



AAC News September 2025

**IMPORTANT: THIS DOCUMENT IS MORE THAN ONE PAGE IN LENGTH.
PLEASE USE THE “DOWNLOAD” LINK BELOW TO READ THE COMPLETE
NEWSLETTER.**

AAC CODE OF CONDUCT

The AAC Board of Directors (BoD) is pleased to announce that revisions to the AAC Code of Conduct were approved at the September 17, 2025, meeting.

The Code of Conduct can be found on the home page of the AAC website under “AAC Rules”.

Introduction:

In January 2025, a newsletter was sent out advising of the BoD’s intent to review and revise the Code of Conduct (“the Code”). Since then, the BoD has worked with its Standing Committees and the Association’s legal counsel to update the Code.

The format of the Code has been changed and content from the previous version was condensed to remove duplication and redundancies.

Some of the important changes that competitors need to be aware of include:

- new definitions have been added
- an expanded statement of purpose;
- clarification of what is meant by harsh treatment of a dog;
- expectations with respect to Social Media conduct;
- reporting of alleged violations
- identification of the forms of retaliation that can be a violation of this Code.

Purpose

The AAC strives to foster a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for everyone participating in any AAC-sanctioned activity. The purpose of the AAC's Code of Conduct ("Code") is to make individuals aware that there is an expectation of behaviour that is consistent with the AAC's core values, including that all individuals are treated with respect.

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

The requirements described in the Code are intended to maintain a respectful and safe environment. This Code identifies the standard of behaviour which is expected of anyone who participates in any AAC-sanctioned activity, including but not limited to, handlers, officials, volunteers, Directors, committee members, and trial hosts/organizers, regardless of whether or not they are AAC members.

Although the various matters dealt with in this Code do not cover the full spectrum of permitted and prohibited activities, they are indicative of the AAC's commitment to the maintenance of high standards of conduct and are to be considered descriptive of the type of behaviour expected from all those associated with the AAC.

The AAC respects the value of freedom of expression in Canadian society but also believes that its exercise by any individual must be appropriately balanced with the need to maintain a respectful, safe and inclusive environment for everyone by ensuring that divergent viewpoints and legitimate critiques are expressed in a constructive manner. The requirements of this Code are intended to support this goal.

Scope

The Code applies to anyone participating in AAC-sanctioned activities, regardless of their AAC membership status, including but not limited to:

- a) AAC Members;
- b) Trial Participants;
- c) Representatives; and,
- d) Related Parties.

It applies to both AAC-related Social Media and personal use of Social Media as it relates to the AAC including, but not limited to comments that are made:

- a) on an individual's personal Social Media page;
- b) as a respondent on another individual's Social Media page;
- c) on an AAC-owned discussion group (e.g. a private Slack channel or Facebook group with limited membership); or,
- d) through Direct Message (DM), Private Message (PM), or text messages.

It is not intended to specifically define every instance of misconduct. Misconduct that is inconsistent with the values of the AAC or with the purpose of this Code may still constitute a breach of this Code and be subject to sanctions, even though the behaviour amounting to misconduct is not specifically referenced in this Code.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact your
Regional Director.