

**AGILITY LIAISON COUNCIL AGENDA**

**6 JUNE 2013**

**ITEM 3.b**

**ANNEX A**

**Calculating Accurate Course Times**

**Guidance**

## Background

In 2010, the Agility Liaison Council asked the Judges' Working Party to look into updating the Course Times Matrix. This is published in the Guide to Agility Equipment booklet which is used on the Judges training seminars and is also available to download from the KC website. This matrix was first produced in the mid 1980's and it was felt it no longer provided relevant course times – some too generous and others unachievable for the courses being set today.

Research was established where courses were being measured at shows up and down the country with the judge's course time recorded and the times of the places along with notes about the complexity of the course, e.g. how many pull throughs, pull rounds, weaves etc.

But how to measure a course? The researchers found that measuring straight lines between the centres of each obstacle provided an accurate length of the course no matter who did the measuring.

By the end of 2012 some 650+ courses have been recorded and in analysing the data it has been found that the lower grade dogs are now faster than 25 years ago, probably due to better training methods used today, and that the higher grades are travelling slower, due mainly to more complex courses. What has also been revealed is that there is a difference in speed between Large dogs and Small/Medium dogs. The matrix being put forward reflects all of this.

Whilst gathering the data the researchers also sought to test their findings giving suggested course times to several judges. In almost all cases the judge chose the time based on the straight-line measurement and the new matrix and was happy with what then transpired in the ring.

Data will continue to be gathered and, if any changes are found in the analysis of this increased amount of data, this will be brought to the attention of the Accredited Trainers at the next Annual Seminar. Any recommendations would then be made to the Judges' Working Party and then on to Council.

## Recommendation from the Judge's Working Party

Agility courses should be measured by the judge using a surveyor's measuring wheel prior to the start of the class. The measurement should be based on the straight-line/centre-to-centre method detailed within this booklet. The judge will then use the Course Times Matrix to arrive at a course time for that class.

### Measuring wheel advice

We suggest a measuring wheel similar to the below example. Ensure the read out section is a sealed compartment to prevent dirt and damp affecting the performance. These are available from most DIY and hardware stores as well as online e.g. at Amazon.co.uk, ebay.co.uk and Screwfix.co.uk with prices typically around £25.



**Rolson 50799 Distance Measuring Wheel**

# How to Measure an Agility Course

## Straight-line Centre-to-Centre

Please use the diagrams that follow in conjunction with these notes.

### Contact Equipment

Measure to the centre bottom of the "on" contact area. Lift the wheel and place beside the Obstacle and measure to the end of the "off" contact area. Lift the wheel and place at Centre bottom of the "off" contact area. Measure to the centre of the next obstacle. Do not measure over the obstacle

### Weaving Poles

Measure to the 1<sup>st</sup> weaving pole and then in a straight line to the last weaving pole. Do not measure in and out of the poles. Measure along side the poles in a straight line. Measure to the centre of the next obstacle

### Pipe Tunnel

Measure to the Tunnel entrance. Lift the wheel and place to the outer side of the Tunnel entrance. Measure around the back of the Tunnel (as close as possible to it) to the Tunnel exit. Lift wheel and place at centre of Tunnel exit. Measure to the centre of the next obstacle

### Collapsible Tunnel

Measure to the Tunnel entrance. Lift the wheel and place to the outer side of the Tunnel entrance. Measure to the Tunnel exit. Lift wheel and place at centre of Tunnel exit. Measure to the centre of the next obstacle

### Long Jump

Measure to the centre of the 1<sup>st</sup> element of the Long Jump. Lift the wheel and measure along side the Long Jump to the last element. Lift the wheel and place at centre of the last element of the Long Jump. Measure to the centre of the next obstacle

### Spread Jump

The Spread Jump is best measured with the poles removed. Measure through the centre of the 2 sets of wings. Measure to the centre of the next obstacle

### Hurdles

Hurdles are best measured with the poles removed. Always measure through the centre of the wings (centre of the pole). Where this is not possible (approach angle is shallow/obscure) then measure to the Wings edge and then to the centre of the pole. Measure to the centre of the next obstacle

### Hurdles

#### (Serpentine, Flick Flack, Snakes) & Double (Pull Through)

Measure from the centre of the 1<sup>st</sup> Hurdle to the centre of the last Hurdle in a straight line. This can be measured from either side of the Hurdles

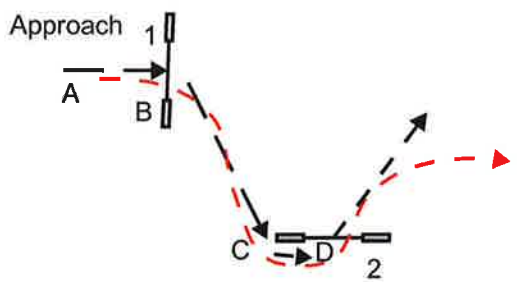
### Wall & Well & Tyre

Measure to the front centre of the obstacle. Lift the wheel and place beside the Obstacle and measure along side it. Lift the wheel and place at the centre of the other side of the obstacle. Measure to the centre of the next obstacle

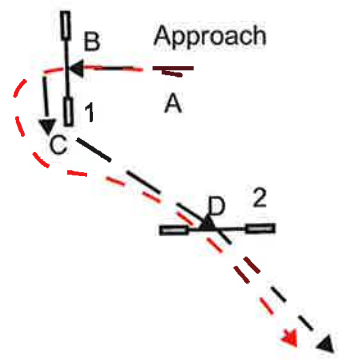
### Measuring back past an obstacle

Measure from the centre of the obstacle to the outside of it. Measure to the centre of the next obstacle

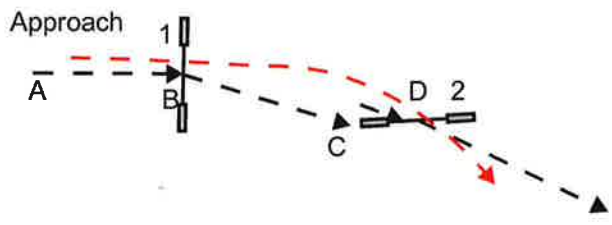
Push Round



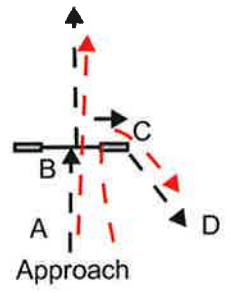
Pull Through



Shallow Angle



Hurdle

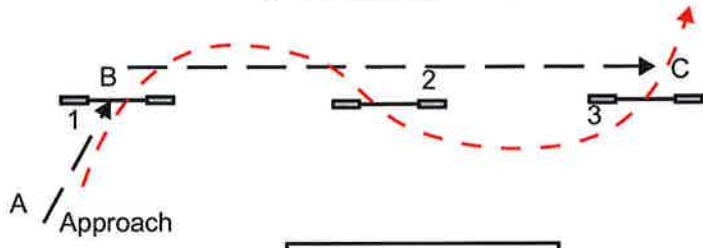


KEY

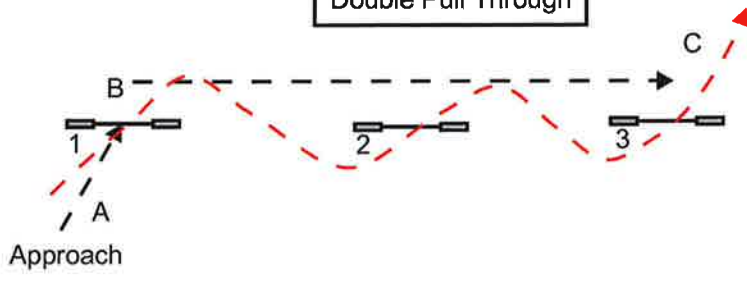
- - - - -> Measuring Path
- - - - -> Dogs Route

**Please note** – approach is a straight-line from the centre of the previous obstacle and the exit is a straight-line to the next

Serpentine/Snake



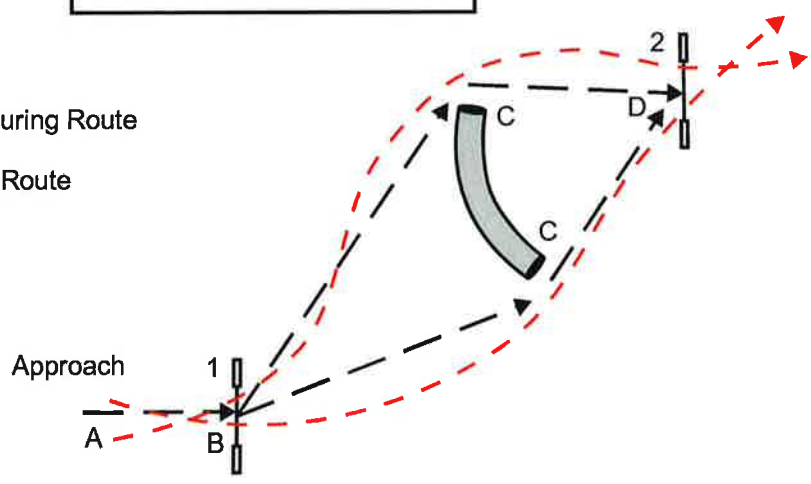
Double Pull Through



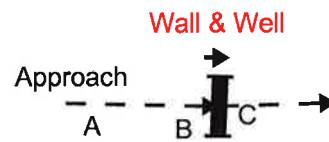
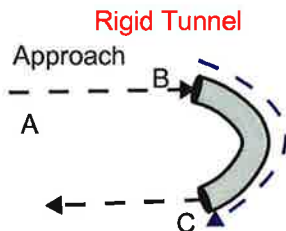
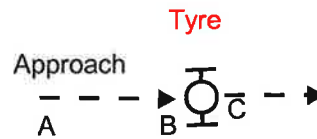
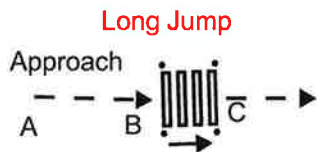
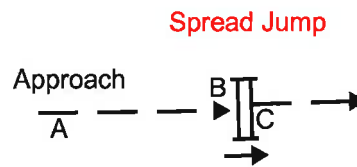
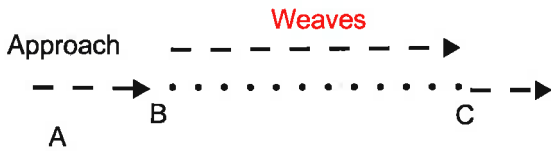
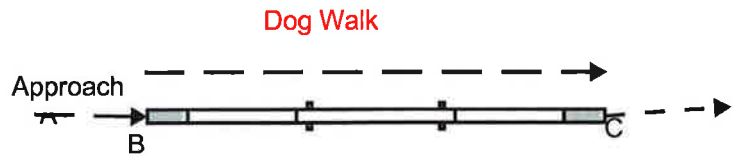
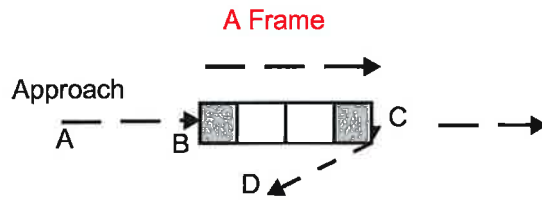
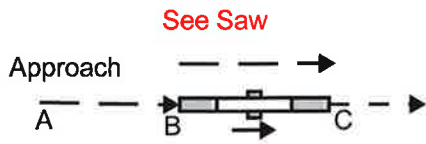
Measure around an Obstruction

KEY

- - - - -> Measuring Route
- - - - -> Dogs Route



**Please note** – approach is a straight-line from the centre of the previous obstacle and the exit is a straight-line to the next except when there is an obstruction!



**Please note** – approach is a straight-line from the centre of the previous obstacle and the exit is a straight-line to the next

## Course Times Matrix

### Agility Courses

Metres per second ⚡	2	2.25	2.5	2.75	3	3.25	3.5	3.75	4
Course Length Ⓟ									
115	58	51	46	42	38	35	33	31	29
120	60	53	48	44	40	37	34	32	30
125	63	56	50	45	42	38	36	33	31
130	65	58	52	47	43	40	37	35	33

Large	1,2	1,2,3	3,4,5	4,5,6,7	7,Ch				
Small / Medium	1,2	1,2,3	3,4,5	6,7	7,Ch				

e.g. the course time for a Large Grade 3 agility course of 115 metres will be 38 - 42 secs  
 The more flowing, the faster the dog so choose towards 38secs. The more complex, the slower the dog so choose towards 42secs.

### Jumping Courses

Metres per second ⚡	2	2.25	2.5	2.75	3	3.25	3.5	3.75	4
Course Length Ⓟ									
115	58	51	46	42	38	35	33	31	29
120	60	53	48	44	40	37	34	32	30
125	63	56	50	45	42	38	36	33	31
130	65	58	52	47	43	40	37	35	33
135	68	60	54	49	45	42	39	36	34

Large			1	2	3,4,5,6	3,4,5,6,7	7,Ch		
Small / Medium	1	2	3,4	4,5,6,7	5,6,7,Ch				

e.g. the course time for a Small Grade 4,5 jumping course of 130 metres will be 40 - 47 secs  
 The more flowing, the faster the dog so choose towards 40secs. The more complex, the slower the dog so choose towards 47secs.