



# FREQUENTLY ASKED **AGILITY QUESTIONS**

## Frequently Asked Agility Questions

The Agility rulebook will be revised this fall to clarify the posted rules and will include a couple of corrections. Changes will be noted in bold and italic text. The revised rulebook will be available on October 1st, 2021. Please send your Agility questions to Hannah Tsui at [htsui@ukcdogs.com](mailto:htsui@ukcdogs.com), Your questions may be used in the next FAQ. Thanks!

### **Q. Why was the Pause Table reduced to two heights, and is there an allowance?**

A. The Pause Table was reduced to having only two height options to save work and time during course changes. The purpose of the Pause Table obstacle is to test the dog's ability to slow down, collect themselves, and pause on the table, rather than the dog's ability to jump onto it. Although the official rulebook states that the Pause Table must be set to 4" or 14", it will be acceptable to use 8"/12" or 8"/16"

### **Q. Does my dog need to remain in a sit while on the Pause Table or in the Pause Box?**

A. No. The purpose of the pause obstacles is to judge the dog's ability to stop and stay. The dog does not need to remain stationary in a sit or other position, but they cannot leave the pause obstacle before the count is over. It is not required that dogs enter or exit the pause obstacle from a specific side.

### **Q. Can a judge design a course with more than two delimiting lines?**

A. Two obstacles at the Intermediate and Excellent Agility levels must have delimiting lines. At the Intermediate level, the delimiting line will be a distance of two feet from the obstacle. At the Excellent level, the delimiting line will be six feet from the obstacle. Courses should not include more than two delimiting lines. This will be corrected in the fall revision of the rulebook. The delimiting line should be measured from the dog's approximate path entering and completing the obstacle, with the goal of keeping a distance of two or six feet between the dog and handler.

### **Q. Can any non-hurdle obstacle be used twice in the same course?**

A. In Beginner Agility, a total of six non-hurdle obstacles must be used in the course, but it is not required that all six of the unique non-hurdle obstacles be used. Any of the obstacles (A-Frame, Dog Walk, Teeter, Open Tunnel, Hoop Tunnel, and Barrel) can be used twice. In Intermediate Agility, a minimum of seven non-hurdle obstacles must be used on the course. The Weave Poles and Hoop Tunnel are both required. Any non-hurdle obstacle except for the Weave Poles may be used twice. In Excellent Agility, a minimum of seven non-hurdle obstacles are required and any of them may be used twice with the exception of the Weave Poles (9 and 12).

### **Q. Training in the ring is prohibited during obstacle familiarization. Am I still allowed to praise my dog?**

A. Yes. The purpose of obstacle familiarization is to allow dogs the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the host club's Agility equipment. Dogs must remain on leash during obstacle familiarization, but the leash can be released and while a dog takes a non-bar hurdle. Handlers can praise or speak to their dogs during familiarization but may not correct or actively train their dogs. Each obstacle may only be negotiated once.

### **Q. If a club is running Excellent Agility first, should the Pause Table and tire jump be reset for obstacle familiarization?**

A. Yes. If your club is starting with Excellent Agility, the pause table height and tire jump should be set at the Division 1 heights during obstacle familiarization so all dogs entered in the trial can access the obstacles. The bars for all bar hurdles must be on the ground during obstacle familiarization.

### **Q. Is it required that a certain number of non-bar hurdles be used on each course?**

A. No. Each course has a minimum number of hurdles that must be used, but they can be any combination of bar or non-bar hurdles.

**Q. How should a judge score a handler that triggers the electronic timers by accident?**

A. If a handler or leash steward accidentally triggers the electronic timers before handler indicates that they are ready, the timers should be reset before judging begins. This should not affect the team's score - judging does not begin until the handler states they are ready.

If the handler triggers the electronic timers after stating that they are ready, the time will begin from this point. If the dog does not begin the course immediately, the judge may assess a five-second fault for a delayed start.

**Q. What is required for a club to hold Dynamic Agility classes?**

A. To schedule Dynamic Agility classes, a club needs to have sufficient equipment to set up the courses plus a minimum ring size of 6,000 square feet. There are no additional licensing fees to add Dynamic classes.

Clubs can add one, two, or all three Dynamic Agility classes to their trial. It is required that at least one Standard Agility trial be held on the same event weekend, but it does not need to be on the same day. This will be corrected in the fall revision of the rulebook.

Dynamic Agility classes are completely optional for clubs to hold.

