

NADAC Combo Class

Overview

The Combo class is a combination of the previous Regular and Gambler classes. As of January 1, 2005, there will no longer be a separate Gamblers class in NADAC. Instead, a sequence of obstacles within the Regular course (eg, obstacles #9-10-11-12) will be designated as the Gamble. These obstacles are part of the Regular course and will be taken by every dog. However, in order to earn points in Gamblers, the handler must stay beyond the Gamble line while the dog is performing this sequence. The Gamble is not timed; instead, the dog must complete the entire Combo course with no more than 5 time faults. Dogs can earn points toward their Regular title, Gamblers title or both (or none) on one run of Combo.

To earn Regular points: Complete the course with no more than 5 total faults.

To earn Gamblers points: Complete the Gamble sequence with the handler behind the Gamble line and with no more than 5 time faults for the entire Regular run. You will forfeit the Gamble if any time during the run you incur an E or start training in the ring. The dog is not allowed to cross over the gamble line at any time in order to qualify, nor can it run by any of the obstacles in the Gamble.

NOTE: If you are attempting the Gamble and your dog runs by an obstacle, you can choose to cross the Gamble line to help your dog go back to the missed obstacle. You will not qualify in Gamblers but may be able to save the Regular run and qualify (assuming no wrong course and no more than 5 faults elsewhere on the course).

Gamble attempts

All dogs are entered in the Combo class. You cannot enter only the Regular section or only the Gamblers section. However, a dog can only attempt 1 Gamble for each day of trials offered. For a 2-day trial, a dog can only attempt to earn 2 Gambles. Since there are 4 Combo runs offered, at most 2 of the Combo runs can count toward a Gamblers title. If a dog is entered in only one Combo run, that dog can only earn one Gamblers leg (and one Regular leg). If a dog is entered in 2, 3, or 4 Combo runs, the dog can earn up to 2 Gamblers legs (as well as 2, 3, or 4 Regular legs), even if the 2 rounds that you entered are both on the same day.

Prior to the start of a Combo class, you must declare whether you will be attempting the Gamble on that run. You can choose to attempt any of the 4 Combo Gambles offered (you can do 2 in one day if you choose). If you do not think your dog can complete the Gamble in the first Combo run, you should not declare that you will attempt it and instead wait for the next run. You can still try to do the Gamble if you like, but you will not earn Gamble points if your dog does the Gamble successfully.

The club has a check in sheet for declaring Gamble Attempts. If you want to attempt a particular Gamble for points, you MUST check your dog off for that run PRIOR to the start of that round.

Class Level

Since the Regular and Gamblers classes are combined in one run, points awarded toward those titles will be at the same class level. For example, if you enter the Open level for Combo, your dog can earn points toward an Open Regular title and an Open Gamblers title. If your dog is in Open Regular but Novice Gamblers, the Gamble points earned will not be applied to the Novice title (they do count toward the Open title). You will have to enter Novice Combo in order to finish the Novice Gamblers title.

You may enter different levels for different rounds of Combo in order to work on both titles.

Course Posting

To increase the "gambling" nature of the class, the Combo courses will not be posted in advance. Only the current Combo course will be posted. Handlers will have to choose whether to attempt the Gamble based on seeing that course only, without any knowledge of the subsequent Combo courses and gamble sequences.

Junior Handlers

With the new Combo class, there will now be Gamblers titles for junior handlers.

Scoring

The Gamble is scored as Pass/Fail. Based on the dog's performance, the judge will either signal Pass (thumbs up) or Fail (thumbs down). The judge will not know which handlers have declared that they are attempting the Gamble, and so will judge the Gamble in every Combo run. The scribe will record this on every scribe sheet.

Awards and Placements

Since there are no times for the Gamble section of the Combo class, no placements will be awarded. Dogs that pass the Gamble will receive a NADAC Qualifying ribbon.