ACODC AGILITY RULES 2026/2027

Please read the whole document and sign and date on the last page. This document will renew each year.

Agility Class

- The new rules below will apply from November 1st 2026.
- All Agility participants present on the day must assist with equipment set up at **8.00am** and again at **10.45am** for the pull down. If you are late to arrive, please see Head Agility Instructor.
- Attendance requirements will need to be maintained at 80% per quarter. For absences that go over this period, e.g. going away on holiday, prior notification and all communication must be directed to the Head Agility Instructor for discussion.
- All handlers taking part in Agility training must book online every week and no later than 12 noon Saturday.
- Any cancellation of Training by the Club will not affect attendance records.
- Membership Name Tags must be visible.
- Any member who would like to participate in Agility, and before applying on the 'Waiting List', must be at a Class 5 Obedience level with proficiency in 'Recall Under Distraction'.
- The Head Agility Instructor will provide an Agility course set up. All members must assist in both setting up and pulling down of the equipment. Please refrain from stopping and talking whilst others continue to set up/ pack up. This places an unfair burden on others to set up / pack up the equipment that you have been using as well. If you don't understand how to set up the equipment, please ask anyone around you to explain.
- All members participating in agility training are to remain present ringside to assist with changing jump heights and to be aware of when it is their turn. The Head Agility Instructor will put up a training order at the start of the session. All members then take turns training in the main ring, with a 3-minute time limit set for each turn.
- Only the Head Agility Instructor is allowed to enter the ring to instruct handlers training in the ring. This is to prevent multiple people entering the ring, which is distracting to the handler and their dog, plus potentially confusing if the handler is being given multiple opinions on their performance. If you wish to provide constructive feedback to other Agility members, you may do so once the handler has exited the ring with their dog.
- Junior handlers must be a minimum of 12 years old, and a parent / guardian is to remain present. The Club reserves the right not to instruct children if we feel the safety of the child or other Club members are at risk.
- Agility class may be cancelled if the weather is deemed to be extreme (heat, rainfall, lightning, wind) to ensure the safety of the handler / dog. The Head Agility Instructor may determine this before or on the Sunday. Please check the Club website before leaving home.

Dog Participation

- Dogs must have a flat collar only. No correction collars, gentle leaders or similar equipment are to be used.

- Dogs should be in good health when attending training. Please be responsible if your dog has kennel cough or other contagious conditions. If your dog has been diagnosed with kennel cough, or suspect your dog is affected, please do not bring your dog to training until there has been no coughing for 2 weeks. Bitches in season are not allowed to attend training.

- Dogs should be warmed up before entering the ring to train. Agility is a strenuous exercise, and it is important for you to help your dog warm up and cool down to minimise the risk of injury. The Head Agility Instructor can advise ways to help warm up and cool down if you are unsure.

- Dogs are to be toileted before entering the ring – fouling inside the ring creates a distraction for other dogs using the ring / equipment. It is the handler's responsibility to clean any equipment affected, including picking up poo and/or use water to rinse/dilute any area where has been urinated upon.

- Outside of the ring, dogs must always be on lead. Ideally and preferably, crate the dog or return them back to your car (unless it is too hot). They **must not** be tied to the agility trailer.

- Dogs must be a minimum of 12 months old to do agility training. However, younger dogs may commence Foundation training earlier under the supervision of the Head Agility Instructor. Handlers must advise the Head Agility Instructor if their dog is under 12 months old.

- Only one dog and handler in the ring at a time. The Foundation ring can be used by any member, however full control of your dog at all times is required in order to prevent incidents such as entry into the main ring or disruption to an obedience class.

- The Club reserves the right to expel any dog or handler showing aggression. All incidents of aggression are to be reported immediately to the Head Agility Instructor. A handler whose dog is assessed by the Head Agility Instructor as aggressive, will be advised on what that means for their ongoing participation on a case-by-case basis.

Human Participation

- Handlers are required to wear appropriate footwear and clothing to ensure safe handling. i.e. footwear with traction and clothing that does not interfere with handling your dog on the ring.

- The aim of the agility team is to provide support to one another and promote a fun, positive training environment for both handlers and their dog/s. Each handler is expected to contribute to this by always assisting with equipment set up and pack down. This extends to assisting with equipment maintenance and shed cleaning as required. In addition, helping with Club demonstrations, fun days and maintaining a positive attitude.

- Handlers are to ensure suitable treats and/or toys are brought to reward their dogs during training. Small pieces of easily consumed treats are recommended. e.g. sausage, chicken or cheese are good. Dry kibble is not considered suitable as it can be difficult to swallow during the agility training. Please be mindful if using a toy during warmup for motivation, as it may distract another dog or handler in the ring.

- The Club does not accept responsibility for injury to handler or dog. It is the handler's responsibility to ensure their own safety as well as their dog/s.

- There are a number of different agility training and handling techniques to suit the combinations of handler/dog teams. The Head Agility Instructor can demonstrate, explain and recommend Agility techniques to assist and guide team members. It is the responsibility of the handler to take control of their own learning by listening, understanding and applying the most appropriate method for themselves and their dog/s.

- Any disputes related to the training environment or agility conduct are to be reported directly to the Head Agility Instructor who will address the issue on a case-by-case basis. Please refrain from venting your frustration to others who are at training primarily to enjoy time with their dog/s. Generally, people do not wish to be involved in negative conversations or conflict.

- Homework outside of the Sunday session training is essential for progress, as one day a week is not adequate. Please ask the Head Agility Instructor for tips on how to train on your own without agility equipment. Some members may choose buy equipment to use at home.

- Regular attendance and commitment to Sunday Agility class is expected at 80% per quarter. If you cease attendance, or are inconsistent, the Head Agility Instructor has the discretion to cancel your place as an Agility member in order to allow another to gain a place in the group from the waitlist. If for unforeseen circumstances you are no longer able to attend class or cannot commit regularly, you are kindly requested to advise the Head Agility Instructor as soon as possible.

Please sign and date below after you have read over, understand and agree to the Agility Rules.

ACODC Agility Class Handler to sign: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____

ACODC Head of Agility to sign: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____