

United Dog Sports_{LLC}

"Where dogs instinctively have fun..."

Guidelines

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The purpose of this organization is to provide canine enthusiasts a standardized gauge to measure their dogs' instincts and trainability. Different dog sports will be offered – ranging from hunting to herding. For these guidelines, the definition of the word "dog" is meant to include both sexes.

Eligibility

Events are open to all breeds, including mix breeds or may be limited to a specific breed(s). Intact, spayed, or neutered dogs nine months of age and older may participate. Special needs dogs that are handicapped are also welcome. Dogs may compete using wheelchairs. To earn titles, dogs must be registered with United Dog Sports LLC (UDS).

Registration

Dogs without a United Dog Sports LLC registration numbers are ineligible to earn legs towards titles in UDS LLC trials and compete in United Dog Sport Association LLC events. Owners will pay a one-time fee to register their dog with UDS LLC. Once a dog is registered and receives a registration number, the dog may then earn legs towards titles.

To encourage new participants to United Dog Sport LLC events a one time exception to this rule is permitted. Registration numbers can be requested within seven days of a dog competing. If the number is not requested within seven days, the dog forfeits any qualifying score(s). The dog, however, may keep the ribbons and/or awards earned at that particular trial. To enter a second event all dogs must have a registration number.

Responsibility

Prior to participating in a United Dog Sports LLC event, it is the responsibility of each competitor to read and understand the United Dog Sports LLC Guidelines.

- Each owner/handler is responsible for controlling his/her dog's behavior while on the trial grounds.
- Dogs are not allowed to roam free on the trial grounds.
- Dogs shall be leashed at all times when walking the event grounds.
- Handlers are responsible for picking up and properly disposing of dog feces.
- Handlers are responsible to be ready to compete when called.

United Dog Sports LLC events expose handler/dog teams to varied real life scenarios. These environments will vary in terrain, ground cover, environment, temperature, weather, etc.

Handlers, their dogs, and spectators should be prepared for the physical demands of the environment. All parties must be able to navigate the terrain accordingly.

Event sponsors are not required to provide crating areas. Although some events will be held indoors, handlers and spectators should prepare to spend the day outside. Handlers should provide water and protection from the elements for their dogs. M

Trial Grounds Etiquette

All persons on the trial grounds shall not:

- approach or touch a dog without the handler's/owner's permission.
- talk or laugh loudly while a dog is competing.
- applaud a dog or handler until after the team has finished competing.
- offer food to dogs without the handler's/owner's permission.
- be disrespectful to handlers, Judges, and trial officials.

Junior Handlers

Any child age 7 to 18 is considered a Junior Handler. Junior handlers will run their dogs in the same class as the adults. They are eligible for placement in classes against the adults, as well as junior placement against each other. Junior placement classes awards will be divided by age. Junior 1 handlers must be accompanied by an adult during their run. The adult accompanying the junior 1 handler may not participate in that trial. Junior handlers may be coached during their run by the accompanying adult. Junior 2 & 3 handlers may run their dogs without assistance.

Junior 1: At least 7 years old but under 12 years old on the day of the trial.

Junior 2: At least 12 years old but under 15 years old on the day of the trial.

Junior 3: At least 15 years old but under 18 years old on the day of the trial.

Qualifying

Dogs that complete the requirements in the allotted time will be awarded qualifying and/or placement ribbons.

HEALTH

Bitches In Season

Bitches in season (BIS) are not eligible to compete, or be on the grounds of a UDS LLC event. Entry fees will be returned in full by the sponsor upon proof of season. A veterinary certificate is required as proof of withdrawal to receive a refund. The certificate must include the following information: date, name, address, license number of the veterinarian and signature along with the dog's name, registration number, and owner's name and address.

Good Health

Dogs must be sound and in good health. Any dog that appears to be lame, injured, or sick may be removed at the judge's discretion. Dogs may not wear bandages at any time when competing. Dogs with sutures, open cuts, or sores are not allowed to participate. Dogs removed for health reasons will not receive a refund.

No dog shall enter the event grounds within 30 days of showing signs of, has been exposed to, or has been kenneled with other dogs that have presented symptoms of the following: distemper, infectious distemper, leptospirosis, rabies, or any other communicable disease. These dogs will be immediately removed from the event grounds.

Footwear

Dogs are allowed to wear protective footwear at the judge's discretion when working in ice, rocks, or other rough terrain. Hunting dog boots can provide protection for a dog's paws. The judge must inspect the dog's feet at the start of his/her run to confirm that the footwear is not protecting a previous injury.

EVENTS

Good Sportsmanship

These events are meant to be family friendly. Therefore, good sportsmanship is to be shown to, from, and on the trial grounds.

All participants and spectators attending events are required to conduct themselves under the code of good sportsmanship. Good sportsmanship is to be shown at all times by handlers and spectators towards judges, other competitors, and officials. Foul Language or arguing with the judge, event organizer, spectators other handlers or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs are grounds for dismissal from the grounds, and suspension from the events.

Judges have the final say in the judging arena. When good sportsmanship is questioned outside of the judging arena, the trial committee will have jurisdiction, which includes the judges of the record. Furthermore, disciplinary decisions made at an event are considered official rulings.

Spectators must also conduct themselves under the code of good sportsmanship. Failure to do so will result in a dismissal of the trail grounds.

Double Handling

Any person found communicating with a competitor inside the trial area will be asked to leave the grounds immediately. If this person is another handler or judge, that person will also be suspended from competing or judging for 6 months. A judge, in this case, may also be in jeopardy of losing his/her license permanently and banned from competition. The handler that was receiving the information will be immediately suspended from competing for six months. Should a handler be found cheating a second time, the handler will be banned from competing permanently from all UDS LLC events. The status of a competitor/judge under suspension/banned will be listed on the association's web site.

Interference

A Judge who is aware of any interference, or any attempts to control a dog from outside the trial arena, shall stop the competitor's run. The person or persons attempting to interfere with the competitor's run shall be removed from the grounds. If this person is associated with another competitor in any way, the associated competitor shall be suspended from competitions for six months. All awards, placements received at that competition will be withdrawn. The second time the handler is found interfering with a handler's run the handler and dogs owned by this handler and family members will be banned for life from all UDS LLC events. This handler's status will be listed on the association's web site.

Misconduct

When a controversy develops, the following will apply: The sponsor, judge, or trial committee will minimize any interference with the event and any other participants at the event. These disputes will be dealt with in a quiet private area away from spectators and other competitors. The committee must take and record a vote of "yes" or "no" for dismissal on the grounds of dog aggression or handler misconduct. The committee must then provide a record of that vote, along with any substantiating evidence, to the United Dog Sports LLC Office. If the incident can't be resolved quickly, statements will be taken in writing by witnesses and any evidence available will be collected. If a resolution is not possible at the time of the trial, or if further action is necessary, all details shall be put into written documents and sent to United Dog Sports LLC. That handler and or dog will not be able to compete until a ruling is made by UDS LLC.

Any handler who verbally or physically abuses (kicks, strikes, or manhandles) his or her dog on the trial grounds will face disciplinary action from the trial committee and United Dog Sports LLC. All dogs must be able to work in a non-aggressive manner on and/or off leash in the presence of the judge, other officials, and spectators when competing. Any dog that is deemed aggressive and is a threat to animals or humans on the grounds will be immediately removed from the trial grounds and may not return to a United Dog Sports LLC event without written permission from the UDSLCC office. A judge may only dismiss an aggressive dog he or she is witness to. This dog may be in the act of entering, competing, or leaving the testing area. All other dismissals shall be the decision of the trial committee of which the judge is a member of for that event. Disciplinary actions may be in the form of a verbal warning, dismissal from class, dismissal from trial grounds, or expulsion from future events, depending on the severity of the infraction.

Electronic Devices

Cell phones, pagers, Fitbits, smart watches, GPS units, and other electronic devices that can receive communication are not allowed in the blind or trial arena. Spectators are allowed to record a competitor(s) run via camera/mobile device (cell phone, iPad, tablet, etc) unless a professional photographer is contracted to provide such services at an event.

Spectators

Although, United Dog Sports LLC events are spectator friendly, spectators should be kept a distance away from the competition areas as to not disturb the judges, handlers, and dogs while competing. The distance a spectator can observe from is at the discretion of the event sponsor.

EVENT SPONSORS

Eligibility to Hold United Dog Sports LLC Events

UDS LLC may, in its discretion, grant permission to a club, business, association, organization, or individuals to hold UDS LLC events. These events shall be governed by such regulations, and will be determined by the UDS LLC.

A club, business, association, organization, or individual that wishes to hold a UDS LLC event, at which titles may be earned, must submit an application to the UDS LLC. The application fee (indicated on the application form) must accompany each application. Application fees are per trial. If circumstances prior to the first day of an trial require a club to cancel the event, or to change the approved location, the sponsor must notify UDS LLC as soon as possible prior to the trial. Every effort shall be made to host the competition on the date scheduled.

These events may also be run on the same grounds and in conjunction with other dog sporting events. There is a two trial limit per day per event type. Sponsors may host different UDS LLC events on the same day at the same location. Separate sanctioning fees apply. There is no limit to the number of days a sponsor can host an event. Event sponsors may limit the number of dogs per class. Sponsors must apply and pay for sanctioning fee per day at least 60 days in advance.

The Recording Forms and Report Forms are sent to the United Dog Sports LLC Office for recording, along with the recording fees per run. The forms and fees are due within 15 days after the event. A fine of \$50.00 will be assessed for forms and recording fees submitted after the 15 day period along with a \$5.00 a day penalty each day after 15 days.

United Dog Sports Logo

The official United Dog Sports, LLC logo may only be used with permission, for sanctioned trials. Any use of the logo without written permission is not allowed.

Ribbons

Ribbons are awarded to all dogs with qualifying scores at UDS LLCTrials. A judge may withhold any or all ribbons and prizes for lack of merit. Ribbons must be imprinted on the front side with the UDS LLC logo and the sponsors name and placement. Qualifying ribbons are awarded for each qualifying score in all classes. Qualifying ribbons are flat with a gold metallic type and logo. Rosette placement ribbons are awarded to first through third place in each class. Official UDS LLC ribbons can be purchased at Horse Show Ribbons, Wallingford CT.

- First Place Ribbon: Blue
- Second Place Ribbon: Red
- Third Place Ribbon: Yellow
- Qualifying: Orange

United Dog Sports LLC Sportsmanship Award

The Sportsmanship Award is an award given to a competitor who most "exemplifies the ideals of sportsmanship." The criteria for this award includes, but is not limited to: respect for the sport, integrity, fair play, respect for others, graciousness in winning or loosing, and the mentoring of other competitors.

This award is to be given at each event by the event sponsor. The type of award choice is up to the sponsor's discretion. Handlers, spectators, judges, and committee members may nominate handlers in writing that best exemplify good sportsmanship -during the event. The event committee will choose a winner amongst the nominees.

Run Numbers

Sponsors must provide each contestant with run numbers.

Run Order

Dogs may run out of order when in the option of the event committee it will save time running-the event. Judges shall have the authority to disqualify a dog that is not present within five minutes after it is called to run.

Distance Between Events

At this time, there are no geographic restriction for events.

Move Ups

All class levels must be offered at each trial.

Before receiving official conformation from UDS LLC that a title is earned, Owners may, according to their records, request a move-up to the next level after entries have closed at a single event or during a multiple trial event. For example, four trials are offered during a weekend, and a dog completes his/her title during trial #2. He or she may move up a level in trial #3, or continue to compete in that class for select status. Once select status has been

earned, the dog must move up to the next level class at the next trial. Move-ups must be entered and paid for with the event secretary before the class finishes.

Weather

The safety of handlers, spectators, officials, and animals is of paramount importance. Extreme weather such as lightening, strong winds, rain, sleet or heavy snow, and extreme temperature may create unsafe conditions. In case of inclement weather, the trial committee will decide whether the trial should be postponed or suspended.

EVENT OFFICIALS

In addition to at least one judge, every United Dog Sports LLC Trial shall have the following event officials:

Event Committee

Three people will serve as overall facilitators (Trial Chair, Event) Secretary, and Course Director). More members may be added at the discretion of the Trial Chair.

Trial Chair

The Trial Chair arranges the location, hires judges, applies for sanctioning, over-sees the event and is the head official overseeing the trial. The Trial Chair may also be assisted by the Trial Secretary in the application process. The Trial Chair must be present on the trial grounds at all times during the trial.

Event Secretary

The Event Secretary handles the day-to-day paperwork of a trial. This may include creating a Premium, accepts entries, sending out confirmations, and setting run orders. The secretary will also record all runs and provide the chair with class qualifiers and placements. She/He will

record all runs and record passing and failing efforts, as well as providing information about qualifiers and placements to the Trail Chair for presentation of ribbons and awards. The Event Secretary also submits all required paperwork and fees to UDS. The Event Secretary must be present on the trial grounds at all times during the trial.

Course Director

The Course Director is responsible for setting up and maintaining safe and secure trial courses. He or she oversees other volunteers. The Course Director must be present on the trial grounds at all times during the trial.

Judges

The judges are also considered part of the event committee. They must be present on the trial grounds at all times during the trial. Judges are also considered official representatives of UDS.

Temporary Committee Member Transfer of Office

In the case where a committee member is call away from the grounds the Trial Chair shall assign someone else the powers and responsibilities of the office temporarily to another club member.

DAY OF TRIAL EVENT OFFICIALS

Timers and Scribes

A judge may ask the sponsor to provide a timer and a scribe. The timer is responsible for the stopwatch. The scribe will write down judge's comments on the judge's sheets.

Stewards

Stewards are responsible for the care and upkeep of animals, equipment, and are facilitators. Each sport will have different requirements. Stewards are supervised by the Course Directors.

Gate Stewards

We encourage self-gating. It is the handler's responsibility to be in the on deck area when scheduled to compete. A sponsor may provide gate stewards to facilitate the expedient movement of exhibitors, but it is not required. Judges are not required to wait for dogs and handlers.

Premium List

A premium list must be provided for United Dog Sports LLC trials. The premium list may be printed, available electronically, or both. United Dog Sports LLC encourages events to be as green (paper free) as possible. Online entries are encouraged.

The following information must be included in the premium list:

- Name of sponsor
- Event location (address, city, state and zip code)
- Trial date
- Name, address, telephone number and email of the Trial Chair and Event Secretary
- Trial start time
- Entry fees
- Classes offered
- Judges's name and city/state
- Closing date for entries
- If Day of Show entries are allowed.
- Entry form with Liability waiver
- Wait list
- Refund policy

Day of Trial Entries

Day of trial (DOT) entries are on a first-come, first-served basis. They can only be accepted if the event has not reached its entry limit. Clubs are not required to offer DOT entries. DOT entries are encouraged to be used for newcomers. When an event offers DOT entries for newcomers, the growth of the sport is encouraged. DOT entries are not to be abused by regular trial competitors. It is strongly encouraged that competitors pre-enter their dogs in trials. When competitors pre-enter their dogs, it gives the trial committee time to plan for a successful event. Dogs that enter the day of a trial and do not have a UDS LLC number may compete. United Dog Sports LLC registration numbers can be requested within 7 days of a dog competing. If the number is not requested, the dog forfeits any qualifying scores but may keep the ribbons and or awards earned at a trial.

Competitors' Responsibility

It is the competitors' responsibility to carefully check their trial entries and confirmations for errors. If errors are found, it is the handlers' responsibility to bring errors to the attention of the Event Secretary. Competitors must also apply to the UDS LLC for a change of status within 60 days of the event to challenge or change the information or results of an event. Failure to do so will result in no change of status.

Withdrawals and Refunds

Are at the discretion of the sponsor. Policy should be printed in the premium.

Wait List

When a trial meets the entry limit for an event, the sponsors may establish a wait list. Entries may be added to the trial after the closing date. This will include day of show entries. These entries must be made in order of each entry received. The acceptance of the wait list and day of show entries shall be listed in the premium.

Assumption of Risk

It must be posted that dogs and people should not approach any dog without permission from the owner or handler. By doing so, a person accepts all risk and shall defend and hold harmless the owner, handler, event sponsor, and property owner of the trial if the person or dog is harmed.

All persons entering the trial, attending as a spectator, or vendor at a United Dog Sports LLC trial in any capacity do so at their own risk. They further agree to assume responsibility for damage caused by them, or by their dogs. They also agree to hold the trial sponsors and United Dog Sports harmless for any injury sustained by their dog or by a dog or person during the trial. By entering a trial, handler/owner(s) attest that they have read, understood, and will abide by, all United Dog Sports LLC Guidelines.

Insurance

The sponsor putting on a trial sanctioned must have a Comprehensive General Liability insurance policy that covers the event. The policy must have a minimum of \$1 million coverage. The Certificate of Insurance must list United Dog Sports, LLC. as an additional insured. The Certificate of Insurance should show the date/s of coverage for the policy. A copy of the

insurance must be on file to the United Dog Sports LLC office at least 15 days prior to the Licensed Trial.

Hold Harmless Agreement

A “hold harmless” agreement names United Dog Sports LLC as a additionally insured. The agreement must be signed by the owners and their agents.

Cancellation of Events

Every attempt should be made to hold a United Dog Sports LLC event as scheduled. In the event of an “Act of God” such as fire, flood, severe weather, etc., an event may be canceled. The club must make every attempt to contact entrants and inform them of the cancellation. Cancellation notices may be placed on web sites, social media sites, or a group email lists. The event sponsors are not obligated to return any or all of entry fees collected, but may do so at their own discretion.

Ties

In the event of two dogs competing in the same class are tied with the exact same amount of time and/or a score where the outcome of the tie would result in a placement of first through third, there will be a tiebreaker. Tie-breakers may be decided at the discretion of the judges in cooperation with the Trial Committee, unless a tiebreaker is currently written into a sport's rules.

Dress Code

Trial officials, judges, and competitors should dress in a neat and professional manner. They should wear clothing that is modest, clean, in good repair, comfortable, and suitable for the climate. Camouflage or hunting clothing is suitable for hunting sports. They must keep in mind

they are representing the United Dog Sports, LLC hosting sponsors and themselves. Names of kennels, training facilities, clubs are allowed to be printed on clothing. The names of dogs and titles are forbidden to be displayed on clothing. Award belt buckles maybe worn by handlers during competitions.

For Exhibition Only (FEO)

An exhibitor may run in any class For Exhibit Only. No placements, qualifying scores, titles, points, or prizes will be awarded for dogs running FEO. The owner or exhibitor must note on the entry form FEO and inform the judge they are running FEO before the start of their run.

Number of handlers per dog and runs per dog

For all classes only one handler is allowed in the trial area during the course of a trial run. The exception to this is when a handler is disabled. This individual may have an assistant to help when necessary. A dog may only run once per trial.

Handler Disability

Handlers may use mobility aids such as wheelchairs, scooters, crutches, canes, walkers or other assistive devises in the trial area. If the handler is concerned their disability may prevent them from participating, contact United Dog Sports LLC to establish a case-by-case reasonable accommodation.

Titles

All dogs, competing for certification (excluding "For Exhibition Only" - FEO), must enter in the started class and progress through professional class.

Unless otherwise stated in a sport's guidelines three passes to earn a title. All pass may be under the same judge. Select status at each level requires ten passes after title earned. Title designation shall be behind the dog's name. Champion designation shall be in front of the dog's name.

Champion 25 passes after select title earned at professional level.

Grand Champion 50 passes after Champion title earned at professional level.

Register of Merit designation will be awarded to dogs that obtain 100 passes after Grand Champion is awarded.

Handlers Meeting

A handler's meeting will be held at the start of each trial.

Class Order

Classes will run in order of difficulty (low to high or high to low). When a club offers more than one trial on the same day they must allow for dogs with conflicts to run at the end of their class.

When two or more trials are running at the same time, the second trial does not need to wait for Trial 1 to be finished as long as accommodations are made for dogs moving up to compete.

Judging and Timing

Judging begins when the dog/handler team enters the test area. Judging ends when the team exits the trial area. The judge is required to time all runs with a hand-held stopwatch. All times are to be recorded to the nearest 100th of a second. Upon request of the judge, the event sponsors will provide the judge with a scribe and or timer. Once the dog/handler team has completed his or her run, the judge will score the run either on paper or electronically raking the dog with a pass or fail. If the timer fails for any reason during a run, the dog handler team will be granted a rerun. It is at the discretion of the judge when that rerun will occur. A judge may excuse a dog during its run for lack of progress.

Length of Time Officiating

Judges may only officiate for 8 hours a day not including meal and rest breaks. They may judge two or more trials in a day as long as they do not go over the eight hour limit.

Judges

Judges shall be a licensed United Dog Sports LLC judge. He or she is responsible for designing a course according to the United Dog Sports LLC guidelines. A list of licensed judges are available from the United Dog Sports LLC.

Additional Judges' Requirement

No judge shall require any dog or handler to do anything, nor penalize a dog/handler for failing to do anything, that is not required by these regulations.

Judge Mobility

Judges must be physically able of moving about the trial area while judging.

Judge Decisions

If unusual circumstances happen during a run in which the dog/handler are not at fault, the judge may offer a rerun. A judge may use video as a means to determine whether or not a dog may be rerun. At no time may a competitor or spectator demand a rerun. All judges' decisions are considered final.

If a competitor has a question about a decision of a judge the competitor may politely address the question to the judge. If the competitor feels the situation is not resolved, the competitor may file a grievance in writing with a fee of \$100. Video evidence when available must be submitted along with written statement from at least three witnesses to the UDS LLC office for further investigation and ruling.

Judges Class

It is important for sponsors to offer individuals that are judges of record for an event an opportunity to compete at that event. Any approved judge can officiate the judge's class. Judges are not eligible for placements in these classes. Qualifying scores are earned toward titles.

These special classes can be held at the beginning or end of a regular class. Judges officiate each other as a courtesy to each other without payment by the sponsor. Judges of record also do not pay an entry fee to the sponsor when entering a judge's class. A judge that is not officiating at a trial is eligible for placement in a regular class. A judge can officiate a single trial or an individual class.

Judge's Dogs

A dog owned or co-owned by a judge or member of the judge's immediate family may not be shown under that judge. The judge's immediate family includes: spouse, father, mother, son, daughter, brother, sister, or any person residing with that individual. Immediate family members of an officiating judge may show under another officiating judge at the same trial.

Judge's Reimbursement

Sponsor should pay traveling expenses, food, and lodging for each judge. We encourage all sponsors to use local judges to keep cost down. A judge may also receive a gift from a sponsor in appreciation for their service. Judging fees are between the judge and the sponsor. Fees may be a trial day fee or a per run fee. UDS encourages event sponsors and judges have a contract.

Judge's Conduct

A UDS LLC license judge is the eyes and hears of UDS LLC at each UDS LLC event. A judge is authorized to judge contestants at each event awarding qualifying and non qualifying scores. Judging is a privilege not a right. This authority can be revoked at any time by UDS LLC. A judge's actions and professional comportment must be above reproach. Judges shall refrain from coaching a handler during the contestants run. UDS LLC Judges should avoid improper fraternization with the contestants and spectators during a trial. Judges should be above reproach. UDS LLC Judges shall score a trial run based solely on the dog and handler's performance as a team and in no case shall be based (nor any consideration be given) on the identity or reputation of the handler, owner, the breeder, or the dog's lineage. Judges shall treat all event staff, handlers, and spectators with respect.

Becoming a UDS LLC Judge

Any performance dog sport judge from any association may apply to become a United Dog Sport LLC judge. Previous experience judging/officiating or coaching/teaching other sport venues outside of the canine world may also apply. Consistency, fairness, and honesty are characteristics that are the hallmark of judges and judge applicants. Applicants must be 21 years of age and provide three character references.

Judging Video

Each judge applicant shall submit a video of a handlers meeting and judging three dogs. This may be waived by UDS LLC office if the applicant is observed in person judging a event.

Written Exam

Judges will be required to take an open book test. All questions must be answered correctly. The test may be retaken twice in a calendar year.

Continuing Education

Judges will be required to take an open book test administered and attend a judge's seminar every three years. All questions must be answered correctly. The test may be retaken until all questions are answered correctly.