

# USDAA Policy Statement on Training in the Ring or “Fix & Continue”

*Effective Date: For events beginning on or after September 4, 2018*

## BACKGROUND

Provisions in USDAA regulations in Chapters 2 and 3 typically provide a means of dismissing competitors from competition classes for various circumstances that may sometimes be considered “training in the ring”.

Concurrent with the effective date of this Policy Statement, USDAA Rules & Regulations are amended in two ways,

(1) at a host group’s option, a competitor who repeats the performance of an obstacle may continue on the course subject to the provisions contained in this policy. The regulation provides that at a host group or its Organizing Committee’s option, this Fix & Continue Policy Statement may apply, and

(2) to provide that a competitor may repeat the performance of an obstacle (incurring a wrong course penalty) in the performance of a course, after which the competitor must immediately and expeditiously leave the ring.

When the Organizing Committee determines that they will permit Fix & Continue at their events, the provisions of this Policy Statement shall apply.

## POLICY STATEMENT

At the discretion of an event’s Organizing Committee or host group, competitors may be permitted a limited Fix & Continue (“F&C”) during a competition run incurring an elimination, subject to the conditions and manner outlined herein.

- A competitor may immediately repeat an obstacle other than a spread hurdle or long jump if it is faulted or if the dog, in the competitor’s sole discretion, did not meet their desired performance criteria. In so doing, the competitor may repeat one or more relevant obstacle prior to the point of error if it is beneficial to their approach or performance of the obstacle.
- The handler and dog shall continue to work in flow, performing the obstacle (or sequence) once in a normal pace and may continue through the rest of the course unless a fault has occurred that violates any fault limits that may have been set for the class.
- A handler may choose to reset a single bar hurdle for their “fix” attempt, but shall not continue and must exit the ring immediately thereafter.
- A “Fix” and continue may be employed only once during a competitive run; a second occurrence in that run requires an immediate exit from the ring

- Once an Elimination has been scored, the Standard Course Time shall become the Maximum Course Time in the interest of maintaining a smooth and efficient event. The competitor shall quickly exit the ring with their dog when the buzzer sounds indicating the Standard Course Time has been reached, unless fault limits are imposed for the class.
- F&C should be utilized for the benefit of the dog and not as a punitive correction. Harsh verbal/physical corrections shall not be tolerated and any determination of harshness by the judge shall be immediately dismissed from the ring and be subject to review of the Disciplinary Action Committee as set forth in Appendix C— Rules of Conduct & Disciplinary Actions and are subject to the full range of actions described therein.
- In the event a condition has occurred where a continuance is not to be permitted when this Policy is in effect, the judge shall indicate immediate dismissal from the ring.

In the application of this Policy Statement,

- A host group or organization may limit the resetting of bars on jumps in the application of this policy. This shall be clearly disclosed in the Test Schedule for the event. The competitor may not perform an F&C on the Long Jump or spreads because of the possible safety risk with displaced planks or poles.
- F&C does not apply to Gamblers or Snooker
- For Standard and Jumpers classes where Time+Faults scoring is used, a Standard Course Time shall be established by the judge for purposes of application of this policy statement.
- F&C does not replace provisions permitted in Intro or miscellaneous training classes defined for limited training purposes that are allowed at USDAA events.

## TRANSITION & IMPLEMENTATION RULES & NOTES

The application and limitations provided in this Policy Statement should be disclosed in the Agility Test Schedule or entry confirmations issued for the Event, which may be done by reference. Any options to be applied shall be specifically disclosed (such as fault limits shall apply, which may override certain Fix and Continue options.

For an event after the effective date for which the Agility Test Schedules and entry confirmations have already been issued, a group may at any time prior to the start of the event, announce and post a notification of implementation of this policy at the event, or through a separately issued notification.

Any issues arising from application of this policy statement may result in consideration for modifications or rescission of this statement.

Questions regarding this policy statement shall be directed to the USDAA office via email at [rules@usdaa.com](mailto:rules@usdaa.com), or if by phone, (972) 487-2200 x102.