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Patron  
Professor David de Kretser AO  
Governor of Victoria

To All Agility Affiliates

### Re Competing in Seperarate height Categories

ANKC agility is the only agility in Australia and one of the very few in the world that does not use a slower rate/greater SCT for small dogs

The 1st July 2006 rules allow trials to be scheduled with all height categories competing together or if advertised, separately in their separate height categories (See Rule 4.1.2). When advertised to compete in their separate height category there is the option for judges to use a different rate thus different SCT for each height category.

The Agility Committee hoped that by now there would have been more trials with separate SCT's thus a good cross section of judges would have experience to help formulating guidelines for different SCT's to be used when trials are scheduled with the height categories competing separately. However this has not happened.

We believe that affiliates are unlikely to embrace trials where different SCT's are used for each height category unless the format is both simplified and standardised. We also recognise that it is important to gain some experience of different SCT's prior to making submissions for the next rule change. The committee is therefore promoting the following simplified standardise separate SCT scheme with the objective of reviewing it with judges, triallers and affiliates after some significant experience has been gained by all parties.

#### Simplified separate SCT scheme.

This scheme applies to Open, Excellent and Masters Agility and Jumping classes only and relies on the height categories within each class being divided into two groups, 2 & 300 and 4, 5, & 600, with each group being given its own SCT. Preliminary investigation indicate that the 2 & 300 height categories in these classes should have a course time 10% greater than the 4,5, & 600 height categories.

In order to have a successful trial of this system all trials run under this scheme will need all judges to use the same criteria in regard to extra time for the 200 & 300 height category. To achieve this we are asking affiliates, when using this scheme, and engaging judges, to ask the judges to agree to add 10 % to their SCT for 2 & 300 dogs and/ or include it in the contract.

The implementation of this scheme, as well as simplifying the issue of applying different SCT's for the different height categories from a judge's perspective, will also facilitate awarding places within a class for each group of height categories for affiliates. For instance instead of offering 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in a class as now, an affiliate could offer 1st place in the 2 & 300 height category and 1st place in the 4, 5, & 600 height category, or 1st place in the 2 & 300 ht. cat. and 1st & 2nd in the 4, 5, & 600 ht category. This would go some way towards making the awarding of class places more appropriate.

When height categories are advertised as competing separately then in the Master Classes 1<sup>st</sup>. place clear rounds in each height category will count towards the Agility Champion title. Points from the Master classes for the DOY competitions will remain as now. i.e. clear round Master passes will be ranked according to actual lapsed time.

The 2008 state trial will be run using this scheme.

#### Procedure for running trials using the above scheme

1. Advertise that the trial will be run with height categories competing separately
2. Include in the judge's contracts the condition that they set one SCT for the 4, 5, & 600 height category dogs and increase it by 10% for the 200 & 300 height category dogs.
3. Decide on the prize schedule eg 1st, 2nd, 3rd etc place for 2 & 300 height category AND 1st, 2nd 3rd place for the 4, 5, & 600 height category. Or 1<sup>st</sup>, 2nd 3<sup>rd</sup> etc for each height OR 1<sup>st</sup>.for each height and 1st 2nd 3rd etc overall based on either percentage of course time or actual lapsed time.

#### GAMES TRAINING - 24TH MAY 2008

Southern O.D.C. have cancelled their May double trial in 2008. A games training day will be held at KCC Park on that day commencing at 1.00pm and finish late afternoon.

The judges training will be combined with stewards training and any current or potential games stewards are invited to attend. Please contact any member of the agility committee to indicate your interest, We would also appreciate you informing your agility triallers that they are also welcome.

#### STRATEGIC PAIRS – SUBSTITUTION

There have been some questions as to whether to allow substitution on the day when a strategic pairs partner and dog has not arrived, or the dog is unable to run. As this is not allowed under the rules in any other instance, it was decided by the Agility Committee that substitution of pairs on the day of the event is not allowed.