



2024 FitPaws World Agility Open Championships

Gamblers Briefing

Saturday 19th May

Judge: **Bonnik Berthelsen**

All rules in Section 3.5 of the *WAO Rules & Regulations* apply to the Gamblers class. This briefing contains reminders as well as additional information specific to this course.

Course Times

- **Time for the opening point accumulation period will be 30 seconds** at which time a buzzer/horn will sound and **one** of the two gambles shown on the course may be attempted.
 - 250 & 300 handlers have 14 seconds to complete a Gamble.
 - 400 handlers have 13 seconds to complete a Gamble.
 - 500 & 600 handlers have 12 seconds to complete a Gamble.

General Briefing

- Handlers must begin by taking the Start jump in the correct direction. The Start jump has no point value. The Start jump is “live” at all times during the run. Therefore, if the Start jump is taken again *at any time* during the run it will be judged as an off-course. Point accumulation ends and the handler should go directly to the Finish jump.
- Handlers must end by taking the Finish jump in the gamble to stop the clock, regardless of whether or not a successful gamble is achieved. If the Finish jump is taken in either direction during the opening period, or prior to completion of a gamble attempt, the run is over and no more points may be scored. The Finish jump must be taken from the correct side to score gamble points.
- Handlers going through, under, or over any obstacle in a manner that aids performance will result in elimination and 0 (zero) points will be awarded for the run.
- There are no refusals judged during the opening period, but refusals do apply in the gamble period and will nullify the ability to earn gamble points.
- Stopwatches or other timing devices are allowed during the course walk-through but may not be used during the actual competition.
- The handler touching the dog or an obstacle (whether intentional or accidental contact) in a manner that aids the dog’s performance will result in 0 (zero) points being awarded for the obstacle.

Opening Points

- Jumps: 1 point
- Tunnels, Wall, Tyre, Long Jump, Spread Jump: 2 points (*Note: The long jump and spread jump must be taken in the correct direction as indicated by the arrow on the course map.*)
- Seesaw, 6 weave poles: 3 points
- A-frame: 4 points
- Dogwalk, 12 Weave Poles: 5 points

- **Bonus:** 8 points will be awarded if **all** four obstacles labeled A-D are completed successfully at any time during the opening period. Points will also be awarded for the pieces of equipment. The bonus can only be earned once, but each of the individual obstacles can be scored twice.

Gamble Points

Either gamble may be attempted after the buzzer/horn. To earn points, the gamble obstacles must be completed in the order specified below, negotiated correctly and completed within the time specified at the beginning of the briefing.

- **Gamble #1 = 10 Points:** Complete obstacles labeled 1-5 with white circles.
- **Gamble #2 = 20 Points:** Complete obstacles labeled 1-6 with white squares.
- It will be stated on the course map if there is a handler restriction line for one or both Gambles.

30-Second Opening Period Notes

- Each obstacle (including a gamble obstacle) may be completed successfully for points 2 (two) times during the opening period. If an obstacle is completed successfully more than twice, no further points are awarded, but no penalty will be incurred unless you are deemed to be “loitering” at end of the opening period.
- If an attempt at an obstacle is successful, the judge will call out the number of the obstacle. If an attempt is unsuccessful, the judge will call out “No” and the obstacle may be re-attempted immediately if the handler desires.
- A dog may perform the **same** obstacle (other than those obstacles specified below) “back to back” (performing a bi-directional obstacle successfully in one direction and then immediately turning around and performing the obstacle in the opposite direction).
- For contacts or weaves, no obstacle may be taken twice consecutively (one time immediately followed by another), unless the first attempt was unsuccessful. For example, if a dog does the A-frame successfully and then immediately re-attempts it, no points will be earned for the second attempt even if the dog performs the A-frame correctly—the dog must attempt a different obstacle before re-attempting the A-frame for points. An attempt is defined as completing another obstacle or passing through the wings of a jump or frame of the tyre. If a dog misses a contact zone and judge calls “No”, then he may immediately re-attempt the obstacle in either direction.
- No two (2) contact obstacles may be taken consecutively; that is, a contact may not be followed by another contact. For example, if a dog takes the dogwalk and then the A-frame, no points will be earned for the A-frame. Contact to weaves will be allowed.
- If a dog takes 2 (two) consecutive gamble obstacles in the *same* gamble in succession (one after the other) during the opening period, he will receive points for those obstacles, but will be ineligible to earn points for the gamble, even if he completes it successfully.

For example, on a gamble numbered 1-4, if you take:

#1 you cannot take #2 in any direction but you can take any other gamble obstacle.

#2 you cannot take #3 in any direction but you can take any other gamble obstacle

#3 you cannot take #4 in any direction but you can take any other gamble obstacle and so on

If the two gambles have different obstacles, then if the dog takes 2 (two) consecutive obstacles from one gamble in the opening, he may still attempt the other gamble in closing and be awarded the points if he completes it successfully. Handlers may, however, do the *same* gamble obstacle 2 (two) times successfully for points during the opening without negating their opportunity to earn points for a successful gamble. They may also do 1 (one) obstacle in gamble #1 followed by 1 (one) obstacle in gamble #2, or vice versa.

- If an obstacle is knocked in such a way as to alter it from its original state during the opening period it will not be available to score further points on during the opening period.
- If a gamble obstacle is attempted during the opening period and a bar/brick/element is knocked, it will not be replaced; therefore, no gamble using that obstacle will be awarded. The handler should continue to accumulate points on the course until the buzzer/horn sounds to end the opening period. At that time the

handler should attempt the other gamble if this is still available or proceed to the Finish jump as quickly as possible. There will be no penalty if the dog takes additional obstacles, including running through the weave poles, en route to the Finish jump.

- If a dog is performing an obstacle when the buzzer/horn sounds to end the opening period, points will be awarded only **if** the obstacle has been **completed**. Completing an obstacle is the point at which it is no longer possible for the dog to fault the obstacle (e.g., landing for jumps, front feet on the ground after having touched the contact zone with at least one foot, front feet out of a tunnel, head past the last weave pole).
- When the whistle blows or the horn sounds to signify the end of the opening period, if a dog is in the process of negotiating an obstacle, which is also obstacle 1 in any gamble, but has not completed it, they will not score points for the opening section. In addition, because the obstacle has been started before the whistle or horn sounds, it must be repeated if the handler wishes to try and attempt that gamble.
- Once the whistle has blown or the horn has sounded, taking another obstacle on the way to the gamble is not faulted and is just time wasting. Once the judge deems the gamble sequence is started then they can fault. For example, the dog refuses gamble obstacle 1 and then takes another obstacle.
- If the judge deems that handler is “loitering,” waiting for the gamble horn to sound and not actively attempting to do another obstacle that has not already been scored twice, the judge will blow a whistle and the handler should go as quickly as possible to the Finish jump. No gamble points will be awarded.

Gamble Notes

- There will be no penalty if a dog takes any obstacles on the way to the start of the gamble. However, once the judge deems that the dog is on approach to the first gamble obstacle, the gamble will begin and refusals, off-courses, and other faults will be judged according to the rules.
- Once the first gamble obstacle is attempted; taking any other obstacle outside of the numbered gamble sequence, will end the gamble attempt. The judge will blow a whistle and the handler should go as quickly as possible to the Finish jump.
- Any faults on any obstacle during the gamble attempt will result in no gamble points being awarded. As soon as a fault is incurred, the judge will blow a whistle and the handler should stop the gamble attempt and go as quickly as possible to the Finish jump. There will be no penalty if the dog takes additional obstacles en route to the Finish jump.
- A handler restriction may be in place for one or both gambles. This will be clarified on the course map. If this is the case, the handler may not step across or step on the handler restriction line (marked on the ground) until the dog has successfully taken the Finish jump. The handler may lean over the line and extend their arm over the line; they just can't step on or over it.

The dog will not be awarded the gamble points if any of the following situations occur:

- The dog fails to complete the gamble sequence within the allotted time and/or incurs faults.
- A gamble obstacle is knocked in such a way as to alter it from its original state during the opening period.
- The handler violates the “No Loitering Rule.” Handlers must be actively attempting obstacles to earn points until the moment the horn sounds to end the opening period. If a handler stops a dog on a contact, repeats an obstacle that has already been completed twice successfully for points, or otherwise significantly hesitates, waiting for the horn to blow, they will be called for loitering and cannot earn gamble points.
- The dog performs 2 (two) gamble obstacles consecutively within the same gamble during the opening period.
- The dog performs the Finish jump in either direction during the opening period or prior to the completion of a gamble attempt.
- The handler steps on or over the line *if* a distance restriction is in effect.