

# COVID-19 Protocols for POTC 2020 Obedience & Rally Trials

24-August 2020 version

POTC is excited to hold our rescheduled 2020 Obedience & Rally Trials at the Washington County Fairgrounds in Marietta OH. In order to make the environment and trials as safe as possible for our exhibitors, staff, and judges, we have developed COVID-era policies for our trials that will be in effect until further notice. If you have any questions, please contact the Trial Secretary.

*We are doing our best to keep the trials fun for everyone, but safety and health must take top priority.*

*Please respect the policies we are implementing to ensure everyone's continued health, as well as any additional requirements that The Fairgrounds may have established.*

*Please read through this document and make sure you are comfortable with our guidelines.*

*If you are unable or unwilling to follow these procedures, please do not enter!*

*If you will be entering the trials, please sign and return the Agreement with your entries.*

*Anyone not complying with these or Fairgrounds policies will be asked to leave with no refund.*

We have put together the following protocols based on the [AKC Best Practices for the Well-Being of Dog Sport Participants](#), and current State of Ohio and CDC guidelines. Please keep in mind that National, State, and Local COVID-19 requirements and recommendations are constantly evolving; consequently, these Protocols may be updated at any time. Any revisions will be communicated as soon as possible prior to the trial weekends; if you believe you may have any issues complying with the changes, please contact the Trial Secretary prior to the trial to withdraw for a refund.

Please do NOT attend this trial if any of the following "risk categories" applies to you:

- (a) you were exposed to COVID-19 within the 14 days preceding the trials and do not have a confirmed negative result from testing done after the exposure;
- (b) you traveled to/from a state on the dynamic Ohio [quarantine list](#) within the 14 days preceding the trial (note: the list can change weekly, so please review it during the two weeks preceding the trials!); or
- (c) you have COVID-19 or [any of its symptoms](#) at the time of the trial, or feel ill in any way during the trials

If any of these conditions apply to you, please contact the Trial Secretary if you wish to request a full refund for any runs not yet completed.

1. **MASKS:** An [appropriate face covering](#) MUST always be worn in the building, including WHILE RUNNING. Masks must be worn correctly, covering both nose and mouth at all times. No exceptions/exemptions. Please bring your own face masks. If you forget yours, we may have a limited number of disposable masks available for a small fee, but please do not plan on their availability to ensure you will be allowed to run. You do not need to wear a mask when outside the building as long as you maintain social distancing.
2. **CHAIRS:** please bring your own chairs. The usual chairs may not be available for general use. Chairs will be available in-ring for workers (or you can use your own if you want!) – please wipe down chairs other than your own both before and after use.
3. **GLOVES:** Bring disposable gloves if you desire to wear them at any time during the trials.
4. **WASH HANDS** frequently and thoroughly. Use hand sanitizers positioned throughout the building frequently, especially before & after touching any common equipment or surfaces, or dogs other than your own.
5. **SOCIAL DISTANCING** must be practiced by everyone both inside and outside for the entire weekend, including when spectating ringside
6. **SANITIZATION:** All equipment and high-touch surfaces in the ring areas may be periodically cleaned and sanitized. The Fairgrounds may also clean commonly touched surfaces periodically throughout the trial and again at the end of the day. Sanitizers will be located at each ring; but please bring your own cleaning and sanitizing supplies if you desire to use them for your own trial gear. \*\*\* Please be aware that each night the equipment and ring areas may be misted with a disinfecting solution. It is your responsibility to decide whether to leave crates/water bowls in the building overnight\*\*\*
7. **TRAFFIC FLOW:** Please observe any walkway/flow restrictions that may be designated throughout the facility.

8. **CRATING:** We currently do not expect any issue with indoor crating for all dogs, nor with human occupancy limits. But depending on changes to state orders regarding distancing requirements or gathering limits in effect on the trial weekends, we may need to restrict the number of people in the building at any one time (we will let you know as promptly as possible if we expect any issues with either dog or human occupancy limits). When setting up your crates, please use the minimum practical space for your dogs and be sure to allow adequate spacing to your neighbors to maintain 6' distancing between people seated at their crates (except within "household crating groups").
9. **RESERVED PARKING for CAR CRATING** – a limited number of parking spaces close to the front doors will be reserved for people willing to crate from their cars for the weekend & are available on a first-reserved advance basis only. Please contact the Trial Secretary no later than the Tuesday evening preceding the trial at the address in the premium or by text (no voicemail) to (304) 488-2871 if interested! Include name, cell #, color and make of car, and license plate number in your email/text. Please be sure to take proper safety precautions due to possible heat issues in a vehicle. Dogs appearing to be in distress will be "rescued" if appropriate contact information is not readily displayed in/on your vehicle - YOUR DOGS' SAFETY COMES FIRST!!
10. **FOOD:** We plan to provide complimentary lunch that will be available for voluntary cash donations that will be collected and designated to a local charity. Lunch will either be individually-wrapped commercially-supplied items (e.g. sub sandwiches), or will be served by a dedicated worker who will wear gloves and follow PPE & sanitary protocols for the serving of food (e.g. if pizza is served). As always, you are also permitted to bring in your own food and beverages or have food delivered.
11. **BUILDING OCCUPANCY:** Only workers or exhibitors entered should attend the trials. We urge you to leave additional family & friends at home unless absolutely necessary to help you during the trials. We need to keep occupancy at a minimum to stay within any pandemic restrictions and to facilitate adequate distancing.
12. **COURSE MAPS and BRIEFINGS** will be posted in several areas to facilitate social distancing. Take pictures of maps because paper copies will not be available. Please let a club worker know if you cannot take a picture of the maps. **Individual results** will also be emailed after the trials.
13. **WORKERS** setting up rings and changing bar heights must use hand sanitizer frequently and may choose to also wear gloves if desired for additional self-protection. Sanitizer will be located at each ring steward's table.
14. **CHECK IN** at the ringside steward's table to get your armbands. Please remember to maintain personal distancing from the Ring Stewards when checking in.
15. **WALKTHROUGHS:** Per AKC COVID guidance, walkthrough groups may be limited to smaller groups than normal. We encourage everyone to be mindful of others, take turns, and maintain personal distance.
16. **OBEDIENCE FIGURE 8 POSTS:** instead of having ring stewards act as posts for this exercise, we will be using either chairs or tall cones/pylons
17. **OBEDIENCE DIRECTED RETRIEVE/SCENT DISCRIMINATION:** stewards will use sanitizer &/or gloves between each team's runs. If tongs are used they will be sanitized between uses.
18. **ENTERING and EXITING RINGS:** Please observe marked ring entrances/exits &/or instructions from ring stewards regarding where to enter or exit. Please maintain 6' distancing from other exhibitors, the judge, and stewards whenever possible both inside and outside the ring.
19. **LEASHES:** Exhibitors will be responsible for placing their leashes on a chair located just inside the ring as they enter, prior to starting the exercises. Once the course is complete, the exhibitor will be responsible for getting the leash. A steward may disinfect the chair between exhibitors.
20. **RIBBONS, PRIZES, and AWARDS:** Exhibitors should maintain social distancing if possible when being awarded ribbons. Ribbons will be awarded in a manner that reduces the chance of direct person-to-person contact. When selecting any prizes or gifts that may be offered, please pick the item you want for your dog and touch that one item only.
21. **AFTER COMPLETING YOUR RUNS:** Once your runs are done for the day, and if you are not scheduled to work, please head home with your dog(s), and enjoy a cold adult beverage! This will help keep our occupancy to a minimum and make social distancing easier.

Thank you for taking part in the POTC Obedience and Rally Trials. By being careful now, hopefully things can be back to a more familiar normal for next year's trials!

# POTC Obedience & Rally Trials: COVID-19 Protocols Agreement

PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING AND SUBMIT THIS SIGNED AGREEMENT PAGE WITH YOUR ENTRY

Please be sure that you are comfortable with our trial protocols as noted above and are willing to comply with ALL of these guidelines and any future modifications to ensure a safe environment for everyone. Exhibitors not complying with these guidelines at the trials will be asked to leave and not issued a refund.

*I have read the POTC OB/RLY Trial COVID-19 Protocols, understand them, and I agree to comply with these procedures, which include social distancing and wearing a suitable mask correctly at all times to ensure a safe environment for everyone. I also agree to refrain from attending the trial if at the time of the event, any of the "risk categories" may apply to me and I will notify POTC immediately if I feel ill while attending the trials. I agree that POTC, its partner host clubs, and The Washington County Fairgrounds are in no way liable for any present or future COVID-19 infection incurred at any time, by any person, in attendance or not, before, during, or after this Event. I understand that a valid entry requires my signature verifying my agreement and understanding of this document.*

---

PRINTED NAME

---

DATE

---

SIGNATURE

**Thank you for entering the POTC Obedience &/or Rally Trials and agreeing to follow the COVID-19 Protocols to ensure the safety of everyone!**

***Reminder:*** anyone attending with you to assist at the trials must also submit a signed copy of this form.