



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Agility

Updated Suggested Best Practices

The following is an updated list of suggested best practices and changes as CDC recommendations have developed that may be helpful when planning or attending an event. Event locations, facilities and dates will differ - it is ultimately up to the clubs to decide what actions best fit their specific situation. In order to inform participants of the club's expectations, host clubs should publish their guidelines with the premium, judging schedule and include signage/flyers at their event.

Trial Practices

1. Masks shall be worn as by required state/local guidelines. Clubs may require masks for all exhibitors and all trial help, even if not required by state/local guidelines. Judges must wear masks as required by state/local guidelines, the club, or the facility. It is recommended that clubs also review CDC Guidelines for updates and best practices before each event and apply those recommendations.
2. Clubs must follow what is printed in their premiums for COVID procedures. Exhibitors have chosen to enter trials based on that information. It is like any other info in the premium such as surface, indoor/outdoor, etc.
3. Clubs may use online gate boards/check-in systems, but if used they must also have gate boards that are visible to those who do not have use of a smartphone or tablet during the trial. This could be on a large monitor or as traditional check-in boards. There must be a gate steward.
4. Effective January 1, 2022 exhibitors may place leashes in their pockets or wear them when running the course. Leash must fully fit in a pocket if not being worn. This is a permanent regulation change. A leash runner must be provided.
5. Effective October 1, 2021 briefings for all classes/levels are required. Briefings may be done in the parking lot or over a PA system/ring speaker so exhibitors may stay spread out. Exhibitors do not have to come into the ring for briefing – they may stay outside of the ring.
6. If VMOs are doing official measurements at a trial, then exhibitors are required to be measured. VMO's are still not required to measure even if they are the judge of record.”
7. Effective October 1, 2021 course maps may no longer be supplied to the club for emailing to the exhibitors the day before. Clubs may continue to publish course maps on websites or email them out, but not before the day of the trial. Paper maps may be distributed to exhibitors.

CDC – Your Health: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/index.html>

For questions or additional suggestions, please contact the Agility Department at agility@akc.org.

Stay Safe – Enjoy Your Dog!