

AKC ~ What's New in 2020?

AKC Agility has new choices for the new decade! In an effort to provide more options for each individual's needs, we're rolling out several changes starting January 1, 2020.

Entering a mix of Regular and Preferred and/or different jump heights at the same trial

Dogs can enter Regular or Preferred for each class regardless of what they entered for their other classes. Also, they do not have to enter at the same jump height for all classes. So for example, a team that would like to move to Preferred but wants to finish a title in Regular can now move to Preferred for all classes except the one where they're finishing the title. Or a team that would like to try 24C for a class or two but not for the whole day or weekend can now enter 20 in some classes and 24C in others. (NOTE that double Os must still be earned within Regular or Preferred, not one leg in Regular and the other in Preferred).

Fix and Go On

If a specific performance doesn't meet the handler's expectations, a team may fix/repeat that performance (for example an obstacle, a short sequence such as a jump into the weaves to try the approach again, a second try at a lead-out, etc). This may be done ONCE on course and will result in an NQ, but the team may continue on the course (until the given time for that class runs out – 60 seconds for Standard, 45 seconds for JWW, and the first buzzer for T2B and FAST). This is a one-year trial. Please remember Fix and Go On is in place to help the dog. All fixes should be done in a positive manner. Fix and Go On is available in any class.

FEO (For Exhibition Only)

FEO may be offered at the host club's discretion. The trial premium must state whether FEO is or is not offered for that trial. FEO is available only in T2B and FAST. Dogs enter the class as usual, but before the start of the run (the lead-out) they must announce "FEO" (it is recommended that FEO be marked ahead of time on the gate sheet as a courtesy to the next exhibitor). They will be given from their lead-out until the buzzer to practice with their dog. They do not have to run the course as designed, they may touch their dog or the equipment, and they may have a toy in the ring (the toy must not be a noise-maker or a ball, and the toy may not leave the handler's hand). FEO runs are non-qualifying, and as such can be entered at any jump height or level the handler chooses (see above for information on entering multiple jump heights within a day or weekend) including a height or level for which the dog is not eligible (for example, a 20-inch dog can enter T2B or FAST at 12 if they are sure they'll be running FEO, or an Open dog can enter Master FAST). As with Fix and Go On, this is a one-year trial and is meant to benefit the dog. All FEO runs should be done in a positive manner.

Weave Poles

Alternating solid-colored weaves may be used. This is to increase visibility if the background makes it difficult to see white (white walls, white ring gates, etc). If white striped poles are used, the striping must be painted or extruded (no tape).