

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 go in the ring. 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.

What do I do with my leash?

As of January 1st, 2021, handlers may carry a *small* leash (no harnesses) with them during their run. The leash must be secured in a pocket or fanny pack, in a way that it will not dangle or fall out of the pocket. Or the leash can be looped around the shoulder or waist, but not hanging from the neck. The handler cannot carry the leash in their hand during the run. **The leash must be secured or on the ground before the dog or handler passes the plane of the first obstacle.** Handlers still have the option of dropping the leash on the ground for the leash runner to pick up.

Where will my leash be at the end of my run?

If you chose to leave your leash on the ground, 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.

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 its eyes, or properly applied support wraps are permitted with the judge’s approval.

Will I be faulted if my dog picks up the leash at the end of our run?

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

You must be respectful in your tugging, you cannot fling your dog around by its leash, or lift its 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 ring for all Levels

As of January 1, 2021, teams may bring a toy into the course as a training run.

The toy cannot squeak, contain treats or have anything that may fall off and be left in the ring. Handler **must** declare their intention for their training run at the beginning before they start.

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

Dogs may enter the 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 and 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!