

## Judges Briefing

By Jim Nally

For K9 Corps Trial, June 26-28, 2020

Hi everybody, and welcome back to.....wait, what's this stuff we're doing called, again? Oh, right..... Agility! Whew! Now it's starting to come back!

Seriously, thank you all for coming out to play this weekend. For those who are new to NADAC...welcome! I look forward to getting to watch you and your dog(s). I know I've really missed getting to trial with my dogs, and my dogs are going a little stir crazy, not getting to go to class or to trials. Hopefully, if it's been the same for you, trialing this weekend will make everything better.

These have been strange times and, because of that, we are doing things at trials a bit differently than in the past. I know not everybody is in total agreement about how serious the whole virus-thing is, whether or not we need to social distance and wear masks (especially outdoors), and whether or not the virus can be passed simply by surface contact. NADAC likes to promote safety, though, so we're going to stick with that and err on the side of caution.

Please, maintain a 6' social distance from people whenever practical. NADAC recommends that we wear masks when at all possible, and you must wear a mask during walk-throughs, though you don't have to while running. I probably won't wear a mask while I'm standing out along the edge of the course, far from everybody, judging. I will wear one anytime I'm near a handler path, or when I need to talk to you or others, or while course building. If you need to talk to me and I'm not wearing a mask, please remind me and I'll be happy to put one on.

For leash running, you can either:

- Have the leash runner run your leash as usual (except the leash will always be left on the ground, not handed to you) or
- You can run with your leash (either around your waist, in your pocket, in a fanny pack, etc.) or
- You can bring in your own leash buddy.

If you're not sure that how you want your leash to be carried or delivered is 'legal', ask me. One thing – your dog is not allowed to try to play with your leash. So, if he or she jumps up and takes the leash or wants to tug or otherwise play with the leash, you will be eliminated.

If you'll be helping course build, set bars, etc., please wash your hands before you start your assignment and, again, after your assignment. Use the sanitizer that's been provided. We appreciate your help, but we want to do things safely.

For those who are new to NADAC (and for those of us who need a refresher), I've attached a short overview of the NADAC rules.

If you have questions, please let me know. We can either both wear masks while we talk or we can stand farther apart and yell at each other (probably not a good idea if your question is at all personal!). Or, if you prefer, shoot me a text at (651) 323-7617.

Last, but not least, thanks to K9 Corp for hosting this trial and for having me back to judge. Jeff, Cheri, and their friends have put in a lot of time and effort to give us this opportunity, to make it fun, and to make it safe. Be sure to thank them.

Good luck (and good health) to all of you!

*Jim*

## **NADAC Overview & Rules Update Information Sheet**

This synopsis is not a replacement for reading the rulebook found at <http://www.NADAC.com>

NADAC trials are setup to provide a safe and fun environment for you and your dog. Below are a few important items to remember when entered in a NADAC trial.

### **When should I enter the ring with my dog?**

When the gate steward prompts you to. The judge will let the gate steward know at what obstacle the next handler should be entering the ring. We want you to be setup with your dog on-leash at the first obstacle waiting as it helps the trial run efficiently without delays.

### **Wait for "Good Luck"**

At the start line, keep the leash on until the judge says, "Good Luck." This is your cue that the judge is ready for you to remove your leash and start your run. It ensures only one dog off leash at a time.

### **Dogs Run Naked!**

Dogs must run with no collars or other items on. A small clip/band used to keep a dogs hair out of it's eyes, or properly applied support wraps are permitted with the judge's approval.

### **Where will My Leash be at the end of my run?**

The leash runner will hand you your leash at the end of your run. If you do not want the leash runner to hand you the leash you have options: 1. Before your run, ask the leash runner to put the leash on the ground. 2. Use your own leash runner. This person can hand you the leash or leash the dog for you, but you must leave the ring holding the leash. Remember: Your dog cannot jump up on the leash runner at the end of the run.

### **Will I be faulted if my dog Picks Up the leash at the end of our run?**

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 dogs may grab their leash at the end of the run.

Leashes can no longer be placed directly in front of the last obstacle, they must be placed off to the side by the leash runner, if the handler requests that it be placed on the ground.

### **Can I tug with my dog?**

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 you may tug with your dog after you've finished your run.

You must be respectful in your tugging, you can not fling your dog around by it's leash, or lift it's body off the ground via the leash. The dog must be the one in control of the tugging.

Handlers may have a small toy attached to their leash, the toy cannot come loose from the leash, and should be the size of your hand or smaller.

### **Food in the Ring**

You are allowed to carry a small, sealed treat container (eg: small bag, pill box) in your pocket so you may easily treat your dog once you are 10 feet outside of the ring. You may not treat your dog in the ring at any time.

### **Toys in the Intro and Novice Levels**

As of June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019 teams may bring a toy into the course as a training run, in the Intro or Novice level.

The toy cannot squeak, contain treats or have anything that may fall of and be left in the ring.

Handlers must declare their intention for their training run at the beginning before they start.

Toys are not allowed on course at the Open or Elite Level.

### **Training In the Ring**

NADAC encourages handlers to Train in the Ring in a safe and positive manner. Once you begin training, you will be faulted an Elimination. Training Runs are given 60 seconds total ring time, at which point the judge will ask you to exit. IF the judge feels you or your dog are unsafe in the ring, the judge will say 'Thank You', which means you are asked to stop training and immediately leave the ring. Start Line Training: Once the handler crosses the plane of the first obstacle, if you go back over the plane of the first obstacle you'll be faulted. If you haven't crossed the plane of the 1st obstacle, not faults if you go back to your dog.

### **Ring Volunteers/Workers**

Putting on an agility trial takes dozens of volunteers. Even first time competitors can help! Bar setting, leash running and helping course build between classes are excellent tasks to get your feet wet on!

### **Closing the Ring Gates**

No faults are incurred for closing the exit or entrance ring gates. Faults may be awarded for delay of start, unsafe performance, or other regulation faults (ex: dog running around avoiding having the leash put on at the end of the run, the judge may award a delay of start fault).

### **Grandfathering Titles**

NADAC now allows grandfathering in from other venues. If you are at a high level of competition you can transfer to NADAC and continue to run at the higher level of competition. View the NADAC Rulebook for specifics.

### **Combining Points**

all points earned at each level combine for titles and awards regardless of category (Skilled or Proficient) or division (Junior Handler, Veteran Handler, Veteran Dog, or Standard)

## **Intro Level**

is an introductory level for every class. Dogs may start any class at either the Intro or Novice level.

## **Veteran Dogs**

Dogs may enter the Veteran Division after their 7th birthday. Dogs must enter the Veteran Division after their 9th birthday. After their 12th birthday dogs must enter the Skilled Category, Veteran Division.

Putting on an agility trial takes many people, many hours to prepare for the trial. Be sure to thank the club for their work putting on this trial.

And finally, NADAC's mission includes safety, good sportsmanship and teamwork as top priorities. Let's all strive to enjoy our dogs, support our fellow competitors and have a fun, safe trial. Good luck to all!

NADAC Overview & Rules Updates 05/26/2019