



AAC Position Statement: Hosting Trials and COVID-19

As restrictions are lifted or relaxed across the country, clubs need to take appropriate precautions when holding a trial, with the emphasis being on the safety of participants. The running of the event should not compromise safe hygiene practices.

With a situation that is continually evolving, it is up to the clubs to determine the guidelines and restrictions applicable to their event in their own township and Province and make an informed decision based on advice from the government health departments. Clubs should also consult with the scheduled judge before going ahead with the final event planning.

Trial hosts are free to set conditions limiting entry. Specific guidelines established by the club must be published in the premium list, distributed to competitors, and posted visibly at their event. Clubs **MUST** state their refund policy for all eventualities, including cancellation of the event, withdrawal of entry before closing and withdrawal at any time due to competitor illness. Competitors are required to sign an agreement with the host that they will follow all requirements imposed by the club, in particular all COVID-19 related practices.

The AAC emphasizes that Clubs, officials and participants are required to follow all local and provincial government public health guidelines that apply to the area and site where the event is held.

Policies that Have Been Temporarily Suspended or Modified Effective until December 31, 2022 unless otherwise stated

1. Ring crew – if using electronic timing, timer and scribe task may be carried out by the same person **for Standard, Jumpers, Team, Challenge and Steeplechase only**.
(not applicable to Regional or National Championships)
2. Junior Handler status for those turning 18 years of age in 2021 will be extended to December 31, 2022.
3. For the duration of the COVID concessions it is permissible for clubs to hire out-of-town AAC judges, to design courses that will be judged by local AAC judges of the same level. Board permission is not required for out-of-town AAC judges but all information (designer and judge) must be included in the premium list. Qualifying scores will be attributed to the designing judge.

Effective until June 30, 2022 unless otherwise stated

1. Trial cancellation fees as the result of any Municipal/Provincial/Federal Health Related restrictions will be waived. Trial cancellation fees for all other reasons to revert to the conditions outlined in the rulebook and the hosting agreement.



2. Competitors may place the dog's leash in their pockets when running the course. The leash must be small enough to fit completely inside the pocket. Note: if the dog grabs the leash while running or jumps at the handler's pocket to attempt to interact with the leash, this will be scored as an "E" (toy in the ring). If the leash falls out of the pocket during the run and the dog does not interact with it, there will be no fault.
3. Due to concerns for ring crew, (changing heights, handling an obstacle that numerous competitors have stood in close proximity to) use of the table in course design is suspended.
4. Clubs requiring new site and/or new equipment inspections should contact their Regional representative. Regional Directors may allow for flexibility regarding inspection dates and method of inspection. Clubs due for re-inspection may apply to their Regional Director for an extension.
5. Due to reduced numbers of trials and because of travel restrictions, the need to use (the same) local judges, the title requirement for earning legs under two different judges is lifted until June 30, 2021.
6. The minimum indoor ring area has been reduced to 7200 square feet from 8000 square feet while maintaining a minimum width of 60 feet. A 5% tolerance will be allowed on the specified dimensions.
The main reason is to allow existing hosts to reduce the course area in order give extra room for handler physical distancing.
This reduction also allows Hosts to find lower cost venues to hold and host limited entry trials in a cost-effective manner. It is NOT the intent that smaller venues should be accommodating large numbers of people. All Government health guidelines, including gathering limits, MUST be followed.
7. Judges will not be penalised for not meeting minimum judging assignments for 2020 and 2021. From January 1 2022, judges will have two years to complete their minimum judging requirements.

Participants are expected to follow Federal, Provincial, Municipal, facility and event guidelines. Clubs should be prepared to enforce the guidelines that apply to their event.

Always refer to current Government health guidelines:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>