



Agility Association of Canada

Rulebook Update v. 9.3 January 1, 2024

Please save or print this update and include it with your AAC Rulebook, v9.1a, effective April 2023. 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 January 1, 2024:

Bitches in Season allowed to compete in regular trials (including Open Special events) at the discretion of the host club. (230116, 211211). See Appendix F

3.10 Team Relay – Calculating Standard Course Time

Changes to the course measuring process with regards to exchange boxes in Team Relay (230314)

The Judge shall measure the distance of each side of the Team course separately, adding them together to determine the total course distance used to calculate SCT. The judge shall begin measuring the first side of the course, starting with the first obstacle of side A and finishing with the last obstacle of side A. No distance is to be measured to/from or between the exchange boxes. The second side of the course is measured, starting with the first obstacle of side B and finishing with the last obstacle of side B. Five (5) seconds is to be added to the calculated SCT to allow for team members to safely enter/exit their respective boxes.

5.5.1- Breakaway & Self-Healing Tire:

Breaking open of the tire to be faulted as a knocked bar (230608)

A breakaway tire is defined as a tire with a section that displaces and cannot be reset without human intervention. A self-healing tire is defined as a tire with a section that displaces and resets by itself without human intervention.

- A tire may be taken only once in any sequentially numbered course.
- In Gamblers and Snooker, at no time will the breakaway tire be reset by ring crew.
- Breaking the tire so that the two halves do not touch each other temporarily or in such a way that the tire resets or needs to be reset will be assessed 5 faults.

C 2.3 Flexible Tunnels - to specify the minimum number of tunnel bags on 10-, 15-, and 20-foot tunnels as follows:

“Clubs must provide at least six pairs of tunnel bags (or alternate means of securing the tunnel) for each 15 ft. Tunnel in use on the course, OR at least 45% tunnel coverage and at least seven pairs of tunnel bags OR at least 45% tunnel coverage for each 20 ft. tunnel. Tunnel bags must have non-elastic straps. Tunnel supports must not protrude into the tunnel or extend past the mouth of the tunnel. Tunnel supports must not significantly constrict the tunnel diameter, as this presents a safety hazard. Tunnel bags or other supports should be evenly spaced along the length of each tunnel. All 15-20 ft tunnels on course require a minimum of six and seven support locations, respectively.

One 10 foot (10ft.) long flexible tunnel is an optional piece of equipment requiring at least four pairs of tunnel bags, in addition to one or more 15-20’ tunnels (i.e., a 10 foot tunnel may not be the only tunnel provided). Ten foot tunnels

require a minimum of four pairs of tunnel bags or other supports OR at least 45% tunnel coverage, evenly placed along the length of the tunnel.” (230607)

Changes to Design and judging of Snooker (230631)

- 1) To adjust the yards per second (yps) requirement for Snooker design to an average of those used for Jumpers and Standard. (e.g. achievable path should fall under 3.0 yps for Starters, under 3.3 for Advanced, under 3.8 for Masters)
- 2) To change the design requirements for coloured obstacles in Snooker (Tables 3.8.5 and 3.8.6). Starters/Advanced design requirements to be the same as Masters with the exception of contacts or weaves in a combo. This is reserved for Masters only. At least two different elements out of the following list are required on course: contacts-weaves (6 or 12) – 2 obstacle combos – 3 obstacle combos. No restrictions on what #2/3/4/5/6/7 obstacles must be.
- 3) To specify the requirements of the cone approach in the opening of Snooker for combinations using a contact (allowed in Masters only). In Masters, if a contact is used in a combo, the approach from the previous obstacle **in that combo** must be in the approach cone. (Example: 6a is A-frame, 6b is jump. If designated bidirectional in the opening, approach from 6b to 6a must be in the approach cone. This is the only restriction on the use of contacts in the opening of snooker. Section 3.8.2.3

Requirement	STARTERS	ADVANCED	MASTERS
Mandatory obstacles on course	Must have at least NINE obstacles on the course Must have at least 2 <u>different</u> elements from the following on course; contact obstacles 6 or 12 weave poles 2 obstacle combos 3 obstacle combos		
Red jumps (1 point)	Single jump only, winged or non-winged, 3 or 4		
Two-point options	Any obstacle, any combo		
Three-point options	Any obstacle, any combo		
Four-point options	Any obstacle, any combo		
Five-point options	Any obstacle, any combo		
Six-point options	Any obstacle, any combo		
Seven-point options	Any obstacle, any combo		
Prohibited combinations	No weaves or contacts in combos i.e., combinations may only contain jumps and/or tunnels		None

B-Rule Changes Effective July 1, 2024:

Introduction of Biathlon Classes (231112)

A Biathlon Stream will be introduced as a pilot project starting July 1, 2024. It is intended that it will replace the current challenge class.

The current Challenge class format may be offered to the end of June 30, 2024.

Eligibility: The International Biathlon classes are “All Level”, open to all dogs eligible to compete in other AAC qualifying events at any performance level, and in any category. No pre-requisite is required. FEO runs are allowed.

The AAC’s International Biathlon is uniquely designed to be an Agility AND a Jumpers with Weaves class of the highest performance level available. It therefore offers **three** ways to qualify:

Dogs who run BOTH the Agility and JWW rounds under SCT (Time PLUS Faults) will earn an INTERNATIONAL BIATHLON qualifier.

Dogs who run CLEAN under SCT in the Agility Round will earn a Standard Agility qualifier, at whatever level they are currently competing. Running without fault will be equivalent to a Standard qualifier at Masters/Advanced/Starters level.

Dogs who run CLEAN under SCT in the JWW Round will earn a Jumpers qualifier, at whatever level they are currently competing.

A dog who has faults in the Agility class may not earn a Standard qualifier and/or a dog who has faults in the JWW class may not earn a Jumpers qualifier; but that dog may still earn an International Biathlon qualifier if their faults are low enough to be able to run under (T+F) SCT for both rounds.

International Biathlon is recommended to be offered and entered as a combined entity over TWO rounds, (the Agility and JWW classes), where a Biathlon qualifier and Standard/Jumpers qualifiers can both be obtained. However, the classes may be offered or entered as individual rounds only, in which case the qualifiers would be limited to Standard/Jumpers qualifiers only. The two rounds can be run on one day or split over 2 or 3 days.

In trials where only 1 round is offered, or only 1 round is entered by the competitor there is only the possibility of obtaining the Standard or Jumpers level qualifier. There are no 0.5 Biathlon qualifiers.

Judging: Design for these courses will be limited to Masters level judges who have completed AAC Board approved upgrading training and/or have International handling experience, and/or Judges from other Organizations with relevant experience. May be judged by any Masters level judge, regardless of who the designing judge is. Judged in accordance with current Masters Standard performance rules. It would not be necessary to get pre-approval from the AAC to hire a separate designing judge specifically for the Biathlon courses. There is also no limit to how many times a club uses a separate designing judge for the Biathlon courses.

Biathlon Course Times

The Standard Course Time (SCT) will be determined using the yards per second range below and the yardage as wheeled.

3.3 – 3.8 yards/sec in Standard and 3.8 – 4.6 yards/sec in JWW.

MCT will be calculated at 20 seconds over Mini Vet SCT.

Table 2.10.1b - Suggested YPS Ranges to be used for each Division, including Calculation of Mini Division Times

Class	Division		
	<i>Mini</i>	<i>Medium</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Biathlon Agility</i>	3.3-3.4	3.4-3.6	3.6-3.8
<i>Biathlon Jumping</i>	3.8-4.0	4.0-4.3	4.3-4.6

Scoring

Because one of the goals of the Biathlon stream is to promote speed and intensity, the scoring for the International Biathlon classes will be scored as Time PLUS Faults. Faults will be judged based on the Regional/National scoring guidelines and then converted to seconds, to be added to the course time. In order to earn an International Biathlon qualifier a dog must run under the SCT after their time and faults have been combined, in both the Biathlon Jumpers AND the Biathlon Agility rounds.

At the same time, the scoring for the Individual rounds will be scored as Faults first then time, for both the Individual Jumping and Individual Standard qualifiers. For Jumping and Agility qualifiers the runs must have No faults and be under SCT to earn a qualifier. Agility Rocks will be able to automatically support this dual scoring for qualifiers, with the scorekeeper only inputting the faults and time, there will be no change for judging/inputting scores.

Titles

Standard Agility and Jumpers Qualifiers

Standard and Jumpers qualifiers, earned in International Biathlon classes will go towards the appropriate titles at the dog's current level (Starters/Advanced/Masters)

Example: A dog in Masters Standard and Advanced Jumpers runs the International Biathlon courses. In both Biathlon Agility and JWW runs clean and under SCT. The dog earns a Masters Standard qualifier, an Advanced Jumpers qualifier AND an International Biathlon qualifier.

International Biathlon Qualifiers/Titles

International Biathlon qualifiers (earned under at least 2 judges) will be applied toward the titles of:

"International Biathlon Dog of Canada" (IBDC)	3 International Biathlon qualifiers
"Expert International Biathlon Bronze" (EXIB Bronze)	6 International Biathlon qualifiers
"Expert International Biathlon Silver" (EXIB Silver)	12 International Biathlon qualifiers
"Expert International Biathlon Silver" (EXIB Gold)	25 International Biathlon qualifiers
"Expert International Biathlon Platinum" (EXIB Platinum)	50 International Biathlon qualifiers

Accessibility (231115)

In order to clarify the purpose of the Accessibility category, the name and designation will be changed to “Accessibility Option”. The designation “SD” on entry forms to be changed to “AO”.

Section 2.7.2.6

Senior handlers 65 years and over, and handlers *of any age* with a disability may request a modified course time and a modified points requirement (see below for details). Handlers can choose this option at any given trial, provided they use the **Accessibility Option** for the whole of the trial.

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

Proof of disability or age will *not* be requested by the host club. A handler must indicate on the entry form (i.e., by checking the **AO** box) if they are requesting an **Accessibility Option** in order to receive the modified times/reduced number of points.

Broad Jump Specifications (231207)

Standardizing number of boards required.

Table C2.4.2.4 – Number of boards required for the Broad Jump

Jump Height	Total Span to be Jumped	Ascending		Variance for soft foam broad jumps only	
		No. of boards	Max. Height*	No. of boards	Max. Height*
8”	16”	2	4”	2	6”
12”	24”	2 or 3	6”	2 or 3	7.5”
16”	32”	3	6”	3	8.5”
20”	40”	4	8”	4	9.5”
24”	48”	4 or 5	8”	4 or 5	9.5”

Tire Height (231208)

Height of the tire to be dropped by one (1) jump height for each division/category (with the exception of the 4” jump height). The height is measured from the bottom of the tire's centre opening to the ground.

Jump Height	Tire Height
4”	4”
8”	4”
12”	8”
16”	12”
20”	16”
24”	20”

Tugging on Leashes (231209)

Tugging in the ring before the start of the run and after the end of the run should be allowed without penalty. Tugging could be on a leash or a toy, however the toy **MUST** be attached to the leash. The attached toy must not contain food. The leash/toy is to be placed at the exit of the ring and cannot be kept by the handler throughout the run. (i.e. on their person). The leash/toy should be placed by a ring crew member in such a way that it is clearly not a target at the end of the run. During team, tugging would be allowed in the box, but that should be discussed by the handlers. The following changes to the AAC Official Rules and Regulations are approved:

2.5.6.6. Leash Runner - add after, away from the last obstacle, in the 3rd line, "in such a way that it is not a target for the dog at the end of run."

2.11.2 General Faults - Leashes in the Ring – add "Leashes used as toys or with toys attached must be placed at the ring exit and cannot be placed in a handler's pocket or otherwise it becomes an FEO run."

Food in an FEO run (231210)

Use of sealed food containers in the ring during an FEO run will be allowed. Food containers must be made of such material, structure and in such a way as to ensure there is no leakage of crumbs or treats, and no chance of accidental spillage should the container be tossed, dropped or grabbed by the dog. The handler cannot feed the dog during the run, or in the ring.

The following changes to the AAC Official Rules and Regulations are approved:

2.5.6.3. Gate Steward – add the words "or food container" in brackets after with toy. Should read "with toy, or food container, if appropriate).

2.6.1.1 FEO with Toy - Change "handlers maybe permitted to take a toy into a declared FEO run". To "Handlers may be permitted to take a toy and/or sealed food container into a declared FEO run but cannot feed the dog during the run or in the ring.

2.11.2 General Faults - Performance Enhancing Items in the Ring – remove the word "toys" as the 3rd word. Add the words "or sealed food container" to the last sentence after suitable toy.

Appendix A – Scoring Summary - Add the words in brackets. Food, toys (unless attached to the leash), or training devices (including timers) on course, unless run is FEO with Toy

Judges required to use 5ft bars on backside jump approaches (230809)

Clubs are requested to include the number of 5ft bars they have available when sending the equipment list to their judges.