

TRIAL ETIQUETTE

The following rules of dog agility etiquette are provided to help ensure that a positive, sportsmanlike atmosphere is maintained for all participants at our trials and matches. Please observe them in the spirit of maintaining our primary club mission which is *to have fun with our dogs!*

1. Arrive well before the trial start time.

Arrive early the first day of the trial. This gives you an opportunity to set up your tent, walk your dog around the grounds, **sign in, and review the course maps and worker list**. It is your responsibility to check the workers list, review your schedule and make sure you understand your assigned tasks before the trial begins for the day. OIDA is a small club and all trial participants are expected to work. We 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 make every effort to find a volunteer to take your place. If you cannot find a volunteer to take your place, notify the trial chair.

2. Review the run order.

- **Take the time to check the run order** for classes and be at the gate with plenty of time to spare before your run.
- **Please pay attention to what the gate steward tells you** and follow that person's directions. He/she will tell you where to stand and when to enter the ring. Please do as s/he asks. Set up and be ready to release your dog as soon as the timer/scribe tell you "GO!"
- **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. Please know that we are doing our best, and that sometimes things will not go as you anticipated. If you are running multiple dogs, **it is your responsibility to be ready at the gate** in a timely fashion. If you need to arrange for a volunteer hold one of your dogs for you at the waiting 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 will be scratched.

3. Your dog must be under your control at all times. At anytime, anywhere during the trial (other than the designated warm-up area) if your dog is off leash and not under your control, the judge may ask you to leave the grounds for the day.

4. Never tie your dog and leave him or her unattended. This is a serious breach of dog safety rules and can result in your dismissal from the trial. Dogs must be secured in a pen or crate, or kept on leash with a handler when not running.

5. No treats in your pockets! No treats on the field! Treats should not be anywhere near the field or gate areas. They are not permitted on your person during a run, and dropped crumbs near the gate area can distract and disadvantage other dogs that will be running during the day.

6. 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 potty your dog before your run (please clean up after your dog!), and accept the consequences if “nature calls” your dog during a run.

7. Respect off-limits areas

- **The scoring tent is off limits- no exceptions:** At each trial, a designated scoring supervisor will be identified to hear any concerns about scoring. The scoring supervisor will facilitate communications necessary between the handler and scorekeepers to answer your questions or concerns in a timely manner.
- **The timing and scribe tent is off limits to all handlers- no exceptions:** This allows the timer and scribe to give their full attention to their assigned tasks. If you are reported for bothering the timer or scribe, the judge may ask you to leave the grounds for the day.
- **In all matters of scoring, the judge has the final say.** Please remember the judge is looking at one dog and handler team more or less every minute so she/ he cannot possibly be expected to remember what you did two hours ago.

8. Use good sportsmanship

- **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.
- **At the gate.** Avoid engaging in conversation with the gate-keeper, as s/he has a job to do that requires full concentration. Check the run order in your premium first, and then check the gate list for on-site changes. **DO NOT change the gate list under any circumstances.** If you see a problem, bring it to the attention of the trial chair or scoring supervisor.
- **During your run**, leave the ring when asked to do so. When the judge says: "thank you," that is your signal to take your dog and leave the ring even if you are not sure why.
- Swearing on the field during your run is grounds for elimination from the run.
- **As a spectator**, it is considered rude and unsportsmanlike to stand within earshot of the ring and critique a run in progress. If you feel you need to critique a run in progress, please do so out of earshot of other competitors and the judge.
- **Respect the judge at all times.** The judge has complete authority at a trial, and is to be respected for his or her expertise. If you have a concern about scoring, you may address your concern to the scoring supervisor. It is never appropriate to argue with a judge and/or tell them how to do their job. It is considered rude and unsportsmanlike to do so. We value and want to preserve the positive

relationships that we have established with several well-regarded judges and trainers.

- **Be considerate of others.** It is not possible to list each and every example of unacceptable conduct. You are asked to refrain from any behavior that might distract, disturb or offend another person or their dog. You should be especially sensitive near or in the ring (i.e. as a ring steward). The trial will go smoothly and enjoyably when everyone is considerate of others, ready for their runs, and responsible for their assigned tasks.

PLEASE NOTE:

- If you engage in unsportsmanlike conduct of any kind, the judge may ask you to leave the trial.
- If you are asked to leave the grounds for any reason, your fees will not be refunded.
- Severe or repeated incidents of unsportsmanlike behavior reflects poorly on our club and may result in loss of club membership and/or loss of the opportunity to participate in future club events.

Please remember that the members of the show committee: the trial secretary, trial chair, timers and scribes, course builders and gate stewards are all volunteers. These people put many hours to organize the trial and to make sure it runs smoothly throughout the weekend. In many cases, they are not running their own dogs during the event. They deserve your respect and consideration, even when the inevitable glitches occur. Please remember they are your friends and fellow competitors and treat them as you would like to be treated: with respect.

SITE SPECIFIC GUIDELINES: PAPA'I'KOU FIELD

- 1. Driving area:** Driving to the set up area is weather dependent. Please observe signs, and do not drive on the grass if you are asked not to.
- 2. Tenting area:** Please refer to the most recent trial set-up map, and place your tent in the designated area(s).
- 3. Off –leash area:** With the exception of the warm up jump area, there is no off leash area at the Papa'ikou field.

We encourage you to read and familiarize yourself with the rules of CPE and NADAC, found on their respective websites: NADAC: www.nadac.com; CPE: www.k9cpe.com

A copy of this document will be posted at all future OIDA trials and fun matches. Thanks so much for your cooperation and all of your hard work and efforts to help make these events exciting and fun for everyone!

OIDA Trial Committee