



2017 AKC National Agility Championship Handler Briefing

Welcome to the 2017 AKC National Agility Championship. Congratulations on being here! We know it takes some great teamwork to make it to the Championship.

Due to the use of the 3 buildings we are putting the usual briefing information in this document so that you do not miss any important information. If you have questions after reading thru you can either ask at the Nationals or send a quick note to Carrie at cxd2@akc.org.

Remember, **NO FLEX-LEADS** allowed in any of the buildings or walkways between the buildings and we'd appreciate it if you don't use them within 500 feet of the buildings or in areas where there may be other dogs near that could be encountered. Please, pay close attention to your dog and don't allow them to invade the space of the dogs around them. Thank you in advance!

There are no other briefings held in any of the rings by the judges prior to the start of the classes. There is only this written briefing and one that will be given at the beginning of each day. The course times and yardages will be both announced and posted on the ring gate running order boards for you as soon as we can. Please be prepared for the National Anthem each morning per the schedule that you have received. We'd like you to be in Reaves Arena Friday, Saturday & Sunday mornings for the anthem and to hear any special or additional announcements that will be made. We will be giving everyone plenty of time to return to their ring prior to their walk through so please attend.

Be sure to check in (use a small check mark please & no additional markings, stickers or emojis to help out the gate stewards with space & others for readability) on the gate board at the rings. Please be ready at your assigned ring for your walk through as scheduled so that you get your entire time allotment. Also, we ask that you walk with your assigned group if possible. If it's not possible, then please walk with another group since there will be **no additional or special walk throughs added**. That may possibly mean you must walk in a ring different than the one you're running in for a few special cases. You do not need special permission to walk in another walk through since we trust that no one will do it unless it is absolutely necessary.

DO NOT step over any ring gating or move ring gating unless directed by the Field Reps, staff or course builders. Use only the provided exits and entrances to get into and out of the rings. Thanks!! We will not start the walk-thru count down until everyone is in the ring. Please be polite to those around you.

Be sure to bring **ALL** dogs into the ring with a leash/harness on, even if they are being carried. You may remove the leash as soon as you step in the ring or at your start spot, that's up to you. You may hand the leash to the leash runner after you've entered the ring, if you can be within touching distance of your dog, place it next to your dog in the start area or just toss it behind or beside you; it's your choice. Do not leave the ring without your leash back on your dog. Don't risk losing your clean run! Dogs may be carried out of the ring or around the grounds but still must have a leash on properly and that leash must be attached to a person, not dragging along the ground. Collars may be worn as usual per the regs. There will be a chair near the exit of each ring that will be where to find your leash. Don't forget, all

harnesses must be fully snapped on before leaving the ring unless you're using the handle of the leash as a slip lead so you can get out of the ring faster.

There are tables provided at the entrance and exit of every ring. Please use them to place your dog's toys, treats, etc. on. Please, **DO NOT** leave any toys or food on the ground for other dogs to eat or pick up. The tables are there for your use, so please use them. As you vacate the area, remember to grab your stuff and take it with you. There's probably another hundred dogs to follow you and they'll need a little table space too. Thanks!

We have many 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 your dog leashed so the next dog can start their run. Please try to use a leash and collar that are easy to put on and take off so you're not struggling to get it off or getting it back on your dog in order to exit. Thanks for helping with this important task!

If you find that you think you have a ring conflict, ask the gate steward to put a "C" by your name. When you are certain that a conflict will occur and you feel you have no choice other than to move your dog, please **ask the gate steward to move you**. All the classes are large enough that you will be required to run during your class, in your ring, under your judge. You will not be able to run after your class has finished. Remember if you have dogs in the same height, you may separate them further if necessary but may not switch their running order. On Sunday, 20" dogs MUST be run in the "group" to which they are assigned.

If you have any problems or questions with conflicts, please find a Field Rep and we will gladly help you work it out. We don't want anyone to miss their run. We want this to be as stress free as possible for you and we want to be as fair to everyone as possible also.

Remember that there are breaks scheduled in the classes since they are so large. Those breaks are ***at least 5 minutes long*** so the ring crew and judges can have a minute to rest, refresh, eat/drink and regroup. Please be courteous to them as they have tough jobs to do and long days. The breaks are located where the breaks are for the walk throughs. They will be marked on the board. Please do not hover around the gate boards. Check in with the gate steward about 6 dogs ahead and just let them know you're in the area. Then step back and wait, listen & watch for them to call you. Remember to be courteous to the gate stewards and to those that have a conflict and may need to squeeze in front of you at the last minute. You can also use the monitors that we provide to help you keep track of the rings. ***Big hint: everyone wears those big back numbers so you know who's in the ring. Back numbers must be visible while in the ring.*** You can find which dog is in a ring by using the posted running orders so you have no need to go to the gate board to figure it out. Please don't hover at gate boards with dogs in hand, thank you.

We ask that no one hang around the rings unless it's to wait to run. Please give the last teams in the ring before a walk through the courtesy of being able to exit before you enter. There's plenty of seating to watch, and it's easy to see where they're at in the running order by watching the back numbers (which is why they're so large) on the handlers. Remember when it's your turn, you'll enjoy the space this leaves for moving around the rings and warming up your dog.

You must have your exhibitor badge (with bar code) in order to run **and** when picking up your awards. It is required for the wireless electronic scoring to work properly. There is one badge for each dog entered and you may have them attached to your leashes or in your pocket. It's up to you, but you need them to be scanned just before you go into the ring. If you would happen to lose it, just **go to the information booth first**. That is where all the found tags are handed in. If you find one please go there to turn it in. If you can't find it, then please come to the **awards table** and they can re-create another badge. If you're within 10 dogs of running and realize you've lost it, please tell the gate assistant that you've lost it and

they will help you with notifying the scribe of which dog it is in the computer. **The lost and found for everything is at the information booth.** Please if you find something take it there, or if you've lost something report it there. We always have items left over every year that aren't claimed.

Scoring

If you fail to complete an obstacle, your score for that round will be 0. Try to complete every obstacle so you can get a score. This is especially important for the Preferred Championship and the probability that dogs with faults may make the finals. 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 and no time.

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 just a missed contact zone 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 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 and split tires the first time through. If a jump/tire is taken an additional time, you not will be faulted again for the down bar or split tire if it stays open, just like in a regular trial. A wrong course is faulted 5 points. The YDS/SEC to be used are listed in the premium.

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. Please be sure to check your score using the monitors as quickly as possible after your run. It is easier to fix any mistakes if they are done sooner rather than later. Scores cannot be changed once the class is finished and closed out unless there has been a problem that was brought to the attention of one of the Field Reps and the scoring office prior to the closing of the class.

If you have any questions about anything trial related, please see one of the Field Reps for an answer. We're here to try and make your weekend as stress free and fun as possible. For questions on things relating to the Perry, GA area such as restaurants or services, please go the NAC Information Booth and they will try to answer your questions. They also have some handouts for you.

Finalists will be notified over the **PA in the Reeves arena only** and by text message (so sign up for them), when they are to pick up their shirts at the AKC logo merchandise booth for the final round. Please be prepared to pickup your shirts shortly after the winners of your class have been announced. There will be a pre-determined number of each size of shirts for each class so please be prompt and cooperate with and follow the instructions of the Field Reps and volunteer that will be distributing the shirts. We appreciate your cooperation with this daunting task. We know you'll understand that it is impossible to predict what size the finalists will all be.

And last but not least....remember, a C (challengers) or F (finalist) next to your name on the results screen is a good thing!!

Security/Safety, please help each other by being aware of your surroundings and watching over each other, each others belongings and the dogs in the crating/stall areas. If anything, or anyone appears to be out of the ordinary, even just a little bit, please immediately notify security personal in the Orange

Jackets, fairgrounds security or one of the Agility Staff. **Every crate** even for unentered dogs 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 go and get one at the NAC Information Booth in Reeves Arena. Wristbands will be given to all exhibitors. These wristbands will identify who can be walking a dog, belongs in a stall or opening crates. The security in the orange jackets will be checking for them.

The Pond on the show site may be used at your own risk as long as your dog is on a lead. Be aware the pond is not treated or cleaned there may be trash or other debris in it.

Other Info:

Extra safety pins for the bib numbers will also be available at the NAC Information Booth in Reeves Arena. Course maps will be at the rings each morning. Please make sure that if you plan on picking up course maps for friends, that you plan it ahead so that we don't run out of copies due to double dipping so to speak.

If you are bringing anyone along that is not running a dog and they'd like to volunteer during the weekend, please have them go to the volunteer area and ask for the coordinator and there might be a need for their help. We appreciate all the volunteers, for without them, this event would not be possible.

Congratulations on being one of the best in the nation! The entire Companion Events department wishes you a fun and successful weekend. We hope you enjoy your well deserved and hard earned weekend at the AKC National Agility Championships. If you need anything, please ask at the NAC Information Booth or ask any one of the Agility Staff and we'll try to answer any questions you have.

Run Fast, Run Clean and most of all, have fun while doing it!

Be "In-The-Know" – Opt in to receive occasional, informational text messages from AKC regarding this event. Know when new items are posted to the Nationals web site, reminders when deadlines are coming due, and last-minute information during the event weekend. Text @akcn to 702/751-0483 to opt-in.