

USDAA@Home!SM

Guidelines for Timing & Video

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The following guidelines for timing and video of USDAA@Home! events are intended to aid in official judging of performances eligible for titling qualification in dog agility & rally obedience.

Time measurement and the angle and quality of video capture are significant factors in judging performances in USDAA@Home! events. The following guidelines should be carried out by the Competitor to enable the performance to be consistently judged.

TIMING GUIDELINES

Time is measured by a Start and Finish Line, or at a designated Start or Finish jump.

- Two points define a line as shown on the course diagram; such points should be identifiable from a distance and must be visible on video
 - When a Start or Finish line is defined on the course as a hurdle or jump, the vertical plane of the jump shall define the line
 - When a Start or Finish line is not at a hurdle or jump, it must be defined by two independent points. These may include,
 - The corners or edges of two other obstacles on course where the line between defines the start or finish area
 - sports marker cones,
 - poles (e.g., dowels, PVC poles, fence stakes, any of which for safety reasons shall be no less than 36" in height),
 - extended measure or marker tape, or
 - marker paint
- Time may be measured by a timing device, or person operating a stopwatch from start to finish, or may be estimated based upon review of video following the run
- The Start & Finish lines (including the two defining points) shall be visible on video
- Start and Finish lines must be crossed for Start and Finish or scores will be marked with "No Time"
- Time Standards provided are intended for all dogs, regardless of size or program, unless otherwise stated.

VIDEO GUIDELINES

Video is for purposes of judging the round, so the placement and angle of the camera can potentially have a detrimental impact on scoring. Care should be taken to follow guidelines to the extent needed to provide a good, judge-viewing experience.

- Preferred resolution is 720p
- Video, when used in a stationary position, must show the full course area, and should have sufficient perspective to view key judging points, including but not limited to–
 - Cross the Start and Finish lines
 - Down contact zones on A-Frame. Dog Walk, and See-Saw
 - Angle showing visual line through the tire on a tire jump (angled, but not perpendicular to the jumping path)

- Video should,
 - when hand-held by a “videographer”, must show as much of the course as possible (close-ups are to be avoided)
 - start either with the dog with handler on approach to or in stationary position at the start; the video should show the handler lead-out, if any
 - continue 2 – 3 seconds past the crossing of the Finish line
- To provide best viewing, use—
 - landscape mode rather than Portrait mode when using a tablet or cell phone as a camera, while seeking to keep handler and dog in the frame when working near each other.
 - a tripod for stability whenever possible.
- Editing video between the start and finish lines is prohibited.
- Practice video recording before capturing your final run.
- Be sure your battery is charged, and the lens is clean. (Clean only with microfiber or other manufacturer approved material.)

Questions about USDAA@Home! Guidelines for Timing & Video should be directed to the USDAA office at USDAAatHome@usdaa.com.