

2026 STS CABG Academy
September 17-19, 2026
Exhibit Space Rules & Regulations

1. General

These Rules & Regulations apply to the 2026 STS CABG Academy to be held at the Westin River North, September 17-19, 2026 (the “Exhibition”). All matters and questions not covered by these Rules & Regulations are subject to the decision of The Society of Thoracic Surgeons. In the event of any such decision being of general interest, written notice will be given by the Society to exhibitors that may be affected.

The words “the Society” used herein shall mean The Society of Thoracic Surgeons, its officers, directors, agents, and employees acting for the management of the Meeting and Exhibition.

The word “Exhibitor” used herein shall mean a company or organization that has entered into a contract (“Contract”) with the Society for exhibit space at the Exhibition, including its owners, officers, employees, and representatives.

2. Exhibit Space Includes

- 2 complimentary exhibitor badges
- 1 6' x 30" skirted table
- 2 chairs
- 1 sign listing company name
- 1 standard electrical hookup

3. Exhibit Dates and Hours

The exhibit area will be open Thursday, September 17, 2026, from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Friday, September 18, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and Saturday, September 19, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., local time. All times are subject to change.

4. Setup and Teardown of Exhibits

Exhibit space is assigned on a first-come, first-served basis upon the Society’s receipt of payment.

The setup of exhibits will begin at 12 p.m. on Thursday, September 17, and must be completed by 1p.m. that same day. If an Exhibitor does not show up, the Society reserves the right to make other use of the space as it deems necessary, with no refund being made to the original contracting Exhibitor.

Teardown of exhibits will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, and must be completed by 4p.m. that same day. If an exhibit is not removed by that time, the Society has the right to remove the exhibit and charge all associated expenses to the Exhibitor. Teardown of exhibits may not begin prior to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 19.

5. Conduct of Exhibitors

Exhibitor representatives shall conduct themselves in an ethical and professional manner at all times and in conformance with the Contract, including these Rules & Regulations. The Society reserves the right to deny the privileges of the Exhibition area to any and all Exhibitors who do not

so conduct themselves. Exhibitor badges are personal, not transferable, and must be worn at all times by the individual named thereon.

No Exhibitor may photograph or videotape the booth, products, staff, or visitors of any other Exhibitor without the express permission of the other Exhibitor.

6. Special Effects and Giveaways

- Objectionable audible or visual attention-getting devices or effects and offensive odors from exhibits are prohibited.
- Distribution of samples, printed literature, or any other materials shall not interfere with other Exhibitors' spaces.
- Distribution of refreshments or other products for consumption on the premises, with the exception of water, will not be permitted unless explicitly approved by the Society.
- Films of purely entertainment character, without educational or informative value, will not be permitted.

7. Exhibit Space Construction and Arrangement

- All exhibit materials are to be confined to the tabletop provided.
- Only informational/educational papers, promotional pieces, or small equipment items that fit on a 6' x 30" table and/or items that do not exceed 6' in height will be allowed; 6' begins from the tabletop.
- One rollup floor banner is permitted to be displayed behind the tabletop and must be placed parallel to the tabletop; measurements may not exceed 34"w x 86"h x 14"d (*final placement of rollup floor banner is subject to the Society's approval onsite*).
- Exhibitors may not use racks, stands, bins, or other point-of-purchase materials unless they can be confined to the table.
- Limited quantities of extra handout materials may be stored underneath the display table. Nothing may be kept on or under the table overnight.
- Flammable materials are not allowed.
- Animal or human tissue is not allowed at any time.

8. Insurance and Liability

It is the Exhibitor's sole responsibility to obtain, at its own expense, all applicable licenses and permits and to comply with all federal, state, and local laws, including City of Chicago ordinances, for any activities conducted in association with or as part of the Exhibition.

Exhibitor shall be fully responsible for any claims, liabilities, losses, damages, or expenses relating to or arising from any injury to any person or any loss of or damage to property where such injury, loss, or damage is incident to, arises out of, or is in any way connected with, Exhibitor's presence at the exhibition site, including but not limited to acts or omissions of its employees, agents, subcontractors, guests, and/or invitees. Exhibitor shall protect, indemnify, hold harmless, and defend the Society, Westin River North, and their respective officers, directors, agents, and employees against all such claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of litigation, arising from or in any way connected with Exhibitor's negligent acts, omissions, and/or participation in the Exhibition and/or presence at the exhibition site, or that of its employees, agents, subcontractors, guests, and/or invitees, provided that the foregoing shall not apply to injury, loss, or damage caused by or resulting from the willful

misconduct of the Society, Westin River North, or their officers, directors, agents, or employees.

During the exhibition, including the installation and removal periods, Exhibitor, its agents, subcontractors, and representatives shall maintain insurance coverages as set forth in Exhibit A, incorporated herein and made part of these Rules & Regulations. The Society and the Westin River North must be named as additional insureds, on a primary and non-contributory basis on all liability insurance excluding workers' compensation. Any policy providing liability and/or property insurance must contain an express waiver by the Exhibitor and its insurance company of any right of subrogation as to any claims against the Society, Westin River North, and their respective officers, directors, agents, or employees. Exhibitor shall submit proof of such insurance to the Society at least 30 days prior to the Exhibition. Exhibitor shall ensure that each independent contractor or subcontractor performing work for Exhibitor during the Exhibition complies with all insurance requirements set forth in Exhibit A, and Exhibitor shall submit proof of the required insurance to the Society at least 30 days prior to the Exhibition.

In the event that any part of the Exhibition Hall is destroyed or damaged so as to prevent the Society from permitting Exhibitor to occupy assigned space during any part or the whole Exhibition period, or in the event occupation of assigned space during any part or the whole of the Exhibition period is prevented by strikes, acts of God, national emergency, or other causes beyond the control of the Society, Exhibitor will be charged for space during the period it was or could have been occupied by Exhibitor, if any, and Exhibitor hereby waives any claim against the Society, its directors, officers, agents, or employees for losses or damages that may arise in consequence of such inability to occupy assigned space, its sole claim against the Society being one for a refund of rent paid for the period it was prevented from using the space.

9. Noise Level

Electrical, mechanical apparatus, movie, or musical/voice sounds must be inaudible to neighboring Exhibitors.

10. Registration and Badges

Exhibitor shall register its personnel in advance. Any additions or changes in registration made during the Exhibition must be certified by an officer of the Exhibitor or by the person in charge of the Exhibitor's booth space.

Additional exhibitor badges (beyond the two complimentary badges) may be purchased separately as an industry employee registration.

11. Americans with Disabilities Act

Exhibitor shall be responsible for making its exhibit accessible to persons with disabilities, as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, and shall indemnify and hold harmless the Society and its officers, directors, agents, and employees from and against any consequences of Exhibitor's failure in this regard.

12. Refunds

The Exhibitor is responsible for 100% of the exhibit, hands-on workshops, symposia, mailing list license, and email blast fees unless the event is canceled.

**EXHIBITOR'S INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS
EXHIBIT A**

General Requirement	Specific Requirement
GENERAL LIABILITY	
Insurance Amount	\$1,000,000 Each Occurrence \$2,000,000 General Aggregate \$2,000,000 Products-Completed Operations aggregate \$1,000,000 Personal /Advertising Injury Limit \$ 100,000 Damage to Rented Premises \$ 10,000 Medical Expense (any one person)
Scope of Coverage	Premises/Operations, Products and Products/Completed Operations
Form	Occurrence (not claims made)
Per Project Aggregate	
Primary and Non-Contributory	With The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and Westin River North
Additional Insured	The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Westin River North
Waiver of Subrogation in favor of	The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Westin River North
Evidence of Insurance	Certificate of Insurance
Insurer's A.M. Best's Rating	A,X or better
Personal Property, Tools & Mobile Equipment	Limit adequate to cover equipment onsite

AUTOMOBILE LIABILITY	
Combined Single Limit	\$1,000,000
Waiver of Subrogation in favor of	The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Westin River North
Additional Insured	The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Westin River North
Evidence of Insurance	Certificate of Insurance
Insurer's A.M. Best's Rating	A,X or better
Primary and Non-Contributory	With The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Westin River North

WORKERS COMPENSATION/EMPLOYERS LIABILITY	
Limits	\$1,000,000/\$1,000,000/\$1,000,000
Waiver of Subrogation in favor of	The Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the Westin River North
Alternate Employers Endorsement in favor of	The Society of Thoracic Surgeons
Evidence of Insurance	Certificate of Insurance
Insurer's A.M. Best's Rating	A,X or better

STS Policy Regarding Industry Ancillary Activities
Held Concurrently with STS Standalone Educational Activities

Overview

The Society of Thoracic Surgeons (STS) recognizes the importance of working collaboratively with industry to meet the needs of the Society’s membership. In an effort to provide more opportunities for STS meeting attendees to benefit from their relationships with industry, the Society has established this STS Policy Regarding Industry Ancillary Activities to allow educational and other programs offered by industry—and not developed or sponsored by STS—to be held in conjunction with STS meetings. These activities include symposia, hands-on workshops, receptions, meal functions, investigator meetings, and focus groups. This policy document has been developed to facilitate overall meeting planning for the benefit of STS members. Industry activities that target STS meeting attendees and occur concurrently with or within 48 hours before or after STS standalone educational activities require STS written consent. Organizers must submit the online application, complete the applicable fee payment, and comply with this policy document.

General Rules

1. Activities designed by or on behalf of industry for attendance by STS standalone educational program attendees are considered industry activities within the scope of this policy (“Ancillary Activities”). There can be no implication in any promotional materials, handouts, or enduring materials that Ancillary Activities are planned, sponsored, or endorsed by STS absent special arrangements with, and prior written approval of, STS.
2. Ancillary Activities developed by industry must be offered during times allotted by STS (see online Application). STS has sole discretion to schedule all Ancillary Activities at its meetings.
3. Companies applying to offer Ancillary Activities must be Exhibitors or Educational Grant providers for the STS standalone educational activity associated with the Ancillary Activity unless an explicit exception is granted in writing by STS. Exhibit space is to be paid in full before any Ancillary Activity is approved.
4. Promotional materials for Ancillary Activities must receive prior approval from STS (see “Promotion” below).
5. STS does not provide Continuing Medical Education credit for Ancillary Activities. Any Ancillary Activity that offers CME must comply with ACCME Accreditation Requirements. All Ancillary Activities must be in compliance with the AMA’s Ethical Opinion on Gifts to Physicians from Industry.
6. Once STS approves an Ancillary Activity, the provider, commercial supporter(s), activity title, content, date, and time as approved by STS for the Ancillary Activity may not change without the Society’s written approval.
7. Organizers of an Ancillary Activity are solely responsible for making all appropriate financial arrangements for that Ancillary Activity (see “Logistics” below).
8. Representatives from STS may attend the Ancillary Activity without cost to audit compliance with this policy.

9. STS is not responsible for multiple companies offering Ancillary Activities at the same time and/or addressing the same topic.
10. STS encourages organizations hosting Ancillary Activities to evaluate their offered activities and requests that the results of such evaluations be shared with the Society.
11. Ancillary Activity sponsors must abide by all venue guidelines regarding use of animal tissue.

Logistics

1. Ancillary Activities will be scheduled by STS.
2. Organizations hosting Ancillary Activities may use all or a reduced portion of their allotted time, but cannot exceed the scheduled timeframe without the Society's written approval.
3. Space for Ancillary Activities will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis and will only be assigned after the application is accepted by STS.
4. Sessions must be contained within the room assigned.
5. Food functions must occur within the assigned Ancillary Activity timeframe.
6. **Industry Symposia:** fees associated with this activity covers room rental, setup and cleanup, food and beverage service (alcohol excluded), and basic audiovisual equipment such as a projector, screen, and microphone. All other expenses associated with the activity, including speaker honoraria, additional audiovisual services, electrical services, shipping, and any other ancillary costs, are the sole responsibility of the industry symposium sponsor. Sponsors are responsible for making all of the appropriate financial arrangements for these add-ons.
7. **Hands-On Workshops:** fees associated with this activity covers room rental, standard tables and chairs, personal protective equipment (PPE), and plastic protective sheeting. All other expenses associated with the workshop, including speaker honoraria, audiovisual services, electrical services, product materials, surgical instruments, animal tissue, setup and cleanup, and waste removal, are the sole responsibility of the hands-on workshop sponsor.

Promotion

1. All promotional materials must be submitted to Samantha McCarthy at smccarthy@sts.org for STS approval. STS must review and approve all promotional materials produced in conjunction with an Ancillary Activity (e.g., invitations, announcements, signs, flyers, website information) prior to their dissemination. STS has the right to reject such promotional materials at its sole discretion.
2. A minimum of 5 business days are required for STS review of promotional materials.
3. Promotional materials should not be pre-printed prior to approval. It is not the responsibility of STS to cover any costs associated with materials that have been pre-printed and are not approved.
4. Exhibit booth representatives may distribute invitations and other promotional material for the activity at their booth.

5. The STS name, logo, and other intellectual property may not be used on any Ancillary Activity announcement, including email, sign, publication, or other material, without the prior written approval of STS.
6. All invitations, promotional materials, and other materials related to the Ancillary Activity, print or electronic, must include the following statement: “This industry activity will be held in conjunction with an STS standalone educational activity. It is not part of the official STS scientific program.”
7. Ancillary Activities consisting in whole or in part of educational sessions require the following statement to be clearly and prominently displayed on the syllabus and on all promotional and other related materials, print or electronic: “Continuing Medical Education (CME) credit for this activity is not offered by STS.”

Benefits

1. This Ancillary Activity option offers a limited opportunity to provide a customized activity marketed to surgeons and allied health care professionals who are in attendance at the STS meeting.
2. Each industry sponsor will receive two complimentary exhibitor badges per symposium and hands-on workshop.
3. **For symposia and hands-on workshops:** STS will provide an easel sign that has the title of the symposium and/or hands-on workshop, as well as the company name. Each Ancillary Activity sponsor also has the opportunity to post its own sign advertising the activity outside the room in which the activity takes place.
4. STS will make reasonable efforts to avoid scheduling conflicts with approved Ancillary Activities, but it cannot guarantee nor be responsible for attendance levels consistent with the provider’s expectations.

Cancelation Policy

1. STS must be notified promptly in writing of the cancelation of any scheduled Ancillary Activities.
2. No refunds will be issued for cancelations.

Violations and Sanctions

STS, at its sole discretion, reserves the right to revoke privileges for future programs of any sponsoring organization, supporting organization, or activity organizer involved in planning an Ancillary Activity that does not comply with the rules and requirements set forth in this policy document.

Application Process

Once a completed application is submitted, it will be referred to relevant staff for review. The requesting organization will be contacted in writing regarding the outcome of the application.

STS staff will confirm meeting space assignments with the primary contact noted on the application and will convey this information to the venue. After notification of meeting room assignment, the sponsor of the Ancillary Activity will work with STS staff and the venue to manage all meeting needs.

In the event that final approval is not granted, STS will not be responsible for canceling any arrangements that may have been made by the applicant in connection with the proposed Ancillary Activity. In addition, STS will not be responsible for any costs incurred for the proposed Ancillary Activity.