

Agility Trial Secretary Newsletter September, 2007

CLARIFICATION ON NEW AKC RECORDING FEE STRUCTURE

John Brading, Manager of Event Operations, has clarified - Effective January 1, 2008, all regular agility classes will be assessed a standardized recording fee of \$3 per class entry. This fee still does not pertain to the agility non-regular classes (ie. ISC classes). Example: if your club is offering STD, JWW, and FAST, and an exhibitor enters all three classes, then a total recording fee of \$9 is due to AKC upon conclusion of your trial. John has further clarified that event service fees do not apply to agility.

Please be sure to update the wordage within your premium list to reflect the new phrase of "AKC recording fee - \$3 per entry". Do not make reference within your premium list to an event service fee, since it does not apply.

DOUBLE-CHECK YOUR ENTRY FORM INPUT / GATE SHEET CLASS LABELING

The Trial Secretary position is one of great responsibility. The exhibitors entering your trial are trusting that you will take great care when processing their entry forms. There have been several, unfortunate instances lately where an exhibitor's qualifying leg had to be removed because it was discovered the dog ran in an improper class or division, different than what was listed on the exhibitor's entry form. Please take the time to double-check your data input.

Additionally, another common instance has been dogs being moved up into the wrong class division (e.g. Excellent B instead of Excellent A). To assist the exhibitor in verifying if they have been moved into the correct class division, we would highly recommend that your gate steward's check-in reports be modified so that they print whether a dog is entered in A or B of the class, as well as designating a line between the class divisions, if feasible.

CATALOG COPIES

Chapter 1, Section 22 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials* states, "At least three (3) copies of an unmarked catalog must be printed after the closing date. The unmarked catalogs must be at the event prior to the start of the trial." These copies are for the protection of the event weekend due to the possibility of failure within your electronic scorekeeping system.

They are required to be at the show site prior to the start of your trial even if you have provided for equipment malfunctions in other fashions. Furthermore, they must be kept up-to-date throughout each morning of your trial weekend, including changes due to move-ups.

ACCESS TO SCRIBE SHEETS

An exhibitor/handler may request from the trial secretary to view his/her scribe sheet when there may be a perceived inconsistency between the dog's posted score and the actual run. No other person/s may do so and the scribe sheet shall be examined under the direct supervision of the trial secretary. Furthermore, the scribe sheet may not leave the possession of the trial secretary/score table at any time. **Exception:** Exhibitors may have the scribe sheet copy if the Trial Secretary has provided carbonless copies of the forms for them.

F.A.S.T. STANDARD COURSE TIME (SCT) SCHEDULING ON GATE SHEETS

As AKC continues our first official year of offering FAST, there have been numerous examples submitted to the Agility dept. on how to improve our newest titling class. We'd like to share with you one scheduling suggestion which helps greatly in keeping the class moving along with minimal downtime for resetting the SCT within the electronic timer console (ie. eTimer).

If you are running “small” to “tall”, schedule your preferred dogs to run before your regular dogs within each jump height class. In doing so, you’ll get the following schedule of SCT eTimer changes:

4” Pref – 41 sec
8” Pref – 38 sec *eTimer change
8” Reg – 38 sec
12” Pref – 38 sec
12” Reg – 35 sec *eTimer change
16” Pref – 35 sec
16” Reg – 35 sec
20” Pref – 35 sec
20” Reg – 32 sec *eTimer change
24/26” Reg – 32 sec

If you are running “tall” to “small”, then the more typical schedule of running your regular, then preferred dogs, will produce the same, desired SCT scheduling effects.

We further suggest that you mark when the SCT changes, both on your gate sheets with a line and the new SCT number, as well as marking the change spots within your scribe sheets with ‘sticky notes’.

PREMIUM LIST SUBMITTALS

Chapter 1, Section 9 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials* states, “At least four copies of the premium list must be sent to AKC, Attention: Companion Events and a copy must also be sent to prospective entrants **a minimum of two (2) weeks** prior to the opening date for acceptance of entries for the event.”. Please be sure to send the required AKC copies at the same time you publish the premium list for the exhibitors.

- If the club wishes to submit their premium list to AKC for review and approval via email [agilitypremiums@akc.org] this must be done a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the due date to publish the premium to exhibitors.
- Clubs are responsible for providing all required information in the premium list. If a premium list is published with incorrect information, clubs may be subject to a reprimand/fine.

JUMP HEIGHT CARD POLICY AND MEASURING PROCEDURE GUIDELINES

Official measurements after a dog runs:

If a VMO or Field Rep. measures a dog after it runs and this measurement changes the jump height it is in, the measurement is effective the next day and for all future trials. If this occurs, keep in mind the following:

- If this measurement would move the dog to a higher jump height in the **Regular Classes**, this would also happen on the next day or trial in which the dog is entered. If the height would move the dog to a lower jump height, the dog would only be allowed to move down into that jump height at the next trial in which the dog is entered if that trial has not closed.
- If the dog is entered in the **Preferred Classes**, and the measurement from the VMO or AKC Field Rep. would change the jump height either up or down, this change is effective immediately for all trials in which the dog is entered regardless of whether or not the trial has met the closing date for entries.

The complete Policy and Guidelines may be found online at:

http://www.akc.org/events/agility/jump_height_card.cfm

Please print out a copy and have it available on-site for reference during your trial weekend.

Note: If a dog is measured into a higher class for the Regular Classes, or either up or down for the Preferred Classes, then the change may take place within your trial weekend.

YELLOW COPIES OF THE AKC AGILITY MEASUREMENT FORM

Chapter 2, Section 4 of the *Regulations for Agility Trials* states, "All dogs competing in agility must present a valid official Jump Height Card." Additionally, "Exhibitors should carry the original valid official Jump Height Card at each trial to present upon request".

The above statements include the "Yellow Form" for a dog's shoulder height measurement until the permanent card is issued from AKC.

If an exhibitor does not provide their yellow form to the Trial Secretary at the time of entry and does not have their yellow form with them to present on the date of the trial, they are subject to being measured on the date of the trial. In cases like this, exhibitors run the risk of being moved to a different jump height than what is required by the recorded measurement at AKC.

If the exhibitor has failed to carry their yellow form with them to the event to show proof of shoulder height, the Judge of Record's measurement may change the jump height the dog runs in on the date of the event. The exhibitor then runs the risk of having any qualifying score disallowed by AKC when the results are recorded for the event if they ran in an incorrect jump height based upon the dog's official, recorded measurement at AKC.

http://www.akc.org/events/agility/trial_secretary_newsletter.cfm

PDF-formatted copies of all past Agility Trial Secretary Newsletter issues may be downloaded from the above AKC web site – there is also a link for signing up to receive the TS Newsletters.