

Agility Competitors Code of Conduct

In Agility, as in all other sports and activities, the safety and enjoyment of competitors and their dogs depends to a great degree on common sense, courtesy and respect.

It is undesirable (and probably impossible) to attempt to construct a set of rules and regulations that specifically cover every possible set of circumstances. However, it is vital to the long-term health of Agility that the principles of fair play, responsible behaviour and respect for others should prevail at all times.

Judges and Stewards at Agility shows have been covered by a code of conduct for many years. The code of conduct below offers voluntary guidelines to help handlers and owners to check that they, too, are behaving appropriately and responsibly when competing at Agility shows.

All agility competitors should:

- Commit to abide by Kennel Club Rules, the Agility Regulations, and the show's rules both in word and in spirit.
- Consider the health and welfare of their dog to be of prime importance.
- Consider the health and welfare of other peoples' dogs as if they were their own and not commit any act that puts other people or their dogs at risk.
- Commit to fair play, honesty and integrity within a competitive spirit.
- Commit to being civil and courteous at all times to other competitors, judges, the show management and ring party members.
- Be respectful of decisions taken by judges and the show management.
- Respect constructive criticism of their own behaviour.
- Be prepared to be constructive in criticism of others, should they feel the need to comment on aspects of the running of a show, or the behaviour of another competitor or their dog.
- Do nothing to affect the impartiality of the show management or judges at the show.
- Take responsibility for the actions and behaviour of family members or guests whom they invite into the precincts of the show.
- Welcome and encourage newcomers to the sport and assist them in understanding both the letter of and the spirit of the rules and the code of conduct for agility.
- Commit to having control over their dogs at all times.
- Only enter for competition when their dog is ready.

Breaches of the Code of Conduct

By entering an Agility show, competitors acknowledge that they will do their utmost to comply with this voluntary Code of Conduct. Significant or repeated failure to comply with the Code of Conduct may result in the show management asking competitors to leave the showground. Handlers who have a complaint about the actions of others should speak to the Show Secretary.

Recommended Show Rules

Societies are invited to consider incorporating some or all of the following wording into their own Show Rules:

- Agility equipment should not be used in the camping, exercise and parking areas.
- No dogs are to be off lead at any time in the camping and parking areas except in a designated exercise area.
- Dogs should not be tethered near or at the ringside whilst a competition is in progress in that ring.
- No handler may have more than three dogs off the lead in the exercise area at any one time.
- No toys, balls etc. to be thrown in the exercise area other than in an area designated for this purpose.