



# Washington State 4-H Agility Rules



## Washington State 4-H Dog Project

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# Chapter 1

## *Introduction and General Rules*

### ***What is Agility?***

Patterned after equestrian show jumping, dog agility combines the elements of a dog's agility, briskness, confidence, and a handler's control over an obstacle course designed for dogs. It is a fun sport with great spectator appeal.

### ***Purpose of Agility***

- Add new members and maintain established members in the dog project.
- Provide positive motivational training methods and interactions with the dog.
- Enhance a working relationship between the dog and handler.
- Provide a better-conditioned dog and handler.
- Promote good sportsmanship and citizenship.
- Promote a better-rounded handler/dog team.
- Add confidence to both dog and handler.
- Provide a variety of competitive areas for the Dog Project.

### ***Safety Rules***

Because the safety of both dogs and handlers is of paramount importance, the following rules will be enforced.

1. All competitors in agility must be active in their county's dog project and exhibit in obedience and showmanship at a county qualifying event. The dog competing in Agility must have been entered in Obedience at a County Qualifying event.
2. Individual members must attend training classes suited to individual dogs/handlers. Evaluation by club or county leaders prior to showing is highly recommended. Dogs and handler must be trained and comfortable off-leash on all equipment within a specified class to compete. Either 4-H classes or those of a recognized training school will be accepted. Simply working with your dog in the back yard is not acceptable.
3. Dogs must be a minimum of 15 months old to compete in agility classes/competition. It is recommended that dogs be a minimum of 15 months old to begin agility training and larger breeds be at least 18 months old. This is because for most breeds the growth plates in the bones are still developing until the average age of fourteen months - even later for large breeds. The final determinations for training age and the type of training must be made by the owner and trainer.
4. No dog with a physical or mental condition that would significantly impair their performance may participate. Some examples of these include (but are not limited to) hip dysplasia, disc problems, severely slipped stifles, shoulder problems, overweight. **Dogs who are unable to jump the required jump heights due to physical ability must not participate. Jump heights will not be lowered due to age or physical ability of the dog.** All 4-H'ers are strongly encouraged to consult their veterinarian before beginning agility training. A judge, superintendent or the county trainer at state and county events will have the authority to stop the performance of any dog whose soundness they question.
5. Dogs that show signs of aggression toward humans or other dogs will not be permitted to participate.
6. A dog/handler team receiving a blue ribbon at a State Agility Trial must advance to the next level the following year.
7. Female dogs in season must wear well-fitting pants with an absorbent pad while on the agility trial grounds.
8. Agility competitions must be performed on a level, shock absorbent surface that provides good footing for the take-off and landing of jumps. Outdoors on short grass, dirt, or any other footing commonly used in horse areas is ideal. It is recommended that dirt be packed hard enough to prevent injury to either dog or handler. A fully matted or carpeted area may provide an acceptable alternative. The judge will inspect the area to be used, and if it is unacceptable, will request a different location. In extreme cases, the show may need to be canceled.
9. The use of completely fenced area is encouraged (but not required).
10. A supervised warm-up area consisting of only a single jump will be provided in a specified area outside the ring. No obstacle or jump shall be permitted elsewhere on the show grounds for training, warm-up, or other preparatory purposes. If available, an enclosed area may be used to allow for off leash warm up, one dog at a time.
11. Judges will inspect all equipment prior to beginning the show and may modify the requirements to the extent necessary to eliminate any piece of unsafe equipment.

12. All agility jumps must be of the type that have a displaceable bar or plank.
13. The Superintendent is the final authority regarding 4-H dog agility competition.

### **Additional rules**

1. Training aids and treats are not permitted on the course.
2. When a collar is used (required in Elementary and Pre-Novice, optional in Novice and above) it must be a flat buckle or rolled leather collar, but there shall be no attachments hanging or otherwise allowed on the collar. This shall not preclude painted or stitched designs or information on the collar. Dog's names and/or identifying information may appear on the collar. No title, awards, or advertising may appear on the collar. Dogs may be brought to the start line on slip leads, slip chains, body harnesses or other collars that are permitted on the trial grounds. Pinch/prong and electrical collars (dummy or not), head halters and special training collars are not allowed. In all classes except those specified above, a handler may elect to run the dog with or without a collar.
3. Handlers may not jump over the jumps with their dogs. Handlers may not pass over, under or through the equipment.
4. Handlers may not touch their dogs or an obstacle while running the course. Incidental contact that does not aid the dog on the course will not be penalized.
5. Poor sportsmanship will not be tolerated. Any handler exhibiting poor sportsmanship such as swearing, yelling at their dog, striking the dog, pulling on their dog's fur or body parts, excessive corrections, loud complaints about other exhibitors or the judge, etc., will be eliminated - receiving no ribbon.
6. The judge will penalize any handler receiving outside assistance. In severe cases, the handler will receive a white ribbon. The show committee is also responsible for investigating any incidents of outside assistance reported to them. See standard faults (scoring section) for more information about this.
7. A dog unable to complete the course for any reason (including leaving the ring and not immediately returning in control of the handler, or ceasing to work for a significant period of time will receive a white ribbon).
8. Any dog refusing an obstacle for the third time will be asked by the judge to go on to the next obstacle. Anyone not obeying the judge's order will be asked to leave the ring, receiving no ribbon.
9. Handlers may use voice commands, signals, or both. Handlers are encouraged to talk or cheer their dogs through the course. There is no penalty for multiple commands or verbal encouragement, but all must be in the spirit of good sportsmanship.
10. Any dog fouling the ring during competition will be asked to leave the ring - receiving a white ribbon. Vinegar, diet cola or some other odor-neutralizing substitute, should be on hand to clean fouled equipment. Fouled equipment may be removed from the course at the judge's discretion, and all dogs running the course previously may, at the judge's discretion, be required to rerun the course again.
11. Jump and Pause Table heights are as follows:

Dog's Height	Jump	Broad Jump Width	Pause Table
14" or under at the withers	4"	8"	8"
18" or under at the withers	8"	16"	8"
22" or under at the withers	12"	24"	12"
Over 22" at the withers	16"	32"	12"
A competitor with a dog over 22" at the withers may choose to jump at 20" if approved by Leader			
Over 22" at the withers	20"	40"	16"

A competitor can choose to jump at a higher level if they feel their dog is able and they are training at that level, but they must have their leader's permission.

12. All handlers must possess an official Washington State 4-H Dog Project Agility Height Card for the dog entered in the competition, signed by the measuring authority. Note that two separate measurements and two signatures are required. See Appendix 3.
13. Dogs may be measured by judge or show personnel.

14. All courses must have clearly designated starts and finishes. All obstacles must be sequentially numbered with numbered cones or some other movable system. The numbers must be a minimum of 4" tall.
15. The State Fair minimum ring size is at least 60' x 80', 80' x 100', or larger is recommended. These ring sizes are also recommended for County qualifiers. When space is restricted at county qualifiers, superintendents may determine safe ring size.
16. Obstacles on the course should be spaced approximately 18' apart. In no case shall obstacles be spaced any closer than 12' apart.
17. A member may enter one qualified agility dog at State Fair.
18. Any 4-H member may lease a dog for agility (per 4-H dog show rules - must provide the care and training for that dog pursuant to established 4-H dog show rules).
19. Individual Counties shall determine the initial level at which each dog / handler team competes. The safety of the team shall be the primary consideration when making this placement.
20. Since Agility is inherently an athletic event, handlers may wear shorts during the trial as long as the shorts are not shorter than 2" above the knee and otherwise comply with the Dog Project Dress Code.
21. The handler should wear athletic shoes that provide good traction for running and protect the entire foot.
22. Handlers inappropriately dressed will be required to change their apparel before competing.

### ***Disabled Handlers***

4H Members with disabilities are encouraged to take part in Dog Agility. The judge is to consider each case individually and make a fair and suitable adjustment for judging disabled handlers. The Judge's decision is final, as it is for all handlers in agility competition. Courses and individual course times may be altered to accommodate handlers with disabilities. Hearing or verbally impaired handlers may use clickers or squeakers to aid in running their dog through the course. Judges may use flags or relay a signal to a course steward who will use a flag to communicate to the handler, if necessary.

When a course time adjustment is necessary, it is suggested to have the handler "test run" the course without their dog, going from obstacle to obstacle at a reasonable rate for the handler. The Judge will record the time using a stopwatch and determine an adjusted Course time for that handler, making sure to record the adjusted course time on the appropriate score sheet.

All disabled handlers needing an adjusted course time should inform the agility coordinator as soon as possible that they would need an adjusted time. The coordinator will inform the judge as early as possible.

## Chapter 2

### *Agility Classes Offered at the Regional and State Level*

It should be noted that this list of classes is for Regional and State Shows and it does not prevent a county from offering a pre-agility class or games classes at county level shows. If such classes are offered at invitational shows a description must be included on your flyer.

### ***Standard Agility Classes - Descriptions / Requirements:***

#### ***Elementary Standard***

This is an entry-level class with a simple "M", "S", or "U" (horseshoe) course and consists of 10 to 12 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

- A-frame (5') (required)
- Pause Table-(required)
- Open Tunnel (1 to 3) (required)
- 8' or 12' Dog Walk (at elevation of 24-30"). (required)
- Wingless Bar Jumps (3 to 5) (required)
- Broad Jump (required)
- This class is not timed.

The standard course time is 135 seconds. Time penalties shall not be assessed but time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar is mandatory.

#### ***Pre-Novice Standard***

**This is a timed event (Time recorded to 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second)**

This course is slightly more challenging than a figure 8 and consists of 12 to 14 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

- A-Frame (5') (required)
- 8' or 12' Dog Walk (at elevation of 24-30"). (required)
- Pause Table (required)
- Open Tunnel (1 to 3 depending on availability) (required)
- Tire Jump (required)
- Broad Jump
- Wingless Bar Jumps (4 to 6) or in place of bar jumps the following other jumps may be used:
  - Wing Jumps
  - Panel Jump
  - Double Bar (required)

The standard course time is 135 seconds. Time penalties shall not be assessed but time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.

All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar is mandatory.

#### ***Novice Standard***

**This is a timed event (Time recorded to 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second)**

This course is slightly more challenging than a figure 8, similar to the AKC Novice class with the addition of weave poles, and consists of 13 to 15 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

- A-frame (5') (required)
- Pause Table (required)
- 8' or 12' Dog Walk (24-30") (required)

Open Tunnel (1 to 3) (required)  
Tire Jump  
Broad Jump  
Double Bar Jump  
Six Weave Poles (required)  
See saw (required)  
Wingless Bar Jump (2 to 8) or in place of bar jumps the following jumps may be used: Wing Jumps. Panel Jump

All dogs must be shown off leash. The handler may decide if the dog is shown with or without a collar.

The standard course time will be computed at 1.5 yards per second. A 1 point deduction shall be assessed for every 3 seconds over the standard course time.

## ***Open Standard***

**This is a timed event (Time recorded to 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second)**

The focus of the Open Agility Class is on enhanced obstacle performance with more handling required. The course will consist of 16 to 18 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

8' or 12' Dog Walk (24-30") (required)  
A-Frame (5') (required)  
See-Saw (required)  
Pause Table (required)  
Weave Poles (1 set of 6-12 poles required)  
Open Tunnel(s) (required)  
Bar Jump (winged or wingless) (required)  
Double Bar Jump (maximum 2)  
Panel Jump  
Tire Jump (required)  
Broad Jump (maximum 1)  
Triple Bar Jump (maximum 1)  
One-bar Jump (winged or wingless)

All dogs must be shown off leash. The handler may decide if the dog is shown with or without a collar.

The standard course time will be computed at 1.75 yards per second. A 1-point deduction shall be assessed for every 2 seconds over the standard course time.

## ***Excellent Standard***

**This is a timed event (Time recorded to 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second)**

The focus of the Excellent Agility Class is to allow the dog and handler team to demonstrate their superior skills in agility. The course will consist of 18 to 20 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

8' or 12' Dog Walk (24-30") (required)  
A-Frame (5') (required)  
See-Saw/Teeter (required)  
Pause Table (required)  
Weave Poles (1 set of 9-12 poles required)  
Open Tunnel(s) (required)  
Bar Jumps (winged or wingless) (required)  
Double Bar Jump (maximum 2)  
Panel Jump  
Tire Jump (required)  
Broad Jump (maximum 1)  
Triple Bar Jump (maximum 1)  
One-bar Jump (winged or wingless)

All dogs must be shown off leash. The handler may decide if the dog is shown with or without a collar.



The standard course time will be computed at 2 yards per second. A 1 point deduction shall be assessed for every second over the standard course time.

### ***Chart of Obstacle Requirements for Standard Classes***

Class	Elementary	Pre-Novice	Novice	Open	Excellent	Notes
Total Obstacles	10-12	12-14	13-15	16-18	18-20	
Total Jumps	3-5 <sup>2</sup>	4-8	3-8	7-10	6-12	Includes all bar (winged and wingless, one-bar, panel, double and triple jumps).
A-Frame	1	1	1	1	1	
Pause Table	1	1	1	1	1	
Open Tunnel	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	
Dog Walk	1	1	1	1	1	
Bar Jumps (Winged or Wingless)	3-5 <sup>1,2</sup>	2-6	3-8	1-10	1-9	
Broad Jump	1	1	0-1	0-1	0-1	
Tire Jump	0	1	0-1	1	1	
Panel Jump	0	1 <sup>1</sup>	0-1	0-2	0-2	
Double Jump	0	<b>1</b>	0-1	0-2	0-2	
Weaves	0	0	6	6-12	9-12	
See Saw/Teeter	0	0	1	1	1	
Triple	0	0	0	0-1	0-1	
One-bar Jumps	0	0	0	0-1	1	

Only wingless jumps may be used in Elementary

<sup>2</sup> Minimum of 3 bar jumps in Elementary

## ***Jumpers Agility Classes- Descriptions / Requirements***

### ***Elementary - Jumpers without weaves***

This is an entry-level class with a simple "M", "S", or "U" (horseshoe). The course consists of 8 to 10 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

Open Tunnel (1 to 3) (required)

Wingless Bar Jumps (4 to 6) (required)

Broad Jump (required)

**The standard course time is 135 seconds. Time penalties shall not be assessed but time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.**

### ***Pre-Novice - Jumpers without weaves***

This should be a simple course. Angles between obstacles should not exceed 90 degrees. Entrances to obstacles should never be adjacent to one another. All dogs must be shown off leash. The use of an approved collar is mandatory.

The course is to consist of 10 to 12 obstacles.

The following obstacles are required:

Bar Jumps (Wing Jumps are NOT allowed)

Broad Jump (1)

The following obstacles may also be used:

Open Tunnel (1 to 3)

**The standard course time is 135 seconds. Time penalties shall not be assessed but time will be used to break ties for Champion and Reserve Champion awards.**

### ***Novice - Jumpers with weaves***

**This is a timed event (Time recorded to 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second)**

All dogs must be shown off leash.

The handler may decide if the dog is shown with or without a collar.

The course is to consist of 12 to 14 obstacles.

The standard course time is 60 seconds. A 1-point penalty shall be assessed for every 3 seconds over standard course time.

The following obstacles are required:

6 Weave Poles

Broad Jump (1) OR Double Jump (1)

Bar Jumps (Wing Jumps MAY be used)

Open Tunnel (1 to 3)

The following obstacles may also be used:

Open Tunnel (1 to 3)

Tire Jump (1)

Panel Jump (1)

### ***Open-Jumpers with weaves***

**This is a timed event (Time recorded to 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second)**

All dogs must be shown off leash.

The handler may decide if the dog is shown with or without a collar.

The course is to consist of 15 to 17 obstacles.

The standard course time will be computed at 2.0 yards per second (using path of dog jumping 20"),

A 1-point penalty shall be assessed for every 2 seconds over standard course time.

The following obstacles are required:

6 to 12 Weave Poles

Bar Jumps

Broad Jump (1)

Double Bar Jump (1)

One-bar Jump (1 or more)

The following obstacles may also be used:

Open Tunnel (1 to 3)

Tire Jump (1)

Panel Jump (1)

### ***Excellent-Jumper with weaves***

**This is a timed event (Time recorded to 1/100<sup>th</sup> of a second)**

All dogs must be shown off leash.

The handler may decide if the dog is shown with or without a collar.

The course is to consist of 18 to 20 obstacles.

The standard course time will be computed at 2.5 yards per second (using path of dog jumping 20").

A 1-point penalty shall be assessed for each second over standard course time.

The following obstacles are required:

9 to 12 Weave Poles

Bar Jumps (Wing Jumps MAY be used)

Broad Jump (1) AND/OR Double Bar Jump (1)

Triple Bar Jump (1)

The following obstacles may also be used:

Open Tunnel (1 to 3)

Tire Jump (1)

Panel Jump (1)

One-bar Jumps

### ***Chart of Obstacle Requirements for Jumpers Classes***

Class	Elementary	Pre-Novice	Novice	Open	Excellent	Notes
Total Obstacles	8-10	10-12	12-14	15-17	18-20	
Total Jumps	4-6	8-11	6-11	11-13	10-17	Elementary jumps are limited to wingless bar jumps. All other classes include all bar (winged and wingless, one-bar, panel, double and triple jumps).
Bar Jumps (Winged or Wingless)	4-6 <sup>1</sup>	9-11 <sup>1</sup>	4-11	9-14	0-17	
Broad Jump	1	1	0-1	1 <sup>2</sup>	0-1 <sup>3</sup>	
Double Jump	0	0	0-1	1	0-1	
Open Tunnel	1-3	0-3	1-3	1-3	1-3	
Weaves	0	0	6	6-12	9-12	
Tire Jump	0	0	0-1	0-1	0-1	
Panel Jump	0	0	0	0-1	0-1	
One-Bar Jump	0	0	0	1-17	0-17	
Triple	0	0	0	0	1	

Winged jumps may not be used in Elementary or Pre Novice

<sup>2</sup> Either a Broad Jump OR a Double Jump must be used in Novice, but not both

<sup>3</sup> Either a Broad Jump, or Double Jump or both must be used in Excellent

## Chapter 3

### *Scoring, Ribbons and Awards*

#### **Scoring**

##### **Standard Faults - charged at 5 faults:**

*(Note that only 1 deduction of each type may be assessed per obstacle. For example, 2 refusals of an obstacle is assessed 5 faults total. Total deductions for each obstacle may not exceed 20 points)*

Wrong course - Taking an obstacle in the wrong order or going the wrong direction over an obstacle (including back-weaving three or more weave poles). If any paw of a dog touches an obstacle not in sequence or in the wrong direction will be charged with a wrong course.

Refusal – Dog runs past the current obstacle or stops forward progress very near the obstacle.

On and off the table.

Knocking a bar off a hurdle - Applies whether it was the dog, the handler, or the leash that knocked the bar down.

Touching the dog - Incidental touches not aiding the dog are expected and not charged.

Missed Contact Zone when exiting the equipment. (Yellow or contrasting color zone)

Dog steps on or walks over the Broad Jump.

Outside help or interference - Such as someone telling the handler which obstacle is next, any commands or cues to the dog etc. 5 faults up to elimination, depending on severity.

Handler touching any obstacle.

Handler jumps over the jump with the dog.

Dog goes between the tire and the frame (dog must complete the tire jump properly to avoid the major fault of omitting the obstacle).

Dog breaks apart the two halves of a break-away tire.

Anticipation of table count - Dog gets off before the judge finished saying the word "go".

##### **Major Faults - charged at 20 faults:**

Omitting any obstacle - Includes being told by the judge to omit the obstacle because of safety. It also includes such things as the handler omitting an obstacle by choice or by error or crossing the finish line before the last obstacle is completed correctly.

Three refusals of a single obstacle. Note that the 5 points charged for each refusal shall be superseded by the 20-point deduction here.

Uncorrected improper entry to weave poles.

Failing to correct a skipped weave pole.

Bailing off top ½ of A-Frame while ascending or descending, judge's assessment.

Bailing off the see-saw - Before it tips down and touches the ground.

Bailing off the dog walk - Before beginning the descending plank.

Failure to correct pause table count - For any dog that jumps off before the beginning of the word "go".

Handler passing under or over the teeter, A-frame or dog walk.

Judge's discretion of an unsafe act of handler or dog.

##### **Elimination and automatic white ribbon:**

Dog who stops working and fails to resume within a reasonable time or leaves the ring without immediately returning under control.

Dog out of control.

An extreme amount of outside help.

An excessive amount of touching the obstacles or the dog.

Fouling the course.

Handler requests to leave the ring before completing run.

**Elimination and no ribbon: (these offenses shall be immediately reported to the Trial chair).**

Poor sportsmanship - including, but not limited to...swearing, treating a dog harshly, complaining loudly about judges or other exhibitors, using treats in the ring, failure to omit and go on to the next obstacle when instructed to do so by the judge.

Abuse of dogs anywhere on the show grounds.

A dog that attacks or threatens to attack a human or another dog.

**Time Faults:**

Each class level that is timed (Elementary, Pre-Novice, Novice, Open and Excellent Standard, Elementary, Pre-Novice, Novice, Open and Excellent Jumpers) has a specified time limit within which the course must be completed (Standard Course Time).

The timer will time each performance to .01 of a second. A maximum time of 135 seconds is allowed in Elementary and Pre-Novice.

All other levels maximum ring time of double the Second Course Time - SCT.

Any time beyond this allotted time is considered a time fault and will be penalized as specified in the class description (except in Elementary and Pre-Novice). Times will be rounded down to whole seconds.

For Elementary and Pre-Novice, any time beyond the allotted time of 135 seconds, and the dog is, in the judge's opinion, no longer willing and/or working, can be excused from the ring.

No bonus points are added for completing the course faster than required.

**Final Score:**

A perfect score (clean run) is 100 points.

Course faults and time faults (for those classes that are timed) are added together and subtracted from 100 to give the final score.

The dog and handler team with the highest score is the winner.

**Ribbons and Awards**

Ribbons will be based on 85-100 points, blue; 70- 84 points, red; 0-69 points, white, except in the cases defined above.

One Champion and one Reserve Champion (awarded only to blue placing scores) will be awarded to each age group of each height lot in all classes.

Champion and reserve champion awards will be awarded to the top exhibitors in each class, further broken down by age group and by jump height, provided that the scores qualified for a blue ribbon. In the event that two or more dogs tied with the same score, the dog with the fastest time will be champion and the second fastest dog will be reserve champion.

Clean Run ribbons will be awarded to all exhibitors that achieved a score of 100. (waiting for State Fair Board approval.)

## Chapter 4

### *Obstacle Specifications and Performance Requirements*

#### ***Section 1. Obstacle and Jump Specifications.***

The following specifications will apply to all obstacles. When no tolerance or range is given for a dimension, a tolerance of 4.0 percent is implied. Tolerances do not apply when a range is specified.

#### ***Section 2. Obstacle Performance.***

The correct performance of each obstacle is listed immediately following the specifications for the obstacle.

#### **Section 3. Obstacles.**

**A-Frame:** The A-Frame is constructed from two panels, the top surface of which is constructed from wood or a wood-like substance. The panels are 35 to 49 inches wide, and their lengths are both within 2 inches of either 8 feet or 9 feet. Panels shall be of a consistent width and connected so as to eliminate gaps large enough to fit a dog's foot or toe.

The height of the A-Frame must be 5' 0" **in all classes.**

Slats are placed across the width of the panels to provide footing. They are 3/8" to ~" thick and ~" to 2" wide, and they extend within 1/4" of the panel sides. Slat edges shall be rounded or beveled so as not to be sharp, 1/4" radius recommended. The centers of the slats are spaced at 12-inch intervals with a 2-inch tolerance, and no slat is within 4 inches of the top of a contact zone.

The top surface is painted and has a rough, non-slip surface. (Alternating layers of sand and flat, latex paint or rubber pellets, such as Contact-a-coat are recommended.) Contact zones are painted on the lower 42 inches of both panels with a 1/4-inch tolerance. The color of the zone contrasts with the rest of the panel, but it may not be white, black, or brown. Bright yellow contact zones are recommended.

**Performance:** Dogs must ascend one panel and descend the other in the direction designated by the judge and they must touch the contact zone on the down side only, with any part of one foot prior to exiting the obstacle.

In Elementary, the dog must enter and exit the A-Frame squarely. Cones may be placed 1' to 2' out from each corner and in line with the sides of the A-Frame to assist the handler in guiding their dog straight on and straight off the A-Frame.

**Dog Walk:** The Dog Walk consists of a center section and two ramp sections, the surfaces of which are made from wood or a wood-like substance. All sections are 12 inches wide, plus or minus an inch, and all are either 8 feet long or 12 feet long. Planks shall be connected so as to eliminate gaps large enough to fit a dog's foot or toe. The height of the Dog Walk must be **24-30" in all classes.**

The top surfaces of all sections are painted and have rough, non-slip surfaces. (Alternating layers of sand and flat, latex paint or rubber pellets, such as Contact-a-coat are recommended.) Slats that conform to those described for the A-Frame are placed across the width of the ramp sections to provide footing. Contact zones are painted on the lower 42 inches of both ramps with a 1/4" tolerance, using the color specification described for the A-Frame.

**Performance:** Dogs must ascend one of the ramps, cross the center section, and descend the other ramp in the direction designated by the judge. They must touch the down contact zone with any part of one foot prior to exiting the obstacle. Elementary only, the dog must enter and exit the Dog Walk squarely. Cones may be placed 1' to 2' out from each corner and in line with the sides of the Dog Walk to assist the handler in guiding their dog straight on and straight off the Dog walk.

**Teeter-Totter (or See-Saw):** The Teeter-Totter consists of a plank (or panel) supported near the center by a base that acts as a fulcrum. The plank is 12 inches wide with a 1-inch tolerance, and 12 feet long. The base extends at least 2 inches past the sides of the plank so that dogs can see the pivot point. The plank is balanced so that it hits the ground in less than 3 seconds when a 3-pound weight is placed 12 inches from the raised end. The height of the Teeter-Totter measured to the top of the board at the pivot is 24 inches plus or minus 2 inches. The top surface of the plank is painted and has a rough, non-slip surface. (Alternating layers of sand and flat, latex paint or rubber pellets, such as Contact-a-coat are recommended.)

Slats that conform to those described for the Dog Walk are optional. Contact zones, 42 inches long, are painted on each end of the plank with a 1/4" tolerance, using the color specification described for the A-Frame.

**Performance:** Dogs must ascend the plank and cause the plank to pivot. At least one paw must touch the “down” contact zone after the plank has touched the ground and prior to exiting the obstacle.

**Pause Table:** The top of the Pause Table is a 36-inch square, plus or minus (+/-) 2 inches, with a non-slip surface (carpeting may be used). The vertical edge of the top of the table top must be 3 inches or greater in height and it is recommended that the table edge be of a color in contrast to the running surface and ring gating. The table top must be light in color, no dark color(s) are allowed. The height of the table (within 1 inch) is 8 inches for the dogs in the 4-inch, and 8-inch divisions and 12 inches for dogs in the 12-inch and 16-inch divisions.

**Performance:** The dog shall pause on the table for five cumulative seconds. The judge’s count shall start once all four (4) paws have touched the table (and the dog remains on the table top). Neither a sit nor a down position shall be required.

**Open Tunnel:** The Open Tunnel is a flexible tube of durable material that is capable of being formed into curved shapes. The two openings are either round or approximately rectangular, with a height and width of 24” plus or minus 2”. Its length is 10 to 20 feet and it is secured in position to prevent a dog from moving it. No portion of a tunnel holder that is underneath the tunnel shall be more than 1 1/2” thick and tunnel supports when used in locations other than the beginning and end of the tunnel shall not have a rigid upright (i.e., steel/wood) that is capable of fitting between the ribs thus possibly projecting into the tunnel.

**Performance:** Dogs enter the end specified by the judge and exit the other end.

**Weave Poles:** The Weave Poles consist of 6 to 12 poles that are either stuck in the ground or mounted in a base. (The base design is recommended.) The poles are 1 to 1-1/4” in diameter and at least 36 inches high, and they are uniformly spaced at intervals of 20 to 24 inches with a 24-inch interval preferred, in a straight line. The Weave Poles must flex at the base so as to accommodate large dogs. It is recommended that if a rigid support is used at the base of each weave pole it does not exceed 4” in total height as measured from the ground to the top of the rigid support. (It is required that stripes be taped or painted on the poles to make them more visible to the dogs.) If a base is used, it may be no thicker than 1 inch and no wider than 4 inches, and it must be supported so as not to interfere with a dog’s performance.

**Performance:** Dogs must enter the Weave Poles by passing between poles #1 and #2 from right to left. They must then pass from left to right through poles #2 and #3 and continue this weaving sequence until they pass between the last two poles. If the sequence is broken, the dog must restart the correct sequence, either at or anywhere before the location of the error.

**Bar Jumps:** Bar Jumps consist of bars that are supported by bar cup holders supports that are mounted to uprights. The supports must be positioned so that the tops of the bars can be set within 1/4” of six different jump heights (4, 8, 12, 16, 20, and 24 inches). Where possible, jump uprights should be stand alone and displaceable if dog hits them. Bar cup holders should be made of plastic or rubber if at all possible. Unless a jump is specified as a One-bar Jump by the judge, all jumps shall have at least two bars. In the Novice classes, the lower bar shall be placed at about 1/2 the height of the top bar. In all other classes lower bar placement shall be determined by the judge. The bars must be either cylindrical with 1 1/4” to 1 ~” diameters, or square with 1 1/4” to 1 ~” sides. Constructed from plastic, they must be 4 to 5 feet long and striped for visibility. (Bars cut from 1-inch PVC, Schedule 40, are recommended.) The bottom of the bar sits on top of the bar supports such that the bar is easily displaced. If rectangular bars are used, the top of the support must be flat and no wider than the bar it is supporting. If cylindrical bars are used, the supports may be no wider than the bar, and they should have a lip that is no more than 1/8” higher than the support, although lips up to 1/4 inch are allowed. As equipment is being replaced, equipment with wood, bolts or metal should not be used and examples of jumps provided, encouraged. Bars “held” in place by Velcro™, magnets, etc. are not allowed. The inside of the uprights must be at least 32 inches tall, and the upright must be 1 to 48 inches wide. (An inside height of 42 inches and a minimum width of 3 1/2 inches are recommended for visibility. Widths less than 30 inches are recommended to facilitate handler movement on the course.)

**Performance:** Dogs must jump over the top bar, without displacing it or the lower bar, in the direction indicated by the judge.

**Panel Jump:** The Panel Jump uses up to six cross-boards to give the illusion of a solid wall from the jump height to the ground. Specifications for the board supports and uprights are the same as for the Bar Jump. The cross-boards are 4 to 5 feet long, 3 to 4 inches wide, and no thicker than 1 inch. The top board for all jump height classes shall be a maximum of 4” high. Panels are to be supported 1 1/4” to 1 ~” inches below the top of the board so as to be easily displaceable.

**Performance:** Dogs must jump over the top board, without displacing it or any of the lower boards, in the direction indicated by the judge.



**Double Bar Jump:** The Double Bar Jump consists of two parallel bars positioned at the jump heights specified for the Bar Jump. It may be built as a special jump or assembled from two Bar Jumps. The distance between the centers of the bars is one-half the jump height (within a 1/2 -inch tolerance), to a maximum of 12 inches. In addition, two more horizontal bars are placed approximately below the top bars, at about half the height of the top bar, with the back bar higher than the front. Alternately, the bottom bars may be placed under the back bar and crossed to the ground creating an “X.” All other specifications are the same as for the Bar Jump.

**Performance:** Dogs must jump over the top bars, without displacing either one or the lower bars, in the direction indicated by the judge.

**Triple Bar Jump:** The Triple Bar Jump consists of a series of three ascending bars. The horizontal distance between adjacent bars is one-half the jump height, while the vertical distance is one-quarter the jump height. The table below lists the heights of the tops of the bars and the horizontal distance between the centers of the bars. Tolerances on these values are 1/4 inch for the heights and 1/2 inch for the horizontal distances.

**Performance:** Dogs must jump over all the bars without displacing any, in the direction that starts with the lowest bar.

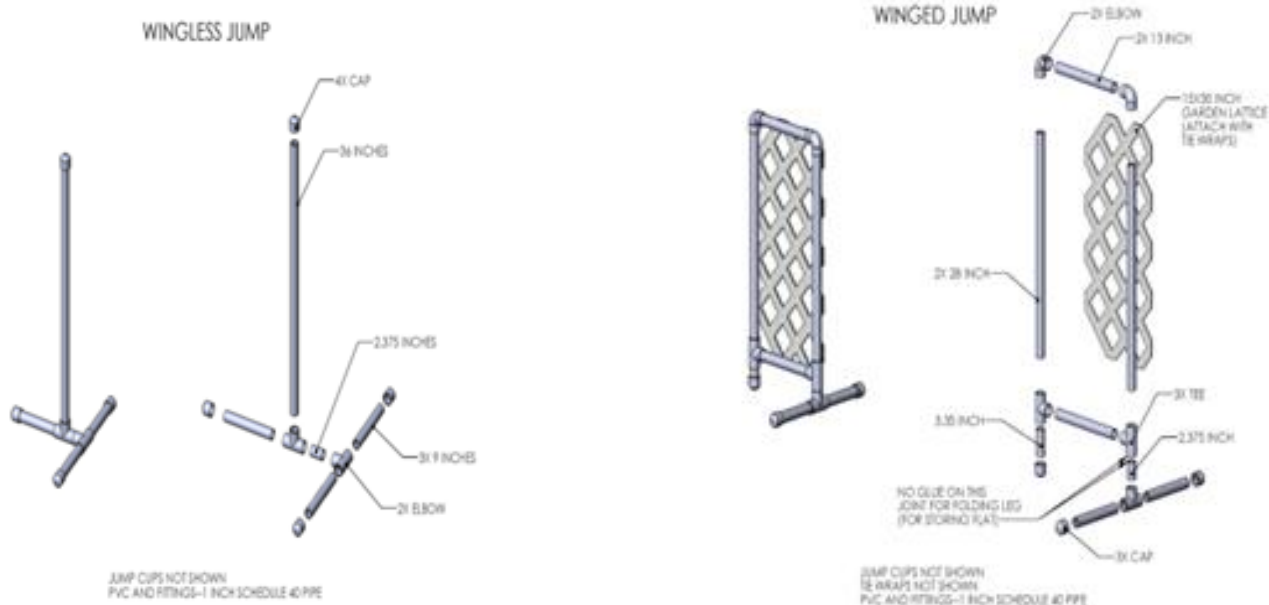
**Tire (Circle) Jump:** The Tire Jump, sometimes called the Circle Jump, is constructed of two (2) segments that are connected at the top to allow for independent movement of each segment (break-away safety tire) and suspended from a rectangular frame. The inner diameter of the tire is 24 inches plus or minus an inch, and the wall is 3 to 8 inches thick. There must be at least 8 inches between the outside of the tire and the sides of the frame, and the frame must be tall enough to accommodate the tire at the six different jump heights, as specified for the Bar Jump. The uprights of the frame shall be secured to the base and the base weighted or secured properly to the running surface so as to discourage tipping. The jump height is measured from the ground to the bottom of the tire opening. **Tire jump heights shall be 4” lower than specified bar jump heights.**

Jump Ht	Tire Jump Ht
4”	4”
8”	4”
12”	8”
16”	12”
20”	16”

**Performance:** Dogs must jump through the tire opening in the direction specified by the judge. Dogs may touch the jump as they go through the opening. However, they may not cause the tire to separate.

The following jump descriptions are recommended for safety. As Counties replace their jump equipment, the suggested designs of stand-alone jump uprights **and not be of metal construction** should be implemented.

**Examples of stand-alone jumps:**



**Broad Jump:** The Broad Jump is composed of either four 8-inch sections or five 6-inch sections, and four corner markers. The actual width of the 8-inch sections is 7 to 8 inches, and the width of the 6-inch sections is 5 to 7 inches. The sections are constructed from a top piece and two side pieces. The length of the sections is between 4 and 5 feet long, and they may be of different lengths. To improve visibility, either the center of the sections or both ends must be marked with a color-contrasting band that is at least 3 inches wide. The sections are of varying height, and they may be arranged in either ascending order or as a hogback. (The ascending AKC Obedience Broad Jump is recommended.) When an ascending arrangement is used, each section is at least 1/2 inch higher than the previous one, and the height of the front edge of a section is at least 1/2 inch lower than the back edge. No portion of a section may be lower than 1 inch or higher than 6 inches. In a hogback arrangement, the sections ascend in height halfway across the jump and then descend. The ascending sections are at least 1/2 inch higher than the previous one, and the height of the front edge of a section is at least 1/2 inch lower than the back edge. The descending sections are at least 1/2 inch lower than the previous one, and the height of the front edge of a section is at least 1/2 inch higher than the back edge. When an odd number of sections are used, the front edge of the middle section may not be higher than the back edge. No portion of a section may be lower than 1 inch or higher than 10 inches. The length of the jump for both the ascending and the hogback configurations is twice the jump height of the division. Consequently, not all the sections are used in the lower height divisions. In those cases, the jump must be assembled with the lowest sections. The length of the jump (within 1 inch) and the number of sections to be used for the different divisions are as follows:

Jump	Length	Num. Boards
4"	8"	1
8"	16"	2
12"	24"	3
16"	32"	3
20"	40"	4

The corner markers are at least 1-inch wide and 36 inches high, and they may be decorated to improve visibility. They are either attached to the sides of the first and last sections, or they are freestanding and placed as close as possible to those positions. (Freestanding is recommended.)

**Performance:** Dogs must jump all sections without visibly moving or stepping on top of any broad jump board, entering between the marker poles placed near the front section and exiting between the poles placed near the back section. Touches and ticks of the leading

edge of the first board and the trailing edge of the last board that do not visibly move the board shall not be faulted. When an ascending arrangement is used, the lowest section is the front, but when a hogback arrangement is used, the judge specifies the front. Touching or knocking over the corner markers is not faulted as long as the dog goes between them.

## ***Obstacle and Jump Positions.***

### **Distance between obstacles in sequence**

Minimum of 15 feet to a tunnel.

Minimum of 18 feet to a jump.

Minimum of 21 feet to a spread jump (triple bar jump, double bar jump, broad jump). Maximum of 30 feet.

Measurement of distance between obstacles- the distance between any two obstacles in sequence will be based on the anticipated path of a 20-inch-high jumping dog.

Obstacles should generally stand alone. In Novice and below, the entrances should never be adjacent to one another, but entrances can be adjacent in Open and Excellent classes.

It is recommended that there be a minimum of 15 feet to 18 feet between obstacles, with a minimum of 18 feet to a jump, 21 feet to a spread jump, and a maximum of 30 feet between any two obstacles in sequence as measured along the anticipated path of a 20 inch high jumping dog. Spread jumps (Triple Bar and Broad Jump) shall not be the first obstacle on the course and if set up in sequence there shall be a minimum of 21 feet between the two spread jumps. To prevent the course from becoming spread out and too long, 25 feet to 30 feet spacing should be used only in special cases.

Contact obstacles such as the A-Frame, Dog Walk, and Seesaw shall not be set up in sequence, or as the first or last obstacle on a course.

**Approach Angles.** Approach angles are determined based on the anticipated path of a 20-inch-high jumping dog through the obstacles. Approach angles to obstacles shall not exceed the following, with additional consideration for safety, based on the obstacle being approached and the running surface.

- All Novice classes and below – Generally not exceeding 90 degrees but must not exceed two times at 135 degrees. (Exception: One 180-degree turn will be allowed.)
- All Open classes – Generally not exceeding 135 degrees but must not exceed two times at 180 degrees.
- All Excellent classes – Generally not exceeding 180 degrees but must not exceed two times at 270 degrees.
- All class Levels with A-Frame – A 180 degree turn from the exit of an Open Tunnel to the ascent of the A-Frame is not allowed.

## Chapter 5

### ***Responsibilities of the Agility Judge and other Show Helpers***

#### ***Helpers***

The following list of helpers is suggested for the smooth operation of your agility show:

Judge  
Gate Steward (one)  
Ring Stewards (a minimum of two, preferably three)  
Leash Runner  
Score Sheet Runner  
Scribe (one)  
Timer (one - must be the same person for all dogs in a class)  
Course Builders (several-they may also do the other jobs listed previously).  
Table Stewards

#### ***Judge's Responsibilities***

1. Ensuring safety (to the extent reasonably possible).
2. Ensuring that the handlers, dogs, and spectators have a good experience.
3. A judge may use a course designed by the agility committee or design one and submit it for approval. Judges are reminded that in Beginner and Elementary classes, the course must be simple "U" (horseshoe), "M", or "S" design, which includes all of the required obstacles. Each obstacle must easily lead to the next and be spaced at a distance of 12' to 18' between obstacles.
4. Verifying heights of dogs in question by measuring the dog. (See rule #28 on page 3 for jump heights.)
5. Walking the course after the course builders have set it to verify that it has been correctly set (double check distance between obstacles, positions and angles of obstacles, etc.)
6. Meeting with all stewards and briefing them about their responsibilities. The briefing must include but is not limited to the following:
  - a) Gate Steward
    - How many dogs to keep on deck.
    - When the next dog should enter the ring.
    - Where leashes and collars should be left.
  - b) Ring Stewards
    - Where they should be positioned.
    - Their duties ~ reset any knocked down bars; reset jumps for next height, others as necessary (straighten weave poles etc.)
  - c) Scribe
    - Explain the arm signals to be used. Usually, one arm up with an open hand means to record an "S" for a standard fault on the score sheets.
    - Both arms up with hands open means to record **as a major fault** for failure to perform obstacle.
    - Record the time from the timekeeper's stopwatch exactly as it reads. Do not convert it to seconds. Remind them to always watch the judge not the dog/handler.
    - Be sure to ask any questions about the previous dog's score before the next dog runs, therefore eliminating any confusion.
  - d) Timer
    - Make sure the timer is comfortable with the stopwatch and how to use it.
    - Explain that the timer should show the stopwatch to the scribe to copy onto the score sheet. What they should do if the stopwatch malfunctions - always check the stopwatch as soon as the dog is past the start line to verify that it is working. If it is not working, blow the whistle to re-start the dog/handler before they reach obstacle 2 or 3.
    - Be sure the timer clearly understands where the start/finish lines are and that the time begins and ends when the dog (not necessarily the handler) crosses the line.
    - Explain how the timer will be told that the judge (and scribe) is ready for the next dog to begin.

- e) Table steward
  - Explain how to fill out the rest of the score sheet from the scribe's notes.
- 7. Answer any questions.
- 8. Give the briefing to the competitors. The briefing should never include suggestions on how to handle the course, but this does not prohibit the judge from answering the questions about the permissibility of certain actions under the rules. The briefing should include:
  - a) The course time.
  - b) A demonstration of the table count.
  - c) What actions will result in elimination.
  - d) That absolutely no unsportsmanlike conduct will be tolerated in the ring or elsewhere on show grounds.
  - e) Treats and other aids will not be permitted.
  - f) Reminders about touching dogs and obstacles.
- 9. Judge the class.

### ***Example of a Judge's Show Timetable***

Prior to show date - allow enough time - obtain copies of approved course designs or submit your course designs for approval.

1 hour before the show - review the show site for safety and appropriateness. Fill in gopher holes, divots, water holes, etc. If necessary, find another suitable location for the show. Review all equipment for safety (sturdiness) and verify that it meets regulations. Review the course with the course builders. Assist in setting the first course.

40 minutes before - walk the course for distance and positioning. Do not place bars on.

30 minutes before - meet with the ring stewards and other helpers for their briefing. Remember to include directions for what to do if there is an error or question.

5 minutes before - the ring stewards should set the jumps for the first height. Call all handlers for the judges briefing. After the judges briefing, allow handler 5-10 minutes to walk the course. Handlers walk the course without their dogs!

Give a 2-minute warning so the first handler can get their dog. Clear the course. Double-check all obstacles again. Verify that the timer, scribe and other helpers are in their places. Send in the first dog/handler team.

## Chapter 6

### *Beginner Class, Pre-Agility Class*

These classes will not be offered at State Fair but may be used at county and club events. The purpose of these classes is to prepare new dogs and handlers for off-lead agility work. There are safety challenges in running a dog on an agility course with the lead attached. Extreme care must be exercised by the handler to avoid injury to either the dog or handler in these classes. **Jumps made of metal construction should not be used if other types of jumps are available.**

#### ***Pre-Agility***

This class is intended for the first time or first year agility dog and handler. The obstacles are limited to four jumps, one or two open tunnels (10' if available) curved 90 degrees or less, the Pause Table (set at 8"), and low A-Frame. A "U" shape is appropriate. It is recommended that the A-Frame be the last obstacle. Dogs must be wearing a flat buckle collar and be on leash at all times except when performing the tunnel(s). The class is not timed; however, the dog must be working at all times, willing to perform and under control. All other regulations and scoring apply to this class.

#### ***Beginner***

This is a simple "S" shaped, "M" shaped, or "U" (horseshoe) shaped course consisting of 8 to 11 obstacles.

The following obstacles are used:

A-Frame (8-foot, apex at 4'0"; 9-foot - apex at 4'6")

Pause Table at 8"

Open Tunnel (2 to 3)

Bar Jumps (4 to 6)

This class is not timed.

There is no time limit provided the dog is willing and working. All dogs will be shown on leash, wearing approved collars.

### Jump Heights for Beginner and Pre-Agility

Dog's Height	Height of Jump
10" or under at the withers	4"
14" or under at the withers	8"
Over 14" at the withers	12"

# **Appendix 1**

## **Agility Scorecard (Example)**

4-H Agility Scorecard

Exhibitor Number

Breed

Event

Class

Date

Age Group

Course Max Time

Jump Ht

Deduction Description	Standard Deduction (-5 points)	Occurrences	Total
Wrong Course, Refusal, On/Off Table, Knocking off bar, Touching Dog, Dog Touches Broad Jump, Interference from Outside, Handler Touches Obstacle, Handler Jumps Over Jump, Dog Goes Under Tire, Leaves Table Early			
Major Deduction (-20 points)			
Missed Contact Zone, Omitted Obstacle, Three Refusals of Single Obstacle, Uncorrected Improper Weave Pole Entry, Skipped Weave Pole, Bails Off Teeter, Bails Off Dog Walk, Fails to Correct Table			
Elimination (loss of all points)			
Stops Working, Leaves Ring, Major Interference from Outside, Fouling the Ring			
Sub-Total			
Actual Course Time (Seconds)			
Time Deductions			
Miscellaneous Deductions (describe)			
Comments			Maximum Score
			100
			Total Deductions
			Total Score

Ribbon Awards (circle) Champion Reserve Blue(100-85) Red(84-70) White(69-0)

4-H Agility Scorecard

Exhibitor Number

Breed

Event

Class

Date

Age Group

Course Max Time

Jump Ht

Deduction Description	Standard Deduction (-5 points)	Occurrences	Total
Wrong Course, Refusal, On/Off Table, Knocking off bar, Touching Dog, Dog Touches Broad Jump, Interference from Outside, Handler Touches Obstacle, Handler Jumps Over Jump, Dog Goes Under Tire, Leaves Table Early			
Major Deduction (-20 points)			
Missed Contact Zone, Omitted Obstacle, Three Refusals of Single Obstacle, Uncorrected Improper Weave Pole Entry, Skipped Weave Pole, Bails Off Teeter, Bails Off Dog Walk, Fails to Correct Table			
Elimination (loss of all points)			
Stops Working, Leaves Ring, Major Interference from Outside, Fouling the Ring			
Sub-Total			
Actual Course Time (Seconds)			
Time Deductions			
Miscellaneous Deductions (describe)			
Comments			Maximum Score
			100
			Total Deductions
			Total Score

Ribbon Awards (circle) Champion Reserve Blue(100-85) Red(84-70) White(69-0)





## **Appendix 2**


### ***Approved Height Card***

The Official Height Card can be used in lieu of measuring the dog for each Agility event. All handlers are required to present a completed Official Height Card for their dog on check-in at the State Fair Agility Trial. The dog must be measured by two separate parties familiar with the procedures of measuring the height of a dog, such as a judge at an Agility qualifying event or fair, or the County 4-H Dog Project Superintendent. The dog must be measured on a flat, firm surface and both measurements must agree within 1 inch when measured at the withers.

Jump Height Card templates in Microsoft Word or PDF, set up to print on standard business card stock, such as Avery 5371 stock.

 <b>Washington State 4-H Agility Official Height Card</b>	
<b>Member's Name:</b>	
<b>Dog's Name:</b>	
<b>Breed:</b>	
<b>Height at Withers:</b>	<b>Jump Height:</b>
<b>Signature and title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1)	
2)	

 <b>Washington State 4-H Agility Official Height Card</b>	
<b>Member's Name:</b>	
<b>Dog's Name:</b>	
<b>Breed:</b>	
<b>Height at Withers:</b>	<b>Jump Height:</b>
<b>Signature and title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1)	
2)	

 <b>Washington State 4-H Agility Official Height Card</b>	
<b>Member's Name:</b>	
<b>Dog's Name:</b>	
<b>Breed:</b>	
<b>Height at Withers:</b>	<b>Jump Height:</b>
<b>Signature and title</b>	<b>Date</b>
1)	
2)	