

# Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Drill Team Guidelines

## TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR COUNTY ENTRIES

1. Drill teams must be pre-entered. The county drill coach or 4-H leader must send a letter stating the division, all team members' names and the name and contact information for an approved drill team judge being provided by the county, to Sue Pfrank at: [isfdrillteam@gmail.com](mailto:isfdrillteam@gmail.com). **Deadline is July 1st. Emails must be received by 11:59pm on July 1 or entries must be postmarked by July 1.**
2. For State Fair competition, a drill team shall only consist of 4-H exhibitors, their dogs, and 4-H obedience/showmanship training equipment.
3. Handler and dog equal one unit.
4. Teams must have a minimum of 4 units and a maximum of 20 units. A 4-H member may participate on only one drill team in any given year.
5. A club may enter a total of two drill teams.
6. All members of the drill team must be accompanied by their 4-H obedience dog while performing in the drill team ring.
7. Only regulation obedience and/or showmanship equipment (no props) will be allowed for use with the dogs in either drill team class. Six foot leads must be used for on lead exercises and may be used for all exercises. It is not necessary to switch to a showmanship lead to perform a showmanship exercise within the routine.
8. Each drill team will be allowed 2 minutes prior to the start of their performance to set up equipment. An additional 2 minutes will be allowed at the end of the performance for removal of equipment.
9. For both set up and removal of equipment, each 10 seconds over the 2 minute time limit will result in a loss of 5 points.
10. Performance time will be up to 5 minutes, with each 10 seconds over 5 minutes reducing the score by 5 points.
11. Drill teams will be limited to a performance area 40 feet wide and 80 feet long.
12. Teams shall enter at one end of the show arena and exit at the opposite end.
13. Whistles and music are optional.
14. Bait cannot be used in drill team competition or in the staging area.
15. Tie scores in Drill Team will be broken by the judges.
16. A dog fouling in the ring will receive an automatic 10 point dock in score.

## **CLASS DESCRIPTION**

Drill Team - Class A - "Limited Division" -- For county 4-H dog drill teams who choose to include only obedience exercises below the 3-A level or any showmanship activity.

Drill Team - Class B - "Unlimited Division" - For county 4-H dog drill teams who choose to include any obedience exercise or any showmanship activity.

NOTE: Commercial advertisement is not permitted on 4-H exhibitors, handlers, or dogs. Fringe, glitter, sequins and other decorations are not acceptable on the clothing of 4-H drill team members. Accessories such as: hats, gloves, and purses are also unacceptable for 4-H drill team members. Drill teams must abide by the printed "Terms and Conditions for 4-H dog show."

- a. Coordinated outfits that are intended to identify 4-H handlers as members of a specific group are acceptable.
- b. Shirts, pants (including jeans), shorts, skirts that comply with standards established for exhibitors showing in 4-H dog obedience and/or showmanship classes may be worn.
- c. Insignia and logos such as "\_ County Drill Team" or specific club name, paw prints, pictures, or letters identifying the drill team member and/or dog are permitted.
- d. Accessories such as scarves, bandanas, and sashes may not be worn by 4-H handlers or dogs.
- e. Logos or lettering that promotes any product or business is NOT acceptable.  
Example - brand names, a business, movie or cartoon characters, popular singing artists, etc.
- f. No short-shorts or short skirts are allowed.
- g. Appropriately fitted athletic shoes must be worn for obedience, agility and drill team.
- h. Costumes are not allowed. Costume is defined by The Concise American Heritage Dictionary as:  
1) type of dress characteristic of a particular country or period, 2) a set of clothes for a particular occasion or season, 3) an outfit worn by one playing a part.

## **DRILL TEAM BASICS**

Selection of team members is up to the individual clubs. If restrictions are placed on participation, the individual county 4-H council and the Extension Service Educator should approve them. Teams should have an adult supervisor and most also use a team member(s) as a captain(s). The captain can set the pace and call out routine changes during the competition. Some clubs will appoint a captain and others may choose to allow team members to elect a captain.

Routines may be planned and then music selected or exercises may be selected to meet the tempo (beat) of the selected music. A routine may be designed by the participants or by supervising adults. In planning a routine, consider the number and type of exercises being performed simultaneously. A busy routine makes it difficult for the judges to give credit for all the exercises. Inspiration for routines may come from many sources including marching band formations, ice skating shows, dance routines and perhaps even dreams.

The length of time needed to develop a reliable drill routine will vary. When proficiency of the individual exercises is attained, a drill team can perfect their routine with a minimum amount of time.

Participants on a drill team develop a comradeship that is its own reward regardless of the placement received.

## **DRILL TEAM DIVISION**

There are two drill team divisions. A club may enter two drill teams; they may be in the same or different divisions. The "Limited Division" is for teams who choose to include only obedience exercises below 3-A or any showmanship activity. The "Unlimited Division" is for teams who choose to include any obedience exercises or any showmanship activity.

The individual obedience level of a team member is to be disregarded when they are a member of a drill team. Any team member may perform any obedience exercise. Nothing may be on the dogs other than regulation obedience/showmanship equipment. Regulation obedience equipment may be used in either division, but in the Limited Division, it will not be considered as completed exercises if jumps or dumbbells are used. The Limited Division was developed to allow teams without advanced members to compete on an even basis.

## **ENTRY**

Drill Teams must be pre-entered, see the handbook for deadline information. The names of the team members and the name of the volunteer judge must be submitted with the entry. Teams will not be allowed to compete if a volunteer judge is not available the day of the show.

## **JUDGES**

Volunteers from participating counties will act as judges. Assignments will be made so that no judge is judging the division in which their county is competing. Volunteers not assigned a judging position must participate in shadow judging. Shadow judges will evaluate and score routines but their scores will not be tabulated or used to select placements. When possible a mentor will be present to discuss scoring and answer questions from the shadow judges. Additional judges may be used if obedience judges who have previously judged drill team are available. While timing and penalties are the focus of Judge #5, any judge may record penalties. Try to note the handler's show number or dog breed.

The audit committee will check all score sheets for duplication of penalties and will tabulate and record accumulated judges deductions on the Drill Team Tally Sheet. Consult the score sheets and Judges Guidelines for more information on judging and scoring.

## **ROUTINE OUTLINE**

It is recommended that Drill Teams submit six copies of an outline of their routine to be used by the judges during competition. (If possible, please provide 3-5 more copies of the drill routine outline for use by the Shadow Judges.) These outlines should include a list of the routine exercises in order of performance. See the sample outline that gives a basic idea of the information that is helpful to the judges. Complicated explanations and multiple pages are discouraged. The routines may be turned in at the Drill Team meeting the day of the State Dog show.

## **SCORING**

Scores for judges 1 & 2 will be averaged as well as the scores for judges 3 & 4. The total of these averaged scores added to the scores from Judge 5 and Judge 6 will be the final score. Judge 6 will be selected from our panel of previous Obedience Drill Team judges and will use the same score sheet as judges 3 & 4 in both divisions. Tied scores will be broken by the decision of judges 3,4 & 6.

## **MUSIC**

Music and whistles are optional. When music is used it should enhance a drill team routine. Judges 1 & 2 may add 1 to 3 points when a team attempts the extra challenge of trying to match their routine to the tempo (beat) of the music. Music with inappropriate lyrics will result in a 10 point penalty deduction.

## **EXERCISES**

Routines should utilize the entire 40' x 80' performance area. In the limit of five minutes, it is impossible to perform some obedience exercises as they would be done in individual competition, but the intent should be to closely approximate the regulation obedience exercises. It is impossible to cover all of the types of exercises, but listed below are examples and answers to some of the most often asked questions.

Sit/stays and down/stays timing may be shortened because of the time limit of the drill routine. If a handler(s) hides behind someone or something for a short time in such a manner to indicate they are performing an out-of-sight sit/down stay, it would be scored as a completed exercise.

A jump or a retrieve that is performed over another dog, a leash, a person, etc. DOES count as an exercise in the Unlimited Division despite the fact that regulation equipment has not been used.

On the other hand, a jump or retrieve that is performed on lead is NOT counted as an exercise since those obedience exercises are always performed off lead. On lead jumps, or other activities not normally seen in the obedience ring, may be performed in either division and add to the creativity, originality and interest of a routine.

In order to be considered a completed exercise the change of pace should include both slow and fast change of pace.

In order to be considered a completed Stand for Exam exercise, the exam cannot be performed by the dog's own handler. The dog must be examined by a different handler on the drill team to count as a Stand for Exam exercise.

Sit/down stays performed with the lead attached to the dog's collar but placed on the ground are considered OFF lead exercises. All other exercises performed with the lead attached to the dog's collar and dropped to the ground will be considered ON lead exercises. If a leash is wrapped around a dog's neck or laid on it's back and does not touch the ground, it is considered an OFF leash exercise.

It is not necessary for all team members to perform all of the exercises. Some members may do a Sit/Stay while others are doing a Down/Stay or any other exercises.

Where similar exercises are allowed in A and B Obedience levels, the exercise being performed must be clearly indicated on the team's preview outline sheet. An outline of routine exercises being performed is not required, but is highly recommended for the convenience of the judges.

## **DRESS / EQUIPMENT**

Dress and equipment must comply with the standards established for exhibitors and dogs shown in 4-H Dog Obedience and/or 4-H Dog Showmanship classes. If clothing or accessories would be out of place in the Obedience and/or Showmanship rings a penalty should be recorded under Rules Violations.

## **DISCIPLINING**

Correcting a dog's error (such as repositioning a dog, or the use of hands for a sit or down) may be necessary for the continuity of a drill routine. The judges may deduct points for these errors. Disciplining is more than the correction of these types of errors. Disciplining which involves jerking, hitting, or other unacceptable actions may result in a penalty for each offense. Disciplining is not allowed either inside or outside of any 4-H show ring.