

**Berrien County Youth Fair**  
**Dog Department 22; Division 2**  
**Non-Traditional Agility Judging Program and Guidelines**

**SECTION ONE:           Mission Statement for Providing a Non-Traditional Agility Judging Program and Guidelines**

1. To provide an educational experience for canine exhibitors with disability that otherwise might be omitted from competition and denied the experience and growth it provides.
2. To provide exhibitors with disability an opportunity to learn about canine obedience training and handling in a safe, supportive environment by using the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Program as a foundation and goal.
3. To focus on building positive relationships between the exhibitor with disability and his or her own or volunteer canine through teamwork.
4. To provide canine therapy and motivation with physical and mental stimulation while having fun!

**SECTION TWO:           Purpose for Providing a Non-Traditional Agility Judging Program and Guidelines**

The purpose of the Berrien County Youth Fair's Non-Traditional Agility Judging Program and Guidelines shall be as follows

1. The non-traditional agility program are a series of obstacle exercises designed to demonstrate the working relationship and abilities of the non-traditional exhibitor and his/her canine in a controlled performance and natural independence exercises.
2. The agility exercises are not a test, but rather demonstrates the exhibitor's team's ability and skill acquired through training and bonding with his/her own or volunteer canine.
3. These agility exercises demonstrates and emphasize
  - a. The exhibitor's team sportsmanship.
  - b. Confidence and willingness to work together as a team.
  - c. Comprehension and motor skills
  - d. Ability to execute the judge's instructions.

**SECTION THREE:       Definitions**

The following terms shall be communicated and understood to be defined as ...

1. **Autism Meltdown** – An exhibitor that is receiving an overload of outside stimulus that he or she has become psychologically and physically unable to process the information, and begins to shut down mentally in the form of anger and confusion. Personal safety may be compromised and fatigue and noncompliance in any communication form may become a factor. Exhibitor is not goal dependent and may require assistance to gain control of him or herself.
2. **Bitch** – A female canine.
3. **Brisk or Briskly** – Walking or rolling keenly, alive, alert and energetic.
4. **Canine** – A dog or bitch that is owned by the exhibitor or has been volunteered by its owner to work with the exhibitor.
5. "Control" or "Heel" Position – Due to the canine's or exhibitor's disability, canine is sitting on left side or right side of exhibitor facing the same direction.
6. **Disability** – A persistent physical or mental defect, weakness, or handicap which prevents a person from engaging in ordinary activities or normal life, or from performing a specific job.
7. **Dog** – A male canine.
8. **Excused** – The judge's justification to ask an exhibitor to leave the agility ring without completing the agility itinerary. An invitation to return to the agility ring will be withheld and penalties will be given.
9. **Exhibitor** – A person entered in a dog competition.

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10. **Exhibitor's Team** – A team of two or more consisting of the exhibitor, the canine and/or one or more team instructor(s).
11. **Judge** – A person evaluating the performance of the exhibitor's team in the non-traditional agility competition.
12. **Lame** – Irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or how slight or severe.
13. **Luring** – The appearance of having a reward in hand. Example would be holding the thumb and/or fingers together as if holding a treat.
14. **Natural Manner** – The gait is not artificial, free from affectation; what is expected for the exhibitor.
15. **Non-Traditional Exhibitor** – A person with a life challenge (*disability, handicap*) who cannot meet the American Kennel Club agility competition handling standards of one handler to one canine without the aid of a team instructor(s).
16. **Non-Traditional Standards of Canine Agility Handling** – Non-Traditional standards of canine handling consist of a team of one (1) dog, one (1) exhibitor, one (1) to two (2) Team Instructors, and one (1) to two (2) leash(es) attached to one (1) to two (2) collar(s) and/or one (1) harness performing the canine agility competition exercises.
17. **Pause** – A complete stop of forward motion by the exhibitor.
18. **Pivot** – Turning in a circle occupied by the exhibitor before the team start to turn; a turn in place.
19. **Planogram** – A judge's design of an agility course that is submitted to the Berrien County Youth Fair's Non-Traditional Agility Coordinators.
20. **Pleading** – Repeated urgent commands and/or signals to elicit the proper behavior from the dog while the dog remains unresponsive to the exhibitor's commands and/or signals.
21. **Release** – The judge's permission for the exhibitor to leave the obedience ring without completing the obedience itinerary due to extenuating physical and/or mental circumstances. An invitation to return to the agility ring will be extended and penalties will not be given.
22. **Replay** – To perform an obstacle a second or third time.
23. **Service Dog** – A canine that has been specially trained to assist the exhibitor with his or her disability, yet still accomplish the agility exercises that is asked of it by the exhibitor.
24. **Standard Course Time** – The average time frame it takes to complete an agility obstacle course established by the agility judge.
25. **Team Instructor** – The person or persons working and assisting the exhibitor's team in the agility ring.
26. **Therapy Dog** – A trained and temperament tested canine who provides affection and comfort during stressful situations, yet still accomplishes the agility exercises asked of it by the exhibitor.
27. **Traditional Exhibitor** – A person who meets the standards of canine handling and does not need the assistance of a team instructor.
28. **Traditional Standards of Canine Handling** – Traditional standards of canine handling consist of one (1) dog, one (1) exhibitor and one (1) leash attached or not attached to one (1) collar or harness performing the canine agility competition exercises.
29. **Valid Certification** – A document signed by a licensed veterinarian, stating that the canine has received the required immunizations and/or is in need of special canine training equipment.
30. **Wicket** – The measurement from the dog's withers to the ground. Wickets are measured in inches.

**SECTION FOUR: Berrien County Youth Fair Non-traditional Exhibitor and Canine Prerequisites**

1. **Exhibitor's Prerequisite** - To be eligible to participate in the Non-Traditional Canine Agility Competition, the exhibitor must be
  - a) **Exhibitor's Age** – Age five to twenty six as of January 1 of each year. (Please see Agility Classes Offered and Eligibility.)
  - b) **Exhibitor's Enrollment** – Exhibitor must be enrolled in an authorized County Canine Therapy Competition Training Program.

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2. **Canine Prerequisite** – To be eligible to participate in the Non-Traditional Canine Agility Competition, the canine must have the following qualifications:
  1. **Canine's Age** – Age six to twelve months or older as of August 1 of each year.
  2. **Canine's Enrollment** – With the exception that the canine can be a volunteer canine therapy dog volunteered by its owner to work alongside the non-traditional exhibitor (*exhibitor with disability*), the Canine enrollment will follow the Dog Department 22 General Dog Rules; Sections A through N.
  3. **Canine's Immunizations** – Canine must have a signed valid certification from a licensed veterinarian stating the canine has received the following immunizations...
    1. **Rabies** – Three year Rabies are acceptable if administered between September 1 and July 23.
    2. **Distemper** - Three year Distemper is acceptable if administered between September 1 and July 23.
    3. **Hepatitis** - - Three year Hepatitis is acceptable if administered between September 1 and July 23.
    4. **Parvo** – Three year Parvo is acceptable if administered between September 1 and July 23.
    5. **Leptospirosis** – Must be administered yearly.
    6. **Bordetella** - Must be administered yearly.
    7. **Corona** – Highly recommended.
    8. **Lymes** - Highly recommended.

**SECTION FIVE: Canines**

1. **Reserve Canine**
  - a) Should a team canine become unavailable to enter the ring on the day of judging, a registered Reserve Canine may be substituted for the unavailable canine.
  - b) The Berrien County Youth Fair Dog Superintendent and/or the Non-Traditional Canine Co-Coordinator shall communicate to the judge regarding the canine replacement no later than fifteen minutes prior to the exhibitor entering the agility ring.
  - c) Each club coordinator will furnish a list of registered Reserve Canines for his or her club to the Dog Show Coordinator within one hour prior to the beginning of the agility competition evaluation.
2. **Handicap Canine**
  - a) A handicap canine shall be permitted to compete in the Non-Traditional Exhibitor Agility Competition Evaluation.
  - b) Handicap canine shall be required to perform all parts of the agility exercises without added assistance from the exhibitor.
3. **Bitch in Season** – A bitch in season may be shown in Non-Traditional Exhibitor Agility Competition Evaluation with the following precautions...
  - a) The agility judge shall be informed that the exhibitor's bitch is in season prior to the start of the competition evaluation.
  - b) The bitch shall wear "*BLOOMERS*" (doggie panties with an absorbent pad adhered to the inside of the pantie) and shall be crated in a safe area away from the competition evaluation ring.
  - c) The bitch shall be shown out of class order and will enter the agility evaluation ring after all classes have finished.

**SECTION SIX: Berrien County Youth Fair's Leash and Crate Rules (Dept. 22; Dogs – General Rules and Regulations; Section I)**

1. **Canine Supervision** - No dog may be left unsupervised at any time.
2. **Leash** - Dogs must remain on leash and said leash shall be attached to a human hand, or crated except during judging.
3. **Canine Boundaries** - Dogs are not allowed beyond the judging or parking area.

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4. **Canine Removal from the grounds** - All dogs must be removed from the fairgrounds at the completion of the days judging.
5. **Clean Up after canine** - Exhibitors are required to clean up after their own dogs.
6. **Crate** –
  - a) A safe and controlled crate area will be made available for the exhibitor to secure his or her canine.
  - b) If dog is crated, the exhibitor's name and contact information must be displayed on the crate.
7. **Leash and Crate Penalties** - Exhibitors violating rules will lose their premium.

**SECTION SEVEN: Team Instructor(s)**

1. **Judging** – The non-Traditional exhibitor shall be judged with a Team Instructor(s) present in the agility ring, thus ensuring continuation of the exhibitor's and canine's safety. Should a Team Instructor not be present in the agility ring, the agility judging shall not proceed.
2. **Team Instructor's Responsibilities** - The Team Instructor(s) responsibilities are
  - a) The continuation of physical and/or mental safety for the exhibitor and the canine.
  - b) To stand aside, work beside, work behind, or work in front of the exhibitor and his or her canine in a manner that is assisting the exhibitor's canine team in accomplishing the agility evaluation.
  - c) Team Instructor's duties may include physical contact with the exhibitor and/or verbal prompting. The Team Instructor should not touch the dog.
  - d) Should the exhibitor display a "*psychological meltdown*" behavior, the Team Instructor should be the main person to assist the exhibitor in calming his or her anxiety, thus keeping the exhibitor from harming him/herself and/or others.
3. **The Position of the Team Instructor**
  - a) One Team Instructor – The Team Instructor (*holding the six foot leash*) shall position him/herself on the opposite side of the exhibitor's "*Control Position*."
  - b) Two Team Instructors - The Team Instructor (*holding the six foot leash*) shall position him/herself on the opposite side of the exhibitor's "*Control Position*," while the second Team Instructor position him/herself where is it beneficial for the exhibitor to see, to touch or to hear, yet still have control of the team canine.

**SECTION EIGHT: Exhibitor's and Canine Dress Code**

1. **Dress Code Purpose** - The purpose of the BCYF Canine Judging Dress Code is
  - a) To educate the exhibitor and his or her team on how to dress for success for a canine competition evaluation.
  - b) To educate the exhibitor on how to groom his or her canine for presentation in a canine competition evaluation.
2. **Unacceptable Clothing** – The following clothing items shall be considered unacceptable clothing attire for both the exhibitor and the team instructor(s) are Denim, Halter tops, Mini shorts above the middle of one's thigh, Mini dress above the middle of one's thigh, Logos or writing on clothing, Pants worn around one's buttocks, No belt holding pants securely to one's waist, Open toed shoes or Dangling earrings.
3. **Acceptable Clothing** - Exhibitor and Team Instructor shall wear clean dress pant or shorts that are just above the knees or longer, clean short or long sleeve blouse or shirt, clean low heeled walking shoes, clean socks or nylons, post earrings, wedding rings and/or medical alert jewelry, and a clean light weight jacket should the weather call for it.
4. **Exhibition ID** – Exhibitor shall wear his/her exhibition id pinned to the upper back area of the outmost garment or pinned to the back of a wheelchair.
5. **Canine Grooming** – The canine shall be immaculately groomed according to breed standards, or to the breed standards the canine looks most like.

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6. **Consequences of Improper Dress and Canine Grooming** – The judge shall deduct up to twenty points (20) if the exhibitor's team chooses to wear unacceptable clothing items noted in Section 8; Paragraph 2, or the exhibitor chooses not to groom his/her canine to the code noted in Section 8; Paragraph 5.

**SECTION NINE: Leashes, Collars and Harness**

**1. Leash Regulations**

- a) Exhibitor's team may be evaluated using two leashes attached to the canine's two collars.
- b) Upon entering the agility ring, the judge will make note of whether or not the Team Instructor's six foot leash is attached or not attached to the canine's Volhard's / Snap or Martingale collar. If the leash is not attached to the collar, the Team Instructor should have the leash in his or her hand or have it hanging around his or her neck and ready to place it on the canine at the judge's discretion.
- c) The exhibitor should be using a four foot leash attached to the canine's tagless buckle collar.
- d) Once inside the agility ring, the Team Instructor's leash cannot be detached or reattached unless the judge mandates.

**2. Canine Collars**

- a) The canine shall wear up to two *tagless* collars. Acceptable collars are Volhard / Snap collar, or a Martingale collar and Buckle ID collar.
- b) **Pinch Collar** – A pinch collar cannot be employed.

**3. Harness**

- a) **Sight Harness** – A sight harness is acceptable.
- b) **Body Harness** – Should a canine be diagnosed with a medical condition and has been advised against the use of an agility collar, and a body harness has to be used in its place, a signed documentation from the canine's veterinarian must accompany the canine's registration form stating the diagnosis and the requirement of the body harness. The body harness should be fitted in a way that will not interfere with the agility exercises.

**SECTION TEN: Registration for Non-Traditional Canine Agility Classes and Advancement**

1. **Non-Traditional Canine Agility Classes Purpose** – The purpose of dividing the Non-Traditional Exhibitor's Agility into established classes of capability thus ensuring fair competition amongst the exhibitors.
2. **Registration for Non-Traditional Canine Agility Classes** – To register for a non-traditional agility class, the exhibitor's team **MUST REGISTER IN A NON-TRADITIONAL OBEDIENCE CLASS**. The class he/she has entered in non-traditional obedience competition will be the non-traditional agility class he/she will enter.
3. **Exhibitor's Out of Order Judging Sequence** – The order of exhibitors entering the agility ring shall be determined by the dog show committee. Should the exhibitor show just cause that he/she requires an out of class scheduled judging sequence, he/she must communicate this option to the dog show committee on his/her registration form by July 1.

**SECTION ELEVEN: Preparing the Non-Traditional Agility Ring**

1. **Non-Traditional Agility Ring Size** – The minimum footage for the non-traditional agility ring shall be 70 feet by 70 feet. The maximum standard non-traditional agility ring size shall be 120 feet long by 70 feet wide. If the dog show chairperson can allow for more footage to ensure the safety of the non-traditional exhibitor's teams, he/she will communicate this at the time of ring set up.
2. **Judge's Planogram** – Two weeks before the agility competition is to take place, the agility judge shall submit an agility course planogram (course design) of his or her making to the Non-Traditional Agility Exhibitor Co-Coordinator in order for the set up crew to follow while preparing the agility ring.

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**3. Agility Equipment Needed –**

- a) One Dog Walk
- b) One Open Tunnel
- c) One Closed (Chute) Tunnel
- d) One A-Frame (A-Frame can be a Contact Trainer)
- e) One Seesaw (Titer Totter)
- f) One Pause Table
- g) One Pause Box
- h) One Tire Jump
- i) One Window Jump
- j) One Broad Walk
- k) One Hedge (Bush) Jump
- l) One Panel Jump
- m) Three various Bar Jumps
- n) One set of nine to twelve Weave Poles and/or Cones
- o) Enough Ring Gates and Uprights for the size of the agility boundary needed.

**4. Agility Obstacles Height, Length and Adaptations**

- a) **A-Frame** – The height of an A-Frame will begin at twenty-four inches (two feet) and not exceed forty-eight inches (four feet). The larger side of a Contact Trainer should be the entrance of the A-Frame.
  - b) **Dog Walk** – The height of a Dog Walk will begin at thirteen inches (one foot and one inch) and not exceed thirty-six inches (three feet). The length of a Dog Walk will begin with ninety-six inches (eight feet) and will not exceed one-hundred and forty-four inches (twelve feet).
  - c) **Jump, Bar and Pole** – The height of a bar or pole jump will begin at six inches and not exceed twelve inches. Judge may choose six, eight, ten or twelve inches for any given jump obstacle, while being prepared to lower the height of the jump upon the Exhibitor's request.
  - d) **Jump, Broad** – The length of the broad jump will begin at twelve inches (one foot) and not exceed twenty-four inches (two feet). Two, three or four broad jumps may be used as the judge so desires.
  - e) **Jump, Bush** – The height of a bush jump may not exceed eighteen inches. The length may not exceed twenty-four inches.
  - f) **Jump, Panel** – The height of a panel jump may not exceed eighteen inches. The length may not exceed twenty-four inches.
  - g) **Jump, Window** - The height of a window jump may not exceed eighteen inches. The length may not exceed twenty-four inches.
  - h) **Pause Box** – The size of a pause box shall be four feet by four feet square.
  - i) **Pause Table** – The size of a pause table shall be four feet by four feet square by twelve inches in height.
  - j) **Seesaw (Titer Totter)** – The height of a seesaw may not exceed thirty-six inches (three feet). The length of a seesaw will not exceed twelve feet.
  - k) **Tunnel, Closed (Chute)** – The length of a closed tunnel will begin at seventy inches (six feet) and not exceed one-hundred and forty-four inches (twelve feet).
  - l) **Tunnel, Open** – The length of an open tunnel will begin at seventy-two inches (six feet) and will not exceed one-hundred and forty-four inches (twelve feet).
  - m) **Weave Cones** – The height of a weave cone will begin at twelve inches (one foot) and will not exceed thirty-six inches (three feet). Weave cones shall be spaced eight inches from base to base.
  - n) **Weave Poles** - The height of a weave pole will begin at twenty-four inches (two feet) and will not exceed thirty-six inches (three feet). Weave poles shall be spaced eight inches from base to base.
- 4. Non-Traditional Agility Personal Needed** – The following personal and duties of each person will be as follows
- a) **One Agility Judge** – The agility judge shall design an agility course planogram using sixteen obstacles for the agility course. The agility judge shall submit his/her planogram to the Dog Show Chairperson two

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weeks prior to judging. The judge will give his/her assessment of the non-traditional exhibitor's performance of the agility exercises on the day of the competition.

- b) **One Agility Ring Master/Mistress** – The Ring Master or Mistress will be located at the ring gate. He/She will be in command of the bull pen. The Ring Master or Mistress will assist the judge in comprehension of the non-traditional agility judging program and guidelines, call the exhibitor to the bull pen for last minute instructions, check to see if the canine's collars and leashes are on correctly, encourage, calm and/or help the exhibitor to focus, become the "parent role" if necessary, hold the exhibitor's canine while the exhibitor is on a walk through with the judge, and keep the entrance to the agility ring clear of crowds and debris for the safety of all entered.
- c) **One or Two Agility Table Secretary** – The Table Secretary will be located outside of the agility ring at the ring table. The table secretary is in charge of all the exhibitor's paperwork, making sure the exhibitor and judge's worksheet match before the exhibitor enters the agility ring. The table secretary will double check the math on the judge's worksheet, keep the table clean and organized, and get whatever agility equipment the judge may need.
- d) **One Agility Ring Secretary** – The Ring Secretary shall stand by the judge in the agility ring with his/her clip board and the exhibitor's judge's worksheet attached to the clip board. He/She will mark down all deductions and comments the judge so orders onto the exhibitor's judge's worksheet.
- e) **One to Two Agility Ring Steward** – The Ring Steward shall assist in setting up the non-traditional agility equipment to the judge's specifications, spot the agility exercises for safety of the canine, reposition fallen obstacles, and keep the agility ring clean.
- f) **One to Two Agility Time Keepers** – The time keeper will position him/herself where the judge instructs. He/She will need one stopwatch, and paper and pencil for recording time for each exhibitor entered. He/She will start the stopwatch when and where the judge indicates and stop the stopwatch at the moment the team has finished. The lowest time shall be recorded on the exhibitor's judge's worksheet.
- g) **One to Two Deaf Interpreters** - Deaf Interpreter(s) – A deaf exhibitor shall have one to two sign language interpreter(s) present in the agility ring.
  - 1. If one Interpreter for the deaf is present, he/she shall communicate with the exhibitor using sign language, the directions and the instructions the judge so commands, while at the same time verbally stating what he or she is signing.
  - 2. If two Interpreters for the deaf are present, one interpreter shall communicate with the exhibitor using sign language, the directions and the instructions the judge so commands, while at the same time the second Interpreter will verbally state what the first one is signing.

**SECTION TWELVE: Non-Traditional Agility Judging References, Judging Program and Judging Guidelines**

- 1. **Berrien County Youth Fair Non-Traditional Agility Judging References** – The Berrien County Youth Fair Non-Traditional Agility Judging References shall be determined based upon an *adaptive* version of the
  - a) American Kennel Club Agility Judge's Guidelines
  - b) American Kennel Club Regulations for Agility Trials
  - c) American Kennel Club a Beginner's Guide to Agility
- 2. **Berrien County Youth Fair Non-Traditional Agility Judging Program**
  - a) **Judge's Decision** – It shall be understood that the decisions of the agility judge shall be final.
  - b) **Agility Judging Begins** – Agility Judging shall begin AFTER the Obedience Judging of Group Exercise of Sit-Stay and Down-Stay has been completed.
  - c) **Non-Traditional Agility Judging Program Sequence** – The Non-Traditional Agility Judging Program shall proceed as follows
    - 1. Evaluation #1 – Sportsmanship Evaluation # 1 through # 10.
    - 2. Evaluation # 2 – Agility Obstacles

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3. Evaluation # 3 – Sportsmanship Conclusion # 11 through # 12
- d) **Exhibitor’s Judging Sequence** – The order of exhibitors entering the agility ring shall be determined by the dog show committee. *(Please see Section Ten; Paragraph 2 of the Non-Traditional Canine Exhibitor Agility Judging Program and Guidelines)*
  - e) **Exhibitor’s Responsibility** – It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be ready at ringside when the judge requires his/her presence. The exhibitor must report to the Ring Master any possible conflicts before the entering the obedience ring.
  - f) **Non-Traditional Agility Judge’s Ring Adaptations** – The agility judge may adapt the agility ring to meet the exhibitor’s individual needs by using the following methods.
  - g) **Individual Walk Through** – The agility judge may opt to have an individual walk through of the canine agility exercise course. The purpose of a “Walk Through” is so that the judge may observe the exhibitor’s disability and communication skills, while planning the necessary adaptations. Walk through will consist of the Judge, the exhibitor and the Team Instructor(s) only. Canine will remain at the gate with the Ring Master during a walk through.
  - h) **Group Walk Through** – The agility judge may opt to have the whole class on a walkthrough of the agility exercise course, bearing in mind that he/she cannot observe the individual exhibitor’s disability and communication skills.
  - i) **Yellow Guideline** – The agility judge may opt to have a yellow guideline laid down on the path the visually challenged or directionally challenged exhibitor will walk. The purpose is so that the exhibitor can concentrate on his/her canine and not have to worry about hidden holes, uneven ground, or which is left or right. Unless the guideline is required by the next exhibitor, the guideline should be removed before the next exhibitor enters the ring.
  - j) **Non-Traditional Judging Guidelines for an Exhibitor’s Team That May Be Difficult to Form an Opinion On** –
    - 1. Should the non-traditional agility judge find it problematic to judge an exhibitor due to the exhibitor’s lack of communication skills and/or mobility life challenges, the judge will focus his/her attention on the canine’s performance.
    - 2. During the exercises the exhibitor must hold onto and release his/her leash at the proper moment giving the canine free movement to perform the agility obstacle exercise without hindrance.
    - 3. **Five points** will be deducted for each time the exhibitor releases his/her leash at the improper moment.
  - j) **Non-Traditional Exhibitor’s Verbal Communication to His/Her Canine** – The non-traditional exhibitor may communicate with his/her canine using verbal and/or sign language without fear of penalties. The exhibitor may encourage his/her canine with a happy or sing-song voice, and clapping of the hands.
  - k) **Non-Traditional Exhibitor’s Correction of a Canine’s Error** –
    - 1. The non-traditional exhibitor **MUST RECOGNIZE AND CORRECT HIS/HER CANINE’S ERROR(S)** while in the agility ring. Should the exhibitor recognize the canine’s error, but does not communicate a physical and/or verbal correction of the canine’s error, the judge will deduct seven points.
    - 2. Should the Non-Traditional Agility Judge require the canine’s error be corrected and the exhibitor has *failed to recognize* the canine’s error, the judge may communicate to the exhibitor a verbal “*Correct Your Dog*” command. The judge will penalize points for having to issue a correction command to the exhibitor.

**SECTION THIRTEEN: Non-Traditional Exhibitor’s and/or Canine’s Acceptable and Unacceptable Social Behavior**

Non-Traditional Agility assist the non-traditional exhibitor in recognizing and developing **acceptable** social behavior for both the exhibitor and the canine alike. The judge will have two avenues in assisting with acceptable and unacceptable social behavior.



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1. **RELEASING an Agility Team** - The non-traditional agility judge has the discretion to RELEASE an exhibitor's team any time throughout the agility course for the following reasons:
  - a. **Exhibitor's Meltdown Behavior** – Should the exhibitor show signs of a psychologically or medical necessitate meltdown behavior, the agility judge will follow the following procedure....
    1. The agility judge may choose to RELEASE the team from the ring and have the exhibitor wait until everyone else has exhibited, thus giving the exhibitor time to compose him/herself. **The exhibitor should not be penalized for being released from the agility ring.**
    2. The judge will extend an invitation to the exhibitor to return to the agility ring and begin where he/she left off in the sequence of the agility course.
    3. Should the exhibitor refuse to come back into the agility ring after the judge's invitation, the judge will then EXCUSE the exhibitor's team from competition and no prizes will be awarded.
  - b. **Canine is having Meltdown Behavior** – Should the canine show signs of extreme physical meltdown due to heat and/or lack of water, the agility judge has the option to RELEASE the team from the ring and have the exhibitor wait until everyone else has exhibited, thus giving the exhibitor time to take care of his/her canine's physical needs. **The exhibitor should not be penalized for being released from the agility ring** due to canine's meltdown behavior.
2. **EXCUSING an Exhibitor's Team** – The non-traditional agility judge will have the discretion to EXCUSE an exhibitor's team any time throughout the agility course for the following reasons:
  - a. **Exhibitor's Unacceptable Behavior** – Should the exhibitor display unacceptable social behavior such as uncontrolled temper tantrum, manipulation of team members, verbal abuse to others, has been observed pinching, biting hitting, spiting at or kicking his/her canine, team instructor or spectator, refuses to continue to work with his/her canine and team instructor, or has been observed to have unsuitable behavior for the safety of him/herself, canine or human being, said behavior would constitute an immediate disqualification.
    1. **Warnings, Excusing or Disqualifying Exhibitor's Team** - Depending upon the gravity of the unacceptable exhibitor's behavior, the agility judge May choose to **issue up to two warnings, along with penalties**, that the exhibitor's unacceptable social behavior will not be tolerated on the agility course.
    2. **OR**, the agility judge will **immediately EXCUSE and DISQUALIFY** the exhibitor's team from all competition should the exhibitor choose to continue his/her unacceptable behavior after two verbal warnings from either the judge and/or team instructor.
  - b. **Canine's Unacceptable Behavior** - Should the canine display unacceptable social behavior, such as growling, snapping at or biting another canine or human being, or behavior that is unsuitable for the safety of another canine and/or human being, **OR**, the canine is in poor health, lame or physically unable to execute agility exercises, said unacceptable behavior would constitute and immediate EXCUSED and DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE AGILITY RING, Said canine shall be taken to a secure place away from the exhibition area for confinement.
3. **Excusing and Disqualification Procedures** – Should the non-traditional agility judge find it necessary to disqualify a team, he/she shall follow the following disqualification procedures by
  1. Immediately stopping the Non-Traditional Agility Competition,
  2. Explain to the exhibitor's team why they are being excused from the agility ring and being disqualified,
  3. Write on the exhibitor's worksheet "*Disqualified*" and state the reason for the disqualification.
4. **BCYF Awards** – Competition awards, premiums, ribbons and trophies shall be withheld from an excused or disqualified non-traditional exhibitor.

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**SECTION FOURTEEN: Performance on an Agility Obstacle**

**Performance on an Obstacle** – The non-traditional exhibitor and his/her team shall perform the following agility obstacles in this manner....

1. **A-Frame, Dog Walk and Seesaw Performance** – The canine must ascend on the entrance panel and descend on the exit panel of the obstacle. The canine’s paw must touch the contact zone on the entrance and the exit of the obstacle. The exhibitor must guide his/her canine with a loose lead and not pull the canine off the obstacle.
2. **Bar and Bush Jump Performance** – The canine must jump over the bar or bush without displacing the obstacle or knocking the frame over. The exhibitor must not knock over the jump’s frame or dislodge the bar or bush. He/she must maintain a loose lead for proper canine performance and to let go of, as well as collect, his/her leash at the proper moment.
3. **Panel, Tire and Window Jump Performance** – The canine must jump over the obstacle without knocking the frame over. The exhibitor must not knock over the jump’s frame. He/she must maintain a loose lead for proper canine performance and to let go of, as well as collect, his/her leash at the proper moment.
4. **Broad Jump Performance** – The canine must jump over all sections of the broad jump without moving or stepping on top of the boards. The exhibitor must not step on the boards and must maintain a loose lead for proper canine performance.
5. **Tunnel; Open and Closed Performance** – The canine must enter the “entrance” the judge has chosen and exit the other end. The exhibitor must maintain a loose lead for proper canine performance and to let go of, as well as collect, his/her leash at the proper moment.
6. **Pause; Box and Table Performance** – The judge will choose a “Sit-Stay” or a “Down-Stay” for the pause box. The exhibitor will maintain a loose lead for proper canine performance. The exhibitor will enter the pause box, tell the canine to “sit” or “down” and to “stay”. The judge will count to five and the exhibitor will then release his/her canine and move on to the next obstacle. Should the canine move out of his/her position before the count of five, the judge will stop the count, the exhibitor will place the canine back into position, and the count will begin again.
7. **Weave Poles and Weave Cones Performance** – Canine must enter the weave poles or cones from the left side and passing between poles/cones #1 and #2 moving from left to right, continue to move in and out until all poles/cones have been accomplished.

**SECTION FIFTEEN: Standard Course Time**

1. The standard course time for an agility course shall be set at two minutes for each exhibitor.
2. Course time will be considered ONLY if there is a tie for class or High in Trial placement.
3. Judge will use the lowest Time Keeper’s time on stop watches.

**SECTION SIXTEEN: Non-Traditional Agility Exhibitor’s Ring Etiquette**

1. **Ring Etiquette Purpose** – The Non-Traditional Exhibitor’s Ring Etiquette purpose is to continuously encourage the exhibitor’s and canine’s acceptable social behavior, communication skills and teamwork necessary in becoming an independent canine handler.
2. **Judge Prompting the Exhibitor** – The Non-Traditional Agility Judge will neither prompt, nor will he/she ask if the exhibitor wishes to execute the agility exercises on his/her own.
3. **Ring Etiquette Procedure** – The Non-Traditional Exhibitor’s Ring Etiquette procedure shall be as follows:
  - a) **Communicating on Canine Safety and/or Independent Canine Handling** - During the Sportsmanship Evaluation and prior to the beginning of the agility exercises, the non-traditional exhibitor, *using his/her own initiative*, may communicate his/her concerns regarding his/her canine safety requirements and/or personal wish for independent canine handling.

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- b) **Independent Canine Handling** - The non-traditional judge will oblige the exhibitor's communication for his/her independent handling by directing the Team Instructor to
  1. Remove his/her six foot leash (if attached) from the canine's Volhard / Martingale Collar and to stand in a designated area in the ring. Team Instructor is to remain in the ring for safety purpose.
  2. Should the exhibitor have a life challenge that designates that the Team Instructor remain beside, behind or in front of the exhibitor (example would be legally blind or in a wheel chair) the Team Instructor shall do so but not interfere with, nor touch the exhibitor or canine unless instructed to do so by the judge.
- c) **Canine Safety with Jump Height and Width** – Prior to the beginning of the agility course, and on his/her own initiative, the non-traditional exhibitor may request a lowering of the jump heights, or an adjustment in width of the obstacles, due to the size of the canine or his/her physical requirements. The judge will then instruct the stewards to make the adjustments to the obstacles.

**SECTION SEVENTEEN: Exhibitor's Notes to Judge and Judge's Position for Observing the Team on the Agility Obstacles**

1. **Notes to Judge** – This section will be found at the top of the score sheet and will give the judge insight into the mental and/or physical insufficiencies of the exhibitor's team which should help with the adaptation of the agility exercises. Example: Exhibitor is manipulative through meltdown behavior." *"Exhibitor is deaf."* *"Exhibitor is blind in left eye. Canine should be on his/her right side for Control (Heel) Position."*
2. **Judge's Observation Position** - The judge will place him/herself in an area where he/she can observe the exhibitor's team unhindered.

**SECTION EIGHTEEN: Agility Score Sheet and Evaluation Procedures**

The Non-Traditional Exhibitor Score Sheet shall have the following evaluations in this order...

1. **Sportsmanship Evaluation** –
  - a) **Sportsmanship Evaluation Purpose** – The purpose of the Sportsmanship Evaluation is to
    1. Promote socially acceptable skills in good manners and polite behavior.
    2. Bear witness to the exhibitor's comprehension to these socially acceptable skills.
    3. To double check the proper placement of leashes and collars.
    4. To bear witness to the exhibitor's comprehension of the agility rules by not having bait.
  - b) **Sportsmanship Evaluation Procedure** - The judge will circle "Yes" or "No" on the following questions...
    1. Did the exhibitor accept your handshake?
    2. Did the exhibitor make eye contact with you?
    3. Did the exhibitor introduce him/herself?
    4. Did the exhibitor introduce his/her canine?
    5. Did the exhibitor introduce his/her team instructor(s)?
    6. Is the exhibitor dressed according to the BCYF Dress Code?
    7. Is the canine groomed according to the BCYF Dress Code?
    8. Are the canine's two collars on correctly?
    9. Are the canine's two leashes attached to the correct collar?
    10. Did the exhibitor bring food or a toy to use as bait into the ring?
2. **Agility Obstacle Course Evaluation**
  - a) **Agility Obstacle Course Purpose** – The purpose of an agility obstacle course is to promote communication, motor and teamwork skills between all members of the exhibitor's team.

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- b) **Agility Obstacle Course Procedure** –
  - 1. The exhibitor will listen to the judge's instructions regarding the arrangement of the obstacle course.
  - 2. The exhibitor's team will then execute the obstacles in the arrangement the judge has indicated.
  - 3. The exhibitor will be given three attempts to execute an obstacle. If the canine does not execute the obstacle after three attempts the judge will order the obstacle to be "Passed" and the team will move on to the next obstacle. Five points will be deducted for each canine refusal of the obstacle and seven points will be deducted for each "Passed" obstacle.
- 3. **Sportsmanship Evaluation Conclusion** – After the agility obstacle evaluation has been completed, the judge will circle "Yes" or "No" on the following questions...
  - a) Did the exhibitor communicate a "Thank You" with a handshake prior to leaving the agility ring?
  - b) Did the exhibitor happily encourage his/her canine during the agility exercises?

**SECTION NINETEEN:            Agility Obstacle Replays**

- 1. **Pause Table and Pause Box Replay** – Should a canine sit up, stand up and/or leave a pause table or pause box prior to the completion of a five second countdown, the judge will stop the countdown, the exhibitor will place the canine back into position on the table or box and the countdown will begin again.
- 2. **A-Frame, Dog Walk and Seesaw (Titer Totter) Replay** – Should the canine decide to dismount the A-Frame, Dog Walk and Seesaw (Titer Totter) in the middle of the obstacle, the exhibitor will lead his/her canine back to the entrance panel of the obstacle and entice the canine to complete the obstacle.
- 3. **Tunnel, Open and Closed Replay** – Should the canine decide to turn around inside the tunnel and come out the entrance of the tunnel, the exhibitor will entice the canine to go back into the tunnel and complete the exercise.
- 4. **Jumps and Hurdles Replay** – Should the canine decide to go around a jump or hurdle, the exhibitor will lead the canine back to the jump or hurdle entrance and entice the canine to complete the jump.
- 5. **Weave Cones and Weave Poles Replay** - Should the canine decide to miss a weave cone or pole, the exhibitor will lead the canine back to the missed cone or pole and entice the canine to continue from there.

**SECTION TWENTY:            Agility Course Points and Faults**

- 1. **Maximum Points** – The maximum points an exhibitor's team shall be given at the start of the agility judging is one-hundred and twelve points.
- 2. **Final Score** – The final score an exhibitor's team will earn shall be determined on
  - a) How well the exhibitor's team presents themselves in the Sportsmanship Evaluation and
  - b) How accurate the exhibitor's team can execute the obstacles without accumulating obstacle course faults and course time deductions.
- 3. **Standard Course Faults** – The following points shall be considered course fault deductions.
  - a) **One Point** - Exhibitor brought bait (food or toy) into the ring
  - b) **Two Points**
    - 1. Interference
    - 2. Outside of the ring assistance
    - 3. Taking an obstacle out of sequence
    - 4. Dismounts the pause table before the countdown has finished
    - 5. Leaves the pause box before the countdown has finished
    - 6. Exhibitor's excessive touching and/or physical guiding of the canine
    - 7. Exhibitor cannot control the canine at an obstacle
    - 8. Exhibitor touches the obstacle
    - 9. For each weave cone knocked over

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- c) **Three Points**
  - 1. Constant tight leash
  - 2. Team instructor interferes with canine
  - 3. Canine dismounts from the middle of the seesaw
  - 4. Exhibitor and/or canine knock over an obstacle frame
  - 5. Canine steps on broad jump boards
- d) **Five Points**
- e) Canine misses a contact zone
  - 1. Displacement of a bar or panel on a jump
  - 2. Per canine refusal of an obstacle
  - 3. Each time an exhibitor with severe disability drops his/her leash
- f) **Seven Points**
  - 1. For each passed obstacle.
  - 2. Exhibitor recognize the canine's error, but does not communicate a physical and/or verbal correction of the canine's error.
  - 3. Judge's has to tell the exhibitor to "Correct your dog."
- g) **Ten Points**
  - 1. Excessive handling
  - 2. Canine decides to make his/her own obstacle of the baby gates without exhibitor's guidance or control
- h) **Up to Twenty Points (Judge's discretion)**
  - 1. Exhibitor is not dressed to BCYF Dress Code standards
  - 2. Canine is not groomed to BCYF Grooming standards
- 4. **Course Time Deductions** – One point deduction for every five seconds over standard course time rounding down to whole numbers.

**SECTION TWENTY-ONE: Agility Scoring**

- 1. **Purpose of Agility Scoring** – Class instructors, canine therapy clubs and Berrien County Youth Fair Dog Department will have a system of calculating the exhibitor's team's accomplishment and personal maturity and physical growth through his/her canine therapy lessons.
- 2. **Agility Scoring Procedures** –
  - a) The judge and/or Table Secretary will tally the Sportsmanship Evaluation Section 1 and Section 3, and tally the Agility Evaluation.
  - b) The judge and/or Table Secretary will add the two sums together to receive the exhibitor's total sum score.
  - c) The judge and/or Table Secretary will enter the total sum of earned points at the bottom of the Agility Evaluation Sheet.
  - d) The judge and/or Table Secretary will circle A, B or C Ribbon earned.
  - e) The score will not be valid unless the agility judge initials are written the initial box.
  - f) Scores and Ribbons Earned will be transferred to the Berrien County Youth Fair's Trophy Worksheet.

**SECTION TWENTY-TWO: Agility Trophies**

- 1. **Agility Trophy Purpose** – Trophies may be awarded as an acknowledgement of and incentive to "keep up the good work" efforts of the exhibitor's working relationship with his team members.
- 2. **Agility Trophy Tie For Placement** – Should the judge find that two or more exhibitor's team has the same score for class or High in Trial placement, the judge will use the team's time to break the tie.

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- 3. Agility Trophy Classifications and Placements** – There are three classifications of trophies.
- a) **Agility Class Trophy Placement** –
1. Using the Berrien County Youth Fair’s Trophy Worksheet, the judge will use the highest score for first place and the lowest score for last place to determine class trophy placement.
  2. The judge will pass out the Class Ribbon or trophies accordingly for the following placements:
    - A. **First Place** (Blue Ribbon)
    - B. **Second Place** (Red Ribbon)
    - C. **Third Place** (Yellow Ribbon)
    - D. **Fourth Place** (White Ribbon)
    - E. **Fifth Place** (Pink Ribbon)
    - F. **Sixth Place** (Green Ribbon)
  3. **Placement below sixth place** – Class Medallion
- b) **Agility High in Trial Placement** –
1. In the column “*High in Trial Winners*” the judge will write the exhibitor’s name, Berrien County Youth Fair’s ID number and score of the first and second place winners.
  2. The judge will take all class first and second place winners highest score for first place and lowest score for sixth place, the judge will pass out the High in Trial rosette and/or trophy accordingly for the following placements:
    - A. **AGILITY GRAND CHAMPION** (Blue Rosette)
    - B. **AGILITY RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION** (Red Rosette)
    - C. **Third Place** Agility High In Trail (Yellow Rosette)
    - D. **Fourth Place** Agility High In Trail (White Rosette)
    - E. **Fifth Place** Agility High In Trail (Pink Rosette)
    - F. **Sixth Place** Agility High In Trail (Green Rosette)

**SECTION TWENTY-THREE: Berrien County Youth Fair Premiums for CEwD Agility**

The Berrien County Youth Fair may be capable of awarding cash premiums for class ribbons earned by the exhibitors. To earn an Agility Premium, the exhibitor must have achieved the following agility points...

1. **Class “A”** Agility Premium (Blue Ribbon): Exhibitor must have amassed **75 to 112 points**.
2. **Class “B”** Agility Premium (Red Ribbon): Exhibitor must have amassed **38 to 74 points**.
3. **Class “C”** Agility Premium (White Ribbon): Exhibitor must have amassed **00 to 37 points**.

**SECTION TWENTY-FOUR: Medical Emergency**

1. Should a medical emergency arise in or outside of the non-traditional agility ring, the Ringmaster and Agility Judge shall immediately take charge and assess the situation.
2. First Aid Kit shall be located at the Hospitality Table.
3. The Ringmaster will carry a cell phone to call for an ambulance or veterinarian.

**SECTION TWENTY-FIVE: Review of the Berrien County Youth Fair Non-Traditional Agility Judging Program and Procedures**

A review of the Berrien County Youth Fair Non-Traditional Agility Judging Program and Procedures shall be done on a yearly basis per disability census.