

# **Jumping Jacks Agility Association**

## **Rules For Agility Competitions**

**Rules Effective from 1st October 2024 & Supersede any earlier versions.**

### **Introduction to these rules**

#### **1.1 General Regulations for JJ Agility Competitions**

- 1.1.1 Show organisers must obtain written authority from Jumping Jacks shows.
- 1.1.2 Show organisers must obtain their own public liability insurance for the duration of their event.
- 1.1.3 Show organisers are required to arrange appropriate veterinary support of a local vet.
- 1.1.4 Show organisers must endeavour to comply with all health and safety regulations and any legal obligations.
  - 1.1.4.1 Show organisers must maintain an accident and incident book for handlers and dogs. Any person making an entry in the book must record a full description of the incident and any injuries resulting from it. The show organisers must then record any actions taken to resolve the incident/accident and measures to prevent a similar incident/accident occurring in the future.
- 1.1.5 Show organisers may reserve the right to refuse entries.

- 1.1.6 Show organisers may reserve the right to make amendments to any advertised schedule, provided such amendments do not contravene any rules contained within this document.
- 1.1.7 In the event of a show cancellation the organisers reserve the right to deduct unrecoverable expenses before returning entry fees.
- 1.1.8 The show organiser in the event of any disputes or matters not specified in these rules must contact Ms Kate Theobald or person appointed in her absence to resolve any issues before the end of the show.
- 1.1.9 In the event of any contradiction of these rules, this document takes precedence over any other publication such as show schedules or welcome letters. Any rule changes made during the season will be for safety reasons only and will be made public on the website and as announcements at the shows.

#### **1.2. General Rules For Competitors.**

- 1.2.1 Show entry forms must be completed for each dog and handler combination and the declaration be signed by each competitor. The appropriate fees must accompany the entry form on the day the form is submitted, fees not paid prior to closing date will mean entry to the show can be terminated by the show organiser
- 1.2.2 Competitors are responsible for ensuring that the dog they are running has received adequate training and is of the competing age of over 18 months for normal grades and over 15 months for Pre Intro.
- 1.2.3 Only dogs of 15 months for pre intro or 18 calendar months or over on the day of competition are eligible for competition.

1.2.4 Bitches in the first 7 days of a season may be able to compete but must be kept away from the rings in between runs and the show organiser must be informed of a bitch in season before it may compete.

1.2.5 Dogs that are suffering from a contagious or infectious disease or have been in contact with any dog suffering such an illness must not attend a show for 21 days.

1.2.6 It is a competitors responsibility to be available for their classes, If you are not running in a class you have entered then please inform the ring party that you will not be running,

1.2.7 Any physical discipline or excessive verbal correction of a dog anywhere on the showground is not permitted. Yellow dogs are welcome at the shows and permitted to compete but any aggression shown towards a competitor, judge or ring party will not be tolerated and a ban may be incurred. Depending on the severity of the situation an instant ban to all JJ shows may be imposed at the discretion of the show organisers and principle of JJs (Kate Theobald).

1.2.8 Handler may not scruff their dogs whilst on the start line, and all four paws must stay on the ground when holding a dog by the collar.

1.2.9 Competitors may not challenge a judges marking or course. Any complaints about safety of a course should go straight to the show organiser and not to the judge or ring party. Only safety concerns may be reported

1.2.10 Dogs while competing can have their collars removed or they may wear a flat close fitting collar. All tags must be removed and there must not be any part of the collar that may catch on equipment or a dog could catch paws or claws. Trackers may be worn as long as they are correctly fitted and not hanging loose so that they may get caught on equipment. No harnesses

1.2.11 Food should not ever be taken into the ring even if only a training round.

1.2.12 Silent toys are permitted to be carried by the handler in the ring for Pre Intro classes or NFC runs and juniors. The dog may not touch or carry the toy during the test but can be given as a reward at the end of a course. Handlers must never throw the toy. Training aids such as clickers, remote collars, training discs or water spray bottles are not permitted in or around the rings.

1.2.13 **Training in the ring** is permitted up to the 60 second course time. The timer will blow a whistle or call out when time is up and you must then leave the ring. Show organisers reserve the right to stop handlers training in the ring at any point during the show if classes are starting to run late.

1.2.14 Competitors may walk the course before each class without their dogs. Dogs must never be tied up to any part of the ring, equipment or fencing.

### 1.3 Responsibilities of a Judge.

1.3.1 Judges must judge in accordance with these rules and regulations.

1.3.2 The judge is responsible for the design of their course and must at all times set the course with the consideration of dog and handler safety. Show organisers must approve all courses for safety and level suitability before the competitors are allowed to walk the course. Competitors may not complain to the judge about a course and any grievances about safety must be expressed to the show organiser before the class has started.

- 1.3.3 When requested judges must submit course plans for approval prior to a show.
- 1.3.4 Judges must observe the dog and handle at all times whilst they are in the ring. Including NFC runs and after elimination.

## **1.4 General Conduct.**

- 1.4.1 All dogs must be kept under proper control at all times whilst at the show venue and in any exercise areas, car parks or camping. The use of flexi leads and long lines are not permitted on the showground or in the camping or parking areas.
- 1.4.2 Dogs must never be left unattended whilst tied to the backs of vehicles without suitable barriers. Dogs must not be left loose in camping gardens or barrier fencing around cars if reactive to other dogs.
- 1.4.3 At ringside competitors are required to queue 6 feet apart and well clear of the ring side and entrance. Respect that dogs require space and never let your dog approach other dogs without asking permission from the other handler first. Dogs with yellow leads, jackets or bandanas must have space. Owners of these dogs should keep them under control and inform the show organiser on the day that you have a yellow dog.
- 1.4.4 Any person in charge of a dog must immediately clear up any fouling in or around the show venue ASAP. Anyone found not clearing up after your dog may be banned from any future shows.
- 1.4.5 Physical disciplining or excessive verbal correction of a dog is not permitted. Never show displeasure toward your dog.

- 1.4.6 Competitors must not use social media to express their displeasure of incidents at a show. Any person caught doing this may be asked not to enter future shows. Competitors should be respectful of other competitors, show organisers, judges and volunteers. JJ will not tolerate people being unsporting or unkind to anyone. All incidents or complaints are to be made before the show ends or can be made via an email to [kate.jumpingjacksagility@outlook.com](mailto:kate.jumpingjacksagility@outlook.com)

## **1.5 Disciplinary Procedures**

- 1.5.1 Any breaches of these rules and regulations should be reported to the show organiser immediately. The show organiser must discuss the incident with all involved parties and the nominated show disciplinary committee and a verbal warning may then be given to the offender. It is unlikely a competitor will receive an instant ban but if a resolution cannot be reached and the offence is detrimental to the sport of agility and the integrity of Jumping Jacks then the principle of JJs (Kate Theobald) reserves the right to impose a ban from any future shows.

## **2 Specific Regulations For agility competitions**

### **2.1 Ring Size**

- 2.1.1 All competition rings must have a suitable surface, be as flat as possible and measure a minimum of 98ft x 98ft (30m x 30m)
- 2.1.2 Indoor competitions should try to adhere to the same ring size

- 2.1.3 All rings must be fully netted with a minimum height of 1m, with appropriate L shaped entrance and exits. Gates are optional
- 2.1.4 Shows held on farmland must not have had grazing animals on the land for 30 days prior to the show

## 2.2 Course design.

- 2.2.1 Judges will design and set the courses suitable for the grade of each class. The course must have the safe minimum distance of 5 meters and a maximum of 10 meters between each obstacle and attention must be paid to the angle of entry onto the contact equipment by the dog, a straight approach is always the safest option.
- 2.2.2 A course should always enable the handler to have a clear path around the course and never have any obstacle blocking the path where a handler may need to climb or jump over.
- 2.2.3 A course should contain between 15 and 20 obstacles. The obstacles must be numbered sequentially in the order they should be taken.
- 2.2.4 Only approved obstacles as specified in part 2.3 may be used in a course.

## 2.3 Approved obstacles.

### 2.3.1 Hurdle

Height: As per table A  
Width: 4ft or 5ft poles  
Poles must be easily displaced by the dog.

### Rising Spread Jump

Height and maximum spread: As Table A

This is formed by placing two hurdles close together to create a single obstacle. The height of the back pole must not exceed the height of the class and the front pole must be at least 4 ins (10cm) lower than the back pole.

### 2.3.2 Long Jump

Refer Also to table A

To comprise of between 1 to 4 elements. Each element to be a maximum length of 4ft (1.2m). See table A for heights . A marker pole should be placed in each corner and should be a minimum height of 4ft.

### 2.3.3 Pipe Tunnel.

Diameter 60cm  
Length: 3m, 4m, or 5m

Must be securely fixed to the ground and only set in a straight line or gentle curve no sharp angles straight tunnels must have at least 3 wraps curved tunnels should have 4 to wraps depending on length of tunnel. Tunnels placed under a frames or dog walks must not be resting on or near any structures of the obstacle, should be securely pegged and not creating a trap where a handler would need to jump over it to get to another obstacle

### 2.3.4 Weaving Poles

The minimum number of poles should be 6 and the maximum number 12. The poles must be of a rigid construction and with a min height of 2ft 6ins (76cm). The frame must be securely fixed into the ground,

#### 2.3.5 **A Frame**

Two ramps 9ft (2.70m) long and a min of 3ft (91cm) wide, hinged at the apex. The ramps must be covered with an approved non slip surface and the bottom 3ft 6ins (1.06m) should be a different colour to indicate the area to which the dog should make contact. **Max height for apex in normal classes is 1.7m ( the same as KC)** and 3ft3 (1m) for veterans and pre Intro classes. In poor weather conditions judges may use the veteran height for normal classes for safety purposes.

#### 2.3.6 **See-Saw**

This obstacle will consist of a plank fixed to a pivot point. The plank should be a min of 12ft (3.65m) and a max of 14ft (4.26m). The width should be 12 ins (30cm). The plank should be covered with an approved non slip surface and the last 3ft (91cm) of each end should be a different colour to indicate the area to which the dog should make contact. The base should always be secured to the ground. The see-saw should not be used in veteran classes.

#### 2.3.7 **Dog Walk**

The planks should be a min of 12ft (3.65m) and a max of 14ft (4.26m) long, covered in approved non slip surface and a different colour at each end of the up/down ramps to indicate where the dog should touch. The height of the trestles supporting the dog walk should be a max of 4ft 6in (1.38m) for normal classes and 3ft 3in (1m) high for veterans and pre Intro. Judges may use veteran height or normal classes if weather is bad.

#### 2.3.8 **Walls and Water Jumps**

walls and water jumps may be used if available. Walls must have soft removable top blocks and water jumps the water tray maximum with not to exceed 3ft.

#### 2.3.9 **Dummy obstacles**

Dummy obstacle are un numbered obstacles that are not part of the course. These may be used at the judges discretion but only for the benefit of a smooth and fast course change they should not be used as an obvious trap. A dog taking these obstacles will be counted as elimination.

### 2.4 **Marking, scoring and Timing.**

#### 2.4.1 **General marking for regular classes**

2.4.1.1 Course faults are incurred for failure to negotiate obstacles. Faults are accumulated in units of five.

2.4.1.2 The standard course time is 60 seconds, If the course time is exceeded faults are incurred at the rate of 1 point per second.

2.4.1.3 The maximum course time is 2 mins for any dog not already eliminated. So time faults are incurred up to then the timer shall then blow a whistle or call out to alert the judge that the time is up and elimination should be marked. Handlers training in the ring may only use the 60 second course time.

2.4.1.4 Time faults and course faults are added together.

2.4.1.5 Electric timing is the preferred method but arrangements for manual time keeping should be made in case of failure of the timing equipment.

2.4.1.6 For regular classes there must be no variation of marking as described in these rules. Variations for fun classes may be used but competitors must be made aware by the public address system at a briefing prior to the class starting.

## **2.4.2 Obstacle and Course Marking.**

2.4.2.1 **Hurdle**- Rising spread or wall- Faulted if any part of the obstacle falls.

2.4.2.2 **Long Jump**-faulted if any part falls. Casual contact by the dog not resulting in any part of the obstacle falling does not incur a fault. Stepping between the elements or jumping out the side of the marker poles does.

2.4.2.3 **Weaving poles**-The dog is to enter the first and second pole with the first pole on the dogs left side. The dog must negotiate the weaves in succession. Each incorrect entry incurs a refusal. Each incorrect negotiation the handler can either start from the beginning or put the dog back in where they came out. each incorrect negotiation incurs a refusal. 3 refusals in the weaves result in elimination. Failure to complete before moving to the next obstacle is marked elimination.

2.4.2.4 **A Frame**- A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it leaves before the down ramp. The dog must make contact with at least 1 paw in the contact area on the down ramp. Each failure to perform will be faulted. If a dog leaves before the down ramp and moves on to the next obstacle elimination will occur.

2.4.2.5 **See-Saw**- The dog is considered to have refused if it leaves the plank before the pivot point. The end of the plank must be touching the ground and at least 1 paw must be on the contact area for the dog to be clear.

2.4.2.6 **Dog walk**- A dog is considered to have refused if it leaves the obstacle before the down ramp. The dog must make contact with at least one paw in the contact area on the down ramp to be clear.

2.4.2.7 **Refusals**- Each instance of a dog putting any part of his body past the line of the obstacle must be faulted as a refusal. Refusals are not marked in Introductory class except in the weaves where regular marking applies.

2.4.2.8 **Handler Faults**- Each instance of the handler deliberately touching the dog or the obstacles must be faulted 5 faults. Accidental contact by the handler must not be faulted. Assisting a dog to complete an obstacle is elimination

2.4.2.9 **Elimination** - The following occurrences must be marked as elimination.

- A. Exceeding the max course time of 2mins
- B. Three refusals
- C. Leaving the ring- which is the straight line of the fence line so exiting into the L shape gateway, or behind the scribe tent is an E
- D. Taking the wrong course
- E. Dog fouling in the ring, competitors must clear up and leave the ring
- F. Harsh handling verbally or physically
- G. Dogs wearing non regulation collars and tags whilst competing.
- H. Food being taken into the ring
- I. Toys taken into the ring ( except in Pre intro classes)
- J. Incorrect use of toys in pre intro classes.
- K. Handler interference of timing equipment or obstacles
- L. Restarting the course after dog has triggered timer.
- M. Training during a test.

### 3 Class Definitions.

#### 3.1 Size Classification.

3.1.1 **Micro** - Dogs 300mm and under

3.1.3 **Mini** - (KC Small) For dogs measuring 350mm and under

3.1.4 **Medium** - (KC Medium) Dogs Measuring over 350mm and under 430mm

3.1.5 **Maxi** - (KC Intermediate) Dogs measuring over 430mm at withers

These heights are for Jumping Jacks shows as we believe lower for longer however you may jump your kc official height if you wish except for KC maxi dogs as there will be no 600mm jump height at these shows.

Pre Intro dogs may jump the height they train at. Dogs over 25kg may wish to compete 1 height lower than measured if you wish

3.1.6 All dogs are required to be measured either a kc official measure or a JJ informal measure before competing for the first time. Once measured heights are recorded on the dogs records on the database and a dog may not change height unless special permission is granted for medical reasons or a dog moves to veteran classes.

3.1.7 **Weight to height** - Maxi dogs weighing over 25kg are permitted to jump medium height to reduce stress on joints.

#### 3.2 Class Types

The terms regular and non regular refer to the marking scheme applicable to the class.

3.2.1 **Regular Agility classes** - include contact obstacles. Regular marking applies. Examples are Introductory Agility or masters power and speed.

3.2.2 **Regular Jumping Classes** - Do not include any contact equipment. Regular marking applies. Examples are Primary Jumping or Novice Helter skelter.

3.2.3 **Non Regular classes**- Can be jumping or agility classes. Normal marking need not apply and will be explained within the schedule and prior to class starting. Examples are open Gamblers or Introductory time fault and out.

#### 3.3 Level Classification

3.3.1 Dogs are eligible to enter shows at one level classification only. Though dogs may be in a different level for agility or jumping classes.

3.3.2 The levels are classified as follows in order of progression.

**Pre Intro** Nursery class, this class is for first time competing dogs, contact equipment is set at veteran heights, no weaves or seesaw are included in classes, refusals are not marked, a silent toy may be carried around the course. Dogs may jump lower and can compete from 15months of age. This is a non league class so points only count towards promotion. 3 wins in agility and 6 wins in jumping will be automatic promotion to Introductory. 100 points at end of the season must go up for the following season to Introductory

**Introductory**- All new dogs to agility are entitled to start in this category. It is equivalent to KC grade 1. If your dog is new to agility but due to handler having previous dogs has had to start at grade 2 or 3 KC then the new dog is still permitted to start in this grade at JJs

**Primary** For dogs Grade 2 or 3 KC

**Novice** For dogs Grade 3 or 4 KC

**Graduate** For dogs Grade 4 or 5 KC

**Masters** for dogs Grade 6 or 7 KC

Levels at some shows may be combined for example Novice Plus is Novice Graduate and Masters combined.

- 3.3.4 **Open Classes** - Are classes that are open to dogs of all levels.
- 3.3.5 **Veterans** - For dogs 7 years or over. Once a dog has been moved into veterans they are no longer eligible to run in other level classes.  
Highest permitted jump height in veterans is medium.  
Dog must jump at least 1 height below their measured height. But may jump lower than this depending on ability. Once dog has been entered in a lower height they cannot ever choose to jump higher. Under special circumstances a show organiser may permit a veteran dog to run with the poles on the ground.
- 3.3.6 **NFC runs** - (not for competition) You may choose to run NFC at any point but must alert the judges and ring party to this prior to your run.
- 3.3.7 **Pawsability** - For dogs over 18 months that for whatever reason are not able to compete at their designated jump height and or

level and not yet eligible for veterans. I.e a dog recovering from injury, or a dog that has had a period of more than 1 years break but is not obliged to include it in their schedule. When this class is not offered any dog that is normally eligible for this class can enter veteran classes but only run for a clear round rosette or in the case of a long term disability apply in writing with veterinary consent that it is safe for the dog to be competing and a permanent place may be offered in veterans.

### 3.4 Level Progression

- 3.4.1 Progression through the levels is by a number of wins in each agility and jumping or by consistency of performance. 4 wins in agility and 6 in jumping within a season will be automatic promotion at the following show. Jumping and agility will no longer have separate promotions
- 3.4.2 Jumping Jacks will keep a record of all individual dogs results during the year and award points for performance, JJ reserve the scheme.
- 3.4.3 Dogs will no longer be permitted to compete at 2 separate levels for jumping and agility so from the end of 2025 season, dogs will need 4 agility wins and 6 jumping wins combined to go up a level during a season and end of season promotions will be based on dogs gaining points in both agility and jumping combined to move up. Details of league points and promotions can be found on the website.
- 3.4.4 Dogs retain their status from the 1st of October each year up to 30th of September the following year. This is a full Jumping Jacks season.



