



## AKC Agility Invitational Handlers Briefing

There are no individual briefings held in the rings by the judges of record prior to the start of the classes. There is only this written briefing and the one that will be given at the start of the morning each day just prior to the National Anthem. 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 and the rings are very close together.

First, be sure to bring 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, however 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 (or if using a harness, having it completely snapped). Don't risk losing an earned Q! Dogs may be carried out of the ring but must still have a leash or harness on properly before you step out of the ring. Collars may be worn as usual per the regs. There will be a chair near the exit of each ring that will hold your leash.

**DO NOT** step over any ring gating at any time for any reason. Please only use the in/out gates that will be set up. You may not move any gating unless permission or direction 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. It will be very important that you are on the line when the judge has requested. Leave the ring as quickly as possible after getting your dog 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 to exit. Thanks! Don't forget that dogs are required to be under control both entering and exiting and all around the ring. Flexi-leads are not to be used inside the buildings even if locked.

If you find that you think you will have a ring conflict, **DO NOT** move your dog on the gate sheet or mark conflicts on the gate sheet. Instead, ask the gate steward or AKC Staff to put a "c" by your name and when you feel you are within 20 minutes of having a conflict occur, please ask the Rep to move you and they will help you figure out where to move to. **DO NOT** "decorate" the check-in sheets with graffiti such as smileys, hearts, etc. It's easier for the gate stewards & staff, the cleaner the sheet is. 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, 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 or even the day before 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. Usually it is easiest to run those conflicts as the first dogs of the day or class. Try to find Field Rep Gail Storm to help you if you can.

Dogs and handlers in the waiting area between rings will be limited to the next 5 dogs running due to space and safety reasons. Please observe this and don't come in to the area until it's time. Use the back numbers on the

handlers running to watch for when you will be up. Please use the posted running orders to help you keep up with the running progress. Remember that “run order” numbers are going to be very important to know also.

**Time 2 Beat on Friday** - Time 2 Beat will be judged and scored according to AKC Regulations. Dogs may earn Qualifying Legs and points in this class towards their Time 2 Beat Title.

### **For Invitational scoring purposes on Saturday and Sunday**

If you fail to complete any obstacle, your score for that round will be a 0. If you do fail to complete an obstacle, you will hear a quick short whistle and you may finish the course. The scribe marks an E on your scribe sheet and the round is scored as a 0 and your time is an NT (no time). If your dog fails to complete the weave poles in the 3 allowed attempts, you will receive a 0 score for that class due to an incomplete obstacle. The **4-paw safety rule is NOT in effect**. If your dog jumps off a contact obstacle before beginning the descent and earns a refusal 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. Remember this does not apply to fly offs or missed exit contact zones, for those you should just continue and will receive an F and 5-point fault. 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. 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. ***And finally, remember an “F” next to your dog’s name on the results screen is a good thing at this event!! It means FINALS.***

Runouts and refusals are 5 faults (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. A wrong course is 5 faults (points). Just a reminder, it’s not unheard of 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. They are scored with their regular jump height, with the regular course times. 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, please see one of the Field Reps for help. Answers to other site questions or for information on the Orlando area can usually be answered at the info booth. Course copies will be at the info booth for your pickup in the morning. You will only be allowed to pick up one course map, to ensure we have enough for everyone. Its right near the rings so there’s not much walking to get them.

Finalists will be notified when they are to pick up their shirts via announcements and texts (if you signed up). The location is where they were selling or distributing the logo wear. Please be cooperative with those that are distributing the shirts. There is no way we can predict who will make the finals, so an assortment of sizes has been ordered in advance. No guarantee is made that everyone will be able to be given the size they would like. Some extra finalist shirts are usually available after distribution is completed. If you are interested in an additional finalist shirt, please talk to the people at the clothing booth. Sizes will be sold by a lottery drawing to be as fair as possible.

On a safety note, please help each other by being aware of your surroundings and watching over each other, each other’s 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 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 such as a camera on top of a crate that could be picked up and carried off especially if you are on the outside edge of the crating area.

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. We know you’ll enjoy your time in Orlando making memories with your best friend(s) both 4 pawed and 2 footed.