

Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

60 Weave Pole Challenge

DESCRIPTION: This challenge is sometimes set-up at agility competitions and other fun dog events. Ideally, there are 2 courses of 60 poles each and 2 dogs race side by side through the courses with the crowd cheering them on.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: In an effort to make this badge more accessible, only 6 sets (36 total weave poles) are needed. That is 30 poles for the dog trying to get the badge and 6 poles for the “competition dog” to run as the main dog gets started.

There does need to be at least 3 human spectators that will clap and cheer as the dog is finishing the last 6 poles. If they want to cheer prior to that, it's allowed. The handler does not count as one of the spectators.

CRITERIA: The dog being tested needs to demonstrate a clear understanding of how to properly weave the poles, including starting the poles correctly and continuing through all the poles with little directional help and “cheerleading” from the handler. The dog does not need to be super fast, but since this form of competition is a RACE, the dog should move fluidly through the poles, without excessive stopping, re-starting or coaxing.

NO LURING: It is allowable for the handler to clap or to repeat the weave cue as their dog goes through the poles, but the handler's hand may not be used to lead or lure the dog through the correct pattern. The handler's hand may not cross the line of polls (either through or above the poles).

MISSED POLES: If the dog misses a pole, he can be stopped and re-started just before the pole he missed. A few re-starts are allowed, but if the dog is missing several poles, he's probably not ready for the badge. All 60 poles need to be completed within 2 minutes, so a timer will be needed unless it's quite obvious the dog is faster than 2 minutes.

SETS OF WEAVE POLES: If you have enough poles to run 2 dogs at the same time (at least 30 poles each) that would be ideal. But if weave pole availability is limited, you can get by with only 6 sets of weave poles. As the dog going for the badge starts his run, another dog will need to begin on the same start signal and run through at least 6 poles at the same time. So both dogs start through their poles at the same time.

SPACING: The two lines of poles should be set parallel and about 15' apart.

DISTRACTION DOG: The dog doing the 6 poles is not being tested; he is just a distraction to simulate a competition. Neither dog should bother or physically interfere with the other during the run. Once finished with his 6 poles, the distraction dog can move away from the testing area and should be outside the ring before any reward is given.