

Canine—Work



C-WAGS is a dog & handler team sport dedicated to all the great dog and handler teams – that we may all aspire to become such a team with our canine partner. May the journey along the way build a positive relationship, create mutual trust and contain both work and games!

RALLY

Effective 4/15/2021

C-WAGS offers titles in Obedience, Rally, Scent and Games. Trials may be hosted by a club, organization, or individual. Trials may be held in conjunction with any other dog organization's event. Trials may consist of any combination of classes.

ELIGIBILITY

- All dogs at least 6 months old at the date of the trial are eligible to compete in C-WAGS Trials.
- At this time, dog and handler teams may complete their C-WAGS registration on the day-of-show prior to competing and trial host will submit with trial results.
- All dogs must be handled by the registered handler or an immediate family member (see FEO for exception.)
- For Exhibition Only - FEO– Trial hosts may choose to accept entries as FEO at regular or reduced entry fee. The scores from this entry are not recorded. Placements cannot be earned. The dog may be handled by registered handler, a non-family member, or may be a non-registered team.
- Female dogs in season may not compete.
- Dogs that are permanently disabled are allowed and encouraged to compete as long as they do not show signs of pain or discomfort. See Modifications on Page 2. Disabled handlers are allowed and encouraged to compete. See Modifications on Page 2.
- Judges and trial hosts may compete at trials in which they are working.
- Students may show under their instructor.
- Junior Handler Program for handlers under age 17.

SHOW GROUND EXPECTATIONS

A show / trial is a chance to connect with old friends and an opportunity to make new friends. As such:

- All exhibitors are expected to treat the judges, advocates, trial hosts, their canine partner and all other exhibitors with respect.
- All judges, advocates and trial hosts are expected to show respect to all exhibitors.
- The owner / handler has complete responsibility to maintain control of their dog on the show grounds
- Any judge, advocate or trial host has the authority to excuse / remove any dog or handler from the ring or show grounds due to aggression towards a dog or person. This includes handler-delivered corrections to their dog in or out of the ring. A warning is optional. The decision to remove a dog and / or handler from the trial grounds is final for that trial. A report must be submitted to C-WAGS by the trial host. A review by C-Wags will determine if the dog / handler may show again at future trials.
- All dogs must be on leash and under control at all times on the show grounds unless in the competition or practice ring. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring. Dogs may be carried into or out of the ring.
- Collars: The dog must wear a buckle, snap or properly fit martingale collar and/or body harness in the ring. Collars / harnesses with tags may be worn in the ring. Electronic training collars not allowed on the grounds.
- Trial hosts are encouraged, but not required to allow move-ups between trials.
- Exhibitors are expected to be familiar with the rules for the organization and the classes that they enter.
- Judges are expected to apply judging criteria consistently from team to team.
- Judges may discuss an exhibitor's score after the conclusion of the class. The judge may discontinue the discussion if in the judge's opinion, the discussion becomes offensive.
- Exhibitors may request to be excused during the performance. Judges must honor any such request.
- Modifications - Reasonable Modifications may be requested at each trial. Handlers requesting a modification for either themselves or their dog must complete the Modification form prior to the class. The judge will review and has the sole authority to approve or deny all requests for their class. Dogs physically unable to complete the required exercises may enter as FEO. Judges are not required to approve all modifications. Even with a modification the principal parts of the exercise must still be incorporated into the exercise. Judges may suggest a modification that will meet the criteria. Approved modification forms will be attached to the score sheet for that team.
- Minimum Ring Size –
Starter / Advanced / Zoom 1 / Zoom 1.5 1800 Sq. Ft. – 3500 Sq. Ft
Pro / ARF / Zoom 2 2400 Sq. Ft. – 4000 Sq. Ft.

- Judging Order – trial hosts are encouraged to arrange judging order by jump heights where appropriate. Dogs should be judged in scheduled order as much as possible. Possible conflicts should be brought to the attention of the judge or gate steward before the class begins, at which time movement within the class may be made. Judges are not required to wait for any team that is not ready when it is their turn.
- Teams may compete in multiple levels at the same trial while working on the title for those classes or while working towards the Championship title.
- A dog may be registered as a team with more than one handler.
- A dog may not be entered in the same class more than one time unless the SECOND run is FEO.

Jr. Handler Program

- Open to any handler under the age of 17 at the date of the trial
- The Jr. Handler and dog team must be registered with C-WAGS
- The dog may have earned or be actively competing towards titles in obedience or rally with another handler. A dog may not be entered in the same class more than one time unless the SECOND run is FEO.
- Jr. teams may start at the lower level of each program (regardless of titles the dog has earned with other handlers) and progress through the levels as titles are earned.
- All classes have a Jr. Division.
- Will follow the standard judging guidelines in all classes with a few exceptions, which are noted in general judging guidelines.

Placements will be given to at least the top 4 teams. The team does not need to qualify to place. Other non-qualifiers should also receive recognition for efforts.

Trial Official's Division (TO)

Trial Hosts may have a TO division open to the judge and trial host officials/workers/judge's family members who wish to enter the class.

- Scores earned in the Official's division will not be eligible for special awards.
- Trial hosts are not required to offer placements within this division.
- Qualifying scores will receive a qualifying ribbon.
- The class judge's family members must enter this division if entered in the class.
- Trial host officials, instructors, and workers may enter this division if they wish not to be in the placements.
- If the judge wishes to enter a class they are judging, another approved judge must be in attendance to judge their run. It may be run before, at the end of the class or trial.

Rally Championship Titles-

ACE – team may continue to compete indefinitely in the B division of all classes. After earning a class title, teams that receive 10 additional qualifying scores will be awarded the ACE title for that class. C-WAGS Starter Rally Ace (CW-SRA), C-WAGS Advanced Rally Ace (CW-ARA), C-WAGS Pro Rally Ace (CW-PRA), C-WAGS ARF Ace (CW-ARFA), C-WAGS Zoom 1 Ace (CW-ZR1A), C-WAGS Zoom 1.5 Ace (CW-ZR1.5A) C-WAGS Zoom 2 Ace (CW-ZR2A).

See Obedience, Games and Scent Rules for other ACE titles.

Master Team Award

This award may be applied for once the team has completed ACE titles in three of the four different C-WAGS events: Obedience, Rally, Games, Scent. The Master Team Award is available in Four Levels, corresponding to the earned ACE titles.

Master Team Award Level 1	Master Team Award Level 2	Master Team Award Level 3	Master Team Award Level 4
Obedience Ace Level 1	Obedience Ace Level 2	Obedience Ace Level 3	Obedience Ace Level 4
Starter or Zoom 1 Rally Ace	Advanced or Zoom 1.5 Rally Ace	Pro or Zoom 2 Rally Ace	ARF Ace
Games Level 1 Ace	Games Level 2 Ace	Games Level 3 Ace	Games Level 4 Ace
Scent Level 1 Ace	Scent Level 2 Ace	Scent Level 3 Ace	Scent Level 4 Ace

Teams may begin competing in C-WAGS Rally in any class
Or combination of classes.

C-WAGS Rally classes are:

- Starter Rally
- Advanced Rally
- Pro Rally
- ARF – (Agility-Rally-Freestyle)
- Zoom 1
- Zoom 1.5
- Zoom 2.

Each class will consist of “A”, “B”, “TO” and Junior divisions.

General Judging Guidelines and Definitions:

100 Total points possible in each regular class.

Barking – more than three or four barks will receive a 3 point deduction. Continuous barking will receive a Non-Qualifying score.

Cues – Handlers are permitted to talk, praise and encourage the dog through out the performance.

- Unless specifically stated otherwise in the description of an exercise, the following applies - both hand and voice cues may be given simultaneously for all parts of an exercise.
- Additional cues to get the behavior, whether verbal, hand/body, including clapping hands or legs will be penalized 3 points.
- “Stay” – as long as the dog is not moving, a repeated “stay” would not be penalized as the dog is already exhibiting the behavior.
- The dog’s name may be used with a cue and will not be penalized – unless used as a second cue. Example: “SPOT SIT”, no penalty. But used as “SPOT” wait a second or two and then “SIT” would be a second cue and penalized.
- Loud or intimidating cues or signals will receive a 5 point deduction.
- Unless specifically stated otherwise, foot movement by the handler as part of a cue will be penalized. A 1 to 3 point deduction depending on the portion of the exercise will result for foot cues used during an exercise. Example: small movement of the handler’s feet in cuing the dog to perform a finish would be a 1 point deduction. Stepping forward on the Drop on Recall would be 3 points.

Deductions – Minimum deduction in Rally is one point and higher. Deductions are to be made in one-point increments. Minor faults that would be scored as a 1/2-point deduction in traditional obedience are not scored as faults in C-WAGS Rally. For example, a minor crooked sit is not to be deducted from the team's score, while a significantly crooked sit (generally at more than 45 ° from heel positions) would be scored one point or higher, depending on the degree of the fault.

No more than 10 points per exercise may be deducted. An exercise will be considered non-qualifying if final deductions total 10 points.

Point Summary – see specific section for complete details.

1 Point or more Errors

Heeling errors including: tight leash, lagging, forging, wide, dog/handler casual contact.

Out of position including sits, fronts, downs, dog not moving with handler.

Slight movement (such as a step forward or to the side) of dog on Walk Around / Leave Dog exercises once the dog has gotten in position.

Foot movement by handler as part of a cue (1 – 3 pts)

Over course time 1 point for every 10 seconds up to 60 seconds – 6 pts.

Handler error 1 – 5 points

3 Point Errors

Extra cues to get the behavior

Cone knocked over

Sign knocked over (not incidental falling of sign) deducted from total score, not exercise total

Retry of an exercise

Pivot made larger, performed as a circle

Failure of the handler and/or dog to maintain pace change

3 Point or More

Excessive barking

Dropped food - 4 points

5 Point Errors

Dog taking jump, table or tunnel out of exercise order

Position change not completed, such as missed down, stand, front

Position change where not indicated, such as a down at a sit exercise, sit on Heel Back 3 Steps. This 5 point error normally covers an additional cue to correct the position.

Leave Dog / Walk Around Exercises – dog moving up to ½ of body length (1-2 steps) forward, or up to ¼ turn to the side.

Loud or intimidating command or signal

Handler pausing on any of the Moving Leave Dog exercises

Passing on opposite sides of a cone or extra loops on a cone exercise

Pace change by only one half of the team

Leaving the ring without the leash attached, but returning

Turning wrong direction on any type turn

7 Point Errors -

Exceeding retry limit

10 Point Errors eligible for a retry. Exercise not retried will result in a non-qualifying score

Following any "Leave Dog" exercise, failure of the dog to respond to first *come* cue

Incorrect path on any jump, tunnel exercise

Not completing the path of any cone or tunnel exercise

Failure of the dog to Down on PR #8 Moving Down

Dog sitting prior to Down on A# 20

Stopping on a Moving Leave Dog exercise

Failure of dog to switch sides

Dog not completing tunnel

Dog not taking jump, stepping on or between the broad jump boards

No change of pace by dog and handler team

NQ

Missed an exercise / Off course – An exercise is considered missed once the next exercise has been started.

Dog leaving ring during the course

Dog dropping less than 3' from handler on Drop on Recall

Dog leaving the ring after the course without the leash attached

Food bowl tipped over

Food reward given at a time other than allowed

Dog eliminates in ring

Physical or harsh verbal corrections. The judge may excuse the team from the ring.

Jump bar knocked down during performance of exercise

Continuous barking

Leave Dog / Walk Around exercises - Dog changing position, moving more than 1/2 a body length (1-2 steps) forward, or turning 90° or more once the handler has left heel position

Exceeding course maximum time

Handler constantly changing pace to match dog's pace.

Constant tight leash

Touching of dog for Control

Signs of Aggression, extreme fear or uncontrollable behavior. May be excused.

Divisions A / B / Jr. / TO - The purpose of the “A” and “B” divisions is for placement awards based on their score and grouped with other dogs with similar experience. You are the only one who knows your dog’s history and which division is appropriate. It is an honor system. In general, when you enter a class you want to be competing for placements against dogs with the same level of experience. When you look at the exercises in the class you are entering – are these newer to your dog exercises? Or has your dog gotten titles (from C-WAGS or any other venue) and had a lot of experience with these exercises? The “A” division should be used when your dog has not ever, anywhere titled at this level of exercises. The “B” division would be used when your dog has titled somewhere at this level of difficulty/exercises or above.

All divisions may be combined for running order in all classes. Separate placements will be given to at least the top 4 teams in each division, excluding TO. (Trials held as a league or tournament will not be required to give placements in individual classes and may make awards at the end of the league.)

Jr = Junior Handler division for all handlers under age 17. See page 3.

TO = Trial Officials division for family members, trial officials. See page 3.

Entering / Exiting the Ring - Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the ring. Leashes will be removed inside the ring at a place designated by the judge/steward, and must be attached prior to leaving the ring. After completing the course: Dogs leaving the ring unleashed that are not under owner control will receive a Non-Qualifying score; Dogs that leave the ring under control, but have not yet left the gate area, and return to the ring to have the leash attached will receive a 5 point deduction to their score. Dogs that leave the ring unleashed and do not return to have the leash attached in the ring will receive a Non-Qualifying score. Dogs may be carried into or out of the ring. Leash rules still apply.

Excusal -Dogs must be excused from the ring if they have bandages, stitches, become ill or eliminate in the ring. Physical or harsh verbal corrections by the handler or aggression, extreme fear or uncontrollable behavior by the dog may result in the team being excused.

Food / Petting Rewards - At the end of each stationary exercise (where the dog is not moving at completion), the handler may reward their dog with pets and/or a food treat. Food must be kept in a pocket until the exercise has ended. “Bait bags” may not be used. Handler dropping food will result in a deduction of 4 points from total score. Food out of the pocket prior to the end of the exercise will result in a Non-Qualifying score. After the team enters the ring and the dog is in the starting position, the handler may remove food from their pocket and treat/pet their dog before responding to the judge that they are ready to begin. Food may not be in the hand when entering the ring.

Hand and Leash position – The leash should be held so that there is no tension on the dog’s collar. The leash can be held in one or both hands, and leash and hand/arm position may change during the course. Movement of hands/arms may be considered cues. See “Cue” section. Hand / arm signals may be used alone or with verbal cues. Prolong use of hands as targets will be penalized as an additional cue.

Heel & Position –the dog’s body position regardless of activity – such as moving, sitting, or lying down, should be in line with the handler’s left side. The dog’s right shoulder line should be within 12” of the handler’s left hip line.

Interference– Any interference that appears to aid the working team – such as a dog that would have left the ring if not blocked by a person outside the ring - will result in the working team receiving a Non-Qualifying score.

Judge’s Instructions – Prior to each class the judge will hold a briefing for the class and discuss any areas on the course that they feel may need explanation, such as “joined exercises”, or sign placement. The class will be allowed at least 10 minutes to walk the course and ask the judge questions. A course map must be available to exhibitors prior to the class walk -through.

Jump – A bar jump, high jump or agility style jump constructed in a manner that provides stability and safety for all dogs may be used for jump exercises. The uprights must be between 4’ – 5’ apart with no wings. Jump heights will be 4” 8” 12” 16”. The broad jump must also be between 4’ – 5’ in width. The broad jump distance will be twice that of the upright jump height. Handlers will select the appropriate jump height for their dog as they are most qualified to know what is appropriate for their dog’s age and physical condition.

Suggested Jump Heights -

Shoulder height	Bar/High Jump	Broad Jump	
Under 11”	4”	8”	1 board
11” to under 15”	8”	16”	2 boards
15” to under 20”	12”	24”	2 boards
Over 20”	16”	32”	3 boards

Junior’s Program – When judging the Jr. team, judges should recognize that these teams are young and still developing. They should give a slight consideration to the age of the junior when deductions are made for handler errors. Minimum standards still need to be achieved to qualify.

Retries – Limited retries of an exercise may be made prior to beginning the next exercise on the course. The “A” division team has the option of one retry of two exercises on the course. The “B” division has one retry of one exercise on the course. The “JH” division has a total of 3 retries on the course.

The exercise sign being Retried must be re-approached and the exercise began from the beginning. If successfully completed on the retry, the points deducted prior to the retry will be deleted (up to 10) and 3 points for the retry along with any points for errors scored on the retry will be deducted.

Retries may not be used to change deductions listed as NQ. Deductions listed as 10 point errors may be retried. Exceeding the retry limits will result in a 7 point penalty off total course score for each additional retry.

Ties for Placements - Time will be used to determine placements for all score ties.

Time - Time starts when the team passes the START sign. Time stops when the team passes the FINISH sign. If there is a timing malfunction for a team that is tied for placements, both teams will re-run the first 10 exercises to determine placement.

Time Limits – Course time is 3 minutes. Maximum course time is 4 minutes. Exceeding 3 minutes will result in time faults being deducted from total score. Time faults will be equal to 1 point for each 10 second interval over the 3 minute limit. (Beginning at one second = 1 point). Exceeding the 4 minute maximum time will result in a Non-Qualifying score. Zoom course time are Two minutes. Three minutes will result in a Non-Qualifying score.

Touching of Dog / Collar For Control – Handler may guide dog gently by the collar to the Start position and after the last exercise in the class prior to attaching the leash, during other times touching the dog for control will result in a Non-Qualifying Score.

Exercise Specific Scoring: Basic scoring guidelines apply.

Turns:

5 points – Turning wrong direction,

Pivots:

3 points – Made larger, performed as a circle.

Position Changes:

5 points – Not completed or performed where not a part of the exercise

10 points – Dog sitting prior to Down on A #20 - Down; Failure of dog to down on PR #8 – Moving Down

NQ - Dog failing to drop or dropping less than 3' from handler on Drop On Recall

Leave Dog or Walk Around Exercises:

- 1 or more points – Slight movement once dog has gotten into position
- 5 points – Dog moving up to ½ of body length forward (1-2 steps), or up to ¼ turn to the side; handler pausing on any Moving Leave Dog exercise
- 10 points --Dog not responding on first cue to any “come” cue on exercise following “Leave Dog”; Handler stopping on a Moving Leave Dog exercise.
- NQ – Dog changes position once the handler has left heel position; moving more than ½ body length (1-2 steps) forward; or turning 90° or more.

Cone / Bowl Exercises:

- 3 points – Cone knocked over; dog leaving handler to investigate bowls
- 5 points - Passing on opposite sides of a cone or extra loops on a cone exercise
- 10 points – Not completing the path of any cone (or tunnel) exercise
- NQ – Food bowl tipped over

Table/Pause Box:

- 3 points – additional cue. No deductions other than additional cues for dog going off the table or out of the box before completing correct position.
- 5 points – handler crossing distance line
- 10 points – dog does not complete

Tunnel:

- 3 points – additional cue to enter tunnel
- 5 points – handler crossing distance line
- 10 points – dog does not complete, or incorrect path

Jump:

- 5 points – handler crossing distance line
- 10 points – Dog not taking jump or stepping on or between the broad jump boards, or incorrect path
- NQ – Dropped bar during performance of exercise

Side Switches:

- 1 - 3 points - the change appears awkward, or hesitation during change
- 5 points – changes are slow or awkward and require considerable help from the handler to achieve the side change.
- 10 points – failure of the dog to change sides

Course Guidelines

Ring Sizes:

- Starter / Advanced / Zoom 1 / Zoom 1.5 1800 Sq. Ft. – 3500 Sq. Ft
- Pro / ARF / Zoom 2 2400 Sq. Ft. – 4000 Sq. Ft.

Walk-thrus: Competitors are provided with a minimum 10 minute period at the beginning of each course during which to walk the course (without dogs) and ask the judge questions. Large classes may have split walk-through times at the judge's discretion. All divisions can be combined for walk thrus and runs.

Signs: Exercises are performed with the sign to the handler's right except for those that require a change of direction, in which case the sign will be directly in front of the handler. Exercises using cones, jumps, or tunnel may have the sign on the first cone, at the jump, tunnel or set off to the right of the exercise. Exercises, unless specifically stated otherwise, are to be performed near the designated signs, either directly in front of, or to the left of the sign.

Any exceptions to sign placement must be covered during the judge's briefing. "Joined" signs may be placed outside the guidelines to minimize any interference with performance of the exercises. At this time signs that are similar for an exercise from another organization may be used, (ex: turns, start, finish, about turns, halt – down, etc.).

Joined Exercises: Two or more exercises may be joined – performed together in sequence. Example 1): Halt – 90 Pivot Right – Halt, followed by Halt – Walk Around Dog. The dog would stay sitting after the pivot and the handler would walk around the dog. Example 2): At a Halt, a SLOW could be joined in which case from the Halt going forward would be immediately at a slow pace. There is no limit on the combinations as long as they can be safely performed together. The judge shall indicate on the course map any exercises that are joined.

- Creative course design is encouraged.
- Exercises that the dog is moving at the completion are considered moving exercises.
- Exercises that end with the dog in a stopped position are considered stationary.
- Stationary exercises should not be more than approximately one-third of the total exercises.
- Courses are not required to be laid out at 90 degree angles, but turn angles should match sign used.
- Exercises should be a minimum of 10' apart - except those "joined" or those with a stated distance.
- When designing the course recognize that some exercises must have a longer distance to perform.
- Start and Finish are not numbered, nor included in the number of exercises for the course.
- Placing the Finish straight in line with the exit gate is discouraged. The exit should be off set from the end of the course.