



We are excited to announce the newest AKC Agility class – Premier - starting October 1, 2015. This class will provide an opportunity for agility competitors to demonstrate different handling skills than those required for the Master Level Classes in Standard & Jumpers With Weaves. The Premier class will focus on handling the sequence or sequences of the day.

Premier is an optional class. Clubs may, but are not required to offer Premier Standard and Premier Jumpers with Weaves on the same day. Exhibitors may enter Premier and Master Standard and/or Jumpers With Weaves on the same day.

A club may add Premier to an already approved trial as long as the premium has not been published for the trial. The Trial Chairperson will need to send an email to the Companion Operations department to have it added. July 1, 2015 there will be the new trial application that will include the Premier classes as an option both for online applications and paper submissions.

Both Standard and JWW Premier courses will be Master level courses incorporating a number of elements that challenge the dog and handler in ways that are not seen on traditional AKC courses. These elements include sequences like threadles, back-side jumps, pull-throughs, layering, challenging weave pole entries, and longer running passes. One bi-directional jump or tunnel will be allowed to encourage handling strategies. Obstacle spacing on Premier courses may exceed the limits of those on Master courses.

Premier courses will use the same obstacles as the corresponding Master course. At the judge's discretion a viaduct may be used in place of the panel jump, there may be 3 tunnel passes and there will be no table. A Premier course will have 19 to 21 obstacles, 3 side switches, 4 Premier Elements and 5 Challenges. Courses will be judged using AKC Master scoring and hand signals.

Thank you for your support of the agility program.

If you have any questions regarding the Premier class please contact Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility at cx2@akc.org.



NEW Chapter 11

Premier Class

Section 1. Purpose. These optional titling classes are designed to challenge dogs and handlers at an increased speed and skill level above those set for the Master level classes. Handlers/dogs will need to negotiate courses that require varied approach angles, spacing, and obstacle discriminations to be successful in these classes. These classes are offered as separate titling tracks and are not part of the MACH/PACH Championships.

Premier may be offered once per day as an additional class or classes. Clubs may, but are not required to offer Premier Standard and Premier Jumpers with Weaves on the same day.

Section 2. Eligibility. Dogs with an AX title are eligible to enter Premier Standard Regular. Dogs with an AX or AXP title are eligible to enter Premier Standard Preferred. Dogs with an AXJ title are eligible to enter Premier Jumpers with Weaves Regular. Dogs with an AXJ or AJP title are eligible to enter Premier Jumpers with Weaves Preferred. Dogs with Regular titles may crossover to the Premier Preferred level as noted above.

Section 3. Performance Standards

- Minimum allowable score required to qualify = 100.
- The course must be completed before the dog reaches the Maximum Course Time (MCT).
- Additional Non-Qualifying faults (beyond those listed in Chapter 5, Sections 5 and 6).
 - Any Course Fault

Maximum Course Times (MCT)

Premier Standard

Regular:

- 55 seconds for the 20 and 26 inch Regular jump heights.
- 60 seconds for the 16 and 24 inch Regular jump heights.
- 65 seconds for the 8 and 12 inch Regular jump heights.

Preferred:

- 60 seconds for 16 inch Preferred jump height.
- 65 seconds for 12 and 20 inch Preferred jump heights.
- 70 seconds for 4 and 8 inch Preferred jump heights.

Note: For timing purposes all Premier Standard classes may have timer set for MCT of 70 seconds.

Premier Jumpers With Weaves

Regular:

- 40 seconds for 20 and 26 inch Regular jump heights.
- 45 seconds for the 16 and 24 inch Regular jump heights.
- 48 seconds for the 8 and 12 inch Regular jump heights.

Preferred:

- 45 seconds for 16 inch Preferred jump height.
- 50 seconds for 12 and 20 inch Preferred jump heights.
- 53 seconds for 4 and 8 inch Preferred jump heights.

Note: For timing purposes all Premier Jumpers With Weaves classes may have timer set for MCT of 53 seconds.

Minimum Obstacle Requirements:

- Quantity = 19-21
- Obstacles required, allowed, and not allowed will be the same as the Master level courses as noted in Chapter 6, Section 5 for Standard; and Chapter 7, Section 5 for Jumpers With Weaves, except that both classes will have a maximum of three tunnel passes and Standard will not have a table.
- In both classes the viaduct jumps, as described in Chapter 13, Section 9, can be substituted for the panel jump or a spread jump, as long as the viaduct jump can be set for all heights.

Section 4. Obstacle and Jump Positions. Shall generally follow the requirements set forth in Chapter 4, Section 4, with the following exceptions:

- A Distance of 25 – 30 feet between two obstacles may be approved up to two times on a course.
- Distances of greater than 30 feet between obstacles may be approved to allow for turns between obstacles as necessary.
- There may be one bi-directional tunnel or bar/single bar jump on the course.

Section 5. Approach Angles. Shall generally follow what is stated in Chapter 4, Section 5, except as detailed in the AKC Agility Judges Guidelines for the Premier Class.

Section 6. Titles. To earn the Premier Agility Dog (PAD), Premier Agility Dog Preferred (PADP), Premier Jumpers Dog (PJD) or Premier Jumpers Dog Preferred (PJDP) titles, a dog must earn 25 qualifying scores with five qualifying scores earned for placing in the top 25% of the dogs that competed in their jump height.

Dogs that are absent or withdrawn will not count toward the number of dogs competing in the jump height. The 25% calculation will be rounded to determine the number of 25% placements in each jump height. In the case of a tie both dogs will receive the top 25% placement. If a class has two or three dogs competing, the 1st place dog will be awarded a top 25% placement qualifying score. If only one dog competes in the jump height, there will be no top 25% placement earned in that jump height.

Lifetime Achievement titles (bronze, silver, gold and century) will be awarded for each additional 25 qualifying scores earned in the Premier class.