



Standard Operating Procedures for AAC-Sanctioned Events

Version 4.0

Effective Date: February 18, 2026

Board Resolution #260214

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS FOUR SECTIONS:

- 1) Important Information for all Trial Participants
- 2) Important Information for all AAC Officials and Hosts
- 3) Host Responsibilities
- 4) Examples of Misconduct, Abuse, and Aggression

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL TRIAL PARTICIPANTS

The Agility Association of Canada (AAC) strives to foster a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for everyone participating in any AAC-sanctioned event, including local trials, Open Special Events, Regional Championships, National Championships, and events involving the AAC National Team.

Trial Participants are reminded that it is their responsibility to be familiar with the [AAC Official Rules and Regulations](#) and the [AAC Code of Conduct](#). Handlers who have family/friends attending the trial are encouraged to share the Host's rules and expectations governing their conduct while attending a trial with them.

“Trial Participant” includes any of the following:

- a) handlers;
- b) anyone who owns/supervises a dog in attendance at an AAC-sanctioned activity;
- c) AAC Officials;
- d) volunteers; and
- e) Hosts.

The AAC takes a zero tolerance stand against all forms of maltreatment, bullying and harassment, whether it be direct or indirect.

Importance of Reporting Incidents of Misconduct, Abuse or Aggression

The AAC Discipline Committee (DC) has the authority to investigate complaints, conduct hearings, and prescribe discipline involving charges of misconduct, abuse, or aggression against both members and non-members of the AAC.

Examples of misconduct, abuse, and aggression can be found at the end of this document. For a complete list of misconducts and the guidelines for sanctions, please refer to [Appendix 1 of the Discipline Committee Policies and Procedures](#)

This document must be available at the trial site so it may be consulted by all Officials and Trial Participants



Standard Operating Procedures for AAC-Sanctioned Events

Version 4.0

Effective Date: February 18, 2026

Board Resolution #260214

Anyone who is present at an AAC-sanctioned event may report alleged violations of the AAC Rules and Regulations or the AAC Code of Conduct. **Incident Reports must be submitted within 14 calendar days of the incident.**

Anyone who witnesses an incident of aggression, abuse, misconduct, or unsportsmanlike behaviour at an AAC-sanctioned event may submit an [Incident Report](#).

To be considered by the DC an incident must fall within the mandate of the DC. Complainants must be identified. Anonymous reports or witness statements will not be accepted. There must also be an “official complainant” identified in the Incident Report. If none is identified the trial host or judge will be asked to act as the complainant.

All Incident Reports are kept on file, including those where the incident has been dealt with in site. When repeated reports regarding the same offender are received, those reports will be forwarded to the DC who will determine if further action is warranted. If action is warranted, further information will be collected in order to facilitate an investigation. This will result in a hearing.

Individuals making a report or participating in an investigation by the DC will be treated fairly and respectfully.

Retaliation against any person will not be tolerated. Retaliation includes any action or treatment that is intended to harm or discredit a person because they have filed a complaint against someone, participated in the complaint process, or acted as a witness.

Suspended Dogs and Handlers

If a suspension has been imposed by the DC the handler will have been informed that it is their responsibility to withdraw themselves and/or their dog from any trial they may have entered which occurs during the suspension period.

Dogs that have been suspended by the DC may not attend AAC-sanctioned events while on suspension under any circumstances. If the Host becomes aware of a suspended dog being present at the trial site, steps must be taken to make sure that the dog is immediately removed from the trial site, and an Incident Report shall be submitted.

Handlers who have been suspended by the DC for “failure to control” are permitted to attend AAC-sanctioned events as volunteers or active supporters of the club during the

This document must be available at the trial site so it may be consulted by all Officials and Trial Participants



Standard Operating Procedures for AAC-Sanctioned Events

Version 4.0

Effective Date: February 18, 2026

Board Resolution #260214

period of their suspension. However, they may not have a dog at the event and may not handle another dog under any circumstances.

If a person has been suspended for Code of Conduct or other violations, they are not to be present at any AAC-sanctioned event during the period of their suspension.

**This document must be available at the trial site so it may be consulted by all
Officials and Trial Participants**



Standard Operating Procedures for AAC-Sanctioned Events

Version 4.0

Effective Date: February 18, 2026

Board Resolution #260214

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL AAC OFFICIALS AND HOSTS

“AAC Officials” includes Judges, Directors, and AAC employees.

“Host” means AAC Trial Host club or committee.

AAC Officials and Hosts have a duty to report alleged violations of the AAC Rules and Regulations or the AAC Code of Conduct.

Judges have the authority in the ring and Hosts have authority outside the ring; both are expected to work together when needed.

When a Judge witnesses an act of dog aggression in their ring, they must:

- a) dismiss the dog from the class; and,
- b) once they have finished judging the class, consult with the parties involved and if warranted dismiss the dog for the day or from the trial site altogether.

When an AAC Official or Host witnesses or is made aware of an incident of dog aggression outside the ring, they must consult with the parties involved and if warranted dismiss the dog for the day or from the trial site altogether.

When an AAC Official or Host either witnesses or is made aware of an incident of misconduct, abuse, or aggression, they must:

- a) inform the Judge and/or Host, as appropriate;
- b) proceed with a preliminary investigation, including speaking to the individuals involved in the incident as well as any witnesses and obtain names and contact information from all individuals;
- c) inform all parties that the AAC Official or Host is required to submit an Incident Report;
- d) ask the complainant if they wish to file an [Incident Report](#), and if they do, ask the accused, and witnesses to submit relevant information regarding the incident;
- e) recommend to the complainant and the accused that they find witnesses and request that they complete an Incident Report Form; and,
- f) complete and submit an Incident Report.

There will be times when an incident occurs that does not require an investigation or hearing by the DC as it has been handled by the Judge or the Host. Details of the incident must be reported by the Judge or Host on an Incident Report including:

- a) details about the incident;
- b) results of the Judge/Host’s investigation;
- c) names and contact information of parties involved;

This document must be available at the trial site so it may be consulted by all Officials and Trial Participants



Standard Operating Procedures for AAC-Sanctioned Events

Version 4.0

Effective Date: February 18, 2026

Board Resolution #260214

- d) any action taken by the Judge/Host (e.g. verbal warning given); and,
- e) a recommendation from the Judge/Host that the matter does not proceed any further.

Reports that have not been completed online during the course of the trial must be emailed to admin@aac.ca within 14 days of the incident.

If NO incidents occurred during the trial, an "[AAC Trial Report Form – No Incidents](#)" must be submitted.

**This document must be available at the trial site so it may be consulted by all
Officials and Trial Participants**



Standard Operating Procedures for AAC-Sanctioned Events

Version 4.0

Effective Date: February 18, 2026

Board Resolution #260214

HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Trial Hosts must compare entries with the list of suspensions (as displayed on the AAC website) no less than seven (7) calendar days before trial begins. Entries for suspended dogs or suspended handlers that have not already been withdrawn must be refused if the trial dates fall within the suspension period.
2. In the event that a suspended dog or person who is not allowed to be at an AAC-sanctioned event during the period of their suspension is found to be at the trial site, the Host must take steps to remove them from the trial site, and an Incident Report shall be submitted.
3. This Standard Operating Procedures document must be available at the trial site so it may be consulted by all Officials and Trial Participants.
4. It is recommended that Hosts include links to the following documents on the AAC's website in all their Premiums: [AAC Official Rules and Regulations](#), [AAC Code of Conduct](#), and [Standard Operating Procedures for AAC-Sanctioned Events](#).
5. The Host should make every effort to obtain reports from the complainant, the accused, the Judge, and any witnesses. Reports that have not been completed online during the course of the trial must be emailed to admin@aac.ca within 14 days of the incident.
6. If NO incidents occurred during the trial, an "[AAC Trial Report Form – No Incidents](#)" must be submitted.

**This document must be available at the trial site so it may be consulted by all
Officials and Trial Participants**



Standard Operating Procedures for AAC-Sanctioned Events

Version 4.0

Effective Date: February 18, 2026

Board Resolution #260214

Examples of Misconduct, Abuse and Aggression

Misconduct by an Individual
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical altercation, or threat of such
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Argumentative, abusive, or foul language, verbal altercation, or confrontation of competitors, volunteers, spectators, or Officials
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal property damage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impairing a trial Host's ability to retain a site
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disregard/violation of published Host/venue regulations (e.g., parking, crating, leash rules, etc.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Behaviour that demonstrates a lack respect for the venue rules
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Failure to properly control a dog at a trial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Disruptive behaviour at a trial
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unsportsmanlike conduct that demonstrates a lack of respect for fellow competitors, volunteers, hosts, spectators, or dog(s), either in person, or via social media
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attempt to gain competitive advantage through improper actions on or off the course
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Violation of the AAC Code of Conduct
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Harassment – verbal, written or physical

Misconduct Against a Host or AAC Official
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any comment (written or verbal) or behavior in person or through social media that is disrespectful of a Host or AAC Official, or their authority
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repeated attempts to influence a Host or AAC Official (e.g., to change a ruling, height measurement, or modify a course, approve unsafe equipment, etc.)

Inappropriate Treatment of a Dog(s)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mistreatment of a dog at or in connection with a trial (e.g., verbal abuse, excessive discipline or training)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neglect at or in connection with a trial (e.g., leaving a dog in a vehicle without proper ventilation or shade in the heat)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical abuse at or in connection with a trial (e.g., harsh correction or inappropriate physical contact)

Dog Aggression
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog in the ring, including catchment area, leaves and chases, menaces, threatens, or otherwise attacks any person or dog outside the ring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog in the ring, including catchment area, displays threatening or menacing behaviour toward the Judge, a ring steward, or a dog standing outside the ring
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog outside the ring causes injury or otherwise attacks a person or dog
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog runs into the ring and attacks the dog on course
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog in the ring, catchment area, or outside the ring, attacks any person
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dog displays threatening or menacing behaviour while being measured

This document must be available at the trial site so it may be consulted by all Officials and Trial Participants



Standard Operating Procedures for AAC-Sanctioned Events

Version 4.0

Effective Date: February 18, 2026

Board Resolution #260214

- Dog causes injury or otherwise attacks any person while being measured

**This document must be available at the trial site so it may be consulted by all
Officials and Trial Participants**