



USDAA Policy Statement on Miscellaneous Classes that Permit Training at Local Events

Effective: Immediately for events that have not published a test schedule

A host group has the opportunity to offer any of a number of non-titling and non-tournament classes ("Miscellaneous Classes"), the rules for which are set forth in the Class Descriptions section of the Agility Test Schedule ("Test Schedule"). Such classes may be offered at local events, provided such classes do not compromise the quality or integrity of the event as a USDAA-licensed competition. These classes are subject to the written approval of USDAA. Request for approval for Specialty Classes must be made in advance of publication of the Test Schedule for the event.

With issuance of this policy statement, it should be noted that—

- USDAA Rules & Regulations set forth a number of provisions that disallow or prohibit training on the grounds unless permitted under specified circumstances. Such provisions call for immediate dismissal from the ring, including possible disciplinary action, unless such training is otherwise permitted in the regulations.
- Chapter 2 of USDAA Rules & Regulations specifies that the Agility Test Schedule must include a list of classes offered. If a class description is not included in the USDAA Rules & Regulations or in published tournament rules, a detailed description of the class must be included in the Agility Test Schedule.

This Policy Statement is intended to set forth conditions by which limited training may occur under controlled circumstances in Miscellaneous classes at a USDAA-licensed local event.

Statement of Policy

A Host Group may offer one or more Miscellaneous Classes at a licensed event. This policy sets forth parameters by which training in the ring at local events may occur.

For any Miscellaneous class, the detailed description of the class must include parameters for performance of the course and/or what rules govern the handler and dog's performance within the class. The number of parameters is subject to the discretion of the event's Organizing Committee.

Implementation

All Miscellaneous classes are required to be judged or monitored by a judge (i.e., a judge on the USDAA approved judges list, or one that is approved as being competent to perform the duties of a judge for the specific class; this requirement is intended to be the same as required for Intro and/or Junior Handler classes).

When a Miscellaneous Class is to be offered, advance request for approval from the USDAA office shall be made and obtained to assure compliance with provisions of this policy statement.

The following parameters must be met in order to meet the requirements of this statement:

- If the training class uses the same course as a titling class, it must be run after the titling class has been completed.
- If the course is not the same design as another class and not held at the completion of other classes, then it must be submitted for course review.
- The course shall not be of such design or scheduled that would enable a competitor to school key elements of other courses prior to performing such other courses for titling or tournament qualification purposes.
- The class shall be scheduled in such a manner so it does not disrupt the schedule and timing of the competitive titling and tournament classes or is held in lieu of any level of titling class.
- Only positive training methods shall be allowed.
- Food or food treats shall not be permitted in any ring in which regular titling and tournament classes may be held subsequent to the Miscellaneous class on the same or subsequent day.
- A running order list (or entry list) shall be maintained for the class.
- Day of show entries are not allowed, and
- USDAA licensing fees for titling classes apply.

Upon approval, the class shall be defined in the Test Schedule for the event and included on the entry form. The following, with consideration of the foregoing requirements and limitations, shall be disclosed in the Class Description:

- A full description of the type, style and parameters of the class for competition and/or training.
- A specific description of training methods permitted and any limitations thereto.
- A statement whether food or treats shall be permitted.
- A statement that no toys shall be permitted if they emit sound, unless the class is held while no other classes are running.
- A disclosure of any time limit that shall be employed.
- A statement that any action by a handler that may be construed to potentially be harsh or abusive shall be strictly prohibited, and any such incident shall result in immediate dismissal from the ring and shall be subject to disciplinary actions pursuant to Appendix C of the USDAA Official Rules & Regulations.

Questions regarding this policy statement shall be directed to the USDAA office via email at rules@usdaa.com, or if by phone, (972) 487-2200 x102.