NASDA Statement on Fair Competition, Special Requests, and Preferential Treatment

Last Updated 11/09/2026 12:00 PM Pacific, Effective Immediately

Fair competition requires consistent standards and equitable treatment for all exhibitors.

NASDA is committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and fair competitive environment for all participating teams. While we recognize that individual dogs and handlers may have different needs, preferences, training experiences, and challenges, these differences do not entitle a team to preferential treatment or competitive conditions that provide an advantage over other exhibitors.

Special Requests and Competitive Advantage

Exhibitors may not require host clubs, judges, or event officials to modify established procedures, run orders, search environments, staging areas, judging standards, or other competitive conditions for the purpose of accommodating individual preferences or providing more favorable circumstances.

Examples of preferential treatment may include, but are not limited to:

- Requesting specific positions in a run order to avoid distractions or obtain more favorable environmental conditions.
- Requesting that other dogs, exhibitors, or normal event activity be removed from an area for an individual team's benefit.
- Requesting modifications to a search area, course, or staging environment that are not provided to other competitors.
- Requesting exceptions to established procedures, judging requirements, or competitive standards.
- Requesting special consideration based on a dog's temperament, reactivity, fearfulness, training limitations, or individual preferences.

A special request becomes a fairness concern when granting it would provide one team with competitive conditions or opportunities materially different from those available to other exhibitors.

Approved Accommodations and Established Procedures

NASDA recognizes accommodations specifically authorized by the Master Handbook or approved through NASDA's Medical Accommodation process.

These accommodations are distinct from requests for preferential treatment and must be implemented according to their established terms.

Absent an applicable rule or valid, approved accommodation authorizing the requested change, clubs and judges should not materially alter competitive conditions for an individual team.

Routine operational adjustments, reasonable safety measures, and responses to immediate hazards remain within the responsibilities of host clubs and judges. These actions should not be used to create preferential competitive conditions.

Exhibitor Responsibilities and Sportsmanship

Exhibitors are responsible for preparing and managing their dogs to participate under the normal conditions of NASDA competition. This includes recognizing that other dogs, people, livestock, wildlife, environmental distractions, and activity in surrounding areas may be present.

Exhibitors are welcome to ask questions, seek clarification, and communicate concerns respectfully. However, repeatedly requesting, pressuring, or demanding exceptions after being advised that they are not authorized may constitute unsportsmanlike conduct.

Host clubs and judges are not obligated to grant requests that conflict with NASDA rules or compromise equitable competition. Exhibitors who engage in unsportsmanlike conduct may be subject to excusal in accordance with NASDA procedures.

Questions regarding accommodations or requests for exceptions should be directed to NASDA Administration through the Help Desk.

Fairness Is Not Preferential Treatment

NASDA supports accessibility, responsible dog handling, and opportunities for teams to develop their skills. However, supporting participation does not require changing competitive standards or removing ordinary challenges for individual competitors.

Every team deserves a fair opportunity to compete. No team is entitled to a more favorable opportunity than another.