



# Regional & National Judging Guidelines

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March 2011 – AMENDMENTS and CLARIFICATION

**IT WAS AGREED THAT ALL CURRENT RULES MUST BE APPLIED *UNLESS* AN EXEMPTION IS INCLUDED IN THE REGIONALS/NATIONALS GUIDELINES AND/OR AMENDMENTS.**

## **Obstacle Repetition:**

Obstacle Repetition, as per the rule book, will be briefed as anyone intentionally repeating an obstacle will get **zero points** and will leave the course at standard course time. The run will still be counted as part of the aggregate scoring.

This is an interpretation from the existing rule book:

*"Obstacle Repetition: If a handler directs the dog to repeat an obstacle already performed (as defined for each obstacle in Section 5, Obstacle Performance Standards) in a class, other than gamblers or snooker and not as required by the flow of the course, all scoring shall cease and the timer will be notified by the judge to sound the whistle at Standard Course Time (SCT). The dog and handler must leave the course at the sound of the whistle and will be eliminated for the purpose of scoring."*

## **Gamble Issues:**

*When can the handler cross a mini gamble line:*

The dog shall earn full points for performing a mini-gamble in the opening once the dog, on the final obstacle, has either touched the yellow down contact, or has completely exited the tunnel, weaves, jump or tire and has four feet on the ground. At this point the dog is considered as 'beyond faulting'. They will then be awarded the mini-gamble points, and the handler can cross the mini-gamble line. If a dog does not fully exit a contact obstacle (does not have four feet on the ground) they will not be awarded mini-gamble points the second time even if all mini-gamble obstacles are performed since they did not start the second performance of the contact obstacle correctly. They will still, however, be awarded the points for the individual obstacles.

*Purposely touching the dog in the opening*

As per the current rules, if a handler purposely touches the dog as a form of encouragement or reward in the opening sequence, the run instantly becomes an FEO run. The judge will continue to judge appropriately for the game but for the purposes of scoring at Regionals and Nationals, the dog will get **zero points**. The run will still count towards the aggregate score.

## Unsportsmanlike Behaviour

As per the current rules, at any time during gamblers, if a handler maneuvers through, goes over or under equipment the action will be deemed unsportsmanlike and the handler will be dismissed from the course. For scoring purposes, **zero points** will awarded to that run. The run will still count towards the aggregate score.

This, by no means, limits the interpretation of unsportsmanlike behaviour.

## Final Gamble

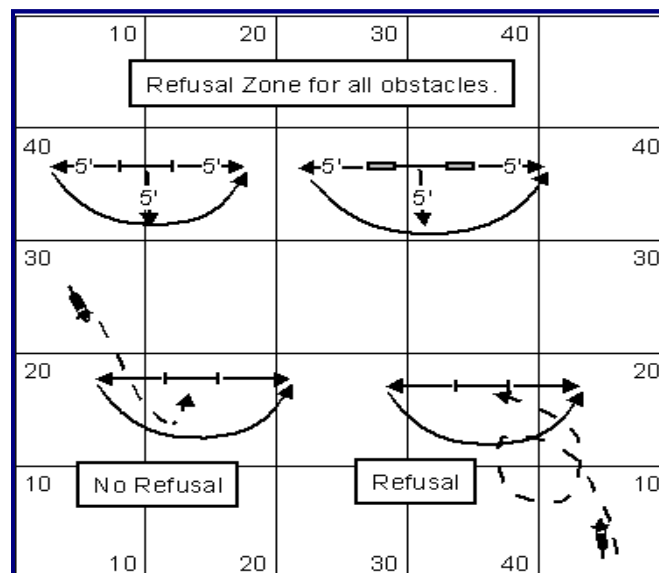
Once the gamble whistle blows, the gamble line becomes live and the handler is required to stay behind the line, even if the dog has not yet begun the closing sequence. If the handler is inside the gamble area when the whistle blows, the handler must leave the gamble area immediately. (*Effective February 17, 2011*)

In the event that the handler does not hear the signal (whistle, horn bell, etc.) to start the closing gamble, the judge may inform the handler that the first signal has sounded. No additional points following the end of the opening period will be awarded unless the team completes the final gamble successfully.

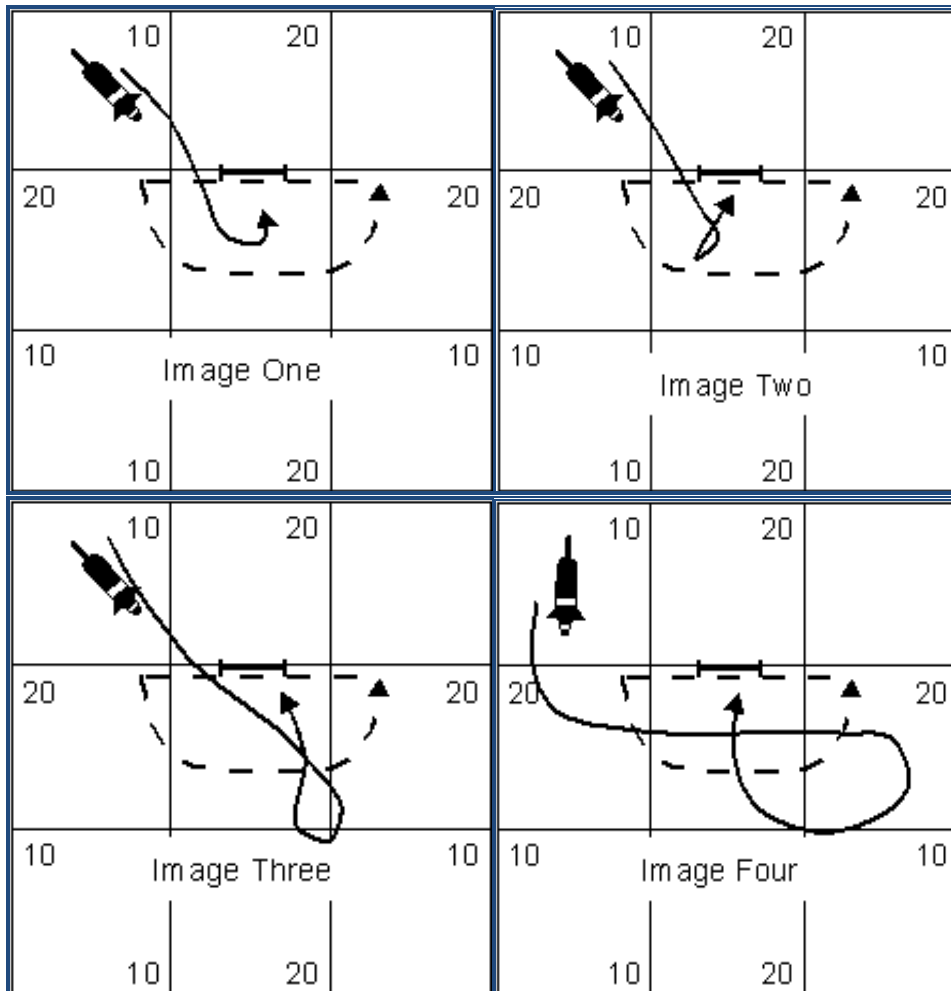
Since the crossing of the finish line stops the actual course time, a handler that attempts the gamble after the final signal (indicating allotted gamble time is up) will not complete the final gamble successfully, as they are over time, but all points earned during the 40 second opening period will be retained.

## Refusals

All judges shall judge refusals using the 5 foot range as defined in the current clinic book. The dog may not be called for a refusal if the dog is approaching the jump from behind and must turn around to get into the approach area on any obstacle, **unless** it has passed through the refusal zone first, as below. The dog must be on approach on the correct side of the obstacle to be considered for a refusal. Any spin where the dog is in the refusal bubble will incur a refusal.



None of the situations in the following four images are refusals:



## Electronic Timing & Start Lines

The dog must be lined up on the approach side of the first obstacle to start their run. The reason for this is that, should there be a timer malfunction, all dogs will have the same start line (whether they were timed with the e-timer or with the stopwatch).

## E-Timer Malfunction

*(Ruling effective at the 2010 national Championships.)*

1. In the event that a dog runs clean but cannot be assigned a time due to timer malfunction, the handler will have a choice of running again for time only OR accepting a score equivalent to a clean run at standard course time.



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- a. IF the handler elects to rerun for time only, then they must run the entire course as it is designed without any non-completions. This is to ensure that the handler still maintains a degree of accuracy while rerunning.
  - b. In the event that the team incurs a non-completion they will be whistled off and the score will be reverted to a score equivalent to a clean run at standard course time.
  - c. Should the rerun be over the SCT then the time faults will be applied.
2. In the event that a dog that DOES NOT run clean but cannot be assigned a time due to timer malfunction, the handler will have a choice of running again with a clean slate (all new faults & time would count) or to keep their current score with the Standard Course Time.

## Off-course

Dogs that have gone off course shall be faulted one wrong course penalty for the wrong course until either the dog has interacted with the correct course piece (i.e.: physically touched, jumped, entered the plane of weaves) OR has returned to the correct course piece AND have filled the requirements to be assessed a refusal. The dog shall then be assessed a refusal **and** another off course if the dog performs another, or the same, incorrect obstacle. No further faults such as knocked bars, missed contacts, running through the weaves etc. are called while the dog is on a wrong course.

## Off course/refusal

If a dog runs by an obstacle within the refusal zone breaking the refusal plane and then turns and back jumps the jump (or goes off course with another piece), the dog will be assessed **only** an off-course (not a refusal and an off-course).

## Off course/non-completion

If a dog fails to perform an obstacle, a non-completion is assessed.

- a) If the dog runs by the obstacle they are to perform and continues on to the next *correct* obstacle in sequence, without attempting the previous obstacle, the dog will be assessed **only** a non-completion fault.
- b) If the dog runs by the obstacle they are to perform and takes the wrong entrance or back jumps, or takes an obstacle that is not the next obstacle in sequence, they will be assessed an off course immediately. To get back on course, the dog must either be brought back to attempt the missed obstacle or continue in sequence. If they get back in sequence, without returning and performing the missed obstacle(s), they will be assessed non-completions for each missed obstacle **as well as** the initial off-course.



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## Double Jump

To create equity in the appearance of the double jump, all double jumps will be set with an X formation of the bottom two bars.

## Teeter

To ensure consistency in judging calls across all regions, dogs bailing off the teeter before the midpoint or fulcrum will be assessed a refusal. The teeter will be considered performed if the dog is assessed faults for a fly-off (regardless if the plank passed through the horizontal). In the standard rounds, to re-attempt the teeter after a fly-off will incur a repeated obstacle penalty.

## Tunnels

Judges are encouraged to mark all tunnel shapes and exits at the Regionals and Nationals and use a minimum of two bags (if available) on the entrance (or wherever needed) to hold tunnels for big dogs. Grass paint or golf tees with marking tape may be used.

## Course Building (and Tweaking)

If at all possible Judges should tweak similar courses together to ensure similarity of course design when two rings are needed. It is suggested that one judge wheels both courses to ensure similar yardage results.

## Disciplinary Procedure

1. If **you witness** an act of dog aggression in your ring area, the dog must be dismissed - either from the class, the day or the trial site altogether - and a judge's report needs to be submitted with the results. You should also inform the victim of their right to lodge a complaint to the DC and it is highly recommended, for expediency, that the complaint & all witness reports be gathered that day (or by the end of the trial at the latest) and included with the results to be sent to the administrator.
2. If a competitor comes forward with a complaint about an act of aggression by another dog that **you did not witness**, the trial committee needs to be informed and they must investigate the complaint. The trial committee may consult with one or all of the officiating judges, with the accused and the complainant, and a decision agreed upon before the next class. A trial report must be written up and submitted with the results to the administrator. The complainant should be notified of their right to make a formal, written complaint to the DC and, to expedite the disciplinary procedure, the forms and witness reports should be gathered before the end of the weekend and sent in with the results to the administrator.

## Handler/Dog Injury

In the case of injury to a handler or dog(s), and the dog(s) *have not attained* the points necessary to attend Nationals, the following options are available:

1. The injured handler withdraws as handler for ALL dogs but may designate one substitute handler for all dogs or a different substitute handler for each dog.
  - a. If the injury occurred during a run, any faults that were incurred before the handler suffered injury, or indicated that they could not continue handling, will be included in the score of the re-run by the substitute. The substitute handler(s) must continue to run the dog(s) for the remainder of the competition.
2. The injured handler withdraws, or the handler withdraws an injured dog, from the competition completely.
  - a. If the injury to the dog occurred during a run, the handler must have the officiating judge (at the time of injury) write up a brief description of the incident and sign the note or letter or scribe sheet confirming the injury and include it with their application.
  - b. If the injury to the dog occurred outside of the competition ring, appropriate documentation (for example: vet note, witness statement) must accompany their application.

The handler may then

- a. Apply to the NSC to run in the Pre-Qualifier at the Nationals or
- b. Apply to the NSC to attend a different Regionals, providing they can meet the entry deadlines.

If the dog(s) *have attained* the necessary points to attend Nationals, the handler may opt to let the results stand and withdraw from competition to prevent further injury to handler or dog. However, to be considered for aggregate placements, the dog must have participated in all 6 official Regional (or National) runs.

*Nationals Steering Committee*