

Titling in CPE Agility by Susan Howarth and Irene Ramos

CPE has by far the widest range of opportunities to earn titles, especially for older dogs – and older handlers! As shown at the end of this article, in the tables of “Titling Categories” and “Competition Levels,” CPE offers 6 “Levels” in which you can compete and four “Categories” in which your dog can earn titles.

Getting Started

The starting point for your competitive agility career is to have your dog measured and decide the height at which you want your dog to jump. For each measured dog height, the “Jump Height Comparison Chart” outlines the height at which your dog will need to jump in each of the four CPE Titling Categories. Most people start their dogs in the “Regular” category, which is ideal for young dogs that are in good health and just starting out. Over time, as the dog ages, they may drop them down to the Veteran category, to allow them to jump a lower height, or may become an Enthusiast or Specialist, as outlined in the table of Titling Categories.

Once you know your jump height and category, you can then choose to start in one of three Levels. Yes, CPE offers 6 Levels (as shown in the “Competition Levels” table), but you can only start in Level 1, 2, or 3. This decision depends largely on your level of experience and your dog’s level of training and preparedness:

- If this is your first ever agility dog, or if your dog is struggling with the teeter and/or weave poles, you may want to start in Level 1. Level 1 courses are shorter and include weaves and the teeter can only appear in games where they are optional elements. Starting at Level 1 gives your dog more opportunities to develop focus and understand that agility is a team sport!
- If your dog can perform all of the obstacles, but you just want a bit more time to develop that focus, perhaps Level 2 is a good starting point. Courses are slightly longer, and all obstacles can be included, although no more than 6 weaves at a time are required.
- If you and your dog are both experienced and well prepared, the highest level at which you can begin CPE competition is Level 3.

Level Titles

At each CPE Level, there are both “Level Titles” and “Class Titles” to earn. This means that your titles come early and often with CPE! The table at right shows the number of qualifying legs required for your Level titles. In addition, Levels 1 through 4 offer “Class” titles, which are earned by completing the requirements for one or more classes at that level, as follows:

- **Standard:** complete the requirements for Standard
- **Handlers:** complete Wildcard and Colors
- **Strategy:** complete Jackpot, Snooker
- **Fun Games:** complete Fullhouse, Jumpers

Number of Qualifying Legs Required by Level		
Level	Standard	Other Classes
1	2	1 of each
2	4	2 of each
3	4	3 of each
4	4	4 of each
5	10	5 of each

Whatever level you start at, if you earn a Qualifying run (a “Q”) at the level, then you must complete all the required legs for that level to earn your titles. For instance, if you start at Level 2, earn a Q, and then wish you had started at Level 3, it’s too late: you will be required to

complete the necessary Level 2 Qs before you can earn your championship titles. The only exception to this is that Level 4 is always completely optional – confusing, I know!

Championship Titles

CPE offers two levels of championship titles, with slightly different variations depending on the Category in which one competes. For Regular and Veteran dogs, these titles are the C-ATCH (CPE Agility Trial Champion), which is earned based on competition at Level 5, which allows up to 5 faults per qualifying run; and the C-ATE (CPE Agility Team Extraordinaire), which is earned based on qualifying runs at Level C, which can have no faults. Titles and requirements for Enthusiast and Specialist dogs are slightly different, as explained below.

C-ATCH, CT-ATCH, and CS-ATCH

“Regular” and “Veteran” dogs earn their C-ATCH by completing **all** requirements for Level 5, as well as any requirements for lower levels in which the dog has qualified. For instance, if a dog starts at Level 3, then it must complete the requirements for Levels 3 and 5. (Level 4 is optional.) However, if a dog first qualifies in Level 1, it must complete the requirements for Levels 1, 2, 3, and 5 to earn its C-ATCH. Thereafter, additional C-ATCHes are earned each time the Level 5 requirements (only) are completed again.

The championship titles for dogs that compete either as Enthusiasts or Specialists are very similar to the C-ATCH, except that the dog is not required to complete the requirements for all classes:

- An **Enthusiast** dog earns the **CT-ATCH** title (CPE Enthusiast Agility Trial Champion) by completing the requirements shown above for six of the seven classes and completing at least 40 Level 5 qualifying legs in total.
- A **Specialist** dog earns the **CS-ATCH** title (CPE Specialist Agility Trial Champion) title by completing the requirements shown above for five of the seven classes and completing at least 40 Level 5 qualifying legs in total.

Note that although Enthusiasts and Specialists may skip one or two classes entirely, they may also earn qualifying legs in the classes they are “skipping.” For example, a Specialist might have trouble qualifying in Jackpot and Snooker. That dog could earn its CS-ATCH by completing all the requirements for Standard, Jumpers, Wildcard, Fullhouse, and Colors (a total of 30 qualifying legs). The dog would then need 10 additional qualifying legs in any of the seven classes, which might include one or more legs in Jackpot and Snooker – the classes that were “skipped.”

C-ATE, CT-ATE, and CS-ATE

Beyond the various C-ATCH titles is the C-ATE, which is earned by Regular and Veteran dogs based on competing at Level C and completing 20 qualifying legs in each class and earning additional points to achieve a total of 5,000 Level C points. At Level C, all runs must be clean to qualify – no faults allowed!

Points are earned for qualifying legs based on the following point schedule:

As with the C-ATCH title, Enthusiasts can omit the required legs for one class and Specialists can skip two classes. However, unlike the CT-ATCH and CS-ATCH, the point level requirements for the CT-ATE and CS-ATE are lower:

- For the **CT-ATE (Champion Enthusiast Agility Team Extraordinaire)**, the team must qualify 20 times in six of the seven classes and earn a total of 4,000 points at Level C.
- For the **CS-ATE (Champion Specialist Agility Team Extraordinaire)**, the team must qualify 20 times in five of the seven classes and earn a total of 3,000 points at Level C.

Class	Points Per Leg	Qualifying Legs Required	Total Points Required
Standard	25	20	500
Jackpot	25	20	500
Snooker	25	20	500
Fullhouse	20	20	400
Jumpers	20	20	400
Wildcard	20	20	400
Colors	15	20	300
Total points from required legs			3,000
Additional points required from team's choice of classes			2,000
Total points required for C-ATE			5,000

Next Steps

The most important next step is to sign up for the upcoming WLAOTC Agility Trial! None of us fully understood the titling rules and requirements the first time we stepped into the ring. CPE offers a fun and easy entry into agility competition, and rewards competitors for the many “baby steps” we all take on our agility journey!

For more information and the details on all of this, refer to the CPE Rule Book, which can be found at <http://www.k9cpe.com/forms/2019rb.pdf>.

Exhibits

Jump Height Comparison Chart

Jump Height Comparison by Organization													
CPE					AKC			USDAA					
Measure	Reg	Vet	Enth	Spec	Measure	Reg	Pref	Championship		Performance		Veterans	
0" to 8.0"	4"	4"	4"	4"	0" to 11.0"	8"	4"	0" to 12.0"	10"	0" to 12.0"	8"	0" to 12.0"	4"
Over 8.0" to 12"	8"	4"	4"	4"	Over 11.0" to 14"	12"	8"	Over 12.0" to 14"	14"				
Over 12.0" to 16"	12"	8"	8"	4"	Over 14.0" to 18"	16"	12"	Over 14.0" to 17"	16"	Over 12.0" to 16"	12"	Over 12.0" to 16"	8"
Over 16.0" to 20"	16"	12"	12"	8"	Over 18.0" to 22"	20"	16"	Over 17.0" to 19"	20"	Over 16.0" to 19"	14"	Over 16.0" to 19"	12"
Over 20.0" to 24"	20"	16"	16"	12"	Over 22"	24"	20"	Over 19.0" to 21"	22"	Over 19.0" to 21"	16"		
Over 24.0"	24"	20"	20"	16"	Owner's Discretion	26"		Over 21.0	24"	Over 21.0	20"		

Levels: Recommended experience for entry and requirements

Level	Description	Requirement	Comments
1	Dogs and Handlers new to agility. Can still qualify with up to 10 faults.	None	Neither Teeter nor Weaves on Standard courses; Teeter and Weaves optional on games
2	Handlers with previous experience and/or dogs who may have titled in other venues	None	The teeter and 5-8 Weaves may be included in Standard and games
3	Handlers and dogs with previous experience and who may have titled in other venues. Can still qualify with up to 10 faults.	None	All contacts and obstacles may be included in Standard and games, including 12 weaves. This level is most similar to Novice level in AKC. No team may start competition at a level higher than Level 3.
4	Can still qualify with up to 10 faults.	Earn Level 3 Title	This Level is OPTIONAL. Handler discretion to skip and move directly from Level 3 to Level 5.
5	No off course faults allowed, but can still qualify with up to 5 other faults	Earn Level 3 or 4 Title	Earn Championship Title, C-ATCH by completing classes as described below
Handlers can choose to remain in Level 5 to repeat requirements and earn multiple C-ATCH titles (C-ATCH 2, C-ATCH 3, etc.) and to earn the Level 5 Class Champion Titles, which are earned by qualifying in 15 legs in a class.			
C	No faults allowed to qualify	Earn Level 5 Title	Earn Championship Title, C-ATE by completing classes and earning points, as described below
Handlers can remain in Level C to repeat requirements for and earn multiple C-ATEs, or can drop back to Level 5 at any time			

Titling Categories

Category	Jump Height ¹	Requirement	Time/Point Accommodation	Typical Dog
Regular	Measured "P-card" (Permanent Card) jump height or higher in regular level classes	15 months or older	None	Healthy, experienced, competitive dogs
Veterans	Jump 4" lower than P-card	6 years or older	None	Older dogs for whom a lower jump height is preferable, with no time accommodation required
Enthusiast	Jump 4" lower than P-card	15 months or older	+ 5 seconds for Standard, Colors, Wildcard, and Jumpers 2 points less to qualify in Jackpot, Snooker, and Fullhouse Can omit one class for Championship Title	Dog requiring accommodations due to health, or age; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large Boned, Long Back • Dogs that have been injured • Older dogs • Slower Dogs Dogs that have difficulty qualifying in one of the classes.
Specialist	Jump 8" lower than P-card	15 months or older	+ 5 seconds for Standard, Colors, Wildcard, and Jumpers 2 points less to qualify in Jackpot, Snooker, and Fullhouse. Can omit two classes for Championship Title	Similar to Enthusiast, but dogs that require an even lower jump height and/or time accommodation. Dogs that have difficulty qualifying in two classes.

¹ "P-card" heights are assigned based on a range of actual measured heights. Refer to the "Jump Height Comparison Chart" to find out how measured heights relate to Jump Heights in CPE, AKC, and USDAA.