

IRISH KENNEL CLUB CLG.

**RULES & REGULATIONS FOR
AGILITY TESTS**

2024

(effective from 1st January 2024)

Agility Tests within this State are held under licence granted by the Irish Kennel Club CLG. and are subject to the Rules and Regulations published by that body with particular reference to the document entitled Rules for Agility Tests.

Agility Tests are considered a 'fun' type competition designed for spectator appeal.

1. Permission to hold Irish Kennel Club CLG., Licensed Agility Shows.

- a. The Irish Kennel Club CLG., shall have the power to grant, withhold or cancel permission to hold any licensed Agility Show.
- b. Any cancellation or abandonment of a competition without prior permission of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., must be reported in writing to the Irish Kennel Club CLG., without delay.

2. Welfare of Dogs.

An exhibitor (or competitor) whose dog is entered at an Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed event should take all reasonable steps to ensure the needs of their dog(s) are met and should not knowingly put their dogs' health and welfare at risk by any action, default, omission or otherwise. A breach of this Regulation may be referred to the Irish Kennel Club CLG.

3. Eligibility/Licensing.

- a. Agility Show licenses will only be issued to Affiliated Societies.
- b. On the day of the event a license must be held, or the event will be deemed unlicensed.
- c. Dogs entered in Agility Shows must be registered with the Irish Kennel Club CLG.
- d. Only dogs of 18 calendar months of age and over on the day of the competition are eligible for competition at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed Agility Shows.
- e. Persons disqualified or suspended under Irish Kennel Club CLG. Rules are not eligible to take part in any Irish Kennel Club CLG. licensed event.

4. License Application

The application for a license to hold an Agility Show must be made to the Show Department of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., Fottrell House, Harold's Cross Bridge, Dublin 6. W., on an official form which must be properly completed together with the appropriate license fee at least sixty (60) days before the proposed date of the Competition.

5. Guarantors.

Licensed Agility Shows require Guarantors who shall undertake jointly and severally to hold and conduct the competition under and in accordance with the Rules and Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club CLG.

6. Documentation

At every Agility Show the following documents must be available.

- a. The License for the Competition, which must be clearly displayed.
- b. A copy of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules and relevant Regulations.
- c. A copy of the Schedule for the Competition.
- d. The completed entry forms for the Competition.

The promoters shall preserve for at least 6 months the entry forms, correspondence, award slips and all records in connection with the event, or until all obligations have been determined, all liabilities discharged, and the account finally closed.

7. Schedule

- a. The Society must issue a Schedule, which shall form the basis of a contract between the Society and those entering dogs. The Society may make regulations subject to the approval of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., but no such regulations shall conflict with any Rule or Regulation of the Irish Kennel Club CLG. In the case of any conflict, the Rules, and Regulation of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., shall prevail. No modifications may be made to the Schedule before the date of the show, except by permission of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and such modifications, if possible, must be advertised.

- b.** Submission of Schedule - Two copies (2) of the schedule must be lodged with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., at least sixty (60) days before the date of the show.
- c.** The schedule must contain: -
 - i.** The name of the Society.
 - ii.** The venue.
 - iii.** The date of the show.
 - iv.** The names of guarantors.
 - v.** The name and address of veterinary surgeon.
 - vi.** The secretary's name and address.
 - vii.** The closing date for entries.
 - viii.** The time of opening of the show and proposed running order of classes.
 - ix.** Name(s) of judge(s) with the name of each class.
 - x.** The amount of entry and other fees and any prize money.
 - xi.** Definition of all classes scheduled & heights of jumps and obstacles.
 - xii.** A statement that the show is held under Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules and Regulations.
 - xiii.** A statement that the show is an Open or Championship Show.
 - xiv.** A statement that the organisers reserve the right to refuse any entry.
 - xv.** A statement that dogs under 18 months of age are not eligible to compete in agility Classes, however, dogs may compete in Non/Agility Novelty, Classes e.g. Fastest recall from 6 months of age.
 - xvi.** A statement that dogs must be registered or transferred with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., save in the case of Greyhounds duly registered with the Irish Coursing Club.
 - xvii.** A separate official entry form with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., approved declaration.
 - xviii.** All offers of sponsorship or donations with the names of sponsors.
 - xix.** A statement that all wins prior to the day specified for the closing of entries shall be taken into account when entering any class.
 - xx.** A statement that it is the competitor's responsibility to be available for their class.
 - xxi.** A statement that dogs to be limited to a specified number of classes, if applicable.
 - xxii.** A statement that the mating of bitches within the precincts of the showground is forbidden.
 - xxiii.** A statement that no bitch in season is allowed to compete.
 - xxiv.** A statement that should a Judge be unable to fulfil the appointment to judge, the Committee reserve the right to appoint another Judge.
 - xxv.** A statement that should circumstances so dictate the Society, in consultation with the Judges, may alter arrangements as necessary. Such changes and the circumstances surrounding them must be reported to the Irish Kennel Club CLG.
 - xxvi.** A practice ring may be available, at the discretion of the show committee.

8. Entry for Competition.

- a.** Entries for the event must close at the time indicated in the Schedule.
- b.** A dog must at the time of entry for the Competition be registered as required by the Irish Kennel CLG., (or registration or transfer applied for). In the case of a partnership the full name of every partner must be given.
- c.** A separate application for entry must be made by each owner, and acceptance of the entry declaration must be given in accordance with the provisions specified thereon.

Entries cannot be accepted without the appropriate fees or acceptance of the entry declaration.

- d. Each dog competing in Agility will have an official Agility Record Book.
- e. Where a dog is measured out of the height category in which it has been entered it is permissible, at the discretion of the organising club, for entries to be altered in order that the dog can compete at the correct height category.
- f. Criteria for Agility Grading & Progression of Dogs domicile under another Kennel Club jurisdiction. Dogs competing under other Kennel Club jurisdictions may be measured in their own country, provided the Irish Kennel Club CLG., Agility Record Book is signed by an approved measurer, and should use the grade they are qualified for in that country as the starting grade under Irish Kennel Club CLG., Regulations. Wins under other jurisdictions are recognised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and you may compete at the same grade in both countries up to Grade 5. For progression from Grade 5 to Grade 6 and Grade 6 to Grade 7, see page 8, section 7 & 9g.

9. Control of Dogs.

The owner, competitor, handler, or other person in charge of a dog at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed events must, at all times, ensure that the dog is kept under proper control whilst at the licensed venue including its environs, car and caravan parks and approaches.

10. Veterinary Support.

The Secretary of a licensed Agility Show is required to arrange veterinary support compatible with the arrangements for the Competition and anticipated entries. The name, address and telephone number of the Veterinary Surgeon, Practitioner or Practice supporting the Competition is to be available.

11. Judging Contracts.

- a. Invitations to judge must be made by organising societies in writing and they must ensure that written acceptances are received.
- b. In the event of a judge failing to honour an engagement to judge, the Irish Kennel Club CLG. will require reasons for such failure.

12. Approval of Judges.

The Irish Kennel Club CLG., will issue to all Societies, panels of Judges for Obedience Tests, Workings Trials & Agility Tests. Additions/promotions to the Agility Judges Panel must be proposed by an Affiliated Club to arrive at the Irish Kennel Club CLG., not later than 31st May. These panels shall be reviewed by the **Canine Activities and Sports Committee** in June each year.

a. Judges Qualifications.

Panel 'B' -Eligible to judge Agility Tests excluding Green Star Classes.

- i. Applicants must be proposed by an Affiliated Club and fulfil the following criteria: -
- ii. Applicants must be 18 years or over.
- iii. Applicants for addition to Panel 'B' must have competed in the Premier class (under I.K.C. Agility Rules & Regulations prior to 31st May 2009), Grade 6 (under I.K.C. Agility Rules & Regulations after 31st May 2009 and/or K.C. Rules & Regulations) or F.C.I. Agility 3 and to have been competing in Agility for a minimum of five years.
- iv. Extensive stewarding experience, in different aspects of Agility, is required. Aspiring Judges must keep record of their stewarding experience.
- v. Judges must have attended one Judging & Course Design Seminar.

Judges on Panel 'B' may judge any number of appointments in a calendar year.

Panel 'A' - Eligible to judge all Agility Tests, including Green Star Classes.

- i. To apply for addition or promotion to Panel 'A' the applicant must be judging for a minimum of three years and have judged at four Agility Shows under the Rules & Regulations of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., or any Kennel Club recognised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., with the minimum number of runs judged to total 500. To be promoted to judge the applicant must have competed in the Premier class (under I.K.C. Agility Rules & Regulations prior to 31st May 2009), Grade 6 (under I.K.C. Agility Rules & Regulations after 31st May 2009 and/or K.C. Rules & Regulations) or F.C.I. Agility 3 and to have been competing in Agility for a minimum of five years
- ii. Extensive stewarding experience, in different aspects of Agility, is required. Aspiring Judges must keep record of their stewarding experience.

Judges on Panel 'A' may judge any number of appointments in a calendar year but not award Green Stars at more than two shows in that period.

b. Overseas Judges

Judges from other countries may judge Agility Classes provided they have judged at the same level in their own country and submit their qualifications for approval by the Irish Kennel Club CLG. Once an overseas Judge is approved and has judged an Irish Kennel Club CLG licenced Agility Show, that Judge will be placed on the Overseas Agility Judges List (Open or Green Star). Judges on the Overseas Judges Lists are not required to complete a questionnaire unless changing from Open to Green Star status.

13. Judges and Judging.

- a. Judges at an Agility Show may not enter for competition a dog which is recorded in their ownership or part ownership; or handle a dog at the Show at which they are judging.
- b. Judges at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed Agility Shows are expected to maintain and abide by the highest standards in accordance with Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules and Regulations.
- c. Judges are not permitted to make a public commentary on the dogs whilst judging.
- d. Any physical disciplining of the dog by the handler in the ring or any uncontrolled behaviour of the dog must be penalised by adjusting the dog's score and the judge may bar the dog from further competition in the class.
- e. The Judge must observe the dog at all times whilst it is in the ring, even after elimination from competition.

14. Dog Fouling.

Any owner, competitor, handler, or other person in charge of a dog is required to remove, as soon as possible any fouling caused by their dog(s) at any Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed event within the licensed venue and within the environs of that event including car and caravan parks and approaches.

15. Rule Changes.

Additions/changes to the Obedience Regulations must be proposed by an affiliated Club to arrive at the Irish Kennel Club CLG., not later than 31st May.

These proposals shall be reviewed by the **Canine Activities and Sports Committee** in June each year.

SPECIFIC AGILITY SHOW REGULATIONS

1. The following Regulations apply to Agility Shows and must be read in conjunction with Irish Kennel Club CLG., General Regulations.
2. Nothing may be included in an Agility Show which could endanger the safety of the dogs competing, the handlers or the spectators.
3. **Licensed Agility Shows** – Licensed Shows held under Irish Kennel Club CLG., Rules and Regulations are those held under license granted by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and are:
 - a. Irish Kennel Club CLG., Championship Agility Competitions - Agility Green Stars are offered. Any number of standard classes for any grade and/or Special classes may be held.
 - b. Irish Kennel Club CLG., Open Agility Shows – Agility Green Stars are not offered. Any number of standard classes for any grade and/or Special classes may be held.
 - c. F.C.I. Agility Shows - see separate rules regarding F.C.I. Agility Shows.
 - d. Where a Club splits grades over more than one show, that Club must schedule all grades, 1 to 7, and height categories, within a calendar year.
4. **Agility Green Stars (Large, Intermediate, Medium and Small Dogs)**
 - a. An Irish Kennel Club CLG., Green Star will be awarded to any Large Agility Dog, Intermediate Agility Dog, Medium Agility Dog or Small Agility Dog winning a Championship Agility Class provided such a dog has no faults in the Agility or Jumping round of the Class. If the winning dog does have faults in the Agility or Jumping round of the Championship Agility Class, the award must be withheld.
 - b. An Irish Kennel Club CLG., Reserve Green Star will be awarded to any Large Agility Dog, Intermediate Agility Dog, Medium Agility Dog, or Small Agility Dog placed second in the Championship Agility Class provided such a dog has no faults in the Agility or Jumping round of the Class. If the second-place dog does have faults in the Agility or Jumping round of the Championship Agility Class, the award must be withheld.
5. **Draw for Green Star Class Running Orders**
 - a. Agility and Jumping Round – A public draw for the running order of the Agility and Jumping Rounds must be made for all entries 15 (fifteen) minutes before the start of the first Green Star class on the day of the show by the judge and steward. Where a competitor is running more than one dog in the Green Star class, the Judge and Steward can use their discretion regarding a competitor's second or subsequent dogs. The Running Order should be adhered to where possible.
 - b. A dog must have the same handler for each round of the Green Star classes.
6. **Management – Societies are responsible for the following:**
 - a. Test area shall have a suitable surface and measure a minimum of 32m x 32m (35yds x 35yds) for outdoor venues. Indoor venues may be smaller but must be appropriate to the size of the Test.
 - b. Ensuring that all obstacles and equipment in the test area do not include unnecessary protrusions and where wings or side supports are part of an obstacle, they must be appreciably higher than the part to be cleared by the dog.
 - c. Electronic Timing Equipment. Societies must provide suitable electronic timing equipment for all Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced agility competitions. For the Green Star classes, time will also be recorded manually but electronic timing will take precedence.
In the event of the electronic timing failing to work at either the start of or during the competition, then manual timing will be used for the entire competition or the remainder of the competition.

7. **Competing.**
 - a. No person shall carry out punitive correction or harsh handling of a dog at any time within the precincts of the Show.
 - b. No competitor shall impugn the decision of the Judge or Judges.
 - c. Dogs must not wear any type of slip, half-slip collar or lead when under test. A flat, close fitting, leather or webbing collar is permitted, providing the only attachment is a plain identification panel as an integral part of the collar i.e.: not attached by a ring.
 - d. All competitors must show respect for the judge. Training rounds will only be allowed if prior permission has been given by the judge.
 - e. Food should not be given or carried in the ring. Any article carried by the handler is subject to the Judge's discretion but must be indicated by the Judge prior to the commencement of the test.
8. **Eligibility and Schedule of Classes** – The detailed Regulations for Eligibility and the Schedule of Classes are given in Annex A.
9. **Schedule of Classes, Courses, Obstacles and Marking** – The detailed Regulations for shows, courses, obstacles, and marking are given in Annex B.
10. **Running Orders** - if any, in Agility or Jumping classes (with the exception of the Green Star classes) shall be at the discretion of the Judge and/or Show Management, and if applicable, should be adhered to where possible. Any such running orders may not disenfranchise competitors who present outside of the running order, but before the class has closed.

REGULATIONS FOR CHAMPIONS AND WARRANTS

1. Championship Qualifications.

Title of Agility Champion (Ag.Ch.) The following dogs shall be entitled to be described as Agility Champion.

1. Large Agility Dogs.

Any dog awarded five (5) Agility Green Stars under three different judges, in accordance with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., Regulations for the Green Star Agility Classes.

2. Intermediate Agility Dogs.

Any dog awarded five (5) Agility Green Stars under three different judges, in accordance with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., Regulations for the Green Star Agility Classes.

3. Medium Agility Dog.

Any dog awarded five (5) Agility Green Stars under three different judges, in accordance with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., Regulations for the Green Star Agility Classes.

4. Small Agility Dog.

Any dog awarded five (5) Agility Green Stars under three different judges, in accordance with the Irish Kennel Club CLG., Regulations for the Green Star Agility Classes.

2. Agility Warrants.

An Agility Warrant (AW) will be issued on application by the registered owner at the time of qualification in respect of a dog that has obtained points in standard agility and jumping classes at Championship and Open Shows. At least 25% of points must be gained in agility (as opposed to jumping) classes. Points will be awarded at any level but may not be gained in any part of the Championship Class. Points will also only be awarded where the dog has obtained a clear round within the course time.

The requirements for the title of Agility Warrant (AW) are 400 points (minimum of 100 points in agility) The title of Agility Warrant (AW) may be used after the name of the dog on Show entries and in catalogues.

Points awarded will be as follows:

Standard Agility Classes		Standard Jumping Classes (Clear Rounds Only)	
1 st place	20 points	1 st place	10 points
2 nd place	19 points	2 nd place	9 points
3 rd place	18 points	3 rd place	8 points
4 th place	17 points	4 th place	7 points
5 th place	16 points	5 th place	6 points
6 th place	15 points	6 th place	5 points
7 th place	14 points	7 th place	4 points
8 th place	13 points	8 th place	3 points
9 th place	12 points	9 th place	2 points
10 th place	11 points	10 th place	1 point

Points will also be awarded for clear rounds within the course time as follows:

Standard Agility Classes	2 points
Standard Jumping Classes	1 point

Where less than 10 places are awarded in any class a competitor obtaining a clear round not in the places will be awarded the points applicable for a clear round in that class, i.e. 2 points for an agility class and 1 point for a jumping class.

ELIGIBILITY AND SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

ANNEX A

1. The classification should apply to competitions for large, Intermediate, medium, and small dogs.
2. In the following definitions of classes First Prize or other prize wins are those gained in standard classes at any Kennel Club CLG., licensed Open Agility Shows (i.e. Special classes and invitation events excepted). Only a first place with clear round will count towards grade progression.
3. Societies may, if they so wish, limit the number of classes a dog may enter.
4. Societies may schedule classes other than those defined below. The eligibility for "Special" classes must be defined by the Society and included in the schedule. The word "Special" must be included in the title of the class.
5. Classes may be scheduled for Agility Shows, as Agility classes or Jumping classes. Agility classes to include contact obstacles and Jumping classes when there are no contact obstacles.
6. **Class Structure.** A Class may either be held as a Graded class or a Combined class. A Graded class may be scheduled for one or more consecutive Grades with separate results and awards issued for each grade. A Combined class may be scheduled for more than one consecutive grade with one overall set of results.
7. **Progression.** Progression from each Grade, up to grade 5, will require one clear round Agility win or three clear round Jumping wins at that grade at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced Agility Shows or other Kennel Club's recognised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG.
Progression from Grade 5 to Grade 6 will require three clear round wins at Irish Kennel Club Licenced Agility Shows only, at least one of these must be an agility class.
Progression from Grade 6 to Grade 7 will require four clear round wins at Grade 6 at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced Agility Shows only, at least two of these wins must be agility classes.
Dogs which fulfil these criteria must progress to the next grade. Results from Combined classes will only count towards progression from the dog's current grade.
Jumping wins under different Kennel Clubs cannot be combined for the purpose of progressing through the Grades.
8. **Points Progression.** At the handler's discretion, where a dog has not had a clear round Agility win or three clear round jumping wins, a dog may progress up to Grade 5 by winning 75 points at each grade, using the Agility Warrant points scheme, except that there is no requirement for a minimum number of agility points.
9. **STANDARD CLASSES**
Only first prizes or points gained in standard classes may be used for progression through the classes. (A dog is only eligible for one grade).
 - a. **Grade 1** - For handlers or dogs which have not gained a first place in an Agility Class or three first places in Jumping Classes at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed Agility Shows or any Kennel Club recognised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG. *N.B. Handlers or dogs previously qualified out of Grade 1, (Elementary) are not eligible for this class.*
 - b. **Grade 2** - For handlers or dogs which have qualified out of Grade 1 but have not gained a first place in an Agility Class or three first places in Jumping Classes at Grade 2 at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed Agility Shows or any Kennel Club recognised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG. or elected to progress on points from Grade 1. *N.B. Handlers or dogs previously qualified out of Grade 1, (Elementary) are not eligible for this class.*
 - c. **Grade 3** - Open to dogs which are not eligible for Grade 1 or 2 or have elected to progress on points from Grade 2 at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed Agility Shows or any Kennel Club recognised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and dogs which are not eligible for Grade 4, 5, 6 or 7.

- d. **Grade 4** - Open to dogs which have gained a first place in an Agility Class or three first places in Jumping Classes at Grade 3 or elected to progress on points from Grade 3 at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed Agility Shows or any Kennel Club recognised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and dogs which are not eligible for Grade 3, 5, 6 or 7.
- e. **Grade 5** - Open to dogs which have gained a first place in an Agility Class or three first places in Jumping Classes at Grade 4 or elected to progress on points from Grade 4 at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed Agility Shows or any Kennel Club recognised by the Irish Kennel Club CLG., and dogs which are not eligible for Grade 3, 4, 6 or 7.
- f. **Grade 6** - Open to dogs which have gained three first places at Grade 5, at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed Agility Shows only. At least one first place must be an agility (not Jumping) class, and dogs which are not eligible for Grade 3, 4, 5 or 7.
- g. **Grade 7** - Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of four first places at Grade 6 at Irish Kennel Club CLG., licensed Agility Shows only. Two first places must be gained in Agility (not Jumping) Classes.
- h. **Green Star Agility Class** - Open to dogs having qualified to compete in Grade 7. To consist of 2 rounds of Irish Kennel Club CLG., classes, 1 Agility class and 1 Jumping class.

10. Green Star Agility Class.

- a. Points will be awarded for placings in the Agility round and Jumping round. 1st place – 1 point, 2nd place – 2 points etc. to the final placed dog, eliminated dogs excepted.
- b. In the event of any tie the time/faults will be taken into account for both rounds to determine the placings, on the following basis: -
 - i. The dog with the least course faults in both the Agility and Jumping rounds takes the higher place.
 - ii. In the event that these dogs are still equal the dog with the fastest combined time takes the higher place.

SCHEDULE OF TESTS, COURSES, OBSTACLES AND MARKING

ANNEX B.

1. Courses.

- a. The following Regulations apply to the construction of courses:
 - 1. Test Area – Shall have a suitable surface and measure a minimum of 32m x 32m (35yds x 35yds) for outdoor venues. Indoor venues may be smaller but must be appropriate to the size of the Test.
 - 2. **Green Star Class.**
 - i. The Agility Rounds (Large, Intermediate, Medium, and Small) must contain the following elements: “A” Frame, Dog Walk, See Saw, Hurdles, Hoop (Tyre), Long Jump, Pipe Tunnel and Weaving Poles, together with any other obstacles as described in these Regulations, at the discretion of the Judge.
 - ii. The Jumping Round (Large, Intermediate, Medium, and Small) must contain the following elements: Hurdles, Hoop (Tyre), Long Jump, Pipe Tunnel and Weaving Poles and must exclude contact obstacles.
 - iii. In the event of extreme adverse weather conditions at a show, as judge, with the full agreement of the Show Secretary, may alter the compulsory equipment as deemed appropriate at the time. Any alterations to the equipment must be reported by the show management to the Irish Kennel Club CLG., within 14 days of the date of the show.

3. **Design** - The course should require a dog to traverse at least 15 obstacles but not more than 22 and all jump obstacles should be the same height in any class up to the permitted maximum except that no variation is permitted in the height of the Hoop (Tyre). All agility courses must contain all three pieces of contact equipment and at least 6 (six) weave poles. In the event of extreme weather conditions at a show a judge, with the full agreement of the Show Secretary, may alter the compulsory equipment as deemed appropriate at the time. Any alteration to the equipment must be reported by the show management to the Irish Kennel Club CLG. within 14 days of the date of the show. Obstacles which the dog is required to clear should have a minimum of 5m (5.47 yds) between centres except that this may be reduced to 2.74m (3 yds) when the following obstacle is placed at 90 degree or more to the preceding one. The distance between the finishing poles should be wide enough to allow a dog to pass through without impediment. Weave poles, tyre and wall can be negotiated only once in the course. The rising spread jump, tyre and long jump must be placed to allow a straight approach from the previous obstacle. The course may include up to a maximum of 5 tunnel performances.
 4. An appropriate set time for each course shall be calculated by the judge, who shall take into account the course length, the height category of the dogs competing, and the grade or grades of the dogs competing in the relevant class, together with any other relevant factors. The course length must be measured by the judge using a commercially available measuring wheel. The set time shall be stated by the judge before judging commences. Judges may elect to use UK system (straight line) or FCI system (dog's path) for measuring a course.
 5. **Safety** – Obstacles and equipment in the test area must not include unnecessary protrusions and where “wings” or side supports are part of an obstacle they must be appreciably higher than the part to be cleared by the dog.
 6. Under NO circumstances may any obstacle involve the use of FIRE.
 7. **Electronic Timing Equipment.** Societies must provide suitable electronic timing equipment for all Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced agility competitions. For the Green Star classes, time will also be recorded manually but electronic timing will take precedence. In the event of the electronic timing failing to work at either the start of or during the competition, then manual timing will be used for the entire competition or the remainder of the competition.
- b. The Judge is responsible for the design of the course and must, at all times, give total consideration to the safety of the dog.
 - c. No practice is allowed on the course save that competitor will be allowed to walk the course set at the height the dog is to negotiate without their dog(s) before the class begins.

2. Height Limit for Dogs.

- a. **Large Dogs** – For dogs measuring 480mm and over at the withers.
- b. **Intermediate Dogs** - For dogs measuring over 430mm and measuring 479.9mm or under at the withers.
- c. **Medium Dogs** - For dogs measuring over 350mm and measuring 429.9mm or under at the withers.
- d. **Small Dogs** - For dogs measuring 349.9mm or under at the withers.

3. **Obstacles.** – The following obstacles meet with the approval of the Committee of the Irish Kennel Club CLG. However, organisers may submit other obstacles for approval, if desired.
- a. **Hurdle.**
Large Dogs – to be between 550mm and 600mm.
Intermediate Dogs – to be between 450mm and 500mm.
Medium Dogs – to be between 350mm and 400mm.
Small Dogs – to be between 250mm and 300mm.
Width 1.219m minimum. The top bar or plank must be easily displaced by the dog. Where possible, only cups necessary to hold a pole at the appropriate height, to be placed on the wings of a jump.
- b. **Wall Jump** heights as per hurdles. The Wall must consist of separate closed elements – telescopic walls are not permitted. The wall should have 3 to 5 displaceable half rounded units on the top, the bottom and sides of the units must be closed. The depth of the units must be the same as the rest of the wall.
- c. **Rising Spread Jump** – A maximum of 2 single jumps as in Item (a)-Hurdle placed together to form a double spread, there must be no more than 2 elements to this obstacle. The top bar on the first hurdle must be at least 150mm to 250mm lower than the second hurdle. The length of the pole on the back hurdle must be 100mm to 200cm longer than the post on the front hurdle. The use of breakaway poles is permitted.
The maximum spread to be: Large Dogs – 500mm, Intermediate Dogs – 450mm, Medium Dogs - 400mm, Small Dogs - 300mm.
There must be only one pole on the back hurdle. The feet of the side supports (wings) should not be interlocking but touching and must not be out of line by more than 76mm.
- d. **Hoop (Tyre)** – Aperture diameter 457mm minimum.
Aperture centre from the ground: **Large Dogs** – 800mm,
Intermediate Dogs – 700mm, **Medium and Small Dogs** – 550mm.
The height of the hoop should not be lowered. The Hoop (Tyre) must be directly mounted in a substantial frame structure which must be secured in such a way that dogs cannot knock the obstacle over from either direction, the frame shall not have a beam across the top. The Hoop (Tyre) must be able to break away into 2 to 4 parts when a force equivalent to a weight of 8kg is exerted on it. The Hoop (Tyre) must have a consistent shape, constructed using an impact absorbing material.
- e. **Long Jump** - To comprise of 2 to 4 units. Each unit a minimum length of 1.219m. The height of the front unit to be between 127mm and 150mm, the height of the rear unit to be between 280mm and 381mm.
Large Dogs – to comprise of 4 units, the overall maximum length to be between 1200mm and 1500mm.
Intermediate Dogs – to comprise of 3 to 4 units, the overall maximum length to be between 900mm – 1100mm.
Medium Dogs – to comprise of 3 units the overall maximum length to be between 700mm and 900mm.
Small Dogs – to comprise of 2 units, the overall maximum length to be between 400mm – 500mm.
Marker poles with a minimum height of approximately 1.219m shall be used and should be placed at all four corners. They should not be attached to any part of the obstacle.
- f. **Pipe Tunnel** – This obstacle should have a diameter of a minimum of 609mm and should be a minimum of 3.048 in length.

- g. **Weaving Poles** – The minimum number of poles should be six (6) and the maximum number twelve (12). They should be a minimum of 457mm and a maximum of 609mm apart between the poles. The poles must be of rigid construction and with a minimum height of 762mm and a diameter between 19mm and 38mm.
- h. **“A” Ramp** – Two Ramps 2.74m long by 914mm wide hinged at the apex 1.7m from the ground. The last 1.067m from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp to have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 152mm of the start of the contact area.
- i. **See Saw** – This obstacle will consist of a plank firmly mounted on a central bracket. The length of the plank should be a minimum of 3.66m and a maximum of 4.267m. The width should be 254mm minimum and 305mm maximum with the height of the central bracket being a maximum of 685mm from the ground. The last 914mm from each end should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. The plank should have a non-slip surface with no slats.
- j. **Dog Walk** – A walk plank of 1.219m minimum to 1.372m maximum high with firmly fixed ramps at either end. The planks should be a minimum 3.66m and a maximum 4.267m in length and a minimum of 254mm and a maximum of 305mm in width. The last 914mm from the bottom of each ramp should be a different colour to indicate the area with which the dog should make contact. Each ramp should have a non-slip surface, and anti-slip slats at intervals but not within 152mm of the start of a contact area.

4. Height Classification of Dogs.

1. Dogs competing in small, medium, or intermediate height categories must be measured for competition. Competitors must ensure that their dog is measured prior to their first competition and that the dog’s Agility Record Book has been signed and dated by the measuring officials.
2. Large dogs entered for competition must be measured before they compete at their first agility show. Dogs must be a minimum of 15 months old before the first official measurement takes place. Dogs that are, in the official measurers’ opinion, obviously over 480mm prior to reaching 15 months of age can be measured. Dogs incapable of being measured at the time they are presented to the measuring officials will not be eligible for competition until such time that the official measurement has been successfully carried out.
3. A second measurement must be carried out on the dog between 12 and 24 months after the first unless the dog is obviously over 480mm, in which case the official measurers can strike out the second measurement in the Agility Record Book. The dog cannot be reclassified into the lower height category retrospectively if the second measurement is not taken up within the 24-month period. If the second measurement places the dog in the same height category as the first, this will be the final measurement. However, if the second measurement places the dog in a different category, then a third measurement must be carried out within two calendar months by two measurers, both of whom must not have measured the dog on a previous occasion. The dog’s height category will be that confirmed by two out of the three measurements. The dog should compete in the original height category until the final decision has been made.

4. The dog's signed Agility Record Book must be available for inspection by the Show Secretary and/or the Judge on the date of any competition entered by the owner/handler. The Irish Kennel Club CLG., will nominate officials authorised to measure dogs for competition and to sign the Agility Record Book. The record book must be notated 'small', 'medium', 'intermediate' or 'large' as determined by the official measurement.
5. The Irish Kennel Club CLG., will nominate officials authorised to measure dogs for competition and to sign the Agility Record Book. The record book must be notated 'small', 'medium', 'intermediate' or 'large' as determined by the official measurement.
6. Two authorised officials must carry out the measurement together and must use a measuring device approved by the Irish Kennel Club CLG.
7. Measurement must be carried out on a level and even surface, in a quiet place, separate from other dogs and handlers.
8. Measurement of the dog's height will be taken from the ground to the highest point of the withers. The dog must be standing squarely with all four legs on the ground, neither stretched nor crouched. The dog's head should be in a natural position.
9. Measuring devices will be a fixed 'hoop' type or measuring stick and must be of a type approved by the Irish Kennel Club CLG. A separate measuring device is required for measuring each of small, medium, intermediate, or large dogs.
10. Dogs presented for measurement should be wearing a collar and must be under the control of the owner/handler. Dogs presented for measurement that cannot be controlled by the owner/handler will not be measured. Where a dog is known to have a microchip or ear tattoo this form of identification should take precedence over a photograph and should be used to confirm the identity of the dog. If these types of identification are not available, a clear identifiable photograph must be used.
11. A dog will be eligible to compete in small, medium, or intermediate height categories only after the official measurement has been carried out. Where a dog is measured out of the height category in which it has been entered, it is permissible, at the discretion of the organising Club, for entries to be altered in order that the dog can compete at the correct height category.
12. If, at the time of the second official measurement, a dog is found to be eligible for a different height category than originally attested to, awards received at licensed shows up to the date of the second measurement will stand.
13. In the event of a dispute over the measuring procedure the Irish Kennel Club CLG., will evaluate whether there are grounds for appeal. The owner/handler of the dog may appeal in writing to the Irish Kennel Club CLG. but must do so within 30 days of the disputed measure having taken place. Any appeal must be accompanied by a written statement from the owner/handler of the dog with a brief description as to the ground for the appeal and must be accompanied by the appropriate fee.

5. Marking.

a. Standard marking (which must be used in standard classes).

All course faults in units of 5. For time faults see paragraph b below.

1. **See-Saw** – The dog must touch both the ascending and descending contact zone with at least one paw or part of a paw. The seesaw must be touching the ground before the dog alights from the obstacle. A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the pivot point.
2. **Long Jump** – A clean attempt should be made to clear the obstacle. Casual contact with the fore or hind legs will not be faulted. However, running past, jumping in and out to the side of the marker poles, or walking on or between the elements where no attempt has been made to clear the obstacle will be faulted as a refusal. Knocking down one or more elements will be marked as a 5 fault.
3. **Hurdle/Rising Spread Jump/Wall** – a dog should not be faulted if any part of the obstacle is touched and does not fall.
4. **Weaving Poles** – The dog to enter the weaving poles with the first pole adjacent to its left side. Each incorrect entry is to be classed as a refusal – further error, maximum 1 fault – failure to complete correctly before negotiating any further obstacle, elimination.
5. **“A” Frame** – The dog must touch the ascending ramp with all four paws, failure to do so will result in elimination. The dog must touch the descending contact zone with at least one paw or part of a paw. The dog that passes the top of the A Frame and touches the ground before having touched the descending ramp is eliminated. A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the descending ramp.
6. **Dog Walk** – The dog must touch the ascending ramp with all four paws, failure to do so will result in elimination. The dog must touch the descending contact zone with at least one paw or part of a paw. A dog is considered to have refused the obstacle if it alights before the descending ramp.
7. **All other obstacles** – fault for failure to negotiate correctly.
8. **Handler deliberately touching any piece of equipment or their dog** – 1 fault (5 points).
9. **Refusal/Run-out** – fault for each refusal/run-out.
10. **Three refusals/run-outs** – elimination.
11. **Out of control** – elimination.
12. **Taking the wrong course** - elimination.
13. **Fouling the ring** - elimination.
14. **Contact area** – fault for each failure to make contact with the descending contact zone on the A Frame or Dog Walk. Fault for each failure to make contact with the ascending and/or descending contact on the Seesaw.
15. **Course time** – at the judge’s discretion.
16. If the dog destroys an obstacle before it negotiates it or if the dog must re-negotiate it later in the course in such a way that it cannot be negotiated correctly – elimination.
17. If the handler knocks down or destroys an obstacle before the dog has negotiated it – elimination.

- 18. If the handler starts or stops the timing system – elimination.
- 19. If the handler starts the run before, he/she has permission from the judge to start – elimination.

General note: If the course is built in such a way that the dog, when running in its natural path, could take an additional obstacle after the run is finished, it is not considered as an elimination.

- b. Cumulative Marking/Time Faults – Faults incurred for failure to negotiate obstacles will be added to the faults incurred for failure to complete course in set time. A single fault or part thereof will be added for each second over the set time. Actual time will be recorded and rounding up or rounding down is not permitted.
- c. Other Marking – Any variation in the form of marking must be clearly defined to all competitions prior to competition. There will be no variation to standard marking in standard classes.
- d. No deviation from Irish Kennel Club CLG., Standard Marking is acceptable for Green Star Agility class.
- e. Where possible all master score sheets must be on public display at the show after the class is closed.

CRITERIA FOR ANNUAL IRISH KENNEL CLUB CLG., TOP IRISH AGILITY DOG AWARDS

The following criteria apply to all Irish Kennel Club CLG., licenced shows (Open and Championship) holding Agility tests from 1st January to 31st December each year, to determine the Top Irish Agility Small Dog, Top Irish Agility Medium Dog, Top Irish Agility Intermediate Dog and Top Irish Agility Large Dog for this period.

Results for Top Agility Dog to be submitted to the **Canine Activities and Sports Committee** of the Irish Kennel Club CLG., by the Handler / Owner.

Points are awarded as follows: -

- 1st place with clear round in any standard Agility Class which includes Grade 7 1 point
- Additional points for Green Star or C.A.C.I.A.G. 2 points

The Top Agility Dog, in each size category, will be the dog with the highest number of points overall. Points can be claimed for all relevant classes at a show.

Where there is a tie for the Top Agility Award, 2nd place with clear round in any Agility Class which includes Grade 7 will be counted, and so on until the winner is decided. Should there still be a tie after 4th places are counted, a joint award will be given.