

SOUTHWEST AGILITY TEAM

PROTOCOLS AND POLICIES FOR MINIMIZING THE RISK OF COVID-19 FOR TRIALS HELD AT THE SHERIFF'S POSSE ARENA

I. GENERAL POLICIES

A. LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON SITE

1. One judge
2. 250 runs per day
3. Limited classes per day – All levels of Standard and JWW, and one other class per day (FAST, T2B, Premier Standard or Premier JWW)
4. Run all M/E classes before running Open and Novice classes

B. SAFETY DIRECTOR

1. SWAT will create the position of “safety director” who will assist the trial chair in implementing these protocols and policies.
2. The safety director will be responsible for ensuring that cleaning supplies for hand cleaning and equipment cleaning, as well as disposable face coverings and gloves, are available to all workers and, on a limited basis, to exhibitors and spectators.
3. The safety director will also complete the following duties specifically listed in these protocols and policies:
 - Make new pens and markers available to scribes and gate stewards;
 - Make hand sanitizer available at the scribe tables, the trial secretary/score table, the ribbon table, in the restrooms, and at the warm-up jumps.
 - Provide cleaning supplies for the leash runner, the scribe tables, the score table, and the ribbon table, as well as the course builders;
 - Ensure that exhibitors have access electronically to course maps, gate sheets, and score sheets, and also provide a limited supply of printed maps for exhibitors who are unable to receive them electronically (the specific method of providing these items to exhibitors electronically will be described in the exhibitor trial confirmation letter).

C. WAIVER/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF RISK

1. Each exhibitor will be required to submit a signed waiver/acknowledgement of risk with their entry form and fees.
2. Each exhibitor will also be required to agree to abide by any rules, policies, or procedures SWAT may adopt to minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, and to agree that any exhibitor who fails to do so may be asked to leave the trial without refund.

D. SPECIAL REFUND POLICY

1. The following people SHOULD NOT ATTEND this trial:

Any exhibitor who

- a) has symptoms of COVID-19,
 - b) has been exposed to someone with COVID-19,
 - c) has attended another agility trial or other large gathering (as defined by the Executive Orders of the Governor of New Mexico) within 14 days prior to this trial,
 - d) has any reason to be concerned for their health or their chance of spreading the virus.
2. Any person who has entered this trial and decides that they should not attend for any of the above reasons will be eligible for a FULL REFUND of their entry fees, as long as the exhibitor notifies the trial secretary no later than 7:00 am on September 11, 2020. After that time, an exhibitor who decides to withdraw from the trial for any of the above reasons will receive a pro-rated refund of their entry fees.
 3. This refund policy is meant to encourage exhibitors to withdraw their entries when there is reason to believe they may be at risk of spreading the virus.

II. PROTOCOLS TO MINIMIZE THE RISK OF SPREADING THE VIRUS THROUGH THE AIR

A. FACE COVERINGS

1. All exhibitors, workers, and spectators must wear a face covering while in the arena, under the roof, unless they are running in the ring.

2. Exhibitors will be required to supply their own face coverings. However, SWAT will have a limited supply of disposable masks on hand for those who do not have them. SWAT will supply disposable masks and gloves for all workers who need them.

B. SOCIAL DISTANCING

1. All exhibitors, workers, and spectators must maintain social distancing. This should be at least six feet (more is encouraged), unless smaller distances are momentarily required in the course of working, walking the course, or running in the ring.
2. Loitering or spectating will not be allowed in the arena. Spectators should sit in the bleachers or crating areas (with proper social distancing).
3. To maintain the proper distancing during walk throughs, each class/running group with more than 20 dogs will be split into smaller walk-through groups.
 - The exact number of handlers allowed in each walk-through group will be determined based on the number of entries in the class/running group.
 - In order to maintain the 20-person limit during walk-throughs, it may be necessary to move dogs to a different height/running group. If that happens, it will be reflected on the gate sheet.
 - Any class or running group that is split for walk throughs will walk-walk-run, meaning each walk through group will have 8 minutes to walk and then all will run as one group. If the class or running group is split in this manner, the first group will run immediately after the last group finishes walking.
4. Dog/handler teams waiting for their runs must maintain the proper social distancing and handlers must wear a face covering until they enter the ring. Proper social distancing will be achieved by lining up in a line, rather than bunching up around the entry gate.
5. To maintain the proper distancing at the scribe table, the scribe and timer will sit at opposite ends of the table. The timer will not call out the time to the scribe. Instead, the scribe must read the time from the timer display.
6. Because the gate steward should not be shouting out the dogs' or handlers' names, leeway will be given for exhibitors to make it to the ring. If an exhibitor is not present when first called, they will be

moved to the end of their height group and allowed to run when called again.

7. During the FAST classes, the judge will use a microphone/speaker to call out the scores, instead of shouting them.
8. Spectators sitting in the bleachers must sit at least 6 feet apart.
9. Warm-up jumps will be placed between the rings. The warm-up jumps will not be enclosed or gated. Exhibitors must maintain proper social distancing and wear face coverings while using or waiting to use a warm-up jump. Hand sanitizer and/or disinfectant will be stationed near each warm-up jump and must be used after use of the warm-up jump.
10. SWAT will not provide snacks or lunches to exhibitors or workers. In lieu of providing lunch as a way of thanking workers, SWAT will provide vouchers that can be used for future trials.
11. Exhibitors should bring their own food and water, including water for their dogs. However, for safety reasons, SWAT will have water available in coolers for exhibitors who forget to bring water, or run out of water. Hand sanitizer and disinfectant cleaning supplies will be placed near the coolers for exhibitors' use before and after retrieving water from the cooler.
12. SWAT will provide a boxed lunch and a separate cooler of water and beverages for the judge.

C. CRATING RESTRICTIONS

1. Weather permitting, dogs should be crated in their vehicles.
2. Vehicles with engines or generators running may not be parked adjacent to the arena.
3. Crating under the arena roof (between the outside and inside fences) is discouraged. All-day workers and Trial Committee members will have priority in choosing to set up crates in this space.
4. All crating spaces under the roof must be set at least 6 feet apart. **Any person sitting in a crating area under the arena roof must wear a face covering.**
5. Overnight crating is not allowed and crating spaces cannot be saved or reserved, except for Trial Committee members. Exhibitors must remove their crates, mats, chairs, and all other personal items before leaving the trial site each day.
6. Crating under the roof outside the outer fence of the arena will be allowed only in vehicles, which must be parked with at least six feet

between each vehicle, and six feet from the fence. Parking spots cannot be saved or reserved for the next day, except for Trial Committee members.

7. Crating and parking will be marked by signs, cones, and tape.

II. PROTOCOLS TO MINIMIZE SPREADING THE VIRUS BY TOUCH

A. SCRIBE SHEETS

1. Only the trial secretary and scribe will touch the scribe sheets.
2. The scribe sheets for each class, in each ring, each day will be placed in a storage container, which will be placed on the scribe table before the first class of the day.
3. The scribe will retrieve the scribe sheets for the proper class/running group from the storage container and verify that they are in the correct order.
4. The scribe will use a new pen for each class/running order, which will be provided by the safety director.
5. After entering the score on a scribe sheet, the scribe will place the scribe sheet in a clear plastic envelope, and place the envelope in the scribe runner's basket, taking care to touch the envelope as little as possible.
6. The scribe runner will take the basket to the scorekeeper and exchange it for an empty basket which will be used to collect additional scribe sheets, repeating the process until the class is finished. If it is a small class (10 or fewer dogs), the scribe runner will take all of the scribe sheets in one run; if it is a larger class, the scribe runner will take 3-5 scribe sheets in one run. Only the scribe runner will touch the baskets. The scribe runner will clean the baskets at the end of the class/running group.
7. The scorekeeper will remove the scribe sheets (still in the plastic envelopes) from the basket so the scribe runner can use the basket for the next run. The scorekeeper should take care to touch the envelopes containing the scribe sheets as little as possible, and may use disinfectant to clean the envelopes before touching them.

B. GATE SHEETS

1. Only the trial secretary and the gate steward will touch the gate sheets.
2. A file folder will be labeled for each class/running group. The gate sheets will be placed into the proper folder at least three days before the

- trial. The folder should be stored in a manner that will allow each gate steward to retrieve the proper folder without touching any other folders.
3. The gate steward will retrieve the appropriate file folder containing the gate sheets and tape the gate sheets to the easel.
 4. The gate steward will have a space of at least 6 x 6 feet, marked by tape, positioned no closer than six feet to the left or right of the entry gate. Exhibitors will not be allowed inside the gate steward's space. The gate steward will wear a face covering.
 5. The gate steward will use a new marker for each class/running order, which will be provided by the safety director.
 6. The gate steward will mark each exhibitor as present when the exhibitor enters the ring for the walk through.
 7. The gate steward will mark any changes to the running order, which will be limited to exhibitors running more than one dog in that class or running group.
 8. After all exhibitors have been marked as present or absent and all changes to the running order have been made on the gate sheets, the safety director will make the gate sheet available to exhibitors electronically.
 9. After all dogs have run in the class/running group, the gate steward will put the gate sheets in the trash (not recycling), put the used marker in a box provided for used markers and pens, and clean the easel with cleaning supplies located near the judging table.

C. GATES AND LEASHES

1. Only the gate steward will touch the entry gate. Only the leash runner will touch the exit gate.
2. The leash runner and gate steward will wear a face covering.
3. Before each class/running group begins the walk through, the gate steward will prop the entry gate open and the leash runner will prop the exit gate open (if they are not already propped open) so they remain open during the walk through.
4. At the end of the walk through, the gate steward and leash runner will close the gates.
5. When the judge is ready to enter the ring, the gate steward will open and close the gate for the judge.
6. The gate steward will open and close the entry gate for each exhibitor and dog as they enter the ring.

7. After the exhibitor begins the run, the leash runner will use the leash grabber to retrieve the leash, walk the leash to the exit gate, and leave it in the designated spot. If the exhibitor chooses to carry the leash during the run, the leash runner will simply walk to the exit gate. The leash runner will remain at the exit gate and, when the exhibitor is ready to leave the ring, the leash runner will open and close the gate as the exhibitor and dog leave the ring.
8. After the last dog in the class/running group has exited the ring, the gate steward will clean the entry gate and prop it open for the next walk-through, and the leash runner will do the same for the exit gate. The leash runner will also clean the leash grabber.

D. RESULTS, RIBBON STICKERS, AND RIBBONS

1. After printing the preliminary results sheet for a class/running group, the trial secretary will place each page in a separate plastic sheet protector and place each page in the results notebook.
2. The safety director will make the results available to exhibitors electronically.
3. Exhibitors will be discouraged from looking at the results in the notebooks. Cleaning supplies (wipes or disinfectant and paper towels) will be placed near the results notebooks. Any exhibitor who touches the notebooks must use the cleaning supplies to clean the notebook, the results pages, and the table. Exhibitors must maintain proper distancing while viewing the results notebooks.
4. Ribbon stickers and ribbons will be self-serve at a separate table dedicated for that purpose. The ribbon table will be marked off with tape so that only one exhibitor at a time may be at the table, and exhibitors waiting must maintain social distancing. Hand sanitizer and cleaning supplies will be located on the table for exhibitors' use before and after retrieving their stickers and ribbons.

E. COURSE MAPS

1. Course maps will be made available electronically to all exhibitors by 6:00 each morning of the trial. Directions for obtaining the maps will be included in each exhibitor's final confirmation letter.
2. In addition, maps will be posted by 7:00 am at the trial site, in at least two different locations so that exhibitors can take photographs of the maps. Gathering around the posted maps will not be allowed.

3. A **limited** number of printed copies of maps will be available directly from the safety director to those exhibitors who do not have access to the maps electronically and are unable to photograph the posted maps.

F. EQUIPMENT

1. The judge will be asked to design nested courses to minimize the movement of equipment between classes.
2. All course builders and ring crew who touch the equipment must wear a face covering and gloves while doing so.