

USDAA Policy Statement on Training in the Ring or “Fix & Continue”

Effective Date: For events beginning on or after September 4, 2018, revised for clarity on 10.10.18

BACKGROUND

Provisions in USDAA regulations in Chapters 2 and 3 typically provide a means of dismissing competitors for “training in the ring”. This Policy Statement is issued to define circumstances where “training in the ring” is permitted, defined herein as “**Fix & Continue.**”

POLICY STATEMENT

The intent of **Fix & Continue (F&C)** is to allow handlers to attempt to fix obstacle performance while continuing to work on course.

- F&C can be initiated by a handler at any time on course when the dog’s performance on an obstacle is not to their expectation.
- Once the handler initiates F&C, the judge will signal to the timer and scribe.
 - The scribe will record an elimination.
 - The timer will indicate when the maximum course time has been reached (60 seconds).
- The handler may opt to reset the dog and repeat an obstacle one time to attempt to fix it, and then continue on course at a normal pace.
- Handlers may include one or more preceding obstacle(s) to establish a proper approach to the obstacle being fixed.
- If the handler encounters a second obstacle they would like to attempt to fix on course within the allowed 60 seconds, they may repeat a second obstacle one time, but must then proceed to the exit.
- Should a handler choose to attempt to fix a single obstacle more than one time, the second attempt to fix shall apply, and the handler must proceed to the exit.

In the application of this Policy Statement,

- Single jump bars may be reset for F&C attempts. Because of safety concerns, spread or long jump planks/bars may not be reset for the purpose of F&C.
- F&C does not apply to Gamblers or Snooker.
- F&C does not replace provisions permitted in Intro or Miscellaneous Classes defined for limited training purposes, which are already allowed at events.
- F&C does not replace provisions that may otherwise be set forth in the regulations, which may result in additional faults or dismissal from the ring (e.g., delay at start penalty when imposed, handler assistance, fault limits, safety concerns, etc.).

- F&C should be utilized for the benefit of the dog and not as a punitive correction. Harsh verbal/physical corrections shall not be tolerated and any determination of harshness by the judge shall be immediately dismissed from the ring and be subject to review of the Disciplinary Action Committee as set forth in Appendix C— Rules of Conduct & Disciplinary Actions and are subject to the full range of actions described therein.

TRANSITION & IMPLEMENTATION RULES & NOTES

Concurrent with the effective date of this Policy Statement, USDAA Rules & Regulations are amended to permit certain actions by the handler as defined herein without being dismissed from the ring. Where such permitted actions occur, the score is marked for elimination.

The provisions of this rule and policy statement are at the discretion of the host group or organization, which must be disclosed through publication in the test schedule, notification through entry confirmation, or in a notice posted at check-in prior to the start of the event.

The application and limitations provided in this Policy Statement should be disclosed in the Agility Test Schedule or entry confirmations issued for the Event, which may be done by reference. Any options to be applied shall be specifically disclosed (such as fault limits shall apply, which may override certain Fix and Continue options.)

For an event after the effective date for which the Agility Test Schedules and entry confirmations have already been issued, a group may at any time prior to the start of the event, announce and post a notification of implementation of this policy at the event, or through a separately issued notification.

Any issues arising from application of this policy statement may result in consideration for modifications or rescission of this statement. Issues should be reported to the USDAA office evaluation purposes.

Questions regarding this policy statement shall be directed to the USDAA office via email at rules@usdaa.com, or if by phone, (972) 487-2200 x102.