

# Svenska Agilityklubben (the Swedish agility club): comments on the FCI Agility regulations, February 2015

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## Obstacles

- ***Lower the height of the A-frame***
- ***Reduce the length of the exit part on the flat tunnel***
- ***The anti-slip slats must be of contrasting colour***
- ***Three different jumping heights on the tyre for small/medium/large***

The motivation for these changes is security, health and justice.

- ***Abolish the table as an approved obstacle***

To stop during 5 seconds in the middle of a run deviates from the basic feeling in modern agility which is for the dog, by the guidance of the handler, to float swift and smooth through the course. A table without electronic timing device lacks in sporting justice, such an electronic device, if dependable, makes the obstacle expensive. The table is probably on its way out in several countries, and it's only used sporadically in the World Agility Championship.

## Judging

3° Elimination

- ***Abolish "Stopping on the course because the handler retires (unless instructed by the judge)"***

This wording is difficult to understand. What does "retire" mean? When will a judge instruct a handler to retire?

## Classes, Qualifications and results

QUALIFICATION / AGILITY CERTIFICATE (page 10)

- ***Remove all, move or rewrite the text?***

What is an FCI Agility Certificate? Is it issued by the FCI? Does any country arrange international class 1 and 2? Is it necessary to describe these lower classes in the FCI regulations? As a whole, the text is somewhat confusing.

RESULTS (page 11)

- ***Remove paragraph 2, and always let the time decide when the errors are the same***

To morally separate course faults and time faults in this way is doubtful, technically problematic, and also unnecessary since this coincidence is extremely rare.

#### ELIGIBILITY TO ENTER COMPETITIONS (page 12)

##### *a) International agility tests*

- ***Dogs without a pedigree should be allowed to compete in international competitions.***

Agility is a competitive sport for all dogs and is not aimed at breeding evaluation. To prohibit dogs without pedigree to take part serves no purpose. Some kind of competition license may instead be demanded. In most countries these dogs may compete in national competition, it's therefore neither logical nor fair to restrict their participation at international competitions. (These opinions does not deal with championships)

##### *b) National agility tests*

- ***Remove the text.***

The demands to compete in national competitions are decided by the respective national canine organization. This text is therefore unnecessary and confusing.

#### TESTS / CATEGORIES & CLASSES (page 12)

##### 1° Official agility tests sanctioned by the FCI

- ***See the above remarks on dogs without pedigree, FCI Agility certificate and class 1 and 2.***

##### 2° Unofficial agility tests

- ***Remove all text referring to unofficial tests.***

There is no reason to include unofficial competitions and classes in the FCI regulations. This only takes up space and creates confusion.

#### **Requirements to get the title of International Agility Champion**

- ***Introduce an international champion title in jumping class***
- ***Remove the demand for show merits (the grading "Good")***

Jumping class is increasingly becoming an equal part of competing in agility. Jumping champion titles are available in many countries. The FCI Agility Regulations describes jumping class and agility class as classes of equal value. Jumping classes make up half of the FCI Agility Championship. A champion title also in jumping class would increase interest in international competitions and there is no reason to fear any widespread specialization in just jumping (dogs competing only in jumping class).

Agility is not a discipline for breed selection. There is no reason for a show result as a part of the requirements for the champion title. The suitability of a dog for agility is not evaluated at dog shows.

## **Points for discussion**

### **Size categories**

A major opinion in Sweden wants more size groups for health reasons and fairness for all dogs. In other words, there is a widespread discontent with the FCI size categories. At the same time there is a great desire for internationally coordinated rules. For some the coordination with FCI rules is more important. Many who want changes prefer a solution with five categories compatible with current FCI classification. Five size categories would mathematically provide conditions for great justice for all dogs regardless of breed and size. More categories may also entail disadvantages since the sport to some extent would become more complicated and fragmented. A general idea in Swedish opinion is that jump heights levels should be lowered overall.

### **Contacts**

A major opinion in Sweden wants to cancel the judging of the up contacts of the dog walk, see-saw and A-frame. Are the original reasons for the up contacts as valid today as they used to be? The motivation for removing them differs between these obstacles. In the dog walk the main reason is the difficulty in judging both contacts as the speed of the dogs increases with time. In the A-frame the reasons are security and dog health. Regarding the see-saw the reasons are not as strong.