DOGS VICTORIA

REG. NO. A0023882W

REGULATIONS

PART 8 - AGILITY

Last update: 15 July 2026

To be read in conjunction with DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations, Codes & Policies

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8 – AGILITY

8.1 TRIAL ORGANISATION AND ADMINISTRATION

8.1.1 Schedules

-*Submission of draft fixture schedules and judges' contracts* - deleted (duplication) refer to regulation 3.4.12 (15/01/26)

All rules, regulations, definitions or instructions in the nature of Rules and Regulations printed in the schedule shall be deemed to be Regulations of the trial and shall have the same effect as if they formed part of these Regulations, provided they are not inconsistent with these Regulations. The schedule shall contain:

8.1.1.1 The date on which the entries close.

8.1.1.2 Notification to the effect that the body is affiliated with Dogs Victoria and that the exhibition is held under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria and that a copy of them may be perused at the office of the Secretary of the Exhibition.

8.1.1.3 The name of the Affiliate conducting the trial.

8.1.1.4 The correct status of the trial, whether it is open or restricted.

8.1.1.5 The address of the venue where the trial is to be held.

8.1.1.6 The date on which the trial is to be held.

8.1.1.7 The address to which entries are to be sent.

8.1.1.8 The name of each Judge and the class/es allocated to that Judge.

8.1.1.9 The order that classes are to be judged.

8.1.1.10 Whether triallers are required to check in prior to the start of the trial, and if so the time that check in will commence and finish.

8.1.1.11 Whether or not bitches will be vetted, and if so what time that vetting will take place.

8.1.1.12 The price and ordering instructions of catalogues (if applicable).

8.1.1.13 Entry fees per class

8.1.1.14 The time that judging will commence.

8.1.1.15 Advice as to the availability of catering.

8.1.1.16 List of the trophies and sashes to be awarded.

8.1.2 Trial Entries

8.1.2.1 All details must be clearly shown on the entry form.

8.1.2.2 Acknowledgment of receipt of entry will be given only if a stamped self-addressed envelope is included with the entry form.

8.1.2.3 Not For Competition (NFC) Runs (15/01/24)

8.1.2.3.1 NFC runs allow a dog and handler to participate in an Agility or Jumping class and build their confidence by allowing the handler to reward the dog with a toy in the trial ring.

8.1.2.3.2 A competitor may choose to run NFC in any class which they have entered at a Victorian DOGS AUSTRALIA Agility trial (excluding Games classes as per 8.1.2.3.5 and major

competitions as per 8.1.2.3.6). A competitor may only enter a dog in a class and at the jump height they are eligible to compete in.

8.1.2.3.3 NFC entry is non-competitive. No cards of any kind (qualifying or non-qualifying) are to be awarded. NFC entries will not be eligible for ribbons, trophies, or prizes.

8.1.2.3.4 There will be no separate classes, courses, for NFC entries.

8.1.2.3.5 NFC will not be available for Games (i.e. snooker, gamblers, and strategic pairs).

8.1.2.3.6 NFC will not be available for major competitions (i.e. State Trials, National Trials and the Melbourne Royal Show).

8.1.2.3.7 NFC entry fee will be the full entry fee for that trial.

8.1.2.4 Trial Procedures for NFC runs (15/01/24)

8.1.2.4.1 The handler must inform the Judge, after entering the ring but before the run starts, that they are running NFC. This can be done in accordance with the Judge's instructions or, if no instructions are given, by indicating to the Judge the run is NFC by the handler crossing their arms at the wrist in front of their face (making an X) or by showing a toy.

8.1.2.4.2 The Judge will inform the scribe that the run is NFC, and no results will be recorded.

8.1.2.4.3 The Judge and ring stewards shall perform their normal duties; however, no scoring shall be recorded for an NFC entry.

8.1.2.4.4 The Judge shall ensure that the conduct of the handler and dog is appropriate and safe.

8.1.2.4.5 At the Judge's discretion, a dog not under control or obviously not capable of executing any obstacle may be asked to leave the ring.

8.1.2.4.6 During NFC runs handlers may use non-audible toys in the ring. The toy must not be thrown in any way that causes it to leave the handler's person. Release of the toy to the dog's mouth is acceptable. No food, or toys containing food, are permitted to be used in the ring. A handler who is running NFC may not use the toy/training aid while in the 5-metre exclusion zone or when entering the ring (note, this does not include tugging on a lead which is permitted under the Agility Rules).

8.1.2.4.7 A handler running NFC will be given time in the ring up to the Standard Course Time (SCT). Timing for NFC will start when the dog is on the ground with the lead removed and the Judge either commences timing on their own timing device or indicates to the scribe to start timing.

8.1.2.4.8 Competitors will be instructed, at the Judge's briefing, of the method used to indicate when SCT has been reached (e.g., whistle, buzzer etc.). At the end of the SCT, the handler shall promptly remove their dog from the ring. Not leaving the ring immediately when directed may, at the Judges' discretion and in consultation with Dogs Victoria Rep and Trial Secretary, result in the handler being disqualified for the remainder of the trial and/or they may be referred for further disciplinary action.

8.1.2.4.9 Handlers running NFC are not required to complete the whole course and are not required to start the course at the first obstacle or end the course at the last obstacle. If a handler running NFC is attempting a sequence of obstacles, the obstacles must be taken in the numerical order as set by the Judge. If a handler running NFC wishes to repeat an obstacle, or sequence of obstacles, they may do so provided they make a safe approach to the obstacle or the first obstacle in that sequence.

8.1.2.5 Review of NFC Regulations (15/01/24)

These regulations for NFC may be reviewed and modified by the Victorian Agility Committee at any time deemed necessary. Members and affiliates will be notified of any changes.

8.1.3 Trial catalogue shall contain:

8.1.3.1 The name of the Affiliate conducting the fixture;

8.1.3.2 Notification to the effect that the body is affiliated with Dogs Victoria and that the fixture is held under the Rules and Regulations of Dogs Victoria, and that a copy may be perused at the office of the Secretary of the fixture;

8.1.3.3 The date/s on which the fixture is being held;

8.1.3.4 A list of Judges showing their judging commitments and the order that classes will be judged which shall be the same as that published in the schedule.

8.1.3.5 The time at which judging will commence.

8.1.3.6 Names of Dogs Victoria Representative

8.1.3.7 A list of trophies, sashes and awards.

8.1.3.8 The name of each exhibitor, the name of each exhibit and each exhibit number.

8.1.3.9 A diagram or description of the precincts of the Trial.

8.1.4 Entry Fee Refunds

8.1.4.1 Where the Judge announced in a Prize Schedule is changed, other than to the advertised emergency or reserve judge, an exhibit may be withdrawn prior to the commencement of the trial. Upon written request lodged before completion of the trial the exhibitor shall be entitled to a refund of entry fees.

8.1.5 Cancelled Fixtures (Amended 15/12/25)

8.1.5.1 Prior to the commencement of or during a trial, where conditions are deemed to be unsafe for dogs or competitors to compete, the judge(s) judging a particular class or classes, or the committee conducting the trial may postpone, terminate or cancel a class or classes.

If the conditions are considered to be unsafe as a result of extreme weather, refer to Regulation 8.12.

8.1.6 Check in Procedures

8.1.6.1 All exhibit numbers must be collected from the trial administration prior to entering the ring.

8.1.6.2 Bitches to be examined if stated in the schedule.

8.1.6.3 The onus is on the competitor to inform the Assembly Stewards of all rings in which they will be competing in if they are entered in more than one ring.

8.1.6.4 The onus is on the competitor to present themselves to the assembly steward when their number is called.

8.1.6.5 A competitor shall not be called for the third time if they are engaged in competing in another ring.

8.1.7 Judging Times

8.1.7.1 The trial shall not commence before the scheduled time.

8.1.8 Rings

8.1.8.1 Time Keepers and Scribes are not to officiate in a ring whilst an immediate member of their family is competing in that ring.

8.1.8.2 Subject to the approval of the Trial Secretary, the trial rings may be used for the training of judges etc., or by the competitors, prior to the completion of the trial.

8.1.8.3 A small table must be placed outside each ring.

8.1.8.4 In addition to the scribes sheet a score board, or score sheet, clearly visible to competitors shall be maintained.

8.1.9 Order of Judging

8.1.9.1 The trial secretary, through the assembly steward, is responsible for the order that dogs are judged.

8.1.9.2 The classes shall be judged in the order they appear in the catalogue and the schedule except that in order to allow a judge who is judging at the fixture to compete, a height category may be temporarily changed.

8.1.10 Dogs Off Lead

8.1.10.1 No dogs are allowed off lead within 10m of an agility ring.

8.1.11 Non Attendance of Judges

8.1.11.1 Where a contracted Judge does not attend within 1 hour prior to the scheduled start time, and has not made a prior arrangement with the affiliate, the affiliate may appoint a suitably qualified replacement judge.

8.1.11.2 In any case where a judge does not attend as contracted, the organising Affiliate is to provide a written report to Dogs Victoria Office within seven (7) days.

8.2 JUDGES

8.2.1 General

The onus of proving a person's eligibility for a licence shall rest with that person.

8.2.2 Deleted (15/04/25)

8.2.3 Where a licensed judge fails to comply with Dogs Victoria regulations, DOGS AUSTRALIA Agility Rules or Dogs Victoria safety prescriptions without reasonable cause or arrangement, the Management Committee may:

8.2.31 Require that judge to submit courses drawn to scale for approval to the Agility subcommittee one month prior to all judging appointments until that committee is satisfied that the judge is following DOGS VICTORIA regulations DOGS AUSTRALIA Agility Rules and Dogs Victoria safety prescriptions.

8.2.3.2 Suspend a licence until that judge has received additional training and/or passed a practical and or theory examination as determined by the Agility Committee.

8.2.3.3 Refuse any application for a licence or renewal of a licence.

8.2.3.4 Cancel any licence.

8.2.3.5 Suspend for any period or vary in anyway any licence already approved.

8.2.4 Application for licences and renewal of licences must be made in such manner as may be prescribed from time to time by Management Committee.

8.3 THE INTRODUCTION OF REVISED RULES, NEW CLASSES OR COMPETITIONS

8.3.1 With the introduction of new agility classes or Events or changes to the DOGS AUSTRALIA rules for existing Events, Judges licensed for the relevant Agility Classes or Events must attend a rules review and/or a practical workshop, and/or pass any written and/or practical examination as determined by the Agility committee.

8.3.2 The eligibility of licensed agility judges to judge new classes or Events will be determined by the agility committee.

8.4 AGILITY JUDGES TRAINING AND EXAMINATION

8.4.1 Terminology

8.4.1.1 Event - Any of the discipline covered under the DOGS AUSTRALIA Agility Rules i.e. Agility, Jumping, Games etc

8.4.1.2 Class - Novice /Open/Master and any other level of competition within an event.

8.4.1.3 Agility – Includes events as described in the DOGS AUSTRALIA Rules unless specified otherwise.

8.4.1.4 Trainee Agility Judge - A member who has been accepted as a trainee judge for any or all agility events.

8.4.1.5 Agility Judge – An Agility Judge licensed to judge any or all agility events.

8.5 FITNESS TO JUDGE

8.5.1 In the application to join the training scheme applicants must certify that they are capable of judging in accordance with the Rules and in the normally accepted manner. Thereafter the certification becomes part of the annual renewal application for Judging Licences.

8.6 SELF EDUCATION

8.6.1 Trainee will be required to educate themselves to examination standards by:

8.6.1.1 Studying the DOGS AUSTRALIA Agility Rules

8.6.1.2 Studying the DOGS AUSTRALIA Agility Judges Guidelines

8.6.1.3 Attending appropriate Lectures and or studying available course material

8.6.1.4 Attending any required practical training session(s)

8.6.1.5 Completing course design exercises or other exercises as arranged by the Agility Committee

8.6.1.6 Acquiring ring experience

8.6.1.7 Studying available books and videos on course design and agility judging

8.7 ELIGIBILITY FOR BECOMING A TRAINEE AGILITY/JUMPING JUDGE

8.7.1 The applicant must be at least 18 years of age.

8.7.2 The applicant must have trained and trialled a dog to AD title and one pass towards an ADX title.

8.7.3 The applicant must have been a member of the member body for a minimum period of 3 years.

8.7.4 The DOGS AUSTRALIA Member Body may consider an application from a person transferring from another State or Territory of Australia or overseas, who can provide evidence that their experience of Agility extends over a minimum period of 3 years and has trained and trialled a dog to the equivalent of AD title and one pass to ADX as a member of the canine member body in the State, Territory or Country of prior residence.

8.7.5 The DOGS AUSTRALIA Member Body may consider for approval an application from an applicant over the age of eighteen (I8) years, who otherwise would not qualify under these Regulations. Such applicant must demonstrate active and relevant involvement in Agility for a minimum period of 3 years.

8.7.6 Application to become a Trainee Agility Judge may be made at any time and must be made on the proper form available from Dogs Victoria office.

8.8 QUALIFICATIONS TO APPLY TO BECOME AN AGILITY/JUMPING JUDGE

8.8.1 Applications must be made on the form available from Dogs Victoria office.

8.8.2 The applicant must be a trainee Agility/Jumping Judge.

8.8.3 The applicant must have trained and trialled a dog to an AD title and one pass towards an ADX title.

8.8.4 The Agility Committee must certify that the applicant has:

8.8.4.1 Completed the relevant course design exercises, and any other specified works in the 18 month period prior to their licence application.

8.8.4.2 Undertaken the specified practical training in a 12 month period prior to their licence application.

8.8.4.3 Passed their practical examination in the 3 months preceding their licence application.

8.8.4.4 Passed the written examination on the DOGS AUSTRALIA Agility Rules, Agility Judges Guidelines, and Dogs Victoria Regulations current at the time of their practical examination and within a 2 year period preceding that practical examination.

8.8.4.5 Or, due to prior relevant experience, received exemptions for any of the above.

8.8.5 On being granted a licence as an Agility/Jumping Judge the judge is required to submit all courses to the agility subcommittee 4 weeks prior to all judging appointments for comment and amendment until notified otherwise.

8.8.6 After September 2005 any existing Novice/Open Agility and Jumping judges shall, after receiving training and/or testing as determined by the Agility Committee, be 4.d to judge all classes of agility and jumping

8.8.7 On being granted a licence to judge all classes of Agility and Jumping the judge is required to submit all courses to the Judges Training Subcommittee Chairperson/Convenor 4 weeks prior to all judging appointments for comment and amendment until notified otherwise.

8.9 QUALIFICATIONS TO APPLY TO BECOME A JUDGE FOR ANY OTHER EVENTS IN ADDITION TO AGILITY AND JUMPING.

8.9.2 The applicant must, as determined by the Agility Committee:

8.9.2.1 Satisfy any requirements for previous experience in either the event(s) under consideration or any other agility events.

8.9.2.2 Undertake practical and theoretical training or study.

8.9.2.3 Pass a written examination on current rules and regulations. (Amended 15/07/26)

8.10 PRACTICAL EXAMINATIONS

8.10.1 A Trainee who fails a practical examination may be re-examined after a lapse of at least three months.

8.10.2 Practical examinations shall mirror the judging of a Master agility class at the designated level, at a normal agility trial.

8.10.3 The Trainee will judge a minimum of 10 rounds using dogs of at least two different heights.

8.10.4 The course used will be designed by the Trainee and will form part of the assessment.

8.10.5 An Assessment Panel comprising three (3) Judges approved by the DOGS AUSTRALIA Member Body shall be appointed by the Agility Committee as an Examination Panel for any Practical Examination.

8.10.6 Only Assessors as qualified under these Regulations shall be eligible to be so appointed.

8.10.7 The Chairperson/Convenor of the Judges Training Subcommittee shall normally be the chairperson of the assessment panel, in his/her absence he will nominate the chairperson of the assessment panel.

8.10.8 At all practical tests a member of the Agility Committee will be present either as an assessor or observer.

8.10.9 The majority decision of the assessment panel will prevail.

8.10.10 The results of the practical examination shall be communicated to the Trainee, and the Trainee's performance in the examination reviewed by the assessors with the Trainee, on completion of the practical examination.

8.10.11 Appeals against the results of Practical Examinations shall not be allowed unless it is alleged that the DOGS AUSTRALIA Member Body did not conduct the Practical Examination in accordance with the Rules and Regulations.

8.10.12 Appeals shall be conducted according to Dogs Victoria appeals procedure.

8.10.13 If it is found that a Judges Examination has been conducted contrary to DOGS AUSTRALIA Regulations and/or policy and a candidate has appealed against a result of the examination, the examination is to be null and void. A new examination is to be scheduled as soon as practicable without the candidates being required to gain further qualifications.

8.11 WRITTEN EXAMINATIONS

8.11.1 All written examination papers shall consist of' "short answer questions" and/or "multi-choice" questions" only. There shall be at least two (2) persons appointed to separately mark the papers, without conferring. In the case of a split decision (equal pass and fail) an additional person shall mark the papers and that mark shall decide the result. All written examinations shall require an 80% pass mark.

8.11.2 The only basis for written examinations shall be:

8.11.2.1 The DOGS AUSTRALIA Rules for the conduct of Agility and Jumping Events.

8.11.2.2 The DOGS AUSTRALIA Guidelines for (Agility/Jumping) Judges.

8.11.2.3 Dogs Victoria Regulations pertaining to Agility.

8.12 EXTREME WEATHER – AGILITY

(15/12/25)

8.12.1 DEFINITIONS

Refer to Regulation 3.2

8.12.2 MEMBER RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.3

8.12.3 AFFILIATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.4

When scheduling a trial for dates when the weather may be reasonably expected to exceed 30°C consideration is to be given to:

- Scheduling a twilight trial or earlier start in the morning than usual
- Provision of shade at the rings for judges, stewards and competitors waiting to compete
- Provision of drinking water at the ring for judges and stewards
- Provision of drinking water and paddling pools around the grounds for use by the dogs; and
- Scheduling to ensure that stewards and judges can be rotated during the day so that no one is out in the heat all day.

8.12.4 CONDUCT OF A TRIAL IN THE HEAT

- Every person at a trial is responsible for their own health and the health of any dogs they have brought to the trial. Each person must bring suitable shade, reasonable shelter (tent, umbrella etc) and water for themselves and their dogs
- Dogs at higher risk of heat stress include brachycephalic breeds and high drive dogs. Particular care is to be taken with these dogs on hot days
- Judges and stewards are to allow dogs running in multiple rings sufficient time to recover between runs. Competitors are to consider competing in fewer classes if the weather is hot
- The judge may order the removal from competition of any dog suffering signs of heat stress (for example excessive panting, weakness, blue tinge to tongue) as the dog is unfit to compete (DOGS AUSTRALIA Rule 8.11)
- Rings are to be set up to minimise the need for walking by lead stewards, ring stewards, scribes and timekeepers.

8.12.5 CANCELLATION OF AN EVENT

Refer to Regulations 3.5.20.4 and 3.5.20.5, excepting that a trial must be cancelled when:

- the temperature reaches 32 degrees Celsius as measured by two successive readings taken at 15-minute intervals using the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) website or BOM Weather app. If they are unavailable a suitable outdoor thermometer may be used (located in an open south facing shaded location with maximum airflow, and if at all possible, no more than 10 metres from the competition area).

  If in the reasonable opinion of the affiliate, using the BOM Website or BOM Weather app, an imminent drop in the temperature is expected, the cancellation may be deferred for 15 minutes at which time a third temperature reading must be taken. If at the time of the third reading, the temperature has not fallen below the applicable temperature limit the event must be cancelled

Payment of judges and other officials shall be a domestic matter between the affiliate and the judge/official.

8.12.6 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING TO BE SUSPENDED

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.6

8.12.7 'WAIT AND SEE' APPROACH – JUDGING MAY CONTINUE

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.7

8.12.8 POSTPONEMENT, RELOCATION (INCLUDES MOVE INDOORS) AND CHANGE OF COMMENCEMENT TIME

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.8

8.12.9 LIGHTNING AND THUNDER

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.9

8.12.10 REFUNDS OF ENTRY FEES FOR EVENTS CANCELLED DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER

Refer to Regulation 3.5.20.10

8.12.11 STATUS OF AWARDS WHERE AN EVENT IS CANCELLED

If an event is cancelled, due to extreme weather, after it has commenced, the following shall apply:

<u>Awards for classes completed</u>

- All qualification cards shall be awarded
- All prizes/places shall be awarded
- All qualifications gained will be eligible for DOGS AUSTRALIA titles
- Points for all applicable classes will count towards Top Dog qualification

<u>Awards for classes commenced but not completed</u>

- All qualification cards shall be awarded
- All prizes/places shall be awarded
- All qualifications gained will be eligible for DOGS AUSTRALIA titles
- Points for all applicable classes will NOT count towards Top Dog qualification