

The Singapore Open Championship in Agility

Location: Angsana Green (East Coast Park)

Date: 21st August 2010 Sunday

The Singapore Open Championship in Agility has two categories; **Fun category** for handlers who have not competed in any official competitions (SKC trials or USDAA games), and **Open category** for handlers who have competed in official competitions (SKC trials or USDAA games), and two height classes for dogs; mini and maxi dogs. Overall, four champions will be awarded:

1. The Singapore Fun Agility Champion – mini dog
2. The Singapore Fun Agility Champion – maxi dog
3. The Singapore Open Agility Champion – mini dog
4. The Singapore Open Agility Champion – maxi dog

The **Open category** competition comprises of two courses, a standard agility course and a jumpers course. Competitors' final score is counted as the sum of the two courses. Competitor with the lowest final score wins the category. The **Fun category** competition includes only one course, with various jumps, tunnels and A-frame.

Rules, Regulations & Scoring Criteria

General scoring criteria - Open category

The competition comprises of two (2) courses, a standard agility course and a jumpers course. Competitors' final score is counted as the sum of the two courses. Only competitors with scores from both courses are considered for the championship. Each competitor gets only one try at each course.

1. Score counting principle

The objective is to complete the course with zero course faults and under the standard course time. Time is recorded with two decimals (e.g. 18,36) and time lower than standard course time is marked with a minus (-).

2. Winning score

Competitor with the lowest final score wins the category. In case of a tie on the 1st place, a run-off will be held on the agility course. The winner of the run-off shall be awarded the champion title.

3. Course Faults

Each course fault below shall carry a five (5) second penalty.

- a. Missing a weaving pole, discontinuing weaving, or wrong entry. Dog must be re-directed to re-negotiate the weaving poles from the beginning, but can do so only maximum three times. After three unsuccessful tries, the competitor must carry on to the next obstacle. Maximum penalty awarded is 15 seconds.
- b. If the dog enters or exits through the side of the broad jump, lands on, or fails to jump the boards while negotiating the broad jump. Dogs clipping boards to be penalized only when boards are turned over or moved.
- c. Handler or dog knocking down any obstacle or jump. Handler jumps over, goes under, or steps on top of any obstacle. (If excessive the Judge may excuse the handler for their own safety.)
- d. Displacing the top bar(s) or panel of a jump.
- e. Missing a contact zone.

- f. If a dog refuses or misses an obstacle

Refusals: It is considered a refusal when a dog starts toward an obstacle and ceases forward motion, or starts toward an obstacle and turns back on his path.

- g. If a dog commits a run-out

Run-outs: A dog that passes the plane of the next correct obstacle, regardless of whether the dog saw or was approaching that obstacle, will be scored as a Run-out. Run-out planes are defined as the point at which they can no longer attempt or complete a particular obstacle without turning back.

4. Wrong Course Entry

Wrong course entry is a disqualification, and the competitor is left without a score on that course.

A wrong course entry occurs when a dog engages any part of an obstacle that is not the next one in sequence or the next obstacle in the sequence in the wrong direction. A dog is considered to have engaged an obstacle if they touch it with one paw or if they cross the plane of the obstacle by jumping over, going under or crossing through it.

5. Elimination

The following individual faults call for mandatory elimination, in which case the competitor is left without a score. The dog/handler may continue their run except as may be noted elsewhere in these regulations:

- a. If the dog fouls the equipment and/or the course area – immediate removal from the course area.
- b. Excessive handling, harsh commands or corrections, unsportsmanlike conduct – immediate removal from the course area.
- c. Outside assistance. Interference or outside assistance that aids or is intended to aid the performance of a singular dog or handler.
- d. If any handler ducks under or jumps over any obstacle while negotiating the course.
- e. A dog that leaves the course area and discontinues working, and is unresponsive or out of control
- f. If, in the Judge's opinion, the dog is out of control.
- g. Third call; Handlers should answer with their dogs by the third call made by the Trial Manager/Steward for the start of the exercise. Handlers who do not answer by the third call with their dogs are eliminated.
- h. Refusals and Run-outs: Accumulation of three (3) refusals and/or run-outs on a course.
- i. Handler touching obstacle.
- j. Contact between the handler and the dog that aids the performance of the dog, training in the course area including corrections and purposefully touching the dog in order to get it to perform an obstacle.
- k. Inappropriate collar on dog discovered after the dog had started their run.
- l. A handler that runs the course with handling aids.

General scoring criteria - Fun category

The competition comprises of one (1) course, with various jumps, tunnels and A-frame. Each competitor gets only one try at each course.

1. Score counting principle

The objective is to complete the course with zero course faults and under the standard course time. Time is recorded with two decimals (e.g. 18,36) and time lower than standard course time is marked with a minus (-).

2. Winning score

Competitor with the lowest final score wins the category. In case of a tie on the 1st place, a run-off will be held on the course. The winner of the run-off shall be awarded the champion title.

3. Faults

In the Fun category, a clean run of zero faults shall earn a bonus, i.e. five (5) seconds deduction to the final course time.

Each course fault shall carry a two (2) seconds add on to the final course time:

- a. If the dog enters or exits through the side of the broad jump, lands on, or fails to jump the boards while negotiating the broad jump. Dogs clipping boards to be penalized only when boards are turned over or moved.
- b. Handler or dog knocking down any obstacle or jump. Handler jumps over, goes under, or steps on top of any obstacle. (If excessive the Judge may excuse the handler for their own safety.)
- c. Displacing the top bar(s) or panel of a jump.
- d. If a dog refuses or misses an obstacle.
Refusals: It is considered a refusal when a dog starts toward an obstacle and ceases forward motion, or starts toward an obstacle and turns back on his path.

4. Wrong Course Entry

Each wrong course entry fault shall carry a five (5) seconds add on to the final course time.

A wrong course entry occurs when a dog engages any part of an obstacle that is not the next one in sequence or the next obstacle in the sequence in the wrong direction. A dog is considered to have engaged an obstacle if they touch it with one paw or if they cross the plane of the obstacle by jumping over, going under or crossing through it. A dog going under the A-Frame is not considered to have committed a wrong course penalty, neither is a dog that runs across or jumps the flat of the fabric on the Collapsible Tunnel.

5. Elimination

The following individual faults call for mandatory elimination, in which case the competitor is left without a score. The dog/handler may continue their run except as may be noted elsewhere in these regulations:

- m. If the dog fouls the equipment and/or the course area – immediate removal from the course area.
- n. Excessive handling, harsh commands or corrections, unsportsmanlike conduct – immediate removal from the course area.
- o. Outside assistance. Interference or outside assistance that aids or is intended to aid the performance of a singular dog or handler.
- p. If any handler ducks under or jumps over any obstacle while negotiating the course.
- q. A dog that leaves the course area and discontinues working, and is unresponsive or out of control
- r. If, in the Judge's opinion, the dog is out of control.
- s. Third call; Handlers should answer with their dogs by the third call made by the Trial Manager/Steward for the start of the exercise. Handlers who do not answer by the third call with their dogs are eliminated.

General course and trial requirements

1. Course Requirements

All courses must have clearly designated start and finish lines and all obstacles/jumps must be clearly and sequentially numbered. Fun category will not include weave poles, seesaw or dogwalk.

2. Judge's Briefing

The Judge must brief all competitors prior to the commencement of the trial, notifying them of the rules and any other details the Judge considers relevant.

3. Re-run

If an unusual circumstance occurs which, in the opinion of the Judge, disadvantages the dog, the Judge may allow the dog a re-run.

4. Orders from the Judge

'Remove the lead and collar', 'Take up position' and "Are you ready?" orders may be given by a Steward if so designated by the Judge. The handler has to indicate that he is ready before he crosses the start line.

5. Withdrawals of Exhibits

A dog may be withdrawn at any time before it commences its run by informing the Trial Manager or with the Judge's permission once they have entered the ring. It is at the Judge's discretion to decide if a dog is not physically able to continue the course and whether the immediate withdrawal of such an exhibit should be ordered.

6. Obstacle and Jump Positions

Obstacles should generally stand alone. In the Fun category, the entrances should never be adjacent to one another, but entrances can be adjacent in Open category. Contact obstacles such as the A-frame, dog walk, and seesaw shall not be set up in sequence, or as the first or last obstacle on a course. The Fun category shall not include the seesaw.

9. Approach Angles

Fun Category - Generally not exceeding 90 degrees, but must not exceed two times at 135 degrees.
Open Category - Generally not exceeding 180 degrees, but must not exceed two times at 270 degrees.

10. Spacing of obstacles

The distance between the end of one obstacle to the start of the next obstacle measured from the centre of the exiting face to the centre of leading face of the next obstacle is to be a minimum of four (4) meters to a maximum of eight (8) meters. Only obstacles that are to be negotiated are to remain in the ring.

12. Course Length

The course length is the distance measured by a Judge using a measuring wheel or similar device.

13. Walk-throughs

Handlers are permitted to walk the course, without a dog, prior to the start of the class to plan their strategy. The walk-through is restricted to handlers entered in that class.

14. Collars

Dogs may be brought to the start line on slip leads, choke chains, or other collars that are permitted on the trial grounds. Pinch/prong and electrical collars (dummy or not) and special training collars are not allowed anywhere on the competition grounds. All collars must be removed prior to the start of the run.

15. Leashes

Handlers shall be allowed to bring their dog to the start line on leash and must leave the trial ring on leash. Handlers shall comply with the Judge's instructions for being ready to start their run, having their dog off leash and under control in a timely manner. Dogs shall not be faulted for the act of playing tug on the leash, nor for going to or picking up a leash laid in the ring (usually laid after the last obstacle or near the ring exit). Dogs shall be on leash at all times when on the trial grounds except in the ring.

16. Handling Aids

Food and toys are not permitted in the Open category course area and handlers are not permitted to use or have in their possession while running the course, whistles, stopwatches, leashes, fanny packs or other handling/training aids. Food and toys are permitted in the Fun category.

17. Handler's Position

Dogs can be worked on any side (left, right, front or behind) and at any distance in any class.

18. Starting and Completion

A dog's time starts whenever any part of the dog crosses a clearly marked start line. Judging the performance of the dog shall not start until they have crossed the start line. A dog's time stops whenever any part of the dog crosses the finish line when the dog is in the closing sequence. The dog shall be under reasonable control when exiting the ring and not be allowed to run loose "off leash" around the competition site.

19. Handler's Attire

For safety reasons slipper, sandals, high heels, bare footing is not allowed; Only running shoes or sports boots are allowed. Skirts, running shorts is not allowed. Bermudas shorts, jeans, cargo pants, track pants are allowed.

Officials

1. Judge and Trial Manager

Judge and Trial Manager shall be ineligible to participate at the category in which they are acting in an official capacity.

2. Stewards

Stewards shall not be used to fulfill the Judge's duties but may assist in the following positions. Stewards must not advise the Judge of faults in the course unless instructed to do so by the Judge.

a. Time Keeper

To time each dog as it runs the course from start to finish. The Time Keeper should be positioned where the start and/ or finish lines are visible so that the reference point is the same for each dog. 2 Time Keepers will be appointed and the faster of the 2 times recorded will be the final result.

b. Scribes

A scribe is required to record the scores as instructed by the Judge. The Judge is responsible for the accuracy of the scores insofar as knowing which dogs qualify and which dogs do not qualify.

c. Collecting Ring Steward

To line up the competitors in catalogue order, to ensure the ring is run as efficiently as possible. The collecting ring steward will be required to have the next competitor ready to walk into the ring by the time the previous competitor is finished and walking out.

d. Ring Steward

To perform general maintenance duties in the ring i.e. helping the Judge to set the course, checking equipment between dogs, replacing knocked bars etc. At the Judge's request, Ring Stewards should also be available for watching the contact areas on the Dog Walk, and/ or A-Frame.

Stewards, time keepers and scribes may compete in the trial if it does not conflict with the completion of their assignments. A person may not time or scribe in a jump height class in which they are directly competing.

3. Declining Entries

The Judge may decline any entries or may remove any dog from its event base on the following:

- A dog that attacks any person in the course area shall be disqualified permanently.
- A dog that attacks another dog in the course area, or if the Judge/Trial Manager witnesses a dog attack another dog while entering or exiting the course area, shall also be disqualified permanently.

4. Judges' Responsibilities

Judge is responsible for

- a. designing the courses, making the championship categories meaningful and reasonably challenging, and for judging in accordance with these regulations.
- b. inspecting the course area and checking the equipment before starting the competition.
- c. enforcing these rules and regulations at the championship event

5. Height Divisions, Measurement

- a. **Small dog:** the height of the dog at the withers shall be below 449mm.
- b. **Large dog:** the height of the dog at the withers shall be 450mm or greater.

Height measurement by the judge may be taken upon registration at the venue to ensure confirmation of dog's height division. Owners are responsible for entering the proper height divisions. Handlers may opt to enter in a higher height division, but not in a division lower than their proper height division. If the dog's height at the withers exceeds the maximum allowed for the jump height which the dog has entered, the dog shall be moved up into the proper jump height if the dog was measured prior to their run.

Dogs that run in a height division lower than their proper division will be eliminated. Judges reserve the right to measure any dog they believe might belong in a different division, and any dog whose entry in a given division might be questioned.