



Agility Association of Canada

Rulebook Update v. 8.4

October 4, 2021

Please save or print this update and include it with your AAC Rulebook, v8.0, effective January 2020. Any rule changes related to Regional and/or National competition, or to the National Team, can be found elsewhere (see www.aac.ca for links).

A-Rule Changes Effective July 1, 2021:

- **Giant Breed Height Concession** – For dogs measuring over 22". Dogs considered giant breeds (see list below) or mixed breed dogs resembling giant breeds in terms of weight to height ratio, may jump one or two jump heights lower than their measured Regular height when they compete in the Specials category. Dogs who have double dropped in jump height as a Special may enter the Veterans category and receive Veteran time at the age of five. *(They will not drop a third height)* For awards by jump height, giant breeds competing as a 16" Special shall be ranked with the other dogs in that same height and not in a separate category.
Giant Breeds: Bernese Mountain Dog, Black Russian Terrier, Bloodhound, Bullmastiff, Cane Corso, Dogue de Bordeaux, Great Dane, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, Irish Wolfhound, Kuvasz, Landseer, Leonberger, Mastiff, Neopolitan Mastiff, Newfoundland, Saint Bernard. (201202a)
- **Hiring of Internationally-renowned judges** – Requests limited to once per club per calendar year (201113)

B-Rule Changes Effective January 1, 2022:

- **Addition of solid coloured weave poles to the equipment list** - All poles shall be marked with contrasting colours in an alternating or repeating pattern along the full length of the pole (such as, but not limited to, striping or banding) to increase the visibility of the poles. *Alternatively, solid colour poles may be used if they are of a maximum of two contrasting colours used in an alternating pattern. For example, blue – yellow – blue – yellow, etc.* All colouring and patterns on weave poles must be painted or extruded into the plastic to lessen the chance of injury as dogs push through the poles. (210608)

C-Pending Rule Changes:

Effective July 1, 2022:

- **Table removed from the list of approved AAC obstacles allowable in all standard classes and its use as an endpoint in Snooker and Gamblers.** (210812)

Effective January 1, 2023:

- **Hogback (Oxer) Style of Broad Jump removed from equipment list** (201110)

2.6 Divisions & Categories

2.6.2.6 Accessibility

Senior Handlers and Handlers with Disability

(Effective for Trials and Regional Competitions after January 1, 2021).

Senior handlers (65 years and over) and handlers with disability may request a modified course time and a modified points requirement (see below for details).

Proof of disability or age will not be requested by the host club. A handler must indicate on the entry form if entering as senior/disabled handler (check SD box) to receive modified times/reduced number of points.

A senior or handler with a disability may use a motorized scooter (if facility allows), cane, walker or similar physical aid with them in the ring if needed. Handler will also be allowed to carry the leash in their pocket, scooter/walker basket, around their neck – anywhere that makes it easy to pick up and use at the end of their run.

Gamble Class - Handler will be judged by where their feet are for the gamble lines, regardless of their physical aid conveyance if any.

Handler's dog shall be entered at its current competition jump height and category; modified time and reduced point requirements are a concession for the handler, not for the dog.

If the senior or disabled handler chooses this option on the Trial Entry form, the dog will be scored with an adjusted course time and/or modified points for games. The dog will still be eligible to earn a Qualifying score with the adjusted course time and/or modified points. The dog will be eligible for placements based on its unadjusted score, and an indication will be made next to the placement column that the time/points concession is to be used to determine a qualifying score. Handlers can choose to have this option at any given trial, provided they enter as a Senior/Disabled Handler for the whole of the trial.

For Standard, Challenge, Jumpers, Steeplechase, GP and Team, the score table will subtract the time prior to scoring the run, regardless of whether the dog was under the SCT for that division and category or not.

For Gamble and Snooker, the score table will add 3 points prior to scoring the run.

MODIFIED COURSE TIMES

CLASS	TIMER/SCRIBE	SCORE TABLE (MINUS TIME)
Standard, Challenge, Jumpers, Steeplechase (all levels)	Nothing	Minus 10% of the mini veteran time (rounded to the nearest second)
Team with one Senior/Disabled handler	Nothing	Half of the concession below
Team with two Senior/Disabled Handlers	Nothing	Minus 10% of the small veteran team time (rounded to the nearest second)

REDUCED POINTS REQUIREMENT FOR GAMBLERS AND SNOOKER

CLASS	TIMER/SCRIBE	SCORE TABLE (ADD POINTS)
Gamble (all levels)	Nothing	Add 3 points to dog's total
Snooker (all levels)	Nothing	Add 3 points to dog's total

Regional Championships - scored as normal for placements. However, a reduction of points needed for Nationals qualification will be 300 points.

National Championship - no concessions for scoring.

Open Special Events - Effective January 1, 2021

Open Special Events will have courses designed and judged according to Masters rules but the courses will be open to Starter and Advanced level dogs as well as Master level dogs. Starters, Advanced and Masters level dogs with clean runs will earn qualifying legs and titles at their current level in that class, i.e. a starters dog with a clean run will earn a Starters qualifying run, an advanced dog with a clean run will earn an Advanced qualifying run and a masters dog with a clean run will earn a Masters qualifying run. It will be the responsibility of the host club to create a list of level-appropriate qualifying runs for recording by the AAC. Additional alternative scoring may be kept for the purposes of ranking and awards.

Open Special Events will be exempt from the following seven AAC rules:

2.5 A dog must satisfy the requirements for one level before being allowed to enter a class at the next higher level for placements or qualification.

2.6.2 In any category or at any level, qualifying legs may not be awarded to a dog that is ineligible to compete by reason of age, requirements or level.

3.4 Eligibility for master standard. The master standard class is open to dogs that have earned the AADC title.

3.5 Eligibility for challenge. The challenge class is open to dogs that have earned the AADC title.

3.6.10 Eligibility for master gamble. The master gamble class is open to dogs that have earned three qualifying scores under two different judges in the advanced gamble class.

3.7.3 Eligibility for master jumpers. The master jumpers class is open to dogs that have earned three qualifying scores under two different judges in the advanced jumpers class.

3.8.7 Eligibility for master snooker. The master snooker class is open to dogs that have earned three qualifying scores under two different judges in the advanced snooker class.

Dogs will be eligible to run at an Open Special Event if they meet the minimum age requirement, have been registered with the AAC and have an identification number, and meet normal AAC requirements for health; and for female dogs, they may not be in season.

Open Special Events will be held no more than once per year in each of the following five areas:

- Atlantic – Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island
- Quebec
- Ontario - East & West
- Prairies – Alberta, Saskatchewan, NWT, Nunavut & Manitoba
- West Coast – British Columbia, Vancouver Island, Yukon

To prevent conflict with AAC Regional and Nationals events, Open Special Events will not be approved for the Regional months of May and June or the same month as Nationals, provided an AAC Regionals or Nationals event is scheduled for that year.

Applications to hold an Open Special Event will be accepted by the AAC Board of Directors no earlier than 12 months before the proposed Open Special Event date and no later than the usual deadline for holding a regularly scheduled AAC trial. Open Special Event hosts may limit entry at their discretion but this must be posted on the event premium. An AAC competitor may enter as many Open Special Events as they wish, regardless of their designated home region.

Rulebook Changes – Effective July 1, 2021

2.6.2.2- Special Category

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Dogs registered in the Special category must run with jumps set at one height lower than the lowest of the Regular jump height options. *The A-Frame will be set to 5'*, and all spread jumps will be replaced by single jumps. Dogs running in the Special category shall be given the same SCT as dogs running in the corresponding Regular division; NO extra time is given.

ADD

Dogs considered giant breeds (see list below) or mixed breed dogs resembling giant breeds in terms of weight to height ratio, may jump one or two jump heights lower than their measured Regular height when they compete in the Specials category. Dogs who have double dropped in jump height as a Special may enter the Veterans category and receive veteran time at the age of 5 (five). No additional drop in jump height will occur with this move to veterans.

Giant Breeds: Bernese Mountain Dog, Black Russian Terrier, Bloodhound, Bullmastiff, Dogue de Bordeaux, Great Dane, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, Irish Wolfhound, Kuvasz, Leonberger, Mastiff, Neopolitan Mastiff, Newfoundland (inc. Landseer), Saint Bernard.

2.7.2 Jump Heights

Table 2.7.2- Allowed Jump Heights, by Category

Dog's Measured Height	Allowed Jump Heights, by Category (divisions in brackets)		
	Regular	Special	Veteran/Junior Handler*
12" or less	8" (mini) or 12" (medium)	4" (mini)	4" (mini)
>12" to 15"	12" or 16" (medium)	8" (medium)	8" or 4" (medium)
>15" to 18"	16" (medium) or 20" (open)	12" (medium)	12" or 8" (medium)
>18 to 22"	20" or 24" (open)	16" (open)	16" or 12" (open)
>22"	24" (open)	20" or 16"* (open)	20" or 16" (open)

**Giant breed dogs measuring over 22" at the shoulder may choose to compete 1 or 2 heights lower in Specials*

2.14 – Prizes & Awards

A member group or club holding a sanctioned AAC agility trial must offer a qualifying ribbon or rosette to each dog that receives a qualifying score and a ribbon or rosette to the dogs placing first through fourth in each category (Regular, Special, Veteran, and Junior Handler) and division (open, medium, and mini) of each class. This is the minimum requirement. Groups or clubs wishing to do the same for placements at each jump height (4", 8", 12", 16", 20" and 24") may do so. If awards are made by jump height, Giant Breeds competing as a 16" Special shall be ranked with the other dog in that same height and not in a separate category.

For definitions of open, medium, and mini, refer to Section 2.6.1.