



2017 World Agility Open Championships Team Relay Briefing

Sunday 21 May, Judge: Giuseppe Pinchetti

All rules in Section 3.4 of the *WAO Rules and Regulations* apply to the Team Speedstakes Relay class. This briefing contains specific information for running the 2017 WAO Team Pentathlon Speedstakes Relay class.

Course & Running Order

- The Team Pentathlon Speedstakes Relay course consists of 4 (four) separate courses, one for each jump height. The order the courses will be run is: White Circles (300 dog), Black Circles (400 dog), Whites Squares (525 dog) and, lastly, Black Squares (600 dog).
- A handler may run 2 (two) dogs in the relay as long as there is a different dog and handler separating that handler's dogs in the jump height order; for example, the same handler can run a 400 dog and a 600 dog in the relay (because the 525 dog and handler will run in between) but they cannot run a 400 dog and 500 dog.
- The handler running 2 (two) dogs **must** have a helper to restrain the dog that goes second. That helper can be a team member or the team manager. Note: the helper's conduct will be judged as if they are a competitor in the relay.

Baton and the Exchange Area

The following rules apply to the baton and the baton exchange:

- The handler running their portion of the relay course must carry the baton.
- When the handler currently on course has finished the last obstacle of the course, they must go to the designated exchange box and pass the baton to the handler waiting to run. The exchange must happen when both handlers and their dogs are within the boundaries of the designated exchange box. Failure to make the exchange in the box will result in 10 (ten) faults for a faulty baton exchange.
- The handler waiting in the exchange area may hold or restrain their dog in any way (including gently holding the dog by the scruff of the neck or holding the dog in their arms), providing it is not deemed abusive or harsh by the judge. Once the dog is released, the handler will be faulted if they touch the dog on course.
- The handler waiting in the exchange area to run may have their dog on a lead. However, the lead and/or collar must be removed before the baton exchange occurs or the dog will be eliminated.
- 10 (ten) faults will be assessed if the baton is dropped or thrown, whether inside the baton exchange area or outside of it. The handler must pick up the baton before they continue on course. Failure to pick up the baton will result in the dog being eliminated. If the handler leaves the exchange area without the baton, their dog will be eliminated if it takes an obstacle on the course before the handler retrieves the baton. A dropped baton must be picked up before continuing on to the next obstacle. If a dog takes a piece of equipment when the baton is not held by the handler, they will be eliminated.
- Once a dog and handler have finished and passed the baton, they may leave the exchange area and the handler may leash the dog or restrain the dog as necessary. They must not leave the ring until all dogs on the team have finished running. Any dog and handler team leaving the ring will be assessed a 100-point fault. This is a team event! It is acceptable for the other handlers to cheer and assist their fellow teammates, but no one outside the ring may help handlers running the course.

- The main judge will be responsible for judging the dog whose handler has the baton. If the dog returning to the exchange area takes another obstacle after completing the last obstacle of their course *before the baton change*, they will be eliminated. If the dog returning to the exchange area takes another obstacle (after completing the last obstacle of their course) *after the baton change*, then they will incur 10 faults.
- There will be a separate baton exchange area judge. If the next dog to run takes an obstacle *before the baton* has been exchanged, a faulted baton exchange of 10 faults will be assessed. If this happens, the dog will need to be returned to the exchange area and started again after baton exchange.

Elimination

If a dog is eliminated, it will be given the maximum score of 50 faults. The clock is still running, so no time penalty is needed. The handler must make a sportsman-like attempt to finish the rest of the course correctly. If the judge deems that an eliminated handler is attempting to gain a time advantage by returning to the exchange area without correctly completing the course, the judge will add 50 seconds to the team's time.