

2011 RULE BOOK CHANGES

Following is a condensed summary of major changes to USDAA Official Rules & Regulations. It is highly advised that a complete read of the rule book (including footnotes and other documents referred to therein) be made in order to locate all changes. These have not been highlighted in the 2011 edition as portions of the rule book have been rewritten with footnotes incorporated, and some changes do not appear in the rule book as the change is the removal of a previous requirement.

Chapter 1 & Chapter 7–

Title Names in the Performance Program renamed to align title names (“Performance Dog Champion” patterned after “Agility Dog Champion”, rather than former “Accomplished Performance Dog”)

Footnotes have been added to offer more definition and guidance to terms and concepts.

Chapter 2 –

§2.2. Provision added that permits move-ups from day-to-day at an event if announced in the Test Schedule. (group option).

§2.2. Provision added that permits mixed height pairs in relay titling classes if announced in the Test Schedule (group option).

§2.5. Ring dimensions scaled down based upon the type of event or class. A table has been added to this section setting forth minimum ring dimensions for each event or class type.

Footnotes have been added to offer more definition and guidance to terms and concepts.

Chapter 3 –

§3.2. Beginning descent on a contact obstacle has been redefined in footnote 3.03 as follows:

“A dog shall be viewed as “beginning descent” if the dog has achieved a distribution of its weight forward onto the down ramp. In other words, when the dog’s center of mass has passed onto the descent ramp. Touching with one paw while the balance of the dog’s weight remains on its rear feet on the ascent ramp or cross ramp (dog walk) does not demonstrate the commitment necessary to indicate the dog has willingly begun descent.”

This impacts scoring in that “beginning descent” defines the point at which a contact obstacle cannot be “refused” and at which the obstacle is considered to have been “performed”.

§3.2. Breakaway Tire added as a construction option for the tire jump and must be faulted if “broken”.

Footnotes have been added to offer more definition and guidance to terms and concepts.

Chapter 5 –

§5.3. Beginning June 1, the “Four-paw” safety rule replaced with three refusals rule before instructing the competitor to omit the obstacle. Standard faults retained should they occur on an attempt to perform the obstacle.

Footnotes have been added to offer more definition and guidance to terms and concepts.

Chapter 6—

§6.1. Restriction on table (not be used except as a start or finish point) has been removed. This has no immediate impact but opens the door in the future to consider use of table as a “point” obstacle on course.

§6.3. Absolute minimums adjusted to align with low end of the operating range for setting SCT.

§6.6. Point requirements for Starters Gamblers change to conform to the Advanced & Masters point schedule effective January 1, 2012. The point schedule for Starters Gamblers in effect through December 31, 2011, shall be the point schedule for the Intro Program. The provision not allowing bonus points has been removed for Starters Gamblers, but this does not become effective until January 1, 2012.

§6.6. Table added for Starters Jumpers SCT rates. Absolute minimums adjusted to align with low end of the operating range for setting SCT.

Footnotes have been added to offer more definition and guidance to terms and concepts.

Chapter 9 –

Veterans Program defined.

Chapter 10 –

Intro Program defined.

Expert classes renamed as “Masters Challenge” classes. Various modifications to Chapter 12.

APPENDIX A –

The Long Jump span for Performance has been revised for the 12” dog. All parameters for use of the Long Jump in the different Programs are set forth in tables.

Additional construction and setting guidance has been provided for the A-frame, reflecting the importance of measuring the angle of ascent (and descent) to provide consistency from event to event.

The span of the weave poles has been changed to reflect 22” to 24” span, rather than 22” plus or minus 2”. This change is effective January 1, 2012.

Construction guidelines and provisions are set forth for the Breakaway Tire.

Construction provisions and guidelines are set forth for the Viaduct jump.