

## **1. AGILITY NOT FOR COMPETITION (NFC) Runs**

### **1.1. NFC Categories Offered**

There are no separate classes, courses, or judges for NFC runs. NFC runs will be undertaken on the relevant competition course within the chosen class. A dog may participate in a NFC run in any class for which they meet or exceed the requirements.

There are 4 different NFC categories:

- Standard NFC – A dog may be entered into any class and height for which the dog is normally eligible.
- Lower Height / Lower Class NFC – A dog may be entered into any class and/or height that is less than the dog's current competition standard. The exception to this is a dog whose competition height is 200; it must run at 200. A dog cannot be entered in a class that it would not be ordinarily eligible for, or at a jump height higher than its competition height.
- Veterans – A dog may be entered into the Jumping Novice class and must compete at a jump height less than their competition jump height. This category is strictly for dogs 8 years of age or older, who are not competing in any other class at that trial. The dog must have gained a minimum of an Agility or Jumping Novice title.
- Junior Handlers – A dog may be entered into the Agility Novice and/or Jumping Novice class, to be run by a Junior Handler. Junior Handlers must be at least 7 years of age and under 18 years of age and possess a current membership with either the SACA or an Affiliate who conducts Agility training.

### **1.2. NFC and Competition Class Eligibility**

A NFC run in a specific class replaces the dog's competition run in the class for which it is normally eligible. An exception is made for a dog entered under the Junior Handler NFC category.

A handler who elects to undertake a NFC run in either of the Agility Novice, Excellent, Masters, or Elite classes will be excluded from undertaking a competition run in any of those classes in that trial. However, the dog can compete in Jumping and/or any Open classes. Similarly, a dog may run NFC in a Jumping class and still be eligible for competitive runs in Agility classes.

Open classes can be run as NFC. A dog entered in NFC in an Open class will not be excluded from competing in Novice, Excellent, Masters, or Elite in that trial.

NFC runs will be deemed to be Non-Qualifying runs for the purposes of Annual Awards.

A Junior Handler NFC run does not replace or exclude a competition run for the entered dog in any class in that trial aside from Novice Agility or Novice Jumping.

### 1.3 NFC Rules

All ANKC rules for a Competition apply to NFC with the exception of the following:

- i. Under no circumstances may a Handler who runs NFC qualify or receive qualification certificates. There is no requirement for any prizes/ribbons/rosettes for that Class.
- ii. A Handler may decide on the day to change their entry to Standard NFC. A Handler must advise the Judge that they wish to convert to a NFC run in a particular class by the expiration of the time allocated for walking the course for that class.
- iii. A Handler may not enter the ring for a competition run and then once in the ring change their mind and swap to NFC.
- iv. A Competitor running NFC will only be given time in the ring up to the Standard Course Time (SCT).
- v. Timing for NFC runs will start when the dog negotiates the first obstacle, or as the dog or Handler triggers the timing device. In the case of manual timing, the time will start when the first part of the dog's body crosses the plane of the first obstacle attempted.
- vi. The scribe should not record time or faults for an NFC run. NFC runs should be denoted on the scribe sheet with 'NFC' written next to the competitor number.
- vii. The Handler may choose to repeat an already completed obstacle or sequence of obstacles in a NFC run.
- viii. A Handler may not lift a dog onto equipment.
- ix. The Scribe is to indicate to the Handler that their time is finished at the end of the SCT for an NFC run. At the end of the SCT the Handler should promptly remove their dog from the ring.
- x. Under no circumstances is food to be used in the ring. This includes toys with food inside of them.
- xi. The Handler may use a non-audible toy for rewarding in the ring. Toys must remain in control of the Handler at all times (i.e. must not be thrown or intentionally released).
- xii. NFC runs must not cause distraction to other dogs - in other rings or dogs running before or after that run.
- xiii. The Handler must carry a lead and/or collar during the run.
- xiv. The Judge shall not judge the Handler for Faults or Refusals unless agreed upon at the Judge's briefing.
- xv. The Judge shall ensure safety, good sportsmanship and fair treatment of the dog, and that the Handler is complying with the NFC rules whilst in the ring.
- xvi. Failure to follow these rules may result in the Judge disqualifying the Handler from further competition in that trial.

## **2. Entering NFC, Schedules and Catalogues**

### **2.1. Schedules and Entries in NFC Categories**

NFC Categories may be offered at a trial at the discretion of the Affiliate Member.

For Standard NFC, a Handlers may either enter for a NFC run at their dog's normal class and height, or alternatively enter for a Competition runs as directed in the exhibition schedule, and then elect to run as NFC on the day of the exhibition.

The Lower Height/Lower Class, Veterans, and Junior Handler categories must be entered as directed in the exhibition schedule, and the following additional information must be provided:

1. NFC Jump Height
2. Competition Jump Height
3. The class being entered

### **2.2 Catalogues and NFC Entries**

The Affiliate Member will include the pre-nominated NFC entries in the catalogue and allocate them a number prefaced with the letters NFC, 'LH/LC', 'JNR', or 'VET'. The entry will be placed at the end of the class and height nominated.

If a separate height trial is being conducted where different courses are provided for different heights, the dog must run the course designed for that dog's normal competition height, regardless of the jump height selected by the Handler. For example, a dog with a competition height of 500 which has been entered into Lower Height/Lower Class NFC at 400 must still compete on the 500 course, albeit with the jumps set to the 400 height.