

Top Dog Event Handlers Meeting Outline

A. Introduction:

1. Who you are and where you are from. 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/Stewards/Scorekeepers – (communicate needs of contestants to judge)

C. Tell them what will be going on:

1. Make sure each contestant is familiar with the most current rules. If not, they are located on the ADBA website.
2. Verify with all contestants what “group” they are in. Group 1, Group 2, Group 3, etc.
3. Explain that the group of dogs they have been placed in will be the same for all three events **for this day**
4. Be sure every contestant understands that ***it is the responsibility of each contestant to pay attention to when & where they need to be to compete.*** If your dog is not ready to compete when it is your turn, dog will get a “no score” on that competition. Judges and or Stewards are not responsible for dogs missing event.
5. Define that **any contestant using anything other than regulation “type” tug will result in a disqualification.** Tug cannot contain a squeaky toy. (If it squeaks, it’s a DQ.)
6. After calculating all points from group placements, the top 9 overall winners will be placed 1 – 9 according to their individual performance.
7. Explain that to be considered for the overall 9, dogs must earn placement points in all 3 competitions. Top Dog rosettes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd with points going toward Top Dog title. Points will be earned for overall dogs placing 4th – 9th with points going toward Top Dog Title.
8. Explain how ties will be broken: individual event ties; overall ties. (***Dogs with a “no score” will not be eligible for overall tie breaker***)
9. What order the competition will be held.
 - a. First: Treadmill race
 - b. Second: Wall Climb
 - c. Third: Drag Sprint **or** Lure Course
10. Discuss what “ready” signal judge and/or handler will use to start each competition.
11. 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.*)
12. Go through the basic rules for each event. (Number of attempts allowed for each competition is now 2, etc.)
13. If a safety harness isn’t being used, handler will be required 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 Top Dog event with the expectation that all participants will display good sportsmanship. (Example) No disrespectful attitudes toward judge/stewards/other competitors, abusive language, yelling, smacking dogs, etc. I will give only one warning before you will be asked to leave.
15. Challenges must be brought to the judges’ attention at time of occurrence by the owner/handler of the dog and must be done prior to the competition.
16. **Judge’s decision is FINAL**

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

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D. Explain when and how the awards will be handed out.

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.

(03/18/22)