**New SACA Rule**

At its meeting on 27th June, SACA Council voted to introduce the following rule as of 1 January 2019.

**PART VIII EXHIBITIONS**

**C OBEDIENCE, AGILITY, TRACKING RETRIEVING, FIELD ENDURANCE TEST, HERDING, EARTHDOG, DANCES WITH DOGS, LURE COURSING AND SLED SPORT**

**Obedience and Agility Non Competitive Activities or Events at an Official Trial**

Non-competitive activities or events must not take place in an official trial ring prior to the commencement of a sanctioned trial.  A practice ring may be set up away from the judging precinct to enable competitors to practice prior to the trial.  Any Judge contracted to judge at an official trial must not participate in any practice activities prior to that trial.

The reasoning behind this rule was to ensure that rings to be used for a trial are kept clean prior to the commencement of that trial.

Competitors are not permitted to use trial rings for practice prior to the trial as there is a risk that the cleanliness of the ground could be compromised by handlers dropping food or dogs toileting, which would be very unfair to other competitors.

Both the Obedience Advisory Committee and Council appreciated that there was some benefit in allowing competitors to practice in the trial environment before a trial, so as an alternative, we have suggested that practice rings be set up in separate area away from the trial rings. This would still allow competitors to practice in a ring environment prior to a trial without disturbing the trial rings.

Competitors will still be allowed to use trial rings for practice after the completion of the trial, (once all rings have been completed), with the permission of the trial manager.

In the meantime, clubs are requested to refrain from allowing practice in trials rings prior to trials.