

Agility O Competition Guidelines

Agility O has been developed by Jane Williams at Dog Star Training to combine aspects of Rally and Agility into a fun dog sport for pet dogs and their owners. It aims to develop and promote a positive relationship between the dog and owner based on effective communication and positive reinforcement of wanted behaviours through reward based training. Rewards can include praise, food, toys and interactions with owners. The use of punishments or harsh corrections is prohibited and points will be lost for inappropriate handling.

Agility O provides a framework of rules, scoring and judging guidelines to be used to teach the sport in classes and as a basis for the organisation of competition trials.

Agility O aims to provide positive feedback to owners by providing information on their performance in any competition trial. Scoring is designed to reward performance by the team (handler and dog) through the allocation of points by a judge.

Eligibility

All breeds of dog and mixed breeds are eligible to compete in Agility O. Dogs must be at least 6 months old to compete at Yellow and Bronze levels. Dogs must be at least 12 months old to compete at Silver or Gold levels.

Dogs must be healthy, free from pain or injury without bandages, stitches or tape for support. Dogs which become ill or lame in the ring will be excused.

Female dogs in season may not compete.

Disabled dogs and handlers should notify the competition organiser of any specific requirements before the event. Where necessary, the course can be modified to allow access

Dog Wear

Collars, head collars and harnesses are permitted but should be well fitted to avoid any problems with equipment being used as obstacles.

Correction collars such as choke chains, semi-chokes, slip leads, prong collars are not permitted; neither are no-pull correction harnesses.

Identification should be worn by the dog as is legally required, in a way that does not cause any safety problems e.g. catching on obstacles.

Costumes and coats are not advisable to avoid any problems of catching on obstacles. Bandanas, close fitting coats e.g. cool coats, Thundershirts are permitted.

If your dog requires personal space away from other competing dogs, a green bandana or lead should be worn as an indicator to other dog owners to give the dog more space. Aggressive behaviour towards other dogs or handlers is not permitted which will result in removal from the ring and competition area.

Behaviour

Threatening or aggressive behaviour by dog or handler will result in removal from the competition area, as decided by the judge or competition officials.

Handlers seen to give harsh physical or verbal corrections or punishments to their dog(s) will be excused from the competition.

Facilities

The ring size should be ideally 20 metres x 20 metres. The ring construction should take into account safety of those competing and observing and should provide the minimum distraction from outside.

Smaller rings can be used by organisers if agreed in advance and competitors notified in schedules.

There will be a ten minute walkthrough for handlers, without dogs, before the start of the class. Judges will be available to answer any questions. Once the class has started, walkthroughs will not be allowed.

Equipment

Useful sources of equipment, such as hoops, short tunnels and cones include supermarkets and toy shops. Mats can be sourced from flooring shops as samples or cut from lengths of carpet.

Web sites such as www.agilitybits.co.uk have good ideas for making your own equipment and there are other sources of low cost equipment. Sources of full size agility equipment include 'Agility Warehouse' and 'Premier Agility.' Low cost equipments can be found at 'Zooplus' and other web sites.

Hoop sizes – approximately 1 metre across – the dog may not fit entirely inside but the main part of the body should fit.

Mat sizes – approximately 1 metre x 1 metre

Tunnel sizes – approximately 0.6 metres diameter, length as specified for levels.

Jump sizes – based size of dog:

- **Shoulder height under 12 inches (30cm) – jump height 4 inches (10cm)**
- **Shoulder height 12 – 16 inches (30 - 40cm) – jump height 8 inches (20cm)**
- **Shoulder height under 16 - 20 inches (40 – 50 cm) – jump height 12 inches (30cm)**
- **Shoulder height over 20 inches (50cm) – jump height 16 inches (40cm)**

Jumps do not need wings but these are acceptable at all levels, except Yellow being done on the lead, where wings are not permitted.

Weave poles – can be sourced from agility companies and can be free standing or put into the ground. Spacing should be approximately 20 inches (50cm).

Walks and ramps - can be made from scaffold boards or similar which are approximately 30cm wide and can be cut to length. Create the ramp by putting a triangular block of the required height under the two planks where they meet in the middle. The blocks can be made to different heights and the two planks hinged together at the top.

Judging

Judges should be fully aware of the requirements, scoring arrangements and rules of Agility O. They should be very familiar with the courses in use. Judges must be impartial, fair and accurate in their decisions and encouraging and polite to handlers. Judges may not judge a level or course, if they have a close relative, partner or very close associate taking part. Judges must be seen to be impartial regardless of their own views and to inform the organiser of any potential conflict of interest.

Judges are responsible for producing an appropriate course at the level being judged, or using an appropriate published course.

Judges are responsible for completing score sheets accurately, but may be assisted by a steward. These score sheets will be given to competitors at the end of the class,

or at a suitable time in the schedule. Judging decisions should therefore be clearly recorded on the sheet. Judges decisions are final.

Levels and Awards

There are four levels of Agility O:

- **Yellow (One stream for dogs aged 6 – 12 months, or for dogs who have entered ten or less classes in previous competition events)**
- **Bronze (Stream 1 = Pet dog owners and handlers who are not professional trainers; Stream 2 = Professional dog trainers and handlers)**
- **Silver (Stream 1 = Pet dog owners and handlers who are not professional trainers; Stream 2 = Professional dog trainers and handlers)**
- **Gold (Stream 1 = Pet dog owners and handlers who are not professional trainers; Stream 2 = Professional dog trainers and handlers)**

At each level, there is a qualifying score. Issuing of rosettes, prizes or certificates to competitors is at the organiser's discretion. It is recommended that each qualifying competitor receives an award as a record of their achievement. Organisers will keep a record of scores achieved for use at future events.

The handler may request that the round be completed as a training round (qualification is then not possible) by agreement with the judge, at any time during the course.

Courses and levels

The number of stations at each level is set at follows:

Yellow = 12

Bronze = 14

Silver = 16

Gold = 18

Scoring

There is no time restriction on the completion of an Agility O course.

Each station will form part of a course. The number of stations at each level is set as:

Yellow = 12 (maximum points = $120 + 20 = 140$)

Bronze = 14 (maximum points = $140 + 20 = 160$)

Silver = 16 (maximum points = $160 + 20 = 180$)

Gold = 18 (maximum points = $180 + 20 = 200$)

There is a qualifying score at each level as follows:

Yellow = 110

Bronze = 130

Sliver = 150

Gold = 170

Plus an optional bonus at each level – the maximum score for which is 20 points.

The maximum score at each station, at all levels, is 10 points.