



## Dog Scouts of America Evaluation Criteria

### 60 Weave Pole Challenge

**DOG REQUIREMENTS:** The dog being tested needs to demonstrate a clear understanding of how to properly weave 60 poles, including starting the poles correctly and continuing through all the poles with little directional help and without excessive stopping, re-starting or coaxing 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. A “competitor” dog starts at the same time as the dog being tested and completes at least 6 poles in a separate line.

**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 “competitor dog” to run as the main dog gets started.

At least 3 human spectators are needed, and they must 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.

A timer is needed to ensure that the dog completes all 60 poles in under 2 minutes. Ideally the person keeping time is not the evaluator.

**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

**PROCESS:** As the dog being tested starts his run, a competitor dog will need to begin on the same start signal and run through at least 6 poles in a separate line. The poles are set in parallel lines about 15’ apart. Both dogs start through their poles at the same time on the evaluator’s cue.

**COMPETITOR 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.

#### ALLOWED:

- Collars or harnesses
- A few missed poles
- Clapping or repeating the “weave” cue

#### NOT ALLOWED:

- Treats on the course or handler
- Interaction between dogs on course
- Excessive stopping, re-starting, or coaxing
- Handler crossing the line of poles