course Time (MCT)

12.1.2.1 The MCT is determined by dividing the length of the course by 2.0 m/s in Contact Agility and 2.5 m/s in Non-Contact Agility.

12.1.3 Inclement Weather or Uneven Surfaces:

12.1.3.1 Weather or surface may create unique circumstances that warrant the Agility Judge to vary the presented SCT times above. These circumstances may include thick sand, intense heat, excessive rain, slippery conditions and muddy conditions. The Judge may add up to 2.5 seconds to the course times. This Regulation must be applied separately with respect to Contact Agility and Non-Contact Agility i.e. the inclement weather may clear.

12.2 SCORES/RESULTS

12.2.1 Handler's Score

12.2.1.1 As each dog completes an exercise, its score for the exercise must be entered on a score sheet by the scribe/scorer and that score must be made known to the handler and to spectators before the next handler commences his round.

12.2.1.2 Scores may not be subsequently changed except to correct arithmetical errors or add faults for contravention of Regulations 8.5 or 10.10.

12.2.2 Total faults means the sum of all the faults incurred on the obstacles as well as the faults for exceeding the SCT (refer to Regulation 13.3).

12.2.3 Equal Scores

The following is taken into account to decide equal scores:

12.2.3.1 If the total faults are the same, the fastest dog is scored first.

12.2.3.2 If both the course and time faults are exactly the same after the results have been calculated according to Regulation 12.2.2, a run-off must be conducted (either a shortened course or a new course) to determine the placing.

12.2.4 When working out the ranking and results, the following is taken into account:

12.2.4.1 Total penalty (course penalty + time penalty)

12.2.5 Announcement of Results

After the scores are totalled and winners decided, before announcing the placings, the Agility Judge may inform the public as to the SCT and the MCT. The Judge shall then announce the winner, any awards of Agility Qualifying Certificates, Qualifications and the scores of other handlers placed.

Example: SCT = 60 seconds

Number	Course	Time	Time Penalty	Total Penalty	Placing
7	5	58.71	0.00	5.00	2
12	0	65.00	5.00	5.00	3
18	5	57.25	0.00	5.00	1
4	0	68.32	8.32	8.32	4
15	10	59.17	0.00	10.00	5
2	5	65.00	5.00	10.00	6

13. FAULTS

13.1 Penalties are incurred in the case of:

13.1.1 Failure to negotiate the course correctly.

13.1.2 Failure to complete the course within the SCT.

13.2 GENERAL

13.2.1 All course faults are penalised in units of five (5) faults (i.e. knockdowns and refusals).

13.2.2 In the case of a knockdown or missing a contact area, the dog will be penalised but it continues its run.

13.2.3 In the case of a refusal, it must be corrected. Failure to do so will result in elimination. The same applies in the case of the weave poles, where mistakes must be corrected immediately.

13.2.4 Elimination means that the dog is disqualified, and handler and dog must leave the ring as quickly as possible, unless the Agility Judge decides otherwise. Elimination must be indicated clearly (whistle, etc.) by the Judge.

Note: If the course is built in such a way that the dog, when running on its natural path, takes an additional obstacle after completing its run (passed through the finish line), it is not considered an elimination.

13.2.5 A handler who gains an advantage by touching his dog or an obstacle will be faulted five (5) faults each time it occurs.

13.3 EXCEEDING THE SCT

13.3.1 The number of time faults is equal to the amount by which the course time exceeds the SCT.

13.4 KNOCKDOWNS

13.4.1 When negotiating an obstacle, it is a fault each time any part of the obstacle (pole, wing, element/unit, etc.) is knocked down.

Note: If an obstacle has to be re-negotiated later on in the course, then any knockdown must be rebuilt in time by the helpers (no elimination) (Refer

to Regulation 13.6.8).

13.5 TYPES OF REFUSALS

A dog can only be faulted with a refusal for stopping in front of an obstacle, turning away from an obstacle or running by an obstacle when it is on the side of the obstacle from which it should be negotiated.

- 13.5.1 A dog that stops in front of an obstacle.
- 13.5.2 A dog that runs past an obstacle.
- 13.5.3 If a dog runs by the first obstacle, then it will be faulted with a refusal and the manual time will start as the dog passes the start line (this is the line of the first hurdle extending out to the limits of the ring on both sides).
- 13.5.4 A dog that puts its head or one paw in the tunnel and comes back out again.
- 13.5.5 A dog that runs past the refusal point of a contact obstacle and has to be brought back to negotiate the obstacle.
- 13.5.6 A dog turns away from an obstacle.
- 13.5.7 A dog that goes under the pole of a hurdle.
- 13.5.8 A dog that jumps over a tunnel or hurdle wing.
- 13.5.9 A dog that jumps in and out from the side of the long jump.
- 13.5.10 A dog that runs under or jumps over a contact obstacle.

13.6 REASONS FOR ELIMINATION

- 13.6.1 Unseemly behaviour towards the Judge.
- 13.6.2 Harsh handling/behaviour with the dog.
- 13.6.3 Exceeding the Maximum Course Time (MCT).
- 13.6.4 Three (3) refusals on the whole course.
- 13.6.5 Taking or touching an obstacle, out of sequence, including going under or over an obstacle; however, going under the A-frame or the dog walk is allowed in the case of a refusal of a tunnel placed under the obstacle.
- 13.6.6 Forgetting to take an obstacle.
- 13.6.7 Taking an obstacle in the wrong direction.
- 13.6.8 If the dog destroys an obstacle before it is negotiated or it has to be re-negotiated later in the course in such a way that it cannot be negotiated correctly.

- 13.6.9 Handler negotiates an obstacle himself in any manner (i.e. over or under it).
- 13.6.10 If the handler knocks down/destroys an obstacle at any time while on course.
- 13.6.11 Handler holding something in his hand.
- 13.6.12 Replacing the dog at the start after it has crossed the start line (unless instructed by the Judge).
- 13.6.13 Dog wearing a collar.
- 13.6.14 Handler stopping dog from completing the course (unless instructed by the Judge) i.e. the handler retires the dog.
- 13.6.15 Dog fouls the ring or leaves the ring unless still under control.
- 13.6.16 Dog no longer under control.
- 13.6.17 Negotiating the next obstacle before correctly completing the weave poles.
- 13.6.18 Dog snapping constantly at the handler.
- 13.6.19 Starting the run before the Judge's start signal.
- 13.6.20 If the dog refuses the breakaway tyre and it breaks apart.
- 13.6.21 The handler trains on the course before/after the run.
- 13.6.22 The handler starts/stops the timing system.

13.7 COMPULSORY CONTACT ZONES

The dog is considered to have left the contact obstacle when all four paws are on the ground.

- 13.7.1 On the A-frame and dog walk, the dog must touch the down contact with at least one paw or part of its paw.
- 13.7.2 On the see-saw, the dog must touch both the up and down contacts with at least one paw or part of a paw.
- 13.7.3 Failure to touch the contact zone: five (5) faults on each occasion.

13.8 FAULTS ON SPECIFIC OBSTACLES

13.8.1 *Tunnels*

- 13.8.1.1 When approaching the obstacle from the side, any incorrect attempt to negotiate the tunnel (e.g. jumping over it) is penalised with a refusal – five (5) faults.

13.8.2 *Dog Walk*

13.8.2.1 The dog must touch the ascending ramp with all four (4) paws. Failure to do so will result in elimination.

13.8.2.2 The dog that jumps off the obstacle before touching the descending ramp with four (4) paws will be penalised with a refusal – five (5) faults.

13.8.3 *See-Saw*

13.8.3.1 The dog that jumps off the obstacle before passing the pivot point with four paws, will be penalised with a refusal – five (5) faults.

13.8.3.2 The see-saw must touch the ground before the dog alights off the obstacle otherwise it will incur five (5) faults.

13.8.4 *A-Frame*

13.8.4.1 The dog must touch the ascending ramp with all four (4) paws. Failure to do so will result in elimination.

13.8.4.2 The dog that jumps off the obstacle before touching the descending ramp with four (4) paws will be penalised with a refusal – five (5) faults.

13.8.4.3 The dog that passes the top of the A-frame and touches the ground before having touched the descending ramp is eliminated.

13.8.5 *Weave Poles*

13.8.5.1 The first pole must be on the left of the dog, the second on the right and so on.

13.8.5.2 Each incorrect entry, even when the dog approaches from the side, will be penalised with a refusal – five (5) faults.

13.8.5.3 For further errors a dog is only penalised once with five (5) faults.

13.8.5.4 Every mistake must be corrected immediately or the dog can be taken back to the beginning.

13.8.5.5 Back weaving (more than two (2) gates) will result in elimination.

13.8.5.6 The obstacle must be completed correctly before negotiating the next obstacle; failure to do so will result in elimination on the next obstacle.

13.8.6 *Long Jump*

The units of the obstacle are evenly spaced and in ascending order to make a jump as stated in FCI Agility Obstacle Guidelines (Schedule 5(L) Appendix B).

13.8.6.1 Running past, jumping in from or out to the side and not traversing the complete obstacle will be penalised with a refusal – five (5) faults.

13.8.6.2 Knocking down one of the units will be penalised with a fault – five (5) faults.
No other contact is faulted.

13.8.6.3 The dog or handler will not be faulted when they touch or knock down one of the marker poles of the long jump, even when this causes one of the units to fall down.

13.8.7 *Breakaway Frameless Tyre*

13.8.7.1 If the tyre breaks apart when the dog jumps through it – five (5) faults.

13.8.7.2 If the tyre breaks apart when the dog refuses it – elimination.

14. OBSTACLES

With the intention that all obstacles used countrywide are of the same construction and not unsafe for the dogs, they must comply with the specifications and constructed in accordance with the specifications and diagrams in the FCI Agility Obstacle Guidelines (Schedule 5(L) Appendix B).



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Fedco 12-2015 / NP/Updated 02/2016
Fedco 06-2017/AB/Updated 16.01.2018
Fedco 06-2018/SAT/Updated 06.08.2018
Fedco 12-2019/ PM/Updated 18.12.2019
Fedco 06-2020/AB/Updated 20.08.2020
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