

Top Dog Event Handlers Meeting Outline

**Overall Top Dog Judge will lead handlers meeting.
Any/All additional judges must be in attendance.**

A. Introduction:

1. Who you are and where you are from. Be sure to also introduce the other judges and what event each will be judging if more than 1 judge is to be used.

B. Introduce other players on the team and what each one does – *(who to ask for what)*

1. Announcer - how they will call the participants to each event.
2. Timer and scorekeepers. – (who, where, what, when, how)
3. Stewards – (communicate needs of contestants to judge)

C. Tell them what will be going on:

1. Verify with all contestants what “group” they are in. Group 1, Group 2 or Group 3.
2. Explain that the group of dogs they have been placed in will be the same for all three events **for this day**
3. **Define** that any contestant using anything other than regulation “type” tug will result in a disqualification.
4. Only 2 handlers may handle dog.
5. Explain that the top dog overall award winners will be the dog that has the highest **combined score** of all three competitions being offered.
6. Explain that all dogs must earn placement points in all 3 competitions to be eligible for the overall “Top Dog” awards of 1st, 2nd & 3rd.
7. Explain how ties will be broken; individual event ties, overall ties. **(Dogs with a “no score” will not be eligible for tie breaker or Overall awards)**
8. What order the competition will be held.
 - a. Treadmill race
 - b. Wall Climb
 - c. Drag Sprint **or** Lure Course
9. Explain how or when you will decide if alternate timing equipment *stop watch will be used. Dog will move to last dog in group. **All dogs in group must use same timing device.**
10. Discuss what “ready” signal judge and/or handler will use to start each competition.
11. Go through the basic rules for each event. (Number of tries allowed for each competition etc.)
 - a. Treadmill race
 - b. Wall Climb
 - c. Drag Sprint **or** Lure Course
12. How much time judge will allow contestant to get ready AND complete the event(s). **(Wall climb: do not play with dog and tug after each completed climb. Part dog off tug, get ready for next climb – keep event moving – Lure course: Be sure to collect dog after run, to keep event moving.)**
13. Handler will be required be ready to catch their dog if using safety harness. Handler is required to be ready to catch their dog when the heights get to _____. If handler does not catch the dog, I will give only one warning. If it continues, the handler and dog will be dismissed.

14. I will judge the Top Dog event with the expectation that all participants will display sportsmanship. (example) **No abusive language, yelling, etc. I will give only 1 warning before** the handler and dog will be dismissed from participation and asked to leave show grounds.
15. Challenges must be brought to the judges' attention **at time of occurrence**.
16. **Judges decision is FINAL.**

*****Add any/all additional items you feel need to be covered*****

- D. Explain when the final 3 Top Dog awards will be handed out. (Up competition of all 3 events and after score sheets are added up.
- E. If a Top Dog Event is being held on the 2nd or 3rd day, remind exhibitors that the dogs will be re-grouped depending on number of dogs entered.
- F. Ask if everyone understands, and if they have any questions, concerns, etc.
- G. Thank them for their participation and wish them luck.

(02/15/20)