

Agility Association of Canada



Equipment & Site Inspection Procedure 2026 June

Rulebook Reference Section 2.1.3 - Equipment & Trial Site Inspections

All Equipment and Site inspections are managed by the Regional Director in which the host club is located. The host club must contact their Regional Director who will either arrange to conduct the inspection themselves or arrange for a designate.

Approval by the Regional Director or their designated representative is required for all equipment and all sites. It is the responsibility of the host club to contact their Regional Director to arrange the necessary equipment and trial site inspections and should be completed and fully approved prior to applying prior to applying for a trial.

Permission from the Board of Directors must be given for an inspection to be performed by a member of the host club or by the host club's executive direct family members (spouse, parents, children, siblings). The Regional Director will take such a request to the Board of Directors for consideration.

The Agility Association of Canada requires that all equipment used at sanctioned events be inspected and approved *at least six (6) weeks* before a club host's first trial, and regularly (no less than every FIVE YEARS) thereafter. Re-inspections for equipment must take place a minimum of six (6) weeks prior to the end of their five (5) year period, (anniversary date of inspection) or if a trial is to take place after said re-inspection date, a minimum of six (6) weeks before that trial. Any new equipment purchases or replacements (not a full set) must also be inspected and documented on this form before any trial. Note that new equipment purchases/replacements may be inspected on the trial weekend provided that an alternate (already approved) piece of equipment is available if the equipment fails inspection.

These periodic inspections are the best way the AAC has of making sure that the equipment and sites dogs run on are safe and up to the standards set out in the AAC Rulebook. Because this is such an important process, inspectors should take the time to prepare properly by familiarising themselves with the appropriate forms, bringing the required supplies, and, most importantly, setting aside sufficient time to do a thorough and comprehensive job.

Inspectors are entitled to reasonable expenses for time and travel which is a matter for discussion and agreement between the inspector and the host club. It is advisable to have this agreement in writing (i.e. email).

To help save on costs and facilitate the inspection tracking process, it is strongly recommended that the site and equipment inspection be performed simultaneously. The only circumstance where this may not apply is when one (or more) piece(s) of equipment has been newly purchased by the club and requires inspection before being used at a sanctioned trial.

Items to Bring to an Inspection:

1) The most current version of the AAC Official Rules & Regulations. This can be hardcopy, electronic pdf or on-line (ensure there is internet access at the inspection location).

- Equipment & Trial Site Inspections - Section 2.1.3.
- Obstacle Construction Standards - Appendix C.
- Check the AAC website (www.aac.ca) for any recent rule changes or clarifications that could affect the inspection.
- If there are discrepancies between the forms and the Rulebook (including published updates), the Rulebook takes precedence.

2) One or more paper copies of the AAC Equipment Inspection Form and/or AAC Site Inspection Form as required. The most recent version of these forms is located on the AAC website under Forms/For Judges.

- The completed forms must be submitted by attaching them to the on-line fillable Equipment-Site Inspection Submission Form within seven (7) days of the inspection. The submission form is located on the AAC Website under Forms/For Judges.
- When submitted, the on-line fillable Equipment-Site Inspection Submission Form will email the Submitter, the Club Contact, the Regional Director and the Registrar.
- At their convenience, the inspector may also provide the host club a copy of the completed form(s) before they leave the site.

3) A tape measure or yardstick marked in imperial units (not metric) at least 12 feet in length.

- Jump height measurement may be more easily performed using a yardstick over a tape measure.

4) A stopwatch and a three (3) pound weight.

- For calibrating the teeter fall (Rulebook Section C 2.2.3).
- Most smart phones have a timer app.
- Options for the three (3) weight include a dumbbell (hex ends or hand-grip type to avoid rolling), ankle/hand soft weights or DIY constructed out of small rocks or loose change and weighed on a kitchen or baby scale.

6) A digital camera or smart phone.

- Photos and videos are an excellent mechanism for documenting an inspection and they may be attached to the on-line fillable Equipment-Site Inspection Submission Form.
- The AAC has done their due diligence to ensure the Rulebook and inspection forms are accurate and complete, however, there is the potential for grey areas that inspectors may not feel comfortable ruling on. Pictures or videos can aide the Equipment Committee or the Board of Directors making decisions regarding these grey areas if necessary.

- Pictures and videos are also an excellent way to document issues that require correcting and can then be used to compare to the solution.

7) A measuring wheel or a measuring tape (i.e. open reel surveyors type measure) greater than 80 feet long (if performing a site inspection).

- A measuring wheel is acceptable for a large area, but a tape measure MUST be used for a ring that is close to the minimum dimension (70 feet, +/- 5%) as this will be a more accurate method.

Performing the Inspection:

The Agility Association of Canada promotes uniform and safe standards for dog agility in Canada. Therefore, inspections are performed focusing on the safety of equipment and sites to dogs, handlers, spectators, judges and club volunteers.

The inspector and host club must arrange a mutually agreeable time to perform the inspection. Inspections should be conducted a minimum of six (6) weeks before a trial or the host club may incur late fees.

The host club must provide a representative of the club to accompany the inspector.

The inspector may request that the host club have their equipment set up and organised by category to facilitate the inspection process.

Any dimension specified in the rulebook must be verified by measurement within its given tolerance.

The AAC does not endorse any agility equipment manufacturer meaning that all equipment must be thoroughly inspected.

The equipment inspection form includes a table to note the quantity of each piece of equipment.

In addition to validating the equipment measurement specifications, the quality of construction, maintenance and safety must also be assessed.

- Ensure there are no sharp protrusions that could injure a dog or human.
- Ensure there is no flaking or excessive rust.
- Ensure the equipment is sound, sturdy and can stand up to larger breeds moving at full speed.
- Ensure that all hardware is securely fastened and of sufficient size and strength.
- Ensure the contact surfaces are well maintained, slip-free and have no bulges or unsecure sections.
- Ensure that height markings for the tire and the A-frame are clear and obvious.
- Ensure that painted surfaces are not flaking.
- Ensure that tape is securely adhered to the surface.
- Ensure that wood surfaces are solid and do not have any soft spots.
- Ensure contact equipment is solid, does not wobble and stands securely on the ground.

While ancillary equipment measurements and specifications are not covered by the rulebook, inspectors should ensure that any equipment in the ring (i.e. course number cones & flags, start/finish markers, electronic timing posts, ring barriers, equipment weights, etc.) adheres to the quality of construction points as noted above.

The Inspector should review the list of ancillary equipment with the host club especially if this is a club's first time hosting a trial. The list can be found on the last page of the equipment inspection form.

Some examples of overall adherence to AAC standards are:

- The rulebook states that "The A-frame shall be of sturdy construction, consisting of two sidewalls, each being nine feet in length, and between 3 feet and four feet wide." Within this definition, any panel width between 3 feet and 4 feet may be approved. Panels tapered smoothly from 3 feet at the top to 4 feet at the bottom may also be approved. However, an A-frame with a 3-foot panel on one side and a 4-foot panel on the other or panels that taper from 4 feet at the top to 3 feet at the bottom must not be approved as this would constitute a safety hazard.
- Ascending spread jumps with an integral ground bar level with the uprights must not be approved as this would represent a safety hazard for small dogs that may land on the bar.
- Additions to equipment for ease of use or transport must not compromise the original specifications or safety. Specifically, wheels on A-frames or Dog Walks should not protrude beyond the footprint of the obstacle when dogs are running, nor should they reduce the stability of the obstacle.
- Convertible double jumps or ascending jumps must function equally well as spreads or as single jumps and should not compromise safety or function.

Site Inspections:

The inspector should pay close attention to the ground over which the dogs will be running by walking the area and looking for problematic areas. This is best done by walking the entire area (not just glancing at it from afar).

For sand and gravel surfaces ensure that the surface is not too hard or deep.

Ensure there are no dangerous dips, holes, bumps or protrusions especially in an outdoor grass field.

Ensure there that any support poles within an indoor ring are appropriately padded and indicated on the site map.

Ensure that astro-turf is not lifting or has missing sections.

Completing the Inspection:

The results of the inspection should be verbally conveyed to the host club representative. At the inspector's convenience, the written report may also be provided to the host club representative.

If any deficiencies are identified (i.e. any item marked as failed on the inspection form):

- They must be documented on the inspection form.
- They must be clearly communicated to the host club representative before leaving the site.
- An action plan to remedy any deficiencies should be discussed and agreed upon with the host club representative.
- The action plan must also be documented on the inspection form.
- The action plan should include a target date for the resolution and a re-inspection if required.
- Note that a re-inspection may not be required if the deficiency is such that a picture or video would constitute reasonable proof of the resolution.

Any questions regarding the inspection process, forms or supplies should be addressed with the Regional Director (who should have co-ordinated the inspection).

The equipment and/or site inspection forms must be completed in their entirety. Double check that **ALL** required fields have been completed. The completed forms must be submitted by attaching them to the on-line fillable Equipment-Site Inspection Submission Form within seven (7) days of the inspection. The submission form is located on the AAC Website under Forms/For Judges.