

Mini Agility Coursing (MAC) Participant Guide

Welcome to Mini Agility Coursing (MAC)—a fun, safe, and exciting activity for you and your dog! MAC gives dogs and their handlers a chance to experience the thrill of agility and lure coursing in a relaxed and inclusive environment. Whether it's your first time or you're aiming for recognition, this guide will help you understand how MAC works and what to expect at an event.

What Is MAC?

Mini Agility Coursing (MAC) is a sport that combines elements of lure coursing and agility in a structured yet lighthearted setting. It offers something for everyone, from fun practice runs to official competitions with rankings and awards. MAC is designed to suit all breeds and skill levels, making it a fantastic way for dogs and their handlers to bond, build confidence, and have a great time!

What to Expect

At a MAC event, you and your dog will take part in a timed course where your dog chases a moving lure while tackling light obstacles. It's all about engaging your dog's natural instincts in a fun and controlled way.

Fun for Every Dog

You don't need any previous experience! Whether your dog is fast, clever, or just curious, MAC events welcome everyone. Each run is tailored to match your dog's ability, ensuring a positive and enjoyable experience.

Types of Events

MAC events can be casual or competitive, giving you flexibility to choose what feels right for you and your dog.

- **Fun Level** – Perfect for beginners or those who just want to explore the course without timing or rankings.
- **Official Level** – Structured events with timed runs and ribbons or trophies for top performers.
- **Renegade-Sanctioned Special Events** – Competitive events that feature rankings, awards, and opportunities for your dog to gain official recognition.

How the Course Works

The MAC course is designed with safety and excitement in mind. Here's how it's set up and what you can expect when it's your dog's turn to run.

Course Specifications

- **Size** – The course is a rectangle, 22 by 14 yards, with a perimeter of 72 yards.
- **Obstacles** – Two hurdles are placed along the longer sides to add light challenges for your dog.
- **Surface** – Courses are always laid out on safe, dog-friendly surfaces such as grass, sand, or non-slip indoor mats.

The Lure System

- The lure is a moving target (like a ribbon or silk strip) that your dog will chase around the course. The system is safe, adjustable in speed, and designed to keep your dog focused and motivated.

How to Participate

Keeping Your Dog Safe and Happy

- **Before the Run:**
 - Keep your dog leashed or securely held while waiting for your turn.
 - Make sure your dog is in good health and well-rested on event day. Dogs showing signs of illness, injury, or extreme fatigue won't be allowed to run.
- **During the Run:**
 - Your dog starts at the designated starting line and runs the course off-leash, chasing the lure around the track.
 - He/she can complete up to three laps depending on the event and time allowed.

Not Sure if Your Dog Will Chase?

That's okay! If your dog hesitates, the event staff will work with you to help engage their instincts. Tools like toys or visual aids can be added to make the experience more exciting. Your dog will have up to five minutes to interact with the lure before deciding whether to complete the run.

Awards and Recognition

MAC events aren't just fun—they're also a great opportunity for your dog to achieve milestones and gain recognition!

Personal Milestones

Every dog can progress and earn awards based on their overall performance. Here's a breakdown of how your dog can achieve titles through participation in MAC events:

- **OMEGA:** 250 points (~5 runs).
- **BETA:** 1,000 points (~20 runs).
- **APEX:** 5,000 points (~100 runs).
Higher levels include additional milestones, so no matter your dog's speed or experience level, there's always something to strive for! Titles are displayed on personalized profiles, and some even come with certificates or ribbons to celebrate.

Rankings

For dogs competing in Official or Renegade-Sanctioned events, rankings are determined using a **three-run rolling average** of scores. Dogs are matched fairly across all breeds, thanks to a handicap system that adjusts for natural speed differences.

- **How Rankings Work:**
Your dog's best speeds from their last three valid runs are averaged to determine their position. Regular participation ensures your dog stays active on the leaderboard!
- **Leaderboard Perks:**
The top 100 dogs are showcased on Renegade's public website, and every handler gets access to a personalized profile that tracks their dog's progress.

Safety Comes First

MAC is all about having fun while ensuring a safe experience for everyone involved—humans and dogs alike.

Key Safety Measures

- **Health and Behavior:** Only healthy dogs can participate. Dogs in heat, aggressive dogs, or those showing signs of injury will not be allowed to run for their own safety and that of others.
- **Hydration and Rest:** Fresh water and shaded rest areas are always provided. Keep your dog hydrated before and after their run.

Weather-Related Concerns

If conditions become unsafe (extreme heat, storms, etc.), MAC staff may delay or pause activities. Your safety and your dog's well-being are always the top priority!

How to Prepare

Participating in MAC requires little more than preparation and a positive attitude! Here's how you can make event day a success for you and your dog.

- **Bring Essentials** – Pack a leash, treats, water bowl, and a comfortable mat or blanket for your dog if they need to rest between runs.
- **Dress Comfortably** – Wear supportive shoes for running or walking around the event and pack for the weather (hats, sunscreen, etc.).
- **Arrive Early** – This gives you time to register, familiarize yourself with the setup, and help your dog settle into the new environment.

Join the Fun!

Mini Agility Coursing (MAC) is more than just a sport—it's an opportunity to bond with your dog, meet fellow dog lovers, and celebrate canine achievements. Whether you're here for casual fun or aiming for recognition, the MAC community welcomes you.

Sign up, show up, and prepare to have an amazing experience!