

Pinnacle Dog Sports - Agility Trial Best Practices

As we navigate these new times together, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude to all our incredible agility exhibitors, clubs and volunteers. The following set of rules and guidelines were constructed for the safety of our students and exhibitors. We will be adhering to them at Pinnacle Dog Sports for all classes, open gym sessions and agility trials.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation – Helen

GENERAL: Exhibitors entering Agility trials held at Pinnacle Dog Sports must comply with all Federal, State and Local laws. Anyone who is ill for any reason must stay home. Entering an agility trial at any time is done entirely at your own risk. If a Club suspects an exhibitor is ill, they will ask for that exhibitor to leave trial grounds immediately. Exhibitors should expect longer days at Events due to some of the extra steps Clubs and Judges must take to make sure Events are safe for all.

PARKING: Parking should be spread out (depending on type of vehicle, back door or side door) we will need to use our responsible judgement. Space permitting, it can be every other spot. Pinnacle has obtained permission from All Pro (the building owner) to utilize the back / gravel area for parking on Friday, Saturday & Sunday; Single file parking in the front lot (by pond) will also be permitted on Saturday and Sunday. Dedicated workers and exhibitors who are crating inside will be asked to park farther out away from the building, so that parking closer to the entrance / exit doors is available for those exhibitors crating from their cars.

CRATING: As we have been working through the “new normal” for agility trials at Pinnacle, we are going to amend the crating options. For all trials, effective July 17, 2020 forward, we will allow you to crate your dog inside the building in the general crating room, which has AC. We feel this will be best for the dogs during the hot summer months. Further information regarding crating regulations will be included in the judging program for each specific trial. Exhibitors may spend their down time between runs either outside the building, inside within the viewing area, or graciously working in the ring. Dogs are not allowed in the viewing area unless they are going outside to potty or getting ready to run in their class. We must continue to maintain physical distancing, therefore, we highly encourage everyone to spend time outside if possible. Outdoor crating from your car is still a viable means of crating. You may set up an EZ-up for shade in designated grass areas. You may also place a chair and sit with your dog by the pond area at the front of the building (no vehicles allowed on front lawn). Chairs and seating are not allowed on All Pro’s lawn immediately outside their front door. Suggestions for outdoor crating: Bring a shade tent or screens if you’ll be crating out of your car; stock up on batteries for crate fans.

MASKS:

Masks are currently MANDATORY in Cuyahoga County. All exhibitors must supply their own masks.

- **IN THE BUILDING (OUTSIDE THE RING):** Masks are required to be worn at all times by anyone entering the building (covering both the nose and mouth area).
- **IN THE BUILDING (INSIDE THE RING):** Exhibitors will be required to keep the mask over their mouth while in the ring (they may lower the mask off of the nose to aid in breathing and vision while running). The mask must be pulled back up over the nose upon exiting the ring.
- **OUTSIDE ON TRIAL GROUNDS:** Masks are required if physical distancing of 6’ or more feet is not possible. Exhibitors will need to bring enough masks for the duration of the trial and dispose of single use masks properly. The Clubs and/or Pinnacle will not be supplying masks. If you do not have access to a mask, Pinnacle will sell you a disposable surgical type mask for \$2.00 each (only one per person per weekend).

SPECTATING: No spectators permitted. Only the exhibitors entered in the trial are allowed in the building.

GLOVES: Gloves are an individual choice. We are only requiring the course builders to wear them while in the ring during course builds. Disposable gloves will be provided for the course builders and must be properly disposed of immediately upon exiting the ring. Please be very aware of not touching anything else during that time. If as an exhibitor, you prefer to wear gloves, you will need to bring enough for the times you will need to wear them. Please dispose of gloves properly.

RING CREW:

- **BAR SETTERS:** Disinfecting wipe in hand will be used to change the bars. You may use your own chair in the ring. If using a PDS provided folding chair in the ring, then please wipe it down after your volunteer session is complete.
- **LEASH RUNNER:** Per AKC rules, for the rest of 2020 exhibitors may place leashes in their pockets or wear them when running the course. Leash must fully fit in pocket. If an exhibitor chooses not to run with their leash, the leash runner will use a “grabber” to move the leash to the leash bin located at the exit gate area. Between each jump height the leash runner will wipe the leash bin. The grabber will be wiped between runners.

TIMER / SCRIBE: The scribe will be the only person handling the scribe sheets between themselves and the secretary. Scribe will check the order of the scribe sheets against the running order prior to the start of the class. It is recommended to bring your own pen. All completed scribe sheets will be placed in the basket for the secretary to retrieve. There will be appropriate physical distance at the score table between the Timer; Scribe and Secretary. At the completion of the class, the Timer will wipe down the timer box.

GATE STEWARD: There will be tape / markers indicating the safe space around the gate steward. Exhibitors should not enter this space. Gate Steward is the only person that will move the gate board from the check in table to the gate easel. If any additional markings on the run order sheets are required after the gate boards have been placed on the easel, only the gate steward may write on them. Gate steward will dispose of run order sheets when the class is complete; wipe down the plastic gate board and return it to the storage area.

ENTER / EXIT TO THE RING: Cones will be placed at the entry of the ring indicating the line-up for the next 5 dog/handler teams in the run order. A rag dampened with disinfectant will be hanging over the gate, so that bare hands do not need to touch the gate. You are asked to immediately leave the ring area after your run is complete. Please reward your dog (treats / toys) outside the building, at your crate / car area.

OTHER ITEMS:

- **GATE BOARDS / CHECK-IN:** Run orders will be displayed on gate boards as usual. All gate boards will be spread out on tables so that they may lay in a single fashion (vs. on top of each other in a pile). Please do not move the boards around. It is recommended to bring your own pen to check in your dogs (although a pen will be on the table if needed). Weather permitting, the gate boards for check in may be placed outside.
- **BRIEFINGS:** Excellent / Master level classes will not have briefings. During briefings for all other class levels exhibitors are not required to be inside the ring for the briefing. They may spread out within the floor area to maintain appropriate physical distancing. Weather permitting, the judge may opt to hold a briefing outside. We will announce this accordingly and/or have a sign by the gate board check in if needed.
- **COURSE MAPS:** Course maps will be posted as per AKC regulations. There will be two posting areas of all courses to enable appropriate distancing of exhibitors when viewing the map. Paper copies will not be provided. It is recommended that exhibitors take photos of the maps with their phone / iPad etc. If available from the judge, the course maps will be emailed to the exhibitors the morning of each trial day. If you absolutely cannot take a photo of the map with your phone, please see a Club member or Trial Secretary for assistance.

WALK-THRU GROUPS: The size of the walk-thru groups will be reduced, we will walk in a safe manner. Depending on the # of exhibitors in each class, walk-thru's may be broken down to one walk-thru per height. No obsessive walk-thru. We will walk each individual group for 8 minutes and begin runs immediately following the last walk group. The specific walk-thru format will be listed in the judging program. Reminder: masks are required at all times during the walk-thru's.

GATES: A rag dampened with disinfectant will be hanging over the gate, so that the gates will not be touched with bare hands. Due to the height of the gate it is also very easy to push the gate to enter the ring and pull the gate with back of your arm / elbow to exit the ring during the walk-thru's.

TRIAL RESULTS: Results will continue to be posted on the wall for viewing. Two copies of all results will be posted in two different areas for viewing. Please do not gather in groups around the results, maintain a line to approach them, take pictures of results and then please move on. Reminder: your individual results are emailed to you after the trial.

RIBBONS: Qualifying stickers / ribbons will not be self-serve. We will have an award volunteer. The award person will be the only person distributing the ribbons to exhibitors. Be prepared to tell the award person what ribbons you need or if you want the stickers only. Being prepared with this information will expedite this process. Reminder, please maintain appropriate physical distance while in line for your awards.

FOOD: There will not be a lunch buffet nor snacks or beverages provided. Please pack accordingly for yourself. Per AKC, no MACH cakes allowed.

SANITIZATION:

- **HAND WASHING:** Not only now, but always, washing hands and not touching your face decreases the spread of germs. Continual hand-washing throughout the day is encouraged (we will have signs reminding you!). The restrooms will provide soap and paper towels for drying. It has also been suggested that you can keep a couple sanitizing wipes in a Ziploc bag on your person. That way, you always have a wipe with you, can be used a few times, and it stays moist!
- **OVERALL CLEANING:** A professional cleaning company cleans the building twice a week and it will be disinfected prior to the start of the trial weekend. All public surfaces (gates, door handles, tables etc.) inside the building will be wiped down periodically throughout the trial day. At the close of each trial day, KennelSol will be sprayed on the agility turf in ring to disinfect it prior to the start of the next trial day. Hand sanitizer will be available a various spots inside the building for use. Weather permitting the two front doors may be left open to avoid having to touch the door handles. There will be a divider on the sidewalk separating the door to be used for entry and for exit in order to keep the traffic flow in a one-way direction.

These guidelines may be adjusted / updated during the weekend, if necessary, for improvement.

Thank you for your support. Keep in mind the trial days may run longer due to current safe practices and physical distancing requirements. Please understand that we are doing our best to keep everyone safe, we want to see everyone enjoy this time with their dogs. Be sure that you are comfortable with these guidelines. If anyone does not abide by these, they will be asked to leave the trial. With everyone's cooperation and help, the trial day can run smoothly and we can continue to participate in a dog sport we all love!

PINNACLE DOG SPORTS ~ BEST PRACTICES ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

If you are entering this trial, be sure that you are comfortable with these guidelines and are willing to comply with wearing a mask as outlined above and the physical distancing requirements, for everyone's safety. Exhibitors not abiding by these guidelines will be asked to leave the trial (no refunds will be issued).

Please print out and sign this acknowledgment and enclose with your trial entry form.

I have read the Best Practices above, understand them, and I am willing to abide by them.

Print Name

Signature

Date

Version: July 13, 2020