



AGILITY COMPETITION ETIQUETTE

Guideline for beginners and a gentle reminder for our more seasoned competitors

Just a quick guideline of basic agility etiquette so as to ensure that a positive atmosphere is experienced by all and that our plan, “to have fun with our dogs”, is achieved by everybody at this 3 Day Event!

Arrive well before the start time.

Arrive early the first day of the Event. This gives you an opportunity to set up your tent, walk your dog, collect your docket, and review the helpers list. IADSA is a small organization and all agility participants are expected to help out. We will do our best to assign tasks that will not conflict with your running schedule; however, we cannot always accommodate you in this regard. It is especially difficult to do so for those who are running multiple dogs. If you feel you cannot work as scheduled, please find a volunteer to take your place.

Some basic ring etiquette

- Take time to check the running order (if there is one) and be at the holding area with plenty of time to spare.
- Remember, if there is no one on the start line when a class is called, the judge can close the class.
- Please pay attention to what the “Call-Up” person tells you and follow that person’s instructions. They will tell you where to stand and when to enter the ring. Set-up and be ready to release your dog as soon as told. If your set-up process is deemed to be excessively long, the judge may eliminate you and ask you to leave the course.
- Don’t play ball, Frisbee or use squeaky toys in the holding area as it can upset another dog on the start line.
- If a handler is waiting to run, be understanding if they don’t want to join in conversation until after their run.
- If you are running multiple dogs, the show secretary has tried to avoid having you make back to back runs; but again, this is not always possible. If you are running multiple dogs, it is your responsibility to be at the holding area in a timely fashion. If you need to arrange for a volunteer to hold one of your dogs for you at the holding area, please do so well before the start of the class. If you are not on the line when you are supposed to be, there is a possibility you might be scratched.

Your dog must be under your control at all times. At anytime, anywhere, during the 3 Day Event (other than the designated exercise area), if your dog is off leash and not under your control, any member of the IADSA committee may ask you to leave the grounds for the rest of the 3 Day Event. Remember not everyone’s dog wants to play, so when walking yours please remember this.

Never tie your dog and leave them unattended near the ring. This is a serious breach of safety rules and can result in your dismissal from the 3 Day Event.

No treats in your pockets! No treats on the course! Treats should not be anywhere near the course/rings. They are not permitted on your person during a run, and dropped crumbs around the ring, can distract and disadvantage other dogs.

Elimination in the ring results in automatic elimination from the run. This is a standard rule for dog agility, and there are no exceptions. Make sure to give your dog the opportunity to go to the toilet before your run (please clean up after your dog!), and accept the consequences if “nature calls” your dog during a run!

The scrimmers tent is off limits to all handlers – no exceptions. This allows the scrimmer to give their full attention to the task at hand. If you are found to be tormenting the scrimmer, you may be asked to leave the Event.

Be considerate towards fellow competitors

- When walking a course, please be considerate of others who are focused on planning their runs and refrain from undue commentary and/or blocking the run path. If you want help planning your run, please step to the side of the course to have a conversation with the person who has volunteered to assist you.
- During your run, leave the ring when asked to do so and remember there is no place on a course for tempers or bad sportsmanship.
- If you have a negative opinion about the person on the course or their dog, keep it to yourself! As a spectator, it is considered rude to stand within earshot of the ring and critique a round in progress and certainly do not do so within earshot of other competitors or the judge.
- Respect the judge at all times. The judge has complete authority on a course, and is to be respected. It is never appropriate to argue with a judge and/or tell them how to do their job. We value and want to preserve the positive relationships that we have established with well-regarded judges and trainers.
- Be considerate of others. You are asked to refrain from any behaviour that might distract, disturb or offend another person or their dog.

Finally, when the inevitable glitches occur, please remember that the members of the Committee and those helping on the Rings are all volunteers, they are also your friends and fellow competitors so treat them as you would like to be treated: WITH RESPECT!