

British Agility Association
Rules For Agility Competitions
These rules are effective from 1st October 2011
And supersede all earlier versions

Introduction to these Rules

1 General Regulations for Agility Competitions

1.1 Show Organisation

- 1.1.1 These rules are copyright of the British Agility Association (BAA) and East Midlands Dog Agility Club (EMDAC). Show organisers must obtain written authority from the BAA for their use. A copy of these Rules must be available and adhered to at all BAA approved shows.
- 1.1.2 Show organisers must obtain Public Liability Insurance for duration of show.
- 1.1.3 Show organisers must arrange appropriate veterinary support. The name, address and telephone number of the Veterinary Practitioner providing support must be available.
- 1.1.4 Show organisers must endeavour to comply with all health and safety regulations and comply with all necessary legal obligations.
 - 1.1.4.1 The show organiser must maintain an Incident Book in which unusual incidents are recorded. All accidents and any matter relating to disciplinary procedures taken under section 1.5 must be recorded in the book. The Incident Book must be available for inspection by a BAA Official at a show and at any other reasonable time as requested by BAA Administrators. The person making an entry in the book must record any action taken as a result of an incident. If further action is required the name of the person to whom it has been referred must be included. Each entry must be signed and dated by the person logging the entry, with their name clearly printed.
- 1.1.5 Show organisers may reserve the right to refuse any 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 event of cancellation of a show the organisers may reserve the right to deduct unrecoverable expenses before returning entry fees.
- 1.1.8 The Show organiser's will appoint a referee(s) who will be sole arbiter(s) in the event of any disputes or in any matter not specifically covered by these rules.
- 1.1.9 In the event of any contradiction of these Rules, this document takes precedence over any show schedule or other published documents, excepting for any BAA Rule Amendments, which may be appended to this document.

1.2 General Rules for Competitors

- 1.2.1 Show Entry forms must be completed for each dog and handler combination and the declaration thereon be signed by each Competitor. The appropriate fees must accompany entries.
- 1.2.2 Competitors are responsible for ensuring that competing dogs are adequately trained for the nature of competition entered.
- 1.2.3 Only dogs of 18 calendar months of age and over on the day of competition are eligible for competition.
- 1.2.4 Bitches in season and pregnant bitches may not compete and are not permitted within the vicinity of competition rings.
- 1.2.5 Dogs that are suffering from a contagious or infectious disease or have been in contact with any dog suffering from a contagious or infectious disease within 21 days prior to a show must not be brought to the show venue.
- 1.2.6 It is the competitors' responsibility to be available for their class and available in running order where required by the show organizer.
- 1.2.7 Any physical disciplining or excessive verbal correction of a dog by a handler anywhere within the precincts of the show will result in exclusion from the show, subject to the disciplinary procedures to be followed in Section 1.5.

- 3.4.10 Paragraph deleted.
- 3.4.11 For dogs new to BAA competitions that have competed under other organisation rules. The initial entry qualifications are as detailed in Table B
- 3.4.12 For dogs and handlers that have never competed at any Agility show, initial entry to BAA shows is at Introductory level.
- 3.4.13 For handlers that have previously competed at BAA shows and have not competed at Novice, Graduate or Masters level, initial entry for new dogs is at Introductory level.
- 3.4.14 For handlers that have previously competed at BAA shows at Novice, Graduate or Masters level, initial entry for new dogs is at Primary level.
- 3.4.15 Progression within BAA is solely on performance at BAA shows. A dog's progression within BAA is solely on its own performance. Awards gained under other organisations are only taken under consideration at initial entry to BAA. Any subsequent awards gained under any other organisation have no effect on a dog's status under BAA rules.

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- 1.2.8 Handlers may not hold dogs by the scruff whilst waiting at the start line.
- 1.2.9 Competitors are not permitted to challenge the Judge's marking.
- 1.2.10 Dogs, whilst competing, can either have their collar removed or are permitted to wear a flat close fitting neck collar with nametags that are flush fitting. No discs or similar may be attached to the collar. No check, half check collars, harnesses or head collars are permitted.
- 1.2.11 Food shall not be taken into or given to the dog in the ring.
- 1.2.12 Silent toys are permitted to be carried by the handler in the ring in Introductory and Pawsability classes only. The dog is not permitted to touch or carry the toy whilst under test. The toy may be given to the dog as a reward on the completion of the course before leaving the ring. The handler is not permitted to throw the toy at any time whilst in the competition ring. Training aids e.g. Clickers, Remote collars, Training discs etc. are not permitted in or around the rings.
- 1.2.13 No training is allowed on the course, either before or whilst under test. Competitors will be allowed to walk the course without their dogs before each class begins.
- 1.2.14 All awards must be collected on the day of the show.

1.3 Responsibilities of Judges

- 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 give total consideration to the safety of the dog and handler.
- 1.3.3 Judges must submit course plans as and when requested by the show organisers.
- 1.3.4 Judges must observe the dog and handler at all times whilst they are in the ring.
- 1.3.5 Judges may not enter or handle a dog for competition in classes that they are judging.

1.4 General Conduct

- 1.4.1 All persons present must behave in a manner, which is not prejudicial to the sport of Agility.
- 1.4.2 All dogs must at all times be kept under proper control whilst at the show venue including exercise areas, car parking and camping areas.
- 1.4.3 Any person in charge of a dog is required to remove, as soon as possible any fouling caused by their dogs within the show venue including car parks and camping areas. This includes any adjacent dog exercising areas.
- 1.4.4 No person shall carry out any physical disciplining or excessive verbal correction of a dog at any time within the precincts of the show.
- 1.4.5 The mating of bitches within the precincts of the show is forbidden.

1.5 Disciplinary Procedures for Breaches of these rules

- 1.5.1 The Show organiser is responsible for appointing a person or persons to investigate and adjudicate any alleged breaches of these rules.
- 1.5.2 Complaints should be reported to the Show secretary.
- 1.5.3 Disciplinary matters reported for investigation can only be made by the following:
 - 1.5.3.1 BAA Officials
 - 1.5.3.2 Members of the show organisation committee.
 - 1.5.3.3 Judges and Ring Managers where it involves an incident relating to the competition ring at which they are officiating.
 - 1.5.3.4 Any other person, who has entered a dog at the show, provided such a report is submitted in writing and is accompanied by £20 deposit. The deposit will be refunded if the allegation is upheld by the person(s) appointed to adjudicate.

- 3.4.2 BAA will keep a record of individual dogs results during the year, awarding points for performance. BAA reserve the right to modify points allocation as is deemed necessary to administer the scheme.
- 3.4.3 Dogs will have a separate status level applicable to agility classes and jumping classes. Agility classes count towards a dog's progression through Agility levels. Jumping classes count towards a dog's progression through Jumping levels. If Handlers do not wish to have a dog in different Levels for each they must enter the higher Level for both, but having done so will not be permitted to move back.
- 3.4.4 Dogs retain their status applicable on 1st October of each year for the remainder of that year up to 30th September of the following year. The BAA season runs from 1st October to 30th September.
- 3.4.5 Two or more class wins during a BAA show season automatically promotes the dog to the next level on 1st October of the following BAA show season. A dog may be voluntarily moved up to the next level earlier **once sufficient class wins** have been achieved. Having done so it may not move back to its original level.
- 3.4.5.1 Dogs achieving (6) six wins in either Agility or Jumping will automatically be promoted (at the next show entered) to the next level in the appropriate discipline Agility or Jumping.
- 3.4.6 The highest points scoring dog during the show season at each level (Introductory, Primary, Novice and Graduate), in each discipline of Jumping and Agility will also be promoted to the next level on 1st October following.
- 3.4.7 Approximately 20% of each level may be promoted to the next level each year.
- 3.4.8 **Voluntary Relegation** Dogs may be voluntary demoted one level on 1st October for the following show season. Applications should be made in writing by the preceding 1st September on forms available at shows and the BAA Website. Each application will be assessed by a panel appointed by the BAA who will notify applicants of approval or rejection.
- 3.4.9 Paragraph deleted

- 3.3.2.1 **Introductory.** The starting level for dogs and handlers new to agility.
- 3.3.2.2 **Primary.** The starting level for dogs with handlers having previously competed at Novice or above.
- 3.3.2.3 **Novice**
- 3.3.2.4 **Graduate**
- 3.3.2.5 **Masters** – the level for those with most experience and expertise.

3.3.3 Levels can also be defined with + (Plus) affix.

Examples: Novice + (Plus) is for all dogs eligible for Novice and above.

3.3.4 **Open Classes** – Are classes that are defined as being Open to all levels.

3.3.5 **Veterans** – For Dogs aged 7 years and over Maximum permitted jump height is 1ft 5.75 ins (45 cm).

3.3.5.1 After initial entry into BAA Veteran classes, dogs are not permitted to enter progression level classes as defined in paragraph 3.3.2.

3.3.5.2 All Veteran dogs must compete at least one jump height below their designated jump height for their size classification as defined in paragraph 3.1, Micro dogs excepted.

3.3.6 **Pawsability** – For dogs of any age that are unable to compete at their designated jump height. Maximum permitted jump height is 1ft 5.75 ins (45 cm).

3.4 Level Progression

3.4.1 Progression through classes is by outright wins or by consistency of performance.

1.5.4 All complaints made under section 1.5.3 must be recorded in the Incident Book and the subject informed that an allegation is being investigated.

1.5.5 All investigations should be conducted in a manner that is impartial and gives equal consideration to all parties concerned.

1.5.6 **The only permissible sanctions that can be imposed by these rules are:**

1.5.6.1 Disqualification of dog and/or person and the forfeit of awards from a class(es).

1.5.6.2 Disqualification from further participation by a dog and/or person at a show including, if deemed necessary, their removal from the show ground, car park and camp sites.

1.5.6.3 Disqualification of dog and/or person from entering future shows by the same show organiser. This may be permanent or for a specified fixed time.

1.5.6.4 Referral to BAA for adjudication if sanctions in Rules 1.5.6.1, 1.5.6.2 and 1.5.6.3 are not used.

1.5.6.5 The result of the investigation must be communicated to the subject as soon as practicable and if any sanctions in Rules 1.5.6.1, 1.5.6.2 or 1.5.6.3 are imposed, the subject must be notified of appeals procedure.

1.5.6.6 Where allegations are found to be unsubstantiated the deposit forfeited.

1.5.6.7 No other form of monetary penalty may be imposed.

1.5.7 **Procedures if sanctions imposed under section 1.5.6**

1.5.7.1 All actions taken under section 1.5.6 must be recorded in the show Incident Book and a separate report made in writing and posted to the BAA within 7 days of the incident.

1.5.7.2 Competitors sanctioned under rules 1.5.6.1, 1.5.6.2 and 1.5.6.3 have right of appeal. All appeals must be made in writing within 7 days of the date of the sanction being

imposed and sent to the BAA with payment of £20 deposit, to be returned if the appeal is successful.

1.5.8 Procedures for Referrals for BAA Adjudication

- 1.5.8.1 A person or persons will be appointed by the BAA to investigate and adjudicate on disciplinary matters that have been referred by either a BAA Official, or by referral under Rule 1.5.6.4, or by an appeal against sanctions imposed.
- 1.5.8.2 The Chairman or person appointed must ensure that the subject is aware that an investigation is in progress.
- 1.5.8.3 The result of all BAA disciplinary referrals should be made as soon as practicable, but no later than 30 days after referral.
- 1.5.8.4 With the exception of dogs or persons appealing under 1.5.6.1, 1.5.6.2 and 1.5.6.3 competitors have the right of appeal to all judgements of BAA disciplinary adjudicators. All appeals must be made in writing within 7 days of the date of the sanction being imposed and sent to the BAA with payment of £20 deposit, to be returned if the appeal is successful.
- 1.5.8.5 The subject must be informed as soon as practicable of the result and any sanctions imposed together with any applicable appeal procedure.
- 1.5.8.6 Decisions of appeals against sanctions are deemed to be final and may not be re-appealed.

1.5.9 Permissible sanctions by the BAA:

- 1.5.9.1 Confirmation or modification of sanctions imposed by a Show Organiser under Rules 1.5.6.1, 1.5.6.2 and 1.5.6.3.
- 1.5.9.2 Disqualification of dog and/or person and the forfeit of awards from a class(es).
- 1.5.9.3 Loss or deduction of points from League Tables in proportion to gravity of offence.

- 3.1.3 **Medium** – Dogs measuring over 14ins (35.56cm) and 20ins (50.8cm) or under at the withers. Maximum permitted jump height is 1ft 5.75ins (45cm).
- 3.1.4 **Maxi** – Dogs measuring over 17ins (43.18cm) at the withers. Maximum permitted jump height is 2ft (61cm).
- 3.1.5 Paragraph deleted
- 3.1.6 **Veterans** – paragraph deleted. Refer to paragraph 3.3.5
- 3.1.7 **Pawsability** – paragraph deleted. Refer to paragraph 3.3.6
- 3.1.8 Dogs at a show may only compete at one size classification for the whole duration of that show.
- 3.1.9 All dogs may be required to be measured at the discretion of the show organisers.

3.2 Class Types

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

- 3.2.1 **Regular Agility classes** – include contact obstacles. Regular marking applies. Examples are: Introductory Agility and Graduate Take Your Own Line Agility
- 3.2.2 **Regular Jumping classes** – do not include contact obstacles. Regular marking applies. Examples are: Primary Helter Skelter Jumping and Novice Jumping
- 3.2.3 **Non-regular classes** – can be either agility or jumping classes. Normal marking need not apply. Examples are: Open Gamblers and Masters 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 have different level classification for Agility and Jumping classes.
- 3.3.2 The levels are classified as follows in order of progression.

2.5.3.12 **Elimination** – The following occurrences must be marked as elimination. It is at the Judges' discretion whether a competitor may be allowed to complete the course:

- (a) **Exceeding the maximum course time**
- (b) **Three Refusals/Runby's (Introductory and Pawsability classes excepted** *Except at the weaves where regular marking applies)*
- (c) **Out of Control.**
- (d) **Leaving the ring.**
- (e) **Taking the wrong course.**
- (f) **Dog fouling the ring.**
- (g) **Harsh handling.**
- (h) **Dogs wearing Non Regulation collars whilst competing.**
- (i) **Food being taken into the ring.**
- (j) **Toys being taken into the ring (Except silent toys which are permitted in Introductory and Pawsability classes)**
- (k) **Contravention of Rule 1.2.12 (Use of toys in Introductory or Pawsability classes**
- (l) **Handler interference to timing equipment**
- (m) **Training on the course before or whilst under test**

3 Class Definitions

3.1 Size Classification

- 3.1.1 **Micro** – For dogs measuring 14ins (35.56cm) or under at the withers. Maximum permitted jump height is 9ins (23cm).
- 3.1.2 **Mini** – For dogs measuring 16ins (40.64cm) or under at the withers. Maximum permitted jump height is 1ft 1.75ins (35cm).

- 1.5.9.4 Disqualification of dog and/or person from entering future BAA shows. This may be permanent or for a specified fixed time.
- 1.5.9.5 No monetary penalty other than loss of deposit may be imposed.

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 35yds x 35 yds (32m x 32m).
- 2.1.2 Competition rings at indoor venues are permitted to be smaller, with a minimum area of 500 square yards (425 sq. metres). Shortest side of ring to be a minimum of 20 yards (18.5m).
- 2.1.3 All rings must be surrounded on all sides with fencing or netting, of minimum height 1m, with appropriate L shape gaps to allow competitors to safely enter and leave the ring.

2.2 Course Design

- 2.2.1 The Show Organizer is ultimately responsible for ensuring that the Judges' course design follows BAA rules, is safe for the standard of dogs / handlers competing and that all agility equipment is set up safely.
- 2.2.2 The Judge is responsible for the design of the course and must at all times give total consideration to the safety of the dog and handler. In particular attention must be paid to the positioning of the See-Saw in relation to the path handlers will take. Care should also be taken in positioning of contact obstacles with consideration that the angle of approach is appropriate for the experience of dogs and handlers running the course.
- 2.2.3 For individual competitions the course should require a dog to traverse at least fifteen (15) obstacles but not more than twenty (20). The number of obstacles for pairs and teams competitions shall be at the Judges discretion. The obstacles must be numbered sequentially in the order that they should be attempted.

- 2.2.4 All jump obstacles should be the same height in any test up to the permitted maximum as specified in Table A.
- 2.2.5 All obstacles should have a minimum of 5yds (4.57m) between centres.
- 2.2.6 No other obstacles are permitted other than those specified in paragraph 2.3.

2.3 Obstacle Specifications

- 2.3.1 All obstacles and equipment in the test area must not include unnecessary protrusions and where wings or side supports are part of an obstacle they must be appreciably higher than the part to be cleared by the dog.

2.4 The following are the only approved obstacles permitted to be used.

2.4.1 Hurdle

Height: As Table A.

Width: 4ft (1.22m) minimum.

The top bar or plank must be easily displaced by the dog. A wall should have displaceable units on the top. Bottom may be in filled with brush or similar but the displaceable top bar must clear infill to allow top bar to be displaced.

2.4.2 Rising Spread Jump

Height and Maximum spread: As Table A.

This obstacle is formed by placing two hurdles close together to create a single obstacle. The top pole on the front hurdle must be at least 4ins (10cms) lower than the pole on the back hurdle. There must be only one pole on the back hurdle. The feet of the jump wings should be touching but not connected.

2.4.3 Table

Height: As Table A.

adjacent to its left side. The dog must negotiate the obstacle with each successive pole being of the opposite side of the dog to the previous pole. Each incorrect entry to be classed as a refusal. Failure to perform correctly to be faulted. Any subsequent errors are not marked. Failure to complete correctly before proceeding to the next obstacle must be marked by elimination.

2.5.3.6 **'A' Ramp** - A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the down ramp. The dog must make contact with any part of at least one paw in the contact area on the descent. Each failure to perform to be faulted.

2.5.3.7 **See-Saw** – The descent end of plank must be touching the ground before the dog alights from the obstacle. A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the pivot point. The dog must make contact with any part of at least one paw in the marked contact area on the descent. Each failure to perform to be faulted.

2.5.3.8 **Dog Walk** - A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the down plank. The dog must make contact with any part of at least one paw in the marked contact area on the descent. Each failure to perform to be faulted.

2.5.3.9 **All other obstacles** - Fault for failure to negotiate correctly.

2.5.3.10 **Handler faults** – Each instance of the handler deliberately touching the dog or the obstacles must be faulted. Accidental contact by handler to an obstacle even if it causes part of obstacle to dislodge should not be faulted. Accidental contact by handler to dog should not be faulted.

2.5.3.11 **Refusal and Runby's** – Each instance of the dog refusing an obstacle or running past an obstacle must be faulted. Refusals or runby's are not to be marked in Introductory and Pawsability Classes (*Except at the weaves where regular marking applies*), but each obstacle must be completed in the correct order.

- 2.5.1.3 There is maximum course time (MCT), which is twice the SCT. If the MCT is exceeded, the judge may at their discretion excuse the competitor from the ring.
- 2.5.1.4 Time Faults must be added to course faults.
- 2.5.1.5 For placement of awards the time taken is only taken into consideration when total faults are equal.
- 2.5.1.6 Electronic timing is the preferred method of timekeeping. Arrangements for manual timekeeping should be made in case of failure or unavailability of electronic timing equipment.
- 2.5.1.7 For regular classes there must be no variation to marking specified in paragraph 2.5.1 and its' sub paragraphs.

2.5.2 Marking for Non-Regular Classes

- 2.5.2.1 Any variation to normal marking must be communicated to competitors prior to competition. It is the competitor's responsibility to read any special instructions at the ringside prior to the class starting /listen to any announcements regarding the class on the Public Address system (where available)

2.5.3 Obstacle and Course Marking

- 2.5.3.1 **Hurdle, Rising Spread and Wall Jump** – Faulted if any part of obstacle falls.
- 2.5.3.2 **Table** – Dog to adopt position on the table as specified by the judge. When table is used the judge must clearly state how this obstacle will be judged and marked.
- 2.5.3.3 **Long Jump** - Faulted if any part of the obstacle falls. Casual contact by the dog that does not cause an element to fall should not be faulted. However, stepping through the elements, or jumping out between either pair of side marker poles should be faulted as a refusal.
- 2.5.3.4 Paragraph Deleted
- 2.5.3.5 **Weaving Poles** - The dog to enter the weaving poles between the first and second pole with the first pole

The table can only be placed as the first or last obstacle in the course. 3ft (91cm) square minimum. Must have a non-slip surface.

2.4.4 **Long Jump**

Refer also to Table A.

To comprise between one to five elements. Each element to be a minimum length of 4ft (1.22m). The height of the front unit to be a maximum height of 5ins (13cm). The height of the back unit as specified by maximum heights in Table A. The height of the elements should increment in equal steps from front to rear. A marker pole shall be placed at each corner having a minimum height of 4ft (1.22m). These should not be attached to any part of the obstacle.

2.4.5 Paragraph Deleted

2.4.6 **Collapsible Tunnel**

Diameter: 2ft (61cm) minimum. 2ft 6ins (76cm) maximum. Length: 10ft (3m) minimum.

Rigid Entrance Height: 1ft 7ins (48cm) minimum

To be circular of non-rigid material construction. It must have an entrance of rigid construction with a depth of at least 1ft 6ins (45cm) that can be secured to the ground. The entrance floor must have a non-slip surface.

2.4.7 **Pipe Tunnel**

Diameter: 2ft (61cm) minimum

Length: 10ft (3m) minimum

Must be securely fixed to the ground.

2.4.8 **Weaving Poles**

The minimum number of poles should be five and the maximum number twelve. They should be a minimum of 1ft 6ins (45cm) and a maximum of 2ft (60cm) apart, between the poles. The poles must be of rigid construction and with a minimum height of 2ft 6ins

(76cm) and a diameter between 3/4in (2cm) and 1 1/2ins (4cm). The frame into which the poles sit must be securely fixed to the ground.

2.4.9 **'A' Ramp**

Two ramps 9ft (2.70m) long and a minimum width of 3ft (91cm), hinged at the apex Maximum 5ft 6ins (1.67m) & Minimum 4ft 6ins (1.37m) from the ground. The last 3ft 6ins (1.06m) from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp to have a non-slip surface, and if fitted with anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 6ins (15cm) of the start of the contact area. Maximum height for all classes except for Veteran and Pawsability is 5ft 6ins (1.67m) and it may be lowered at judge's discretion. Maximum height for Veteran and Pawsability classes is 4ft 6ins (1.38m) & Minimum is 3ft 3ins (1m).

2.4.10 **See-Saw**

This obstacle will consist of a plank fixed to a pivot point. The length of the plank should be a minimum of 12ft (3.65m) and a maximum of 14ft (4.26m). The width should be 10ins (25cm) minimum and 12ins (30cm) maximum with the height at the pivot point being a maximum of 2ft 3ins (69cm) from the ground. The last 3ft (91cm) from each end should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. The plank should have a non-slip surface and no slats. The seesaw should not be used in Veteran or Pawsability classes.

2.4.11 **Dog Walk**

A walk plank of approximately 4ft 6ins (1.38m) high with firmly fixed ramps at either end. The dogwalk is lowered to approximately 3ft 3ins \pm 2in (1m \pm 5cm) high for Veteran and Pawsability classes. The planks should be a minimum 12ft (3.65m) and a maximum 14ft (4.26m) in length and a minimum of 12ins (30cm) and a maximum of 24ins (60cm) in width. The last 3ft (91cm) from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp should have a non-slip surface, and if fitted with anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 6ins (15cm) of the start of a contact area.

2.4.12 **Start & Finish Poles**

These should not be regarded as an obstacle. Start and finish poles and including those incorporating timing equipment should be placed as near as practical to the first and last obstacle respectively.

Combination Obstacles

Any of the obstacles specified in paragraphs 2.4.1.1 to 2.4.1.11 may be placed in a course as a combination sequence that can be attempted with a choice in which order/or direction they may be completed. If a Rising Spread jump, Long Jump, See-saw or Collapsible Tunnel are used they may only be attempted from their customary direction. All possible permitted options should be communicated to competitors via written ringside instructions or by an announcement over the public address system prior to the start of the class.

2.4.13 **Dummy Obstacles**

Unnumbered obstacles may be placed in the course at the Judge's discretion as dummy obstacles which the dog is not required to attempt. All dummy obstacles should have a minimum distance of 5yds (4.57m) between centres to any other obstacle. Dogs attempting a dummy obstacle should be marked as Taking the Wrong Course, i.e. elimination.

2.5 **Marking, Scoring & Timekeeping**

2.5.1 **General Marking for Regular Classes**

- 2.5.1.1 Course faults are incurred for failure to negotiate obstacles. Faults are accumulated in units of five.
- 2.5.1.2 The judge must specify a standard course time (SCT). The minimum permitted SCT for an individual event is 60 seconds. If the SCT is exceeded faults are accrued at the rate of 1 fault per second or part thereof. i.e. 2.54 seconds over SCT equates to 2.54 faults. No rounding up or down is permitted.