



**GAMENESS ★ RELATIONSHIP ★ CONTROL**  
**DOGSPORTS**

# GRC Dogsports 2021 Official Regulations

© GRC Dogsports, 2021. All Rights Reserved.

<b>Mission</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Administration</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Competitive Levels, Events, and Titles</b>	<b>6</b>
Social Responsibility Test (SR)	6
Weight Classes, Levels and Divisions	6
Individual Drive Event Scoring	7
Spring Pole (SP)	9
Wall Climb (WC)	9
Mill Race (MR)	9
Weight Pull (WP)	10
Titles	10
Individual Event Champion (CH) & Grand Champion (GCH):	10
Overall Champion (OCH) & Overall Grand Champion (OGCH):	11
Qualification, Promotion & Advancement	11
Minimum Age	11
Titles in Other Sports	11
Competing “Down” a level and earning points	12
Competitive Season	12
<b>Membership Levels and Dues</b>	<b>12</b>
Levels	12
Membership Dues and Currency	13
Minimum Age to be a Member	13
Membership Termination	13
<b>Club Formation</b>	<b>13</b>
Minimum Requirements to Form Club	13
Club Membership with GRC Dogsports	13
Club Regulation	14
Club Termination	14
Club Logos and Attire	15
Required Annual Event	15
ALL events (competition, workshops, seminars, etc) MUST have an “event secretary” who will be responsible for checking people in, collecting membership fees, applications, score records, and returning all the paperwork to the GRC DOGSPORTS Secretary. If the GRC DOGSPORTS does not receive event paperwork within 2 weeks following the event, the club will be charged a \$25 service charge, which will be added to the following year’s club dues.	15

Hosting Competitions	15
Mock Trials	15
Seminars & Workshops	16
<b>General Regulations</b>	<b>16</b>
Competition Dress	16
General Conduct	16
Grounds for Mandatory Dismissal	17
Dog Health & Competition: Pregnancy, Heat, Medical Conditions	17
Grievance Process	17
Suggestions from the Membership	18
<b>Judges</b>	<b>18</b>
Judge's Program	18
Prospective & Apprentice Judges	18
Video Review of Apprentice Judge in Absence of On-Site Mentor Judge	19
Certified Judges	19
Mentor Judge	19
Retaining Judge Status	19
Judges Hosting Private Events	20
Certified judges may be hired for private SR level 1 tests, workshops, or events, as well as serving at public competitions, hosting workshops, seminars, or speaking sessions about GRC DOGSPORTS.	20
Judge's Attire	20
Judging Spouses, Family Members, Clubs	20
<b>Competitions</b>	<b>21</b>
Club Competitions, Regional Tournaments & Championship Tournament	21
Mandatory Start Times	21
Entry Fees	21
Use of Logo, Name, Marks	21
Scheduling Judges	22
Competition Officers	22
Competition Chairperson	22
Event Secretary	22
Competition Set-Up	22
Competition area	22
Mandatory Equipment for Competition	23
Social Responsibility	23
Spring Pole Equipment Specifications	23
Mill Race	24
Wall Climb	24

Belay or Secondary Catch Assistant (optional)	25
Weight Pull	25
Housing of Dogs for Competitors & Spectators	25
On-Deck Area	26
Entering the Field	26
Corrections	26
Non-Essential Personnel	26
Commercial Photography or Videography	26
Sportsmanship	27
Order of Competition	27

## **Mission**

The mission of GRC Dogsports is to provide PEOPLE with the motivation to give their dogs the training they need to thrive in this world, and provide a healthy place for dogs put all of their natural drives.

## **Administration**

GRC Dogsports. Corporate headquarters is located in Tallahassee, Florida, USA. The executive board consists of three positions:

- Founder and Chair
- President,
- Chief Operating Officer & Treasurer

Corporation officers and regional directors are appointed as needed and will be maintained on the GRC DOGSPORT public website.

Articles of Incorporation & Bylaws for GRC DOGSPORTS. are on file with the GRC DOGSPORTS Chief Operating Officer: Kimberly Barber. All contact information for the directors is available on the GRC DOGSPORTS website, [www.grcdogsports.com](http://www.grcdogsports.com).

蟬

# Competitive Levels, Events, and Titles

GRC DOGSPORTS offers the following events and titles, the requirements and standards for which are described, in detail, in the Event Rulebook.

## Social Responsibility Test (SR)

Each dog competing for an SR title begins with 100 points. Deductions are in 1-point, 5-point, or 15-point increments and are based on specific criteria spelled out in the Event Rulebook. Major infractions may result in a 15 pt deduction. SR titles are earned by the dog and do not require retesting at each competition.

**All dogs competing in the drive events must first qualify by earning the minimum SRS or SR Level 1 title.** No food or toys are allowed in the ring.

During the 2018 and 2019 completion years three levels of the SR title were possible. Beginning in 2019, individuals were allowed to compete, and earned SR Level 1, 2 and 3 level titles. Dogs who have been titled with at least SRS under 2018 and 2019 rules are allowed to compete in drive events and are not required to retest. Any prior levels of (SRS, SRC, or SRX) will be considered as SR Level 1 under the 2020 rules.

Effective January 2020 the following Social Responsibility levels are possible.

- SR Level 1.
- SR Level 2
- SR Level 3

### **Muzzle provision.**

If a team believes a muzzle is needed as a precaution in their social responsibility plan, they may take the SR test with a muzzle on. The certificate will reflect this with an M on the SR title. (example SRSM or SR L1-M) Any dog with an M provision on their SR title WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE for drive sports.

The SR titles follow the dog, not the handler. In the event that a dog changes owners, the dog will retain the SR title level previously earned.

## Weight Classes, Levels and Divisions

There are five individual weight classes that are used as part of the determination of the proper division the dog is scored in during events at a competition. The following weight classes are used to categorize the dogs and balance the field.

Strawweight (0 - 14.99 lbs / 0 - 6.99 kg)

Lightweight (15 - 29.99 lbs/ 7 kg - 12.99 kg)

Middleweight (30 - 59.99 lbs/ 13 - 27.99 kg)

Heavyweight (60-99.99 lbs/ 28 kg - 44.99 kg)

Super Heavyweight (100 + lbs/ 45 kg )

Three levels of difficulty in control requirements are possible for each drive event, i.e., mill race, weight pull, etc.. The requirements of each event increase with the Level designation. All dogs competing in a drive event will begin at Level 1 for that specific event. Individual Event Titles, as well as Champion or Grand Champion titles, must be earned in successive order, from Level 1 to Level 3, or L1, L2, L3. A dog may compete at Level 1 in one event and Level 3 in a separate event at the same competition.

“Division” is a combination of weight class AND level of competition for an event. There must be **at least two dogs** in a division (weight class + level combination) for the points earned to count toward title points. In the event that there are not two dogs in each division, dogs in near division categories may combine weight classes to create a division. Level groups may NOT combine in this fashion, e.g., Level 1 will not combine with Level 2.

## Individual Drive Event Scoring

Each dog competing in an event will earn a series of different totals that count toward the overall points earned toward titles, the two main categories are “Entry Points” and “Podium Points”.

### Entry points

#### Base Entry Points:

The dog will receive 5 points for entering to compete. These points reflect commitment, and repeated entry in competitions. They are awarded even if the dog is the only entrant in a specific division. **If a dog fouls out, is a non-qualifier, is disqualified, or asked to leave the field, no entry points are earned.**

#### Bonus Competitor Points

These points function as a multiplier to balance out smaller and larger divisions within a specific event. Each dog entering an event, in a specific division, will earn “Competitor Points” equal to the number of dogs competing in that specific event/division. A minimum number of dogs in a division or event is not required in order to earn entry points. **However, if a dog fouls out, is a non-disqualifier is disqualified, or asked to leave the field, no entry points are earned.**

#### Total Entry Points:

The total of the base entry points, and competitor entry points.

Examples.

Level 1 Mill Race event has 6 dogs in the Middle Weight class. Each dog in this division will earn 11 Points. (5 Base Points + 6 Competitor Entry Points)

Level 1 Mill Race event has 3 dogs in the Lightweight class. Each dog in this division will earn 8 points. (5 Base Points + 3 Competitor Entry Points)

### **Podium Points**

These are points awarded in the traditional fashion to the top three competitors in an event. You must have at least one other dog in that division in order to earn podium points. The following points are awarded for first through third place on the podium for each drive event.

1st place: 20 points

2nd place: 10 points

3rd place: 5 points

### **Total points earned at an event**

The total points for an event is calculated by level and event: Total Entry Points earned per event/division + Podium Points earned per event/division.

Example.

Level 1 Mill Race event has 3 dogs in the Lightweight class.

Dog Spot placed 3rd

Dog Fluffy, placed 2nd

Dog Spike, place 1st

Total points earned for the Level 1 Mills Race in this division is:

Dog Spot: 8 total entry points + 5 podium points = 13 points

Dog Fluffy: 8 entry points + 10 podium points = 18 points

Dog Spike: 8 entry points + 20 podium points = 28 points

Points accrue over a series of competitions and events within the specific level in which the dog competes. When a dog advances from Level 1 to Level 2 in the event, the points reset to zero and the dog starts accruing points in that level. In no cases are points allowed to “carry over” from one level to another, or from event to event.

### **Minimum qualifying score**

Each level has a minimum score that must be met at least once to earn a title. It can be earned at any point in the dog’s time at that level. See the individual event rules for specific minimums.

Example 1:

Minimum Qualifying Score for Spring Pole is a 6. On the first competition the dog is alone in its division. The dog scores a 7. This score meets the qualifying score requirement, but the dog must still get 49 more points to title at SP1.

Example 2:

The dog has accrued 100 points in SP competition, but has failed to score above 5. It must keep competing at Level 1 as it chases the minimum qualifying score. The day it scores a 6, it will receive SP1 Title.



**To achieve a title, the dog must accrue the required total points, AND, have at least once scored the minimum qualifying score needed at that level.**

### *Spring Pole (SP)*

Spring Pole is a tug toy clipped on one or more bungee cords and hangs free in the air from a pole, tree limb, or other solid anchor point. The dog is released from an obedience command to bite and hold the tug until commanded to “out” or release the toy.

Spring Pole is judged primarily on control parameters and communication between the dog and handler, specifically: intensity on the bite, precision in the obedience, fluency in the transition between bite activity and obedience commands.

Minimum qualifying scores

Level 1 = min score of 6

Level 2 = min score 7

Level 3 = min score 8

### *Wall Climb (WC)*

Wall Climb events use a regulation padded wall, rope, and a horizontal tug toy on a magnetic or velcro quick release. In this event the dog will be released by the handler to run, jump, and “climb” the wall to grab the toy.

Wall Climb is judged on the maximum height jumped or height climbed by the dog where the dog **successfully** grabs the toy. In competition events, the dog must be able to achieve a minimum jump height based on the standing height of the dog to qualify for a title. Standards and procedures for determining the proper standing height measurement are addressed in the Event Rulebook.

Minimum qualifying score:

Level 1 = 1.5 times standing height

Level 2 = 2 times standing height

Level 3 = 2.5 times standing height

### *Mill Race (MR)*

Mill Race is based on how fast a dog can “work”, e.g., run, on an approved slat mill.

Mill Race is judged by maximum number of revolutions within a two minute period. The dog must complete at least three two-minute runs, without fouling out to be eligible for the podium.

Minimum qualifying score:

Level 1 title= 50/70 (under/over middleweight) Revolution Minimum.  
Level 2 title= 70/90 Revolution Minimum.  
Level 3 title= 70/90 Revolution minimum.

### *Weight Pull (WP)*

In this event the dog wears a fitted, weight pull harness with a spreader bar that is attached to a sled, without fouling out, to be eligible for the podium.

Weight pull is judged on the maximum amount of weight the dog can pull.

Minimum qualifying score:

Level 1 = 1.5 times bodyweight of the dog  
Level 2 = 2 times body weight of the dog  
Level 3 = 2.5 times bodyweight of the dog

## Titles

Individual titles may be earned for each individual drive event and at each level, Level 1 through Level 3. The following points are the minimums needed to earn an event title at each level.

Level 1 title= 50 points  
Level 2 title= 75 points  
Level 3 title= 100 points

These points are not accumulated across levels. They start at 0 at each new level.

### *Individual Event Champion (CH) & Grand Champion (GCH):*

Once titled at Level 3 in a drive event, a dog is eligible for a Champion (CH), or Grand Champion title in that drive event. These titles are based on the number of first place wins in a specific drive event, competing at Level 3.

Champion title: Place 1st in 3 shows AT level 3 in a drive event.

Wall Climb Champion (WCCH)  
Spring Pole Champion (SPCH)  
Weight Pull Champion (WPCH)  
Mill Race Champion (MRCH)

Grand Champion (GCH) title: Place 1st in 5 shows at level 3.

Wall Climb Grand Champion (WCGCH)  
Spring Pole Grand Champion (SPGCH)

Weight Pull Grand Champion (WPGCH)  
Mill Race Grand Champion (MRGCH)

Wins for event for Champion or Grand Champion titles ARE cumulative. Once a CH title is obtained a competitor only need two more 1st place wins to get the GCH in that particular drive event. First place wins do not need to be consecutive.

### *Overall Champion (OCH) & Overall Grand Champion (OGCH):*

Championship competitions are those competitions which **host Level 3 events for all four drive events** in the single competition. Overall Champion (OCH), and Overall Grand Champion (OGCH) titles can be earned at championship competition **only** if the dog holds Level 3 titles in **ALL four drive events**. Dogs competing for OCH and OGCH titles must win the required amounts of times in a Championship competition.

The requirements for these titles are as follows:

Overall Champion (OCH) = placed 1st overall in 3 Championship shows

OGCH title= placed 1st overall in 5 Championship shows

## Qualification, Promotion & Advancement

### *Minimum Age*

Dogs must be at least 1 year of age to compete in any level of GRC DOGSPORTS.

### *Health and Vaccinations*

Dogs must be current in standard vaccinations and in good health. While not typically considered a standard vaccination, owners with competition dogs should seriously consider including the Canine Influenza vaccination as part of their vaccination requirements prior to attempting a competition. Questions about suggested local and regional recommended vaccinations should be discussed with the regional director. The judges reserve the right to bar any dog from competing that is sick or injured, or appears to be sick or injured.

### *Titles in Other Sports*

Because GRC DOGSPORTS is a unique sport, open to all dog types regardless of breeding or prior training, all dogs, regardless of any previous sport titles other than GRC DOGSPORTS titles, shall begin in GRC DOGSPORTS Level 1 and compete according to the rules and standards outlined in this rulebook and the Event Rulebook. Competition in other sports, bite work training for competition, or as a working dog does not exclude a dog from participating in GRC DOGSPORTS.

### *Competing “Down” a level and earning points*

The sport levels are determined by the level of control, NOT the level of athleticism. Competitors may compete indefinitely in any GRC DOGSPORTS level for which they are eligible. Once a dog has moved up a level, the dog must compete at that level to earn points toward the next title.

For a number of reasons (behavioral, health, handler health) the dog may not be, at that moment, up to the level of control for the Level 2 or 3 title they are chasing, but want to stay active and competing. In these cases, the dog may enter at a level below their qualifications. **NO POINTS WILL BE ACCRUED IN LOWER LEVEL ENTRIES.** Only current level entries equivalent to the dog’s standing will accrue points towards that level’s title.

Example: Fifi has earned Weight Pull Level 1 title. She normally competes at Level 2 and already has 25 points toward WP2 title. FiFi recently had surgery. For the sake of practice, training, and staying in the game, Fifi is entered in Level 1 weight pull events. She does well, even gets on the podium. However, those points are not added to the 25 points she already has at L2.

### *Competitive Season*

The competition season shall begin January 1 and run to December 31.

## **Membership Levels and Dues**

### **Levels**

An online membership application is available on the GRC DOGSPORTS website, including the different levels and membership dues. The following membership levels are available:

- **Individual member, annual.** Valid for one year from the date of approved membership application. Limited to one person.
- **Family membership, annual.** Valid for one year from the date of approved membership application. Limited to four people.
- **Lifetime Individual membership.** Valid for the lifetime of the member.
- **Lifetime Family membership.** Valid for the lifetime of the signing member. Limited to four people.
- **First Time Rescue.** Valid for three years from the date of approved membership. Rescue membership allows for unlimited dogs associated with the rescue. Points and titles follow the dog.
- **Rescue Renewal.** Valid for one year from the date of approved membership. Rescue membership allows for unlimited dogs associated with the rescue. Points and titles follow the dog.

## Membership Dues and Currency

Membership dues are subject to change at the beginning of any competition year, and will not be prorated. Membership shall be renewed on each competitor's anniversary date. If any checks are returned due to insufficient funds, the member will have to pay with certified check or money order, and will be charged an additional \$30 returned check fee in addition to the membership fee. If no payment is received within 14 days of being notified of the returned check, membership will be voided.

All competitors must be members in good standing of GRC DOGSPORTS to compete in competitions.

All membership dues and fees paid to the parent organization of GRC DOGSPORTS will be paid in US dollars. International clubs may collect internal club fees, competition fees, etc. in the currency of their country.

## Minimum Age to be a Member

Individuals must be at least 18 years of age to register as an individual or lifetime member in GRC DOGSPORTS. Individuals under the age of 18 may be members as part of a family membership, so long as they are accompanied by or compete under the oversight of their parents or legal guardians.

## Membership Termination

GRC DOGSPORTS is intended to be an open and welcoming organization for all types of dogs and individuals. GRC DOGSPORTS reserves the right to restrict, deny, or terminate any membership (individual or lifetime) for inappropriate conduct, misconduct, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any conduct that conflicts with the mission of GRC DOGSPORTS. **In the case of termination of membership, no pro-rated refund of membership dues will be issued.**

## Club Formation

### Minimum Requirements to Form Club

Individuals who chose to form a club may do so when there are at least three individual GRC members in good standing. Beyond this, the size of the club is not regulated by GRC DOGSPORTS.

### Club Membership with GRC Dogsports

Clubs must be association members in good standing with GRC DOGSPORTS in order to be eligible to host Competitions and advertise on the GRC DOGSPORTS web site. Club renewal notices will be emailed to the contact person on record thirty days prior to the renewal date. Clubs that renew prior to

the renewal date will pay a reduced rate from the standard annual/new membership rate. Renewal applications after the renewal date will be assessed the same rate as a new club annual fee. Club fees are posted and maintained on the GRC DOGSPORTS website. In the case where a club membership has lapsed, competitions and seminars/workshops for that club may not be scheduled, nor will they be listed on the GRC DOGSPORTS website until the club dues are paid in full for that year. Annual club dues paid to GRC DOGSPORTS will be used primarily for maintenance of club membership information, event promotion, and club support by the organization. **Club membership dues are non-refundable after the first sanctioned event.**

## Club Regulation

Private training clubs will not be regulated by GRC DOGSPORTS in neither their conduct of business nor their training, except in cases where club activities might violate the mission or principles of GRC DOGSPORTS. Clubs will determine their own rules so long as they are consistent with the principles and philosophy of GRC DOGSPORTS. Clubs have local control to determine the following, including but not limited to, local club fee structure, training schedules, training approaches, club name/logo, membership size, member eligibility and requirements, organizational structure and club management, social events, fees for local competitions or events, etc.

Upon request, GRC DOGSPORTS may make available sample club rulebooks, boilerplate waiver forms, online support through forum discussions, etc. that may be customized and adapted by an individual club for its own purposes..

**NOTE: It is the individual club's responsibility to be aware of, and comply with any local, state, or territory laws that may pertain to specific breeds, tool use, leash laws, etc.**

## Club Termination

GRC DOGSPORTS is intended to be an open organization for all types of dogs and individuals. GRC DOGSPORTS reserves the right to restrict, deny, or terminate club membership for inappropriate conduct, misconduct, unsportsmanlike conduct, or any conduct that conflicts with the mission of GRC DOGSPORTS.

In the event that a club is reported and deemed to have engaged in any actions considered dishonorable, discriminatory, abusive, or cruel by GRC DOGSPORTS headquarters, the club will be stripped of its official status and removed from the website. **Club dues will not be refunded in the event that a club affiliation is stripped.**

All GRC logos, references and affiliation information must be removed from the club website within two weeks of notification of the loss of affiliation. Any planned or scheduled events offered by the club will no longer be considered sanctioned events and competitors who compete do so on their own. Points will not be collected or recorded by GRC Dogsports.

## Club Logos and Attire

Clubs are encouraged to develop their own club name, logos or brands. These can appear on shirts, tools, tugs, etc. Club apparel is allowed in competition to support and champion a sense of community within the club and the larger GRC DOGSPORTS community.

## Required Annual Event

**Clubs are required to hold at least one sanctioned event, mock trial, or seminar/workshop a year in order to stay in good standing.**

**NOTE:** All events requirements for maintaining active club status for the year of 2020 were waived as a result of COVID. Beginning in 2021, the requirement to hold club events, seminars and/or mock trials has been reinstated.

Clubs who wish to host a sanctioned GRC DOGSPORTS's event of any kind **MUST** get prior approval by submitting a written request at least four (4) weeks prior to the event, via email, to the GRC DOGSPORTS Executive Secretary.

ALL events (competition, workshops, seminars, etc) **MUST** have an "event secretary" who will be responsible for checking people in, collecting membership fees, applications, score records, and returning all the paperwork to the GRC DOGSPORTS Secretary. If the GRC DOGSPORTS does not receive event paperwork within 2 weeks following the event, the club will be charged a \$25 service charge, which will be added to the following year's club dues.

### *Hosting Competitions*

Clubs holding a competition intended for competitors to earn titles, or points toward title, **MUST** be judged by official GRC DOGSPORTS certified judges in good standing in order for the points and titles to count. Clubs may co-host events with other clubs in their areas to help cut down the cost.

All handlers/owners who will be entering for SR titles or in individual events must become a member of GRC DOGSPORTS or be current members in order to compete.

### *Mock Trials*

Mock trials may be approved as the club's annual required event as long as they are advertised and open to the public. New clubs are strongly encouraged to host at least one mock competition before they are able to host an official competition. Mock trials serve multiple purposes beyond testing dog-handler teams. Mock Trials serve as a realistic walk through of the logistics required to host an event, as well as the opportunity to review and inspect all club gear and confirm it against the event checklists. This includes setting out the various fields, assigning volunteers to specific tasks for tracking and scoring,

determining entrance and exits to the field, etc. Clubs holding mock competitions are encouraged to include a certified GRC DOGSPORTS judge, apprentice judge or a top-level competitor in order to provide guidance on rules, evaluation, and event set up.

### *Seminars & Workshops*

Seminars or workshops may be approved as the club's required annual event under certain conditions and limitations. The seminar or workshop presenter must be a current GRC judge in good standing. The workshop or seminar content must be IN SOME WAY applicable to the sport. Examples might be sport basics, conditioned relaxation techniques, drive channeling between bite objects as done in protection work, building a dog for weight pull, etc. Questions about possible seminar\workshop content and if it qualifies should be directed to GRC Dogsports, Inc.

## **General Regulations**

DRUG & ALCOHOL POLICY: NO ILLEGAL DRUGS OR ALCOHOL ARE ALLOWED DURING ANY GRC DOGSPORTS EVENT. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS. GRC DOGSPORTS OFFICIALS AND/OR JUDGES VIEWING SUCH CONDUCT WILL IMPLEMENT IMMEDIATE SUSPENSIONS ON THE SPOT. REPEATED VIOLATIONS OF THIS RULE MAY RESULT IN CANCELLATION OF MEMBERSHIP WITH NO REFUND AND BANNED FROM REAPPLYING FOR LIFE.

### **Competition Dress**

The judge shall require all GRC DOGSPORTS competitors to dress appropriately for competing with their dogs, including but not limited to proper clothing appropriate for the weather conditions and safety of the competitors. The following attire will not be allowed while competing with a dog: flip flops, flimsy open toed shoes, "dress sandals". The judge may require a competitor change attire because of safety concerns.

### **General Conduct**

Suggestions, points of rules, and points of order can be brought up to the presiding competition chairperson (host of the event) whose sole discretion it shall be to bring such matters to the judge in order to ensure that the Competition is run properly, fairly, and according to the rules. GRC DOGSPORTS's goals include fairness, rule of law, and sportsmanship. The judge retains sole discretion to interpret the rules and their application to the situation at hand. Argumentativeness on the part of competitors and/or spectators can bring immediate dismissal from the competition or expulsion from the competition grounds, and a report will be sent to GRC DOGSPORTS. The judge retains absolute discretion to dismiss or expel a competitor. GRC DOGSPORTS members should conduct themselves in a professional manner at Competitions, and not conduct themselves in ways that bring disgrace or dishonor to the sport, or in any way that is in conflict with the mission of GRC DOGSPORTS.



## Grounds for Mandatory Dismissal

Judges are required to dismiss from the field a dog/handler team that (1) is unsafe, (i.e., out of control), (2) the handler's action are deemed abusive or harmful to the handler's dog or others (3) refuses to participate out of fear, illness, or is otherwise injured, (4) the dog urinates or defecates on the competition field during any part of the routine or critique, or (5) displays unsportsmanlike conduct in the opinion of the Judge. In (1) – (4) the score shall be a zero for the individual event. In the case of (5), unsportsmanlike conduct, the judge shall dismiss or expel the competitor at his/her discretion and report the incident in writing to the DOG DOGSPORTS, and all scores will be a zero for the entire competition and all associated events.

## Dog Health & Competition: Pregnancy, Heat, Medical Conditions

Handlers are individually responsible for their dogs and should recognize when certain medical conditions may negatively affect their dogs' performance or the performance of other competitors. **In all cases, judges reserve the right to make an independent determination of the dog's fitness and condition to participate in either the SR test or drive events.** Should a team be dismissed for health reasons, refunds will not be issued.

Bitches in heat, pregnant or lactating may NOT participate in Social Responsibility tests or drive events.

A number of other medical conditions may affect a dog's participation in the SR test or other drive events. Handlers are encouraged to discuss these conditions prior to the competition to determine the appropriate course of action. Because of the nature of GRC Dogsports drive events, dogs with medical appliances MUST consult with a judge prior to competition to determine if it is safe for the dog to compete or what, if any, modifications might be needed for scoring.

### *Grievance Process*

There shall be a grievance committee within GRC DOGSPORTS to arbitrate issues of member conduct or disputes with regard to judging. The committee will consist of one director, one judge, and one member at large. Formal protests may be made by members. Competitors who wish to protest will file an official protest by email to the GRC DOGSPORTS. Formal protest notifications to GRC DOGSPORTS must include the following information:

- Date and location of the event/occurrence/competition
- Name of dogs and/or individuals involved
- Description of the alleged infraction
- Any other individual who witnessed or saw the alleged infraction
- Full, unedited, video, if such exists
- Full name and contact information of individual making the report

A decision will be made by the Grievance Committee with 30 days of receipt of the protest.

## Suggestions from the Membership

GRC DOGSPORTS values contributions from its membership. Each year the senior judges will meet to discuss the sport. Members are encouraged to voice their thoughts to GRC DOGSPORTS by email so that the ideas may be discussed.

## Judges

### Judge's Program

Judges must also have demonstrated a history of sportsmanship and integrity. A list of certified judges by event can be found on the GRC DOGSPORTS website. Judges will have an annual meeting to discuss rules, interpretation, clarification, and evaluate judging performance.

There are four types or level of judge progression:

1. Prospective Judge
2. Apprentice Judge
3. Certified Judge
4. Mentor Judge

### *Prospective & Apprentice Judges*

Prospective judges must first complete the SR Judges Certification before becoming certified in any of the drive events. Certification for SR or other drive events is a multi-step process that includes: Passing the written test qualifies an individual as a Prospective Judge. When you attend an event to intern under a mentor judge you will become an Apprentice Judge. Apprentice Judges are entitled to order and wear the official GRC DOGSPORTS judges shirt when interning and judging competitions as part of the qualification process.

1. Prospective Judge:
  - a. Pass a written test
2. Apprentice Judge:
  - a. Apprentice-Shadow Judge. Serve as shadow intern under the guidance of a mentor judge.”
    - i. Shadow judging is complete when you can correctly answer any question posed by the mentor judge about setting up or officiating. Your scores must be reasonable and fair. Apprentice judges must work at least one show or trial at a minimum. However, it is not uncommon for an apprentice judge to shadow at several shows before moving to the next stage.
  - b. Apprentice-Lead Judge. Apprentice –Lead judges a competition with Mentor judge checking off on scores.

- i. Apprentice-Lead judges pass this level when they can run the event without the input of the mentor judge at all. Apprentice-Lead judges must work at least one show or trial at a minimum in this role. It is not uncommon for an apprentice-lead judge to work several shows before moving to the next stage. show minimum, but may take more depending on proficiency.

Serving in the role of Apprentice-Shadow judge or Apprentice-Lead judge for at least one or more shows is NOT the only element to becoming a judge. There is no guarantee that completing the step of Apprentice-Shadow and Apprentice-Lead judge will result in being certified as a judge. Apprentice judges will only be approved by the mentor judge when the apprentice judge has demonstrated a clear understanding of the event rules and demonstrates the ability to apply those rules in a competition or trial environment. GRC DOGSPORTS judges represent the sport and must embody the core element of fairness, gameness, relationship and control.

### Video Review of Apprentice Judge in Absence of On-Site Mentor Judge

In the event that geographic distances make it impossible or impractical for a mentor judge to directly observe an apprentice judge through all the steps of shadowing and lead judging, a video recording of an apprentice judge performing the scoring and event coordination may be submitted to a mentor judge for review. If the video is comprehensive and unedited, and is of sufficient quality that a mentor judge can confidently review the scoring and organization, the mentor judge may approve the apprentice judge to be a certified judge. All efforts to secure an on-site mentor judge must have been exhausted in advance. The use of a video review must be pre-approved by GRC Dogsports in advance.

### *Certified Judges*

Certified judges may officiate the social responsibility test and any drive events in which they have completed all requirements. Certified judges may be certified in one area and function as an apprentice judge in another event, at the same competition.

### *Mentor Judge*

Only mentor judges may oversee the Apprentice Judges and approve their status change to certified judges. In order to become a mentor judge, certified judges must officiate at least five competitions and serve one year as a judge in good standing prior to being able to serve as a mentor judge. Certified Judges may unofficially mentor apprentice judges, however, Certified judges who are in good standing for at least a year and have officiated at five or more competitions, may apply to GRC DOGSPORTS to be a Mentor Judge. GRC DOGSPORTS will review the request, prior history and any challenges or complaints prior to making a decision as to mentor status.

## Retaining Judge Status

Prospective and Apprentice judges have one year from the time of taking the written test to complete the required steps (Apprentice-Shadow judge and Apprentice-Lead judge) to become a certified judge.

Failure to complete the steps within one year will require the individual to retest and begin the process from the beginning.

Certified judges may maintain active status by engaging in workshops, seminars, trials, competition and private sessions throughout the year. Failure to engage in GRC DOGSPORTS events through the year may require a judge to retest.

## Judges Hosting Private Events

Certified judges may be hired for private SR level 1 tests, workshops, or events, as well as serving at public competitions, hosting workshops, seminars, or speaking sessions about GRC DOGSPORTS.

## Judge's Attire

Judges who are working a competition must order and wear the official GRC DOGSPORTS Judges shirt. Information for ordering shirts is available at Judges Forum on the members' site. Judges may NOT wear club patches or shirts while officiating. Judges should remove the official Judge shirt when competing and wear the appropriate club shirt or personal gear. At all other times, judges are expected to wear the official judge shirt. This will aid competitors, volunteers, and organizers with identifying and soliciting assistance.

## Judging Spouses, Family Members, Clubs

Spouses shall not judge a family member. This applies to "social" families as well (including training, sports or social club members). In the event there are insufficient judges in the area to make this practical, approval may be requested from GRC DOGSPORT in advance of the trial or competition. If approved, video recording must be taken of the family member/dog being judged so the video can be compared to scoring records. A GRC DOGSPORTS judge from another area will review the video and the scoring. If there is significant disagreement in the scoring, the two judges will discuss the scoring rationale and determine the appropriate points for that event. Should a change in scoring be required to the extent that it affects the podium points earned by other dogs, the non-family member dog will retain any points earned as well as the podium points. The family member/dog under review may move up or down the podium as necessary. This may result in a "tie" for podium points after the fact. Should such a tie occur, the dog under review will earn the appropriate amount of podium points to be counted toward the event and level that dog participated at. The non-reviewed dog will retain all points earned and will not be "bumped" from the podium.

# Competitions

## Club Competitions, Regional Tournaments & Championship Tournament

During the competitive season, paid member clubs may host Competitions (either one or two day events), by contacting the GRC DOGSPORTS and coordinating Competition dates, or any other conflicting events. GRC DOGSPORTS will also host, in association with member clubs, a championship tournament. Competing at a club Competition or regional tournament is open to GRC DOGSPORTS members in good standing, on a first-come, first-serve basis.

## Mandatory Start Times

A start time will be established by the event secretary and published in the event notification materials, emails, and website. Registration will be open at least one hour prior to the SR test start time. Handlers must be registered in advance or on the day of a competition in order to compete.

## Entry Fees

GRC DOGSPORTS clubs can determine their own club dues, competition or event fees based on the need and desires of the club. GRC DOGSPORTS parent organization will assess one flat rate for any official competition. The club shall keep the remainder of any fees associated with, and collected from the competition.

- Non-championship competitions: GRC DOGSPORTS receives \$25 regardless of the number of competitors. This includes:
  - Single event shows
  - Single day shows with 3 or fewer drive events.
- Championship competitions: GRC DOGSPORTS received \$50 of the total entry fees, regardless of the number of competitors. This includes:
  - Shows with all 4 drive events.
  - Multi day shows, regardless of number of events.

## Use of Logo, Name, Marks

Unauthorized use of the GRC DOGSPORTS Logo is strictly prohibited and is a violation of Chapter 5 of the Copyright Law of the United States of America and Related Laws Contained in Title 17 of the United States Code and may lead to an immediate suspension from the sport. Use of the logo must be requested by submitting the Authorization for Use of Logo form located on the GRC DOGSPORTS website and emailing GRC DOGSPORTS detailing where and how a club or judge intends to use the logo.

Authorization will only be granted to members and clubs, who are in good standing, for personal usage, (i.e. t-shirts for a Competition).

### *Scheduling Judges*

There must be one certified judge presiding over each level of competition. One judge may preside over all levels at a given competition, or different judges may officiate at different levels to allow judges who wish to compete in the competition the ability to do so, as long as the decision is made prior to the day of competition. Obviously, a judge may not compete and judge at the same level in the same competition.

### *Competition Officers*

Each competition shall have the following officers below. Appointing these officers is the responsibility of the hosting club.

### *Competition Chairperson*

This person shall be in charge of the logistical running of the Competition and is a contact person regarding concerns on the part of the competitors. This individual shall have the discretion to bring competitor concerns to the attention of the presiding judge, and shall provide all necessary contact information for the Competition.

### *Event Secretary*

This person shall be in charge of assisting the presiding Judge in the tabulation of score sheets, final scores, and award of titles. This person shall also make sure competitors are members of GRC DOGSPORTS in good standing. The Event Secretary will be responsible for collecting the entries, payments, and setting the order of the competition, as well as tabulating all Competition results and awards, and sending completed email with individual handler/dog scores to the GRC DOGSPORTS via the GRC DOGSPORTS email, [grcdogsports@gmail.com](mailto:grcdogsports@gmail.com). GRC DOGSPORTS must receive completed competition information within 2 weeks after the competition has taken place. If the GRC DOGSPORTS does not receive the competition paperwork within 2 weeks of the Competition, the club will be charged a \$50 service charge, which will be added to the following year's club dues.

## Competition Set-Up

### *Competition area*

For safety purposes, the competition area should be separated from the spectator area by some kind of clear marker, such as a fence. The competition area should be large enough to accommodate the competition, with a proper parking area to accommodate both competitors and spectators. The field shall be set-up with three main goals in mind: (1) safety for the dogs, handlers, judges, and spectators; (2) convenience for the competitors and judges, so each dog can have the best possible showing; (3) ease of viewing for the spectators. See Event Rulebook for the minimum field space requirements for each event.

## Mandatory Equipment for Competition

The equipment listed below is for regulation competition. Individuals and clubs may use alternate equipment for training and practice.

**NOTE: Failure to provide any or all of the mandatory equipment, space suitable for the field specification by event, appropriate staffing levels for the show or events may result in the judge downgrading the event from a competition that would qualify for points to a Mock Trial and no points being earned for any competitor. In the event this occurs, the club is responsible for handling grievances from the registered competitors.**

Each Competition will consist of the SR test and one or more drive events.

- General: Ring markers, designated “on-deck” area that may include a bed/cot. Tables, chairs, weight scale. Yardstick or tape measure. Pens, score cards, duct tape or sidewalk chalk, computer or tablet for registration verification. Two flat collars that can be adjusted in the event the dog does not have one, one 6 ft/ 1.8 m leash. Counter. Timer.

### *Social Responsibility*

- Two uprights, for figure 8s. A 30 ft/ 9.1 m long line with solid anchor. Position Markers for FRONT position and turns by handler. Three “strangers” for greeting, One other handler/dog that is at the edge of the field area for the greeting portion. See the Event Rulebook for field layout specifics.

### *Spring Pole Equipment Specifications*

A solid structure such as an A-frame swing set, post-and-lintel beam or other solid anchor point that can hold up to 150lbs/ 68 kg. The minimum anchor point height is 10 feet/ 3.04 m.

Regulation spring pole equipment uses Rogue (or similar) “Shorty” Bands, or pre approved bungee or spring set up that is sufficient for the dogs and is safe for the person and dog during competition. The bands color corresponds to the weight class of the competing dog. The minimum resistance of the band should correspond to the weight class of the dog.

- Purple Band (140 lbs/ 63.5 kg resistance): Super Heavyweight
- Black Band (100 lbs/ 45.4 kg resistance): Heavyweight & Middleweight
- Green Band (65/ 29.5 kg lbs resistance): Lightweight
- Blue Band (50 lbs/22.6 kg resistance): Strawweight

A snap shackle with a short pull/release tie between 3-5 inches is required for emergency release of the tug.

A break stick in case of failure to out.  
2 long lines in case the event is not securely enclosed.

Regulation tugs must meet the following specifications in terms of size and materials.

- Middle, Heavy and Super Heavy weight classes: Leather tug, single handle on one, narrow end, 22-24 inches/ 55 - 61 cm , round, 9-10 inches/ 22 - 25 cm in diameter. If the tug comes with two handles, the second handle is removed for competition. (Example: Leerburg medium leather tug) Note; The judge may use discretion to switch to a smaller tug for middleweight dogs on the lower end of the weight class.
- Straw and Light weight classes: a leather tug size is 11x5 inches (or reasonably close to this size). Judge has final approval on dogs eligible to use this tug size.
- Firehose canvas, single handle on one, narrow end, 22-24 inches/ 55 - 61 cm , or 11 X 5 is also acceptable. If the tug comes with two handles, the second handle is removed for competition.

**NOTE:** Brand listings, while preferred, are primarily for reference purposes.

Tugs used in competition may be branded with a club logo so long as the tug material and dimensions meet the regulation standards.

### *Mill Race*

A specific slat mill brand is not required, however, the competition mill should meet the following specifications.

- On a push, the track should complete a minimum of two revolutions.
- One slat must be clearly marked with a highly visible contrast color to allow for easy monitoring of the revolutions.
- The mill track itself must be level.
- The mill used should be suitable for the weight of the dogs at the competition. Depending on venue, the mill weight specifications may affect the weight classes allowed to compete.
- A slanted mill, carpet mill, or treadmill, while suitable for training, is not allowed for competition.

### *Wall Climb*

- Vertical Wall surface must be 15 ft / 4.5 meter wall with carpeted, or rubberized surface.
- The vertical wall should be braced or stabilized in a secure fashion.
- A line with a pulley system to raise and lower the tug to the standing set height is required. The line must have a velcro or magnetic clip to hold the tug toy.
- Floor surface may be carpet, rubberized mat, turf, grass, or packed dirt. The floor surface should be as flat as possible and free of trip hazards.
- The wall should be clearly marked at every 6 inches / 15.24 cm with larger marks to clearly denote every foot / 30.48 cm increments.



- A clearly marked start line will be established 15 ft/ 4.5 m from the base of the wall.
- A break stick in case of failure to out.
- 2 long lines in case the event is not securely enclosed.

### *Belay or Secondary Catch Assistant (optional)*

Clubs may install mechanical belay devices to serve as a catch assistance or work with individual competitors to set up belay/catch assistance devices. The use of any such belay device must be approved in advance by the judge and the operator must demonstrate proper use of the equipment in advance. Club events that include wall climb will indicate if a belay system is available for use. The handler may enlist a second handler/helper to work the belay line. .

In the event a belay system is not available, competitors may bring a secondary catch assistant. The sole purpose of this individual is to catch and guide the dog to the ground. Providing and training a secondary catch assistant is the responsibility of the handler.

In all cases the competitor is responsible for, and assumes liability for the safe landing of the dog if they are unable to catch safely. Handler/helper error or handler equipment failure is not the liability of GRC Dogsports, INC

Events that include Wall Climb must be advertised as with or without a belay system so that competitors may make individual determinations about whether or not they wish to compete before they sign up.

### *Weight Pull*

- Approved sled & Weight. See the Event Rules for specific about the allied types of sleds.
- Harness specific pulling sleds are required. Cart harnesses are not allowed. The spreader bar of the harness may not exceed more than 6 inches from the outstretched leg.
- Approved Track.
- Conversion Chart.
- Timer.

The requirements for the SR test and regulation equipment specifications for each event are outlined in the Event Rulebook.

## Housing of Dogs for Competitors & Spectators

Dogs at the competition will be housed in crates or the vehicles of the competitors or spectators. It is the owner/handler's responsibility to ensure that proper safety precautions are taken to account for weather conditions and related stress issues such as heat exhaustion, heat stroke, excessive cold, or icy conditions

that might negatively affect a dog's health and well-being. Areas will be designated for exercising and breaking the dogs. Obedience warm up is allowed in designated areas out of view of, sufficiently far enough from, the competition grounds to avoid confusing competing dogs by overheard commands. Stewards will announce the upcoming dogs, and it is the responsibility of the handler to be on time to the right position. All dogs at the competition must remain on leash (unless currently competing) and be supervised at all times.

## On-Deck Area

The Competition judge shall designate a safe on-deck area for teams to wait until called to the field for the SR test or Drive Event. All conduct committed in view of the judge, is subject to evaluation for unsportsmanlike behavior or general control. All training equipment must be removed and left at the entry gate onto the field.

## Entering the Field

The judge shall set up a marked place for entering the test or event area. All competitors must pass through this gate and onto the field with the proper equipment as described in the rulebook.

## Corrections

GRC DOGSPORTS understands that training corrections, conducted in a humane way in a warm up of a highly driven competitive dog, do not necessarily constitute abuse *prima facie*. However, competitors are forewarned: there is a fine line to tread here, and handlers should conduct themselves in a professional manner, and not conduct themselves in a way to bring disgrace or dishonor to GRC DOGSPORTS. The Competition judge shall determine if handler conduct is appropriate at any time on the Competition grounds and may sanction any member involved in any conduct that is deemed inappropriate.

## Non-Essential Personnel

No person or persons except for Competition secretaries, Competition chairperson, judges and apprentice judges, or approved photographers & videographers shall be allowed on the field during the GRC DOGSPORTS competition. The judge shall ask for the removal of all non-essential personnel.

## Commercial Photography or Videography

GRC DOGSPORTS reserves the right to demand that any photo or video deemed to portray GRC DOGSPORTS negatively not be publicly displayed and/or removed from public display (i.e., websites). Any person taking pictures or video of GRC DOGSPORTS events for their own personal use is welcome to do so.

GRC DOGSPORTS must approve all on-field photographers/videographers. All photographers/videographers must be members of GRC DOGSPORTS (for insurance purposes). On field photographers/videographers must submit a request to have on-field access to the GRC DOGSPORTS at least two weeks prior to the event, and membership to GRC DOGSPORTS will be confirmed before approval is given.

On-field photographers/videographers who wish to sell their photographs/videos to competitors must agree, in advance, to provide GRC DOGSPORTS with no fewer than 5 digital photos (or 5 minutes of video) that may be featured on the GRC DOGSPORTS website or social media groups/pages, used as the rulebook cover, etc. Photographers may only advertise their “for-sale” photographs/videos on the GRC DOGSPORTS social media pages/groups if GRC DOGSPORTS is receiving no fewer than 5 digital photos (or 5 minutes of video) for their own advertising. Credit (and posted website links, if applicable) will be given to all photographers/videographers who provide photographs/videos of events. In lieu of at least 5 digital photos (or 5 minutes of video), a photographer/videographer may pay GRC DOGSPORTS \$75 for on-field access.

## Sportsmanship

All competitors are required to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner. The presiding judge may dismiss a competitor from competition or expelled from the Competition grounds any member for unsportsmanlike conduct, at any time. Any improper conduct, including abusive treatment of a dog or cheating (as decided by the presiding judge), or abusive language directed at the Competition officials, judge, or anyone associated with the Competition, conducted in view of the judge or any director or assistant director, will bring summary dismissal. Any such decision is at the discretion of the presiding judge, so competitors are forewarned. **No conduct will be tolerated that is discriminatory, abusive or brings disgrace to the sport.**

## Order of Competition

Competition chairperson and/or Competition secretary shall make the order of competition. The Competition chairperson may rearrange the order to accommodate handlers showing multiple dogs, or at his/her discretion, or the discretion of the judge. The judge may change the order of the levels to be shown based on the level of the handler/dog teams registered for the competition.

## APPENDIX A: CHECKLIST FOR COMPETITIONS

- Event secretary
- Steward/certified GRC DOGSPORTS judge(s) in good standing who is certificate for the schedule event(s)
- Pens/registration forms/new membership forms/renewal membership forms/extra scorebooks
- Print out or access online registration list for check in
- GRC DOGSPORTS Regulations book and Event Rulebook-print or electronic
- Free Hydration (e.g., water, Gatorade) for judge/stewards.
- Access to water for competitors and dogs
- Snow fencing or caution tape fashioned into fencing with posts (if no fencing around the Competition field)
- Mandatory Equipment for individual events (refer to Rulebook for specific measurements)
- Anything that the judge may want so **MAKE SURE YOU ASK**