



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUBSM

Carrie DeYoung
Director of Agility

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Dear AKC Agility Trial Secretaries,

As 2013 approaches we would like to remind you of some changes coming up in the New Year and ask that you help to publicize them out to your exhibitor community.

Excellent to Master: Please include the following paragraph in your premium lists, emails when confirming entries, post to your web site, etc.

To help resolve the confusion that has been occurred over the years with Excellent A and Excellent B classes, which are two distinctly different classes, we are renaming them to match the names of the titles that are earned from those two, different classes. The requirements to qualify are different in each of these classes as is the title earned when they complete the title requirements.

In an effort to eliminate this confusion, as of January 1, 2013 the name of the Excellent A class will change to "Excellent" and the name of the Excellent B class will change to "Master".

*Please note, **only the name is changing**. The class themselves and the titles earned remain the same.*

The changes will be as follows:

Excellent A will change to Excellent

Excellent A Preferred will change to Excellent Preferred

Excellent B will change to Master

Excellent B Preferred will change to Master Preferred

ADDITIONALLY, in order to minimize the negative effect on exhibitors who have either not heard of the above name changes or do not comprehend which class they should enter in 2013, AKC is going to allow for day of trial changes from Excellent to Master during the time period of **January 1, 2013 thru February 28, 2013** in the same manner that our current *Regulations for Agility Trials*, Chapter 1, Section 21 allow for the movement from Novice A to Novice B.

Section 21. Entry of Ineligible Dog. *A dog which has been entered in a Novice "A" class for which it is not eligible to be entered in due to class restrictions on the dog or handler may be moved to the Novice "B" class under the following conditions:*

The request for the move must be in writing and presented to the superintendent or trial secretary at least 30 minutes prior to the start of each trial. The request must state the reason and justification for the move from a Novice "A" class to the Novice "B" class.

Please apply the same criteria for moving a dog from Excellent to Master if the above two requirements are met the morning of the trial weekend. This exception **may not** be used if the exhibitor wishes to apply for a move-up and missed the deadline and it may not be used to move a dog from Master to Excellent.

Cross-Over from Regular to Preferred: Effective January 1st handlers have the option of showing their dogs in Preferred at the same equivalent level to where their dog is eligible to compete in Regular.

For Example:

-A MACH dog is currently showing in Novice Preferred Standard, having earned 2 qualifying legs. Anytime on/after 1/1/13, that dog may start competing directly in Master Preferred Standard. Upon having earned a qualifying leg in the Master Preferred Standard class, their cross-over shall be invoked and the previous, lower titles do not have to be completed.

- Once a cross-over has been invoked, the dog may no longer compete in the lower preferred class levels.
- The handler always has the option of starting their dog at the Novice Preferred level.

Reduced Fees for Juniors: Clubs have the option of offering reduced entry fees for junior handlers effective January 1st. The definition of a junior handler is as follows:

Regulations for Agility Trials, Chapter 1, Section 9: A junior must have an AKC Junior Handler number and is defined as someone less than 18 years of age on the day of the trial. A trial is defined by a unique event number.

Charging for Errors: Trial Secretaries may not charge exhibitors for errors made in the entry by the Trial Secretary. Trial Secretaries may only correct errors made by the Exhibitor PRIOR to the close of entries with the exception of the Excellent to Master class correction noted above.

Time Zones: Premium lists must state the time zone where the opening (if appropriate) and closing entry acceptance times are located.

Thank You for your hard work and dedication toward our sport. It is very much appreciated!

Sincerely,

Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility

And the Field Reps... Gail Storm, Doug Hurley, Barb Budnar, Mark Sjogren, Richard Mackintosh, Steve Herwig, and Debby Wheeler