

# **Agility Association of Canada**

## **AAC Regional Championships Rules and Guidelines**

**Update Supplement February 2026**

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## Rules & Guidelines – Update **February 2026**

### 3.1.5 Course Selection (260203)

Effective March 1, 2026, in order to ensure that courses in any year conform to the latest guidelines and their design is current, a pool of courses from past years will no longer be maintained.

Each Region must have a minimum of two judges' courses to draw from, so that there is no bias to one judge's particular design style and competitors have the opportunity to run courses from different judges, no matter which Regional Championship they attend. Hosts may use any combination of judges they have hired for the event, and/or additional judges hired to do course design.

For clarity, the following options are available to Regional Hosts regarding the hiring of judges.

1. Hire two or more judges to officiate the event and use the same judges to design the courses in accordance with Section 4.1.1.
2. Hire two or more judges to officiate the event and hire one or more design-only judges to design the courses in accordance with Section 4.1.1.
3. Hire one judge to officiate the event and hire one or more additional design-only judges to design the courses in accordance with Section 4.1.1.

The pool of courses for each Regional event will be comprised of the courses that have been designed by the judges hired by the Host for that Regional event, submitted to the Regionals Course Coordinator and approved (in accordance with Section 4.1.1). The Regionals Course Coordinator will label each course by event and using a key that corresponds to each judge without using the name of the judge (e.g., Gamble Judge A, Gamble Judge B, etc.). Course selection will be made at the Regional Championship at a public draw in a manner that ensures at least one course is selected for each judge. The identity of the judges can be revealed once the draw is completed.

Draw may be conducted by electronic means or by physically drawing envelopes provided by the Regional Course Coordinator. If envelopes are supplied for the draw, each envelope will contain ten (10) copies of the course to be run, one for posting, one (1) for the AAC, one (1) for the host club and one (1) for the officiating judge and six (6) for the purpose of course building. If courses are supplied to the trial secretary or designate electronically, they are responsible for printing the number of copies stated above.

To ensure that the main Gamble challenges vary, the Regional Course Coordinator during preparation will replace the Gamble type with identifying symbols or letters unique to a particular event challenge. These unique identifiers will be placed on the outside of the course envelopes. When the first draw is made for a Gamble course, all other Gamble courses with the same unique

identifying designation, if any, will be removed from the pool in order that the two Gamble courses will have different challenges.

A non-competitor is to be appointed to copy paper course maps for competitors, and to retain in a strictly confidential status until authorized to distribute paper copies of courses to all competitors simultaneously. Course copies may be made available to competitors electronically each day but competitors must also be given the option of receiving a paper copy at no extra charge.

For a Regional Championship running more than one day, courses for subsequent days will not be posted until the day on which they are to be run.

Should extra course copies need to be provided to course builders, someone who is not competing can have copies made, and both issue and collect all the copies post building.

The officiating Judge(s) will be responsible for accurately setting up the courses as close as possible to the design, and for measuring the course where appropriate and determining the SCT (Standard Course Time) for each height (open, medium, mini) and for each category, Regular and Specials and Veterans, taking into consideration the proposed yards per second given by the designing judge as well as the circumstances (weather and footing) on the day of the events and, if elected, a general MCT. See Section 4.3 on calculating MCT).

When two (or more) rings are utilized for the same course, officiating Judges should tweak together to ensure the course layout is as identical as possible. It is suggested that one Judge wheels both courses to ensure similar yardage results.

**Note:** *In the case of the host club offering other classes prior to or following the Regional event, either approved AAC standard runs or AAC-approved games, (for which approval must be obtained through regular AAC channels) or non-official games or rounds, the host club will be responsible for forwarding to the judge all pertinent information on field size, equipment, running order, etc. In the case of AAC-approved standard rounds or games, the designing judge must submit those courses through the regular approval procedures, not through the Regional Course Coordinator.*

#### **4.1.1. Course Design Requirements (260203)**

In accordance with Section 3.1.5, Regional Design Judges are judges hired by the Regional Host and include either those judging at the event AND designing courses or design-only judges. Regional Judges are required to submit original designs (not used previously in an AAC or other agility event) of jumpers, gamble and standard to the Regionals Course Coordinator. Number of each type of course to be communicated to the judge by the Regional Course Coordinator. They should be designed to fit within ring sizes specified by the Regional Course Coordinator.

In order to ensure that the two Main Gamble challenges for any Regional event are not identical (ex. 12 weave with lateral distance challenge), the designing judges will be instructed to design TWO gambles per ring size, and ensure that the Gamble courses they submit have different types of challenges to the Main Gamble; weave poles, contact, contact AND weaves, or jumps/tunnels only (no contacts or weaves). Designing judges are also encouraged to vary the type and selection of mini-gambles, in order that the widest range of skills is tested.

The penalty for late submissions of Regional courses will be a 1 year suspension from judging Regionals and Nationals for the first offense, a 3 year suspension from judging Regionals or Nationals for the second offense and a permanent suspension from judging Regional or Nationals for the third offense. Regional Judges are required to submit courses no later than 30 days prior to the beginning of the Regional Championships. Should courses not be submitted within the time period specified they will be considered a non-submission. Non-submission will include a penalty of a 3 year suspension from judging Regionals and National events. Offending judges will be notified by the President of the AAC Board of Directors.

## 1.1 Eligibility (250409)

Anyone competing in an alternative regional is competing for Nationals qualification only, **they will not be eligible for individual placements or aggregate placements.**

## 1. Regional Championship: (250409)

AAC sanctioned trials will not be permitted to be scheduled within a Region on the same dates of a Region's Regional Championships. **If a trial has been approved before the Regional's date is known, it must be rescheduled or cancelled (at no charge to the trial host). If the host wishes to go ahead with the trial, permission must be obtained from the Board and the Regional's host.**

**A club may not host an Open Special Event on the same weekend as a Regional or National Championship event being held in the club's region. Exception: A host club, or a club working in collaboration with the host club, may choose to host an Open Special Event in conjunction with the Regional or National Championship event.**

## 3.1.2 Equipment List (250409)

The following agility equipment must be available for **EACH Jumpers ring**:

- 3 Flexible tunnels [ 2 x 20ft and 1 x 15ft]
  - Each 20 ft tunnel requires a minimum of 7 sets of tunnel bags/holders
  - Each 15ft tunnel requires a minimum of 6 sets of tunnel bags/holders

- 1 Double jump\* (*with 5 foot bars and approved wing on both sides*)
- 1 Ascending spread/triple jump\* (*with 5 foot bars and approved wing on both sides*)
- 1 Tire jump (*self-healing/break-away. All rings must have the same type and size of tire*)
- 15 Winged single jumps
- 4 Wingless single jumps
- 1 Wall jump or 1 Panel jump\*\*

*\*Both the spread & the double jump are to be replaced by a single jump for specials & veterans classes. These replacement jumps are NOT included in the 19 single jumps required for course design.*

*\*\* Required to be available for use at site. Optional obstacle that may be included in course design. For jumpers courses using the wall jump, the wall jump may be substituted on-site for a panel jump if no wall is available, but the same substitution must be made for all jumpers rings. One ring may not use a wall and another a panel.*

*\*\*\*The maximum number of obstacles allowed on a Regionals Jumpers course is 23.*

### **3.1.4 Required Obstacles (250409)**

Courses submitted for approval must meet the AAC Course Design Guidelines and must follow the Regionals Equipment Check List in Section 3.1.2 for that class. *For jumpers courses using the wall jump, the wall jump may be substituted on-site for a panel jump if no wall is available, but the same substitution must be made for all jumpers rings. One ring may not use a wall and another a panel.*

## **2.6 - Competitor Grouping and Ring Assignment (250506)**

*The order of the height categories should be varied between rounds so that handler/dog teams are not disadvantaged by their place in the running order. Furthermore, the running order within height categories must be varied, so that handler/dog teams are not disadvantaged by running at or near the beginning, or end, in every round. For height categories with one dog this is not possible, but this will be addressed by varying the order of the height categories themselves between days or between rounds.*

### **Premium List (241203)**

*Organizing committees must prepare and submit for approval of the NSC committee the Agility Regional Championship Premium.*

## Appendix C – Bitches in Season (241112)

BIS will be allowed to compete at all future Regional and National event effective July 1, 2025. The host's premium must state clearly that BIS are allowed to compete, and the specific rules and regulations pertaining to BIS (listed below) as well as any additional requirements deemed reasonable by the host while remaining compliant with other AAC rules and requirements listed herein.

Hosts may not charge handlers running a BIS a cleaning, convenience, or administrative fee over and above any fee applicable to non-BIS dogs.

The following conditions will apply and must be clearly stated in the club premium:

1. Handlers are required to notify the trial secretary that they will be running a BIS at the event as soon as it is known.
2. It must be stated in the club premium that handlers should minimize exposure of their BIS to other dogs and limit their movements about the grounds.
3. Competitors with dogs that come into season will be allowed to withdraw and will be offered a refund if they choose not to compete.
4. If there is a BIS on site, competitors will be notified during the opening remarks on each day of the event that there is a BIS on site.
5. It shall be the choice of the handler of the BIS to either:
  - a. *BIS wearing protective panties:* BIS will not be required to run in protective panties. However, if the handler chooses that their BIS wear protective panties during the run, the BIS will be allowed to run at the end of their height class and will not be required to use a mat. If panties happen to come off during the run, there will be no fault.
  - b. *BIS using a mat at start line:* If the handler chooses that their BIS will not wear protective panties, a protective mat shall be used at the start line and the BIS will start on the mat. The host will have available a mat for use on the start line or the handler of the BIS may use their own mat that meets the size requirements (minimum of a 2'x3' mat of non-slip material). If the BIS does not wear protective panties for their run, they will be required to run at the end of the group rotation.
6. "BIS" will be noted next to the dog's name on the gate sheet so that other competitors, ring crew and the Judge(s) are aware.
7. BIS must use a designated relief area.
8. BIS must wear protective panties when not within the designated relief area.

BIS must be allowed to compete at any events, whether sanctioned titling classes or non-sanctioned runs, held in conjunction with Regionals and Nationals on the same site.

