



Dog Scouts of America
Evaluation Criteria

No Contact Agility

PURPOSE: This badge is designed to introduce new agility challenges by using both traditional and novel agility obstacles. As the name implies, there are no contact obstacles included, and thus, there are no prerequisites for the badge. By learning new things together, the handler/dog team is strengthened.

DOG REQUIREMENTS: Dog must be able to complete all of the required obstacles safely as described by the instructor/evaluator. The dog must be able to run the course in flow, with no more than 3 run by faults. All jumps must be completed cleanly with no dropped bars or panels, and hurdles must be cleared cleanly without disrupting them.

HANDLER REQUIREMENTS: Handler must follow safety protocols at all times, following the direction of the instructor/evaluator and keeping the well-being of the dog in mind. The handler must be able to direct the dog through the course in flow. If run by faults occur, the handler must be able to quickly redirect the dog and complete the faulted obstacle as required.

EQUIPMENT NEEDED: All equipment is described in detail in the training documentation. All equipment must be built to the standards described. Obstacles required include single, double, panel, wing and broad jumps; tunnels, including one that is elevated using ramps that are built to specifications; low hurdles; a balance beam that is 6" wide and at least 10' long; hoop rings; barrels; and a set of 6 weave poles.

PROCESS: The instructor/evaluator must introduce the obstacles to the handler/dog teams prior to allowing them to run a full course and must inform teams of the elements of safety required for each obstacle. The instructor/evaluator must ensure that each handler understands and can explain the rule of 120. This rule should serve as a guideline for completing the courses required for the badge, with the instructor/evaluator making the final decision on whether or not dogs can run, keeping in mind that these courses are sprints rather than marathons. Only after the handler understands all safety requirements and the instructor/evaluator determines that conditions are appropriate can teams proceed with running the courses. At no point on a course may luring be used, including the handler making the dog think that she has a treat in hand as a reward. Luring during training should be limited, following the direction of the instructor/evaluator. Collars may be worn but harnesses are prohibited.

Guidelines for puppies and jumping as provided in the training information are firm. For seniors, the instructor/evaluator will make the determination if reduced jump heights are appropriate per training information, recognizing that age itself is not a disability.

ALLOWED:

- Luring with toys during training
- Collars
- 3 run by faults
- Reduced jump heights for puppies

- Potential for reduced jump heights for seniors

NOT ALLOWED:

- Luring, with or without treats
- Harnesses & leashes
- Dropped bar or panel faults
- Equipment that does not meet specifications
- More than 3 run by faults
- Failing to run the course in flow