

IRISH
Agility &
Dog Sports



**Starters Guide to
Competing at Agility in
Ireland**

How do I...?

A. Become a member and register your dog

To become a member of IADSA, you must fill in the New Members Application Form and return it to the current IADSA Membership Secretary with the appropriate fee. Details of fees and instructions on where to send the form, and how to pay, are outlined in this application form.

Please Note: Children under the age of 18 years can be the registered owner they just need written consent from their parent/s or guardian, see extract below:

"Membership shall be done by a registration of handlers and their dogs. There shall be one type of membership open to all persons (handlers under eighteen years of age will need the written permission of a legal guardian) who subscribe to the purposes of this Association."

We do not charge for Dog registration, you can have as many dogs on your membership as you like. Our membership is charged on the number of members per membership. Membership types are detailed in the application form.

If, after you become a member, you wish to add a new dog to your membership, use the New Dog Registration Form to add your new dog to your current membership.

B. Get my dog measured

You will need to get your dog measured into one of the 4 height categories (large, intermediate, medium or small) before you compete in your first show. A large dog needs only to be measured once, an intermediate, medium or small dog needs to be measured a second time 12-24 months later.

When your dog is measured you will receive a record book which will show which size your dog is measured at and is also for keeping record of your progression. The record book will be provided by the measurer at the time of measuring.

Measuring Fee: €2.00

Record Book : €2.00

To arrange measuring contact IADSA Committee by emailing info.iadsa@gmail.com and request information on the upcoming opportunities for measuring. Usually, there will a chance to get a dog measured at any IADSA Show.

Entering Competitions

A. How do I fill out entry form

Most entry forms will look for your dog's pet name, age, breed, grade (beginners will start at Grade 1) and class numbers. The schedule will have the class numbers on it so choose the classes you wish to enter and write the numbers on your entry form. There are normally four entry places on a form, one space = one dog, NOT one space for each class you are entering. Remember to enter the CORRECT class numbers for your dog's height category.

You will need to sign the form and provide contact details to enable the secretary to contact you with matters arising to the show.

All entry forms must be accompanied by the correct entry fee, an entry form will not be accepted after the closing date and without the correct fee.

B. Dockets/show numbers

It is entirely dependent on what suits each show secretary; there are no hard and fast rules. You can ask each show secretary what way the dockets are being operated at each show you compete at. Often it will be said as part of the judge's briefing.

Below is an example of the Judge's slip you will have to fill in to hand to the scrimmer before your run.

| Agility Judging Sheet | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Class | |
| Name/Dogs No. | |
| COURSE TIME | |
| DOG'S TIME | |
| TIME FAULTS | |
| COURSE FAULTS | |
| | |
| TOTAL FAULTS | |

Class: Fill in the class you are entered into i.e. 1-2 Agility or 1-3 Jumping)

Name/Dogs No: Your own name (including surname) and dog's name

If you have two dogs in the one class fill in one slip per dog.

The rest of the slip is filled in by the scrimmer.

C. How will I know if a show has a running order or not?

Normally a schedule will mention if there will be a running order and the running order is normally very visible at the show. If you are unsure you can ask the show secretary.

D. Ring Rules & Etiquette

Am I allowed do a training round?

Training rounds are entirely at the judge's discretion, often it will be stated in the judge's briefing if training rounds are allowed. If you are unsure you can ask the show secretary.

Can I bring toys into the ring?

Toys must be shown to the judge for approval before being used as a training aid in a training round

Can I bring food into the ring?

Food is not allowed into the agility ring under IADSA rules under any circumstances; this includes being zipped into pockets. Regulations state "food must not be given or carried in the ring". This also applies for toys if not doing a training round.

Extract from the constitution below:

"It is forbidden for competitors to have anything in their hands (exception is a baton during relay). The competitors should not take with them to the ring anything that could help to direct their dogs (for example, whistle, waist-bags, leash around waist, food in the pocket, toy etc.) There can be no impugning on the judge's decisions."

Is it ok to repeat a contact if my dog doesn't get it?

Judge's briefing often covers this but it is mannerly to ask the judge if it is ok to put your dog back on the contact, and they may ask you to leave the ring directly afterwards

Who tells me to start my round?

The scrimmer will normally start you. Do not start your round without being officially started by the scrimmer or the judge. The scrimmer is the person who watches the judge and takes note of the faults and times. They will usually sit between the start and the finish line.

Can I ask the scrimmer a question?

No, the scrimmer had a very difficult job of concentrating on watching the judge, they should not be distracted. You can ask any other member of the ring party (though not while a dog is competing as they too need to concentrate on what is going on in the ring, (especially the pole pickers or someone doing leads) or the secretary a question.

There's a running order but my dog isn't ready to go into the ring, can I wait or do I have to go?

You can normally ask the ring caller to let someone go ahead of you if you explain the situation but do check in with the caller so they are aware of the situation.

I've decided to pull my dog out of a class, what do I do?

Let the ring caller know so they can scratch your dog's name off the running order, it prevents the class being held up waiting for absent dogs.

My dog is a little nervous/sparky etc. and I don't want to stand in a queue with other dogs, can I wait somewhere else?

Yes you can provided you have let the ring party know, they will let the person behind you in the queue know that you are ahead of them but waiting out of the queue. Be sure you've handed over your judge's slip for your position, also you can ask someone to stand in your spot with your judge's slip until it's your turn

Where do I leave my lead and where does it go?

You will take your dog's lead off and either drop it on the ground or hand it to a lead person at the start of the course, your lead will be left near the finish line on the ground or in a bucket.

Am I allowed to leave my dog's collar on?

A dog is allowed to compete in a flat collar without any dangling tags. A martingale or check chain or harness or dog coats etc., are not permitted (see extract from the constitution below)

"There should be nothing on the dog in the ring during performance of the course, with the exception of a flat, close fitting, leather or webbing collar, providing the only attachment is a plain identification panel as an integral part of the collar. i.e. not attached by a ring. It is permitted to put a rubber band or 'scrunchie' on the dog if its hair is shaggy near its eyes."

Where do I leave the ring?

There is often an exit space in the ropes near the finish line, put your dog on the lead immediately and move swiftly away from the exit to prevent any congestion at the finish line.

What is double handling?

Double handling is a second person outside the ring giving the dog cues whilst it is competing. Double handling includes calling the dog or waving a toy as the dog is coming towards the finish line.

The judge didn't fault a fallen pole etc., what do I do?

You may inform the ring party to have it replaced but the judge's decision is final and unless they saw the pole fall they have no way of knowing for sure exactly what caused it to fall. If you are placed in that class the placing stands.

The judge faulted me on a contact but I know I got it, what do I do?

Again judge's decision is final. They are in a far better position to see contacts than handlers or spectators are.

Progression

What happens if I win an agility class?

If your win was clear and within the course time then you will move up to the next grade. If your win had faults then you remain at your current grade.

What happens if I win a jumping class?

A single clear jumping win without time faults does not result in progression; you need 3 jumping wins without course faults or time faults to progress to the next grade.

I would prefer not to progress on jumping wins

Unfortunately you must progress to the next grade if you have 3 clear jumping wins

What exactly is a clear round?

A clear round is a round without course faults or time faults.

I run more than 1 dog, how does my grade progression with one dog affect the other dogs?

If you progress from G1 to G2 with one dog all dogs that you own or handle become G2. Likewise when one dog wins to G3, all dogs progress to G3 and any new dog you compete with will start at G3.

What happens when I win into G3?

When you reach G3 your dogs now progress individually. If one dog wins to G4, the other dogs remain in G3 until they too win into G4.

What is points progression?

Each clear placing in a competition earns points; the points per place are in the record book. You may choose to progress to the next grade without a clear 1st place once you have earned 75 points.

How far can I progress on points?

You may progress as far as G5 on points but once you reach G5 you need 3 clear round wins to progress to G6.

How far can I progress on jumping wins?

You may progress to G3 on jumping wins, but you must win an agility class to progress from G3 to G4.

I won into the next grade, what grade do I enter the next show at?

If you have not already entered the next show then you enter that show at your new grade. If you have already entered the show but the show entry has not closed then you inform the show secretary of your new grade and they will adjust your classes accordingly. If the closing date has passed then you must compete at your old grade, and have what is known as a 'freebie' run and you will not be able to progress if you win any of your classes at this show.

My new grade doesn't change my class numbers but the show has closed, can I still progress if I win?

No, whatever grade you have entered the show at is the grade you must run at regardless of if your new grade is still in the same class numbers.

How do I progress to G7?

You must have 4 clear wins in order to progress; at least 2 of those wins must be in agility classes.

Can my grades and points be transferred from IKC & KC?

Only your current grades can be transferred from IKC & KC. Progression points **CANNOT** be transferred from IKC or KC. If you wish to progress on points you start with your current grade & zero points.

PLEASE NOTE : New members can only join IADSA at a **maximum of Grade 5**, irrespective of grade with IKC or KC.

IADSA AGILITY GRADING SYSTEM

| | |
|----------------|--|
| Grade 1 | For handlers or dogs that have not gained a clear first place in an Agility Class or three clear first places in Jumping Classes at IADSA licensed Agility Shows. <i>N.B. Owners or dogs previously qualified out of Grade 1 are not eligible for this class.</i> |
| Grade 2 | For handlers or dogs which have qualified out of Grade 1 but have not gained a clear first place in an Agility Class or three clear first places in Jumping Classes at Grade 2 at IADSA licensed Agility Shows, or elected to progress on points from Grade 1. <i>N.B. owners, handlers or dogs previously qualified out of Grade 2 are not eligible for this class.</i> |
| Grade 3 | Open to dogs which have gained a clear first place in an Agility Class at Grade 2 or elected to progress on points from Grade 2 at IADSA licensed Agility Shows and dogs which are not eligible for Grade 4, 5, 6 or 7 ** Experienced handlers start their new dogs here ** |
| Grade 4 | Open to dogs which have gained a clear first place in an Agility Class at Grade 3 or elected to progress on points from Grade 3 at IADSA licensed Agility Shows and dogs which are not eligible for Grade 3, 5, 6 or 7 |
| Grade 5 | Open to dogs which have gained a clear first place in an Agility Class at Grade 4 or elected to progress on points from Grade 4 at IADSA licensed Agility Shows and dogs which are not eligible for Grade 3, 4, 6 or 7 |
| Grade 6 | Open to dogs which have gained three clear first places in a class at Grade 5 at IADSA licensed Agility Shows and dogs which are not eligible for Grade 3, 4, 5, or 7. One clear first place must be gained in Agility (not Jumping) Classes. |
| Grade 7 | Open to dogs which have gained a minimum of four clear first places at Grade 6 at IADSA licensed Agility Shows. Two clear first places must be gained in Agility (not Jumping) Classes. ** You cannot progress from grade 5 to 7 on points ** |

Competing in N.Ireland/UK

What grade do I enter my dog at for UK/N.Irl shows?

You enter your dog in the same grade you compete under IKC up to G6, there is separate progression into G7 so you must start your IKC G7 dog at G6 under the UK KC and achieve 4 clear wins to progress to UK G7.

Does my dog have to be measured again?

Yes, you should contact the UK KC for a list of measurers or contact the show secretary of the show you wish to enter and check if there will be measuring at the show. Again you will need a record book so check with the measurer if they will have any with them on the day. Bring your UK Activity certificate with you.

If I win into G6 under IKC does that mean I am G6 in KC?

Yes it does. Non-domiciled dogs do not need to follow the 3 wins into G6 rule for the KC, as confirmed by Joanna Nosalik from the KC on 14/08/13 "Thank you for your query, you would still enter the equivalent grade in the UK despite our grading structure being slightly different now. It may be the case that in the future the IKC makes the progression more difficult for Grade 6 as well, but for the time being you would enter Grade 6 in the UK as you would for IKC shows."

I have 2 jumping wins under IKC, if I win under KC can I combine the wins?

No, you must achieve all jumping wins under the one kennel club in order to progress

PLEASE NOTE:

There is no reciprocal agreement between IADSA and IKC or KC.

Any wins under IADSA will not affect your IKC/KC grade, there is separate progression for KC & IKC

Residents of UK/N.Irl competing in IADSA shows

What grade do I enter?

You enter IADSA competitions at your grade in the KC

How do I register?

You will need to become a member and register your dog(s) (Pet name(s) only) with IADSA.

Does my dog have to be measured again?

Yes, but according to IADSA agility regulations you may get your dog measured by an approved KC measurer in the UK and they sign your IADSA record book.

I have 2 jumping wins under KC, if I win under IADSA can I combine the wins?

No, all wins must be under the one kennel club in order to progress

General Questions

I saw someone cheating; who do I report it to?

You should report it to a steward or the show secretary immediately.

I saw someone rough handle their dog, what can I do?

You report it to the show secretary.

My dog got bitten/harassed by another dog, what happens?

You report it to the show secretary who will call the on-call vet and investigate the situation.

I'm the registered owner but my friend of a lower grade wants to run my dog, is that possible?

Yes it is possible. Your friend handles the dog at the dog's grade. If the dog wins an agility class with a clear win then both the friend and the dog progress up grade if the friend is G1 or G2, any of the friend's own dogs also then move up a grade. If your friend is G3 or over and the dog win's an agility class with a clear win then the dog alone moves up a grade. But you must be a G7 Handler to run a G7 dog.