

Policy on Participation in WAG Demos and Confidence Courses

Adopted by the WAG Board on August 19, 2005

- For demos, these guidelines apply to the handler and dog teams who are running the course.
- For confidence courses, these guidelines apply to the volunteers who are assisting members of the public and their dogs on the course. Where the phrase “handler and dog team” is used, it should be interpreted to also refer to volunteers as appropriate to the context (i.e., referring to the volunteer’s experience as a handler but not the experience of individual’s dog).
- Rules that apply only to demos or only to confidence courses are indicated as such.

1) Participation in WAG demos and confidence courses is open to members and non-members alike.

a. When space is limited, current WAG members must be given priority over non-members.

This generally applies only to the State Fair demo but may be applied to other events as appropriate.

2) Each handler and dog team must have competed in at least one trial sponsored by a recognized agility organization.

a. Acceptance of non-competing teams is at the discretion of the event coordinator, with due consideration to the team’s training and experience.

i. At sign-up, non-members should specifically describe their training and/or trialing experience with the dog/s that will participate in the event.

The purpose of this information is to assist in the event coordinator’s general assessment of the ability of the non-member team to safely perform the obstacles, or for confidence courses, for the non-member volunteer to assist members of the public on the course.

b. Current WAG members who are instructors are welcome to invite their non-member students to participate in demos and confidence courses for the experience and exposure. The instructor must be present with their non-member students at all times during the event, except as provided in Section 2 (b)(ii).

It may be most efficient for the instructor to record sign-ups for his/her students and then submit that information to the event coordinator.

i. If an instructor participates in the event with his/her non-member students, then the event coordinator should defer to the instructor’s assessment of the student teams’ ability to safely perform the obstacles.

ii. If an instructor does not participate in the event with his/her non-member students, then each student must have a sponsor (other than their instructor) as described in Section 3 and is also subject to assessment by the event coordinator as described in Section 2 (a)(i).

3) Non-members who wish to participate in a demo or confidence course must be sponsored by a current WAG member.

The role of the sponsor is to attest to the non-member’s conduct of him/herself and behavior of his/her dog.

a. At sign-up, non-members must provide their sponsor’s contact information. By providing this information, the non-member is giving permission for the event coordinator to talk with the sponsor about the non-member and his/her dog.

i. If a current WAG member who is an instructor participates in the event with his/her non-member students, then the instructor is considered the sponsor for those students.

4) Only current WAG members may participate in puppy demos at WAG demos.

The requirement that a dog must have competed in at least one trial does not apply to puppy demos.

5) For events where it is very helpful or even necessary to have a “ring crew”, such as at the State Fair demo, the event coordinator will provide a job sign-up list at the site and invite participants to sign up before or at the event. The notice / flyer for the event should indicate that there will be a job sign-up list at the site.

6) If an event participant is a junior handler (i.e., under 18 years old), s/he must be accompanied by a parent/guardian, or by a “guardian” who is a current WAG member, who is present at all times during the event.

7) For members and non-members alike, if a human or canine participant conducts him/herself in a manner that reflects badly on the sport or on WAG, then that s/he will be asked to leave and not be permitted to participate in future demos or confidence courses without specific approval by the WAG Board.