

AAC Trial Orientation

(completed by Sandy Delaney 2016)

1. AAC Website - Registration Card (always bring to trial with you)
 - Rule book, available to everyone, not just members
2. Competitors – all volunteer throughout the trial, should be there for set-up and take down, usually split who does the loading/unloading the truck
3. Your day at a glance –
 - arrival at site around 6:30 am, unload truck
 - set up your personal space, ie., tent, crate, etc
 - set up the ring, clear field of debris
 - build the first course
 - dog height checks
 - collect the course maps and trial booklet from the secretary
 - review the volunteer schedule and make note of your volunteer spots in the daily running order, highlight your runs and your running order so you know well in advance when you are up
 - warm up your dog, connect with them and be at the start gate before the dog ahead of you finishes their run
 - have great runs with your dog – reward them big time at the end of the run, outside of the exit gate, leash before you leave the exit gate
 - complete your volunteer spots
 - take down the course and ring and load truck at end of the day
 - go to potluck that evening!!
 - Day 2 looks very similar! Except...collect your ribbons at the end when the results are announced!
4. Volunteer Positions – beyond the Trial Committee
 - a. Gate steward- calls out the running order, at least 3 dogs in advance, eg., Molly on the line, Elsie on deck, Jake in the hole. You must be firm as this is the primary delay in the trial.
 - b. Ring Crew – assist with height changes - AF and jumps, knocked poles, exchanging jumps (regular vs specials)
 - c. Timer – monitor the timer (electronic). If it stops during a run manually restart it asap. Check to ensure the timer is set to allow a pass through for advanced and master's runs (some of us can help with that). Give each team's course time to the scribe. Blow whistle at 40-second mark for Gambler's runs or when the judge calls the run.
 - d. Scribe – record any faults and the course time on the scribe sheet.
 - e. Scribe runner – run the scribe sheets over to the secretary's tent.
 - f. Course builder – build the courses!! There are course maps and the equipment is set up on a grid so it is easy to figure out where everything goes. Prefer up to 8 builders but only 2 are listed so jump in and help as an extra pair of hands to speed things up.
 - g. Leash runner – takes the dog's collar, leash and toy from the start line and drop it in the bucket at the exit gate.

5. Things to consider throughout the day
 - a. Your dog's exposure to sun, their energy, water, toys, super treats, etc.
 - b. Your needs - exposure to the sun, bring sunscreen and a hat, food, water, chair or blanket, bug spray (Southlands), poop bags, pencils
 - c. Is your dog sensitive around other dogs – monitor who they walk by we want to avoid any negative reactions. It can change your dog's energy and set up a possible chain of events for your dog or mine. If there is an "aggressive incident" it will be the Trial Chair's discretion to write up an incident report if it occurs outside the ring and the judge's responsibility if it occurs inside the ring. All incident reports go to the AAC. Depending upon the level of severity, a dog may be dismissed from the trial and banned from further trials for a period of time.
 - d. Dogs must be on a leash unless in the ring or their crate. Leash must be reattached to dog before they exit the ring – be fast!
 - e. Dog height checks- help prepare your dog ahead of time to hold a standing position while someone (a stranger) attempts to measure them. Have treats ready to reward them throughout.
 - f. You can not have food in your pockets while in the ring. You can now bring a toy in the ring for FEO runs only. They can not be squeaky, dropping fuzz or delivering food and please don't throw them very far in the ring.
 - g. For each course, the judge will hold a briefing about anything special for that run and you will have a 5 minute walk through. This is a strict 5 minutes – you will be asked to clear the course and please do not linger. Again be ready well ahead of your turn.
 - h. New rule – Delayed starts: once the dog is on line, the team should commence in a timely manner. If the handler delays the start, the judge will ask them to start. If the handler still delays, the judge will instruct the timer to start the time. The maximum course time will then be in effect (the handler can choose to work start line for that entire time, but will be whistled off at maximum course time).
 - i. There are designated start and exit gates. Do not stand around the exit gate with your dog as the dog who is running will be driving down that line toward the gate. It could be a very big distraction.
 - j. If the judge blows the whistle while you are in the ring, stop your run and leave the course. He/she will likely tell you why as you walk off.
 - k. The judges are standing and focusing on many runs throughout the day so please be respectful of the time as this is tiring!
6. Secretary's Tent – what goes on here? A very busy secretary!!

You will find the Volunteer schedule, the course maps, coolers with bottled water, garbage and recycling bags. Check here for official results later in the day.

Have fun and enjoy the day with your friends!
NADA Trial Committee