**In Preamble – Appendix A**

Current Rule:

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –
2. The handler will provide any equipment required for a trick. Any piece of equipment may be inspected by the judge to ensure it’s safety for the dog. (See also Rule 9.4)

Proposed Amendment:

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –
2. The handler will provide any equipment required for a trick. Any piece of equipment may be inspected by the judge to ensure its safety for the dog. (See also Rule 9.4).

 The host club will determine how this is to be undertaken by the judges on the day.

Rationale: to ensure that handlers are not inconvenienced and that the process flows as smoothly & quickly as possible.

\*\* Affects Rule 9.4

**In Preamble – Appendix A**

Current Rule:

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –
2. The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencements of the first trick. The set-up of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. (See also Rule 9.4.3)

Proposed Amendment:

1. Unless otherwise stated in the Rules or individual Trick Descriptions –

(b)The handler will place any equipment in the ring before commencements of the first trick. The set-up of equipment will be completed before the dog enters the ring. Small items and all hand-held equipment must be placed on the equipment table. (See also Rule 9.4.3).

Rationale: Provides clarity to handlers as to what equipment goes where.

\*\* Affects Rule 9.4.3

**In Preamble – Appendix A**

Additional Rule:

6. Judges will indicate when distance and/or duration is complete and when the trick is complete

Rationale: to make it clear to handlers that the judge is responsible for this task

**In Preamble – Appendix A**

Additional Rule:

**7. Set Up** – all that is described must be done prior to the judge saying ‘Proceed’

**Cue & Action** – all that is described must be done post the judge saying ‘Proceed.’

Rationale: To provide clarity to handlers and judges

**In Preamble – Appendix A**

Additional Rule:

8. **Stance** refers to the position of the dog – stand, sit or drop

 **Position** refers to the dog’s position in relation to the handler - in front, behind, left or right heel

Rationale: To provide clarity to handlers and judges

**General Rules**

**3.2 Progression through titling classes**

Current Rule

3.2.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant division.

Proposed amendment

3.2.3 At the discretion of the Affiliate’s nominee, a competitor who completes the necessary Qualifying Certificates for a title and has applied for that title after the closing of entries may request and be transferred to the next higher class in the relevant division. A competitor may be required to show proof of application to their relevant Canine Member Body. Receipt of application from the relevant Canine Member Body is not required.

Rationale

To enable interstate competitors to be transferred to the next higher class whilst competing in multiple Trick Dog Tests over a period of days.

**4.0 Titles**

**4.2 Trick Dog Titles**

Current rule:

**C.** ‘TK.I’ signifying Trick Dog Intermediate in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of five (5) Qualifying Certificates in the Intermediate class, under at least two (2) different Judges.

Proposed Amendment:

**C.** ‘TK.I’ signifying Trick Dog Intermediate in connection with, and after the name of, each dog, which has gained a total of six (6) Qualifying Certificates in the Intermediate class, under at least two (2) different Judges.

Rationale: Typographical error

**4.0 Titles**

**4.2.3 Trick Dog Titles**

Current rule:

The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Trick Dog title in each division awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** |
| **Title** | TK.S | TK.N | TK.I | T.A |
| **Number of certificates** | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| **Minimum number of Judges** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

Proposed Amendment:

The following is a summary of the requirements for titles at each level. Only the highest Trick Dog title in each division awarded to the dog shall be used in connection with the name of the dog.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Class** | **Starter** | **Novice** | **Intermediate** | **Advanced** |
| **Title** | TK.S | TK.N | TK.I | TK.A |
| **Number of certificates** | 3 | 5 | 6 | 8 |
| **Minimum number** **of Judges** | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

Rationale: Typographical error

1. **Rings**

Current Rule:

5.5 When there are multiple rings operating at the one test, a distance of at least two (2) metres shall be maintained between the ring ropes of adjoining rings.

Proposed Amendment:

5.5: When there are multiple rings operating at the one test, a distance of at least four (4) metres shall be maintained between the ring ropes of adjoining rings.

Rationale:

Some dogs and some handlers may be easily distracted by nearby sounds such as voices and barking as well as movement. The voices of some handlers when giving commands can project far more than others. The creation of additional space between rings would go in some way to lessen the possibility of such distractions from a nearby ring.

No other current rule is affected by this change.

**5.0 Rings**

Current Rule:

**5.6** There will be an exclusion zone of at least one (1) metre from the ring perimeter around the ring area (whether a single or multiple rings). Spectators must remain outside the exclusion zone.

Proposed amendment:

**5.6** There will be an exclusion zone of at least two (2) metres from the ring perimeter around the ring area (whether a single or multiple rings). Spectators must remain outside the exclusion zone.

Rationale:

Some dogs and some handlers may be easily distracted by nearby sounds such as voices and barking as well as movement. The voices of some handlers when giving commands can project far more than others. The creation of additional space between rings would go in some way to lessen the possibility of such distractions from a nearby ring.

No other current rule is affected by this change.

* 1. **Entries**

Current Rule:

6.2.3 A dog may be entered in only one class at any Trick Dog test.

Proposed Amendment:

6.2.3 A dog may be entered in only one class level at any Trick Dog test. Multiple classes may be offered at the same Trick Dog Test event.

Rationale:

The current wording could be construed that multiple rings (and hence classes) cannot be offered and hence entered at a Trick Dog Test event. I believe this makes the intent of the rule clearer.

* 1. **Dog Attire**

Current rule:

9.2.1 During the test, a dog must have a slip or fixed collar which fits loosely around only the dog’s neck and which must remain on the dog at all times. Collars which give additional head control are not permitted.

Proposed Amendment:

9.2.1 During the test, a dog must have a harness, limited slip or fixed collar which fits loosely around only the dog’s neck or body and which must remain on the dog at all times. Collars which give additional head control are not permitted.

Rationale: Provides for more flexibility for handlers as many use harnesses on their dogs. ‘Limited’ added for clarification.

**9.2 Dog Attire**

Current rule:

9.2.3 A dog must not wear any kind of shock, prong or pinch collar (made of chain or any other material) anywhere in the precinct of the test venue.

Proposed Amendment:

9.2.3 A dog must not wear any kind of shock, correction, prong or pinch collar (made of chain or any other material) anywhere in the precinct of the test venue.

Rationale: To eliminate the use of check collars

**Additional Rule**:

9.2.6 A dog may wear a cool coat in the summer months and a warm coat in the winter months in the ring.

Rationale: Welfare issue and allows more dogs to compete in the more extremes of weather

* 1. **Selection of tricks**

Current Rule:

9.3.3 At the Starter and Novice level, the handler may request a re-try once only and for one trick only. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.

Proposed Amendment:

9.3.3 At the Starter, Novice, Intermediate and Advanced level the handler may request a re-try once only and for one trick only. A retry must be undertaken immediately after the incorrectly executed trick, not later in the test.

Rationale: To fail at one trick means they have failed, will allow handlers a better chance to pass their class. To allow a less severe transition from Novice to Intermediate & Advanced levels

\*\* Affects 11.3.4, Appendix E 3.1 and Appendix A (Preamble) 5 (d)

**10.5 Rewards**

Current rule:

10.5.1 Rewards in the form of food or a silent training toy may be used at the reward station in Starter and Novice class following completion of a trick.

10.5.1.1 Any food must be in a sealed container

10.5.1.2 Any food or toy must remain at the reward station when not in use

10.5.2 There will be one (1) reward station in each Starter and Novice classes

Proposed Amendment:

10.5.1. Rewards in the form of food or a silent training toy may be used at the reward station in Starter, Novice and Intermediate class.

 10.5.1.1 Any food must be in a sealed container

10.5.1.2 Any food or toy must remain at the reward station when not in use

10.5.1.3 Rewards may be used in Starter and Novice class

following completion of a trick

10.5.1.4 Rewards may be used in Intermediate class, **twice** only during the

duration of the test.

10.5.2 There will be one (1) reward station in each Starter, Novice and Intermediate classes

Rationale: To allow a less severe transition from Novice to Intermediate level

\*\* Affects 10.5.2, 10.5.4 and 10.7. Also Appendix A (Preamble) 5(d) and Appendix E 1.2 and 1.3 .

**11.4 Disqualification**

Current rule:

11.4.1 The following shall result in disqualification of the dog and handler and their immediate removal from the ring:

(B) the dog and/or handler leaving the ring at any time during their test; if a dog or handler accidentally steps outside the ring during the test they will not be penalised;

Proposed Amendment:

11.4.1 The following shall result in disqualification of the dog and handler and their immediate removal from the ring:

(B) the dog and/or handler leaving the ring at any time after entering and before exiting the ring; if a dog or handler accidentally steps outside the ring after entering and before exiting they will not be penalised;

Rationale: To provide better clarity for the handlers

The following requires amendment -

**11.3 Penalties**

**11.4 Disqualification**

**Appendix C Deductions**

Rationale: They need to be uniformed and reflect the same penalties, deductions and disqualifications