

**BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR**

**AGILITY REGULATIONS**

**APPROVED DECEMBER 3, 2001**

**UPDATED – FEBRUARY 2009**

## GENERAL RULES

Agility is an event featuring the ability of the dog to negotiate an obstacle course as directed by its handler. The event is open to all dogs except those that are less than one year of age, pregnant bitches, obese dogs or dogs otherwise in poor health. If it is later discovered that a dog should not have participated due to the above restrictions, the participant will be disqualified and ribbons and premiums withdrawn. Bitches in season will compete last.

All exhibitors will advance with their dog as a Team. If any member of the Team is replaced with a new member (new/different dog or new/different exhibitor), the new Team will start at the Beginners class. An exhibitor may show more than one dog and will advance with each dog as a separate Team. An exhibitor may show only the dog which he/she has registered.

The classes entered will be determined by what class the dog has performed in previously except for the "Young Beginners" class. (This class will be determined by the age of the exhibitor) and the "Veterans" class (this class will be determined by the dog's age, 7 years or older and if the exhibitor wishes to show in this class).

All Teams must work through each level with the following exceptions:

1. Exhibitor and dog who have completed novice obedience work will have the option of beginning in the intermediate class level if they so desire.
2. Exhibitors with dogs having any agility title (must provide documented proof) will have the option of starting at their choice of levels depending on their perceived experience. But once they perform at this level they cannot choose to start at a lesser level. They will then progress through the levels as usual in succeeding years.

The classes will be as follows:

- Young Beginners (ages 5-9 on lead)
- Beginners and Advanced Beginners (on lead)
- Intermediate and Advanced Intermediate (off lead)
- Excellent and Advanced Excellent
- Veterans (on or off lead, exhibitors preference)

Requirements:

- A. Dogs must be at least one year old. This allows the dog to become fully developed, both mentally and physically. Allowing younger dogs to participate could result in permanent injury to the dog.
- B. Dog must be in good health

Proper Equipment:

- A. Appropriately fitting buckle collar (preferred) or harness (no hanging tags).
- B. Lead length not to exceed 6 ft. (a 12" or 18" traffic lead may work better for individual dogs).
- C. Appropriate clothing: casual clothing with tennis shoes.

All dogs shall be kept on a lead except when in appropriate ring. Dogs should be brought into the ring and taken out of the ring on lead.

The judge may excuse a handler for obvious inexperience, showing lack of knowledge and being a danger to self, dog, spectators or other dogs.

The exhibitor must inform the show committee of a female dog in season prior to the start of judging. A change in the judging routine or schedule may be necessary.

**Agility is a sporting event and all participants should be guided by the principles of good sportsmanship both in and outside of the ring.**

Note: These regulations do not apply to the Canine Exhibitors with Disabilities.

## Class Advancement and Ribbons

The classes will be as follows:

- Young Beginners (ages 5-9 on lead)
- Beginners and Advance Beginners (on lead)
- Intermediate (off lead) and Advance Intermediate (off lead)
- Excellent and Advanced Excellent (off lead)
- Veterans ( on or off lead)

The classes entered will be determined by what class the dog has performed in previously, except for the "Young Beginners" class. (This class will be determined by the age of the exhibitor)

Young Beginners will be for all exhibitors ages 5-9. The exhibitor will remain in this class until they are 10 years old.

Each NEW TEAM will start in the Beginners class. If the dog and handler receives an A ribbon in Beginners, they will advance to the Advanced Beginners class the next year. If they receive a B or C ribbon, they must repeat that class until they earn an A ribbon (showing mastery of this level) allowing them to move on. They will continue moving through the classes as their expertise grows.

All Teams must work through each level with the following exception:

Exhibitors with dogs having ANY agility title (must provide documented proof) have the option of starting at their level of choice depending on their perceived experience. But once they perform at this level they cannot back up to a lesser level. They will then progress through the levels as usual in succeeding years.

## Young Beginners

The Young Beginners are all those exhibitors that are between the ages of 5 and 9. This Group will be judged by time and accuracy but in a less structured manner. This class Will be done on lead with a web buckle collar (preferred) or harness (no hanging tags). The jumps will be no higher than 8 inches. Handlers will be allowed to jump with their dog. The experience of the dog is not a factor in this group. This course will have 8 to 10 obstacles:

Obstacles:

- Pause box
- Single rail jump
- 3-log hurdle
- A frame (3 ft.)
- Boardwalk
- 2 log long hurdle
- Weave cones
- Other various jumps

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**Young Beginners class IS NOT ELIGIBLE for Overall Championship.**

Ties for class placement shall be broken by the exhibitor's agility course time.

## **Beginners and Advanced Beginners**

All teams will start in Beginners and will advance when an A ribbon is earned. This class will be performed on lead with a web buckle collar (preferred) or harness (no hanging tags), with all jumps being 8 inches and the long jump being 16 inches wide. Handlers will not be allowed to jump the jumps with their dog. At no time during the competition is the handler allowed to touch the dog without being faulted. The course should be set up in a simple course shape with minimal challenges. If the dog cannot perform an obstacle without a tight lead, the handler will be faulted. It is up to the discretion of the judge to fault for tight leads. In Advanced Beginners, the handler will drop the lead momentarily for the dog to go through the tunnels and tire jump. The course will have at least 11 but not more than 13 obstacles. An obstacle may be used more than once.

### Beginners Obstacles:

- A Frame (4'6")
- Various jumps
  - Brush jump
  - Broad jump
  - Log hurdle
  - Bar jump
  - Jack jump with skirt
- Pause box (It's up to the judge to tell the handler to sit or down their dog)
- Weave poles (6)

### Advanced Beginners Obstacles:

- All of the above obstacles plus:
  - Tire jump
  - Closed tunnel
  - Open tunnel

**Beginners class IS NOT ELIGIBLE for Overall Championship.**

Ties for class placement shall be broken by the exhibitor's agility course time.

**Advanced Beginners class IS NOT ELIGIBLE for Overall Championship.**

Ties for class placement shall be broken by the exhibitor's agility course time.

## Veterans

This is an optional class for dogs that are 7 years or older, who are unable to jump regular Heights or that the exhibitor feels should not be jumping due to age or medical condition. This class is comparable to the Beginners class.

The Veterans class will be performed on lead or off lead (at the handler's discretion). But if the handler starts the course off lead, the must complete the course off lead. All jumps will be 8 inches high and the long jump will be 16 inches wide. Handlers will not be allowed to jump the jumps with their dog. At no time during the competition is the Handler allowed to touch the dog without being faulted. The course should be set up in a simple course shape with minimal challenges. If the dog cannot perform an obstacle without a tight lead, the handler will be faulted. If is up to the discretion of the judge to fault for tight leads. The course will have at least 11 but not more than 13 obstacles. An obstacle may be used more than once.

### Veteran Obstacles:

A Frame (4')

Various jumps

Brush jump

Broad jump

Log hurdle

Bar jump

Jack jump with skirt

Pause box (It's up to the judge to tell the handler to sit or down their dog)

Weave poles (6)

Tire jump

Closed tunnel

Open tunnel

### **Veteran's class –**

**DOGS ON LEAD ARE NOT ELIGIBLE for Overall Championship.**

**DOGS OFF LEAD ARE ELIGIBLE for Overall Championship.**

Ties for class placement shall be broken by the exhibitor's agility course time.

## **Intermediate and Advance Intermediate**

The Intermediate agility class is for dogs that have competed in Beginners and Advance beginners agility and have received an A ribbon in each class. The Intermediate classes will be done off lead with a web buckle collar (preferred) or harness (no hanging tags). All jumps will be 8" high for dogs 10" or under at the withers and 12" for all dogs taller than 10". The long jump will be 16" wide for all dogs 10" or under and 20" for all others. Handlers will not be allowed to jump the jumps with their dog. At no time during the competition is the handler able to touch the dog without being faulted. The course should be more challenging than the Beginner course. The Intermediate courses will have at least 13 but not more than 15 obstacles. An obstacle may be used more than once.

### Intermediate Obstacles:

- A Frame (5')
- Closed tunnel
- Open tunnel
- Weave poles (6)
- Pause table (height to be adjusted for sized of dog) The judge will tell the handle to sit or down their dog.
- Various jumps and hurdles
- Tire/window jump
- Long jump

### Advanced Intermediate Obstacles

- All of the above obstacles plus
- Dog Walk (3")
- Additional 6 weave poles

Ties for class and overall championship placement shall be broken by the exhibitor's agility course time.



## Excellent and Advanced Excellent

The Excellent Agility Class is for dogs that have competed at the Advance Intermediate level and have received an A ribbon for that class. At no time during competition is the handler allowed to touch the dog without being faulted. These classes will be done off lead with a web buckle collar (preferred) or harness ( no hanging tags), using the following jump heights.

<b>Dogs Height at Withers</b>				
	Over 20"	20"-14"	14"-10"	10" & under
Jump Heights	20"	16"	12"	8"
Long Jump	40"	32"	24"	16"
Maximum Table Height	20"	16"	12"	8"

<b>Crawl Tunnel Space Height</b>				
Height at withers	Over 20"	20"-14"	14"-10"	10" & under
Depth of chest	Over 14"	Over 10"-14"	Over 7"-10"	Up to 7"
Crawl space	20"	16"	12"	8"

These classes should have at least 17 but no more than 20 obstacles. An obstacle may be used more than once,

### Excellent agility obstacles:

- Obstacles will include all those listed under the Intermediate class
- Teeter-totter
- A frame (5'6")

### Advanced Excellent agility obstacles

- Obstacles will include all those listed under the intermediate class
- Adjustable Crawl tunnel (At a future date)
- Sway bridge (At a future date)

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Ties for class and overall championship placement shall be broken by the exhibitor's agility course time.

## **Judging**

Judging order will be determined by the superintendent's office.

It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to be ready at ringside when required for judging. The exhibitor must report to the show committee any possible judging conflicts before the start of judging. A dog may be judged earlier or later than the scheduled judging time if a conflict has been reported. If no conflict has been reported the judging will proceed as posted.

Handicapped dogs shall be permitted to compete but are required to perform all parts of all exercises without add assistance from the exhibitor.

The judge may excuse an exhibitor and dog from the ring if, in his opinion, the handler cannot properly control the dog. Any dog showing signs of viciousness or aggressive behavior toward a judge, exhibitors, or other dogs shall be immediately excused from the ring.

Exhibitors should be clean, neat, and well groomed. They should wear clothing that is comfortable to move in. Athletic shoes are recommended. Halter tops, sandals, short shorts, etc., are not appropriate. Exhibitors wearing inappropriate clothing shall be penalized.

Dogs should be clean and well groomed.

## Scoring

Scoring for agility will be determined by using accuracy and time as factors. Points will be deducted for various course faults. Non-qualification or elimination scores will be determined by various factors as set forth below.

There will be a standard course time of 1 to 1.75 yard per second plus 5 seconds added for the pause box depending on course difficulty and judges discretion. There is a time limit for the course as determined by the judge.

To receive a qualifying score, a dog must pass with a score of 85 points or better out of 100 and not receive any non-qualifying deductions/eliminations.

Scoring deductions for judging:

- 1 point for every 2 seconds over the course time limit
- 2 points for interference or outside assistance
- 2 points for running the wrong course (such as taking an obstacle out of sequence)
- 2 points for each time a handler: touches their dog/guides their dog/touches an obstacle
- 2 points for leaving the pause box or table. The 5-second pause count will begin each time the dog leaves the required position (sit or down)
- 2 points for each occurrence of tight lead
- 5 points for knocking a bar off a jump (additional 5 points off for each time the course repeats over a downed jump)
- 5 points for each refusal of an obstacle. Points are deducted for each failed attempt.
  - Beginners are allowed 2 refusals for each obstacle
  - Intermediates are allowed 1 refusal for each obstacle
- 10 points for missing a contact zone

Non-qualifying/Elimination:

- Exceeding the maximum course time
- Dog fouling the ring at any time
- Excessive loudness or abuse in the ring
- A dog that leaves the course area and discontinues working
- Failure to perform (refuses to continue on the course)
- Food or toys on the course
- Excessive leading or guiding of the dog over the obstacle or course
- 3 refusals for beginners on any obstacle
- 2 refusals for intermediates on any obstacle
- 1 refusal for advanced on any obstacle
- "Flying off" the teeter totter

**THE DECISION OF THE JUDGE IS FINAL**

Awards:     A Ribbon     (100-85 points)  
              B Ribbon     (84-50 points)  
              C Ribbon     (49-0 points)

## AWARDS

1. Each exhibitor will receive an A, B, or C ribbon according to the points earned in each class entered.

Beginners  
A = 150 – 200  
B = 149 – 100  
C = 0 – 99

Unit 2 thru 8  
A = 170 – 200  
B = 100 – 169  
C = 0 – 99

2. 1<sup>st</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> place will be awarded in each class judged.
3. An exhibitor entered in Unit 1, Beginners class, is not eligible for any awards other than class awards.
4. Grand, Reserve Grand and 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 6<sup>th</sup> Overall Obedience Champions will be awarded based on the highest scoring dog from Unit 2 thru Unit 8.

NOTE: These regulations do not apply to the **Canine Exhibitors with Disabilities** Obedience classes.