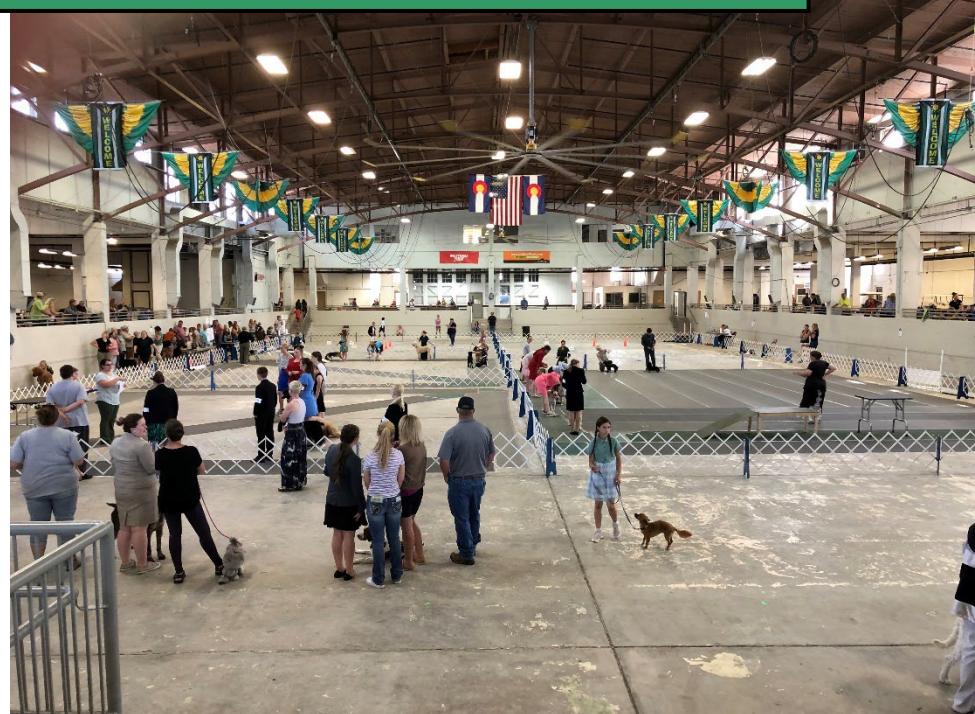


Colorado  
State Fair  
2025

State 4-H Dog Trials  
State 4-H Dog Agility Trials



# COLORADO STATE FAIR STATE 4-H DOG TRIALS 2025 RULES

**Entry deadline is 5:00PM on Monday, August 4, 2025, for the State 4-H Dog Trials.**  
**For counties with late qualifying dog shows, late entries must be approved by the state 4-H office in advance. Otherwise, no late entries will be accepted.**

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## Dog Contest Superintendents

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Brian Christie..... Tabulation & Agility Superintendent  
Alicia Christie..... Tabulation Superintendent  
Sabrina Christie..... Tabulation Superintendent  
Dennis Corash ..... Showmanship Superintendent  
Amber Hansen..... Obedience Superintendent  
Anne Janicki ..... Rally & Rally Team Superintendent  
Anna Parrish..... Volunteer Superintendent  
Lisa Sholten..... Extension State 4-H Specialist  
Dawn Sanchez..... Extension State 4-H Specialist



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# DOG TRIALS



## Dates and Registration Information

**Note: We are going back to our pre-2024 schedule.**

**Saturday, August 16th:** All Obedience Classes; Rally: Intermediate, Advanced, Excellent, Advanced/Excellent (RAE) and Masters; Rally Team Classes at the Ag Palace in the Colorado State Fairgrounds, 1001 Beulah Ave, Pueblo, CO 81004

**Sunday, August 17th:** All Showmanship classes and Novice Rally Classes at the Ag Palace in the Colorado State Fairgrounds, 1001 Beulah Ave, Pueblo, CO 81004

**Sunday, September 14th:** Agility Dog Trials at the El Paso County Fairgrounds at 366 10th St., Calhan, CO 80808 (Note: There will be an Agility Clinic on Saturday, Sept. 13 at the fairgrounds.)

Note all rings will have a scheduled closure sometime between 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM for a lunch break. Breaks will be scheduled at the judge's discretion and communicated through the speaker system at the show.

**Participant's Entry Fee:** \$25 per 4-H exhibitor

**Registration Deadline:** August 4, 2025, for both the State 4-H Dog Trials (Showmanship, Obedience, Rally) and the State 4-H Agility Trials.

**No registration changes will be made the day of the shows. The county will complete the online portion of the state fair dog contest registration process on behalf of its participants.**

Each county office will issue one check (or internal transfer) payable to CSU Extension for County entry total.

### **Mail by September 30 to:**

CSU Extension, State 4-H Office  
Attn: State Fair Contests  
4040 Campus Delivery  
Fort Collins, CO 80523-4040

All 4-H Dog IDs (including health certificates, vaccination records, and Veterinarian documents) must be current and entered into 4-H Online.

**NOTE: The 2025 Volunteer Help Form will be web-based and sent to all 4-H dog exhibitors and leaders prior to the event. Watch for more details! We will need at least 18 volunteers on Saturday and at least 15 volunteers on Sunday to help put on the State 4-H Dog Trials.**

**The State 4-H Dog Trials is a 4-H show. As such, 4-H youth development principles are of primary importance.**

## **GENERAL DOG CONTEST RULES**

1. The State 4-H Dog Trials will be held Saturday and Sunday, August 16 and 17, 2024. The event will be held at the Colorado State Fair Palace of Agriculture (Ag Palace) in Pueblo. Check-in will begin at 7:30 a.m., and exhibitors are expected to check in no later than 8:30 a.m. on the day(s) they are showing.

2. A test will be administered to contestants entered in Showmanship. Exhibitors will have an assigned time to complete the Showmanship Test. If an exhibitor does not take the test, then that portion of the showmanship score sheet will result in a score of zero.
3. Prior to entering State 4-H Dog Trials, the exhibitor and dog **must** have the proper qualifying scores for each entered division. For specific scores please see the division sections.
4. If any youth will need additional assistance during the live show or the showmanship tests, an email must be sent to the 4-H Specialist Superintendent(s) within two days of the August 4 entry deadline. Day of accommodations will be adjusted as needed with the understanding there will be limitations.
5. Dates of approved currently effective vaccination of the dog for rabies, parvo, and canine distemper **must** be provided on the State 4-H Dog ID. Each entrant is required to complete the **State Dog Identification on 4-H Online** and have it on file in their Extension Office by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**. This information will be used at the State 4-H Dog Trials so make sure that all 4-H Dog exhibitors have completed this Dog ID. **Dogs who do not have a complete Dog ID in 4-H Online by May 1 will not be allowed to compete at the State 4-H Dog Trials.**

**The following information on vaccinations and titers have been provided by veterinarians at Colorado State University:**

Recommendations to minimize the chance of infectious disease spread at the State 4-H Dog Show by Ragan Adams, MA, DVM Veterinary Extension Specialist, CSU, and Dr. Michael Lappin DVM, PhD, DACVIM \*

- 1) Bordetella is strongly encouraged but not required.
- 2) Show proof of vaccination for canine distemper virus and parvovirus within 3 years or serum titers indicating proof of effective immunity.
- 3) Current Rabies vaccination certificate. Titers are **not** accepted. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- 4) Do not bring dogs who have shown signs of respiratory (sneeze, nasal discharge, or cough), gastrointestinal (vomiting or diarrhea), or skin disease (open sores, crusty skin patches, or increased scratching) within 7 days prior to show.
- 5) Be prepared to have a cursory physical examination performed on your dog before entering the show grounds. Dogs with physical evidence of respiratory disease, gastrointestinal disease, or skin disease may have an infectious disease which could risk the health of other participants and will not be admitted on the show grounds.
- 6) While at the show keep your dog(s) to themselves, do not share equipment between dogs from different households or kennels.
- 7) Wash hands after handling other dogs and before handling your own dog.
- 8) Question about which reference to use on titers: See AAHA guidance:  
<https://www.aaaha.org/aaaha-guidelines/vaccination-canine-configuration/antibody-testing-versus-vaccination/>
- 9) CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory guidance for titer explanation: from Christie Mayo.

Canine distemper virus (CDV) antibody SN Canine distemper titers of less than 1:2 (<1:2) indicate lack of immunity and susceptibility to infection with the field virus. Titers of 1:2-1:16 indicate limited protection against the field virus. Titers of 1:32 and higher indicate probable protective immunity; higher titers indicate better protection.

Canine parvovirus (CPV2) antibody HI Canine parvovirus titers of less than 1:8 (<1:8) indicate lack of immunity and susceptibility to infection with the field virus. Titers of 1:16-1:32 indicate limited protection against the field virus. Titers of 1:64 and higher indicate probable protective immunity; higher titers indicate better protection.

\*Dr. Mike Lappin is the Kenneth W. Smith professor in Small Animal Internal Medicine in the Department of Clinical Sciences at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at Colorado State University in Fort Collins, Colorado. He is also Director of Companion Animal Studies.

6. Proof of Rabies vaccination **must** come from a licensed veterinarian, or the dog is not legally considered vaccinated. If the exhibitor's dog receives Rabies immunizations which are given by anyone who is not a Colorado State licensed veterinarian, these immunizations will not be recognized by law should the dog bite someone.
7. Hybrid dogs (wolf/coyote) will not be allowed to enter the Colorado State 4-H Dog Trials.
8. Parents/Guardians and 4-H members are responsible for the safety, supervision, and behavior of their animals at all times.
9. Dogs which are deemed to be a danger to people or other dogs can and will be removed from the show grounds and all classes forfeited. This will be determined by a consensus of the Superintendents with final consideration by the State 4-H Office staff.
10. A dog that bites, nips, or makes contact in an aggressive manner which results in abrasions or bodily injury to a person or other animal will be immediately removed from the show grounds for the duration of the state dog contest. County 4-H staff will be notified, so they can monitor safety at other 4-H Dog events.
11. All entrants will be responsible for cleaning up after their dogs. Failure to do so can be a basis for dismissal from the State Fair 4-H Dog Show and/or forfeiture of any placing.
12. State Fair 4-H Dog Show officials and/or staff can and will dismiss any entrant or his/her family from the show for any mistreatment of dogs entered in this show. If a question should arise as to what constitutes "mistreatment," State 4-H Office staff and/or officials will meet to decide appropriate action in each case.
13. Any negative behavior on the part of the exhibitor, family exhibitors or leaders directed toward any official will result in disqualification and awards forfeited. If there is a question as to the rules or the judging of a class, adult family exhibitors or leaders must approach the Superintendent of that division and **not the judge**. The Superintendents will then take the question to the judge if warranted.
14. The 4-H Agent Superintendent(s) will have final decision authority in partnership with the State 4-H Office. If needed, the 4-H Agent Superintendent(s) may request assistance with arbitration from a committee comprised of the show Superintendents, the judge (if willing), and the leader and/or agent from County involved (if present).
15. Protests must be submitted in writing and presented to the Superintendent(s) within 24 hours after judging is announced. Protests will be handled first by the Superintendent(s) and then reviewed by State 4-H Office personnel. A fee of \$50 must accompany any protest. If the protest is upheld, the fee will be returned. If the protest is not upheld, the fee will be kept and deposited into the State 4-H Office account.
16. **Colorado State 4-H Dress Code:** This dress code is to be followed by all Junior, Intermediate, and Senior 4-H exhibitors, as well as adult leaders, advisors, and chaperones at all Colorado State 4-H sponsored events including but not limited to the Colorado State Fair 4-H Dog Trials. Deviations from the dress code will result in a request to change. This dress code is not subject to personal interpretation. A state officer, adult leader, advisor, or chaperone may deem clothing inappropriate. In addition, some activities or events will have specific dress requirements that will need to be followed. The Dog Trials recommend Business Casual. For guidelines see: <https://co4h.colostate.edu/resources/dress-code.pdf>.
  - A. **Appropriate dress consists of:**
    - Clothing worn by participants should be neat, clean, and practical for the activity occurring.
    - Clothes are free of any reference to drugs, alcohol, sex, profanity, violence, political affiliation, or anything that alludes to violations of the 4-H Code of Conduct.
    - Pants, shorts, skirts should be long enough to ensure safety and comfort in the activity occurring.
    - All other clothing must cover undergarments.
    - Shoes must be worn always. Proper foot attire for dog showing are shoes which are closed-toed. **No flip-flops, sandals, or other open-toed shoes will be allowed in the show ring for any class.**
  - B. Appropriate clothing must be worn in all dog show classes, including Obedience and Rally. Not only in the rings but when you are out of the ring.
  - C. The exhibitor will be given 5 minutes to change into an appropriate outfit if the judge or Superintendent deems their clothing inappropriate.
  - D. If the clothing has been deemed inappropriate by a judge or Superintendent, the exhibitor can be denied the opportunity to show their dog until the clothing has been changed.

E. It is always a good idea to have another person observe you before you go into the ring making sure that the clothing you are wearing is appropriate when running, bending, stooping, or kneeling while showing your dog. If it is not, it is advisable to change clothes.

F. **Exhibitors need to stay in their dress clothes for Showmanship until runoffs are announced.**

17. The general age groups for Dog Project are:

- **Junior** 8-10 years
- **Intermediate** 11-13 years
- **Senior** 14-18 years

Age is determined by the exhibitor's age as of December 31st of the current 4-H year.

18. Exhibitors are encouraged to use service gate #6 on Small Avenue to enter the fairgrounds. 4-H exhibitors will be allowed to load and unload from the Ag Palace parking lane. *Gate numbers may change closer to event date.*

19. No participants or their family will be allowed to use skateboards, rollerblades, or run in the Ag Palace or Small Animal Building. Outside of the Ag Palace or Small Animal Building, State Fair rules regarding these issues are posted by State Fair authorities.

20. Dogs must always be on a leash except when performing exercises off leash in the show ring.

21. If dogs need an equipment accommodation due to a health issue, please notify the 4-H Agent Superintendents when registering for the event.

22. Entrants will be assigned armband numbers and can be picked up the day of the show. Armband numbers will be the same for Saturday and Sunday events. Armband numbers will be the same for all dogs entered both days.

23. Grooming and crating areas will be designated and will not be allowed in other areas.

24. Overall placing scores, prizes, and score sheets earned during State 4-H Dog Trials will be given out at the day's closing ceremony.

25. If a dog has failed an exercise, it will not ordinarily be re-judged unless the judge feels the dog's performance was prejudiced by peculiar and unusual conditions. In such a case, the judge may wish to re-judge the dog only on the portion of the exercise in which the unusual condition occurred.

26. ***DOGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN ANY OF THE LIVESTOCK BARNS or anywhere on the Fairgrounds beyond the event venue. No dogs are allowed beyond the immediate vicinity of the Ag Palace Building.***

27. ***Any dogs not entered in State 4-H Dog Trials are NOT permitted to be crated and kept on the fairgrounds.***

28. ***Selling dogs on the fairgrounds is NOT permitted.***

29. Run offs will be announced three (3) times in five (5) minutes. If the exhibitor is not present after the final call, his/her run off eligibility is forfeited.

30. Please note: Although the dog project manual "Dog Resource Handbook" from The Ohio State University is a wonderful resource, the rules for Colorado may differ. Colorado State Fair 4-H Dog Trials Rules are the final authority for all Colorado 4-H Dog Trials.

## **EXHIBITOR ELIGIBILITY RULES**

1. All exhibitors must be enrolled in the 4-H Dog Project.

2. All exhibitors must have complied with each County's eligibility rules for State Fair participation.

A. Exhibitors must enter State 4-H Dog Trials in the same class in which they qualified at their County Level with the same dog in the same 4-H year. Expectations are outlined under the dog eligibility section.

3. To participate in the State 4-H Dog Trials, the exhibitor must own his/her project dog individually or in partnership with immediate family members or guardians during the complete duration of the project year. (Colorado state law defines an immediate family member as a person related by blood, marriage, civil union, or adoption.) **The exhibitor must provide primary care for the dog(s). Primary care is defined as the 4-H member making the decisions for and/or providing the care, handling, and training of their animal project most of the time (at least 51% of the project duration).** If requested, the exhibitor must have proof of **primary care** of the dog at the time of entry and provide that to the Superintendents.
  - A. Leasing a dog is not permitted for State 4-H Dog Trials participation. If counties have a leasing program, leased dogs are not permitted to exhibit at the state fair.
  - B. **No substitutions of dogs will be permitted for Obedience, Rally, or Agility. Substitutions for extenuating circumstances in Showmanship can be discussed between the County 4-H Specialist and State 4-H Dog Trials Superintendent(s) with the State 4-H Team making the final decision.**
4. Any exhibitor exhibiting their dog at the State Fair Dog Trials must be an official representative of his/her County. Each county's official(s) are responsible for entering participants in this show. No exhibitor will be allowed to substitute for another exhibitor on the day of the show if not properly entered by his/her county.
  - A. All exhibitors must have at least one qualifying score in each class of exhibition.
  - B. Qualifying scores are 170 and above in Obedience, 170 and above in Showmanship, and 70 and above in Rally. An acceptable record book must be completed, and exhibitor must meet all guidelines required by their county for State Fair qualification.
5. Each exhibitor may exhibit a different dog in Obedience, Showmanship and Rally provided they meet qualifications (refer to the Dog Eligibility section). An exhibitor may be entered in multiple Obedience or Rally classes with different dogs, but each exhibitor may only enter Showmanship one time.
6. The same dog may not be shown in the Obedience, Rally and/or Agility divisions by more than one family member at the State 4-H Dog Trials. This is only applicable at the state level. If a dog qualifies in two classes with different exhibitors, they need to show at the highest class in which the dog has qualified in accordance with the progression charts.

## **DOG ELIGIBILITY RULES**

1. **After once earning a qualifying score in competition as a 4-H project dog in Obedience or Rally at State 4-H Dog Trials, that same dog is no longer eligible for exhibition in "A" level in the same class in which they previously qualified with a different handler at State 4-H Dog Trials.**
2. Dog and handler teams who earn a qualifying score at the State 4-H Dog Trials are required to advance to the next class the following year.
  - A. Exceptions to this rule are as follows: If a dog has received a qualifying score in Obedience classes: Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, Utility, and Rally Masters at a previous State 4-H Dog Trials, they may stay in that same class as a "B" level competitor for as long as they need to complete the training required for them to move up to the next class.
3. A dog and handler team with any other Rally or Obedience title from any national dog association (AKC, UKC, CKC, ASCA, etc.) is disqualified from entering the class for which the degree was awarded, or any lower class, except if that title was won less than four months before the State 4-H Dog Trials. If the title was won less than four months before the 4-H State 4-H Dog Trials, the dog and handler team is eligible for entry in the same class. If the dog and handler team receive a title more than 4 months before the State 4-H Dog Trials, they must move up to the next class. The exceptions to this titling rule are Obedience classes: Graduate Novice, Open, Graduate Open, Utility; and Rally classes: Advanced/Excellent and Masters.

### **Rule 3 Examples:**

- Dog is awarded a Rally Novice title at the Terry All Kennel Club Show on April 12. State Fair Rally competition is August 28. That is more than 4 months away. The team must move up to Intermediate Rally A in 4-H competition.
- Dog is awarded a Rally Novice title at the Greeley Kennel Club Show on August 14. State Fair Rally competition is August 28. That is less than 4 months. The team may compete in Rally Novice at the 4-H competition.

4. For Obedience, Rally, and/or Agility, the same dog may not be shown in the same discipline more than once by more than one family member.
5. Bitches in heat, obviously pregnant or lactating will not be allowed to compete in any classes at the State Fair to prevent biosecurity concerns.
6. Dogs in obvious pain from a previous illness or injury shall not be shown. If a dog is injured at a show, that dog will be excused from the ring. Consideration of a dog's physical disability needs to be addressed between the handler and project leader before starting the project. A State-Fair-approved veterinarian or qualified veterinarian technician's decision on doubtful cases will be accepted as final.
7. No dog other than the County-qualified dog for the same class will be eligible to show or compete at State 4-H Dog Trials. Should any problem arise with the dog designated as the County-qualified dog, the Extension specialist must be notified for any course of action.
8. **No substitutions of dogs will be permitted for Obedience, Rally, or Agility. Substitutions for extenuating circumstances in Showmanship can be discussed between the County 4-H Specialist and State 4-H Dog Trials Superintendent(s) with the State 4-H Team making the final decision.**
9. Any entered dogs must be at a minimum age of 6 months or older and with all necessary vaccinations. For the agility competition, foundation class registered dogs need to be 12 months or older and all other agility classes require a dog to be 15 months or older.

## **SHOWMANSHIP, OBEDIENCE, AND RALLY AWARDS**

**Additional awards and categories beyond ribbons will be determined by the financial budget and sponsorship of the State 4-H Dog Trials each year.** Leaders and parents who would like to assist with fundraising should contact the Colorado State 4-H Office. All participants will receive a "State Fair Qualifier" ribbon at check-in to recognize their eligibility to compete at State 4-H Dog Trials and celebrate this accomplishment.

The American System will be used to rank the 4-H State 4-H Dog Trials participants. First through tenth place ribbons will be awarded for Obedience scores of 170 or above; Showmanship scores of 170 or above; and Rally Scores of 70 and above.

**Rosette ribbons will be awarded to the exhibitor scoring the highest point total in the following classes:**

### **Overall Grand and Reserve Grand Champions Showmanship**

- Junior Novice and Open Showmanship
- Intermediate Novice, Open and Advanced Showmanship
- Senior Novice, Open, and Advanced Showmanship
- Highest score in Master Showmanship will be the overall grand, and the second highest score will be reserve grand.

### **Overall Grand and Reserve Grand Champions Obedience**

- Pre-Beginner Novice A & B, Beginner Novice A and B
- Novice A and B Obedience
- Grad Novice Obedience Classes (Pre-Grad Novice A, B and Grad Novice A, B)
- Advanced Obedience Classes (Open A, B and Grad Open A, B, and Utility A, B)
- Veterans Classes (All from Veteran's classes)

### **Overall Grand and Reserve Grand Champions Rally**

- Rally Novice A & B
- Rally Intermediate A & B
- Rally Advanced A & B
- Rally Excellent A & B
- Rally Advanced/Excellent A & B
- Rally Masters A & B

Any tie scores will be broken using the time as recorded on the score sheet for the class in which that score comes from. The lowest time will break the tie.

## **AGILITY AWARDS**

A perfect score is 100 points and is called a "Clean Run". All scores 70 and above are considered qualifying and are eligible for placement awards.

One Champion and one Reserve Champion will be awarded in all classes. No placement awards will be awarded for non-qualifying scores.

If champion and reserve champion awards are issued, they will be awarded to the top exhibitors in each class. In the event that two or more dogs tied with the same score, the dog with the fastest time will be champion and the second fastest dog will be reserve champion. No placement awards will be awarded for non-qualifying scores.

If there is a tie between two exhibitors for champion or reserve champion, the event committee may award up to two champion and reserve champion awards and no tie breaker is necessary. However, if there is a tie for champion with more than two participants a run-off will be conducted as specified under "Scoring". The winner of the run-off shall receive the champion award with the second-place winner receiving the reserve champion award, with no additional awards given. If there is a tie for reserve champion with more than two participants a run-off will be conducted as specified under "Scoring". The winner of the run-off shall receive the reserve champion award and no other awards will be given.

Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded from the Regular Jumpers, Regular Standard, Veteran Jumpers and Veteran Standard division. The highest score in each division will be awarded Grand Champion and the second highest score will be awarded Reserve Grand Champion. In the event of a tie, the lower time factor will win. Because the higher classes have longer courses, the time multiplier will be applied to calculate the time factor.

## **VOLUNTEER INFORMATION**

**It takes many people to put on a successful State 4-H Dog Trials.** We **STRONGLY** encourage that each county provide volunteers to be ring stewards, help with registration, be a runner, and assist with set-up and clean-up. Please have your volunteers register through the website.

If you volunteer for set up, please note that set up times might vary due to other events scheduled at the Ag Palace the evening before our show. Check with the Volunteer Superintendent for more information.

## **DAY-OF SHOW INFORMATION**

**Passes are not required, since the Dog Trials are before the Colorado State Fair opens.**

**Handicapped parking on the fairgrounds near the Ag Palace during the dog show is not marked. Provisions can be made for those who need additional assistance in gaining entrance to the Ag Palace. Arrangements must be made in advance through the State 4-H Office. There is a handicap ramp outside the Ag Palace on the South side of the building.**

## **GLOSSARY**

**County Level:** Each county may qualify exhibitors for State 4-H Dog Trials by a selection procedure most appropriate to its own county program in compliance with the Dog Level Progression Chart and State 4-H Dog Trials eligibility requirements. For example, qualification at a 'County Level' could require a qualifying score at County Fair or, if allowed by the county, earning a qualifying score at a 4-H Dog Show.

**Discipline:** Reference to a type of dog competition. Currently there are four disciplines competing at the State 4-H Dog Trials: Agility, Showmanship, Obedience, and Rally.

**Division:** Reference to a grouping of classes specific to a discipline. For example, the Obedience Advanced Division incorporates classes Open A, Open B, Graduate Open A, Graduate Open B, Utility A and Utility B.

**Exhibitor:** A 4-H registered youth competing in any 4-H State 4-H Dog Trial ranging in age from 8 to 18 years of age as of December 31st of the current 4-H year. Also referred to as a member, handler, or youth or competitor.

**Level:** Reference to a dog's progression through Agility, Showmanship, Obedience or Rally disciplines. For example, a dog may be in the Open Level of Obedience or the Novice Level of Showmanship.

**Class:** Reference to the specific Class within a Level. For example, a dog's Level might be Novice Obedience and the Class would be Novice A or Novice B.

## **SHOWMANSHIP**



### **SHOWMANSHIP CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

A written Showmanship Test will be given to each contestant entered in Showmanship. **The exhibitor is responsible for taking this test during their scheduled testing time.** If an exhibitor does not take the test during their assigned testing time, then that portion of the Showmanship score sheet will result in a score of zero.

**Qualifying FOR State 4-H Dog Trials:** A Qualifying Score will be 170 points out of the possible 200 points.

**Scores earned AT State 4-H Dog Trials:** For all State 4-H Dog Trials, exhibitors with a qualifying score (170 or greater) for Intermediate or Senior Open placing 1st - 10<sup>th</sup> in their class **MUST** move up to Advanced Showmanship class (Intermediate or Senior) to be eligible to compete at the State 4-H Dog Trials in following years.

**PLEASE REVIEW THE COLORADO STATE 4-H DOG LEVEL PROGRESSION CHART IN THE APPENDIX FOR CLARIFICATION ON CLASS PROGRESSION.**

### **JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP DIVISION**

- **CLASS 500 Junior Novice Showmanship - 4 Entries per County**  
This class is for exhibitors who are 8 –10 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year, are in their 1st year of participation in Showmanship and have no prior experience with any other dog showing entity.
- **CLASS 501 Junior Open Showmanship - 4 Entries per County**  
This class is for exhibitors who are 8-10 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year and have previous experience in Showmanship.

### **INTERMEDIATE SHOWMANSHIP DIVISION**

- **CLASS 502 Intermediate Novice Showmanship - 4 Entries per County**  
This class is for exhibitors who are 11-13 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year, are in their 1st year of participation in Showmanship and have no prior experience with any other dog showing entity.
- **CLASS 503 Intermediate Open Showmanship - 4 Entries per County**  
This class is for exhibitors who are 11-13 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year and have previous experience in Showmanship.
- **CLASS 504 Intermediate Advanced Showmanship - 4 Entries per County**  
This class is for exhibitors who are 11-13 years of age as of December 31 of the current 4-H year who placed 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> with a qualifying score in Intermediate Open at a previous State 4-H Dog Trial.

### **SENIOR SHOWMANSHIP DIVISION**

- **CLASS 505 Senior Novice Showmanship - 4 Entries per County**  
This class is for exhibitors who are 14-18 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year, are in their 1st year of participation in Showmanship and have no prior experience with any other dog showing entity.
- **CLASS 506 Senior Open Showmanship - 4 Entries per County**  
This class is for exhibitors who are 14-18 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year and have previous experience in Showmanship.
- **CLASS 507 Senior Advanced Showmanship - 4 Entries per County**

This class is for exhibitors who are 14-18 years of age as of December 31 of the current 4-H year who placed 1<sup>st</sup> through 10<sup>th</sup> with a qualifying score in Senior Open at a previous State 4-H Dog Trial.

### **MASTER SHOWMANSHIP DIVISION**

- **Class 508 Master Showman Class – Unlimited entries, if eligibility has been met**

Intermediate and Senior Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion Showmen from any previous State 4-H Dog Trials are required to enter the Master Showman class.

- If the exhibitor is in the Intermediate age group, when they become a Senior (at age 14) they must remain in the Master Showman class.
- If the exhibitor who has shown in Master Showman in past years should get a new dog, they must continue in the Master Showman class.

### **SHOWMANSHIP GENERAL RULES**

1. Junior, Intermediate and Senior Novice classes are for those exhibitors who are in their first year of Showmanship training and have no prior outside Showmanship experience as determined by the County. If prior experience is determined by the County, the exhibitor must move into Open class competition in his/her appropriate age group. The experience level of the dog is not taken into consideration for Showmanship class placement.
2. Showmanship Classes: Each County is limited to **four entries per class** for any Showmanship class for a total of 32 entries, excluding Master Showman. There is no limit on entries for Master Showman if eligibility has been met.
3. **Each exhibitor entered at the State 4-H Dog Trials must have earned a qualifying score of 170 or above at a 4-H dog show during the current project year.**
4. All exhibitors must have complied with each County's eligibility rules for State 4-H Dog Trials participation. Exhibitors must enter State 4-H Dog Trials in the same class in which they qualified at their County Level with the same dog in the same 4-H year. Exceptions are allowed under circumstances listed in dog eligibility section.
5. Rules governing Intermediate and Senior Advanced Showmanship
  - A. Any exhibitor who has placed in the top 10 (thus earning a qualifying score) in the Intermediate or Senior Open classes at any previous State Fair must show in Intermediate or Senior Advanced Classes for their remaining years in that age group.
    - i. If an exhibitor who has shown in the Intermediate or Senior Advanced classes gets a new dog, they must continue to show in that class.
  - B. An exhibitor who has moved up by age from either the Intermediate Open or Advanced class may choose to show in Senior Advanced by advice of their leader and taking into consideration the caliber of the exhibitor. One reason for choosing this move are:
    - i. The exhibitor has received Best Junior Handler or Reserve Best Junior Handler awards from any AKC or UKC event.
6. The judge may ask what breed of dog, the AKC group, and the purpose of the breed the exhibitor is showing. Exhibitors should be prepared to answer the breed of dog, the AKC group the breed belongs to, and the purpose of the breed or what the breed is used for. In the case of mixed breeds, the exhibitor must decide the breed the dog they are showing most resembles. (see showmanship tip #4)
7. The use of bait in the showmanship ring is at the judge's discretion. A brush, comb and a drool rag will be allowed in the ring. No other equipment is permitted.
8. A written Showmanship Test will take place outside the ring. This test will be proctored by trained volunteers or Superintendents in a separate area. Exhibitors will have an assigned time for the Showmanship Test during which they are able to complete their test. If accommodation is needed for the written test, an email must be sent to the 4-H Agent Superintendent(s) within two days of the entry deadline. Day of accommodations will be adjusted as needed with the understanding there will be limitations.
9. No dog tags should be on the dog when showing in the ring. Only the correct equipment for a Showmanship class should be used. It is very important that your dog wear tags always, except when in the show ring.

## **GENERAL SHOWMANSHIP TIPS**

1. Depending on what you are wearing in the Showmanship ring, use proper kneeling etiquette. If you are in a skirt, it is best to kneel on both knees. If you are wearing pants, it would be appropriate to kneel on only one knee. See the state 4-H website at <https://co4h.colostate.edu/resources/dress-code.pdf> for the 4-H Dress Code.
2. All exhibitors will present their exhibits on either a table, ramp or on the floor, based on the breed of the dog or the breed the dog is most like. Judges will take into consideration the size and physical abilities of the handler and may have a ring steward assist lifting a dog onto the table. Judges and exhibitors should refer to the current Table and Ramp list to ensure they have up-to-date information. The Table and Ramp list can be found on the AKC Website at: ([https://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/table\\_breeds.pdf](https://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/table_breeds.pdf)) It is mandatory that breeds are shown on a table, ramp, or floor as assigned.
3. If the exhibitor is showing a mixed-breed dog; they should determine what breed their dog most resembles and show in the manner of that breed. If you have a mixed breed dog, you can go to AKC website (<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/>) and look at different pictures of the breeds of dog to decide which breed your dog looks most like. See the dog project manual "Dog Resource Handbook" from The Ohio State University.
6. Showmanship score sheets can be reviewed at <https://co4h.colostate.edu/state-fair-information/contest-score-sheets/>.
7. During the Showmanship class each area of judging will be judged throughout the entire class. The score will reflect the exhibitor's ability to perform these items throughout the class, and not just one time. For example: the dog should be stacked (either hand stacked or free stacked) upon entering the ring, during the exam, after the pattern, and any time they are in the line-up. The score will reflect these times when the dog is stacked. If the judge requests to allow dogs to "rest," stacking is not required at that time.

## **OBEDIENCE**

### **OBEDIENCE GENERAL RULES**

1. All 4-H Obedience classes will be patterned after the latest AKC Obedience guidelines whenever possible, except that dog registry with AKC is not required. Some exercises and rules may have been adapted from AKC to better serve the 4-H youth in this program.
2. In all Obedience classes, up to 15 points will be deducted for the following: strong correcting or disciplining, excessive barking, leaving the ring, rules violation or showing fear.
3. In all Obedience classes, fouling the ring will be a 15-point deduction. The exhibitor will be allowed to finish their run.
4. For the safety of all, a dog that snaps, bites, or attempts to bite will be excused from the ring.
5. Handlers entered in B classes will be judged at a higher skill level (handler errors) than handlers entered in A classes.
6. Allowed collars in Obedience classes include: flat or rolled leather with buckle or snap closure; flat or rolled nylon collars with buckle or snap closure; metal choke chain. No halties, gentle leaders, harnesses, or pinch collars will be allowed in the show ring. Collars and leads must be two separate pieces. Slip leads are not allowed.
7. The length of your Obedience leash should be six feet for Beginner Novice & Novice classes.
8. No dog tags can be on the dog when showing in the ring. This includes name tags, rabies tags, or anything else that hangs from the dog's collar. It is very important that your dog wear tags always, except when in the show ring. See dog project manual "Dog Resource Handbook" from The Ohio State University. (Please note the difference between training equipment and show equipment.)
9. If an exhibitor has two dogs in the same class, they must choose one dog for the group exercises. The other dog must be handled by a currently enrolled 4-H exhibitor for the group sits and downs.



10. If an exhibitor qualifies in two classes with the same dog, they need to show at the highest level they qualified.
11. Each county may qualify exhibitors for State 4-H Dog Trials Obedience classes by a selection procedure most appropriate to its own county program in compliance with the Dog Level Progression Chart and eligibility requirements. Qualification at this 'County Level' could require a qualifying score at County Fair or, if allowed by the county, earning a qualifying score at a 4-H Dog Show.
12. The best way to check what is expected in the various classes is to check out the score sheet posted on the Colorado State 4-H website: <https://co4h.colostate.edu/state-fair-information/contest-score-sheets/>.
13. Exhibitors qualifying in an Obedience class at County Level, regardless of if they attend State 4-H Dog Trials, are strongly recommended to move to the next appropriate class the following year (see State 4-H Dog Level Progression Chart).
14. Exhibitors may choose to enroll in a higher Obedience class than what is directed by the Dog Level Progression Chart with the approval of the County Dog Superintendent.
15. Exhibitors are responsible for knowing the height of their dog at the withers and the associated Obedience jump heights as well as verifying jump height in the ring.

## **Obedience Class Descriptions and Eligibility Requirements**

### **PLEASE REVIEW THE COLORADO STATE 4-H DOG LEVEL PROGRESSION CHART IN THE APPENDIX FOR CLARIFICATION ON CLASS PROGRESSION.**

A dog and handler team with any other Obedience title from any national dog association (AKC, UKC, CKC, ASCA, etc.) is disqualified from entering the class for which the degree was awarded, or any lower class, except if that title was won less than four months before the State 4-H Dog Trials. Please refer to the Dog Eligibility Rules for more information.

Please Note: "A" level classes are limited to exhibitors and dogs with no experience showing in that class. If a project member and/or dog has ever received a qualifying score in an A level class and decides to show a new dog, the member must enter the "B" level class. Once a dog and handler team has earned a qualifying score in an Obedience Level (A or B class), then they must advance to the next higher Obedience Level.

- **CLASS 509 Puppy Class**

This class is available at the County Level, but Puppy Class is **not** available at the State 4-H Dog Trials. You can also see a further description of this class in the Dog Level Progression Chart.

### **Beginner Novice Obedience Division**

- **CLASS 510 Pre-Beginner Novice A - 4 Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Pre-Beginner Novice training with no prior experience in Pre-Beginner Novice training.

- **CLASS 511 Pre-Beginner Novice B – 4 Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Pre-Beginner Novice A. Handlers with prior Pre-Beginner Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Pre-Beginner Novice dog should also enter the B class.

- **CLASS 512 Beginner Novice A – 4 Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Beginner Novice training with no prior experience in Beginner Novice training.

- **CLASS 513 Beginner Novice B – 4 Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Beginner Novice A. Handlers with prior Beginner Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Beginner Novice dog should also enter the B class.

### **Novice Obedience Division**

- **CLASS 514 Novice A – 4 Entries per County**  
This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Novice training with no prior experience in Novice training.

- **CLASS 515 Novice B – 4 Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Novice A. Handlers with prior Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Novice dog should also enter the B class.

#### **GRADUATE NOVICE OBEDIENCE DIVISION**

**Note: For Pre-Graduate Novice, changes have been made to the stays. Refer to [Obedience Class Exercise Descriptions Supplement for specifics.](#)**

- **CLASS 516 Pre-Graduate Novice A – 4 Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Pre-Graduate Novice training with no prior experience in Pre-Graduate Novice training.

- **CLASS 517 Pre-Graduate Novice B – 4 Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Pre-Graduate Novice A. Handlers with prior Pre-Graduate Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Pre-Graduate Novice dog should also enter the B class.

- **CLASS 518 Graduate Novice A – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Graduate Novice training with no prior experience in Graduate Novice training.

- **CLASS 519 Graduate Novice B – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Graduate Novice A. Handlers with prior Graduate Novice A experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Graduate Novice dog should also enter the B class.

#### **ADVANCED OBEDIENCE DIVISION**

- **CLASS 520 Open A – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Advanced Open training with no prior experience in Advanced Open training.

- **CLASS 521 Open B – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Advanced Open A. Handlers with prior Advanced Open A experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Advanced Open dog should also enter the B class.

- **CLASS 522 Graduate Open A – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Advanced Graduate training with no prior experience in Advanced Graduate training.

- **CLASS 523 Graduate Open B – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Advanced Graduate Open A. Handlers with prior Advanced Graduate Open A experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Advanced Graduate Open dog should also enter the B class.

- **CLASS 524 Utility A – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Advanced Utility training with no prior experience in Advanced Utility training.

- **CLASS 525 Utility B – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Advanced Utility A. Handlers with prior Advanced Utility A experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Advanced Utility dog should also enter the B class.

#### **VETERANS OBEDIENCE DIVISION**

1. The Veteran Obedience Division is an optional Division for dogs aged **7 years or older** who may no longer be able to jump the standard regulation height due to age, injury, joint issues, comfort, etc.
2. Veteran Obedience Division dogs will be required to jump  $\frac{1}{2}$  of their regulation jump height. They will be required to perform all exercises in their class; jump height will be the only difference from the regular class (refer to the Regulation Jump Height chart below).
3. Once a veteran dog can no longer jump at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  their regulation jump height they must be moved to a veteran class that does not require jumping. They will be judged at  $\frac{1}{2}$  their regulation jump height.
4. Dogs shown as a Veteran are eligible for Champion and Reserve Champion in each class in the Veteran's Division and a Grand and Reserve Grand overall will be awarded to the highest scoring dogs in the Veteran's Division.
  - A. It is the choice of the exhibitor, the exhibitor's parent, and the exhibitor's trainer and veterinarian as to giving a dog Veteran's designation.
  - B. Veteran dogs will compete in the Obedience class the exhibitor chooses, from Novice up through Utility.
  - C. A veteran dog may change Obedience classes in either direction each year as their health determines.
5. Veterans Obedience Division Scores will be calculated as follows:
  - A. Novice: judge's score
  - B. Pre-Grad-Novice: judge's score plus 3 points
  - C. Grad Novice: judge's score plus 6 points
  - D. Open: judge's score plus 9 points
  - E. Grad Open: judge's score plus 12 points
  - F. Utility: judge's score plus 15 points
6. If a dog is entered as a Veteran during a project year, they may go back to regular Obedience the following year; however, they must go back to the level they would have been competing at before they moved to Veterans.
  - **CLASS 526 Novice Veterans – 4 Entries per County**
  - **CLASS 527 Pre-Graduate Novice Veterans – 4 Entries per County**
  - **CLASS 528 Graduate Novice Veterans – Unlimited Entries per County**
  - **CLASS 529 Open Veterans – Unlimited Entries per County**
  - **CLASS 530 Graduate Open Veterans – Unlimited Entries per County**
  - **CLASS 531 Utility Veterans – Unlimited Entries per County**

## **OBEDIENCE JUMP INFORMATION**

1. There are three types of jumps that may be used in Obedience classes: the Bar Jump, the High Jump, and the Broad Jump. The dog must jump their regulation height and width for their class. The Broad Jump will cover a distance equal to **twice** the standard height of the High or Bar Jump setting. For the Broad Jump, the correct number of boards must be used for the width being jumped. Refer to the chart for proper jump regulations.
  - a. Broad Jump Distances:
    - i. Four boards are used for 48-72 inches
    - ii. Three boards are used for 28-44 inches
    - iii. Two boards are used for 16-24 inches

When decreasing the number of boards in the Broad Jump, the tallest hurdle is removed first.
2. **Breed Exceptions – Jumps:** Some breeds, because of their conformation, have exceptions granted for their jump heights. Please check the AKC Website under the Obedience rules for the current chart of exceptions of breeds for these jumps. The website for AKC is: [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org).
3. Refer to the Standard Obedience Jump Heights chart for the High and Bar Jumps.

<b>Standard Jump Height Table</b>	
<b>Measured height of dog at withers</b>	<b>Minimum height to be jumped</b>
Less than 7½"	4"
7½" to 9"	8"
Greater than 9" up to 11"	10"
Greater than 11" up to 13"	12"
Greater than 13" up to 15"	14"
Greater than 15" up to 17"	16"
Greater than 17" up to 19"	18"
Greater than 19" up to 21"	20"
Greater than 21" up to 23"	22"
Greater than 23" up to 25"	24"
Greater than 25" up to 27"	26"
Greater than 27" up to 29"	28"
Greater than 29" up to 31"	30"
Greater than 31" up to 33"	32"
Greater than 33" up to 35"	34"
Greater than 35" up to 37"	36"
Greater than 37"	36"

Source: <https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RO2999.pdf>

## **RALLY**

**Saturday: Rally Intermediate, Advanced, Excellent, Advanced/Excellent, and Masters; Rally Team Classes**

**Sunday: Rally Novice Classes**

### **RALLY GENERAL RULES**



All 4-H Rally classes will be patterned after the latest AKC Obedience guidelines whenever possible, except that dog registry with AKC is not required. Some exercises and rules may have been adapted from AKC to better serve the exhibitors of this program.

**There are no classes for veteran dogs in Rally. All dogs MUST be able to perform the required items.**

1. In all classes a 15-point deduction will be administered in the Rally classes for the following: strong correcting, disciplining, excessive barking, fouling the ring, consistently tight lead, knocking over a jump, or a sign not attempted by a handler.
2. Note: For the safety of all, a dog that snaps, bites, or attempts to bite will be excused from the ring.
3. Handlers entered in B classes will be judged at a higher skill level (handler errors) than handlers entered in A classes.
4. Allowed collars in Rally classes include: Flat or rolled leather with buckle or snap closure. Flat or rolled nylon collars with buckle or snap closure. Metal choke chain. No halties, gentle leaders, harnesses, or pinch collars will be allowed in the show ring. Collars and leads must be two separate pieces. Slip leads are not allowed.
5. No dog tags can be on the dog when showing in the ring. This includes name tags, rabies tag, or anything else that hangs from the dog's collar. It is very important that your dog always wear tags except when in the show ring.

6. All jump heights will conform with current (as of January 2022 rules and regulations) AKC Rally height and broad jump recommendations. The standard AKC jump requirements for Rally are as follows:

HEIGHT OF DOG AT WITHERS	HIGH OR BAR JUMP HEIGHT TO BE JUMPED	BROAD JUMP DISTANCE TO BE JUMPED
Less than 10 inches	4 inches	8 inches (1 board)
10 inches to less than 15 inches	8 inches	16 inches (2 boards)
15 inches to less than 20 inches	12 inches	24 inches (2 boards)
20 inches and over	16 inches	32 inches (3 boards)

7. Exhibitors are responsible for knowing the height of their dog at the withers and the associated Rally jump heights as well as verifying jump height in the ring.
8. Each exhibitor will be allowed only one run in each class with the dog who has qualified for that class.
9. Walk-throughs will be announced. Exhibitors will not be allowed to walk through the pattern at any time other than the official walk-through time. Exceptions may be made at the judges' discretion due to scheduling conflicts.
10. Each County may qualify exhibitors for State 4-H Dog Trials for Rally classes by a selection procedure most appropriate to its own County program in compliance with the Dog Level Progression Chart and eligibility requirements. Qualifications at this 'County Level' could require a qualifying score at County Fair or, if allowed by the County, earning a qualifying score at a 4-H Dog Show.
11. Exhibitors qualifying in a Rally class at County Level, regardless of if they attend State 4-H Dog Trials, are strongly recommended to move to the next appropriate class the following year (see State Class Progressions Chart).
12. Exhibitors may choose to enroll in a higher Rally class than what is directed by the Dog Level Progression Chart with the approval of the County Dog Superintendent.
13. If an exhibitor qualifies in two classes with the same dog, they need to show at the highest level they qualified.
14. With the exception of Rally Masters, once a qualifying score is earned in a Rally class at State 4-H Dog Trials, the exhibitor must advance to the next class in order to be eligible to compete in Rally at future State 4-H Dog Trials. Exhibitors may continue to show in Rally Masters B for the remaining of their 4-H years.

### **RALLY CLASS DESCRIPTIONS AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

#### **PLEASE REVIEW THE COLORADO STATE 4-H DOG LEVEL PROGRESSION CHART FOR CLARIFICATION ON CLASS PROGRESSION.**

A dog and handler team with any other Rally title from any national dog association (AKC, UKC, CKC, ASCA, etc.) is disqualified from entering the class for which the degree was awarded, or any lower class, except if that title was won less than four months before the State 4-H Dog Trials. Please refer to the Dog Eligibility Rules for more information.

Please Note: "A" level classes are limited to exhibitors with NO prior experience showing a dog in that class. Exhibitors showing a new dog must enter the "B" level if they ever received a qualifying score in that same Rally class with any other dog. Once a dog and handler team has earned a qualifying score in a Rally Division (A or B class), then they must advance to the next higher Rally Division.

### **NOVICE RALLY DIVISION**

- **CLASS 532 Rally Novice A – 4 Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Rally Novice training with no prior experience in Rally Novice training.

- **CLASS 533 Rally Novice B – 4 Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Novice A. Handlers with prior Rally Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Rally Novice dog should also enter the B class.

### **INTERMEDIATE RALLY DIVISION**

- **CLASS 534 Rally Intermediate A – 4 Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Rally Intermediate training with no prior experience in Rally Intermediate training. Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Intermediate A for one year.

- **CLASS 535 Rally Intermediate B Class – 4 Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Intermediate A. Handlers and dogs with previous Rally Intermediate experience and not eligible to enter Rally Intermediate A should also enter the B class.

### **ADVANCED RALLY DIVISION**

- **CLASS 536 Rally Advanced A Class – 4 Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Rally Advanced training with no prior experience in Rally Advanced training. Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Advanced A for one year.

- **CLASS 537 Rally Advanced B Class – 4 Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Advanced A. Handlers and dogs with previous Rally Advanced experience and not eligible to enter Rally Advanced should also enter the B class.

### **EXCELLENT RALLY DIVISION**

- **CLASS 538 Rally Excellent A Class – 4 Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Rally Excellent training with no prior experience in Rally Excellent training. Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Excellent A for one year.

- **CLASS 539 Rally Excellent B Class – 4 Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Excellent A. Handlers and dogs with previous Rally Excellent experience and not eligible to enter Rally Excellent A should also enter the B class.

### **ADVANCED/EXCELLENT RALLY DIVISION**

- **CLASS 540 Rally Advanced/Excellent A – 4 Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Rally Advanced/Excellent training with no prior experience in Rally Advanced/Excellent training. Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Advanced/Excellent A for one year.

- **CLASS 541 Rally Advanced/Excellent B – 4 Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Advanced/Excellent A. Handlers and dogs with previous Rally Advanced/Excellent experience and not eligible to enter Rally Advanced/Excellent A should also enter the B class.

### **MASTERS RALLY DIVISION**

- **CLASS 542 Rally Masters A – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their **first year** of Rally Masters training with no prior experience in Rally Masters training. Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Masters A for one year.

- **CLASS 543 Rally Masters B – Unlimited Entries per County**

This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Masters A, as well as handlers and dogs with prior Masters Rally experience. Exhibitor and dog teams may continue to compete in this class for their remaining years in the program.

- **CLASS 544 Team Rally – 2 Team Entries per County**

Team Rally is for any 4-H exhibitor who is interested in competing in Rally as a team. Teams will compete against each other for the highest score as a whole team. The total possible score in team Rally is 400. If there is a tie, the tie will be broken by the team with the quickest time. All team exhibitors will run the course individually, with the team time running continuously. Time will start when the judge gives the first exhibitor of the team the "Forward" command from the "Start" sign. The subsequent dog for each team starts when the previous handler for the team passes the "Finish" sign without an additional command of "Forward" by the judge. Timing for each team will begin when the judge commands the first handler in the team to begin with the command "Forward" and will stop when the fourth handler from the team passes the finish line.

Team Rally is a FUN competition. Costumes and themes are strongly encouraged for team members and dogs!

1. Counties may enter up to two teams of four exhibitor and dog teams. Counties need to enter each exhibitor and dog team separately and specify in the description what team they will be on. Example: Entry: Sadie Smith; Dog name: Lucky; Description: Boulder Team 1
2. Only one dog per exhibitor on a team. The dog that is entered with each youth for the team is the only dog that the youth can use for this class. If the entered dog is not available, then the alternate youth and dog team will be used.
3. Counties may put together teams as they deem fit. But the teams must be entered in Fair Entry by the State 4-H Dog Trials entry deadline.
4. If a county already has the two teams filled, they cannot enter any more exhibitors in Team Rally.
5. If a county has exhibitors that want to enter Team Rally but does not have four exhibitors to complete a Rally Team, it will be the responsibility of the county to find extra exhibitors and get them entered correctly.  
**State 4-H Dog Trials Superintendents will no longer build teams on site.**
6. Only exhibitors who have competed at the INTERMEDIATE LEVEL or ABOVE may be entered on a Rally Team. Exhibitors who have only competed as a Rally Novice or who have never competed in Rally are not eligible for a Rally Team.
7. An alternate exhibitor and dog team may be entered as a back-up for any one of the four actual performing dogs that, for any reason, cannot perform. Alternate exhibitor and dog teams will only be allowed to compete for the team they are assigned as an alternate. Alternates will not be used to create more teams.
8. If an alternate exhibitor and dog team is to be used, the ring stewards and judge must be notified which exhibitor and dog team is being switched out for the alternate 15 minutes before the teams start so that the score sheet can reflect the change.
9. No dog may be used on more than one team.
10. Team scores will be determined by summing the four exhibitor's individual scores (alternate's score to be counted if they were properly entered as a substitute). The team with the highest total score will be the Champion. The team with the second highest score will be the Reserve Champion.
11. Champion and Reserve Champion ribbons will be awarded to members of the top two winning teams.
12. The Team Rally course will be comprised of Novice and Intermediate Rally signs. There are no jumps in the Team Rally course.

## **AGILITY**

**Saturday, August 17th:** Agility Clinic at the El Paso County Fairgrounds at 366 10th St., Calhan, CO 80808

**Sunday, August 18th:** State Fair Dog Agility Trial at the El Paso County Fairgrounds in Calhan



### **AGILITY GENERAL RULES**

For the State 4-H Agility Contest, 4-H exhibitors will need to qualify to compete in this contest.

### **AGILITY CLASS DESCRIPTION AND ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

**PLEASE REVIEW THE COLORADO STATE 4-H DOG LEVEL PROGRESSION CHART IN THE APPENDIX FOR CLARIFICATION ON CLASS PROGRESSION.**

- **Class 550 Foundation Standard – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 551 Novice Standard-Regular – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 552 Novice Standard-Veteran – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 553 Intermediate Standard -Regular – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 554 Intermediate Standard-Veteran – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 555 Advanced Standard-Regular – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 556 Standard-Veteran – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 557 Foundation Jump – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 558 Novice Jump-Regular – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 559 Novice Jump-Veteran – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 560 Intermediate Jump-Regular – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 561 Intermediate Jump-Veteran – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 562 Advanced Jump-Regular – Unlimited Entries per County**
- **Class 563 Advanced Jump-Veteran – Unlimited Entries per County**

**RESOURCE LINK:** <http://co4h.colostate.edu/statefair/score-sheets/Agility-rules.pdf>

**AGILITY WAIVER:** <https://co4h.colostate.edu/statefair/Dog-Agility-Waiver.pdf>

## **COLORADO STATE 4-H AGILITY RULES**

### **INTRODUCTION AND GENERAL RULES**

#### ***What is Agility?***

Patterned after equestrian show jumping, dog agility combines the elements of a dog's agility, briskness, confidence, and a handler's control over an obstacle course designed for dogs. It is a fun sport with great spectator appeal.

Agility is one component within the 4-H dog project. All general rules applying to the dog project as a whole will also apply to Agility.

#### ***Purpose of Agility***

- Add new members and maintain established members in the dog project.
- Provide positive motivational training methods and interactions with the dog.
- Enhance a working relationship between the dog and handler.
- Provide a better-conditioned dog and handler.
- Promote good sportsmanship and citizenship.
- Promote a better-rounded handler/dog team.
- Add confidence to both dog and handler.
- Provide a variety of competitive areas for the Dog Project.

#### **SAFETY RULES**

Because the safety of both dogs and handlers is of paramount importance, the following rules will be enforced.

1. All competitors in agility must be enrolled and active in their county's dog project and must have county approval for participation in the state agility contest.
2. Dogs and handlers must be trained on all equipment within a specified class to compete. Either 4-H classes or those of a recognized training school will be accepted. Simply working with your dog in the back yard or a dog park is not acceptable.
3. Dogs must be a minimum of 12 months old to compete in the foundation standard and foundation jumpers' classes. Dogs must be a minimum of 15 months old to compete in all other agility classes. Dogs competing in either of the foundation classes may jump a lower jump height (Preferred Jump Height). It is recommended that dogs be a minimum of 15 months old to begin heavy agility training and larger breeds be at least 18 months old. This is because for most breeds the growth plates in the bones are still developing until the average age of fourteen months - even later for large breeds. The final determinations for training age and the type of training must be made by the owner and trainer.
4. No dog with a physical or mental condition that would significantly impair their performance may participate. Some examples of these include (but are not limited to) hip dysplasia, disc problems, severely slipped stifle, shoulder problems, or overweight. All 4-H'ers are highly encouraged to consult their veterinarian before beginning agility training. All dogs competing in agility are required to have a medical certification form signed by a veterinarian. A judge, superintendent or the county trainer at state and county events will have the authority to stop the performance of any dog whose soundness they question.
5. Dogs that show signs of aggression toward humans or other dogs will not be permitted to participate.
6. A dog/handler team receiving a qualifying score at a State Agility Trial must advance to the next level the following year.
7. Female dogs in season are not permitted to compete in a trial. During training, it is at the discretion of the trainer or club.
8. All parents/guardians and members must sign the "4-H Dog Agility Release Form" about injury to dog and handler to participate in classes, shows, and demonstrations. This form will include a section stating that they have been trained on all pieces of equipment for their particular class level, and they will not attempt any piece of equipment on which they have not been trained, as well as the number of classes they attended.
9. Agility competitions must be performed on a level, shock absorbent surface that provides good footing for the take-off and landing of jumps. Outdoors on short grass, dirt, or any other footing commonly used in horse areas/arenas is ideal. It is recommended that dirt be packed hard enough to prevent injury to either dog or handler. A fully matted or carpeted area may provide an acceptable alternative. The judge will inspect the area to be used, and if it is unacceptable, will request a different location. In extreme cases, the show may need to be canceled.
10. The use of completely fenced area is encouraged (but not required).

11. A supervised warm-up area consisting of only a single jump will be provided in a specified area outside the ring. No obstacle or jump shall be permitted elsewhere on the show grounds for training, warm-up, or other preparatory purposes.
12. Judges will inspect all equipment prior to beginning the show and may modify the requirements to the extent necessary to eliminate any piece of unsafe equipment.
13. All agility jumps must be of the type that have a displaceable bar or plank.
14. Dogs 7 years of age and older are eligible to compete in the Veterans division. Additionally, dogs with minor physical disabilities (such as minor hip dysplasia) may compete in this level with a veterinarian's approval and provided documentation. Dogs competing in the veteran division will jump at a lower jump height (Preferred Jump Height).
15. The Superintendent is the final authority regarding 4-H dog agility competition.

### **GENERAL RULES**

1. A dog/handler team receiving a qualifying score at a State Agility Trial must advance to the next level the following year.
2. Training aids and treats are not permitted on the course at a trial.
3. Collars must be a flat buckle or rolled leather collar, but there shall be no attachments hanging or otherwise allowed on the collar, except for a 4"-6" tab (optional in Foundation and Novice, not allowed in Advanced and Intermediate). This shall not preclude painted or stitched designs or information on the collar. Dog's names and/or identifying information may appear on the collar. No title, awards, or advertising may appear on the collar. Dogs may be brought to the start line on slip leads, slip chains, body harnesses or other collars that are permitted on the trial grounds. Pinch/prong and electrical collars (dummy or not), head halters and special training collars are not allowed.
4. Handlers may not jump over the jumps with their dogs.
5. Handlers may not touch their dogs or an obstacle while running the course. Incidental contact that does not aid the dog on the course will not be penalized.
6. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Any handler exhibiting poor sportsmanship such as swearing, yelling at their dog, striking the dog, pulling on their dog's fur or body parts, excessive corrections, loud complaints about other exhibitors or the judge, etc., will be eliminated.
7. The judge will penalize any handler receiving outside assistance. In severe cases, the handler will receive an elimination. The show committee is also responsible for investigating any incidents of outside assistance reported to them. See standard faults (scoring section) for more information about this.
8. A dog unable to complete the course for any reason (including leaving the ring and not immediately returning in control of the handler or ceasing to work for a significant period of time will receive an elimination.
9. Handlers may use voice commands, signals, or both. Handlers are encouraged to talk or cheer their dogs through the course. There is no penalty for multiple commands or verbal encouragement, but all must be in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
10. Any dog fouling the ring during competition will be asked to leave the ring - receiving a disqualification. Vinegar, diet cola, or some other odor-neutralizing substitute should be on hand to clean fouled equipment. Fouled equipment may be removed from the course at the judge's discretion, and all dogs running the course previously may, at the judge's discretion, be required to rerun the course again.
11. Jump heights are as follows:

**Regular Jump Heights**

Dog's Height	Jump	Broad Jump Width	A-Frame Height	Table Height
7" or under at the withers	4"	8"	5'	8"
11" or under at the withers	8"	16"	5'	8"
14" or under at the withers	12"	24"	5'6"	12"
18" or under at the withers	16"	32"	5'6"	16"
22" or under at the withers	20"	40"	5'6"	20"
Over 22" at the withers	20"+	40"	5'6"	20"

**Preferred Jump Heights (veteran and foundation dogs)**

Dog's Height	Jump	Broad Jump Width	A-Frame Height	Table Height
11" or under at the withers	4"	8"	5'	8"
14" or under at the withers	8"	16"	5'	8"
18" or under at the withers	12"	24"	5'6"	12"
22" or under at the withers	16"	32"	5'6"	16"
Over 22" at the withers	20"	40"	5'6"	20"

12. All handlers must possess an official Colorado State 4-H Dog Project Agility Height Card for the dog entered in the competition, signed by the measuring authority. Note that two separate measurements and two signatures are required. See Appendix 1. Official height cards from outside agility venues will also be accepted.
13. Dogs may be measured by judge or show personnel at the State Agility Competition to receive a height card.
14. All courses must have clearly designated starts and finishes. All obstacles must be sequentially numbered with numbered cones or some other movable system. The numbers must be a minimum of 4" tall.
15. A ring size of 80' x 100' or larger is recommended.
16. Obstacles on the course should be spaced approximately 18'-21' apart. In no case shall obstacles be spaced any closer than 15' apart.
17. Individual Counties shall determine the initial level at which each dog / handler team competes. The safety of the team shall be the primary consideration when making this placement. A first-year dog must compete in the Foundation classes unless an outside (AKC, NADAC, USDAA, etc.) qualifying ribbon, scoresheet or title is presented to a trial official.
18. The handler should wear athletic shoes that provide good traction for running and protect the entire foot.
19. Handlers inappropriately dressed will be required to change their apparel before competing.

**DISABLED HANDLERS**

4-H Members with disabilities are encouraged to take part in Dog Agility. The judge is to consider each case individually and make a fair and suitable adjustment for judging disabled handlers. The Judge's decision is final, as it is for all handlers in agility competition.

Courses and individual course times may be altered to accommodate handlers with disabilities. Hearing or verbally impaired handlers may use clickers or squeakers to aid in running their dog through the course. Judges may use flags or relay a signal to a course steward who will use a flag to communicate to the handler, if necessary.

When a course time adjustment is necessary, it is suggested to have the handler "test run" the course without their dog, going from obstacle to obstacle at a reasonable rate for the handler. The Judge will record the time using a stopwatch and determine an adjusted Course Time for that handler, making sure to record the adjusted course time on the appropriate score sheet.

All Disabled handlers needing an adjusted Course Time should inform the Agility Superintendent as soon as possible that they would need an adjusted time. The Superintendent will inform the Judge as early as possible.

**AGILITY CLASSES OFFERED AT THE REGIONAL AND STATE LEVEL**

It should be noted that this list of classes is for Regional and State Shows, and it does not prevent a county from offering a pre-agility class or games classes at county level shows. If such classes are offered at invitational shows a description must be included on your flyer.

Each class except Foundation is offered in both Regular and Veteran divisions. The Veteran division will use jump heights as described in the Preferred Jump Heights table while the Regular division will use the heights described in the Regular Jump Heights table.

## **STANDARD AGILITY CLASSES - DESCRIPTIONS / REQUIREMENTS**

### **FOUNDATION STANDARD**

This is an entry-level class with a simple "S", or "U" (horseshoe) course and consists of 8 to 10 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

- A-Frame (9 foot, apex depending on jump height) (required)
- 12' dog walk (at elevation of 48") (required)
- Open tunnel (1 to 3) (required)
- Bar Jumps (Winged or Wingless) (4 to 6) (required)
- Pause table (allowed)

There is no time limit provided the dog is willing and working.

Time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar and tab is optional.

### **NOVICE STANDARD (REGULAR AND VETERAN)**

This course is slightly more challenging than the simple "S", or "U" of the foundation class and consists of 10 to 14 obstacles. The following obstacles are used:

- A-Frame (9 foot, apex depending on jump height) (required)
- 12' dog walk (at elevation of 48") (required)
- Seesaw (24" high at the pivot point) (required)
- Weave Poles (set of six) (required)
- Pause table (allowed)
- Open tunnel (1 to 3 depending on availability) (required)
- Tire jump (required)
- Broad jump (allowed)
- Bar Jumps (Winged or Wingless) (4 to 6) (required)
- Time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar and tab is optional.

### **INTERMEDIATE STANDARD (REGULAR AND VETERAN)**

This course is slightly more challenging than a figure 8, similar to the AKC Novice class and consists of 14 to 16 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

- A-frame (9 foot, apex depending on jump height) (required)
- 12' dog walk (at elevation of 48") (required)
- Seesaw (24" high at the pivot point) (required)
- Weave poles (set of six) (required)
- Pause table (allowed)
- Open tunnel (1-3) (required)
- Tire jump (required)
- Broad jump (allowed)
- Double Bar Jump (allowed)
- Bar Jump (Winged or Wingless) (4 to 8) (required)

Time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar is optional.

## **ADVANCED STANDARD (REGULAR AND VETERAN)**

The focus of the Advanced Agility Class is on enhanced obstacle performance with more handling required. The course will consist of 16 to 18 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

- A-Frame (9-foot, apex depending on jump height) (required)
- Dog Walk (at elevation of 48") (required)
- Seesaw (24" high at the pivot point) (required)
- Weave Poles (set of 12) (required)
- Pause Table (allowed)
- Open Tunnel(s) (1-3 required)
- Bar Jumps (winged or wingless) (4-10) (required)
- Double Bar Jump (maximum 2) (required)
- Tire Jump (required)
- Broad Jump (maximum 1) (allowed)
- Triple Bar Jump (1 required)

Time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar is optional.

**Chart of Obstacle Requirements for Standard Classes**

Class	Foundation	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Notes
Total Obstacles	8-10	10-14	14-16	16-18	
Total Jumps	4-6 <sup>2</sup>	4-8	5-10	7-15	Includes all bar, double, triple, tire and broad jumps
A-Frame	1	1	1	1	
Pause Table	0-1	0-1	0-1	0-1	
Open Tunnel	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	
Dog Walk	1	1	1	1	
Bar Jumps	4-6 <sup>2</sup>	4-6	4-8	4-10	
Tire Jump	0	1	1	1	
Double Jump	0	0	0-1	1-2	
Weaves	0	6	6	12	
Seesaw	0	1	1	1	
Triple Jump	0	0	0	1	
Broad Jump	0	0-1	0-1	0-1	

2 - Minimum of 3 bar jumps in Foundation

## **JUMPERS AGILITY CLASSES - DESCRIPTIONS / REQUIREMENTS**

### **FOUNDATION - JUMPERS WITHOUT WEAVES**

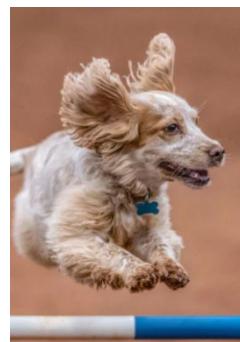
This should be a simple course with a basic "S", or "U" shape.

The course is to consist of 8-10 obstacles. The following obstacles are used:

- Bar jumps (winged or wingless) (5-9) (required)
- Open Tunnel (1 to 3) (required)

Time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar and tab is optional.



### **NOVICE - JUMPERS WITHOUT WEAVES (REGULAR AND VETERAN)**

This should be a simple course. Angles between obstacles should not exceed 90 degrees. *Entrances to obstacles should never be adjacent to one another.*

The course is to consist of 10 to 14 obstacles. The following obstacles are used:

- Bar Jumps (winged or wingless) (6-11) (required)
- Open Tunnel (1 to 3) (required)
- Broad Jump (optional)

Time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar and tab is optional.

### **INTERMEDIATE - JUMPERS WITHOUT WEAVES (REGULAR AND VETERAN)**

The course is to consist of 14 to 16 obstacles. The following obstacles are used:

- Bar Jumps (winged or wingless) (7-13) (required)
- Open Tunnel (1 to 3) (required)
- Broad Jump (1) OR Double Jump (1) (required)
- Tire Jump (1) (optional)

Time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar is optional.

### **ADVANCED - JUMPERS WITHOUT WEAVES (REGULAR AND VETERAN)**

The course is to consist of 16 to 18 obstacles. The following obstacles are used:

- Bar Jumps (winged or wingless) (9-16) (required)
- Double Bar Jump (required)
- Triple Bar Jump (required)
- Open Tunnel (1 to 3) (required)
- Broad jump (optional)
- Tire Jump (optional)

Time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar is optional.

**Chart of Obstacle Requirements for Jumpers Classes**

Class	Foundation	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Notes
Total Obstacles	8-10	10-14	14-16	16-18	
Total Jumps	5-9	6-12	7-14	10-17	Includes all bar, double, triple, tire and broad jumps
Bar Jumps	5-9	6-11	7-13	9-16	
Double Jump	0	0	0-1 <sup>2</sup>	1 <sup>3</sup>	
Broad Jump	0	0-1	0-1 <sup>2</sup>	0-1 <sup>3</sup>	
Open Tunnel	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	
Tire Jump	0	0	0-1	0-1	
Triple Jump	0	0	0	1	

<sup>2</sup> Either a Broad Jump OR a Double Jump may be used in Intermediate

<sup>3</sup> Either a Broad Jump, Double Jump, or both must be used in Advanced

## **SCORING**

### **Time Faults:**

Time faults are assessed at one point deducted for every second or partial second above Standard Course Time (SCT) for the team's class and jump height. SCT calculations are defined below.

### **Standard Faults - charged at 5 points:**

*(Note that only one deduction of each type may be assessed per obstacle.)*

- Knocking a bar off a hurdle - Applies whether it was the dog, the handler, or a tab that knocked the bar down.
- Touching the dog intentionally. 5 points per touch, 3 or more touches will be an elimination.
- Dog steps on or walks over the Broad Jump
- Outside help or interference - Such as someone telling the handler which obstacle is next, any commands or cues to the dog etc. 5 points up to elimination, depending on severity.
- Handler touching any obstacle Handler jumps over the jump with the dog. 5 points per touch, 3 or more touches will be an elimination.
- Dog goes between the tire and the frame (dog must complete the tire jump properly to avoid the double major fault of omitting the obstacle).
- Anticipation of table count - Dog gets off before the judge finished saying the word "go".

### **Major Faults – charged at 10 points:**

- Handler may have a maximum of two major faults before being eliminated.
- Wrong course - Taking an obstacle in the wrong order or going the wrong direction over an obstacle (including back-weaving three or more weave poles). If all 4 paws of a dog touches an obstacle not in sequence or in the wrong direction will be charged with a wrong course.
- Missed Contact Zone when exiting the equipment. (Yellow or contrasting color zone)
- Failure to correct on pause table - For any dog that jumps off before the judge finished saying the word "go".

### **Double Major Faults – charged at 20 points:**

- Omitting any obstacle - Includes being told by the judge to omit the obstacle or the handler omitting an obstacle by choice or by error.
- An uncorrected wrong course (i.e., dog taking an obstacle the wrong direction and the handler not fixing it).

### **Elimination (incomplete):**

- Dog who stops working and leaves the ring
- An extreme amount of outside help
- Handler touching the obstacles or the dog 3 or more times
- Fouling the course
- Handler requests to leave the ring before completing run
- Training in the ring

### **Elimination: (These offenses shall be immediately reported to the Trial chair.)**

- Poor sportsmanship - including, but not limited to... swearing, treating a dog harshly, complaining loudly about judges or other exhibitors, using treats in the ring, failure to omit and go on to the next obstacle when instructed to do so by the judge.
- Abuse of dogs anywhere on the show grounds.
- A dog that attacks or threatens to attack a human or another dog.

**Time:**

- Time is used as a tiebreaker when doing placements with scores.

**Final Score:**

- A perfect score (clean run) is 100 points.
- Course faults are added together and subtracted from 100 to give the final score.
- The dog and handler team with the highest score is the winner.
- In the event of a tie, the team with the largest difference from Max Course Time is the winner as described below.

**COURSE TIME CALCULATIONS AND SCORING**

The team's course time is used to break any ties that may occur based on score alone. Because taller dogs generally have a speed advantage over smaller dogs, this section lays out a method to equalize those differences. This is based on the AKC Standard Course Time calculation.

The following table lays out the base Yards Per Second (YPS) for each class and jump height. The course length (as measured) is divided by the YPS in the table to calculate the Standard Course Time (SCT).

The Maximum Course Time (MCT) is calculated per class. The MCT will be computed by taking the longest SCT of the dogs entered in the class and adding 30 seconds. This is the maximum time allowed for a team to complete the course. The team will be eliminated when MCT has been reached and excused from the ring.

In order to use these time calculations to break a score tie, the difference between MCT and the team's actual course time (CT) can be used. This is MCT - CT. This gives an equalized time difference to more fairly break ties between classes and jump heights. The larger (positive) difference will win the tie.

**Summary of chart to the right:**

SCT = Course Length / YPS for class

MCT = SCT + 30

Course Time Difference = MCT – CT

**EXPLANATION OF TRAINING IN THE RING**

Training in the ring is defined as a handler redoing an obstacle or a sequence that has already been completed and is an automatic elimination. Contact obstacles are considered completed once the dog begins the descending plank (on the teeter this means once the dog is past the pivot point and the plank has begun to tip), if a dog has exited the contact after beginning the descending plank and the handler puts them back on the contact for any reason they are now considered to be training. Handlers are given three tries at the weave poles without penalty, if for any reason the handler decides to go back and try the weave poles a 4th time (whether they have been completed correctly or not) they will be considered as training in the ring. Correcting a wrong course is NOT considered training (i.e., if a dog takes a jump or a tunnel in the wrong direction and the handler has them redo the obstacle in the correct direction, they are simply fixing an off course, they are not training). Once a handler has begun training in the ring they have until maximum course time to continue training or complete the course, once they reach maximum course time they will be dismissed from the ring.

**RIBBONS AND AWARDS**

A perfect score is 100 points and is called a "Clean Run". All scores 70 and above are considered qualifying and are eligible for placement awards.

One Champion and one Reserve Champion will be awarded in all classes. No placement awards will be awarded for non-qualifying scores.

If champion and reserve champion awards are issued, they will be awarded to the top exhibitors in each class. In the event that two or more dogs tied with the same score, the dog with the fastest time will be champion and the second fastest dog will be reserve champion. No placement awards will be awarded for non-qualifying scores.

If there is a tie between two exhibitors for champion or reserve champion, the event committee may award up to two champion and reserve champion awards and no tie breaker is necessary. However, if there is a tie for champion with more than two participants a run-off will be conducted as specified under "Scoring". The winner of the run-off shall receive the champion award and the second place winner receiving the reserve champion award, with no additional awards given. If there is a tie for reserve champion with more than two participants a run-off will be conducted as specified under "Scoring". The winner of the run-off shall receive the reserve champion award and no other awards will be given.

Overall Grand Champion and Reserve Grand Champion will be awarded for Regular Jumpers, Regular Standard, Veteran Jumpers and Veteran Standard division. The highest score in each division will be awarded Grand Champion and the second highest score will be awarded Reserve Grand Champion. In the event of a tie, the lower time factor will win. Because the higher classes have longer courses, the time multiplier will be applied to calculate the time factor.

Foundation	Jump Height	sYPS (Regular)	sYPS (Jumpers)
	8"	1.6	1.8
	12"	1.75	2
	16"	1.9	2.25
	20"	2	2.5
	20+	1.95	2.3
Novice	Jump Height	sYPS (Regular)	sYPS (Jumpers)
	8"	1.85	2.3
	12"	2	2.5
	16"	2.15	2.75
	20"	2.25	3
	20+	2.2	2.8
Intermediate	Jump Height	sYPS (Regular)	sYPS (Jumpers)
	8"	2.25	2.8
	12"	2.35	3
	16"	2.5	3.25
	20"	2.65	3.5
	20+	2.55	3.3
Advanced	Jump Height	sYPS (Regular)	sYPS (Jumpers)
	8"	2.5	3.05
	12"	2.7	3.25
	16"	2.85	3.5
	20"	3.1	3.75
	20+	2.9	3.55

## **OBSTACLE SPECIFICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS**

### **OBSTACLES**

#### **A-Frame:**

The A-Frame is constructed from two panels, the top surface of which is constructed from wood or a wood-like substance.



The panels are 35 to 49 inches wide, and their lengths are both within 2 inches of 9 feet. Panels shall be of a consistent width and connected so as to eliminate gaps large enough to fit a dog's foot or toe.

The maximum height of the A-Frame is within 1 inch of 5'6". The height of the A-Frame must be adjustable to 5' 0" and 5' 6".

Slats may or may not be placed across the width of the panels to provide footing. If slats are used they are 3/8" to 1/2" thick and 3/4" to 2" wide, and they extend within 1/4" of the panel sides. Slat edges shall be rounded or beveled so as not to be sharp, 1/4" radius recommended. The centers of the slats are spaced at 12-inch intervals with a 2-inch tolerance, and no slat is within 4 inches of the top of a contact zone.

The top surface has a rough, non-slip surface. (Alternating layers of sand and flat, latex paint or rubber pellets, such as Contact-a-coat are recommended.) Contact zones are on the lower 42 inches of both panels with a 1/4 inch tolerance. The color of the zone contrasts with the rest of the panel, but it may not be white, black, or brown. Bright yellow contact zones are recommended.

#### **Performance:**

Dogs must ascend one panel and descend the other in the direction designated by the judge and they must touch the contact zone on the down side only, with any part of one foot prior to exiting the obstacle.

#### **Dog Walk:**

The Dog Walk consists of a center section and two ramp sections, the surfaces of which are made from wood or a wood-like substance. All sections are 12 inches wide, plus or minus an inch, and all are 12 feet long. Planks shall be connected so as to eliminate gaps large enough to fit a dog's foot or toe. Within a 2-inch tolerance, the top of the center section is 48 inches.

The top surfaces of all sections shall have rough, non-slip surfaces. (Alternating layers of sand and flat, latex paint or rubber pellets, such as Contact-a-coat are recommended.) Slats that conform to those described for the A-Frame are allowed but not required across the width of the ramp sections to provide footing. Contact zones are on the lower 42 inches of both ramps with a 1/4" tolerance, using the color specification described for the A-Frame.

#### **Performance:**

Dogs must ascend one of the ramps, cross the center section, and descend the other ramp in the direction designated by the judge. They must touch the down contact zone with any part of one foot prior to exiting the obstacle. Foundation only, the dog must enter and exit the Dog walk squarely. Cones may be placed 1' to 2' out from each corner and in line with the sides of the Dog walk to assist the handler in guiding their dog straight on and straight off the Dog walk.

#### **Seesaw (or Teeter-Totter):**

The seesaw consists of a plank (or panel) supported near the center by a base that acts as a fulcrum. The plank is 12 inches wide with a 1-inch tolerance, and 12 feet long. The base extends at least 2 inches past the sides of the plank so that dogs can see the pivot point. The plank is balanced so that it hits the ground in less than 3 seconds when a 3-pound weight is placed 12 inches from the raised end. The height of the Teeter-Totter measured to the top of the board at the pivot is 24 inches plus or minus 2 inches. The height of the Teeter-Totter must be adjustable to 12 inches plus or minus 2 inches as well.

The top surface of the plank has a rough, non-slip surface. (Alternating layers of sand and flat, latex paint or rubber pellets, such as Contact-a-coat are recommended.)

Slats are not allowed on the Seesaw. Contact zones, 42 inches long, are on each end of the plank with a 1/4" tolerance, using the color specification described for the A-Frame.

**Performance:**

Dogs must ascend the plank and cause the plank to pivot. At least one paw must touch the "down" contact zone after the plank has touched the ground and prior to exiting the obstacle.

**Pause Table:**

The top of the Pause Table is a 36-inch square, plus or minus (+/-) 2 inches, with a non-slip surface (carpeting may be used). The vertical edge of the top of the table top must be 3 inches or greater in height and it is recommended that the table edge be of a color in contrast to the running surface and ring gating. The table top must be light in color, no dark color(s) are allowed. The height of the table (within 1 inch) will match the jump height, except the 4" veteran jump class will have the table set at 8".

**Performance:**

The dog shall pause on the table for five cumulative seconds. Dog may be in a standing, sitting, or down position. The judge will begin counting down as soon as the dog is completely on the table.

**Open Tunnel:**

The Open Tunnel is a flexible tube of durable material that is capable of being formed into curved shapes. The two openings are either round or approximately rectangular, with a height and width of 24" plus or minus 2". Its length is 10 to 20 feet, and it is secured in position to prevent a dog from moving it. No portion of a tunnel holder that is underneath the tunnel shall be more than 1/2" thick and tunnel supports when used in locations other than the beginning and end of the tunnel shall not have a rigid upright (i.e., steel/wood) that is capable of fitting between the ribs thus possibly projecting into the tunnel.

**Performance:**

Dogs enter the end specified by the judge and exit the other end.

**Weave Poles:**

The Weave Poles consist of 6 or 12 poles that are either stuck in the ground or mounted in a base. (The base design is recommended.) The poles are 1 to 1-1/4" in diameter and at least 36 inches high, and they are uniformly spaced at intervals of 24 inches, in a straight line. It is recommended that if a rigid support is used at the base of each weave pole it does not exceed 4" in total height as measured from the ground to the top of the rigid support. (It is required that stripes be taped or painted on the poles to make them more visible to the dogs.) If a base is used, it may be no thicker than 1/2 inch and no wider than 3 inches, and it must be supported so as not to interfere with a dog's performance.

**Performance:**

Dogs must enter the Weave Poles by passing between poles #1 and #2 from right to left. They must then pass from left to right through poles #2 and #3 and continue this weaving sequence until they pass between the last two poles. If the sequence is broken, the dog must restart the correct sequence at the beginning. Dogs are allowed three attempts at the weave poles and then must go on.

**Bar Jumps:**

Bar Jumps consist of bars that are supported by bar supports that are mounted to uprights. The supports must be positioned so that the tops of the bars can be set within 1/4" of six different jump heights (4, 8, 12, 16, 20, and 24 inches). The bars must be either cylindrical with 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" diameters, or square with 1 1/4" to 1 1/2" sides. Constructed from wood or plastic, they must be 4 to 5 feet long and striped for visibility. (Bars cut from 1-inch PVC, Schedule 40, are recommended.) The bottom of the bar sits on top of the bar supports such that the bar is easily

displaced. If rectangular bars are used, the top of the support must be flat and no wider than the bar it is supporting. If cylindrical bars are used, the supports may be no wider than the bar, and they should have a lip that is no more than 1/8" higher than the support, although lips up to 1/4 inch are allowed. Bolts used as bar supports are not allowed. Bars "held" in place by Velcro TM, magnets, etc. are not allowed. The inside of the uprights must be at least 32 inches tall, and the upright must be 1 to 48 inches wide. (An inside height of 42 inches and a minimum width of 3 1/2 inches are recommended for visibility. Widths less than 30 inches are recommended to facilitate handler movement on the course.)

**Performance:**

Dogs must jump over the top bar, without displacing it or the lower bar, in the direction indicated by the judge.

**Double Bar Jump:**

The Double Bar Jump consists of two parallel bars positioned at the jump heights specified for the Bar Jump. It may be built as a special jump or assembled from two Bar Jumps. The distance between the centers of the bars is one-half the jump height (within a 1/2 -inch tolerance), to a maximum of 12 inches. In addition, two more horizontal bars are placed approximately below the top bars, at about half the height of the top bar, with the back bar higher than the front. Alternately, the bottom bars may be placed under the back bar and crossed to the ground creating an "X." All other specifications are the same as for the Bar Jump.

**Performance:**

Dogs must jump over the top bars, without displacing either one or the lower bars, in the direction indicated by the judge.

**Triple Bar Jump:**

The Triple Bar Jump consists of a series of three ascending bars. The horizontal distance between adjacent bars is one-half the jump height, while the vertical distance is one-quarter the jump height. The table below lists the heights of the tops of the bars and the horizontal distance between the centers of the bars. Tolerances on these values are 1/4 inch for the heights and 1/2 inch for the horizontal distances.

**Performance:**

Dogs must jump over all the bars without displacing any, in the direction that starts with the lowest bar.

**Tire (Circle) Jump:**

The Tire Jump, some-times called the Circle Jump, consists of a tire (or a circular object that resembles a tire) suspended from a rectangular frame. The inner diameter of the tire is 24 inches plus or minus an inch, and the wall is 3 to 8 inches thick. There must be at least 8 inches between the outside of the tire and the sides of the frame, and the frame must be tall enough to accommodate the tire at the six different jump heights, as specified for the Bar Jump. The uprights of the frame shall be secured to the base and the base weighted or secured properly to the running surface so as to discourage tipping. The jump height is measured from the ground to the bottom of the tire opening.

**Performance:**

Dogs must jump through the tire opening in the direction specified by the judge. Dogs may touch the jump as they go through the opening.

**Broad Jump:**

The Broad Jump is composed of either four 8-inch wide sections or five 6-inch wide sections, and four corner markers. The actual width of the 8-inch sections is 7 to 8 inches, and the width of the 6-inch sections is 5 to 7 inches. The sections are constructed from a top piece and two side pieces. The length of the sections is between 4 and 5 feet long, and they may be of different lengths. To improve visibility, either the center of the sections or both ends must be marked with a color-contrasting band that is at least 3 inches wide. The sections are of varying height, and they may be arranged in either ascending order or as a hogback. (The ascending AKC Obedience Broad Jump is recommended.)

When an ascending arrangement is used, each section is at least 1/2 inch higher than the previous one, and the height of the front edge of a section is at least 1/2 inch lower than the back edge. No portion of a section may be lower than 1 inch or higher than 6 inches. In a hogback arrangement, the sections ascend in height halfway across the jump and then descend. The ascending sections are at least 1/2 inch higher than the previous one, and the height of the front edge of a section is at least 1/2 inch lower than the back edge. The descending sections are at least 1/2 inch lower than the previous one, and the height of the front edge of a section is at least 1/2 inch higher than the back edge.

When an odd number of sections are used, the front edge of the middle section may not be higher than the back edge. No portion of a section may be lower than 1 inch or higher than 10 inches. The length of the jump for both the ascending and the hogback configurations is twice the jump height of the division. Consequently, not all the sections are used in the lower height divisions. In those cases, the jump must be assembled with the lowest sections. The length of the jump (within 1 inch) and the number of sections to be used for the different divisions are as follows:

**Broad Jump Lengths**

Jump	Length	Num. Boards
4"	8"	1
8"	16"	2
12"	24"	3
16"	32"	3
20"	40"	4
20"+	40"	4

The corner markers are at least 1-inch wide and 36 inches high, and they may be decorated to improve visibility. They are either attached to the sides of the first and last sections, or they are freestanding and placed as close as possible to those positions. (Freestanding is recommended.)

**Performance:**

Dogs must jump all sections without visibly moving or stepping on top of any broad jump board, entering between the marker poles placed near the front section and exiting between the poles placed near the back section. Touches and ticks of the leading edge of the first board and the trailing edge of the last board that do not visibly move the board shall not be faulted. When an ascending arrangement is used, the lowest section is the front, but when a hogback arrangement is used, the judge specifies the front. Touching or knocking over the corner markers is not faulted as long as the dog goes between them.

**OBSTACLE AND JUMP POSITIONS**

Distance between obstacles in sequence:

Minimum of 15 feet to a tunnel.

Minimum of 18 feet to a jump.

Minimum of 21 feet to a spread jump (triple bar jump, double bar jump, broad jump). Maximum of 30 feet.

Measurement the of distance between obstacles- the distance between any two obstacles in sequence will be based on the anticipated path of a 20-inch-high jumping dog.

Obstacles should generally stand alone. In Intermediate and below, the entrances should never be adjacent to one another, but entrances can be adjacent in the Advanced class.

It is recommended that there be a minimum of 18 feet to 21 feet between obstacles, with a minimum of 18 feet to a jump, 21 feet to a spread jump, and a maximum of 30 feet between any two obstacles in sequence as measured along the anticipated path of a 20-inch-high jumping dog. Spread jumps (Triple Bar and Broad Jump) shall not be the first obstacle on the course and if set up in sequence there shall be a minimum of 21 feet between the two spread

jumps. To prevent the course from becoming spread out and too long, 25 feet to 30 feet spacing should be used only in special cases.

Contact obstacles such as the A-Frame, Dog Walk, and Seesaw shall not be set up in sequence, or as the first or last obstacle on a course.

**Approach Angles.** Approach angles are determined based on the anticipated path of a 20-inch-high jumping dog through the obstacles. Approach angles to obstacles shall not exceed the following, with additional consideration for safety, based on the obstacle being approached and the running surface.

- All Intermediate classes and below – Generally not exceeding 90 degrees but must not exceed two times at 135 degrees. (Exception: One 180-degree turn will be allowed.)
- All Advanced classes – Generally not exceeding 180 degrees but must not exceed two times at 270 degrees.
- All class Levels with A-Frame – A 180 degree turn from the exit of an Open Tunnel to the ascent of the A-Frame is not allowed.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE AGILITY JUDGE AND OTHER SHOW HELPERS**

### **Helpers:**

The following list of helpers is suggested for the smooth operation of your agility show:

- Judge
- Gate Steward (one)
- Ring Stewards (a minimum of two, preferably three)
- Leash Runner
- Score Sheet Runner
- Scribe (one)
- Timer (one - must be the same person for all dogs in a class)
- Course Builders (several-they may also do the other jobs listed previously).
- Table Stewards

### **Judge's Responsibilities:**

1. Insuring safety (to the extent reasonably possible).
2. Insuring that the handlers, dogs, and spectators have a good experience.
3. A judge may use a course designed by the agility committee or design one and submit it for approval. Judges are reminded that in the Foundation class, the course must be simple "U" (horseshoe), "M", or "S" design, which includes all of the required obstacles. Each obstacle must easily lead to the next, and be spaced at a distance of 18' to 21' between obstacles.
4. Verifying heights of dogs in question by measuring the dog. (See rule #28 on page 3 for jump heights.)
5. Walking the course after the course builders have set it to verify that is has been correctly set (double check distance between obstacles, positions, and angles of obstacles, etc.)
6. Meeting with all stewards and briefing them about their responsibilities. The briefing must include but is not limited to) the following:
  - a) Gate Steward
    - How many dogs to keep on deck.
    - When the next dog should enter the ring.
    - Where leashes and collars should be left.
  - b) Ring Stewards
    - Where they should be positioned.
    - Their duties are to reset any knocked down bars; reset jumps for next height, others as necessary (straighten weave poles etc.)

c) Scribe

- Explain the arm signals to be used. Usually, one arm up with an open hand means to record an "S" for a standard fault on the score sheets.
- Both arms up with hands open means to record an "F" for failure to perform obstacle.
- Record the time from the timekeeper's stopwatch exactly as it reads. Do not convert it to seconds. Remind them to always watch the judge not the dog/handler.
- Be sure to ask any questions about the previous dog's score before the next dog runs, therefore eliminating any confusion.

d) Timer

- Make sure the timer is comfortable with the stopwatch and how to use it.
- Explain that the timer should show the stopwatch to the scribe to copy onto the score sheet. What they should do if the stopwatch malfunctions - always check the stopwatch as soon as the dog is past the start line to verify that it is working. If it is not working, blow the whistle to re-start the dog/handler before they reach obstacle 2 or 3.
- Be sure the timer clearly understands where the start/finish lines are and that the time begins and ends when the dog (not necessarily the handler) crosses the line.
- Explain how the timer will be told that the judge (and scribe) is ready for the next dog to begin.

e) Table steward

- Explain how to fill out the rest of the score sheet from the scribe's notes.

7. Answer any questions.

8. Give the briefing to the competitors. The briefing should never include suggestions on how to handle the course, but this does not prohibit the judge from answering the questions about the permissibility of certain actions under the rules. The briefing should include:

- a) The course time.
- b) A demonstration of the table count.
- c) What actions will result in elimination
- d) That absolutely no unsportsmanlike conduct will be tolerated in the ring or elsewhere on show grounds.
- e) Treats and other aids will not be permitted.
- f) Reminders about touching dogs and obstacles.

9. Judge the class.

Example of a Judge's Show Timetable

- Prior to show date - allow enough time - obtain copies of approved course designs or submit your course designs for approval.
- 1 hour before the show - review the show site for safety and appropriateness. Fill in gopher holes, divots, water holes, etc. If necessary, find another suitable location for the show. Review all equipment for safety (sturdiness) and verify that it meets regulations. Review the course with the course builders. Assist in setting the first course.
- 40 minutes before - walk the course for distance and positioning. Do no place bars on.
- 30 minutes before - meet with the ring stewards and other helpers for their briefing. Remember to include directions for what to do if there is an error or question.
- 5 minutes before - the ring stewards should set the jumps for the first height. Call all handlers for the judges briefing. After the judges briefing, allow handler 5-10 minutes to walk the course. Handlers walk the course without their dogs!
- Give a 2-minute warning so the first handler can get their dog. Clear the course. Double-check all obstacles again. Verify that the timer, scribe, and other helpers are in their places. Send in the first dog/handler team.

## **RESOURCE LIST**

**American Kennel Club (AKC) 51 Madison Avenue**

**New York, NY 10010**

Visit their website at: <http://www.akc.org/>

Washington State 4-H agility is partially modeled after AKC agility. There are several similarities and several differences too. You may be interested in showing AKC style or receiving their information.

Note that our 4-H program is not modeled after the following styles of agility, but it may be of interest to you.

**United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA) PO Box 850955**

**Richardson, TX 75085-0955**

Visit their website at: <http://www.usdcaa.com/>

A variety of helpful items are available. A complete list is available by writing to them. Some of the more valuable resources are:

- USDAA Official Rules and Regulations
- Construction Plans for Dog Agility Obstacles by Kenneth Tatsch
- Junior Handler Agility Training Manual-Level One by Ruth Van Keuren
- Junior Handler Agility Training Manual-Level Two and Three by Ruth VanKeuren
- Agility Score Sheets and Score pads

You may also write for information about how your 4-H program can hold a licensed UJHP agility trial. You may register your dog with them and show in their events. Yes, they register mixed breeds.

**United Kennel Club (UKC) 100 East Kilgore Road**

**Kalamazoo, MI 49002**

Visit their website at: <http://www.ukcdogs.com/>

**North American Dog Agility Council (NADAC) HCR2 Box 277**

**St. Manes, ID 83861**

Visit their website at: <http://www.nadac.com/>

They have requirements for (adult and junior handler) titles similar to regular USDAA. Note that their Novice Jr. Handler title is most like the Senior USDAA Jr. Handler level.



## Appendix 1: Official Height Card

<b>Approved Height Card</b>	
Colorado State 4-H Agility	
<b>Official Height Card</b>	
Member's Name:	
Dog's Name:	
Breed:	
Height at Withers:	
1.	
2.	
(Signature and Title)	
(Date)	

All handlers are required to present a completed Official Height Card for their dog on check-in at the State Fair Agility Trial or have their dog measured to receive a card. Official height cards from outside agility venues will also be accepted.

The dog must be measured by two separate parties familiar with the procedures of measuring the height of a dog, such as a judge or show personnel at the State Dog Agility Competition. The dog must be measured on a flat, firm surface and both measurements must agree within 1 inch when measured at the withers.

Jump Height Card templates in Microsoft Word or PDF, set up to print on standard business card stock, such as Avery 5371 stock, can be found on the state website.

## Appendix 2: Dog Level Progression Charts



Updated 1/16/2024

### Colorado 4-H Dog Level Progression Chart 4-H Dog Showmanship Class Placement\*

Division	Class Name	Class Registration Eligibility	Class Registration Progression
Junior Division	Junior Novice	This class is for exhibitors who are 8–10 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year, are in their 1st year of participation in Showmanship and have no prior experience with any other dog showing entity (4-H, AKC, UKC, etc.).	Exhibitor can only stay in this class for 1 year.
	Junior Open	This class is for exhibitors who are 8–10 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year and have previous experience in Showmanship (4-H, AKC, UKC, etc.).	Exhibitor can stay in this class until age changes.
Intermediate Division	Intermediate Novice	This class is for exhibitors who are 11–13 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year, are in their 1st year of participation in Showmanship and have no prior experience with any other dog showing entity (4-H, AKC, UKC, etc.).	Exhibitor can only stay in this class for 1 year.  If exhibitor wins the Intermediate class Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion at State 4-H Dog Trials, exhibitor <b>MUST</b> move up to the Master Showman Class to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
	Intermediate Open	This class is for exhibitors who are 11–13 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year and have previous experience in Showmanship (4-H, AKC, UKC, etc.).	Exhibitor can stay in this class until age changes EXCEPT if exhibitor places 1st – 10th in this class at State 4-H Dog Trials, then the exhibitor <b>MUST</b> move to the Intermediate Advanced class to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.  If exhibitor wins the Intermediate class Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion at State 4-H Dog Trials, the exhibitor <b>MUST</b> move to the Master Showman Class to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials.
	Intermediate Advanced	This class is for exhibitors who are 11–13 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year who placed 1 <sup>st</sup> through 10 <sup>th</sup> with a qualifying score in Intermediate Open at a previous State 4-H Dog Trial.	Exhibitor can stay in this class until age out. If exhibitor wins the Intermediate class Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion at State 4-H Dog Trials, exhibitor <b>MUST</b> register in the Master Showman Class to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials.

Division	Class Name	Class Registration Eligibility	Class Registration Progression
Senior Division	Senior Novice	This class is for exhibitors who are 14–18 years old as of December 31 of the current year, are in their 1st year of participation in Showmanship and have no prior experience with any other dog showing entity (4-H, AKC, UKC, etc.).	Exhibitor can only stay in this class for 1 year.  If exhibitor wins the Senior class Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion at State 4-H Dog Trial, exhibitor <b>MUST</b> register in the Master Showman Class to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
	Senior Open	This class is for exhibitors who are 14–18 years old as of December 31 of the current 4-H year and have at least one year showmanship experience with any entity (4-H, AKC, UKC, etc.).	Exhibitor can stay in this class until age changes EXCEPT if exhibitor places 1st – 10th in this class at State 4-H Dog Trials this year, then the exhibitor <b>MUST</b> move up to the Senior Advanced class to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.  If exhibitor wins the Senior class Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion at State 4-H Dog Trial, the exhibitor <b>MUST</b> move up to the Master Showman Class to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
	Senior Advanced	This class is for exhibitors who are 14–18 years of age as of December 31 of the current 4-H year who placed 1 <sup>st</sup> through 10 <sup>th</sup> with a qualifying score in Senior Open at a previous State 4-H Dog Trial.	Exhibitor can stay in this class until age out. If exhibitor wins the Senior class Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion at State 4-H Dog Trials, exhibitor <b>MUST</b> register in the Master Showman Class to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
Masters Division	Master Showman	This class is for exhibitors who are age 11–18 as of December 31 of the current 4-H year (Intermediates and Seniors) who have won the Grand Champion or Reserve Grand Champion in Intermediate or Senior Showmanship at a previous State 4-H Dog Trial.	Once an exhibitor has won Grand or Reserve Grand Champion Master Showman, Senior Grand or Reserve Grand Champion Showman, or Intermediate Grand or Reserve Grand Champion Showman, they are required to show in the Master Showman class for their remaining years as a 4-H exhibitor.

\* Counties are encouraged to follow the 4-H State Dog Trails rules as closely as possible. Please note that some counties may have differences and it is important that exhibitors learn both their county and state rules to ensure success in qualifying for the 4-H State Dog Trails at State Fair. Counties have the discretion for class placement. However, 4-H State Dog Trial rules may prohibit eligibility for 4-H State Dog Trial entry.

**In Showmanship, the handler is the focus of judging, not the dog.**

Colorado State University, U.S Department of Agriculture and Colorado counties cooperating. To simplify technical terminology, trade names or products and equipment occasionally will be used. No endorsement of product names is intended nor is criticism implied of products not mentioned.

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## Colorado 4-H Dog Level Progression Chart

### 4-H Dog Obedience Class Placement\*

Division	Class Name	Class Registration Eligibility	Class Registration Progression
Puppy Division	Puppy Class	<p style="color: red;"><b>*NOT A STATE 4-H DOG TRIALS CLASS BUT HIGHLY ENCOURAGED IN COUNTIES*</b></p> <p>For puppies or dogs which are not ready for regular obedience classes. The purpose of this class will be to introduce obedience commands to a puppy/dog without the stress of perfection seen in regular obedience classes. This class will introduce the puppy/dog to dog shows in a positive manner, thus setting the puppy/dog up for a lifetime of enjoyment in the show ring.</p>	<p>After one year of showing in the Puppy Obedience Class: If the member was in their 1st year of obedience training, the team moves into Pre-Beginner Novice A Obedience, if the member was in their 2nd year or higher of obedience training, the team moves to Pre-Beginner Novice B Obedience</p>
Beginner Novice Division	Pre-Beginner Novice A	<p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Pre-Beginner Novice training with no prior experience in Pre-Beginner Novice training.</p>	<p>Exhibitors and their dog can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move Pre-Beginner Novice B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Pre-Beginner Novice B	<p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Pre-Beginner Novice A. Handlers with prior Pre-Beginner Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Pre-Beginner Novice dog should also enter the B class.</p>	<p>Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until they receive a qualifying score at County Level<sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a dog has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Beginner Novice A or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Beginner Novice A	<p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Beginner Novice training with no prior experience in Beginner Novice training.</p>	<p>Exhibitors can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Beginner Novice B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Beginner Novice B	<p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Beginner Novice A. Handlers with prior Beginner Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Beginner Novice dog should also enter the B class.</p>	<p>Exhibitor and Dog teams may stay at this level until they receive a qualifying score at County Level<sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a dog has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Novice A or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>

Division	Class Name	Class Registration Eligibility	Class Registration Progression
Novice Division	Novice A	<p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Novice training with no prior experience in Novice training.</p> <p>Exhibitor and dog teams are encouraged to enter this class only after successful completion of the Beginner Novice Division <b>OR</b> with approval of their County Dog Superintendents.</p>	<p>Exhibitors can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Novice B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Novice B	<p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Novice A. Handlers with prior Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Novice dog should also enter the B class.</p>	<p>Exhibitor and dog teams can only stay in this class until they receive a qualifying score at County Level<sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a dog has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Pre-Graduate Novice A (or higher level with approval of their County Dog Superintendent) to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
Graduate Novice Division	Pre-Grad Novice A	<p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Pre-Graduate Novice training with no prior experience in Pre-Graduate Novice training.</p> <p>Exhibitors are encouraged to enter this class only after successful completion of the Novice Division <b>OR</b> with approval of their County Dog Superintendents.</p>	<p>Exhibitors can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Pre-Grad Novice B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Pre-Grad Novice B	<p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Pre-Graduate Novice A. Handlers with prior Pre-Graduate Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Pre-Graduate Novice dog should also enter the B class.</p>	<p>Exhibitor and dog teams can only stay in this class until they receive a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a dog has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Graduate Novice A (or higher level with approval of their County Dog Superintendent) to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Graduate Novice A	<p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Graduate Novice training with no prior experience in Graduate Novice training.</p> <p>Exhibitors are encouraged to enter only after successful completion of the Pre-Grad Novice Classes or receive approval of their County Dog Superintendents.</p>	<p>Exhibitors can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Graduate Novice B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Graduate Novice B	<p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Graduate Novice A. Handlers with prior Graduate Novice A experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Graduate Novice dog should also enter the B class.</p>	<p>Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until ready to move up to Open Obedience regardless of whether a qualifying score is earned in Graduate Novice B.</p>

Division	Class Name	Class Registration Eligibility	Class Registration Progression
Advanced Division	Open A	<p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Advanced Open training with no prior experience in Advanced Open training.</p> <p>Exhibitor and dog teams are encouraged to enter only after successful completion of the Graduate Novice Classes or receive approval of their County Dog Superintendents.</p>	<p>Exhibitors can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Open B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Open B	<p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Advanced Open A. Handlers with prior Advanced Open A experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Advanced Open dog should also enter the B class.</p>	<p>Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until ready to move up to Graduate Open A Obedience regardless of whether a qualifying score is earned in Open B.</p>
	Graduate Open A	<p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Advanced Graduate training with no prior experience in Advanced Graduate training.</p> <p>Exhibitor and dog teams are encouraged to only enter after successful completion of the Open Classes or receive approval of their County Dog Superintendents.</p>	<p>Exhibitors can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Open B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Graduate Open B	<p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Advanced Graduate Open A. Handlers with prior Advanced Graduate Open A experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Advanced Graduate Open dog should also enter the B class.</p>	<p>Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until ready to move up to Utility A Obedience regardless of whether a qualifying score is earned in Graduate Open B.</p>
	Utility A	<p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Advanced Utility training with no prior experience in Advanced Utility training.</p> <p>Exhibitor and dog teams are encouraged to enter only after successful completion of the Graduate Open Classes or receive approval of their County Dog Superintendents.</p>	<p>Exhibitors can only compete in this class for 1 year.</p> <p>After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Utility B or higher to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.</p>
	Utility B	<p>This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Advanced Utility A. Handlers with prior Advanced Utility A experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Advanced Utility dog should also enter the B class.</p>	<p>Exhibitor can compete in this level for the remainder of years in the 4-H dog project.</p>

Veterans Division	Novice-Utility	<p><u>Optional</u> level for Dogs <b>7 years or older</b> who can no longer jump the full heights required by regular Novice through Utility Obedience classes. Approval of their County Dog Superintendent is required.</p>	<p>Veteran dogs will compete at the Obedience level the member chooses, from Novice up through Utility Obedience. A veteran dog may change Obedience levels in either direction each year as their health determines. Once a veteran dog can no longer jump at least <math>\frac{1}{2}</math> their regulation jump height they must be moved to a class that does not require jumping. Veteran dogs cannot compete against regular Obedience classes for awards at State 4-H Dog Trials. See State Dog Contest Rules for additional details.</p>
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**<sup>1</sup> Qualification at the "County Level" means earning a qualifying score at County Fair or, if allowed by the County, earning a qualifying score at a 4-H Fun Match.**

**\* Exhibitors qualifying in an Obedience class at the County Level, regardless of if they attend State 4-H Dog Trials, are strongly recommended to move to the next appropriate class the following year.**

**\*\* If a member earns an equivalent title (AKC, UKC, etc.) MORE than 4 months prior to State Dog Trials, they are disqualified from competing in that same level at State Fair. They may still compete at the level if the title is received LESS than 4 months prior to State Fair.**

**\*\*\* Counties are encouraged to follow the 4-H State Dog Trails rules as closely as possible. Please note that some counties may have different requirements and it is important that exhibitors learn both their county and state rules to ensure success in qualifying for 4-H State Dog Trail Fair.**

**Counties have the discretion for class placement. However, 4-H State Dog Trial rules may prohibit eligibility for 4-H State Dog Trial entry.**

**\*\*\*\* Exhibitors are encouraged to follow this class progression; however, with county approval an exhibitor may advance to a higher level. Exhibitors must still follow state dog contest rules to be eligible to compete at the State Fair 4-H Dog Trials.**

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## Colorado 4-H Dog Level Progression Chart

### 4-H Dog Rally Class Placement\*

Division	Class Name	Class Registration Eligibility *	Class Registration Progression**
Novice Division (On-Leash)	Rally Novice A	<p>This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Rally Novice training with no prior experience in Rally Novice Dog training.</p> <p>Any handler with prior Rally training experience who is starting a new dog should enter the Rally Novice B class.</p>	Exhibitors may only compete in Rally Novice A for one year. After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Novice B or higher Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
	Rally Novice B	This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Novice A. Handlers with prior Rally Novice experience who are showing a new dog, or new handlers showing an experienced Rally Novice dog should also enter the B class.	Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until they receive a qualifying score at County Level <sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a team has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Intermediate or higher Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials.
Intermediate Division (On-Leash)	Rally Intermediate A	This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Rally Intermediate training with no prior experience in Rally Intermediate dog training.	Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Intermediate A for one year. After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Intermediate B or higher Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
	Rally Intermediate B	This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Intermediate A. Handlers and dogs with previous Rally Intermediate experience and not eligible to enter Rally Intermediate A should also enter the B class.	Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until they receive a qualifying score at County Level <sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a team has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Advanced or higher Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
Advanced Division (Off-Leash)	Rally Advanced A	This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Rally Advanced training with no prior experience in Rally Advanced dog training.	Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Advanced A for one year. After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Advanced B or higher Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
	Rally Advanced B	This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Advanced A. Handlers and dogs with previous Rally Advanced experience and not eligible to enter Rally Advanced should also enter the B class.	Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until they receive a qualifying score at County Level <sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a team has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Excellent or higher Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.

Division	Class Name	Class Registration Eligibility *	Class Registration Progression **
Excellent Division (Off-Leash)	Rally Excellent A	This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Rally Excellent training with no prior experience in Rally Excellent dog training.	Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Excellent A for one year. After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Excellent B or higher Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
	Rally Excellent B	This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Excellent A. Handlers and dogs with previous Rally Excellent experience and not eligible to enter Rally Excellent A should also enter the B class.	Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until they receive a qualifying score at County Level <sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a team has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Advanced/Excellent (RAE) or higher Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
Rally Advanced/Excellent Division (Off-Leash)	Rally Advanced/Excellent A (RAE-A)	This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Rally Advanced/Excellent (RAE) training with no prior experience in Rally Advanced/Excellent (RAE) dog training.	Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Advanced/Excellent (RAE) A for one year. After their first year, the team <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Advanced/Excellent (RAE) B or higher Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials the following year.
	Rally Advanced/Excellent B (RAE-B)	This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Advanced/Excellent A. Handlers and dogs with previous Rally Advanced/Excellent experience and not eligible to enter Rally Advanced/Excellent A should also enter the B class.	Exhibitor and dog teams may stay in this class until they receive a qualifying score at County Level <sup>1</sup> or State 4-H Dog Trials. Once a team has received a qualifying score at County Level or State 4-H Dog Trials, they <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Master Division to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials.
Master Division (Off-Leash)	Rally Master A	This class is only open to exhibitors and dogs in their <b>first year</b> of Rally Master training with no prior experience in Rally Master dog training.	Exhibitors and dogs may only compete in Rally Master A for one year. After their first year the team <b>MUST</b> move to Rally Master B to be eligible for State 4-H Dog Trials. Once shown in Rally Master, exhibitors can no longer compete in any lower Rally classes with the same dog.
	Rally Master B	This class is open to exhibitors and dogs who did not earn a qualifying score in Rally Masters A, as well as handlers and dogs with prior Masters Rally experience. Exhibitor and dog teams may continue to compete in this class for their remaining years in the program.	<p>Exhibitors may continue to compete in this class <u>for the remainder of their 4-H years</u> with the same dog, regardless of whether a qualifying score is earned or an equivalent title is received from a national dog association.</p> <p>Once shown in Rally Master, exhibitors can no longer compete in any lower Rally classes with the same dog.</p>

\* If a team earns an equivalent title from a national dog association (AKC, UKC, etc.) MORE than 4 months prior to the State Fair 4-H Dog Trials, they are disqualified from competing in that same level at State Fair. They may still compete at that level if the title is received LESS than 4 months prior to State Fair.

\*\* Counties have discretion for class placement and may elect to use qualifying scores from either County Fair OR State Fair as the criteria for class progression. However, 4-H State Dog Trial Rules will govern eligibility for State Fair 4-H Dog Trial entries. Exhibitor and dog teams earning a qualifying score in a Rally class at County Fair are **strongly encouraged** to move up to the next higher Division the following year, regardless of whether they attend State Fair. Once a team obtains a qualifying score at the State Fair 4-H Dog Trials, that exhibitor is no longer eligible to compete in that same Division with the same dog in subsequent years at State Fair.

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