

CARO Spring 2023 Virtual Trial - GENERAL BRIEFING – all classes

Welcome to the Spring 2023 Virtual Trial! This general briefing will serve all classes in this trial.

1. Please familiarize yourself with all of the rules related to the classes you are participating in.
 - a. In the Virtual Trial you will fill the roles of both participant and ring crew, be sure to read through both the Competitors Corners and the ring set up sections of the Trial Host Guides.
 - b. Any exceptions made to the regular rules for the purposes of the virtual trials can be found in the Virtual Trials sections of both handbooks.
 - c. You are responsible for knowing and following all relevant rules.
 - d. Note that some amendments to MGH2022 were released on April 20th and can also be found on the website with the manuals.
2. Ring performance
 - a. Be sure to review the mandatory requirements for each station sign or exercise before you record.
 - b. Rally reminders based on the most common performance challenges from previous virtual trials:
 - i. Enter and exit the ring on leash
 - ii. Make the pace changes very distinct. Remember, the judge is watching the dog, not you.
 - iii. Reinforcement – be sure to keep your hand away from your pocket until the dog has completely finished the station.
 - iv. Be clear in your footwork. Pivots should be completed in one spot; steps should be large enough that they can't be confused with pivots.
 - v. Respect all lines, be they for the obstacles or the 5ft stations.
 - c. Working reminders based on the most common performance challenges from previous virtual trials
 - i. Reinforcement – be sure to step out of the handler box or away from the handler line before you provide reinforcement.
 - ii. Plan your layout and be sure that if you are going to move equipment during your run, you can do so without stepping out of the ring.
3. Ring set up & video production
 - a. Walk your course with the map in hand to be sure that you have all of the signs included and in the right place,
 - b. Make very sure that the judge will be able to see all of the lines, and markings for your run. The best way to be sure is to test run your set up before the trial, take the video, load it to YouTube or Vimeo, and watch it so that you see what the Judge will see.
 - c. Once you submit your video, you cannot change it. So be sure to check that you are sending the correct video with all of the correct information on it.
4. The judge's decisions are final.

**Now comes the really, really, important part. Remember to breathe and have fun with your dog!
A wagging tail will always be worth more than a Q. 😊**