

APPENDIX G—ELECTRONIC TIMING SYSTEMS

The purpose of timing is to measure the time required to perform the course^{G.01}. Time may be measured manually or through the use of an electronic timing system at the option of the host organization. An electronic timing system is defined as equipment that is electronically calibrated to measure time with start and finish measured electronically by the breaking of a reflective light beam. The group should state in the agility test schedule (a.k.a., premium list) if an electronic timing system will be used^{G.02}.

Rules For Judging When Using Electronic Timing

- A timekeeper shall be assigned to monitor and reset the system under direction of the judge.
- Time shall be measured to 1/100th of a second^{G.03}.
- Sensors should be positioned to form a start and finish line at a position on or in front of the first obstacle and on or beyond beyond the last obstacle. The start and finish lines shall not exceed six feet (180cm) from the obstacle.
- The sensors shall not impede the performance path of handler or dog. The course distance shall be measured from the start and finish lines as defined by the sensors.

When timing sensors are on the plane of the first obstacle,

- a dog that runs past the first obstacle without tripping the sensors shall be assessed a refusal penalty if refusals are penalized in the class.
- for all classes a five second time penalty shall be added to the performance time.
- for point-basis classes, points should generally be deducted from the score earned during the time period in lieu of other penalties at the judge's discretion^{G.04}.

If a dog runs past the last obstacle (a refusal), he shall be assessed a refusal when appropriate to the class. If this is not corrected by having the dog perform the obstacle in the intended direction, then the appropriate penalty for omitting a course obstacle (i.e., wrong course penalty) shall apply.

If a handler triggers the start or finish sensor instead of the dog,

- a penalty for a five point standard fault or elimination shall be scored, as the judge deems appropriate.
- if the start sensor, time shall keep running and shall not be restarted.

The timekeeper should be positioned to monitor the finish line in case the a manual stop is required due to sensor failure or the dog should jump over or run around the beam.

Course Design Considerations

- The judge should determine if there are any special limitations to a timing system. For example, some systems do not allow the start or finish obstacle to be used a second time during the course.
- Start/finish lines must be designed such that a steward can be on course as a timekeeper in the event of failure of the electronic timing system.
- When the start sensors are placed upon the plane of the obstacle, the only obstacles that may be used for a starting obstacle are: (1) jumps of any type, (2) open tunnels, and (3) collapsed tunnels.
- When the finish sensors are placed upon the plane of the obstacle, the only obstacles that may be used for a finish obstacle are: (1) jumps of any type, and (2) open tunnels.
- When electronic timing sensors are to be utilized on the plane of the first and/or last obstacles, the judge shall indicate this on their course diagram when submitted for course review.

APPENDIX G FOOTNOTES:

G.01 *The concept of time measurement presumes that any device used for timing the course shall be accurate from start line to finish line, and that such devices (and lines) are solely for the purpose of measuring time, and not as an obstacle on the course. Consistency of timing from one competitor to the next is an important element in use of any timing methodology.*

G.02 *A statement that electronic timing is being used does not obligate the group to measure all runs using electronic timing. It shall be understood by competitors and others that electronic timing equipment is subject to failure or may have other potential issues and manual timing may still be employed at the discretion of the judge, and such time shall be the official time for the performance.*

G.03 *If timing equipment measures a greater degree of accuracy than 1/100th of a second, the additional digits shall be disregarded. For example, time measured to .067 shall be recorded as .06. In case of a tie, a runoff may be required if duplicate prizes are not being awarded. While timing equipment may be rated as being more accurate, by the nature of most equipment and the nature of the dog, we cannot be sure whether the dog's nose, chest or leg trips a beam. If and when a solid plane is covered where accuracy can be assured, the regulations may be modified to require such measurement.*

G.04 *The number of points to be deducted shall be at the discretion of the judge. In gamblers or snooker, as an example, the point value of the last obstacle performed in the time period may be deducted, as . In the rare situation where the dog does not perform an obstacle or earns no points on the last obstacle before the time period expires, the judge may deem that no points shall be deducted, as no benefit was realized.*