

AUGUST 2020

# PERFORMANCE JUDGES NEWSLETTER





## UKC JUDGE'S HANDBOOK

The UKC Judges' Handbook is currently under revision. Once this project is completed, you will find a more comprehensive handbook that not only includes how to apply for the specific judges license, but also will address some of the most common judging techniques and judging problems with suggested solutions on how to solve them. If you have any suggestions as to what you would like to see covered in the Judges' Handbook, please email us at [judges@ukcdogs.com](mailto:judges@ukcdogs.com).

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## CURRENT AFFAIRS

We have all been dealing with the pandemic these past few months, and as more and more states start opening, we are seeing more clubs offering events. We want to make it clear that clubs, judges, and exhibitors all have a responsibility to make those who are participating in the events feel comfortable about exhibiting their dogs. Unfortunately, we know that many are still worried and wondering if dog shows should be held, and if so, what precautions should be taken.

To reiterate UKC's stance, please read the UKC News article that was posted on the UKC website on May 22, 2020. *In part, this reads: "As always, clubs, officials, and participants are required to follow state and local guidelines that apply to the area where the event is held. It is critical clubs strictly adhere to all local mandates and orders not only because clubs and their officers may face possible penalties and sanctions from local authorities, but also because they put their fellow clubs at risk of potential further scrutiny and restrictions by authorities."*

All the commercials and ads over the television are promoting social distancing and contactless delivery. Unfortunately, this is impossible to do when you are at a dog show. Both judges and exhibitors should take the time and be empathetic for those who are attending shows. If we want dog shows to continue, we must do what is

necessary to make sure they can be held safely. Judges and exhibitors who feel the need to wear appropriate face coverings should be able to do so and if asked to wear a mask, please try to comply for the safety of all.

As a judge, whether you decide to wear a mask or not, or if you are requesting exhibitors to wear a mask, you **must** make your decision known to the club and this information needs be published with the club's event listing. This way, exhibitors can make an informed decision of whether to enter the event.

**Social Media Reminder.** Yes, we all use it to stay in touch with each other, share photos, and pass on information. We find many of the different formats informative, but we may also find things that are personal enough where we feel the need to comment is overwhelming.

As with everything today, you have the choice to respond to anything presented on social media. However, keep in mind that as a UKC Judge, you are held to a higher standard. Feel free to post as you choose but remember posts that are disparaging, damaging, or that overstep the boundaries of the UKC Judges Code of Ethics can be deemed negligent and are means for disciplinary action to be imposed. So, post what you want, just think twice before hitting that send button.

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## PERFORMANCE EVENTS

We are excited about the new changes to the performance events at UKC. Many of our programs have been updated, including Nosework, Rally Obedience, and Dock Jumping, and more updates will be coming soon. Additionally, we have added a new sport: Precision Coursing! Please see below for specific details. As always, all official UKC rulebooks can be downloaded from our website to a smartphone, tablet, or computer to read or print.

## DRAG RACING

**Category Change.** Starting September 1, 2020, the Bull Terrier has moved from Category D to Category B.

## NOSEWORK

**Photos and Videos.** Unlike other performance events, Nosework allows an exhibitor to choose one person to accompany them into the search area during the running of their dogs to video and/or photograph their performance. This is not a club or judge choice. This is in the rulebook under Rules for Nosework Competition, under Exhibitor Guidelines on page 3. Any exhibitor for any Nosework event can do this. The only restriction is if the club has hired a professional photographer or videographer. Then, and only then, can they restrict the exhibitor from bringing that person in with them to record their run. They are not required to place this restriction on the exhibitor,



that option is then up to the club and the photographer. Some photographers, as part of their contract, require they are the only one taking photos or videos at events. All photos and videos taken by the official photographer must be made available to the exhibitor. If there is only a photographer and not a videographer, then the club cannot restrict the exhibitor from bring in someone to video their performance and vice versa.

*Back-up Judges.* Judges officiating a trial may trial their dog using the back-up judge system. The backup judge will choose where the hide(s) are placed since the officiating judge cannot place their own hide(s), go get their dog and then run the course while the back-up judge judges. For all other runs, including the backup judge, the head judge will place the appropriate hides.

*Dogs entered for Champion legs.* As part of the new 2020 Nosework rules, Pre-Trials and ORTs are no longer required. The choice of which class to enter is the exhibitor's responsibility. If the exhibitor enters in error, their wins will be invalidated. If a club chooses to offer special discounts for exhibitors with certain titles, they can require a proof of title. If requested, proof should be accepted as a hard copy or digital format, such as an Online Points Check. Be aware, with these restrictions, exhibitors may have earned the required title several weeks before entries are due and will not be able to produce proof of the earned title because the specific reports have yet to be processed.

*Championship Titles.* Dogs can now earn championship titles within each level. This allows exhibitors to be able to trial in several different class options at each trial. For instance, if a dog has earned the EN (Elite Nosework) title, that dog can enter any of the "B" classes in any level that is offered at a trial to work on their level championships. Likewise, any dog, after they earn a complete level title, NN, AN, SN, MN, or EN, can also enter any of the "B" classes that are available, but only those classes at the level they have earned or a lower class. For example, a dog that has earned the SN title may be entered into the Novice, Advance or Superior B classes and earn legs toward their level champion titles but this same dog may not earn any legs toward the Master Champion title until it has earned the Master Nosework title under the current rules. Champion title certificates may be earned in any order, but UKC will only send the Champion titles out in successive order.

*Grand Champion Titles.* Once a dog has earned the Nosework Champion title, they can be entered in any of the B classes to work on the Grand Championship level titles. The Grand Champion titles may be earned in any order and will be sent to the handler once the title requirements have been completed.

*Handler Discrimination.* The new additions to Handler Discrimination are the Titles of Distinction and the Master level class. Dogs must earn the Excellent level title before working on any of the distinction titles. HD now has the Excellent Handler Discrimination (EHDS), Master Handler Discrimination (MHDX), Handler Discrimination Champion (HDCH), and Handler Discrimination Grand Champion (HDGC) titles.

The Master class is unique and comes with specific rules for that class. Judges must not show exhibitors where their box is placed before their run, or allow handlers to cue their dogs to any of their boxes during a run (such as leaning toward the box and moving within the handler area toward the correct box) or allow any additional commands and/or signals once the dog is sent to search. Although boxes have the exhibitor's assigned armband number on them, and they can watch any of the dogs searching, this does not mean that judges are to show the exhibitor the spot where their box is positioned prior to their run or during the handler briefing. The handler is allowed to recall the dog and restart the search, but the time will continue running. However, this does not mean the dog can be recalled and restarted multiple times. A suggestion would be to limit the dog to a restart to no more than three times and after this, the dog can be judged as using additional commands to search. That should be covered in the handler briefing.

## **DOCK JUMPING**

The Official Dock Jumping rulebook has been updated and went into effect on April 1, 2020. Please take a moment to look through the new rulebook if you have not yet had a chance.

*Dock Jumping Titles.* Exhibitors are now allowed to earn Dock Jumping titles in each distance division at the same time. After a dog earns their initial Dock Jumping title (for example, the UNJ), they will still be eligible to earn the United Jumper title in other divisions (for example, the USJ). Likewise, the same format will be used when exhibitors are earning their Champion and Grand Champion titles.

*Judging.* Applying Dock Jumping judges will be required to complete apprenticeships as part of the licensing process. All Dock Jumping events must have a UKC-licensed Dock Jumping judge. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age, handled a dog to a Dock Jumping Championship title, handled a dog to a Vertical or Fetch It title, and been involved in the sport for at least three years. To see the revised requirements for becoming a Dock Jumping judge, please visit our website.



## RALLY OBEDIENCE

The Rally program that went into effect July 1, 2020 now sports new signs in each class and new class and title options within the program.

*Signs.* The signs have been renumbered for each class to allow more stations to be added to each level. Signs that are within the 100 range are stations that belong to the R01 level, the 200 range are stations that belong to the R02 level, the 300 range are stations that belong to the R03 level, and the 400 range are stations that belong to the new Master Rally class.

The signs now have color coding for what the dog and handler are doing. In some instances, the signs read from bottom to top because the handler will be moving forward, so start at the bottom and move upwards and then onto the next station. With some of the new designs, the approach fit better so we made all of them this way to be consistent. You will especially notice this on signs that have the handler performing multiple steps such as Halt, Down, Sit.

At the present time we are informing clubs to download the signs on a flash drive and take them to a local printer to have them done on card stock and then laminated. We are hoping to have some available options for them coming soon.

*New Signs.* A comprehensive guide to performing the new exercises can be found on the Rally Forms and Rules page on the UKC website, just below the Rally Sign PDFs. Videos are available on UKC's YouTube channel.

*New Classes.* There is a new Rally 1C section in the R01 classes. Dogs that have earned the R01 title and wish to continue competing in R01 must now enter the R01C class. Dogs and handlers competing in the R01C class are not eligible for High in Trial or High Scoring Junior awards but will still accumulate All Stars points.

The Master (ROM) class is our new class with all new signs. The class is challenging, and the signs are fun to perform. Along with the Master class comes the addition of the United Rally Master Champion title (RMC) and the United Rally Master Grand Champion title (RMG). Exhibitors will have the option to enter several different classes at a trial once they have earned the appropriate titles. Once a dog earns the Rally Master title, they can compete in R02, R03, and ROM in the B classes.

*Honoring.* The honor exercise is only performed in R03 class and this station is not allowed at the Master level. There is a maximum time limit of 90 seconds for this station and now needs a dedicated timing steward. This steward will be responsible for telling the honoring team that their time

has been met if the working dog is still performing stations. That steward can also inform the judge if the dog has a position change during the exercise. Instead of resulting in a non-qualifying performance if the dog changes from the designated position, the handler can put the dog back into the correct position one time and receive a mandatory 10-point deduction. This means, if the position is initially a sit and during the required 90 seconds, the dog stands up or lays down, the handler may tell the dog to sit and as long as the dog sits, and remains sitting for the rest of the required time, the dog will receive a 10-point deduction but will still qualify if they are still within their allowed 30 point deduction.

## OBEDIENCE

The new Obedience program highlights were released the first week in July and can be found on the UKC website.

Please take a few moments to read this release and familiarize yourselves with some of the coming changes. The new rulebook will go into effect on January 1, 2021 and will be available soon.

*Classes.* There is an addition of six new Optional Titling classes. There are no A or B divisions in these classes, and they allow the exhibitor to enter them without having any prerequisite titles. There are some restrictions for entry in the lower level classes.

There are four new non-licensed classes that allow handlers to use verbal encouragement, praise, and extra commands during and between exercises in all classes except for the Precision Heeling class. Many of the classes have brought in exercises that reflect more real-world applications along with some very high-level skills at the upper levels.

*High in Trial.* The way dogs earn High in Trial has been restructured so eligible dogs and handlers will compete for the High in Trial award as follows:

- All dogs who placed first in the regular classes will be eligible for High in Trial
- Dogs must have earned a score of 195 or above to compete for High in Trial
- If only one dog has a score above 195, that dog will be determined the High in Trial winner
- If no dogs score above 195, the highest scoring dog from the available regular classes will be determined the High in Trial winner

High in Trial judging will take place at the end of regular class judging and eligible dogs will perform the Heel Off Leash exercise on a pattern other than an "L" or a "T" and a straight recall and finish without a drop or jump. The dog with the least amount of errors will win High in Trial.



## PRECISION COURSING

Effective May 1, 2020 was the addition of a new event called Precision Coursing. Dogs must be a minimum of 1 year of age on the date of the event to enter.

Precision Coursing elicits the dog's natural prey drive and chase instincts by chasing a lure through a specific pattern. This makes Precision Coursing unlike our Drag Racing and Lure Coursing events. Precision Coursing gives dogs an opportunity to learn patterned courses that become increasingly complex. Courses will test the dog's speed, agility, and foresight.

*Classes.* Regular classes for Precision Coursing consist of Novice, Advanced, Superior, Master, and Elite. Ring or course size for the Novice, Advanced, Superior and Master classes that is 100 x 75 feet. The Elite class ring/course size is 100 x 100 feet. These courses consist of 5 different designs dependent on the class level. Courses are judged on time and successful navigation through the course.

In addition to the regular classes there are also Dash and Steeplechase classes. Both the Dash and Steeplechase courses are run on a straight course and require a space of at least of 100 x 300 feet. Qualifying runs are based on time, and titles are awarded with the accumulation of runs. Steeplechase adds hurdles within the straight-line course which the dogs must negotiate while chasing the lure.

*Non-Licensed Classes.* Precision Coursing has two Non-Licensed Classes, Fun Runs and the Puppy Dash. The Fun Run is an official practice run held as either an introduction to the sport or as an opportunity to practice on an actual course. Puppy Dash courses mimic the Dash class except that the run is shorter, and it is only offered for puppies age 6 months to 1 year.

*Judges and Lure Operators.* Applying Precision Coursing judges and lure operators will be required pass a Precision Coursing test and to complete apprenticeships as part of the licensing process. All Precision Coursing events must have both a UKC-licensed judge and lure operator. The complete requirements for applications can be found on the UKC website, or you can contact us at [judges@ukcdogs.com](mailto:judges@ukcdogs.com) for more information.

## AGILITY PROGRAM

We are excited to announce the UKC Agility rules have been revised and will take effect as of January 1, 2021. We wish to thank the dedicated Agility Council for all their hard work over the past three years and we hope that the agility competitors will enjoy the updates and changes.

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Dogs must be at least 15 months old on the day of the trial to be an eligible entry. This means that dogs born on January 1, 2021 will be deemed 15 months old on April 1, 2022.
- Clubs using grandfathered equipment must have those pieces replaced with the most current obstacles by January 1, 2025.
- Ring size change to 6,000 square feet.

*Classes* – The name of the agility classes have been changed as follows:

- AGI has been renamed as Beginner Agility (BA)
  - The class size divisions, the requirements for the A and B sections and title requirements remain the same.
- AGII has been renamed as Intermediate Agility (IA)
  - The class size divisions, the requirements for the A and B sections and title requirements remain the same.
- AGIII has been renamed as Excellent Agility (EA)
  - The class size divisions and title requirements remain the same.

Exhibitors who have earned legs toward their UKC titles under the current rules will have those wins remain on their dog's records and they will calculate toward the renamed titles. Existing titles will not be affected by the change.

*Scoring and Judges calls.* All obstacles now have defined deductions for Non-Qualifying, Major points, and Minor points for each class level. The judge will continue to call faults for those who are entered in the Beginning Agility class, but they will no longer call any faults in the Intermediate or Excellent classes.

*Championship Point and All-Stars.* The minimum qualifying score to earn points toward the championship titles, or all-star rankings has been changed to 195. The Championship and All-Star scale start at 5 points for a score of 195 and go through 10 points for a 200 score.

The triple Q's required for the UACHX title have also been changed. The exhibitor must earn a minimum score of 195 in each class but also must have an overall combined score of 590 points. Example – if the scores were as follows, BA – 195, IA – 195, then the EA class must be a 200 for a total combined score of 590. If the scores were BA – 200, IA – 197 and EA – 194 though the total combined score is 591, this would not count toward the Excellent title since the Excellent score is under a 195.

Grand Agility Championship point scale now includes the minimum qualifying score of 195 and the calculation of Grand Championship points are earned on a graduated scale going from 1 point for a combined score of 590–591 up to 10 points for a perfect 600.

*New Dynamic Agility Classes.* We are excited to introduce new Agility classes that will provide the exhibitor and their dog an opportunity to experience additional fun and bonding. The dynamic classes are based upon resourcefulness and ability of the team to safely navigate the course in the most efficient way.

The complete details will be found in the updated Official

Agility Rulebook, which will be posted to our website soon.

Please feel free to contact us at any time. Questions or concerns regarding judging, judges' licenses, or the judge application process can be sent to us at [judges@ukcdogs.com](mailto:judges@ukcdogs.com). Questions or concerns about specific performance events (regarding rules, points, etc.) can be sent to us at [performance@ukcdogs.com](mailto:performance@ukcdogs.com).

***Train happy, train hard, and smile with your partner, your rewards together will be endless!***