

UKA Rules & Regulations 2018 Summary of Amendments and Clarifications

UKA Rules & Regulations 2018 will shortly be released and available on the UK Agility Web Page.

The main rule changes for 2018 are stated below.

Equipment Specs

- There may not be any additional jump cups on a wing, other than those currently in use.
- A new specification for the tyre has been detailed. All tyres used must be breakaway tyres.
- A minimum number of tunnel holders for different lengths of tunnels has been specified as well as a reminder that these must not reduce the diameter of the tunnel and must be sited appropriately to hold the tunnel in place effectively. 3 metre tunnels must have a minimum of 3 tunnel holders on them. 5 and 6 metre tunnels must have a minimum of 4 tunnel holders in use.
- The height of the central plank of the dogwalk has been reduced to 1.2 metres.

NFC

- All NFC runs will be given a time of 45 seconds to train on the course.

Jump heights

- There is clarification for handlers who wish to enter their dogs in different heights in the Performance and Steeplechase programmes. Dogs may not run in different heights on the same day within the same programme.

Games Clarifications

- Clarification is given that in all games, if the dog is in/on an obstacle when the whistle is blown for time, points/a score will be given, as long as the dog completes the obstacle correctly.
- The permissible use of another piece of equipment to break up the contact/contact, contact/weave and weave/weave rule in Senior and Champion Gamblers has been defined more clearly. If the obstacle used to break up the equipment has already been completed correctly twice it will not count as breaking up the obstacles.
- A rule has been introduced in Gamblers which means that, where there are two different gambles, once a dog has taken the first jump of one gamble, it cannot change to the other gamble, even if it took the jump on the way to attempting the second gamble.
- In Time, Fault and Out, the start and finish jumps will now only be used for time keeping. The course to be completed will not incorporate these jumps. Details of how this will happen, together with scoring for start and finish scenarios in this class, are specified in the rule book.

- Any elimination in a games class will result in 0 points being scored.

Course design

- Significant detail has been introduced in relation to course design. This is to ensure that courses are of an appropriate design for the Level they are produced for. As well as guidelines that have previously been in place, there are now a number of rules that judges must take into account when designing courses. There is further detail in the rule book.
- The tyre and the wall may only be negotiated once on the course. This is to ensure that dogs are not in a position to injure themselves should the obstacle have been broken/knocked down on the first attempt. Due to handlers picking their own route in games classes, it is not possible for this rule to apply to games classes.
- The number of weave poles that may be used and negotiated in each level has been specified.
- Start and finish obstacles may only be negotiated once during a course. This is to avoid situations where the timing gates may increase the risk of injury to a dog.
- It has been clarified that rule requiring the start and finish jumps to be at least 5 metres from the edge of the ring, relates to the dogs perceived path and not necessarily a straight line to the edge of the ring.

Course approval

- Guidance on the role of course approvers has been included to ensure all parties are aware of their remit.
- The responsibility of Show Managers in relation to course approvals has been clarified.

Equipment failure

- Clear procedures have now been introduced in relation to equipment being identified as set incorrectly, once a class has commenced. Details are contained within the rule book.

Minimum and Maximum Distances

- The minimum and maximum distances in relation to Time, Fault and Out and Power and Speed have been clarified as being those relating to the Performance Programme.

Smoking

- Vaping will no longer be permitted within 5 metres of a ring entrance/exit. This is in addition to the 2017 rule which banned smoking in the same areas and takes into consideration this is a sporting event.

Judges

- There is clarification that Judges must calculate a maximum course time for all courses. Competitors who reach this maximum course time after being eliminated should be dismissed from the ring.
- Judges are responsible for identifying an appropriate place for leads to be left at the end of the course. This is especially important as handlers are now permitted to take toys up to the plane of the first jump and so leads may well have toys tied onto them.

Ring Managers and ring party roles

- With the increased use of electronic scoring systems, ring managers have been placed in charge of ensuring that this is used correctly and appropriately on the ring they are responsible for.
- There is slight clarification to the scimes role due to the increasing number of judges who prefer to start competitors themselves.
- There is more information about the role of the gate steward, where electronic scoring is in place.

Scoring

- Knocking of the long jump marker poles has been clarified as no fault, unless this is deemed to aid performance.
- Any bar being knocked from a jump will be faulted. This is to cover situations where a judge has used more than one pole on a jump.
- A dog or a handler altering a piece of equipment so it can no longer be competed correctly will incur an elimination.
- Some events which currently incur an elimination have been changed to an elimination and dismissal from the ring.
- Scoring for the new breakaway tyre has been specified. This will be no fault for the breaking of the tyre in the course of jumping it. However, if a refusal is incurred and during execution of the refusal the tyre is broken, then an elimination will be incurred due to the dog not being able to negotiate the obstacle correctly.
- Toys/Training aids may now be carried into the ring prior to the dog starting the course. This will no longer incur an elimination. They may not be taken past the plane of the first jump as this will result in an elimination.

Formal complaints

- The right to remain anonymous when making a formal complaint has been removed as it is not possible to guarantee this in all cases.

Heat rules

- Baton fault scoring has been clarified.
- Strict running orders have been introduced in the Pairs and Teams classes. Failure to do so will result in an elimination.
- Dogs in Pairs and Teams may only compete in one pair in any heat and can only qualify once for the final.

Show entries

- Exceptions to the capping rules have been clearly defined.

Health, Safety and Welfare issues

- For the safety of all, dogs may not be left unattended near the ring and under no circumstances may they be tied to ring ropes or any equipment.

For further information, and specific details of all of the above points, please see the 2018 Rule Book.

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