



We are excited to announce the newest AKC Agility class – Premier - starting October 1, 2015. This class will provide an opportunity for agility competitors to demonstrate different handling skills than those required for the Master Level Classes in Standard & Jumpers With Weaves. The Premier class will focus on handling the sequence or sequences of the day.

Premier is an optional class. Clubs may, but are not required to offer Premier Standard and Premier Jumpers with Weaves on the same day. Exhibitors may enter Premier and Master Standard and/or Jumpers With Weaves on the same day.

A club may add Premier to an already approved trial as long as the premium has not been published for the trial. The Trial Chairperson will need to send an email to the Companion Operations department to have it added. July 1, 2015 there will be the new trial application that will include the Premier classes as an option both for online applications and paper submissions.

Both Standard and JWW Premier courses will be Master level courses incorporating a number of elements that challenge the dog and handler in ways that are not seen on traditional AKC courses. These elements include sequences like threadles, back-side jumps, pull-throughs, layering, challenging weave pole entries, and longer running passes. One bi-directional jump or tunnel will be allowed to encourage handling strategies. Obstacle spacing on Premier courses may exceed the limits of those on Master courses.

Premier courses will use the same obstacles as the corresponding Master course. At the judge's discretion a viaduct may be used in place of the panel jump, there may be 3 tunnel passes and there will be no table. A Premier course will have 19 to 21 obstacles, 3 side switches, 4 Premier Elements and 5 Challenges. Courses will be judged using AKC Master scoring and hand signals.

Thank you for your support of the agility program.

If you have any questions regarding the Premier class please contact Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility at cx2@akc.org.

[Read the Regulations](#)