



## Competitor News January 2025

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The AAC strives to foster a safe, inclusive and respectful environment for everyone participating in AAC activities and events.

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

The purpose of the Agility Association of Canada's Code of Conduct is to make individuals aware that there is an expectation of behaviour that is consistent with the AAC's core values in which all individuals are treated with respect.

The [Code of Conduct](#) can be found on the home page of the AAC website under "AAC Rules".

The Code of Conduct identifies a standard of behaviour which is expected of all members and event participants, including but not limited to, handlers, officials, volunteers, spectators, directors, committee members, trial hosts/organizers, who may be involved in any AAC sanctioned activities or events.

Although the various matters dealt with in the 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 behavior expected from all those associated with the AAC.

The Code of Conduct applies to the conduct and behaviour of anyone attending or participating in any way in any sanctioned AAC activities and events, including:

- a) handlers.
- b) anyone who owns/supervises a dog while attending a trial or event.
- c) visitors/friends.
- d) trial officials.
- e) volunteers.
- f) spectators.
- g) AAC directors.
- h) AAC committee members; or
- i) trial hosts/organizers.

Any breach of the Code of Conduct will be treated as a violation of the AAC Rules and Regulations and may be addressed in accordance with the AAC's Discipline Committee Policies and Procedures. Individuals may be subject to discipline as determined by the AAC Discipline Committee after a hearing has been conducted.

As part of its mandate, the AAC Board of Directors will be reviewing and revising the Code of Conduct in 2025.

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

"Social media" includes well-known channels such as Facebook, X (Twitter), LinkedIn or Instagram. It also extends to any site where an individual may be posting content. This can include anything from pictures of family members and vacations on photo sharing sites, to comments on a news article, a review on a public website, comment on a video or a blog.

The Code of Conduct applies to both AAC-sponsored social media and personal use of social media as it relates to the AAC.

There is always a risk (for example, reputational damage to a person or the organization) when sharing, posting, liking, or interacting, over social media.

Everyone who participates in any way in any sanctioned AAC activities and events must not participate in any form of criticism on social media of competitors, trial hosts, judges, volunteers, AAC employees, or other AAC representatives.

This includes refraining from the expression of personal opinions on controversial subjects such as course design, judging, placements or other criticisms that can undermine the credibility of judges, trial hosts, or the AAC.

Cyber bullying of any kind towards competitors, trial hosts, judges, spectators, volunteers, AAC employees or other AAC representatives will not be tolerated.

Using a disclaimer like, “opinions are my own,” can help clarify that the account does not speak on behalf of the AAC, but it will not remove the poster’s obligations and responsibilities. Individuals will be held responsible for what they say and how they say it.

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