



AKC Agility Invitational Handlers Briefing

There are no individual briefings held in any of the rings by the judges of record prior to the start of the classes. There is only this written briefing. Other than that, the course times and yardages will be both announced and posted on the ring gate running order boards for you. Please be prepared for the National Anthem each morning per the schedule that you have received. If you should have any questions, please ask at the information booth or ask one of the AKC Staff if needed. Please use the schedules and run orders that have been provided to you.

Please be ready at your assigned ring for your walk through as scheduled so that you get your entire time allotment. We will give you plenty of time after the National Anthem to get to your rings.

First, be sure to bring ALL dogs into the ring with a leash on, even if they are carried. You may remove it as soon as you step in the ring or at your start spot, it's up to you. You may hand it to the leash runner, or place it next to your dog on the start line or just toss it behind you, your choice. Do not at any time prior to hearing the start voice, get any further from your dog than an arm's length so that you can physically control them. Do not leave the ring without your leash back on please. Don't risk losing an earned Q! Dogs may be carried out of the ring but still must have a leash on properly before you step out of the ring. Collars may be worn as usual per the regs. There will be a container near the exit of each ring that will contain your leash. Don't worry; it will be easy to see. DO NOT step over any ring gating. Please only use the in/out gates that will be set up. You may not move any gating unless permission is given by staff or course builders.

There are tables provided at the entrance and exit of each ring. Please use them for any treats, toys, or personal items that you have taken with you to the ring. DO NOT leave any food or toys on the floor. It is not only distracting for the dogs but some dogs can have food allergies and we wouldn't want a dog eating something that wouldn't be good for them.

We have a lot of runs to accomplish in a very short amount of time so it will be very important that you are on the line when the judge has requested and that you leave the ring as quickly as possible after getting it leashed so the next dog can start their run. Please try to use a leash and collar that is easy to put on and take off so you're not struggling with gathering your dog in order to exit. Thanks! Don't forget that dogs are required to be under control both entering and exiting the ring.

If you find that you think you will have a ring conflict, DO NOT ask the gate steward to move you. DO NOT mark conflicts on the gate sheet yourself. Ask the gate steward to put a "c" by your name and when you feel you are within 20 minutes of actually having a conflict occur, you must ask the Rep for permission to move and they will help you figure out where to move to. Don't worry; we will make sure that you get to run if you have a conflict. If you have a conflict with your walk through, just ask one of the Reps for permission and they will see that you get to walk with another group if needed. If you have a conflict with breed or obedience and will be out of the area for a longer length of time, please discuss this type of conflict first thing in the morning and we'll see where it would be most feasible for you to walk and run. We can work you in somewhere but in conformation you must be there on time & we understand that. However, we cannot hold up course building for any dogs.

Time 2 Beat on Friday

Since this will be a class from which you can earn qualifying legs and points, it will be judged/scored according to the rules that are normally used.

For Invitational scoring purposes on Saturday and Sunday

If you fail to complete an obstacle, your score for that round will be 0, so....try your best to complete every obstacle so you can get a score. If you do fail to complete an obstacle, you will hear a quick short whistle. That doesn't mean you need to leave the course, you may finish it, but it does get the scribe to mark an E on your scribe sheet so that the round is scored as a 0.

The 4 paw safety rule is NOT in effect, thus if your dog jumps off a contact obstacle before beginning the descent and earns a refusal (remember this does not apply to fly offs or missed contacts for which you should just continue on and will receive an F and 5 point fault) you should immediately put the dog back on the approach side of the contact and complete it so you will not earn a 0 score for a missed or skipped obstacle. The judging of the contact will continue as usual and any missed contact zones will be faulted as usual. The descent side of the teeter is 4 paws past the apex. For this competition the descent of the A-frame is 4 paws past the highest point. For the dog walk it is 4 paws onto (or over the joint to) the descent board.

Runouts and refusals are 5 points, as are missed contacts and knocked bars first time through a jump. If a jump is taken an additional time, you not will be faulted again for the down bar just like in a regular trial. A wrong course is faulted 5 points. Just a reminder that it's not unusual for dogs with faults to make the finals, so please don't give up on those runs where you fault.

Preferred dogs jump at their preferred height but do not get any extra course time and are scored with their regular jump height and with the regular course time. Time faults for all dogs will be 3 points for each full second over the SCT.

If the judge wants you to leave the course for some reason, they will get your attention with a long whistle and you should leave as quickly as possible. If for some reason you're confused, please look to the judge for instructions.

If you have any questions about anything with the scoring or rings please see one of the Field Reps for an answer. Answers to other site questions can usually be answered at the info booth. Courses will also be at the info booth for your pickup in the morning. Please try to make sure that you aren't taking any extra copies for friends unless you've set this up in advance with them.

Finalists will be notified when and where they are to pick up their shirts for the final round via announcements. Please be patient and cooperative with those that are distributing the shirts. There is no way that we can predict who will make the finals so an assortment of sizes has been ordered in advance. Hopefully we will be able to accommodate as many people as last year but no guarantee is made that everyone will be able to be given their size they would like.

And last but not least....remember, an "F" next to your name on the results screen is a good thing!!

On a safety note, please help each other by being aware of your surroundings and watching over each other, each others belongings and the dogs in the crating area. If anything or anyone appears to be out of the ordinary please immediately notify security personal or one of the Agility Staff. Every crate must have an identification card on it with emergency contact information and hopefully a cell phone number where you can be reached if needed. If you don't have an ID card for your crate, please come and get one at the info table. Do not store anything on top of a crate that could be picked up and carried off if you are on the outside edge of the crating area such as a camera.

The entire Agility Department wishes you a Happy Holiday and hopes that all your Holiday Agility Dreams come true. Congratulations on being one of the best in your breed.