

American Kennel Club, Inc.
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue, New York, NY
February 6-7, 2025

The Board convened on Thursday, February 6, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office, as were the Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Chief Financial Officer.

November Minutes

Copies of January 13-14, 2024, Board Meeting minutes had previously been provided to all Directors for review. Upon a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED to approve the January 2025 Board Meeting minutes.

President's Update

Mr. Sprung reported that registration declines continue to affect the corporation's profitability.

2024 ended with litters being below budget by 15% and by 10% versus 2023. Dogs were 24% below budget and 13% down from the prior year.

Events figures for end of year - 29,425 total events in 2024 which is an increase of 2,727 (10%) over 2023. Entries for 2024 were up 37,008 over 2023 with a total number of 3,718,923 entries.

AKC Meet the Breeds® was a great success with over 35,000 in attendance. 152 breeds were represented with a waiting list, over 100 elected officials served as Honorary Chairs. Mr. Sprung thanked the Board for greeting the hundreds of dog people and or working at their respective breed booths. He offered great appreciation to a devoted staff led by Gina DiNardo, Michael Canalizo and Joe Carlini and thanked our volunteers for their time and effort over the two days educating the public. The most positive feedback he reported was when volunteers arrive, or it's time to close, and Staff thanks them, their immediate response is "No, thank you, AKC."

COO Update

Gordon Comfort reported on AKC's efforts to become compliant with the new PCI 4.0 Standards. There are many new requirements that require AKC to make updates to IT infrastructure and business processes. A review of required updates and changes is underway and will be shared with the Board.

Legal Update

Heather McManus, VP & General Counsel, and Patricia Hines, Corporate Counsel – Litigation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of January 2024.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss legal matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented unaudited interim financial results as of December 31, 2024. Total operating revenue as of December 31, 2024, was \$92.179 million which was \$8.377 million or 8.3% lower than the prior year. Total operating expenses as of December 31, 2024, was \$96,463 million or less than 1% higher than the prior year, resulting in a net operating loss of \$4,284 million. The loss from operations was reduced by interest and a dividend income of \$4.935 million resulting in a break-even financial result at year-end.

Report of the AKC Board Investment Committee

Dr. Knight, Chair of the AKC Investment Committee, reported on the committee's action at its meeting which was held on February 3, 2025

Report of the AKC Board Retirement Plans Committee

Mrs. Wallin, Chair of the AKC Investment Committee, reported on the committee's action at its meeting which was held on February 4, 2025.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, Brandi Hunter Munden, VP of Communications and Public Relations and Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sports Services, participated in this portion of the meeting. Sheila Goffe, VP of Government Relations, and Ashley Jacot, Director of Education also participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Appointment of Trial Board Members

Per the AKC Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1, the AKC Board is to appoint Trial Boards and an Appeal Trial Board from time to time. The most recent appointment of Trial Board members occurred in January 2024. Before that, appointments were made in 2019, and the previous appointments occurred in June 2014.

The following individuals were appointed to serve on the AKC Trial Board:

Performance Trial Board Alternate: Rex Gibson
Trial Board Chair: Sam Kovitz

Trial Board Members:
Dr. John Ioia
Mrs. Diana L Skibinski

Glenda Stephenson
Michele Wrath

Article VII, Section 1 AKC Bylaw Amendment

The Delegate for the Doberman Pinscher Club of America (DPCA) has submitted a Bylaw amendment on behalf of the DPCA in accordance with Article XX, Section 1 of the of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*. DPCA is recommending a Bylaw amendment to Article VII, Section 1 regarding term limits. The recommendation is to change the period that a Board member must remain off the Board from at least one year to at least four years, amending the third paragraph of Article VII, Section 1.

This will be discussed further at a future Board meeting.

Bylaws Committee Proposed Amendment to AKC Bylaws Article XI, Section 9

Based on a request from the Board of Directors and with the approval of the Delegate Bylaws Committee, the Committee is proposing an amendment to Article XI, Section 9 of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club* to require the President to obtain the advice and consent of the Board of Directors prior to appointing an Executive Vice President, a Vice President, or an Assistant Vice President.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve this amendment. It will be read at the June Meeting for a VOTE at the September meeting.

Bylaws Committee Recommendation to Require a Fee to File a Complaint, AKC Bylaws Article XIV, Section 1

At the September 2024 Committee meeting, the Bylaws Committee voted unanimously to ask that the Board consider a new amendment that would require a fee to be submitted to the club when a complaint is filed at an AKC Event. The deposit would become the club's property if the Event Committee did not exercise jurisdiction over the matter; the deposit would be returned to the Complainant if the Event Committee entertained the complaint.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED not to approve the amendment. (In favor Biddle, Battaglia, Davies, Garvin, Powers, Smyth, Sweetwood, Wallin; Opposed: Carota, Fineburg, Hamblin, Knight, Tatro)

Teddy Roosevelt Terrier Eligibility to Compete in the Terrier Group

The American Teddy Roosevelt Terrier (ATRTC) has submitted a petition seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and for the Teddy Roosevelt Terrier to be eligible to compete in the Terrier Group. Sport Services Staff recommend that Teddy Roosevelt Terrier be eligible to compete in the Terrier Group December 31, 2025. Further, the Sport Services Staff recommends that the AKC Board of Directors approve the attached standard. If approved, the breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on December 31, 2025.

The Stud Book will remain open until January 1, 2030.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

AKC Communications Q4 and Year-End Report 2024

The quarterly report highlights the achievements of the Communications department on behalf of the AKC.

Q4 Totals:

Clips Evaluated in Q4: 10,756 (+48% from 7,233 in 2023)

Q4 Clips Comparison

Year	Clips Evaluated
2021	5,391
2022	5,733
2023	7,233
2024	10,756

Q4 Performance Highlights

- 6% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications (18% increase overall for 2024)
- 11% increase in the media visibility of our Chief Veterinary Officer (15% increase overall for 2024)
- Maintained a 94.41% positivity rating (slightly lower than 2024).
- Increased McClatchy pick up (up to over 700 newspapers weekly) (on par with 2023)
- 9% increase media coverage of AKC Affiliates (AKC Reunite, AKC MoD, AKC Humane Fund and AKC CHF) (17.5% increase overall for 2024)

2024 Year-End Media Coverage Analysis

Total media placements (print, broadcast and internet) qualitatively evaluated in 2024:

Q1- 11,263

Q2- 6,502

Q3- 6,302

Q4- 10,756

Total number of clips evaluated for 2024 was 34,823 (+23% from 28,231 in 2023).

AKC Education 2024 Review

AKC Canine College: The AKC Canine College (AKC CC) now has over 75,000 learner accounts, including more than 8,300 new learners added in 2024. Jason Miller, the LMS Administrator, reports a total of 461 courses and exams comprising 1,146 modules, accessible to breeders, judges, stewards, competitors, and the public. In 2024 alone, there have been over 22,000 course and exam enrollments, with up to 35 LMS reports distributed monthly to internal stakeholders.

Breed Course and Exam Totals: In 2024, over 3,700 breed courses were ordered, up over 90% from 2023. Over the last 12 months, AKC CC has worked on creating breed-specific marketing materials for each course for breeders and judges. Over 2,800 breed exams were ordered in 2024. 81 breed-specific courses are now available for judges, breeders, and the fancy. In 2024, 17 breed-specific courses have been launched or revised.

Breed Exams for Judges: A total of 202 breed exams are available on AKCCC. One new breed exam, Danish-Swedish Farmdog, was created, and eight breed exams were updated: Chesapeake Bay Retriever, Australian Cattle Dog, Lagotto Romagnolo, Puli, Shiba Inu, West Highland White Terrier, Beagle, and Keeshond.

AKC CC Breeder Courses, Webinars, and Exams: In 2024, over 1,400+ breeder courses and over 150 breeder exams were ordered.

Canine Ambassador Program: In 2024, there was a 74% increase in members in the CA program. Additionally, the revival of the quarterly newsletter, and constant communication with members has brought on a 205% increase in visits in the CA program.

PupPals: The number of volunteers for the PupPals program increased by 158% in 2024. We had many individuals who volunteered to write PupPals cards; specifically, one volunteer wrote nearly 400 PupPals cards.

Newsletters: *Canine Corner* and *Kids News* newsletters have continued to be released throughout the year with twelve new issues of *Canine Corner* and 4 new issues of *Kids News* made available in 2024.

Educator Resources: Additional resources have been added to the Teachers Pay Teachers store averaging approximately 8,043 total new downloads in 2024.

Social Media: In 2024, the AKC Education Instagram account hit over 1,000 followers. An average of 2,000 accounts are being reached per month.

Bailey's Book Club: In 2024, 476 schools applied to receive books from Bailey's Book Club. Approximately 2,200 books were donated. \$180 in donations was collected at AKC ANC.

The Public Education Award: The AKC Public Education Award (AKC PEA) is awarded annually to a club that has demonstrated exemplary effort in engaging, facilitating, and conveying the importance of the human-canine bond. The 2024 AKC PEA winner was the Fayetteville Kennel Club (Fayetteville, NC). A \$500 check was awarded to the club to be used towards promoting and maintaining club initiatives.

AKC Government Relations

Sheila Goffe, VP of Government Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Highlights From Government Relations Q4/Year End Report

Current status (as of February 5, 2025):

- Tracking 2,000+ bills
- More than 30 state legislatures in session
- Tracking 500 + regulations

For the latest updates on GR legislative issues, visit the AKC Legislative Action Center at www.akcgr.org.

2024 Overview, Highlights and Stats

2024 was a busy year for the GR team: Congress, most local councils and 46 state legislatures met in regular session. The GR team monitored more than 3,100 legislative proposals and 500 regulatory proposals on the federal, state and local levels. This represents a significant increase over 2023 legislative numbers. The increase is partly due to our ability to track more local legislation in 2024. The number of administrative regulations and regulatory changes nationwide impacting dogs and dog events decreased to levels consistent earlier this decade.

Issue Engagement/Advocacy

In 2024 AKC GR issued more than 220 geo-targeted legislative alerts and provided comments or in-person or written testimony for more than 200 bills.

More than 70 blogs were published on the akcgr.org website which feed into our monthly *Taking Command* and quarterly *In Session* advocacy and policy newsletters.

We also conducted a major rebuild of our AKC GR Legislative Action Center microsite. We utilize more sophisticated software for hosting our microsite and tracking, metrics, and research and targeting capabilities. The software helps us to improve user online experience, provides easier searching on legislation, and makes available more data so that GR and visitors to our microsite can track more legislation by state or topic. The site includes many other features including libraries of issues and advocacy resources organized by topic and function.

Legislation

By volume, *the most common categories of state legislation* tracked in 2024 were:

- Animal cruelty (including breeder licensing and regulation) (16%)
- Working dogs (13%)
- Hunting (including land use and performance events) (13%)
- Animal control (11%)
- Veterinary issues (11%)

- Dogs in Public (10%)

This is similar to the topical breakdown in 2023.

Federal

Although the U.S. House of Representatives made significant progress in its version of the 2024 Farm Bill, the Senate did not act on it, and it is expected that this measure will be taken up in the first half of 2025.

Historically, the Farm Bill has served as a vehicle for legislative changes to the U.S Animal Welfare Act (AWA), many of which impact dog breeders throughout the United States. AKC GR is already meeting with House AG senior staff in preparing for introduction of the 2025 version and will continue to carefully monitor base text and proposed amendments and advocate for the wellbeing of dogs and dog owners' interests in this bill.

We advocated for passage of the 2024 House version of the farm bill which included language from the Healthy Dog Importation Act and did not include problematic proposals from Goldie's Act, the Puppy Protection Act and the Better CARE for Animals Act.

General Legislative Trends/Highlights

Bans on Breed Characteristics – One of the most disturbing cruelty/anti-breeding bills this year was [New Hampshire House Bill 1102](#), which would have criminalized the sale and breeding of any dog deemed to have a “birth deformity that causes suffering” “including brachycephaly.” Thanks to the perseverance of the federation, clubs and dog enthusiasts working with AKC GR, the lawmakers received an overwhelming message of opposition to this extreme measure. We expect this measure to be reintroduced in 2025 and are watching closely for any similar measures in other states.

In addition, in late October the small community of Ojai, California, became the first in the nation to prohibit the breeding of dogs and cats with “congenital anatomical features” that it deemed are likely to cause harm to the animal, with no exceptions.

Other common issues

- Breeder regulation laws/ restrictions
- MSN at local levels
- Dangerous dogs
- Shelter and housing

Other Areas of Focus:

Building influence, relevance, and recognition of AKC policy expertise:

PAC funds are very valuable in helping us to participate in selected political events and develop relationships with key lawmakers. They have expanded our one-on-one interaction with lawmakers

and continue to improve the impact and recognition of AKC as a stakeholder in animal policy. In 2024, the AKC PAC:

- Contributed to 63 candidates.
- Made total disbursements: \$51,350.00.

Other specific areas of focus include protecting the rights of breeders and owners, fighting breed specific bans, fighting breeding bans, including “torture breeding” legislation, fighting mandatory sterilization bills, and issues associated with working dogs, canine imports and transportation, pet sales, and other areas.

Other Outreach Highlights

The GR uses multiple proactive approaches to expand AKC’s reach and reputation. In person events, advocacy webinars, expert policy and canine educational printed resources and videos are making AKC policy resources more accessible than ever.

GR developed new and expanded economic impact and benefits reports: In 2024, AKC conducted surveys and completed an expanded AKC Economic Benefits Survey with new, one page report/tear sheets for all 50 states. *The findings demonstrated that individual spending for a weekend averages more than \$982. Surveys of attendees at national specialty shows found that participants spend on average, more than \$2,500 at their national specialties.*

Staff participated as issue experts on relevant national and state policy panels in 2024, including: breeder licensing (Pennsylvania), pet retail sales [Pet Advocacy Network (PAN) canine advisory group]; Animal Health Institute industry panel, explosives detection dogs (informal federal policy group), Oregon Sportsmen’s and Conservation Partners, and others.

AKC GR works with a wide variety of allied groups, including the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and individual state VMAs, Animal Health Institute, Animal Agriculture Alliance, Farm Bureau, Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation and the National Assembly of State Sportsmen’s Caucuses; Cal Animals, National Animal Interest Alliance, Sportsmen’s Alliance, Canadian Kennel Club, Association of Zoos and Aquariums, National Association of Biomedical Research, U.S. Police Canine Association.

Regulatory Highlights

The most common regulatory category continues to be Hunting/Land Use (269 total; 56% of measures tracked. This is followed by:

- Veterinary Medicine (79; 17%)
- Dogs in Public (36; 8%),
- Service/Working Dogs (21; 4%),
- Breeding Regulations and Restrictions (15; 2.96%) round out the top six specific categories. (72; 15%) regulations are tracked under the catch-all “Other” label.

The most significant regulatory issue of 2024 was the finalization of CDC's new rule for the import of dogs into the United States. The AKC supports the goal of protecting pet and public health from the import of unhealthy animals into the U.S. and strongly supports the solution to this issue offered by the Congressional Healthy Dog Importation Act (*HR 1184 / S 502*). However, *we remain concerned about the overreaching nature of regulations that categorically prohibit the importation of all puppies under the age of 6 months*, failed to fully vet new proposals without opportunities for full public comment regulatory, and disregard U.S. disability laws, among other concerns.

AKC GR has been working with members of Congress, regulators and with cross-industry alliances to advocate for policy alternatives to protect both public health and responsible import transportation of low risk, healthy animals across borders, particularly the U.S.-Canada border. This is featured on the new key issues page on the AKC GR website, [Pet Importation: Protecting Pet and Public Health](#).

The CDC has announced they will provide some clarifications and revisions to the rule during the first half of 2025.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events participated in this portion of the meeting. Diane Schultz, Director of Obedience, Rally & Tracking; Doug Hurley, Director of Agility, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Public Service Dog Titling Criteria

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the criteria for a dog to earn an AKC Public Service Dog title so that the dog is not limited to working for a government agency but instead needs to be engaged in its discipline by any type of organization involved with public service work.

The recommendation also suggests lowering the length of time that the dog must be employed in this activity from two years to one year.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

Allowing Tripods to Participate in Non-Jumping Obedience & Rally Classes

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow three-legged dogs (tripods) to permanently participate in the non-jumping classes in Rally and Obedience effective July 1, 2025, which is the end date for the 24-month pilot program.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

Regulation Clarification for the Broad Jump

The Board reviewed a recommended change to Below is a change to the Agility Regulations to clarify the description of the width of the broad jump.

Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT) Chapter 3, Section 12, Broad Jump, describes the Broad jump as composed of four 8-inch sections and four corner markers. The regulations do not provide any tolerance for the exact width. Store bought dimensional lumber is generally 7.5 inches in width for an 8" wide board. Therefore, construction of a Broad Jump from store bought material will not follow the current regulations.

The Staff recommendation is to add a +/- tolerance of ½ inch to the wording "composed of four 8" sections"

If approved by the Board, these changes will become effective immediately.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

Retriever Hunt Tests – Judges' Eligibility and Max Entries per Amateur Handler

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow two changes to be made to the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Retrievers* which are: 1) Establish the maximum number of dogs an amateur can handle or enter to three dogs per test when using the Amateur Set Aside program. 2) Prohibit a judge from judging his or her professional trainer if they have conducted business within one year.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events; and Mari-Beth O'Neill, VP of Sports Services participated in this portion of the meeting. Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Ops Support; Mark Desrosiers, Director of Event Programs, and Ian Hennigan, Sports & Events Project Manager participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

NOHS Level of Achievement Titles

The Board reviewed a recommendation to create NOHS Level of Achievement titles. Since 2022, AKC has acknowledged the accomplishments of owner-handled dogs through the issuance of four Levels of Achievement certificates – Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum. These are currently not titles. The recommendation is to use the same NOHS point milestones for a titling program. These will be suffix titles that appear on a dog's pedigree, providing a permanent record of the dog's accomplishments. Applying for the title will be at the owner's discretion. Owners can apply for the title at any level. Titles will be grandfathered back to the beginning of the NOHS program.

If approved, this change would become effective October 1, 2025.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

Rules Applying To Dog Shows – Chapter 6, Section 2 – Premium Lists

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to modify Chapter 6, Section 2 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to state that the premium list for a

specialty show must specify if the three-point major for Reserve Winners is not offered by the specialty club.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Title Recognition Program – Canadian Kennel Club Titles

The Board reviewed a recommendation to add Canadian Kennel Club titles earned in Conformation, Obedience, and Rally to the AKC's Title Recognition Program. All dogs that are AKC registered and have earned these Canadian Kennel Club titles in the past are eligible to have the title recognized by the AKC.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

Sport Services 2024 Summary

In 2024 Sport Services handled and administered the following:

AKC Direct Calls, Direct Calls and Returned Calls:	17,982
Responded to emails sent to Awards, FSS, PAL Colors, Juniors and other Department emails:	40,858
PAL Applications Processed:	2,908
New Junior Numbers Issued:	1,496
Certificates for Juniors handling dogs to a title in Companion and Performance Events:	341
Junior Coordinators:	226
Register Kennel Names	
Granted:	189
Renewals:	334
Vet Outreach	
Number of Lunch N Learns held:	22
Total Number of Students that attended:	1,650
Number of Tours:	10
Total Number of Students that attend:	250
Amount of Vet Scholarships:	\$122,000
Number of Recipients:	25
Impure Breeding Cases	
Opened:	33
Closed:	10
Junior Participation number of entries	
Junior Showmanship:	13,903
Performance and Companion:	2,728

FSS Program	
Number of New Breeds:	3
Number of Breeds moving into Misc:	5
Number of Breeds moving to Full:	1
Junior Scholarships	
Amount of Junior Scholarships:	\$73,500
Number of Recipients:	49
Booth	
Number of events (weekends attended)	21

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events participated in this portion of the meeting. Tim Thomas, VP of Conformation participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Conformation Dog Show Judges Annual Report

Staff provided an overview of the activities of the Judging Operations Department in the 2024 calendar year.

Education

Judging Operations continued its efforts to provide resources for judges. The Judges Education Webinar Series first launched in 2020 in a collaborative effort with AKC's Education Department continued. Since the first webinar was presented on March 30, 2020, a total of 114 breed webinars have been presented with a total attendance of 4,777.

In 2024, there were seven (7) presentations of the "Review & FAQs on Conformation Judging Procedures, Policies & Guidelines" webinar series with an audience of 1,303 attending the live presentations. Links to access the recordings of the procedural webinars are also posted on the AKC website resulting in a total of 786 additional registrations accessing the recording of any one of the 2024 procedural offerings.

The department continued its collaboration with the Dog Judges Association of America, co-hosting the AKC/DJAA Advanced Judging Institute December 10-13, 2024, in conjunction with the AKC National Championship for the 13th consecutive year, the last 12 of which the AKC/DJAA Advanced Institute provided judges education seminars for two complete groups. In 2024, the Working and Toy Groups were offered with all breeds represented. Approximately 225 individuals attended breed specific judges' education seminars over the week.

Application Data

The number of New Breed applications received (first time applicants) decreased slightly from the year prior but was higher than seven of the eight years preceding 2023. The volume of New Breed applications received in 2024 does not fully reflect in the number of applications that advanced to final approval in 2024 as approximately ¼ of New Breed applications were received in the last two months of the year. The department credits the upward trend of first-time applicants to the 2022 policy revisions which increased the maximum number of breeds one could request on their initial

application and introduced the ability for exemplary individuals to request the ability to apply for a full group.

For Additional Breed applications, the number of applications received, and number of breeds submitted increased over the previous year. This is the second consecutive year where the number of applications received has increased and likely a byproduct of the reduction in the mandatory period between applications from six to three months adopted by the Board in November 2022. The number of applications that advanced to final review in 2024 was slightly lower than 2023 while the number of breeds that made final review slightly increased.

	ADDITIONAL BREED		NEW BREED	
	Aps Submitted	Breeds Submitted	Aps Submitted	Breeds Submitted
2024	447	2327	99	238
2023	404	2039	101	251
2022	354	2049	74	148
2021	360	2146	58	91
2020	377	2282	61	72
2019	401	2497	91	125
2018 ¹	351	1808	101	154
2017	933	5537	84	119
2016	843	6009	93	146
2015	246	1938	74	102

¹ - 2018 includes 2 months of application under previous criteria and 10 months of applications from the revised policy.

Recertification Exam

2024 marked year #3 of the phased roll-out of the recertification exam. Those scheduled to complete the exam in 2024 were informed on January 30, 2024, of the need to satisfactorily complete by the end of the year.

Approximately 62% of judges taking the exam in 2024 passed on their first attempt. The average score for Exam A (1st attempt) was 85.2%. To date, no judge has exhausted all attempts and been unable to pass the exam.

2025 Low Entry Breed List

Under current policy, the Low Entry Breed List impacts educational requirements for those seeking judging approval of the breeds that appear on it, as well as the requirements for permit status judges to advance to regular status in a breed. A Low Entry Breed is defined as one whose total number of dogs in competition from the previous year were fewer than 3,500. The Low Entry Breed list is produced annually by Judging Operations and published on the AKC website no later than February 1st with an effective date of March 1st for reference by current and prospective

Conformation Judges.

In 2024, 103 breeds appeared on the Low Entry Breed List. For 2025, three breeds appearing on the 2024 Low Entry List moved off: American Hairless Terrier, Beauceron, and Chow Chow; and six breeds were added: Belgian Sheepdog, Bouvier des Flandres, Danish-Swedish Farmdog (recognized 1-1-25), Giant Schnauzer, Setter (Gordon), Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier, resulting in 106 breeds on the 2025 Low Entry Breed List.

CLUBS

Doug Ljungren, EVP of Sports & Events and Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting in person. Glenn Lycan, Director of Event Operations Support participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Centennial Clubs

AKC is pleased to recognize the following Centennial Clubs.

1. Berks County Kennel Club
2. First Company Governors Foot Guard Athletic Association
3. Intermountain Kennel Club
4. Wolverine Beagle Club
5. Worcester County Kennel Club

The AKC has added these clubs to the list of Centennial Clubs on our website and will provide a Centennial Banner for display at their upcoming club functions. With the addition of these five clubs, there are 130 AKC Centennial Clubs.

Club Development 2024 Activity Report

Club Development works one on one with clubs everyday providing answers, options and data to assist in their decision-making process for holding events, finding partnership clubs, scheduling judges, increasing membership, finding and interpreting rules and policies, and many questions unique to their situation.

Highlights of the year's efforts include:

Canine Extravaganza: Club Development promotes canine extravaganzas (6 or more AKC events on a single day at the same site) to assist clubs create partnerships with other clubs, attract new members, and make a profit to support local activities throughout the year. Club Development has been promoting canine extravaganzas since 2018.

In 2024, 512 days of canine extravaganza held -

- 292 days of CEs held by 166 All-Breed or Limited Breed Clubs.
- 220 days of CEs held by 175 Specialty Clubs.

Email blasts: Create interest in AKC events and clubs.

"Events In Your Area" email blasts – Provides owners of dogs a list of up to 11 different events from

different sport types for events that their dog is eligible to compete in within 120 miles of the owner's address.

- 3,516,171 emails in 2024.
 - 50% of the emails are opened by the recipient.
- On average 4,000 recipients per month access the AKC Sports & Events website directly from these emails.

Event messaging: Club Development reaches out to clubs to ensure they have any assistance they need going into their event and coming out of their event.

- 2,305 Conformation Clubs received pre-event emails – discusses their upcoming event, providing links to AKC resources, provide event checklist, AKC Delegate Committees' best practices, efficient scheduling, adding sports, and how to create effective media and publicity. AKC Club Development contact information was provided for any questions.
- 155 new show chairs (All-Breed and Limited-Breed Clubs) were contacted by Club Development the month their application was submitted. This email provides a pre-event checklist and offers a one-on-one meeting with Club Development.
- 5,149 post-event emails were sent to thank the club and provide information and services for the next year's event.
- Club Development identifies clubs that are 120 days out from their events and have not submitted their application. Club Development will work with these clubs to move forward on the year or offer our services to move forward the following year. In 2024 Club Development contacted an average of 6 clubs a month that were late on their applications.

Membership Drives: Providing resources and help.

205 emails to All-Breed Clubs with 20 members or less, offering AKC assistance through existing documentation, AKC All-Breed Delegate Best Practices and discussing campaign opportunities to meet potential new members.

- 8 Meet & Greet membership drives set up and held by clubs.
 - We are aware of 18 new members from these events

Club Relations 2024 Activity Report

Status and Trends

1. Number of clubs as of January 17, 2025

Member Clubs	653
Licensed Clubs	4,234
Sanctioned Plan A Clubs	53
Sanctioned Plan B Clubs	51
Total	4,971

The total number of clubs on January 9, 2024 was 5,037.

2. Total Newly Accredited Clubs: 41
3. Dissolved Clubs: 13

In summary, there were 210 new clubs (6 are All-Breed Clubs) and 41 dissolved clubs in the past five years, yielding a gain of 169 total clubs over a 5-year period.

The largest club category is local specialty clubs. Over the past 5 years, there were 80 new clubs and 27 dissolved, yielding a gain of 53 in a 5-year period. All-Breed Clubs have had a very small number dissolve; only 1 in 2024, 7 in the last 5 years

New All-Breed Club: 1

Eastern North Carolina Kennel Club

New Parent Clubs: 3

Large Munsterlander Association

Presca Canario Club of America

United States Eurasier Club

New Group Clubs: 6

Mississippi Gulf Coast Herding Group Club

North Texas Working Dog Association

Oklahoma Sporting Dog Club

Sporting Dog Club of Central Arkansas

Virginia Toy Club

Working Dog Club of Oklahoma

New Member Clubs: 6

American Hairless Terrier Club of America

Big Apple Working Group Club

Bracco Italiano Club of America

Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood

Greeley Kennel Club

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Affenpinscher Club of America (1991)

American Shih Tzu Club (1981)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS APPROVED IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Arka-Valley Beagle Club, Greenbrier, AR (including communities north to Shirley, south to Conway, in proximity to Rte. 65); 25 total households, 9 local.

Golden State Welsh Springer Spaniel Club, greater Bakersfield, CA (including all communities north to San Francisco, and south to San Diego); 23 total households 16 local.

Mohawk River Obedience Training Club, Saratoga Springs, NY (including communities north of Interstate 10 (except Scotia) in triangle of Fultonville, to Clifton Park and Saratoga Springs); 44 total households, 12 local.

Pacific Northwest Clumber Spaniel Fanciers, greater Seattle, WA (including communities south to Rochester, north to Lyndon, east to Cascade Mountain Range and west to I-5); 32 total households, 17 local.

Piedmont Akita Club of Georgia, greater Atlanta, GA (including communities north to Canton, south to McDonough, east to Lexington and west to Marietta, GA), 25 total households, 12 local.

Razorback Beagle Club, Hattiesville, AR (including communities of Scotland, west to Danville, east to Des, in proximity to Interstate 40), 24 total households, 8 local.

Tampa Bay Terrier Club, greater Tampa Bay, FL, (including communities north to Brooksville (Rte. 50), south to Bradenton (Rte. 64) and east to Route 27); 28 total households, 18 local.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

COMPLIANCE

Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance, Marcus Bach, Director of Investigations and Inspections; and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Manager, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

Discipline Flowchart

The Board was provided with a flowchart outlining how disciplinary actions proceed from both Staff Event Committee & Management Disciplinary Committee.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

Compliance Status Report – Fourth Quarter 2024 & Year End Review

The Board received a status report.

Inspections Status Report – Fourth Quarter 2024

Statistics were supplied on the number of Inspections in Q4 and year end totals.

AKC MEDIA AND SALES

Daphna Straus, Vice President of Business Development and Bill Ellis, Senior Director of Broadcasting participated in this portion of the meeting.

2024 Yearly Recap Report on Media and Sales Activities

AKC.tv

The AKC's over-the-top (OTT) video network, AKC.tv, has experienced growth in plays across all platforms during the year, including Web plays on AKC.tv via desktop or mobile (+800k), AKC.tv app plays (over +1.3M) and plays on AKC.org via our digital content matching system (over +91M). The channel continues to grow in reach as well as in breadth and scope of content, including over 40 live events totaling over 300 hours of livestreaming. AKC.tv app installations have grown to +361k, including mobile and TV apps:

AKC.tv App Installs

Total Installs	Roku	Apple	Fire	Android	Samsung
361,216	142.6K	97.8K	58.1K	58.2K	4.7K

AKC Good Dog TV

AKC Good Dog TV continued as a weekly, 30-minute, syndicated show in the New York City market on channels Fox 5 and My 9 and expanded in 2024 to a distribution that now includes:

- 112 total markets
- 246 total television stations
- 65MM total TV homes
- 53% of the USA
- +175k weekly viewers (according to Comscore)

With this broad coverage, AKC Good Dog TV has the potential to reach more than fifty percent of U.S. households. AKC continues to control 50% of the commercial inventory within the syndicated broadcasts of AKC Good Dog TV, while producing and owning 100% of the content, ensuring AKC messaging and branding is integrated throughout the show. The distribution success of AKC Good Dog TV is the result of a long-term strategy, beginning with the updated format and content within the show, and continuing through the relationship management of multiple station ownership groups.

AKC on ESPN

AKC's dog sports programming on ESPN celebrated its fifth year in 2024, premiering sixteen new, original shows:

1. 2023 AKC National Championship Dog Show presented by Royal Canin
2. 2023 AKC National Championship Dog Show Highlights

3. NFL Dog Plays of the Year
4. AKC K9 Detection Dogs
5. 2024 AKC Fastest Dogs USA
6. 2024 AKC Fastest Dogs USA Highlights
7. 2024 AKC National Agility Championship
8. 2024 AKC Diving Dogs Challenge
9. 2024 AKC Disc Dog Challenge
10. 2024 AKC Agility Premier Cup
11. 2024 AKC Agility Premier Cup Highlights
12. 2024 AKC Diving Dogs Premier Cup
13. 2024 Flyball CanAm Classic
14. AKC Heroes: 2024 Awards for Canine Excellence
15. 2024 AKC Agility Invitational
16. 2024 AKC National Championship Dog Show presented by Royal Canin

2024 delivered another strong year of programming hours for AKC, including 169 hours of broadcasts, which reached an audience of +15 million (according to ESPN). December 2024 was the most active month for AKC premieres, with 23 total hours of broadcasts across ABC and ESPN networks. December broadcasts once again included holiday programming, with three-hours of AKC programming on Christmas Eve and four-hours on Christmas Day. 2024 marks the fourth annual year that ESPN has chosen to feature AKC content on Christmas Day.

AKC & NFL

In 2024, the American Kennel Club (AKC) partnered with the National Football League (NFL) to create *NFL Dog Plays of the Year*, a new television special that showcased the top moments from the AKC on ESPN series, as well as stories of NFL players and their dogs. The collaboration with the NFL marks a significant milestone for the AKC, positioning us alongside one of the most recognizable sports organizations in the world. It expands AKC's audience reach, enhances brand visibility, and reinforces the connection between the love of dogs and sportsmanship. This initial show also opens the door to future collaborations, further strengthening the AKC's presence in mainstream sports media and driving broader engagement with our dog-loving audience.

AKC National Championship Broadcast

For the fifth consecutive show, the AKC National Championship Dog Show premiered on the ABC television network on December 29, 2024, 2-5pm ET. The show received an encore broadcast on ESPN2 on the same day at 6-9pm ET.

CONSENT

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent agenda items.

Delegate Approvals

Andrew I. Kalmanash

To represent Big Apple Working Group Club

Published December 2024, January 2025

Anita R. O'Berg

To represent Santa Barbara Kennel Club

Published December 2024, January 2025

Georgeann Reeve

To represent Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

Published December 2024, January 2025

Virginia Rowland

To represent Wachusett KC

Published December 2024, January 2025

Obedience – Parent Club Request for Three Quarter Jump Height – Bouvier des Flandres

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the American Bouvier des Flandres Parent Club to have the regular jump height requirement in obedience lowered to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers.

With the requested change, they will be allowed to jump 18-22 inches.

Basset Fauve de Bretagne Eligibility to Compete in the Hound Group

The Board VOTED to approve a petition from the Basset Fauve de Bretagne Club of America seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and for the Basset Fauve de Bretagne to be eligible to compete in the Hound Group. The submitted breed standard was also approved. The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on December 31, 2025. The Stud Book will remain open until December 31, 2030.

Standard of the Basset Fauve de Bretagne**GENERAL APPEARANCE**

The Basset Fauve de Bretagne is a small, rough-coated French scent hound developed in the 17th Century to hunt small game in the region of origin, Brittany, France. They adapt easily to all terrains, including the most difficult, and to all quarry. He is bold and vivacious in character; compact, tough and robust. The Basset Fauve de Bretagne possesses those characteristics which demonstrate its exceptional aptitude for hunting. A small, stocky hound, lively and speedy for its size, fauves are energetic and hardy. The fauve temperament is mild, never sharp or timid. As well as impassioned hunters, fauves are excellent family companions, sociable, affectionate and easygoing. When hunting, fauves are courageous, wily and tenacious, making them very successful hunters.

SIZE PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

Height at the withers should be 12.5" minimum and 15.5" maximum, with a tolerance of .5" over or under for exceptional specimens. Fauves under 12" or over 16" are a disqualifying fault. To establish the proportion of a Fauve, the measurement should be from the withers to the floor for height and point of shoulder to the ischium for the length, resulting in a ratio of 1:1.2. The limbs

should have sufficient bone for performance in rough terrain, without appearing either frail or overdone.

HEAD

The fauve expression is lively. The head is well proportioned with the back skull slightly longer than the muzzle. The skull is rather long, showing a pronounced occipital protuberance. Viewed from the front, the skull forms a flattened arch which diminishes in width from the rear to the superciliary arches, which are not very prominent. Too prominent superciliary arches are a fault, as is a broad, flat skull. The muzzle is slightly tapered rather than being perfectly rectangular. A short or pointed muzzle is a fault. The flews cover the lower jaw but without excess. Heavy, pendulous upper lips are a fault as is unpigmented areas of the lips. Slight furnishings make up the moustache and beard. The nose is darkly pigmented, preferably black or dark brown, with well-open nostrils. Totally or partially unpigmented areas on the nose is a fault. The teeth are strong, meeting in a scissors bite. A level bite is tolerated. Absence of first premolars is not penalized. A bite either overshot or undershot is a disqualifying fault. The eyes are neither bulging nor set too deeply in the orbits. Dark brown is the preferred color with lively expression. A light eye or unpigmented edges of eyelids is a fault. Overly light eyes are a serious fault. The ears are finely attached, in line with the eye, just reaching the end of the nose when drawn forward, ending in a point and turned inwards. The ears are covered by finer, shorter hair than the rest of the body. Flat, high set and large ears with no fold are a fault.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

The neck is rather short and well-muscled. Body: The chest is deep and broad with a prominent sternum. The back is short for a basset and broad. The topline is straight and level. The rib structure is well sprung and rather rounded. The loin is broad and muscular with moderate tuck-up toward the rear. Overly tucked up is a fault.

FOREQUARTERS

The limbs have good bone. The shoulder is well-laid back and set close against the chest. Elbows are in line with the body. The Forearm is to be vertical. Pasterns, seen in profile, are somewhat oblique, Feet are compact with toes tight together, arched with solid nails and the pads are hard. Excessive crook in legs or foot turnout is a fault. Front dewclaws are present but may be removed.

HINDQUARTERS

Hindquarters are strong and well-muscled with good bend of stifle. Seen from behind, the rear limbs are parallel, neither close nor wide. Hips are wide with thighs well-muscled.

Hocks are well let down and moderately angulated, perpendicular from hock to ground. Feet are as in front. Except that they must point straight ahead. Rear dewclaws are a fault.

TAIL

Carried slightly sickle-fashion of medium length, large at the base, often bristly and well-tapered at the end. In action, the tail is carried above the topline and makes regular movements from side to side. Kinked tail is a disqualification.

COAT

A wiry, rough, harsh, rather short coat is preferred but a smooth, harsh coat is tolerated. The coat should never be woolly or curly. The face shouldn't be too bushy. Eyebrows should be short enough to see the eyes. Mustache and beard should be moderate in length. Shown in natural coat, not overly groomed. Sculpted furnishings should be penalized. Sparse, smooth, fine or soft coats are faults. Long, woolly coat is a serious fault.

COLOR

Solid colored ranging from light fawn, golden wheaten, to red brick in hue. A few black hairs dispersed on the back, ears and tail are tolerated as is a small white star on the chest, but not desirable.

GAIT

The movement should be free at all speeds. Front action is straight and reaching well forward. Going away, the hind legs are parallel and have great drive. Convergence of the front and rear legs towards his center of gravity is proportional to the speed of his movement. Gives the appearance of an active hound, capable of a full day's hunting.

TEMPERAMENT

A lively, active, outgoing, sociable temperament. Timid behavior is a fault.

DISQUALIFICATION

Under 12" or over 16" tall
Overshot or undershot bite
Kinked tail

Approved July 26, 2021

Effective June 28, 2023

Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka's Eligibility to Compete in the Toy Group

The Board VOTED to approve the petition from the Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka Club of America seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and for the Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka to be eligible to compete in the Toy Group. The Board of Directors, at the February 2022 Board Meeting, approved the Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka as eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class

effective January 1, 2023. The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on December 31, 2025. The Stud Book will remain open until December 31, 2030.

The submitted breed standard was also approved.

Standard of the Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka

GENERAL APPEARANCE

Developed to be the ultimate house pet and companion, the Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka is a small, sturdy, balanced dog, slightly longer than tall. The breed appears disheveled due to the wavy or curly coat. He moves gracefully with the tail carried over the back. He is friendly to all and shows no sign of aggression. He is sweet, loving, intelligent and willing to please.

SIZE PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE

The body is slightly (not more than 15%) longer than the height at the withers, just off-square, measured from the point of shoulder to the ischium. The height is up to 10 ¼". Height at withers over 11 inches is a disqualification. He is moderately boned. The ideal weight for males and females is 7-9 pounds.

HEAD

The expression is sweet, alert, and intelligent. Eyes are dark brown. Lighter brown color is allowed in brown, fawn and cream dogs. Blue or partially blue eye(s) are a disqualification. The eyes are of medium size, rounded, and set on the frontal plane. Eyelids are tight. Eye rims are black or match the coat color. Cheeks are slightly rounded. Ears are moderate size, V shaped with slightly rounded tips, set moderately high, lay close to the skull and carried dropped. When alert, the ears lift at the base. The head is in proportion to the body. The skull is slightly prominent and slightly rounded, with a well-defined stop. The muzzle is short, slightly more than one third of the length of the head, slightly tapered to the nose. The nasal bridge is straight and wide at the base. Lower jaw is moderately wide. The nose is small, vertical in profile, with nostrils that are well opened. The nose is solid black or matches the coat color. All shades of solid brown pigmentation are allowed in brown dogs. A spotted or flesh-colored nose is a disqualification. The lips are tight, with edges that are black or similar to the coat color. A scissors bite is preferred; a level bite or a slightly undershot bite is tolerated. A complete set of incisors and canines is desired. An overshot bite or wry mouth is a disqualification.

NECK, TOPLINE, BODY

The neck is average length, sloping, dry, and well-muscled. The topline is level with a strong, broad, well-muscled back. The body is compact with a deep chest that is moderately broad and oval shaped with the brisket extending to the elbow. Ribs are well sprung. The underline is moderately tucked up. The loin is short and slightly arched. The croup is rounded, medium length, rather broad, slightly sloping, and muscular. The tail is medium length, set at moderate height, and curls over the back so the tip is close to the back. The tail is completely covered by coat. The tail

may not be docked. A missing or docked tail is a disqualification.

FOREQUARTERS

Legs are straight, parallel, and moderately wide when viewed from the front. The shoulder blades are well muscled, and their angulation with the shoulders is 100-110 degrees. The forelegs are straight and parallel, with elbows tight to the body. The length from the withers to the elbows is equal to the length from the elbows to the ground. Pasterns are strong and nearly upright. Dew claws may be removed. The feet are small and round with arched, tight toes. Pads and nails are dark.

HINDQUARTERS

The hind legs are straight and parallel. The hocks are strong, and moderately angulated, medium in length. They are set moderately wide when viewed from the rear. The rear pasterns are medium length and upright. Dew claws may be removed. The feet are a little smaller than the forefeet, oval shaped, with arched, tight toes. Pads and nails are dark.

COAT

The coat is long, dense, thick, soft, and supple, with a well-developed undercoat. The coat forms large curls (preferred) or may be very wavy. The head has a well-developed beard and moustache. Complete lack of a beard and moustache is a disqualification. The coat is never deliberately parted. Hair on top of the head may fall naturally or be held up with a small bow on the top of the head. Feet may be neatened. No other trimming of the coat is allowed.

COLOR

All colors are permitted except solid white, spotted, parti-color or merle. Small white markings on the toes and forechest are permitted. A solid white, spotted, parti-color or merle coat color is a disqualification.

GAIT

The movement is smooth and flowing with good reach in front and strong rear drive.

TEMPERAMENT

The Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka is even-tempered, intelligent, friendly to all, and should never be shy or show aggression of any kind.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Height at withers over 11 inches.

Blue or partially blue eye(s).

A spotted or flesh colored nose.

An overshot bite or wry mouth.

A missing or docked tail.

Complete lack of beard and moustache.

Any spots, markings (except where mentioned), solid white, parti-color or merle coat color.

Approved June 17, 2021

Effective January 1, 2023

Sloughi Stud Book

The Board VOTED to approve the request of the American Sloughi Association to keep the Sloughi Stud Book open for the Breed. The Sloughi Stud Book will remain open until January 1, 2031. It was scheduled to close on January 1, 2026.

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America, Inc. (SBTCA) has submitted a proposed revision to the color section of the breed standard. Staff did not receive any comments following the publication of the proposed revision to the breed standard in the Secretary's Page of the *AKC Gazette*.

The Board VOTED to permit the SBTCA to ballot its membership on the proposed change to the Color section of the breed standard in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Color: Red, fawn, white, black or blue, or any of these colors with white. Any shade of brindle or any shade of brindle with white. Black-and-tan or liver color to be disqualified. Merle pattern does not exist genetically in the breed and shall be disqualified.

Disqualification: Black-and-tan or liver color and Merle Pattern.

Agility – Transferring of Points and QQs from MACH to PACH

The Board VOTED to change the *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)* to allow for the transfer of accumulated points and double Qs (QQ) from the Master Agility Championship title (MACH) title track to the Preferred Agility Championship title (PACH) title track.

Once entered in the preferred master-level classes, the owner may, at their discretion, transfer one-time QQs and points earned towards the MACH title to those needed to earn a PACH title. Only points and QQs that have not been applied to an awarded MACH title may be transferred. These changes will become effective on July 2, 2025.

Chapter 8 (new paragraph)

MACH To PACH Transfer of points and Double Qualify (2Qs) Points and Double Qs earned by a dog at the regular Master level that have not been applied to an awarded MACH title may upon request be transferred in whole to the dog's Preferred Master level for the purpose of earning a PACH. This is a one-time transfer per dog.

Agility – Regulation Clarification for the Tire Jump

The *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*, Chapter 3, Section 3, 11. Tire

Jump describes the method for attaching the connecting straps to secure the tire to the frame with the provided strap or elastic band. Staff feel there is a safety concern as the strap does not break away should a dog become lodged between the tire and the tire frame, potentially causing injury.

The Board VOTED to change the definition of a connecting strap to include the wording that the connecting strap must be displaceable. These changes will be effective on July 1, 2025.

Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT), Chapter 3, Section 3, 11. Tire Jump

11. Tire Jump.

(New wording underlined below – all other parts of this section 11 remain the same.)

After confirming that the tire meets the required 16-20 lbs. requirement, secure the tire to the frame with the provided strap or elastic band that is displaceable from the tire frame when force is applied.

Agility – International Sweepstakes Class (ISC) Updates

The Board VOTED to approve updates to *Regulations for Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)*, Chapter 14 to keep the International Sweepstakes Class (ISC) Regulations consistent with changes in international Agility.

The only new Regulation is to allow bitches in season to compete at ISC-only trials at the option of the host club. This will be done on a one-year trial basis.

Section 2. Eligibility of Dogs. This class is open to dogs that are eligible to compete in AKC Agility Trials. Dogs may be entered in any of the offered class levels and in multiple levels at the trial.

For ISC ONLY trial Bitches in season (BIS) may be entered at the club's discretion. If the club decides to allow BIS to complete that information and any restrictions placed by the club must be noted in the Premium. (This will be done as a 1-year trial period and then evaluated)

(See updates in Appendix A.)

These changes are effective May 1, 2025.

Herding – Change to the Minimum Field Size for Course B Ducks

The Board VOTED to amend the *AKC Herding Regulations* to reduce the minimum field size in Herding for Course B Ducks to 150 feet by 200 feet to allow clubs with smaller open fields to hold duck trials. The distances for the exercises do not change. The change is effective for trials held after March 5, 2025.

Chapter VI. Section 1. Course B.

Paragraph 8.

For ducks, the field must allow ~~400~~ 50 feet at the top and 50 feet at the bottom, which is in addition to the distance the stock will be placed from the handler's post, which is from 60 feet to 150 feet,

depending on the level. The width of the field must allow ~~75~~ 50 feet on each side of the gates. The minimum trial field size for ducks, when all levels are offered, is ~~200~~ 150 feet X ~~250~~ 200 feet.

Section 2. Course Layout.

Paragraph 6.

Gate #2 shall be set to stand at approximately a ~~45~~ 45-degree angle with the cross-drive course line so the handler can see through the gate opening.

Herding – Regulation Clarifications for Course D

The Board VOTED to add clarifications to Chapter 8 of the *AKC Herding Regulations* which covers Course D. These clarifications will give more specific information about the Herding work required for this course. These clarifications will benefit our judges when scoring each performance and allow exhibitors to gain more technical information about what will be required to earn a qualifying score. This change also includes permitting cattle as livestock.

(See updates in Appendix B.)

These changes are effective May 1, 2025

Approval of Annual Fees

The *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.* require that the Board of Directors set deposits annually for the submission of complaints pursuant to Article XII, Section 1, as well as deposits for appeals to an Appeal Trial Board pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7.

The current deposit to file a complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1, is \$625. The current deposit to file an Appeal to an Appeal Trial Board is \$250. Staff requests that these deposits remain the same for 2025.

The Board VOTED to maintain the current fees.

Adding a New Offense & Penalty

The current *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* do not include any time frame regarding exposure to a communicable disease or any restriction from attending an event after a dog has had a communicable disease; only that their veterinarian's recommendations be followed. The *AKC Discipline Guidelines* do not have a penalty for an individual who knowingly brings a dog sick with a communicable disease or exposed to a communicable disease on AKC event grounds. The Board of Directors VOTED to approve penalties for the offense of "Knowingly bringing a dog on event grounds within 30 days of displaying the first clinical signs of communicable disease" and "Knowingly bringing a dog on event grounds within 14 days of it being in contact with another dog displaying signs of communicable disease."

New offense and penalty:

I. Inappropriate Treatment of Animals

j. Knowingly bringing a dog on event grounds within 30 days of displaying the first clinical signs of communicable disease.

Mitigated: 3mo/\$300 Standard: 6 mo/\$500 Aggravated: Up to life/up to \$10,000

k. Knowingly bringing a dog on event grounds within 14 days of it being in contact with another dog displaying signs of communicable disease.

Mitigated: 1 mo/\$100 Standard: 3mo/\$300 Aggravated: Up to life/up to \$10,000

The Board recessed at 4:20 p.m.

The Board Meeting was reconvened on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 9:05 a.m. All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary, the Chief Operating Officer, and the Chief Financial Officer were also present.

COO Report on Strategic Planning

Gordon Comfort, COO, presented an update on the work done on the Strategic Plan to date. The plan will be used to allocate resources, set goals, and identify risks and opportunities. The Board was pleased with the project. Staff will have a draft to present to the Board for discussion in April.

NEW BUSINESS

Conformation Recertification Exams

Dr. Battaglia, Chair of the Board Committee appointed to review the Conformation Recertification Exams, gave a report. Suggested changes have been made to the format of the exams and the wording of some questions. Feedback on the suggestions was provided to the Board.

The Board VOTED to make changes to the Exam as follows:

- The exam will continue to contain questions about weighing and measuring (motion by Battaglia, seconded by Powers; unanimous)
- The format of the exam will change so that every question has only one single correct answer (Motion by Biddle, seconded by Battaglia; Garvin opposed, Hamblin abstained)
- All questions of similar types will be grouped together accordingly within the test layout (Motion by Biddle, seconded by Battaglia; Unanimous)
- The passing rate score was lowered to 80% (Motion by Powers, seconded by Tatro; unanimous)
- The scenario questions utilizing icons to mimic the BOB class will be updated to include images of a judges' book (Motion by Garvin, seconded by Powers; unanimous)

The Board agreed that the revised Tests would be used going forward and that the committee would work with the Staff regarding questions of grammar and wording, etc. The Committee will report back in April on the remaining recommendations to the Recertification tests.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION called to discuss business matters. It was reported out of this session that the Board unanimously VOTED to recognize the Korean Kennel Club (KKC). KKC will be added to the list of Foreign Registries whose pedigrees are acceptable for AKC registration. Voted. 13 in favor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was further EXECUTIVE SESSION discussion regarding sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session. (Dr. Davies left the meeting at 1:15 p.m.)

It was VOTED to adjourn on Friday, February 7, 2025, at 4:44 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

Appendix A

REGULATIONS FOR AGILITY TRIALS AND AGILITY COURSE TEST (ACT)

<u>Rule (Bylaw or Regulation)</u> (Current)	<u>Proposed</u> (Line In/Line Out)	Comments
<u>CHAPTER 14</u>	<u>CHAPTER 14</u>	
Section 2. Eligibility of Dogs. This class is open to dogs that are eligible to compete in AKC Agility Trials. Dogs may be entered in in any of the offered class levels and in multiple levels at the trial.	Section 2. Eligibility of Dogs. This class is open to dogs that are eligible to compete in AKC Agility Trials. Dogs may be entered in in any of the offered class levels and in multiple levels at the trial. <u>For ISC ONLY trial Bitches in season (BIS) may be entered at the club's discretion. If the club decides to allow BIS to compete that information and any restrictions placed by the club must be noted in the Premium. (This will be done as a 1-year trial period and then evaluated)</u>	<i>To allow bitches in season to compete at the club's discretion.</i>
Section 4. Eligibility to Hold the ISC Class. Upon approval from the American Kennel Club, the ISC classes are allowed to be held in in one of three trial formats: 1. In conjunction with an AKC approved agility trial a) Clubs may offer one or two ISC classes per day b) Trial day counts as one of the club's 12 allowed days for agility events 2. As a Special Event Agility Trial, where both titling regular AKC classes and more than two ISC classes are held on the same day a) Clubs may offer up to four ISC classes per day b) Clubs are limited to two Special Event days per year, see Chapter 2, Section 1. c) In addition to the normal process for trial approval an Addendum for Special Event Agility Trials must be submitted with the trial application. 3. As an "ISC Only" agility trial	Section 4. Eligibility to Hold the ISC Class. Upon approval from the American Kennel Club, the ISC classes are allowed to be held in in one of three <u>two</u> trial formats: 1. In conjunction with an AKC approved agility trial a) Clubs may offer one or two ISC classes per day b) Trial day counts as one of the club's 12 allowed days for agility events c) <u>Judges may not judge over 350 runs per day</u> 2. As a Special Event Agility Trial, where both titling regular AKC classes and more than two ISC classes are held on the same day a) Clubs may offer up to four ISC classes per day b) Clubs are limited to two Special Event days per year, see Chapter 2, Section 1.	<i>Update the format of trials with ISC classes. After 4 years clubs are using/interested in formatting their trials as noted in the 2 options shown. Addition of judging limit to match those of trials without ISC included.</i>

Rule (Bylaw or Regulation)
(Current)

Proposed
(Line In/Line Out)

Comments

CHAPTER 14

- a) Clubs may elect to hold trials that only offer ISC classes
 - b) For ISC Only events, clubs may determine how many ISC classes will be offered per day
 - c) ISC Only Events are included in clubs allowed 12 trials per year but are not subject to the 100-mile limit between trials.
- Events may be designated as “World Team Bye Events” (WTBE) with approval from the Director of Agility. These events may earn the competitor’s automatic entry to the World Team Tryouts. Details must be included in the event premium.

Section 7. ISC Records. The ISC class shall be printed as the last class in the catalog. A completed ISC class record including a complete list of dogs entered, course distances, standard course times, scores and placements, shall be mailed separately to the Director of Agility.

CHAPTER 14

- ~~e) In addition to the normal process for trial approval an Addendum for Special Event Agility Trials must be submitted with the trial application.~~
- 2. As an “ISC Only” agility trial
 - a) Clubs may elect to hold trials that only offer ISC classes
 - b) For ISC Only events, clubs may determine how many ISC classes will be offered per day
 - c) ISC Only Events are included in clubs allowed 12 trials per year but are not subject to the 100-mile limit between trials.
 - d) Judges may not judge over 350 runs per day Events may be designated as “World Team Bye Events” (WTBE) with approval from the Director of Agility. These events may earn the competitor’s automatic entry to the World Team Tryouts. Details must be included in the event premium.

Section 7. ISC Catalog. The ISC class(es) shall be printed as the last class(es) in the catalog. This section of catalog shall be arranged as follows: ISC Agility classes in level order followed by ISC Jumping classes in level order. ~~A completed~~ The ISC class record must include ~~including a complete list of dogs entered,~~ course distances, standard course times, scores and placements. ~~shall be mailed separately to the Director of Agility.~~

To update section to match how catalogs are now submitted since the inception of the recording fees for ISC.

Rule (Bylaw or Regulation)
(Current)

Proposed
(Line In/Line Out)

Comments

CHAPTER 14

Section 8. Jump Heights. All AKC heights will be offered, except for 24C. Dogs may be entered in their regular AKC jump heights or may choose to run in their FCI height category. At ISC only trials dogs may be entered as FEO as described in Chapter 5, Section 7.

Dogs may be entered in their Preferred height category and will be scored with dogs running in the corresponding Regular height.

It is highly encouraged that run orders are randomized by class. This includes jump height orders as well as order of competitors within a jump height.

Small	Dogs measuring 13-3/4" and less	12"
Medium	Dogs measuring 16-7/8" and less	16"
Intermediate	Dogs measuring 18-7/8" and less	20"
Large	Dogs measuring greater than 18-7/8"	24"

CHAPTER 14

Section 8. Jump Heights. All AKC heights will be offered, except for 24C. Dogs may be entered in their regular AKC jump heights or may choose to run in their FCI height category. ~~At ISC only trials~~ Dogs may be entered as FEO as described in Chapter 5, Section 7. Dogs may be entered in their Preferred height category and will be scored with dogs running in the corresponding Regular height.

~~It is highly encouraged that The run orders in each class are randomized by class. This includes jump height orders as well as order of competitors within a jump height. Run orders must be randomized as noted in Chapter 1, Section 19.~~

X-Small	Dogs measuring 11" and less	8"
Small	Dogs measuring <u>less than 13-3/4" and less</u>	12"
Medium	Dogs measuring <u>less than 16-7/8" and less</u>	16"
Intermediate	Dogs measuring <u>less than 18-7/8" and less</u>	20"
Large	Dogs measuring <u>greater than 18-7/8" or more</u>	24"

Update to match FEO regulation in Chapter 5

Update to what is current practice.

Add X-Small class – 4/8 inch dogs are currently allowed to enter but info was not on this chart. This clarifies for judges & trial secretaries.

Rule (Bylaw or Regulation)
(Current)

Proposed
(Line In/Line Out)

Comments

CHAPTER 14

CHAPTER 14

Section 9. Judges. Only fully approved agility judges (non-provisional) and FCI approved judges will be approved to judge any ISC class. Additionally, FCI judges may design and provide courses for ISC classes to be judged by an AKC agility judge. All judges shall submit course designs for review and approval 45 days prior to the trial. These courses must have the name of the AKC club and date on them when submitted. Courses designed by FCI judges must be sent by the designer either directly to the AKC judge that will be judging them or directly to the AKC Director of Agility. If sent to the AKC judge, they must then forward the courses to the AKC Director. The FCI designer may not send to anyone except the AKC Director or the AKC judge of record. Course Maps will be posted per current AKC regulations unless they are for World Team Bye classes. Those course maps will not be distributed/posted until the course building for the class has started.

Section 9. Judges. Only fully approved agility judges (non-provisional) and FCI approved judges will be approved to judge any ISC class. Additionally, FCI judges may design and provide courses for ISC classes to be judged by an AKC agility judge. All judges shall submit course designs for review and approval 45 days prior to the trial. These courses must have the name of the AKC club and date on them when submitted. Courses designed by FCI judges must be sent by the designer ~~either directly to the AKC judge that will be judging them or directly to the AKC Director of Agility~~ designated Executive Agility Field Representative. If sent to the AKC judge, they must then forward the courses to the AKC Director. The FCI designer may not send courses to anyone except ~~the an AKC Director~~ Executive Agility Field Representative or the AKC judge of record. Course Maps will be posted per current AKC regulations unless they are for World Team Bye classes. Those course maps will not be distributed/posted until the course building for the class has started.

Update course design submission information to match current process.

Rule (Bylaw or Regulation)

(Current)

CHAPTER 14

Section 10. Obstacle Specifications. All specifications and performance requirements shall be as printed in Chapter 3, unless modified herein.

A-Frame	The apex of the A-Frame shall be set at 5'-6". Contact zones shall be 42" in length. The apex shall be set at 5' for 8 and 4-inch dogs.
Dogwalk	The contact zone shall be 36" in length.
Seesaw	Both contact zones shall be 36" in length.
Contacts in General	For altering contact zones for the ISC class- recommend placing a clearly visible line using duct tape with the upside of the duct tape at 36" from the end of the board.
One Bar Jump	All one bar jumps must have wings. The jump bar may range from 4 – 5 feet in length. 4 feet is recommended.
Broad Jump (Long Jump)	Ascending (FCI) style Broad Jump or AKC style Broad Jump may be used. Must be in Premium if using FCI Style. It is suggested to use the maximum width. Soft construction may be used. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X-Small: 4" & 8": 4" (1 board) • Small (12"): set at 16"-20" (2 boards) • Medium (16"): 28"-36" (3-4 boards) • Intermediate (20"): 35-43" (3-4 boards) • Large (24"): 48"-54" (4-5 boards)
Wall Jump	Must comply with Chapter 3, Section 15 for construction and setting of jump heights. <u>Soft construction may be used.</u>

Proposed

(Line In/Line Out)

CHAPTER 14

Section 10. Obstacle Specifications. All specifications and performance requirements shall be as printed in Chapter 3, unless modified herein.

A-Frame	The apex of the A-Frame shall be set at 5'-6". Contact zones shall be 42" in length. The apex shall be set at 5' for 8 and 4-inch dogs.
Dogwalk	The contact zone shall be 36" in length.
Seesaw	Both contact zones shall be 36" in length.
Contacts in General	For altering contact zones for the ISC class- recommend placing a clearly visible line using duct tape with the upside of the duct tape at 36" from the end of the board.
One Bar Jump	All one bar jumps must have wings. The jump bar may range from 4 – 5 feet in length. 4 feet is recommended.
Broad Jump (Long Jump)	Ascending (FCI) style Broad Jump or AKC style Broad Jump may be used. Must be in Premium if using FCI Style. It is suggested to use the maximum width length. Soft construction may be used. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • X-Small: 4" & 8": 4" (1 board) • Small (12"): set at 16"-20" (2 boards) • Medium (16"): 28"-<u>35"</u> (3-4 boards) • Intermediate (20"): 35-43" (3 <u>or</u> 4 boards) • Large (24"): <u>47"</u>-59" (4-5 boards)
Wall Jump	<u>May be FCI style wall jump and if so it must meet FCI specifications. If using AKC wall it must comply with Chapter 3, Section 15 for construction and setting of jump heights. Soft construction may be used.</u>

Comments

Update to match FCI regulations

Clarifies use of FCI style wall jumps and specifications to be used.

Rule (Bylaw or Regulation)
(Current)

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Ascending Spread Jump	Two wing bar jumps placed together to form a spread. It is recommended that a 5' bar be used for the back jump and a 4-4.5' bar be used for the front jump. The jump shall be set as follows: 4": 4" back, 0" front, 0" wide 8": 8" back, 4" front, 4" wide 12": 12" back, 4-6" front, 12" wide 16": 16" back, 8-10" front, 16" wide 20": 20" back, 12-14" front, 18" wide 24": 24" back, 16-18" front, 20" wide
Tire Jump	Setting for the AKC tire are as follows: 4" & 8": 4" Small (12"): 8" Medium (16"): 8" /12" Intermediate (20"): 16" Large (24"): 20" FCI Tire Heights: The height is measured from the ground to the center of the tire. S: 55 cm = 21-22" M: 55 cm = 21-22" I: 70 cm = 27.5" L: 80 cm = 31.5" <u>If using FCI heights for tire it must be noted in the premium.</u>

Ascending Spread Jump	Two wing bar jumps placed together to form a spread. It is recommended that a 5' bar be used for the back jump and a 4-4.5' bar be used for the front jump. The jump shall be set as follows: 4": 4" back, 0" front, 0" wide 8": 8" back, 4" front, 4" wide 12": 12" back, 4-6" front, 12" wide 16": 16" back, <u>6</u> -10" front, 16" wide 20": 20" back, <u>10</u> -14" front, 18" wide 24": 24" back, <u>14</u> -18" front, 20" wide
Tire Jump	Setting for the AKC tire are as follows: <u>X-Small</u> : 4" & 8": 4" Small (12"): 8" Medium (16"): 8" /12" Intermediate (20"): 16" Large (24"): 20" FCI Tire Heights: The height is measured from the ground to the center <u>bottom</u> of the tire. <u>X-Small</u> : <u>4"</u> Small: <u>9-10"</u> Medium: <u>9-10"</u> Intermediate: <u>16"</u> Large: <u>20"</u> If using FCI heights for tire it must be noted in the premium.

Updates to current FCI regulations

Adds X-Small Info to chart

Changes method to measure tire height to help judges/ring crew check quicker and more accurately

Rule (Bylaw or Regulation)

(Current)

Proposed

(Line In/Line Out)

Comments

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Section 12. Equipment Requirements.

ISC Agility Class: ISC Agility 1: 17-20 Total Obstacles Required. ISC Agility 2 & 3: 18-22 Total Obstacles Required. Courses may have less obstacles at reviewer's discretion.

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Section 12. Equipment Requirements.

ISC Agility Class: ~~ISC Agility 1: 17-20 Total Obstacles Required. ISC Agility 2 & 3: 18-22 Total Obstacles Required. Courses may have less obstacles at reviewer's discretion.~~

This information conflicted with FCI course design.

REQUIRED OBSTACLES	QUANTITY RESTRICTIONS AND NOTES
Dog Walk, A-Frame and Seesaw	Must have a Dog Walk, A-Frame and Seesaw on course. Each contact may only be taken one (1) time.
Open Tunnel	Must be used a minimum of one time on the course. <u>Up to 5 tunnel passes within a course.</u> <u>Recommendation: 4 tunnels available. One of them should have a length of 10- 13 feet.</u>
Weave Poles	One (1) set of 12 poles maximum.
One Bar Jump	No quantity restrictions.
Wall Jump, Tire Jump, Ascending Spread Jump, Broad (Long) Jump	These obstacles are optional, but tire and a minimum of one spread (ascending spread jump, broad jump or wall jump) must be used in World Team Bye Events. Note: The dog must have a straight-line approach from the previous obstacle to the tire, spread jump and long jump.

REQUIRED OBSTACLES	QUANTITY RESTRICTIONS AND NOTES
Dog Walk, A-Frame and Seesaw	Must have a Dog Walk, A-Frame and Seesaw on course. Each contact may only be taken one (1) time.
Open Tunnel	Must be used a minimum of one time on the course. Up to 5 tunnel passes within a course. Recommendation: 4 tunnels available. One of them should have a length of 10- 13 feet.
Weave Poles	One (1) set of 12 poles maximum.
One Bar Jump	No quantity restrictions.
Wall Jump, Tire Jump, Ascending Spread Jump, Broad (Long) Jump	These obstacles are optional, but tire and a minimum of one spread (ascending spread jump, broad jump or wall jump) must be used in World Team Bye Events. Note: The dog must have a straight-line approach from the previous obstacle to the tire, spread jump and long jump.

Course design update.

Rule (Bylaw or Regulation)
(Current)

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ISC Jumping Class: ISC Jumping 1: 17-20 Total Obstacles required ISC Jumping 2 & 3: 18-22 Total Obstacles Required. Courses. may have less obstacles at reviewer’s discretion.

ISC Jumping Class: ~~ISC Jumping 1: 17-20 Total Obstacles required ISC Jumping 2 & 3: 18-22 Total Obstacles Required. Courses. may have less obstacles at reviewer’s discretion.~~

This information conflicted with FCI course design.

REQUIRED OBSTACLES	QUANTITY RESTRICTIONS AND NOTES
Weave Poles	One (1) set of 12 poles maximum
One Bar Jump	No quantity restrictions.
Open Tunnel	Up to 5 tunnel passes within a course. Recommendation: 4 tunnels available. One of the tunnel should have a length of 10-13 feet.
Wall Jump, Tire Jump, Spread Jump, Broad (Long) Jump	These obstacles are optional. For a World Team Bye Event a minimum of one spread (ascending spread jump, broad jump or wall jump) must be used. The dog must have a straight-line from the previous obstacle to the tire, spread jump and long jump.

REQUIRED OBSTACLES	QUANTITY RESTRICTIONS AND NOTES
Weave Poles	One (1) set of 12 poles maximum
One Bar Jump	No quantity restrictions.
Open Tunnel	Up to 5 tunnel passes within a course. Recommendation: 4 tunnels available. One of the tunnel should have a length of 10-13 feet.
Wall Jump, Tire Jump, Spread Jump, Broad (Long) Jump	These obstacles are optional. For a World Team Bye Event a minimum of one spread (ascending spread jump, broad jump or wall jump) must be used. The dog must have a straight-line from the previous obstacle to the tire, spread jump and long jump.

Course design update

Section 20. Elimination Faults. Judges shall signal by an elimination by either a whistle or two hands crossed.

1. Three (3) refusals and/or run-outs on a course.
2. Dog running the wrong course, including touching the wrong obstacle with one (1) paw.
3. Dog/handler contact that aids the performance of the dog.
4. Handler contact with the equipment if it aids or was intended to aid the performance of the dog.

Section 20. Elimination Faults. Judges shall signal by an elimination by either a whistle or two hands crossed.

1. Three (3) refusals and/or run-outs on a course.
2. Dog running the wrong course, including touching the wrong obstacle with one (1) paw.
3. Dog/handler contact that aids the performance of the dog.
4. Handler contact with the equipment if it aids or was intended to aid the performance of the dog.

Rule (Bylaw or Regulation)
(Current)

Proposed
(Line In/Line Out)

Comments

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5. Outside assistance to the handler/dog in the ring that aided the performance.
6. Failure to complete all obstacles on the course. Completing an obstacle is defined as:
 - a. Jumping over jumps and through tires, in the proper direction.
 - b. Starting descent on a contact obstacle.
 - c. Going through the tunnels in the proper direction.
 - d. Weaving all Weave Poles after proper entry.

CHAPTER 14

5. Outside assistance to the handler/dog in the ring that aided the performance.
6. Failure to complete all obstacles on the course. Completing an obstacle is defined as:
 - a. Jumping over jumps and through tires, in the proper direction.
 - b. Starting descent on a contact obstacle.
 - c. Going through the tunnels in the proper direction.
 - d. Weaving all Weave Poles after proper entry.
7. Handler knocks down/destroys any obstacle whether the dog is currently taking the obstacle or not.
8. When the dog destroys a jump. For example, when the dog knocks down a pole in any other way than when jumping over it (i.e., if the dog knocks the pole with their tail while going under the jump) or the dog knocks down a wing of the jump that has to be taken again later in the course

To clarify eliminations that are being called but were not clear in this section.

Appendix B

AKC HERDING REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 8 - COURSE D

(Regulation) (Current)

Section 1. Course D. Course D reflects the day to day control and management of livestock in a varied ranch, farm and/or stockyard setting. The dog should demonstrate instinct, ability, versatility and training as an effective stock dog and working partner with the handler while controlling and moving livestock calmly and efficiently through a given course.

Course D provides for a combination of obstacles commonly applied in a ranch setting incorporating areas in and around the herding facility. All elements cannot be restricted to a single arena and must include a combination of arena, pen, and pasture/field work. While the obstacle types are constant, the actual course will vary from facility to facility as designed by the course director. The course should provide for access and clear viewing for the judge at all times.

Sheep/goats are used on Course D. Type of stock available for each class must be stated in the Premium List.

Each run will be allotted a minimum of 10 head of stock for every scored section, with larger numbers preferred (Fewer than 10 heads may be involved in a component within a scored section, for example, where sorting or gate work is done).

Course D represents a unique combination and order of obstacles tailored to each host facility. The course(s) for each event and class will not be available until one hour before the start of the event, and at such time will be posted by the Event Secretary. Each course is designed by the Trial

Proposed (Line In/Line Out)

Section 1. Course D. Course D reflects the day to day control and management of livestock in a varied ranch, farm and/or stockyard setting. The dog should demonstrate instinct, ability, versatility and training as an effective stock dog and working partner with the handler while controlling and moving livestock calmly and efficiently through a given course.

Course D provides for a combination of obstacles commonly applied in a ranch setting incorporating areas in and around the herding facility. All elements cannot be restricted to a single arena and must include a combination of arena, pen, and pasture/field work. While the obstacle types are constant, the actual course will vary from facility to facility as designed by the course director. The course should provide for access and clear viewing for the judge at all times.

Sheep/goats ~~are~~ or cattle may be used on Course D. Type of stock available for each ~~class~~ course must be stated in the Premium List.

Each run will be allotted a minimum of 10 head of stock for every scored section, with larger numbers preferred (Fewer than 10 heads may be involved in a component within a scored section, for example, where sorting or gate work is done). The stock can be used up to eight times per day.

Course D represents a unique combination and order of obstacles tailored to each host facility. The course(s) for each event and class will not be available until one hour before the start of the event, and at such time will be posted by the Event

Comments

This allows cattle for Course D which mimics real ranch work.

Committee's Course Director. However, the Judge shall have final authority over course design, provided any modifications are applied 90 minutes prior to the start of the first Course D class to allow sufficient time for the posting of the course layout. Alternatively, the Course Director may communicate with the judge prior to the event to coordinate for optimal course design.

The type of obstacles to be used for the Course D must be included in the Premium List.

All stock must be accustomed to being worked by dogs on the designated course and be conditioned prior to the trial.

The club must ensure that facilities are provided for the separation of fresh and exhausted stock. Stock will be sorted by gate run or into groups primarily on the basis of uniformity, and used in the prescribed groups throughout the trial; these groups will be run in a pre-determined order, except that groups may be deleted from the run order or individual animals may be substituted within groups where a group member is found to be unsound or otherwise unfit for use.

Secretary. Each course is designed by the Trial Committee's Course Director. However, the Judge shall have final authority over course design, provided any modifications are applied 90 minutes prior to the start of the first Course D class to allow sufficient time for the posting of the course layout. Alternatively, the Course Director may communicate with the judge prior to the event to coordinate for optimal course design.

A given course at a given facility may only be used once per event number, and that exact course may not be used again by a given club for three months. Nor should a course knowingly be used again by other clubs trialing at that facility for three months. Using the same elements/obstacles in a different order will constitute an adequate change of course, provided a minimum of one element/obstacle has been moved to a different part of the course.

The type of obstacles to be used for the Course D must be included in the Premium List.

All stock must be accustomed to being worked by dogs on the designated course and be conditioned prior to the trial.

The club must ensure that facilities are provided for the separation of fresh and exhausted stock. Stock will be sorted by gate run or into groups primarily on the basis of uniformity, and used in the prescribed groups throughout the trial; these groups will be run in a pre-determined order, except that groups may be deleted from the run order or individual animals may be substituted within groups where a group member is found to be unsound or otherwise unfit for use. An animal that is deemed by the judge to demonstrate inappropriate behavior that is inconsistent with the rest of the stock prior to or during a run may be removed and substituted. The judge upon their discretion may allow a rerun at the time of the substitution.

Requiring this small change maintains the purpose and intent of handlers not knowing the course while also giving flexibility to the clubs who must find ways to keep the courses different. Some clubs may be confused about this rule and feel they need to physically move an obstacle, but as written they only need to change the order in which the obstacles are attempted.

This clarifies a judge can use replacement stock and recognizes that a single difficult animal can make for uneven runs. It also clarifies a judge can allow a rerun at the time of substitution when the replacement occurred.

Selection of particular stock for a particular competitor will constitute misconduct and will be grounds for a formal complaint.

Priority must always be given to care of livestock. Trial schedules should be adjusted to provide adequate breaks for livestock as necessary.

The trial hosting club is responsible for ensuring an adequate number of livestock has been hired for the number of runs at their trial. Regardless of the type of stock used, clubs must arrange to have additional stock in reserve.

At the discretion of the Course Director, one or more dogs may be used to facilitate stock handling, provided that they do not interfere with livestock behavior during judging. A dog competing in that weekend's trial events may not be used for stock handling until after it has completed its final run for the day.

Section 2. Course Director. The trial-host club must appoint a Course Director, whose duties are to design and construct or supervise the construction of the course or courses; to assist and advise in all matters pertaining to the courses and the running of same; and to supervise the care of the trial stock during the running of the trial.

The Course Director or stewards will be responsible for keeping all competing dogs that are not on course or in the ready position from disturbing livestock, contestants, spectators or dogs that are on course and being judged. The Trial Committee and the Course Director will be responsible for ensuring that all non-competing dogs except stock handler's dogs are barred from the immediate run area.

Selection of particular stock for a particular competitor will constitute misconduct and will be grounds for a formal complaint.

Priority must always be given to care of livestock. Trial schedules should be adjusted to provide adequate breaks for livestock as necessary.

The trial hosting club is responsible for ensuring an adequate number of livestock has been hired for the number of runs at their trial. Regardless of the type of stock used, clubs must arrange to have additional stock in reserve.

At the discretion of the Course Director, one or more dogs may be used to facilitate stock handling, provided that they do not interfere with livestock behavior during judging. ~~A dog competing in that weekend's trial events may not be used for stock handling until after it has completed its final run for the day.~~

Section 2. Course Director. The trial-host club must appoint a Course Director, whose duties are to design and construct or supervise the construction of the course or courses; to assist and advise in all matters pertaining to the courses and the running of same; and to supervise the care of the trial stock during the running of the trial. The Course Director determines differentiators of difficulty by level if not specifically defined. The Course Director will determine how ties are broken. Tie-breakers will be announced prior to the start of the course.

The Course Director or stewards will be responsible for keeping all competing dogs that are not on course or in the ready position from disturbing livestock, contestants, spectators or dogs that are on course and being judged. The Trial Committee and the Course Director will be responsible for ensuring that all non-competing dogs except stock handler's dogs are barred from the immediate run area.

Removal of sentence is housekeeping and follows the recent change made which allows stock dogs to be entered in a trial except for the class in which they are setting stock for.

Further clarifies the role of the Course Director.

The Course Director may appoint one or more Course Stewards to assist him/her.

Course D will not be confined to an arena, but should encompass a group of locations depending on the specific course design. There must be a perimeter fence or other natural barrier containing the trial area, but this need not coincide with the course boundaries. The minimum size of the course must be no less than 2½ acres or 108,000 square feet.

Section 3. Pens & Obstacles. The take pen must be a minimum 12 feet by 12 feet. The exhaust pen may be the same pen as the take pen. If the exhaust is a separate pen, it must be large enough to accommodate the number of stock being used. The take and exhaust pens must have a gate that latches and swings easily.

Gate widths must be sufficient to accommodate stock movement without undue risk of stock contact with the gate or gateposts.

For Course D trials, the freestanding pen will have a 6-foot rope firmly affixed to the gate and hung loosely on the pen to keep the gate closed.

Fence line obstacles in all levels must consist of a section of fencing, a fence panel, or an object such as a barrel placed so that the stock must go:

- (a) Through an opening in the obstacle; or
- (b) Between the obstacle and the arena fence. The opening for stock to negotiate in all fence line obstacles or between the fence line obstacle and the arena wall must be 8 ft.

The Course Director may appoint one or more Course Stewards to assist him/her. The Course Director is not eligible to run in the D Course classes for which they created the course, but may run in other classes at the same trial.

Course D will not be confined to an arena, but should encompass a group of locations depending on the specific course design. There must be a perimeter fence or other natural barrier containing the trial area, but this need not coincide with the course boundaries. The minimum size of the course must be no less than 2½ acres or 108,000 square feet.

Section 3. Pens & Obstacles. The take pen must be a minimum 12 feet by 12 feet but always large enough to accommodate the number and type of stock being used. The exhaust pen may be the same pen as the take pen. If the exhaust is a separate pen, it must be large enough to accommodate the number of stock being used. The take and exhaust pens must have a gate that latches and swings easily. There cannot be stock in the exhaust pen other than the stock on course.

Gate widths must be sufficient to accommodate stock movement without undue risk of stock contact with the gate or gateposts.

For Course D trials, the freestanding pen will have a 6-foot rope firmly affixed to the gate ~~and hung loosely on the pen to keep the gate closed.~~

Fence line obstacles in all levels must consist of a section of fencing, a fence panel, or an object such as a barrel placed so that the stock must go:

- (a) Through an opening in the obstacle; or
- (b) Between the obstacle and the arena fence. The opening for stock to negotiate in all fence line obstacles or between the fence line obstacle and the arena wall must be 8 ft.

This clarifies the eligibility of the Course Director.

New language added to accommodate for cattle.

This makes it clear only stock provided for a dog's run is allowed in the exhaust pen.

Not necessary to describe how the rope should hang.

Freestanding obstacles: The opening for stock to negotiate in all freestanding chutes must be 14 ft. to 16 ft. wide.

Trailers, chutes, footbaths, bridges and stalls etc. must be of sufficient size to safely accommodate the stock, dog and handler as required. If other obstacles are used, i.e., trees, bushes, boulders, tractors, hay wagons, round bales of straw etc., sufficient space should be available for safe passage of the stock, dog and handler as required.

All obstacles shall be a minimum height of 3 ft.

Section 4. Course Design & Safety. The course design for each level shall be decided upon by the Course Director, approved by the judge, and posted one hour before the start of the trial.

Before the trial, the Course Director and his stewards will ensure that the trial grounds are cleared of all litter and dangerous objects such as broken glass, loose wire, etc. and they shall inspect all obstacles and fences to be used in the trial to ensure that they are sturdy and safe with no nail projecting, broken boards, etc., that might cause injury to livestock, dogs, or competitors.

Where natural hazards (e.g. thorned vegetation, wasps) on the site are known to exist and be consequential, the nature of these known hazards should be disclosed to competitors before the trial begins.

Livestock guardian dogs should be secured, preferably out of visual range while visiting dogs are on the trial site.

It is the responsibility of the Course Director, the judge, and the exhibitor to ensure the safety of the course.

Stock Sheep/goats used in AKC Course D trials must be lambs, wethers or ewes, and in the case of wool sheep over 1 year of age, must have been shorn within the past year.

Freestanding obstacles: The opening for stock to negotiate in all freestanding chutes must be 14 ft. to 16 ft. wide.

Trailers, chutes, footbaths, bridges and stalls etc. must be of sufficient size to safely accommodate the stock, dog and handler as required. If other obstacles are used, i.e., trees, bushes, boulders, tractors, hay wagons, round bales of straw etc., sufficient space should be available for safe passage of the stock, dog and handler as required.

All obstacles shall be a minimum height of ~~3~~4 ft.

Section 4. Course Design & Safety. The course design for each level shall be decided upon by the Course Director, approved by the judge, and posted one hour before the start of the trial.

Before the trial, the Course Director and his stewards will ensure that the trial grounds are cleared of all litter and dangerous objects such as broken glass, loose wire, etc. and they shall inspect all obstacles and fences to be used in the trial to ensure that they are sturdy and safe with no nail projecting, broken boards, etc., that might cause injury to livestock, dogs, or competitors.

Where natural hazards (e.g. thorned vegetation, wasps) on the site are known to exist and be consequential, the nature of these known hazards should be disclosed to competitors before the trial begins.

Livestock guardian dogs should be secured, preferably out of visual range while visiting dogs are on the trial site.

It is the responsibility of the Course Director, the judge, and the exhibitor to ensure the safety of the course.

Stock Sheep/goats used in AKC Course D trials must be lambs, wethers or ewes, and in the case of wool sheep over 1 year of age, must have been shorn within the past year.

Makes height consistent with other courses.

People attending to sheep should know how to properly handle them under the jaw or by the flank, and how to hold them under the jaw for restraint or controlled movement.

The proper use of a crook, by a competent operator, is also an acceptable catching method. Sheep should never be caught by grabbing their fleece.

Sheep must never be lifted by the head, ears, horns, tail or fleece.

Section 5. Trial Levels.

The levels at a Course D trial shall be Started, Intermediate and Advanced. An owner may enter a dog in any trial level he or she deems appropriate; however, once that dog has acquired a qualifying score in such level at a licensed or member trial, it shall be ineligible to be entered in any lower level. A Course D trial need not include all levels, but in order to hold an Intermediate level the trial must include the Started level. If an Advanced level is offered, Intermediate and Started levels must also be offered at licensed and member club trials. A dog will remain eligible to compete in levels for both Course D Started and Course D Intermediate for 60 days when according to the owner's records the dog has completed the requirements to be awarded an AKC Excellent title at that trial level. Dogs that have achieved any title of Course D advanced (HXD) are eligible to compete in Course D advanced (HXD) class for an indefinite period of time.

Cattle should be of the type, size and disposition as described in Chapter 2, Section 11. People attending to cattle should know how to properly manage them.

People attending to sheep should know how to properly handle them under the jaw or by the flank, and how to hold them under the jaw for restraint or controlled movement.

The proper use of a crook, by a competent operator, is also an acceptable catching method. Sheep should never be caught by grabbing their fleece.

Sheep must never be lifted by the head, ears, horns, tail or fleece.

Section 5. Trial Levels.

~~The levels at a Course D trial shall be Started, Intermediate and Advanced. An owner may enter a dog in any trial level he or she deems appropriate; however, once that dog has acquired a qualifying score in such level at a licensed or member trial, it shall be ineligible to be entered in any lower level. A Course D trial need not include all levels, but in order to hold an Intermediate level the trial must include the Started level. If an Advanced level is offered, Intermediate and Started levels must also be offered at licensed and member club trials. A dog will remain eligible to compete in levels for both Course D Started and Course D Intermediate for 60 days when according to the owner's records the dog has completed the requirements to be awarded an AKC Excellent title at that trial level. Dogs that have achieved any title of Course D advanced (HXD) are eligible to compete in Course D advanced (HXD) class for an indefinite period of time.~~

Provides added detail to describe cattle which are to be allowed for this Course.

This information is found in Chapter IV, Section 1. Trial Levels and applies to all trial classes.

Section 6. Qualifying Scores. A qualifying score shall be 60 or more points (per Chapter 5, Section 2) with no incomplete sections in all classes. A qualifying score must never be awarded unless the run is completed “on course”. For a run to be “on course”, all stock must leave the take pen, and each required element of the course must be completed before the next required element may be considered. This includes entire distance of the HI & HX drive.

If a handler attempts a course element out of the correct sequence, the judge may notify the handler that the run is off course. However, such notification must be done in a consistent manner for all handlers.

In the case of obstacles, completion of the element requires that at ALL stock pass completely through or in the obstacle in the required direction.

A hold must be attempted before the re-pen and the score will reflect the quality of the hold or attempt. The dog need not be between the handler and the stock, as long as stock are viewed as being held off the pen so as to prevent crowding at the exhaust pen gate as it is being opened.

Completion of a run “on course” requires penning of all stock before the handler closes the exhaust pen gate and completing the sorting of all stock as specified for that course.

Section 7. Course D General Requirements. For a D Course Trial, each required element will occur in its own scored section of the course subject to possible modification by the judge. Scoring is for the actual element, which is marked approximately 20 feet before the element and ending as the stock exit. The remainder of the scoring is under the Stock Control section of the score sheet.

Section 6. Qualifying Scores. A qualifying score shall be 60 or more points (~~per Chapter 5, Section 2) with no incomplete sections in all classes.~~ provided no single point category is scored at less than one-half the available points.

A qualifying score must never be awarded unless the run is completed “on course”. For a run to be “on course”, all stock must leave the take pen, and each required element of the course must be ~~completed~~ attempted before the next required element may be considered. ~~This includes entire distance of the HI & HX drive.~~

If a handler attempts a course element out of the correct sequence, the judge ~~may~~ will notify the handler that the run is off course and score accordingly. ~~However,~~ such notification must be done in a consistent manner for all handlers.

~~In the case of obstacles, completion of the element requires that at ALL stock pass completely through or in the obstacle in the required direction.~~

A hold must be attempted before the re-pen and the score will reflect the quality of the hold or attempt. The dog need not be between the handler and the stock, as long as stock are viewed as being held off the pen so as to prevent crowding at the exhaust pen gate as it is being opened. A qualifying score must never be awarded if no attempt is made.

Completion of a run “on course” requires penning of all stock before the handler closes ~~the exhaust~~ pen gate and completes the sorting of all stock as specified ~~for that course.~~

Section 7. Course D General Requirements. For a D Course Trial, each required element will occur in its own scored section of the course subject to possible modification by the judge. Scoring is for the actual element, which is marked approximately 20 feet before the element and ending as the stock exit. The remainder of the scoring is under the Stock Control section of the score sheet.

This provides and spells out the same detail found in Chapter 4, Section 2.

This is in line with the change that an element can be completed without all the stock passing through the moving obstacle. As currently written, attaining a qualifying score can be extremely difficult. This change will help encourage handlers to attempt each element.

This provides clear instruction that if a handler goes off course the judge is to notify the handler.

Provides emphasis on a handler attempting the hold with their dog and the judge scoring accordingly. A hold is a primary function in herding, particularly in Course D as it reflects real ranch work.

This is a generalization for safety reasons, that any pen gate on course must be closed

The Judge and/or Course Director will determine the time allotted for the course. Before a trial, the course should be tested with livestock similar to the trial stock, and the test should be timed. This testing and timing should be done sufficiently early to enable any appropriate changes in the course before the course design is posted. All elements must have increasing degrees of difficulty for each level.

Course D Required Elements

All levels must include all seven (7) Required Elements and each dog must complete these elements in a satisfactory manner to qualify:

Outrun—Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers and completes the outrun or gather as close to the balance point as possible..... (8 points)

Lift – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift at the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock.....(4 points)

Fetch – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock straight to the handler at a steady pace working at the proper balance point..... (8 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – The stock will be moved through the course in a straight line between elements or designated destinations – Maximum points will be awarded for demonstrating a calm fetch and/or drive in a straight line or lines through the designated parts of the course(20 points)

Take pen – The take pen may be a stall in a barn, a fence line pen or a freestanding pen. Maximum points will be awarded for the stock leaving the pen calmly and in control(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle - The freestanding obstacle may be anywhere on the course, but at least 12 feet

The Judge and/or Course Director will determine the time allotted for the course. Before a trial, the course should be tested with livestock similar to the trial stock, and the test should be timed. This testing and timing should be done sufficiently early to enable any appropriate changes in the course before the course design is posted. All elements must have increasing degrees of difficulty for each level.

Course D Required Elements

All levels must include all ~~seven (7)~~ five (5) Required Elements and each dog must complete these elements in a satisfactory manner to qualify:

~~Outrun~~ Gather – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers and completes the outrun or gather as close to the balance point as possible....(~~8 points~~)

~~Lift~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift at the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock and (~~4 points~~)

~~Fetch~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock straight to the handler at a steady pace working at the proper balance point.....(~~8~~20 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – The stock will be moved through the course in a straight line between elements or designated destinations – Maximum points will be awarded for demonstrating a calm fetch and/or drive in a straight line or lines through the designated parts of the course(20 points)

Take pen – The take pen may be a stall in a barn, a fence line pen or a freestanding pen. Maximum points will be awarded for the stock leaving the pen calmly and in control(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle - The freestanding obstacle may be anywhere on the course, but at least 12 feet

after penning to be considered completion of a run.

Outrun/Lift/Fetch are combined into one element called Gather.

Standardizing the points will make things easier for the judge, and adding points to the lift section makes it less likely a run will not qualify merely for a poor lift.

from any fence line. Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle unassisted by the handler, on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold should be demonstrated before penning the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for penning all stock in a calm manner. The dog and handler may be required to remain outside the pen.....(10 points)

Course D Optional Elements

All levels must include three (3) optional elements and each dog must complete these elements in a satisfactory manner to qualify.

Optional elements may be the same for all levels or course design may use different elements for each level. Each optional element shall be assigned at 10 points.

Load and unload chute – Chutes must not have solid sides and a gate on the closed end. They may vary from 3 to 6 feet in width and may or may not have a floor. Chutes may be configured in a variety of shapes including straight, “L”, or “Y”. Chutes may have entry wings with a width of no more than 12 feet. Stock enters the opening, and is let out through the gate on the other end. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by: Started handlers are unlimited in their movement. Intermediate handlers may go to the wing or entrance. Advanced handlers must remain 10’ from any part of the chute until they open the gate. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently loading and unloading all the stock.

from any fence line. Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle unassisted by the handler, on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold ~~should be demonstrated~~ must be attempted before penning the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for holding the stock off the open gate on the first attempt and penning all stock in a calm manner. The dog and handler ~~may~~ are required to remain outside the pen.....(10 points)

Course D Optional Elements

All levels must include three (3) optional elements and each dog must complete these elements in a satisfactory manner to qualify.

Optional elements may be the same for all levels or course design may use different elements for each level. Each optional element shall be assigned at 10 points. The Course Director selects the optional elements.

a) Load and unload chute – Chutes must not have solid sides and must have a gate on the closed end. They may vary from 3 to 6 feet in width and may or may not have a floor. Chutes may be configured in a variety of shapes including straight, “L”, or “Y”. Chutes may have entry wings with a width of no more than 12 feet. Stock enters the opening, and is let out through the gate on the other end. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by: Started handlers are unlimited in their movement. Intermediate handlers may go to the wing or entrance. Advanced handlers must remain 10’ from any part of the chute until they open the gate. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently loading and unloading all the stock on first attempt.

A dog able to hold the stock is of primary importance and demonstrates a necessary function in keeping the stock stationary while the gate is being opened.

Adds additional details that provide further clarification throughout the description of optional elements.

a) Sort Chute – Two or more stock will be sorted into pens or stalls. Dog will hold stock in alleyway while handler works the gate. Handler may touch sheep lightly with no abuse to equipment or livestock. Maximum points will be awarded for efficiency and calm handling of the stock. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by: At the Started level, any stock may be sorted; at the Intermediate and Advanced levels specific stock (marked stock) must be sorted. Maximum points will be awarded for sorting the correct stock in a calm and efficient manner. Stock may be marked with ribbons or similar non harmful identification applied to designate select stock for sorting.

b) Bridge – A bridge may be an actual existing bridge or an obstacle set up for the course. In the latter case, an obstacle designated as a “bridge” is distinguished from a chute in that the bridge has a floor and should be no less than 6 feet in length and no more than 12 feet in width. Actual bridges may have any surface and may be narrower than 8 feet but no less than 4 feet in width. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock over the bridge on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined by one of two methods: Started – 2 wings; Intermediate – 1 wing Advanced – no wings or handler positioning restrictions for each level.

a-b) Sort Chute – Two or more stock will be sorted into pens or stalls. Dog will hold stock in alleyway while handler works the gate. Handler may touch sheep lightly with no abuse to equipment or livestock. Maximum points will be awarded for efficiency and calm handling of the stock. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by: At the Started level, any stock may be sorted; at the Intermediate and Advanced levels specific stock (marked stock) must be sorted. Maximum points will be awarded for sorting the correct stock in a calm and efficient manner on the first attempt. Stock may be marked with ribbons, livestock paint or similar non harmful identification applied to designate select stock for sorting. Should the stock be sorted incorrectly, it shall be counted as a missed attempt, all stock should be returned to the main group and the exercise begun again.

b c) Bridge – A bridge may be an actual existing bridge or an obstacle set up for the course. In the latter case, an obstacle designated as a “bridge” is distinguished from a chute in that the bridge has a floor and should be no less than 6 feet in length and no more than 12 feet in width. Actual bridges may have any surface and may be narrower than 8 feet but no less than 4 feet in width. Handler may leave the designated position to move to the next obstacle once the first head exits the bridge and if necessary to reach the next obstacle, the handler may cross the bridge after the first head of stock exits the bridge. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock over the bridge on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels ~~may be determined by one of two methods: Started - 2 wings~~ Handlers are unlimited in their movement. This includes driving or fetching on the bridge if safe to do so; Intermediate – ~~1 wing~~ -Handler may stand at either side of the bridge entrance and change position once;

Advanced - ~~no wings or handler positioning restrictions for each level~~ Handler may move to either side of the bridge entrance and must remain in that position.

c) Gate work – Gate work should encompass adding or removing stock from one group to another from adjoining areas. At the Started level, any stock may be sorted, while at the Intermediate and Advanced levels specific stock (marked stock) should be sorted. Maximum points will be awarded for sorting the correct stock in a calm and efficient manner. Stock may be marked with ribbons or similar non harmful identification applied to designate select stock for sorting.

d) Extra obstacles – Extra obstacles may include trees, bushes, rocks, farm equipment, and bales of hay or straw, etc. to either pass between as panels or to make turns around. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly putting all the stock through or around the obstacle on the first attempt.

e) Figure 8 – The stock must move in a figure eight pattern Cones, barrels or natural objects may be used to set out the pattern and the stock must pass through the center three times to complete the pattern. Started handlers may move anywhere; Intermediate must stand centered between the markers; Advanced handlers must remain stationary outside the figure 8. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock around the pattern on the first attempt.

e d) Gate work – Gate work should encompass adding or removing stock from one group to another from adjoining areas. At the Started level, any stock may be sorted, while at the Intermediate and Advanced levels specific stock (marked stock) should be sorted. Maximum points will be awarded for sorting the correct stock in a calm and efficient manner on the first attempt. Stock may be marked with ribbons, livestock paint, or similar non harmful identification applied to designate select stock for sorting.

d e) Extra obstacles – Extra obstacles may include trees, bushes, rocks, farm equipment, and bales of hay or straw, etc. to either pass between as panels or to make turns around. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly putting all the stock through or around the obstacle on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels will be determined by the Course Director.

e f) Figure 8 – The stock must move in a figure eight pattern Cones, barrels or natural objects may be used to set out the pattern and the stock must pass through the center three times to complete the pattern. Started handlers may move anywhere; Intermediate ~~must stand centered between the markers~~ handlers must remain outside the figure 8 but may move freely outside of the obstacle; Advanced handlers must remain stationary outside the figure 8. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock around the pattern on the first attempt.

Clarifies how the handler can travel to the next obstacle and that if the bridge is needed, will not be penalized and viewed as walking through the obstacle.

Wings are used to narrow a space, by removing wings it gives clubs more flexibility in what they are able to set up prior to a bridge or chute.

The position of the handler is provided at each level so as to explain the increased challenge per level. The movement by the handler is more restrictive at the higher level.

f) Mook footbath – The handler and dog must move stock through a footbath containing only water. Absolutely no chemicals may be used in the footbath. The footbath should be from 2 to 4 feet in width, but large enough for the stock to move comfortably through. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently putting stock through the footbath on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined by: Started – a minimum of 1/3 of the flock into bath, Intermediate a minimum 2/3 of the flock into bath, and advanced all stock into foot bath.

g) Stock Trailer – The trailer should be of a suitable size to ensure the safety of the stock and the dog. The stock must be loaded into the trailer without the dog entering the trailer.

Once the stock has entered the trailer, the trailer door will be closed. The dog may enter the trailer to unload the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock in and out of the trailer on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined in one of the following:

f g) Mook Simulated footbath – The handler and dog must move stock through a footbath ~~containing only water~~ located in a fence line chute that must have an entry wing with a width of no more than 12 feet for the Started and Intermediate levels and no wing for Advanced. Absolutely no chemicals may be used in the footbath, but it must contain 2 to 4 inches of water and have a non-slip surface. The footbath should be ~~from~~ approximately 2 to 4 feet in width but large enough for the stock to move comfortably through, and a minimum of 8 feet in length, and located towards the exit end of the chute. The handler may touch the stock with hands or crook to encourage them into and through the obstacle but must not abuse them. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently putting all stock designated for this obstacle through the footbath on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty between levels ~~may will~~ be determined by: Started – a minimum of 1/3 of the flock into bath, Intermediate a minimum 2/3 of the flock into bath, and advanced all stock into foot bath.

g h) Stock Trailer – The trailer should be of a suitable size to ensure the safety of the stock and the dog. The stock must be loaded into the trailer without the dog entering the trailer. An approximately 8-to-12-foot panel will be used as a wing on the opposite side of the trailer from the door to assist loading for the Started and Intermediate levels. The handler may touch the stock with hands or crook to assist with loading, but may not abuse them. For all levels on cattle, no dog may enter the trailer when loading. Once the stock has entered the trailer, the trailer door will be closed. The dog may enter the trailer to unload the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for calmly and efficiently moving all the stock in and out of the trailer on the first attempt. Degree of difficulty

Clarifies many issues clubs are having interpreting this section, including whether the footbath should contain anything, as well as safety issues for both stock and handler. The more detailed description of the footbath setup will help make runs more uniform between different facilities.

• Started to load trailer to 1/3 of its capacity.
Intermediate to load trailer to 2/3 of its capacity.
Advanced to load trailer to full capacity. Or;

• Started handlers may enter trailer while loading.
Intermediate handlers may stand in opening of trailer. Advanced handlers must remain outside during loading.

h) Alleyways – 2 panels of sufficient length are set approximately 15 - 25 feet parallel from the perimeter Fence line, with a distance of approximately 10 to 16 feet apart, to simulate an alleyway with an open gate on one side. Started handlers may walk through the alleyway with the gate closed. Intermediate handlers may not walk through, and dogs need to get the sheep through the alleyway not allowing the stock to go through the ‘open’ gate. Advanced handlers may not walk through, but must turn the stock to go through the side gate. Alternatively, a Maltese could be used using similar criteria to differentiate levels.

i) Shed/hold – Started handlers will hold the stock in a designated area that must be away from any fence line. Intermediate handlers will follow all of the same shedding criteria as Advanced, except that

between levels ~~may will~~ be determined ~~in one of the following:~~ by:

• Started ~~to load~~ handler or dog may not enter the trailer but may otherwise move freely while loading the trailer to 1/3 of its capacity. ~~Started handlers may enter trailer while loading.~~

• Intermediate ~~to load~~ handler or dog may not enter the trailer but may otherwise move freely while loading the trailer to 2/3 of its capacity. ~~Intermediate handlers may stand in opening of trailer.~~

• Advanced handlers ~~must remain outside during loading~~ hold the trailer door until the stock is loaded and dog may not enter trailer while loading to full capacity. For cattle only, Advanced handlers must remain on the door side of the trailer but need not hold the door.

h) i) Alleyways – 2 panels of sufficient length are set approximately 15 - 25 feet parallel from the perimeter Fence line, with a distance of approximately 10 to 16 feet apart, to simulate an alleyway with an open gate on one side. Started handlers may walk through the alleyway with the gate closed. Intermediate handlers may not walk through, and dogs need to get the sheep through the alleyway not allowing the stock to go through the ‘open’ gate. Advanced handlers may not walk through, but must turn the stock to go through the side gate. Alternatively, a Maltese Cross could be used using similar criteria to differentiate levels.

i) j) Shed/hold – Started handlers will hold the stock still in a designated shedding area that must be away from any fence line. The dog is not required to stop before the hold is called, as long as the stock are still. Intermediate handlers will follow all of the

Provides further detail on this obstacle – expected capacity and addresses safety concerns with regarding to being in the trailer when loading at each level.

they may use a fence line. Advanced handlers must remain in the designated shedding ring. The stock must be split into two groups by the combined efforts of the dog and handler. When the handler calls the dog in to take control, the dog must come immediately, and Advanced Started & Intermediate turn the group indicated by the handler away from the remaining stock. If the dog does not come in when the handler asks, it will be considered a failed attempt and points will be deducted at the judge's discretion. The stock must be moved away from the remaining stock and held until the judge indicates that the shed is complete. Maximum points will be awarded for a successful shed on the first attempt.

j) Freestanding pen with rope – The pen shall be between eight feet by eight feet (8' x 8') and twelve feet x twelve feet (12' x 12'). A 6-foot (6') rope must be firmly affixed to the gate and hung loosely on the pen to keep the gate closed. When ready to pen the stock, the handler must open the gate, and after all the stock are penned, the handler must close the gate. However, after penning, the handler and/or the dog may enter the pen to exhaust the stock.

Upon completion of penning, the rope will be loosely hung over the pen. Maximum points will be awarded for penning and exhausting the stock efficiently.

Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined by the following:

- Started handlers do not have to hold onto the rope and may enter the pen.

same shedding criteria as Advanced, except that they may use a fence line. Advanced handlers must remain in the designated shedding ~~ring~~ area. The stock must be split into two approximate equal groups with no fewer than four head per group by the combined efforts of the dog and handler. When the handler calls the dog in to take control, the dog must come immediately, and Advanced Started & Intermediate turn the group indicated by the handler away from the remaining stock. If the dog does not come in when the handler asks, it will be considered a failed attempt and points will be deducted at the judge's discretion. The stock must be moved away from the remaining stock and held until the judge indicates that the shed is complete. Maximum points will be awarded for a successful shed on the first attempt.

j k) Freestanding pen with rope – The pen shall be ~~between eight feet by eight feet (8' x 8') and twelve feet x twelve feet (12' x 12')~~ of an adequate size to contain all of the stock in the group. A 6-foot (6') rope must be firmly affixed to the gate ~~and hung loosely on the pen to keep the gate closed~~. When ready to pen the stock, the handler must open the gate, and after all the stock are penned, the handler must close the gate. ~~However, after penning, the handler and/or the dog may enter the pen to exhaust the stock.~~

~~Upon completion of penning, the rope will be loosely hung over the pen.~~ The dog and handler may not enter the pen to exhaust the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for penning and exhausting the stock efficiently and then closing the gate.

Degree of difficulty between levels may be determined by the following:

- Started handlers do not have to hold onto the rope and may ~~enter the pen~~ move freely.

Provides further clarification at each level of the shed/hold.

- Intermediate handlers do not have to hold onto the rope and may not enter the pen.
- Advanced handlers must hold onto the rope and may not enter the pen.

k) Stock Setting - Dog will set stock for an un-entered dog. Dog will take stock to a designated area and allow an un-entered dog to pick them up. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog who allows pick up of the stock with minimal commands. Degree of difficulty may be determined by the size of the area that the stock is set out in or by competitor dog being on lead for Started, dragging lead for Intermediate or off-lead for Advanced.

Section 8. Levels.

Started Level Course D—Description.

The D Course Started course consists of the 7 general elements, namely a take pen, gather, lift, fetch, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle and fetch and/or drive plus three of the optional elements. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order.

The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Started level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

Outrun – The dog will be at a distance of at least 60 feet from the stock. The handler may move to a position between the dog and the stock, but not closer than 15 feet from the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no

- Intermediate handlers do not have to hold onto the rope ~~and may not enter the pen~~ but must remain on the gate side of the pen.
- Advanced handlers must hold onto the rope ~~and may not enter the pen.~~

k) Stock Setting - Dog will set stock for an un-entered or stock setter's dog. Dog will take stock to a designated area and allow an un-entered or stock setter's dog to pick them up. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog who allows pick of up the stock with minimal commands. Degree of difficulty may will be determined by ~~the size of the area that the stock is set out in or by~~ the competitor dog being on lead for Started, dragging lead for Intermediate or off-lead for Advanced.

Section 8. Levels.

Started Level Course D—Description.

The D Course Started course consists of the ~~7~~ 5 general elements, namely a take pen, gather, ~~lift, fetch,~~ exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle, and fetch and/or drive plus three of the optional elements. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order.

The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Started level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

Outrun Gather – The dog will be at a distance of at least 60 feet from the stock. The handler may move to a position between the dog and the stock, but not closer than 15 feet from the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the

Because this is a large flock course, these specific pen measurements may not be suitable for the number of stock used. It is unsafe for a dog or handler to enter a small pen with stock. These changes make this element safer and adds clarity.

Housekeeping update to reflect past approval which allows a stock dog to be entered.

crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow.....(8 points)

Lift – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift at the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock(4 points)

Fetch – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock straight to the handler at a steady pace working at the proper balance point.....(8 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element.....(20 points)

Take stock out of pen – All stock must leave the take pen. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate.....(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle – Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle, unassisted by the handler, on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold should be demonstrated before penning the stock, but it is not necessary to hold them while the gate is open. Maximum points will be awarded for stock walking into the pen(10 points)

gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow.....(8 points), ~~Lift~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift at the correct speed in the correct direction without upsetting the stock.....(4 points), ~~Fetch~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that and fetches the stock straight to the handler at a steady pace working at the proper balance point.....(8 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element.....(20 points)

Take stock out of pen – All stock must leave the take pen. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate.....(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle – Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle, ~~unassisted by the handler~~ on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold ~~should be demonstrated~~ must be attempted before penning the stock but is not necessary to hold them while the gate is open. Maximum points will be awarded for stock walking into the pen holding the stock off the open gate and then allowing stock to exhaust calmly. A run in which the handler does not attempt a hold off the gate shall not qualify.....(10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

Intermediate Level Course D—Description.

The Course D Intermediate course consists of the 7 general elements namely a take pen, outrun, lift, fetch, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle and drive, plus 3 of the optional elements listed. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order. The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Intermediate level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

Outrun – The dog will be at a distance of at least 100 feet from the stock. The handler may move to a position between the dog and the stock, but not closer than 50 feet from the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow.....(8 points)

Lift – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift without upsetting the stock(4 points)

Fetch – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock to the handler at a steady pace working at the correct balance point.....(8 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. The Course Director will designate a drive area, bearing in mind the draws. The drive distance will be a

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

Intermediate Level Course D—Description.

The Course D Intermediate course consists of the ~~7~~ 5 general elements namely a take pen, ~~outrun, lift, fetch gather~~, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle and ~~fetch and/or~~ drive plus 3 of the optional elements listed. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order. ~~The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.~~

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Intermediate level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

Outrun Gather – The dog will be at a distance of at least 100 feet from the stock. The handler may move to a position between the dog and the stock, but not closer than 50 feet from the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow,.....(8 points)

~~Lift~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performs a calm lift in the correct direction without upsetting the stock-.....(4 points)

~~Fetch~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that and fetches the stock to the handler at a steady pace working at the correct balance point..... (20 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. The Course Director will designate a drive area, bearing in mind the draws. The drive distance will be a

minimum of 75 feet. The handler must be at least 15 feet behind the dog during the drive. The entire 75 feet must be completed to be considered on-course. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element.....(20 points)

Take stock out of pen – All stock must leave the take pen. It is preferred that the dog enters the take pen and calmly removes all of the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate. At the judge’s discretion, points may be deducted for the handler entering the take pen.....(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle – Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle, unassisted by the handler on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold should be demonstrated while the handler is opening the gate. Maximum points will be awarded for the livestock walking into the pen.....(10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

Advanced Level Course D—Description.

The Course D Advanced course consists of the 7 general elements namely a take pen, outrun, lift, fetch, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle, drive plus

minimum of 75 feet. The handler must be at least 15 feet behind the dog during the drive. The entire 75 feet must be completed to be considered on-course. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance point through the designated part of the element.....(20 points)

Take stock out of pen – All stock must leave the take pen. It is preferred that the dog enters the take pen and calmly removes all of the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate. At the judge’s discretion, points may be deducted for the handler entering the take pen.....(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle – Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold ~~should be demonstrated~~ must be attempted while the handler is opening the gate or when the gate is opened. Maximum points will be awarded for holding the stock off the open gate and then allowing stock to exhaust calmly. A run in which the handler does not attempt a hold after the gate is opened to the widest point shall not qualify.....(10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

Advanced Level Course D—Description.

The Course D Advanced course consists of the 7 general elements namely a take pen, ~~outrun~~, lift, ~~fetch~~, gather, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle,

3 of the optional elements from listed. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order.

The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Advanced level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

Outrun – The dog will be at a distance of at least 220 feet from the stock. The handler must stand at the post and send the dog from that point. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow.....(8 points)

Lift – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performing a calm lift at the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock.....(4 points)

Fetch – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that fetches the stock to the handler at a steady pace working at the correct balance Point.(8 points)-

Fetch and/or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. The Course Director will designate a drive area, bearing in mind the draws. The line of the drive will be at least 30 feet from any parallel fence, and the drive distance will be a minimum of 125 feet. The handler must remain stationary during the drive. The entire 125' must be completed to be considered on-course. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance

fetch and/or drive plus 3 of the optional elements from listed. The Course Director will set the required elements in any order.

~~The judge or Course Director may designate certain obstacles that the handler may not walk through, as appropriate for this level.~~

In order to qualify for a leg at the Course D Advanced level, a dog must perform the following elements in a satisfactory manner, in the order that the Course Director has set out:

Outrun Gather – The dog will be at a distance of at least 220 feet from the stock. The handler must stand at the post and send the dog from that point. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that demonstrates no crossovers, and completes the gather as near the balance point as circumstances allow.....(8 points) ~~Lift~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that performing performs a calm lift at in the correct speed and direction without upsetting the stock....(4 points) ~~Fetch~~ – Maximum points will be awarded for the dog that and fetches the stock to the handler at a steady pace working at the correct balance point.....(20 points)

Fetch and/or Drive – Scoring encompasses all the work between the exit of an element and 20 feet from the beginning of the next element. The Course Director will designate a drive area, bearing in mind the draws. The line of the drive will be at least 30 feet from any parallel fence, and the drive distance will be a minimum of 125 feet. The handler must remain stationary during the drive. The entire 125' must be completed to be considered on-course. Maximum points will be awarded for the dog demonstrating steady movement of the stock in a straight line while working at the correct balance

point through the designated part of the element.....(20 points)

point through the designated part of the element.....(20 points)

Take stock out of pen – All stock must leave the take pen. It is preferred that the dog enters the take pen and calmly removes all of the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate. At the judge’s discretion, points may be deducted for the handler entering the take pen.....(10 points)

Take stock out of pen – All stock must leave the take pen. It is preferred that the dog enters the take pen and calmly removes all of the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for stock leaving the pen calmly and the dog maintaining control of the livestock while the handler is closing the gate. At the judge’s discretion, points may be deducted for the handler entering the take pen.....(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle – Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle, unassisted by the handler, on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Freestanding obstacle – Maximum points will be awarded for negotiating all stock calmly and in control through the obstacle ~~unassisted by the handler~~, on the first attempt.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold should be demonstrated with the gate open before penning the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the stock walking into the exhaust pen.....(10 points)

Exhaust pen – The exhaust pen may be a fence line pen or a stall in a barn. A hold ~~should be demonstrated with the gate open~~ must be attempted before penning the stock. Maximum points will be awarded for the stock walking into the exhaust pen holding the stock off the open gate and then allowing stock to exhaust calmly. A run in which the handler does not attempt a hold off the open gate shall not qualify.....(10 points)

Additional Elements – The Course Director will select three additional elements.

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Section 9. Judging Course D.

Points will be deducted in 1/2 point or whole point increments only.

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Points will be deducted in 1/2 point or whole point increments only.

Suggested Scoring:

Suggested Scoring:

The scoring below is a suggestion. Judges may score above or below the suggested scoring as they deem appropriate. The following deductions are intended to be for each instance.

A. The Gather- The Gather consists of outrun, lift and fetch together.

A. Outrun/Lift/Fetch:

1. Up to 1 1/2 points deducted for a redirect while the dog is in motion.
2. Up to 3 points deducted for a stop and redirect.
3. Up to 10 points deducted if the handler leaves the handler's post prematurely.
4. Up to 10 points deducted for a crossover between the handler and the stock on the outrun.
5. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog starts straight ahead towards the stock and then completes the outrun correctly.
6. Up to 10 points deducted if the dog runs straight up the middle on the outrun.
7. Up to 20 points deducted if (caused by the dog) the stock run down the course out of control.
8. Up to 5 points deducted for dog crossing behind the handler on the outrun.

A. Outrun/Lift/Fetch: A-1. Outrun:

1. ~~Up to 1 1/2 points deducted for a redirect while the dog is in motion.~~ 1 to 2 points deducted for the dog being too far away from the post, more than 5 feet.
2. ~~Up to 3 points deducted for a stop and redirect.~~ 4 to 8 points deducted for the dog running to the exhaust pen and must be called back. The dog is removed the third time.
3. ~~Up to 10 points deducted if the handler leaves the handler's post prematurely.~~ 1/2 to 1 point deducted for each redirect on the outrun.
4. ~~Up to 10 points deducted for a crossover between the handler and the stock on the outrun.~~ 1 to 2 points deducted for each stop and redirect.
5. ~~Up to 5 points deducted if the dog starts straight ahead towards the stock and then completes the outrun correctly.~~ 1 to 2 points deducted for the dog stopping and then receiving a redirect.
6. ~~Up to 10 points deducted if the dog runs straight up the middle on the outrun.~~ 2 to 4 points deducted if the dog runs straight up the middle of the field and casts out.
7. ~~Up to 20 points deducted if (caused by the dog) the stock run down the course out of control.~~ 2 to 4 points deducted for the dog running narrow.
8. ~~Up to 5 points deducted for dog crossing behind the handler on the outrun.~~ 1 to 3 points deducted for the dog being off contact with the stock, running too wide, fence or boundary running.
9. 3 to 5 points deducted for the dog running straight up the middle of the field.
10. 4 to 5 points deducted if the dog crosses over the center of the line on the outrun.
11. 1/2 to 1 point deducted for running to the dog holding the stock.

Adjustments in this section allows the judge more structure and greater specificity to the categories that must be evaluated when deciding how much to deduct.

12. 1 to 2 points deducted for overrunning the stock.

13. 1 to 2 points deducted for the dog stopping short.

14. 1 to 2 points deducted for the dog too close to the stock at top of the outrun.

15. 2 to 3 points deducted for the dog running to the setout pen, removed on the second time.

16. 2 to 4 points deducted if the dog is tight at top, will not stop and rushes stock.

17. Non-qualifying if the handler leaves the handler's post prematurely.

A-2. Lift

1. 1 to 3 points deducted for difficulty lifting the stock

2. 3 to 5 points deducted for a rushed lift, causing the stock to run or split.

3. 1 to 5 points deducted for the dog causing offline direction of the flock.

A-3. Fetch: The correct path of the livestock through the course will be a zone of a size appropriate to accommodate the efficient and organized movement of the number and type of stock being used with allowances for flighty stock.

1. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing the stock to spread out.

2. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog turning in circles.

3. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog causing the stock to weave by over-flanking.

4. 2 to 3 points deducted each time the stock retreat on the course.

5. 1 to 2 points deducted if the dog leaves the stock due to lack of interest, or is off contact.

6. 1 to 2 points deducted each time the dog circles the stock.

7. 1 to 2 points deducted each time for the stock being offline depending on severity.

8. ½ to 1 point deducted for the dog allowing or causing the stock to split.

B. Drive/Fetch: Note: Applies to movement of the stock over the entire course. Penalty is to be deducted under the exercise(s) where the error(s) occurs. The correct path of the livestock through the course will be a zone approximately 12 feet wide, or 12 feet in from the fence line

1. Up to 1 point deducted each time for flanking the dog too far off the stock.
2. Up to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing the stock to spread out.
3. Up to 1 point deducted each time for causing the stock to weave by over-flanking.
4. Up to 2 points deducted each time the dog circles the stock.
5. Up to 3 points deducted each time the stock (one or more) are off-line.
6. Up to 3 points deducted each time for the dog allowing or causing the stock to split.
7. Up to 3 points deducted for retreating on the course.
8. Up to 3 points deducted for the dog leaving the stock due to lack of interest or off contact.

~~**B. Drive and/or Fetch:** Note: Applies to movement of the stock over the entire course. Penalty is to be deducted under the exercise(s) where the error(s) occurs. The correct path of the livestock through the course will be a zone approximately 12 feet wide, or 12 feet in from the fence line. The drive/fetch applies to the movement of the stock over the entire course, and penalties are to be deducted under the exercise where the error(s) occur(s). The correct path of the stock through the course will be a zone of a size appropriate to accommodate the efficient and organized movement of the number and type of stock being used with allowances for flighty stock.~~

1. Up to 1 point deducted each time for flanking the dog too far off the stock. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing the stock to spread out.
2. Up to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing the stock to spread out. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog turning in circles.
3. Up to 1 point deducted each time for causing the stock to weave by over-flanking. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog causing the stock to weave by over-flanking.
4. Up to 2 points deducted each time the dog circles the stock. 2 to 3 points deducted each time the stock retreat on the course.
5. Up to 3 points deducted each time the stock (one or more) are off line. 1 to 2 points deducted if the dog leaves the stock due to lack of interest, or is off contact.
6. Up to 3 points deducted each time for the dog allowing or causing the stock to split. 1 to 2 points

deducted each time the dog circles the stock impeding progress.

7. Up to 3 points deducted for retreating on the course. 1 to 4 points deducted each time for the stock being offline, with greater points for greater severity.

8. Up to 3 points deducted for the dog leaving the stock due to lack of interest or off contact. ½ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog allowing or causing the stock to split.

9. ½ to 1 point deducted per head of stock for missing the obstacle.

10. ½ to 1 point deducted per head of stock if the dog brings the stock back through the obstacle.

C. Obstacles: Retries are permitted at all obstacles. No obstacle may be attempted more than twice. After two tries, the stock are moved to the designated distance that marks the beginning of the next obstacle. It will be counted as an attempt if the stock run past the obstacle.

C. Obstacles: This section applies to all obstacles including the take pen, exhaust pen, freestanding obstacle and optional elements. Retries are permitted at all obstacles. No obstacle may be attempted more than twice. After two tries, the stock are moved to the designated distance that marks the beginning of the next obstacle. It will be counted as an attempt if the stock run past the obstacle. Runs in which there is a failure to attempt any obstacle or element required on the course is a non-qualifying run.

1. Up to 1 point per head deducted for each attempt at an obstacle which is missed.
2. Up to 1 point per head deducted for the dog bringing the stock back through an obstacle from the wrong direction.
3. Up to 1 point per head deducted on the Hold/Exam pen for each head of stock leaving the pen before the Judge's signal to exit. The stock may leave in single file or as a group after the Judge's signal.
4. Up to 7 points deducted if the handler crosses over the opening of the Hold/Exam pen or moves behind the pen before the Judge signals a hold.

1. Up ½ to 1 point per head deducted for each attempt at an obstacle which is missed.
2. Up ½ to 1 point per head deducted each time for the dog bringing the stock back through an obstacle from the wrong direction.
3. Up to 1 point per head deducted on the Hold/Exam pen for each head of stock leaving the pen before the Judge's signal to exit. The stock may leave in single file or as a group after the Judge's signal. 2 to 3 points deducted each time if the dog loses control of the stock while the handler opens the exhaust pen gate.

5. Up to 2 points deducted for handler forgetting to close the exhaust pen gate.
6. Up to 3 points deducted if the dog loses control of the stock while the handler opens the exhaust pen gate.
7. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog brings the stock back out of the exhaust pen.
8. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog voluntarily leaves the stock and accompanies the handler to the exhaust pen gate.
9. Non-qualifying if the handler walks through an obstacle

- ~~4. Up to 7 points deducted if the handler crosses over the opening of the Hold/Exam pen or moves behind the pen before the Judge signals a hold.~~ 4 to 5 points deducted each time if the dog brings the stock back out of the exhaust pen.
- ~~5. Up to 2 points deducted for handler forgetting to close the exhaust pen gate.~~ 4 to 5 points deducted each time, if the dog brings the stock back out of the trailer, sort pen, or other stopped obstacle prior to the handler giving the command to do so.
- ~~6. Up to 3 points deducted if the dog loses control of the stock while the handler opens the exhaust pen gate.~~ 4 to 5 points deducted if the dog voluntarily leaves the stock and accompanies the handler.
- ~~7. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog brings the stock back out of the exhaust pen.~~ Non-qualifying if the handler walks through an obstacle non-designated walk-through obstacle.
- ~~8. Up to 5 points deducted if the dog voluntarily leaves the stock and accompanies the handler to the exhaust pen gate.~~ 4 to 5 points deducted for handler forgetting to close a gate.
- ~~9. Non-qualifying if the handler walks through an obstacle~~ ½ to 1 point per head deducted each time for circling a freestanding pen or trailer.
10. 4 to 5 points deducted each time for rough handling of the stock.
11. 2 to 5 points deducted each time for missorting stock.
12. ½ to 1 point deducted for shed being done by handler.
13. 1 to 2 points deducted for handler standing too long without trying to shed.
14. 2 to 3 points deducted if the stock cut off from the group, rejoin the group (no hold following the shed).
15. 5 to 6 points deducted for not trying to do a shed.

16. 3 to 5 points for the dog not coming in when asked on the shed.

17. 3 to 5 points deducted for the stock going into the trailer, chute, or freestanding pen and then escaping.

18. .5 to 2 points deducted for appearing to intentionally slam a gate.

19. Non-qualifying for Advanced handler voluntarily dropping rope at freestanding pen.

20. 3 to 5 points deducted for interfering with pickup on setting stock exercise.

21. Non-qualifying for failing to attempt a hold off the exhaust pen.

D. General Deductions:

1. Up to 1 point deducted each time for the dog stopping and sniffing.
2. Up to 3 points deducted for excessive commands.
3. Up to 3 points deducted each time the dog refuses to obey commands.
4. Up to 3 points deducted for the handler moving the stock.
5. Up to 5 points deducted each time the handler touches the dog or the stock.
6. Up to 5 points deducted or removed for unacceptable grip. Dog must be removed for second unacceptable grip or excused for abusive grip.
7. Up to 5 points deducted each time the dog fouls the course.
8. Up to 5 points deducted if, when entering the arena (or working area), the dog remains on lead as the handler leaves the gate area to proceed to the appropriate post or if, when leaving the arena (working area), the lead is applied early rather than just prior to opening the gate to leave the arena or working area.

D. General Deductions:

1. ~~Up 1/2~~ to 1 point deducted each time for the dog stopping and sniffing.
2. ~~Up 1~~ to 3 points deducted for excessive commands.
3. ~~Up 1~~ to 3 points deducted each time the dog refuses to obey commands.
4. ~~Up 1~~ to 3 points deducted for the handler moving the stock.
5. ~~Up to 5 points deducted each time the handler touches the dog or the stock.~~ 1 to 2 points deducted each time for a dog turning tail.
6. ~~Up 4~~ to 5 points deducted or removed for first unacceptable grip as defined in Chapter 1, Section 22. Dog must be removed for second unacceptable grip ~~or excused for abusive grip.~~
7. ~~Up 3~~ to 5 points deducted each time the dog fouls the course.
8. ~~Up 3~~ to 5 points deducted if, when entering the arena (or working area), the dog remains on lead as the handler leaves the gate area to proceed to the appropriate post or if, when leaving the arena (working area), the lead is applied early rather than just prior to opening the gate to leave the arena or working area.

- 9. ~~Up~~ to 3 points deducted, each incident, for the excessive or threatening use of the crook or stock stick, or use of threats causing dog to cringe.
- 10. If the stock simply follows the handler through the course, or if the dog simply heels or follows off contact through the course, the dog must not qualify.
- 11. Up to 8 points deducted if stock does not respect the dog.
- 12. Up to 10 points deducted if the dog needs repeated commands to perform tasks.
- 13. Up to 10 points deducted if the dog fails to control situations on its own initiative.

- 9. ~~Up~~ 1 to 3 points deducted, each incident, for the excessive or threatening use of the crook or stock stick, or use of threats causing dog to cringe.
- 10. If the stock simply follows the handler through the course, or if the dog simply heels or follows off contact through the course, the dog must not qualify.
- 11. 5 pts deducted to NQ if a handler runs off course.
- 12. ~~Up~~ 1 to 8 points deducted if stock does not respect the dog.
- 13. ~~Up to 10~~ 1 to 3 points deducted or removed if the dog needs repeated commands to perform tasks.
- 14. ~~Up to 10~~ 5 to 8 points deducted if the dog fails to control situations on its own initiative.
- 15. After five minutes of lack of forward progress the dog must be removed.

Maximum Points Available:

Course D – All Levels – 100 points

1.	<u>Gather.....</u>	<u>20</u>
2.	<u>Fetch and/or Drive.....</u>	<u>20</u>
3.	<u>Take Pen.....</u>	<u>10</u>
4.	<u>Freestanding Object.....</u>	<u>10</u>
5.	<u>Exhaust Pen.....</u>	<u>10</u>
6.	<u>(3 Optional Elements).....</u>	<u>30</u>
	<u>TOTAL.....</u>	<u>100</u>