



AKC Agility League
Winter Season 2024
Guide

Thank you for participating in the AKC Agility League Program. We hope you have fun! This guidebook is designed to help you and your team members navigate through the season.

AKC information:

- Penny Leigh – Program Director – 919-816-3749
- Email – AgilityLeague@akc.org
- League Facebook Group -
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/akcagilityleague>
- League Website: <https://www.akc.org/akc-agility-league/>

Team Registration: AKC will send team captains a web link so you can enter your team information. Team enrollment opens on Dec. 14 and will remain open through Jan. 7. This information will only need to be input once for the season and will include team name, field division and skill level, team captain name and contact information. Captains must agree to the Captain Responsibilities on the online team enrollment form.

In addition, captains of new teams should send a field/ring diagram to the Agility League department, showing dimensions and size of the agility field/ring and placement of any obstructions (poles, trees, etc.).

Team size is three to eight dogs, but clubs are welcome to field more than one team. Teams may be a mix of Regular, Preferred and Veterans dogs and a mix of jump heights. We send captains a separate web link to forward to your handlers so they can input their dog's information and sign up for your team, as well as consent forms for handlers. All new handlers must submit Handler Participation Agreements by Jan. 12. Handlers who

participated in past seasons do not have to submit another consent form.

Junior Handlers: The League welcomes junior handlers of all ages. The League does require parental/guardian consent forms for juniors. If you will have juniors on your teams, please contact the Agility League at AgilityLeague@akc.org to receive the appropriate paperwork.

Juniors run with their team in the appropriate division and skill level, and the AKC releases rankings for each division and overall. Juniors receive awards at the close of the season.

Veterans: Dogs that are 10 years or older may jump two jump heights lower than their regular jump height. There are separate rankings for dogs in the Veterans classes.

Winter Season Fees: It is free to enroll a team or teams.

There is an annual handler fee of \$30 that is good for all seasons that the handler participates in for a year, regardless of how many dogs he or she runs. If you participated in the Winter 2023, Summer 2023 or Fall 2023 seasons, you paid your annual fee and will not be required to pay again for Winter 2024.

There also is an enrollment fee of \$30 per dog for the 12-week season. A handler may sign up to four dogs per form. If a handler needs to enroll more than four dogs, they need to submit a second form.

The fees will be paid at the time of the handler/dog enrollment.

Winter Season Dates:

The Winter Season will launch for its 12-week run on Monday, Jan. 15, and continue through midnight Sunday, April 7. The first course for Round 1 will be released by 8 am EST on Jan. 15. Courses will be emailed to team captains and are also posted on the League FB Group and League webpage.

Winter

Jan 15, 2024 -- April 7, 2024

Enrollment	Thursday 12/14	to	Sunday 1/7
Round 1	Monday 1/15	to	Sunday 1/28
Round 2	Monday 1/29	to	Sunday 2/11
Round 3	Monday 2/12	to	Sunday 2/25
Round 4	Monday 2/26	to	Sunday 3/10
Round 5	Monday 3/11	to	Sunday 3/24
Round 6	Monday 3/25	to	Sunday 4/7

If the team cannot compete on the designated course during the two-week window due to unforeseen circumstances, such as inclement weather, they must notify the AKC before the end of that 2-week course window. They should email AgilityLeague@akc.org for an extension to run that course during a different two-week window.

Course Design & Field/Ring Size:

The courses will be designed by AKC approved course designers. The table will be eliminated from all Standard courses.

Winter season course designers are:

- Extended Ph.D. & Regulation Ph.D. – Ashley Deacon
- Regulation Senior, Sophomore & Freshman – Debby Wheeler
- Limited Senior, Sophomore & Freshman – Ronda Bermke

Divisions/Skill Levels

NOTE on Mixing Skill Levels: You may have a mix of levels on the same team because dogs may compete up in level. For instance, a Freshman dog may compete on a Senior team, but a Senior dog cannot compete on a Freshman team. But all dogs on the team must be judged and scored by the level which the team is enrolled. So, all dogs on a Senior team are judged and scored by the Senior fault system, regardless of individual skill level of the dogs.

- **Ph.D./Extended** (minimum field size 100 X 100) – ISC style courses judged by League rules
- **Ph.D./Regulation** (minimum field size 100 X 70) – ISC style courses modified for smaller field size & judged by League rules
- **Senior/Regulation** (minimum field size 70 X 100) – Masters/Excellent JWW, Standard & Hybrid courses
- **Sophomore/Regulation** (minimum field size 70 X 100) – Open JWW, Standard & Hybrid courses

- **Freshman/Regulation** (minimum field size 70 X 100) – Novice JWW, Standard & Hybrid courses
- **Limited/Senior** (minimum field size 50 X 70) – Shorter Masters style courses for smaller spaces
- **Limited/Sophomore** (minimum field size 50 X 70) – Shorter Open style courses for smaller spaces
- **Limited/Freshman** (minimum field size 50 X 70) – Shorter Novice style courses for smaller spaces

Course Measuring: Teams must measure all courses and submit the course yardage upon input of scores. Courses should be measured based on the path of a Regular 20-inch dog. All courses will have a Maximum Course Wheel yardage or yardage range – and teams must comply with the designated yardage. Teams that submit yardage greater than the specified course wheel will be asked to rerun and resubmit scores – or will be given the Maximum Yardage. For tips on measuring courses: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mY2bQWyT1a8>

League Competitions: Teams may choose to run the course on any day or combination of days that suits their schedules during the given two-week time period. A team may change locations during the season, but it is recommended each team member run each individual round on the same field to keep course yardage and team scores consistent.

Teams may run the course for practice before running it for score. Handlers may use treats and toys during practice, as long as the captain and host facility permit this. Handlers should not use toys or treats or have them on their persons when running for score. In addition, clubs and schools may use the courses for classes and practice/run-thru's as they choose.

Team Roles. Each team must appoint a team captain. The captain is responsible for forming the teams, scheduling competitions, communicating with team members, and inputting the scores of each competition. Teams may appoint co-captains to assist. Other jobs should be assigned including course builders, timer, scribe and ring crew. All crew members may be team members and compete with their dogs.

Judges. Approved AKC Judges may judge league competition, but anyone who has earned a minimum of a MX/MXJ title with one dog is eligible to judge at league events. If a team does not have anyone that meets those qualifications, the team captain may apply for an exception to the AKC Agility League department. Judges' dogs may be run by the judge if there is another person of sufficient experience to judge them. Judges' family members also may participate in league competition and/or may run the judge's dogs. Judges should avoid judging family members and their own dogs. Judges do not have to be team members; guest judges are allowed. Judges' responsibilities include supervising the building of the course, measuring the course yardage, judging the dogs' performance, confirming that all dogs jump at the correct jump height, and reviewing and approving score sheets.

Scoring. AKC will provide downloadable league score sheets. Dogs will be scored based on time plus faults. Each dog's time plus faults score will be divided into the course yardage to derive the dog's final score. The individual scores of all team dogs, which ran the course, will be averaged to determine the team score. Time may be determined by automatic timers (highly recommended) or by hand-held devices, including

stopwatches and phones. Time should be recorded in seconds and milliseconds to two decimal places.

Scribe sheets may be found on the Agility League webpage:

https://www.akc.org/akc-agility-league/?fbclid=IwAR0WzXwkZTUvq1SwOoImx7kVzTNCLkJktLMGXcMoUoQGWX_A6a1OivWsm00

Scoring System

Ph.D./Senior

5 Point Faults

- Displaced Jump Bar or Plank
- Missed Contact
- See-saw fly-off
- Missed Weave pole entry
- Missed weave pole once entering correctly
- Refusal/run-out
- Visibly Moving or Stepping on Top of Broad Jump

10 Point Faults

- Wrong course
- Failure to complete weave poles within 3 tries

Sophomore

5 Point Faults

- Displaced jump bar or plank
- Visibly moving or stepping on top of broad jump
- Missed contact zone
- See-saw fly-off
- Wrong Course
- Failure to complete weave poles within 3 tries

2 Point Faults

- Refusal/run-out (no refusals on weave poles but must complete in 3 tries)

Freshman

1 Point Faults

- Displaced jump bar or plank
- Visibly moving or stepping on top of broad jump

5 Point Faults

- Missed Contact
- See-saw fly-off
- Wrong Course
- Failure to complete weave poles in 3 tries

No Faults

- Refusals/run-outs – No penalty

Excusal Faults – All Levels

Dogs/handlers incurring Excusal faults are recommended to re-run the course. Excusal faults include dog leaving course area & stops working; excessive handling or harsh commands; dog fouls ring; failure to complete all obstacles; handler/dog contact; handler equipment contact; and outside assistance. If a dog does not complete a course, then captains will leave that dog off the score reporting for that round.

Note about Scoring Weave Pole Performance:

Ph.D. & Senior: Dogs will incur 5-point faults for every missed weave pole entry and/or every missed weave pole once entering correctly. Dogs may attempt the weaves three times and then must move on, incurring a 10-point fault. So, a Ph.D. or Senior dog that does not complete the weaves within three tries will receive a total 25-point fault. Handlers who opt to skip the weaves without three tries will receive a 25-point fault. Groups may opt to rerun a dog that does not perform the weaves correctly within three tries.

Sophomore: There will be 12 weave poles in the Sophomore class and there are no refusals on the poles, but they must be completed within three tries. If a dog does not complete in three tries, they should move on and will receive a five-point fault. Handlers who opt to skip the poles without an attempt will receive a five-point fault. Groups may opt to rerun a dog that does not complete the poles within three tries.

Freshman: There will be six weave poles in the Freshman Regulation class and there are no refusals on the poles, but they must be completed within three tries. If a dog does not complete in three tries, they should move on and will receive a five-point fault. Handlers who opt to skip the weaves without three attempts will receive a five-point fault. Groups may opt to rerun a dog that does not complete the poles within three tries.

Absences or loss of members. Teams that lose members during a season are allowed to replace those members if they so choose. New members must complete the enrollment process and submit a handler agreement. If a loss occurs to a team with the minimum number of three dogs, the dog must be replaced in order for the team to continue to qualify for team rankings and awards. The remaining members may continue to compete for individual rankings and awards if they cannot re-establish a full team. The same would be true if the minimum three-dog team has an absence for a week. If that occurs, the team may apply for an extension to allow time to run the third dog or they can apply to the Agility League department for a substitute dog to run.

A team that has more than three dogs and has an absentee for one or more courses during the season may still compete as normal since the team score is an average of the scores.

If a handler cannot run their dog on any given round, another team member may run their dog. If a person who is not a team member is needed to run the dog, the captain should notify the Agility League department as the person would need to complete the league Handler Agreement before participating.

Bitches in Season. Bitches in season may compete in local league play at the discretion of the host clubs and schools and under any guidelines that they require.

Score Reporting: Captains or other designated team members must report the team scores by midnight (of their time zone) of the Sunday at the end of each two-week round. AKC will provide a web link that will enable captains to easily input the scores. Captains should keep the score sheets for a minimum of two months after the season ends on April 7.

Information that will be input includes:

- Team Name
- Course Map ID
- Course Yardage
- Date that course was run
- Handler Name
- Dog Name and Breed
- Each individual dog's time (in seconds.millisecond, recorded to two decimal places)
- Each individual dog's total faults

Rankings:

Team Rankings. AKC will publish every two weeks of each season the rankings for the teams in each division, based on the average of the individual dog scores on that team. Each two-week rankings report will include the placements for that round. The Cumulative rankings reports will start with the conclusion of Round 4. It normally takes three to five days after a round

closes to finalize and release the rankings reports. To qualify for final awards, teams must run all six courses with a minimum of three team dogs. Rankings will be posted on the AKC Agility League Facebook page, and captains will be emailed the results before rankings are published.

Individual Dog Rankings. AKC will publish every two weeks of each league season the rankings for the individual dogs in each division and jump height: Regular, Preferred and Veterans. AKC also publishes the rankings for Junior Handlers, both by division and overall. Each two-week rankings report will include the placements for that round. Cumulative rankings will be released starting with Round 4. It normally takes three to five days after a round closes to finalize and release the rankings reports. To qualify for individual final awards, individual dogs must run four out of the six courses. Rankings will be posted on the AKC Agility League Facebook page, and captains will be emailed results before rankings are published.

Breed Rankings: The League began publishing the Breed Standings in Fall 2023. The report will be released at the conclusion of each round and will show the top scoring dogs of each participating breed for each division/skill level, as well as the top scoring dog of each breed overall. At the season's conclusion, the number one dog of each breed in each division/skill level will receive a Top Dog certificate from AKC.

Awards. At the conclusion of the season, winners will be named in both Team and Individual Dog categories, as well as the Junior Handler classes, based on final rankings. Awards will be given for the top teams in the country; the top team in each region (when applicable); and the top dog or dogs in each jump height. Number of individual dog placements will be based on

the number of dogs competing in that jump height division. Awards will be shipped to all winners, and top teams and dogs will be announced on the AKC website, Facebook site and more.

AKC Agility League Championship: We will hold our second “live” championship from Aug. 29 – 31, 2024, at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri. To qualify, teams and dogs must have successfully completed at least one of these league seasons: Fall 2023; Winter 2024; or Spring/Summer 2024. More information & Premium coming soon.

Conclusion

Thank you again for participating in the AKC Agility League. We hope you find it fun and easy to take part in. Please send us any questions, comments, feedback, and suggestions at AgilityLeague@akc.org.