



South Dakota 4-H Dog Project

# Dog Agility Rulebook



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# What is agility?

Patterned after equestrian show jumping, dog agility combines the elements of a dog's agility, briskness and confidence with a handler's control over an obstacle course designed for dogs. It is a fun sport with great spectator appeal.

## Purpose of agility

- Enhance the working relationship between the dog and handler.
- Build confidence in both dog and handler.
- Provide positive motivational training methods and interactions with the dog.
- Improve conditioning of dog and handler.
- Promote good sportsmanship and citizenship.
- Promote a better rounded handler/dog team.
- Add new members and maintain established members in the dog project.

## Rules

Dogs can get seriously hurt performing agility, thus all attempts should be made to provide a safe environment for dog and handler. Because the safety of both dogs and 4-H'ers is of paramount importance, the following rules will be enforced.

**1.** Dogs participating in the agility program must have had one year of obedience training, or participated in one year of county level 4-H dog obedience prior to participation.

**2.** Dogs must be a minimum of 12 months old to begin agility training. It is recommended that larger breeds be at least 18 months old. This is because the growth plates in the bones are still developing until the average age of fourteen months and even later for larger breeds.

**3.** No dogs with a physical or mental condition that would significantly impair their performance may participate. Examples include but are not limited to hip dysplasia, disc problems, severely slipped stifles, shoulder problems, or being overweight. A dog of advancing age that is sound may be able to compete.

- Members are strongly encouraged to consult his/her veterinarian before beginning agility training. The dog's weight/body condition is a consideration for judging soundness. Overweight or obese dogs are at increased risk of injury.
- At county events the county trainer or judge has the authority to stop the performance of any dog whose soundness s/he questions. If soundness is questioned, a veterinarian's written approval will be necessary

**4.** Female dogs in season are not permitted to compete at any level (county, regional, or state). If a dog comes into season during county achievement days, arrangements can be made to show at another county when the female dog is not in season.

**5.** Intact male dogs will be run at the end of their respective class (last) at the state show.

**6.** Dogs that show signs of aggression towards humans or other dogs will not be permitted to participate.

**7.** In order to advance to the next higher class level, a score of 10 faults/points or less must be earned in a competitive setting (county, regional, or state 4-H show, or a USDAA, AKC or NADAC trial). A dog/handler team receiving 10 faults/points or less at a state competition must advance to the next level the following year. A scored run during a demonstration or class will not count. If the dog/handler team is able to advance, they must be able to perform all required obstacles in the next level before competing in a county, regional or state 4-H show.

**8.** The use of a completely fenced area is encouraged (but not required). The minimum ring size is at least a double obedience ring. A 100' x 100' or 80' x 120' (or larger) arena is strongly recommended. This allows for adequate spacing of obstacles, providing a safer course for the dog and handler to run. At the higher levels, this helps to ensure an adequate distance between the entrance of adjacent obstacles preventing unnecessary obstacle choices for the dog. It also allows for the setting of safe obstacle approaches, especially for the contact obstacles (straight on versus an angled approach). A smaller ring size necessitates tight turns and close placement of obstacles which increases the risk of injury and potentially creates inappropriate advanced handling/discrimination moves that even the Excellent level dogs and handlers may not be prepared for.

*If the ring size at a county or state show is smaller than recommended the judge will have the authority to reduce the required number of obstacles and/or change the course pattern to provide a safer or more appropriate course for the dogs and handlers. Upon agreeing to judge a county achievement day, the judge should request an equipment list in order to design courses. If a county does not have the required equipment for a given level, it cannot be offered at that county achievement days. Affected youth may make provisions to show at another county achievement days, IF the dog has been trained to perform that obstacle (for example: teeter or dog walk).*

**9.** Training or trialing for agility on straight concrete or other smooth flooring is considered unsafe for both dogs and handlers. Mats or some other form of textured floor covering that will not slip are strongly recommended to be used to provide traction for both the dog and handler. This also provides cushioning for the dog when jumping, thus helping to protect the dog's joints. If held inside, county or state shows must have some form of textured flooring to provide traction and cushioning such as mats, carpeting, or artificial turf.

**10.** All courses must have a clearly designated start and finish. All obstacles must be sequentially numbered using cones or some other movable system. Obstacles on the course should be spaced approximately 18 feet apart. In no case shall obstacles be spaced any closer than 12 feet apart. Start and finish line areas should be kept clear for the dogs competing. Placement of check-in/ scoring tables and an area for dogs waiting to run, etc. should be considered when setting up the agility area.

- 11.** A three-minute group walk through without dogs will be allowed prior to the class at all county and state shows. At the state show, a practice jump and weave poles may be available if space safely allows. These are for use just prior to the class they are competing in, not by other teams for practice and/or training.
- 12.** Judges will inspect all equipment prior to the beginning of the show, and may modify the requirements to the extent necessary to eliminate any piece of unsafe equipment, or if an outdoor trial, weather conditions make performance of an obstacle unsafe.
- 13.** All agility jumps must be of the type that have a displaceable bar or plank. Jumps made from PVC pipe are recommended for safety reasons, in case a dog inadvertently jumps into the standard. (The dog will usually knock the entire PVC jump over, versus wood standards which may not give, resulting in injury.) PVC jumps are also less expensive to make than wood.
- 14.** The collar must be a plain, flat well fitting buckle or quick/clip release collar with no tags or other attachments. Training collars, choke, pinch or electronic collars, head halters, and fancy collars are not permitted. In On Leash and Off Leash classes a collar is required; it is optional for Advanced and Excellent classes.
- 15.** Handlers may not jump over the obstacles with their dogs.
- 16.** Handlers may not touch their dogs or an obstacle while running the course.
- 17.** Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Any handler swearing, yelling at their dog, using excessive corrections, or loud complaints about exhibitors or the judge, etc., will be disqualified.
- 18.** During the On Leash class, the leash must be held at all times except when the dog is going through a tunnel or chute. After each tunnel, the leash must be picked up before the next obstacle is executed. A six-foot leash is recommended. The handler is encouraged to regain control of his/her dog before continuing to the next obstacle after retrieving the leash.
- 19.** The judge will penalize any handler receiving outside assistance. In severe cases, the handler will receive a white ribbon. The show committee is responsible for investigating any incidents of outside assistance reported to

them. See standard faults in the scoring section for more information.

**20.** A dog unable to complete the course for any reason, including leaving the ring, ceasing to work for a significant period of time as defined by the judge, being out of control, etc., will receive a white ribbon.

**21.** Any dog refusing an obstacle for the third time will be asked by the judge to go on to the next obstacle, anyone not obeying the judge's order will be disqualified.

**22.** Handlers may use voice commands, signals, or both. Handlers are encouraged to talk or cheer their dogs through the course. No treats or toys will be allowed on the course. A handler is allowed to have treats and/or a toy just outside the starting area while waiting for his/her turn to run. There is no penalty for multiple commands or verbal encouragement, but all must be in the spirit of good sportsmanship.

**23.** Any dog fouling the ring during a competitive run will a white ribbon. Do not attempt to move the dog if they have started to urinate or defecate (so it stays in one place!). Vinegar, or some other odor-neutralizing substitute, must be available to clean fouled equipment. Fouled equipment may be removed from the course at the judge's discretion, and all dogs running the course previously may, at the judge's discretion, be required to re-run the course. If time allows, the eliminated handler and dog may be allowed to run at the end of his/her class for experience, however no scoring or ribbon will be awarded for this type of run.

**24.** Jump heights are based on the dog's height at the top of the shoulders. A dog should be measured by a project leader when beginning agility, so that the dog and handler practice jumping at the correct jump height. A dog found to have jumped at a lower than required height may be asked by the judge to rerun the course at the correct height.

<b>Dog's Height</b>	<b>Height of Jump</b>
Under 10 in.	4 in.
10-14 in.	8 in.
14-20 in.	12 in.
Over 20 in.	16 in.

# Class description/ requirements

All dogs must enter and exit the ring on leash.

To facilitate judging and decrease waiting times for competitors, the A-frame height will be 4 feet 6 inches for both the On and Off Leash classes. It is also recommended the judge use the same course for both the On and Off Leash classes. This will allow more flexibility in the run order and ease some of the pressures on both competitors and show organizers (e.g., managing the long sits and downs). Because the On and Off Leash groups are typically the biggest classes, using the same course will allow the judge to alternate between On and Off leash groups, providing added flexibility for competitors. Because the main objective of the Off Leash class is to focus and control the dog without a leash, running the same course as the On Leash class will still present a significant challenge for the Off Leash competitor.

## On-leash class

The purpose of this class is to test the ability of a dog and handler to perform obstacles safely and correctly, testing the handler's ability to train a dog for beginning agility. The handler must demonstrate his/her control of the dog on leash around the agility obstacles. The main evaluation for this class is control and safe obstacle performance within the allotted time. Handlers should focus on safe obstacle performance and not on how quickly s/he can get around the course.

- The course shape is a simple S, M or U.
- Nine obstacles are approved for this class (no closed tunnel or chute due to safety concerns)
- These nine obstacles include:
  - A-frame (apex at 4 feet, 6 inches)
  - Pause table
  - Pipe tunnel
  - Six jumps
- The standard course time is 60 seconds.

# Off-leash class

The purpose of this class is to test the partnership between dog and handler, and evaluate focus and control off leash. The dog will have learned obstacle performance in the On Leash class and now must demonstrate safe obstacle performance off leash. This presents a whole 'new' picture to the dog and handler making it acceptable to run the same course as the On Leash class.

- After positioning the dog at the start line, the handler will remove the leash.
- The course shape is a simple S, M or U.
- Nine obstacles are approved for this class: (no closed tunnel or chute due to safety concerns)
  - A-frame (apex at 4 feet, 6 inches)
  - Pause table
  - Pipe tunnel
  - Six jumps
- The standard course time is 60 seconds.
- All dogs must be shown off leash with a collar.
- A dog with a leg toward a USDAA or NADAC, UKC or and AKC-novice agility title is ineligible, as is a handler having earned a USDAA Junior Handler Program (UJHP) Elementary certificate.
- Members may show at this level until achieving a round of 10 fault/points or less at a state level competition then must advance to the next level the following year.

Even if the handler and dog are able to advance, before competing in a county, regional or state show, the handler and dog must be able to safely and correctly perform all obstacles required for the next higher level. If a handler and dog enter a show and clearly do not know how to perform an obstacle or the handler states the dog has not performed the obstacle, they will be excused from the ring and not allowed to run to avoid possible injury to the dog.

Project leaders should not enter dogs at the next higher level, if the handler or dog is not ready, because doing so could hurt the team's confidence, or risk injury to the dog by performing agility above its experience level.

# Advanced

The purpose of this class is to further test the focus and control of the dog in the off leash setting. It is expected that the handler will demonstrate more confidence and control with his/her dog than in the lower levels. New obstacles allow the assessment of the handler's continued ability to teach his/her dog agility obstacles.

The course shape is slightly more challenging than a simple figure 8. A pipe tunnel may be placed underneath the A-frame to facilitate the formation of a figure 8.

- After positioning the dog at the start line, the handler will remove the leash.
- Twelve to 14 obstacles are approved for this class: (no closed tunnel or chute due to safety concerns)
  - A-frame (apex 5 feet)
  - Pause table
  - Pipe tunnel
  - Dog walk (middle section elevation of 3 feet for 8 foot lengths or 4 feet for 12 foot lengths)
  - Tire jump
  - Long jump
  - Four to six jumps
- The standard course time is 75 seconds.
- All dogs must be shown off leash with a collar.
- Dogs with a qualifying score toward a UKC title, a NADAC or USDAA regular title, or a qualifying towards an AKC-open agility title are ineligible, as is a handler having earned a UJJP Intermediate certificate.
- Members may show at this level until achieving a round of 10 fault/points or less at a state level competition then must advance to the next level the following year.

Even if the handler and dog are able to advance, before competing anywhere, the handler and dog must be able to safely and correctly perform all obstacles required for the next higher level. If a handler and dog enter a show and clearly do not know how to perform an obstacle or the handler states the dog has not

performed the obstacle, they will be excused from the ring and not allowed to run to avoid possible injury to the dog. Project leaders should not enter dogs at the next higher level, if the handler or dog is not ready, because doing so could hurt the team's confidence, or risk injury to the dog by performing agility above its experience level.

## Excellent

The purpose of this class is for the handler to demonstrate advanced handling and training skills. More focus and control is expected and the handler's training skills of obstacles are tested with the addition of more obstacles, including moving objects, such as the teeter. This is the highest level of 4-H agility; it is expected that these handlers will serve as mentors for beginning competitors.

- After positioning the dog at the start line, the handler will remove the leash.
- The course shape is slightly more challenging than a simple figure 8, with a pipe tunnel allowed under the A-frame.
- The judge is given flexibility in course design, as long as adequate distance between obstacles and the approaches is maintained.
- The following 13 to 15 obstacles are approved: (no closed tunnel or chute due to safety concerns)

A-frame (apex at 5 feet)

Pause table

Pipe tunnel (1 to 2 depending on availability)

Dog walk (elevation 3 feet) and/or Tire jump

Long jump

Six weave poles

See saw

Four to six jumps

- All dogs must be shown off leash with a collar.
- The standard course time will be computed at 2 yards per second, not to exceed 75 seconds.
- Dogs that have completed an Open title in AKC or a Starters/Novice title in USDAA or NADAC agility competition are ineligible for this class.
- Dogs that purple at state can continue to show at this level indefinitely.

# Obstacle Performance Requirements

**A-Frame** – The dog must touch the safety (contact) zone with at least one paw while ascending the up ramp in the direction designated by the judge, cross over the apex and descend the down ramp, touching the safety (contact) zone with all four paws before leaving the obstacle.

**Pipe Tunnel** – The dog must enter the opening to the tunnel in the direction designated by the judge and exit the other end of the tunnel.

**Pause Table** – The dog must jump onto the table and assume the down position for a period of five seconds. The judge will count the seconds out loud, commencing when the dog has fully assumed the down position. The count is, “5 and 4 and 3 and 2 and go.” If the dog leaves the table, or gets up before the five seconds are over, the handler will instruct the dog to resume that position. In the On and Off Leash Classes an interrupted count is re-started from the point it was interrupted. In the Advanced and Excellent levels, an interrupted count will be re-started from the beginning. Each tug on the leash to down the dog will be given a five point penalty. After three attempts to down the dog by tugging on the leash, the handler must move on to the next obstacle and the team will be give a 20 point fault.

**Jumps** – The dog must jump over the obstacle in the direction designated by the judge, crossing between the two jump standards and over the bars or planks without knocking off the top bar or plank.

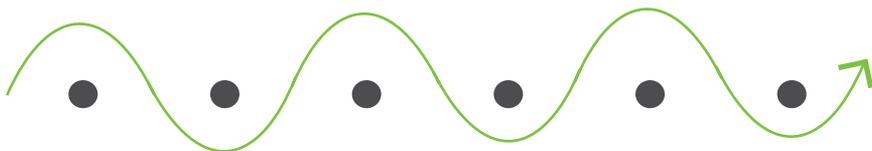
**Dog Walk** – The dog must touch the safety (contact) zone with one paw while ascending the ramp in the direction designated by the judge, traverse the cross plank, and descend the other ramp, touching the safety (contact) zone with all four paws.

**Tire Jump** – The dog must jump through the tire in the direction designated by the judge. The dog may touch the tire with its feet.

**Weave Pole** – The dog must weave in and out in a continuous motion down the complete line of poles. The dog begins by passing on the right side of the first pole (pole next to the dog’s left shoulder), crossing the line of poles between

pole number 1 and 2, then wrapping around the left side of pole number 2, then crossing the line of poles between 2 and 3, and continuing in a sequence down the complete line of poles demonstrating a weaving motion. A handler/dog team must correct for any missed poles, and fully complete the weaving pattern. A HANDLER CAN NOT TOUCH THEIR DOG DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE WEAVE POLES.

The handler's hand may cross the plane of the weave poles, but s/he must not touch the dog. Handlers will be given three attempts at the weave poles; if not completed s/he must move on to the next obstacle and the team will given a 20 point fault.



**Long (or broad) Jump** – The dog must jump over the planks without touching them; crossing between the front corner marker poles in the direction designated by the judge, clear the span of the planks and exit between the back corner marker poles.

**Teeter or See Saw** – The dog must touch the safety (contact) zone with at least one paw while ascending the seesaw, cross the plank's pivot point, causing the see saw to tilt to the ground on the other end, and descend the remainder of the plank, touching the safety (contact) zone with all four paws before leaving the plank. The plank shall touch the ground prior to the dog leaving the plank. The dog must be in control of the plank. A performance deemed unsafe will given a 20 point fault. The judge has the authority to automatically have the handler and dog redo the teeter if, in the judge's opinion, the unsafe performance could significantly impact future performances. No additional points will be given, however the time will continue.

# Scoring

## **Standard Faults – charged at 5 points**

- Wrong Course – Taking an obstacle in the wrong order or going the wrong direction over an obstacle (including back-weaving three or more weave poles). All four paws of the dog must be committed to an obstacle to be charged with this.
- On and off the table – Charged for the first occurrence only.
- Knocking a bar off a jump. – Applies whether it was the dog, the handler, or the leash that knocked the bar off.
- Touching the dog or tugging the leash to down the dog.
- Missed Contact Zone – Yellow Zone
- Dog steps on or walks over the long jump.
- Tugging on the leash – five faults per occurrence, to elimination if it is severe or constant.
- Outside help or interference – Someone telling the handler which obstacle is next, any commands or cues to the dog etc. five faults up to elimination, depending on the severity.
- Handler touching any obstacle.
- Handler jumps over the jump with the dog – per each occurrence.
- Dog goes in the wrong direction between the tire and the frame.
- Anticipation of the table count – dog gets off before the judge finishes saying the word go.
- Failure to pick up the leash – After a tunnel and before the next obstacle is performed.

## **Major Faults – charged at 20 points**

- Omitting any obstacle – Includes being told by the judge to omit the obstacle because of the four-paw safety rule. It also includes such things as the handler omitting an obstacle by choice or by error, or crossing the finish line before the last obstacle is completed correctly.
- Three refusals of a single obstacle.
- Uncorrected or improper entry to weave poles.
- Bailing off the seesaw—before it tips down and touches the ground.
- Bailing off the dog walk – before beginning the descending plank.

- Failure to correct on the pause table – dog who jumps off before the beginning of the word go; forcing or holding the dog down on the pause table.

**Automatic white ribbon:**

- Eliminating in the ring.
- Constant tugging on the leash or dog out of control.
- Dog who stops working or leaves the ring may not complete the course.
- An extreme amount of outside help.
- An excessive amount of touching the obstacles or the dog.

**Disqualification—(No Ribbon Awarded):**

- Poor sportsmanship – including, but not limited to swearing, treating a dog harshly, complaining loudly about judges or other exhibitors, using treats in the ring, failure to omit and go on to the next obstacle when instructed to do so by the judge.
- Abuse of dogs anywhere on the show grounds.
- Dog attacks or threatens to attack a human or another dog.
- Use of treats or toys in the ring.

**Time Faults:**

- Each class level has a specified time limit within which the course must be completed (standard course time).
- The timer will time each performance to .01 of a second.
- Any time beyond allotted time is considered a time fault, and will be penalized on a 1 fault per one-second basis (or fraction).
- No bonus points are added for completing the course faster than required; thus in all classes, handlers should focus on correct obstacle performance which is where faults can occur instead of running the course as fast as possible.

**Final Score:**

- Course faults and time faults are added together and subtracted from an over all score of 200 points.

190-200	Purple
180-189	Blue
170-179	Red
169 or less	White

# Obstacle and Jump Specifications

The following specifications will apply to all obstacles. When no tolerance or range is given for a dimension, a tolerance of 4.0 percent is implied. Tolerances do not apply when a range is specified.



**A-Frame:** The A-Frame is constructed from two panels, the top surface of which is constructed from wood or a wood-like substance. The panels are 35 to 49 inches wide, and their lengths are both within 2 inches of either 8 feet or 9 feet. Panels shall be of a consistent width and connected so as to eliminate gaps large enough to fit a dog's foot or toe. The height of

the A-Frame is 54 inches when eight-foot panels are used and 60 inches when nine foot panels are used, both with a one inch tolerance. The top surface is painted and has a rough, non-slip surface. (Alternating layers of sand and flat, latex paints are recommended.) Slats are placed across the width of the panels to provide footing. They are  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch to 2 inches wide, and they extend within  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of the panel sides. Slat edges shall be rounded or beveled; a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch radius is recommended. The centers of the slats are spaced at 12 inches intervals with a 2 inch tolerance, and no slat is within 4 inches of the top or a contact zone. Contact zones are painted on the lower 42 inches of both panels with a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch tolerance. The color of the zones contrast with the rest of the panel, but it may not be white, black or brown. Bright yellow contact zones are recommended.



**Dog Walk:** The dog walk consists of a center section and two ramp sections. The surfaces of which are made from wood or a wood-like substance. All sections are 12 inches wide, plus or minus an inch, and all are either 8 feet long or 12 feet long. Planks shall be connected so as to eliminate gaps large enough to fit

a dog's foot or toe. Within a 2 inch tolerance, the top of the center section is 36 inches above the ground when using 8-foot sections and 48 inches when

using 12-foot sections. The top surfaces of all sections are painted and have rough, non-slip surfaces. (Alternating layers of sand and flat, latex paints is recommended.) Slats that conform to those described for the A-Frame are placed across the width of the ramp sections to provide footing. Contact zones are painted on the lower 42 inches of both ramps with a ¼ inch tolerance, using the color specifications described for the A-Frame.

**See Saw:** The seesaw consists of a plank (or panel) supported near the center by a base that acts as a fulcrum. The plank is 12 inches wide with a 1 inch tolerance, and 12 feet long. The base extends at least 2 inches past the sides of the plank so the dogs can see the pivot point. The plank is balanced so that it hits the ground in less than three seconds when a three-pound weight is placed 12 inches from the raised end. The height of the seesaw measured to the top of the board at the pivot is 24 inches plus or minus 2 inches. The top surface of the plank is painted and has a rough, non-slip surface. (Alternating layers of sand and flat, latex paint is recommended.) Slats that conform to those described for the dog walk are optional. Contact zones, 42 inches long are painted on each end of the plank with a zero inch tolerance, using the color specification described for the A-Frame.



**Pause Table:** The top of the pause table is 36 inches square, plus or minus 2 inches, with a non-slip surface (carpeting may be used, but remember that it will make the table much heavier to carry.) The vertical edge of the top of the table top must be 3 inches or greater in height and it is recommended that the table edge be of a color in contrast to the running surface and ring gating. The height of the table (within 1 inch) is 8 inches for dogs in the 8 inch and 12 inch divisions, and 16 inches for dog in the 16 inch and above division.



**Pipe Tunnel:** The open tunnel is a flexible tube of durable material that is capable of being formed into curved shapes. The two opening are either round or approximately rectangular, with a height and width of 24 inches plus or minus 2 inches. Its length is 10 to 20 feet long and it is secured in position to prevent



a dog from moving it. No portion of a tunnel holder that is underneath the tunnel shall be more than 1/2 inch thick. Tunnel supports used between the beginning and end of the tunnel shall not have rigid uprights such as steel or wood, that are capable of fitting between the ribs and projecting into the tunnel. It is

recommended that sand bags or the largest containers of kitty litter be used as tunnel supports. They can be connected across the top by bungee cords or straps.



**Weave Poles:** The weave poles consist of six poles that are either stuck in the ground or mounted in a base. (The base design is recommended.) The poles are 1 to 1 1/4 inches in diameter and at least 36 inches high and uniformly spaced at intervals of 20 to 24 inches. The weave poles must flex at the base so as to accommodate larger dogs. It is

recommended that if a rigid support is used at the base of each weave pole it does not exceed 4 inches in total height as measured from the ground to the top of the rigid support. (It is required that stripes be taped or painted on the poles to make them more visible to the dogs.) If a base is used, it may be no thicker than one inch and no wider than four inches, and it must be supported so as not to interfere with a dog's performance.



**Bar Jumps:** Bar jumps consist of displaceable bars supported by bar supports that are mounted to uprights. The supports must be positioned so that the tops of the bars can be set within 1/4 inch of the four different jump heights (4 inches-8 inches-12 inches-16 inches). An additional position for a bar placed

two to six inches above the ground is also recommended. For a 4 inch jump, two bars can be crossed in an X using the 8 inch cups. The judge shall determine bar placement. The bars must be either cylindrical with a diameter between 1 1/4 and 1 3/4 inches, or square with sides measuring between 1 1/4 and 1 3/4 inches. Bars must be constructed from wood or plastic (PVC jumps are

recommended because of increased safety). They must be 4 to 5 feet long and striped for visibility. The bar must sit on top of its support so that the bar is easily displaced. If rectangular bars are used, the top of the support must be flat and no wider than the bar it is supporting. If cylindrical bars are used, the supports may be no wider than the bar, and they should have a lip that is no more than 1/8 inch higher than the support, although lips up to 1/4 inch are allowed. Bolts used as bar supports are allowed if they comply with all other provisions of the section and if bars can be made displaceable from both directions. Bars held in place by Velcro™, magnets, etc. are not allowed. The inside of the uprights must be at least 32 inches tall, and the upright must be 1 to 4 inches wide. (An inside height of 42 inches and a minimum width of 32 inches are recommended for visibility. Widths less than 30 inches are recommended to facilitate handler movement on the course.)

**Panel Jumps:** The panel jump uses up to six cross-boards to give the illusion of a solid wall from the jump height to the ground. Specifications for the board supports and uprights are the same as for the bar jump. The cross-boards are 4 to 5 feet long, 3 to 4 inches wide and no thicker than 1 inch. The top board for all jump height classes shall be a maximum of 4 inches high. Panels supports are to be placed 1 1/4 inches to 1 3/4 inches below the top of the board so as to be easily displaced.



**Tire (circle) Jump:** The tire jump, sometimes called the circle jump, consists of a tire (or a circular object that resembles a tire) suspended from a rectangular frame. The inner diameter of the tire is 24 inches plus or minus an inch, and the wall is 3 to 8 inches thick. There must be at least 8 inches between the outside of the tire and the sides of the frame, and the frame must be tall enough to accommodate the tire's four different jump heights, as specified for the bar jump. The uprights of the frame shall be secured to the base and the base weighted or secured properly to the running surface so as to discourage tipping. The jump height is measured from the ground to the bottom of the tire opening.





**Broad Jump:** The broad jump is composed of either four 8-inch sections or five 6-inch sections, and four corner markers. The actual width of the 8-inch sections is 7 to 8 inches and the width of the 6-inch sections are 5 to 7 inches. The sections are constructed from a top piece and two sidepieces. The length of the sections is between 4 and 5 feet long,

and they may be of different lengths. To improve visibility, either the center of the sections or both ends must be marked with a color-contrasting band that is at least three inches wide. The sections are of varying height, and they may be arranged in either ascending order or as a hogback. (The ascending AKC obedience broad jump is recommended.)

When an ascending arrangement is used, each section is at least 1/2 inch higher than the previous one, and the height of the front edge of a section is at least 1/2 inch lower than the back edge. No portion of a section may be lower than 1 inch or higher than 6 inches. In a hogback arrangement, the sections ascend in height halfway across the jump and then descend. The ascending sections are at least 1/2 inch higher than the previous one, and the height of the front edge of a section is at least 1/2 inch higher than the back edge of the next. The descending sections are at least 1/2 inch lower than the previous one, and the height of the front edge of a section is at least 1/2 inch higher than the back edge. When an odd number of sections are used, the front edge of the middle section may not be higher than the back edge. No portion of a section may be lower than one inch or higher than 10 inches.

The length of the jump for both the ascending and the hogback configurations is twice the jump height of that division. Consequently, not all the sections are used in the lower height divisions. In those cases, the jump must be assembled with the lowest sections. The length of the jump (within one inch and the number of sections to be used for the different divisions are listed below. The corner markers are at least 1 inch wide and 36 inches high, and they may be decorated to improve visibility. They are either attached to the sides of the first and the last sections, or they are freestanding and placed as close as possible to those positions. (Freestanding is recommended.)

<b>Division</b>	<b>Length (in)</b>	<b># of 6 in sections</b>	<b># of 8 in sections</b>
4 in	8	1	1
8 in	16	2	2
12 in	24	3	3
16 in	32	4	3





