

DraftDog

Official Rulebook



FOR DSA SANCTIONED DRAFT DOG TESTING

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DSA-Sanctioned DraftDog Rulebook

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Dog Scouts of America
www.dogscouts.org

What is DraftDog?

Introduction:

The DSA Draft Test is a series of exercises designed to demonstrate the abilities of any size or breed of dog in a land work capacity. The performance of these skills is intended to demonstrate teamwork between dog and handler simulating realistic working situations. Historically, dogs have been used to transport goods to/from market, weapons and supplies in battle, and even wounded soldiers.

As with all DSA activities, there is a part for the dog to master, and a part for the handler to master. Each handler must demonstrate a working knowledge of drafting and be familiar with training and equipment. Dogs must be willing to work with their handlers, as efficiently as possible. Some dogs have a natural ability for carting, but DSA believes that all dogs should be able to train for and compete in Draft Test, no matter what their size or hereditary tendencies.

These rules are the guidelines by which dogs and handlers are judged at an DSA Draft Test. These rules are not a training guide for draft work.

Description of a Draft Test

The competition will be open to on-lead, off-lead, and driving (handler seated) carting dogs. The entry can be a single dog or team (two dogs). The courses will be the same, but the entries will compete within their own division (single on-lead, team on-lead, single off-lead, team off-lead, etc.)

Any type of wagon or cart is acceptable, as long as the dog(s) can handle the size and weight of the cart comfortably and easily over the course and negotiate all elements. The handler assumes all responsibility to ensure that his/her individual cart can negotiate the course. The course will not be modified to accommodate larger carts. A two wheel vehicle is preferred due to its maneuverability.

Talking to the dog and verbal praise are allowed during the exercises. Physical praise such as petting or pats may be given between exercises and are limited to touching with the hands only. No other part of the handler's body should touch the dog.

All entries except driving will have their carts weighted with an additional freight load provided by the handler. Emphasis is on precision, not speed. Failure to negotiate any one element on the course will result in a non-qualifying score despite an over-all score of 170 or above.

A carting dog should move the cart with pride and eagerness yet listen to direction from the handler. The purpose of this competition is to give handlers and their carting dogs a chance to exhibit these wonderful skills and abilities.

General Rules

Collars/Harnesses:

Electronic training/collar devices are not allowed on the grounds at a DSA trial, test, or match. This includes electronic training devices, shock collars, and bark collars that shock a dog. Dogs may not participate with training devices/collars that would aid loose leash walking or heeling, or inflict punishment on the dog (to include choke collars.) The premium must list if a host organization does not allow other collars or leading/tethering devices.

Flat buckle collars are allowed. These include any collar that fastens at a stationary point rather than tightening. Properly fitted limited-slip/martingale collars are allowed (when tightened fully, the collar is only snug and does not press into the dog's neck muscle.) Properly fitted harnesses are allowed as long as a stationary leash attachment is on the dog's back. No-pull type harnesses are not permitted while testing. All equipment is subject to review by the judge.

Training aids, such as head halters and no-pull harnesses, are permitted on competition grounds, but not during the team's testing.

Leashes:

Dogs may be on or off leash, at handler's discretion.

Handlers:

Dogs may not be professionally handled, and should be handled by a member of the dog's household or family. The dog may be handled by different people in different matches or trials but must be handled by only one person during all exercises of a single trial/test.

All un-entered dogs must be kept outside and away from the main test area.

Clean Up:

Dog owners are responsible for cleaning up anything that comes out of their dog. Trial hosts are responsible for providing means to clean and disinfect surfaces from odors. Failure to responsibly clean up after your dog will result in excusal from the trial or match without any refunding of entry fees.

Limitations:

Dogs under 12 months of age shall not be eligible to compete in DraftDog events.

Bitches in season must compete only after all male dogs are judged. When not being tested, bitches in season must be contained in a designated area well away from male dogs and the official test areas.

The owner/handler has full responsibility to have complete control over the dog while attending a trial or fun match. Handlers may not allow their dogs to freely roam, and should not allow their dog to approach/greet another dog without the permission of that dog's handler—this is both as a courtesy and in order to encourage only positive interactions between dogs.

Any judge or host club/organization has the authority to dismiss a dog/handler from the “ring” area or the show grounds. A judge may disqualify any dog for fighting or attempting to bite another dog or person. The judge may disqualify a competitor for any unsportsmanlike action.

Judges will disqualify and remove from competition any dog that has open wounds, is obviously in pain or wears corrective bandages or other attachments.

No exhibitor, spectator, or their children and/or dog may be in a testing ring area, which is currently not in use, for any reason, without the host club or judge's permission. Any such instance will result in an excusal from the balance of the trial without refund of any fees; spectators will be excused from the trial site. Dogs not entered in the trial or match may not use any equipment without the host club/organization's permission and the owner signing a liability release form

Food/Rewards:

Food and other rewards may not be used during testing.

Destructiveness, Disruptiveness and Safety:

If the judge observes a dog destroying or damaging equipment, facilities, or supplies used in the event, or engaging in unsafe behavior, the judge will stop that exercise, with zero points scored for that exercise.

Within reason, dogs may bark or otherwise vocalize while participating in the trial or match. However, if the judge determines that the dog has ceased working and is continually barking or doing some other disruptive behavior, the judge will end the exercise.

The judges will always strive to present exercises that are safe for the average, under-control dog to participate in. The dog's handler is responsible for the safety of, and control of, their individual dog. If there is an item or action within the trial/match's exercises that would present a safety issue due to the behavior or lack of control of that particular dog, the handler must not allow the dog to perform that task, or must stop the dog from continuing any unsafe behavior.

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Registration and Entry

Registering with DSA, Entry Eligibility

All dogs entering a DSA-sanctioned event must be registered with DSA prior to the host club's closing date for that event. If the event has Day of Show (DOS) entries, a printed email or online registration confirmation from DSA with the assigned DSA Competition Registration Number (CRN), may be presented at the event as proof of registration. See the Forms section in the rulebook for a DSA Competition Registration Number (CRN) Request Form, or the Competition & Titling page on the DSA website.

Initial DSA Competition Registration Number (CRN) Request Forms must be mailed with the proper fee payment, or if available, purchased and submitted online. Allow at least 2-3 weeks for the form to reach DSA and to be processed.

DSA CRN numbers are emailed to legible email addresses for all forms, when received and processed. If there are any questions regarding filling out DSA CRN forms, contact DSA (See the Contact Us page on the DSA website for DSA Competition & Titling contact info.)

Any healthy dog, 12 months of age or older on the day of the trial, may enter a DSA-sanctioned Draft Test event. Mixed-breeds and purebred dogs are equally eligible for entry. Wolves or wolf-hybrids are not allowed to enter DSA Competition & Titling events.

Updating Your DSA Registration Information:

Send address, phone, email, or other changes to DSA by mail or email. Send name changes by mail to DSA, and include \$5 per dog to receive a new id card with the name change.

*** See the Contact Us page on the DSA website to find contact information for staff handling DSA Competition & Titling inquiries. ***

Trial Entries & Check-in Procedures

A general liability waiver will be a standard part of the entry forms for DSA-sanctioned events. It is highly encouraged that organizations and groups holding "Fun Matches" also require participants to sign a general liability waiver in order to protect those organizing and hosting the match, and to encourage participants to be responsible for their own, and their dog's, behavior throughout the match.

The entry form must be completed, signed and mailed to the Event Secretary for the event. If an entry has been accepted by the host group and a payment rejected by the bank, the competitor shall be required to pay a \$25 rejected payment processing fee. Entry is considered complete only after proper entry forms are submitted and payment is made; if the trial fills before that happens, the person loses their spot in the trial.

Description of the DraftDog Test and Its Exercises

Familiarization with the Test Courses

Sixty (60) minutes before the start of judging, handlers and dogs (except bitches in season) are allowed a thirty-minute (30-minute) period to familiarize themselves with the test areas. Stewards must be available to monitor the test areas. Handlers may walk the course with their dogs on lead but not hitched to an apparatus. Handlers will not be permitted to walk the courses after this time period. Sixty (60) minutes before the start of judging, all entrants will check in with the carting test secretary, prior to course familiarization. If a handler is not present within thirty (30) minutes of check-in time, an entrant from the alternate list will be assigned the absent handler's position. Thirty (30) minutes before the start of judging, handlers and stewards must meet with the judges for instruction. Judges will answer questions at this time.

Test Area Conditions

The testing areas for the exercises must be clearly marked (e.g. ribbons on trees, lime path on route, and so forth). Only members of the carting test committee, judges, and stewards have unlimited access to the testing areas. Only the current handler and dog being tested are permitted in the testing areas.

Course Size

The size of the course will be a minimum of **250 feet** from start to finish (this is the actual distance dog and handler must cover to complete the course.) The course must be large enough to incorporate all required elements and exercises. The only specific measurements are the 9 feet between pylons of the serpentine exercise, and the 3 foot backing exercise. Reasonable distances between course exercises will be determined on an individual basis to allow the judge to see and evaluate the handler and dog(s) without excessive walking. There should be enough distance between course exercises to allow dog(s) and handlers to move easily at a trot.

Course Terrain

Course terrain will be dependent on what is available. Level terrain is preferred with some very moderate sloping allowed if the area is restricted. Hard surface is preferred, grass is acceptable. Weather is to be considered, as hot pavement and wet soggy grass are both unsuitable for this competition. Heavy, soft footing and inclines are to be avoided. The course will not be in a roped-off ring environment.

Course Elements:

Please note that each required element must be present and may not be combined. Example: Even though a stop occurs as part of the back up and the gate, this does not substitute for the stop element required below.)

1. Basic Control (Heel/Stay/Recall)
2. Harnessing and Hitching (Pull, Stop, Back up)
3. Maneuvering the Course: (Left turn (90 degrees), Right turn (90 degrees), Stop, Slow, Circle Left, Circle Right, Serpentine, Narrows (2), Gate)
4. One distraction (i.e., pedestrian walking a dog, bicyclist passing, ball thrown near dog)
5. Removable Object
6. Down Stay
7. Freight Load plus hauling (30 ft. min)

Equipment

The group sponsoring the Draft Test will provide:

- ◆ Judging score sheets. These should be supplied by DSA and received prior to the test date.
- ◆ Markers to delineate the course; these could be traffic cones, fence posts, or similar objects.
- ◆ A removable obstacle; this could be a log or branches, part of a fence or gate, or similar objects; though obedience/agility equipment could be used it is discouraged as such equipment might encourage the dog to try to jump the obstacle.
- ◆ A 3-foot measure to be placed on the ground next to each dog to measure the backing distance.
- ◆ A ring at least 2500 square feet in size
- ◆ An interesting distraction

The handler/competitor is responsible for providing certain types of equipment. The handler will make sure the harness and cart fits the dog properly. The hook-up should not allow the cart to run up and bump the dog during the course exercises. The weight should be placed, balanced, and fixed in place by the handler (secure enough that load item will not come loose during testing.) Assistance may be given to those handlers who cannot load or unload the load weight. The handler accepts full responsibility of ensuring any load placed on the cart can be easily managed by the dog(s) and that the dog does not appear to be under duress attempting to move the cart. The handler will make sure the weight is properly balanced. Any dog that appears to be negatively impacted with the cart weight can be excused by the judge at any point in the course.

Equipment provided by handlers is as follows:

- A two-wheeled (preferred) or four-wheeled cart
- An appropriate draft harness properly fitted to the dog
- A freight load appropriate to the size of the cart and dog (30 to 50% of the dog's weight; veteran's class: 15 to 25% of the dog's weight)
- A buckle or limited slip collar (no pinch or prong or electric collars will be allowed on the grounds)
- Head halter use restricted to driving and then only if fitted with reins
- Minimum of four foot lead if at DS level
- Reins if at DX level
- Ties to secure load weight at DS or DA level

The Test Elements

1. Basic Control (heel, stay, come)

The handler should come to the ring with harness, and have the cart in a staging area nearby. The handler will heel the dog out to a point designated by the judge, where the handler will remove the leash and place the dog in a down stay (touching is allowed). The handler will place the harness and leash in the designated place, about 30 feet from the dog (at start point.) The handler will then go and get the cart (the steward is allowed to help, if requested) and position it at the starting point. The handler will then go to where the harness is, and call the dog to come.

2. Harnessing and Hitching

At the completion of the recall, the judge will instruct the handler to harness and to hitch his dog. The dog and handler position themselves close to the carting rig. The handler harnesses and hitches the dog. The

handler may instruct the dog to cooperate for harnessing and hitching. Using the equipment provided by the handler, the handler harnesses and hitches the dog in this exercise. A handler may touch the dog only as required to harness and to hitch the dog, but may not touch to discipline. The dog must demonstrate willingness to be harnessed and hitched to the carting apparatus without shying. The judge may touch the dog and equipment as necessary for checking. Once checked, equipment may not be substituted and the handler must use the approved equipment throughout the remainder of the test. The equipment must remain in safe working condition throughout the carting test. Consequently, the judge may fail improper or unsafe equipment at any time during the remainder of the test.

When the dog is completely hitched, the judge will indicate that the dog and handler are to move to a predetermined location (at least twenty feet ahead) and stop. As the dog and handler move forward, the judge observes the equipment to verify that the equipment works safely, efficiently, and in harmony with the dog's anatomy during the forward motion and during braking. When the dog and handler have stopped at the designated location, the judge calls the exercise finished. The judge instructs the handler through the exercise using such cues as harness your dog, hitch your dog, move forward to the next position, halt, and exercise finished.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

- Judge inspects equipment, which must be in good working condition, safe and appropriate for the test site and for the dog.
- Handler hitches and harnesses his dog, and uses equipment correctly and appropriately during the remainder of the test.
- Handler demonstrates that the equipment performs safely and efficiently when in motion and when braking.

Failing Performance

- Handler physically guides dog during the exercise, with the exception of the necessary physical contact required to harness and to hitch the dog.
- Dog is uncooperative (walks away, refuses to obey handler's cues) during harnessing.
- Dog is uncooperative during hitching.
- Handler does not properly harness or hitch the dog to the apparatus.
- Harness does not fit correctly.
- The hitch is unsafe.
- Apparatus balance is unsafe or causes dog trouble while working.
- Equipment is poorly designed or in need of repair.
- Carting equipment selected by handler is inappropriate for site and/or dog.
- Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.

3. Maneuvering Course

The draft test committee sets up and clearly marks a maneuvering course that includes as many natural features as possible. The judge will verify that the course meets the test criteria. If necessary, the judge may modify the course so that it adequately tests the handler and the dog's maneuvering abilities. The course must cover at least one hundred-fifty feet and include the following:

- Circular patterns both right and left.

- Broad curves.
- Ninety-degree turns; at least one (1) to the left and one (1) to the right.
- At least two narrow areas five or more feet long; preferably one low to the ground (e.g. logs), and one solid narrow area a minimum of three feet high (e.g. stacked bales of hay, fencing, etc.), simulating a gate.
- Removable obstacle.
- Back 3 feet within 30 seconds
- Slow

At the beginning of the maneuvering course, the judge tells the handler and dog to begin. The dog hitched to the carting apparatus, hauls forward at a normal working speed accompanying the handler. There are no time constraints for traversing the course as long as the dog continues to work.

The handler may work in front of, beside or behind the dog, or any combination of these positions. The handler may not impede the dog's forward movement at any time. This includes stepping in front of a dog to enforce a halt cue or stepping in front of a dog that tries to change direction against the handler's cue. The judge will allow a light load if it significantly improves apparatus stability.

The DS and DTS dogs will perform the maneuvering course on lead, moving comfortably with the handler, and will be penalized for excessive tight leash corrections. The DA and DTA dogs will perform the maneuvering course off lead, and must move comfortably with the handler and be under control at all times.

At an appropriate location along the maneuvering course, the judge will order the handler and dog to slow, to show a definite change of pace for a short distance. The judge will instruct handler and dog to stop and back the dog for a distance of three feet. The dog must do the exercise within 30 seconds. The judge will decide in advance the appropriate locations for the slow and back and sequences for the orders. The locations will be the same for all dogs.

If a dog's apparatus bumps any object (e.g. tree or narrow area) and the dog obeys the handler's cues in dislodging it, the judge will pass the dog. However, if this happens more than two (2) times, the judge will fail the dog. The dog will also fail the exercise if the dog damages the objects and apparatus. At least one (1) of the narrow areas should be adjusted to be twelve (12) inches wider than the widest point of each dog and apparatus. Other narrow areas may be wider.

At the removable obstacle the dog waits (handler instructions allowed) for the handler to move the obstacle and then the dog waits until the handler instructs the dog to move through the passageway. The judge will instruct the handler to leave the dog and return the obstacle to its former position.

The handler may not touch the carting apparatus unless special permission is granted by the judge and then only if negotiation of a maneuver exceeds the dog's ability or if the equipment requires assistance in passing an obstacle (e.g. curb). Once the area is passed, the handler must release his hand from the apparatus.

Principle Parts of the Exercise

- With the dog harnessed and hitched to the carting apparatus, the handler directs the dog to pull through the maneuvering course.
- The dog follows the handler's instructions to turn, halt, slow, and back as directed by the judge.

Failing Performance

- Handler impedes the dog's forward movement by moving in front of the dog to enforce a halt cue.
- Handler touches dog or apparatus without judges' permission.
- Dog refuses to accompany handler.
- Dog does not obey cues given by handler.
- Dog and apparatus bumps objects more than two (2) times.
- Dog bumps handler who chooses to work in front of his dog.
- Dog refuses to back the required distance within thirty (30) seconds on cue.
- Dog tries to pass removable obstacle without waiting for handler to move it, does not wait for handler's cue to move forward or does not stay while the handler returns the obstacle to original position.
- Dog upsets the carting apparatus.
- Equipment breaks in a manner that could not be anticipated and cannot be repaired by the handler without assistance within ten (10) minutes.

4. Interesting Distraction

At some point during one of the moving exercises (Maneuvering Course or Distance Freight Haul), a planned interesting distraction is performed near the dog. The distraction should be the same for all dogs. If an unplanned/natural distraction occurs, the dog will be judged the same as on the planned intriguing distraction. When the distraction appears, the dog may stop what it is doing or shift its position to watch, but may not divert from the course. To give the dog time to respond to the handler's stop cue, the dog may move two or three steps toward or away from the distraction. If the dog stops to watch the distraction, the handler should encourage the dog to proceed when appropriate to do so.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

- A distraction occurs near the working dog during a moving exercise.
- The dog may stop and notice the distraction, but may not pursue, or flee from the distraction.
- The handler redirects the dog, and the dog continues with the exercise.

Failing Performance

- Handler physically touches or guides the dog during the exercise.
- Dog changes direction and follows the distraction.
- Dog flees from the distraction.
- Dog barks more than a few times or refuses to stop barking when instructed by the handler.
- Dog refuses to resume the exercise after the distraction passes.
- Dog fails a naturally occurring distraction for the above reasons, even if it has passed the planned distraction.

6. Down Stay

The DS and DTS dogs must do a down stay and DA and DTA dogs must do an out-of-sight down stay, within the maneuvering course, and while hitched and harnessed to the carting apparatus.

The judge will instruct the handler to down the dog in a specified area of the maneuvering course. The

handler will cue the dog to down. The judge will signal the handler to leave the dog. DS and DTS handlers may drop the lead. The handler will walk to a position 25 to 30 feet away from the dog, and on the judge's order, pick up the load weight and return to the dog. The judge calls the following orders: down your dog, leave your dog, return to you dog, and exercise finished.

Principal parts of the Down Exercise for Standard Class

- The exercise is performed with the handler at least 25 feet away from the dog.
- The 'stay' cue may be given as a voice, hand or simultaneous voice and hand signal.
- The judge will tell the handler to return to the dog after a brief pause. The handler may walk around the dog or return directly to heel position.
- The dog will remain down until the handler returns to the dog with the weight load.
- The handler shall not release the dog until the judge says exercise finished.

Failing Performance

- Handler gives more than one stay cue, or uses excessively loud tones of voice, in an effort to intimidate the dog.
- Dog moves substantially, even though still down, and significantly moves the apparatus forward or backward.
- Dog sits or stands any time before the handler returns to heel position.

Principal parts of the Out-of-sight Down Exercise for Advanced Class

- The exercise is performed with the handler going out of sight to retrieve the freight load (a dolly can be used to transport freight loads of more than 30 pounds).
- The 'stay' cue may be given as a voice, hand or simultaneous voice and hand signal.
- The judge will tell the handler to return to their dogs after the handler has acquired the freight load.
- The handlers may walk around their dog, leaving the weight load beside the cart, or return directly to the dog, setting the freight load near the dog.
- The dog will remain down until the handler returns to the dog.
- The handler shall not release the dog until the judge says exercise finished.

7. Freight Load Hauling

At the end of the Maneuvering Exercise (after the Distraction and the Down), the judge will watch each individual handler load and secure the freight in the apparatus. The handler must select an appropriate freight load for the apparatus and the dog within the range of five (5) to fifty (50) pounds for a wheeled apparatus.

In the Freight Load portion of the Carting Test, the entrants in the Veteran's Division shall be loaded with less weight. A steward will weigh any non-standardized freight materials. At the judges' discretion, the steward may be asked to weigh any of the loads.

The handler will provide the freight load for the apparatus. The handler must secure the load adequately so that it does not shift when the apparatus moves. The handler must place and secure the load into or on the carting apparatus without help from anyone else. The judge will verify that the load is appropriate for the dog, apparatus, and the site conditions. Animals or people may not be used as loads. Factory sealed containers of pet food may be used if the seal has not been broken.

After the judge has observed each handler load and secure the freight in the apparatus, the judge will watch the dog and handler move the cart and load weight to a position outside the ring, completing the

exercise. The judge will instruct the handler that the exercise is completed.

Principal Parts of the Exercise

- The handler selects a comfortable working load for the dog and apparatus.
- The handler loads and secures the weight in the apparatus.
- Judge observes that the freight load is balanced and secured safely during movement.

Failing Performance

- The load is not balanced.
- The load is not securely tied down.
- The dog is improperly harnessed or hitched.
- Handler overloads the dog's apparatus.
- Handler must reduce or re-balance the freight load after the dog begins to pull.
- Handler physically touches or guides the dog unnecessarily during loading.
- Dog refuses to move loaded carting apparatus.
- Freight load becomes unbalanced when the apparatus is moving.
- Freight load is too heavy for the dog.

Note: If the judge fails a handler because the freight load is too heavy for the dog before the dog begins to pull, weight may be removed and the handler and dog may finish the course with a lighter load.

TEAM DIVISION EXERCISE CONSIDERATION

Standards of Performance and Principal Parts of the Exercise for all parts of this test for a team follow those of a single dog, with the exception that the handler will be working with more than one dog hitched to the carting apparatus. Dogs may have their collars connected by a coupling device not less than six (6) inches in overall length.

The dogs in the team are to perform the cues together. The adjustable narrows area should be twelve (12) inches wider than the team or apparatus (whichever is wider).

A failing performance for a team follows the same rules as for a single dog, with the stipulation that a failing performance by any one member of the team is cause for failure of that exercise for the entire team. If one member of the team consistently pulls less than its share, the team is considered to have failed the exercise. The judge should consider the size of the dogs when judging the team's allocation of work. Note: Weight added would be based on each dog's weight- if a dog that is 60 lbs is hitched with a dog that is 70 lbs, the weights required for each dog as an individual would be added.

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Competition and Titling

Points and titles are awarded only in DSA-sanctioned trials. “Fun Matches” may be held either as “just for fun” without any scoring, or using the same scoring rules with optional placements and prizes awarded – but these would not be points-bearing trials.

Titles earned shall be placed after the dog's name.

Class Divisions and Titles

A dog receiving a qualifying score at any level shall be deemed to have earned the title for that level. You can enter at any level. A DS dog must go to DA or DX after obtaining a DS title. A DA dog can stay competing at the DA level or go to the DX level. The DX dog can continue to compete at the DX level after obtaining a DX title.

Titles are as follows:

DS Draft Started (on lead)
DA Draft Advanced (off lead)
DX Draft Excellent (driving)
DTS – Draft Team Started (a brace of two)
DTA – Draft Team Advanced
DVS – Draft Veteran Started
DVA – Draft Veteran Advanced
DVTS – Draft Veteran Team Started

A Certificate will be awarded by the DSA to a dog/handler team that earns a title. Ribbons or prizes may be offered by the sponsoring club for a qualifying performance. Ring favors may also be given.

For carting dogs/handlers who wish to continue carting, the DSA has designated a Mastery Program. After a dog has earned its DA title, the dog may continue carting and earn the following titles:

Master Draft Dog (MDD) – 3 successful Advanced tests
Master Draft Dog Excellent (MDDX) – 5 successful Advanced tests
Champion Draft Dog (ChDD) – 10 successful Advanced tests
To obtain these titles, the DSA Mastery Draft Application must be submitted to the DSA, and certificates will be issued.

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Holding a Draft Test

“Fun Matches” can be offered by any group after contacting the Dog Scouts of America for approval (see Contact Us page on the DSA website for current contact info). Teams can be scored and placements given but scores will not be recorded for titling, nor would points be accumulated.

Any group can apply to Dog Scouts of America to hold a sanctioned event. Once approved, the organizing group will need to follow the below guidelines for their event. Fees will be paid to Dog Scouts of America from the host club organization.

Application to hold a Draft Test

Application must be made using an approved DSA application form. The completed application and required fee (payable to the DSA) must be sent to the Sanctioning Office. Applications must be made 4 months in advance of the test. The following information must be included:

- The names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses (if possible) of the carting test chairperson, and the carting test secretary and the name of at least two additional committee members. All must be members in good standing of DSA or the regional club sponsoring the carting test, or both.
- The judge’s name, address, and breed affiliation, if any.
- The certification that all DSA Draft Test regulations will be followed.
- The date of the proposed carting test, address and a description of the site including a detailed site map with descriptions of the ground conditions and terrain.
- The signatures of the carting test chairperson, and the carting test secretary.

The show secretary will acknowledge entries and inform of start time, and location. If entries exceed the entry limit, alternates must be notified of their place on the alternate list. A copy of the rules must be available at the show site and to the judge.

DSA allows a sanctioned Draft Test to take place within another organization’s test if the other organization will allow it (regular DSA sanctioning fees apply unless otherwise negotiated in advance with the DSA Competition & Titling office.) For example, after a breed-specific club’s carting trial, they may wish to open it up to dogs that are not normally allowed to take the Rottweiler Carting Test or the Mastiff Club of America’s Carting Test. This will introduce more people to the sport and help approve more judges for DSA Draft Tests.

Recommended Entry Handling Procedure

Maximum number of entries per judge is fifteen (15) per test day. If the draft test committee anticipates an entry in excess of its facilities for a carting test, it may limit entries to fewer than fifteen.

A prominent announcement of test limits must appear on the title or cover page of the draft test premium. Priority will be given to entries that have not earned titles in the division entered. Entries will be accepted by mail only. The entry slots will be filled according to the postmark date. If the number of entries with the same date exceeds the number of available slots, a drawing will take place to fill the vacancies and determine the alternates. All entries received after the entry limit is filled will be placed on an “alternate list” by order of postmark. If absentees or withdrawals occur prior to the start of the test, the test secretary will substitute entries from the alternate list. When notifying exhibitors of their entry numbers, exhibitors on the alternate list will be notified of their position on the waiting list. Entrants who learn they will be

unable to attend a carting test should contact the test secretary immediately so exhibitors on the alternate list may be notified. Entry fees will be refunded if the withdrawal of the entry is done prior to the closing date of the Draft Test. If space permits, day of entries will be allowed. Move ups will be allowed on the day of the test, before the test begins.

Stewards

At least one steward is required for the individual exercises.

Steward(s) assist the judges and they may act only on the judges' instructions. Stewards must not give information or instructions to owners and entrants except as specifically instructed by a judge and then only in such a manner that it is clear that the instructions are those of a judge. The steward(s) will assist the handler with equipment prior to the Harnessing and Hitching exercises as needed, and as instructed by the handler. Any harassment of stewards must be reported immediately to the judges. The judge may assign a steward to perform the measurement of the cart's width, and set the width of the narrows accordingly.

Show committee and officials:

The following officials shall preside at each DraftDog Test:

Judge: The Judge shall be chosen from the approved DSA-sanctioned DraftDog Judges list.

The Judge's duties are as follows:

- Ensure appropriateness of course, test area, and equipment.
- Inspect equipment to be used for safety.
- Instruct timer about timing.
- Briefing exhibitors prior to each class.
- All decisions of the judge are final.
- If a judge's dog is competing during a trial where the judge has been in the role as a judge, then even if it is judged by other persons, the dog is not eligible for placements if earned.

Show Chairperson and Show Secretary: (Both of these positions may be filled by the same person.) The Chairperson is the official contact person for complaints or infractions. The Chairperson is also the backup for the Show Secretary in an emergency situation.

The show secretary is responsible for answering prospective entrants questions, emailing/ mailing premium lists to prospective entrants, email/ mailing confirmation notices, posting running orders, ensuring the table help understands the scoring procedures, and submission of trial results forms and score sheets to DSA and the host club.

Gate Steward: A gate steward is responsible to keep the "ring" running quickly and smoothly. The Gate Steward has no responsibility to find dogs. It is preferred to have 3 dogs ready to enter the "ring" area at all times. The Gate Steward has authority to change the order of teams to be judged as long as they inform the judge of such a change.

Judge's Guidelines

Judges are the backbone of any sport and their actions and opinions influence conduct beyond the performance ring. A set of standards for judges has been developed to improve the standards of adjudication. Persons meeting these qualifications may be added to the “Approved Judges List.”

Standard for Judges

Individuals that are approved to judge Draft tests in the following breeds may also judge DSA Draft tests: Greater Swiss mountain Dogs, Bernese Mountain Dogs, St. Bernard, Rottweiler, Bouvier des Flandres, and Newfoundland, . A judge will be selected based on locale. A copy of DSA rules must be provided to the judge 60 days prior to the test. DSA members and Scout Evaluators may apply to the Sanctioning Office to become a Draft Dog Judge after placing at least one Draft Dog Title and one Obedience title on a dog.

In order to maintain a position on the Approved Judges List, each Judge must:

- when and if requested, periodically pass a short form examination dealing with rule changes
- maintain an active role in the sport
- be of good character, setting forth a professional image for the sport
- at all times when representing DSA or DraftDog, or on site at a DSA Sanctioned event, will utilize and promote only positive training methods that are in accordance with DSA’s position on punishment, which can be found on the DSA website

Persons on the Approved Judges List:

- during a trial or match, are expected to uphold an image of integrity and as a competent professional, both on and off the course
- shall recognize their role as a judge is a privilege not a right
- shall diligently fulfill all responsibilities with regard to judging assignments
- shall seek to assist fellow judges when needed in fulfillment of judging responsibilities when viewed in the best interest of the sport

Disciplinary Actions

A person on the Approved Judges List who shall violate the standards in fact or in spirit shall be subject to disciplinary action in the form of reprimand, probation, suspension or removal from the Approved Judges List. All disciplinary action proceedings shall be conducted by the DSA Board of Directors in “closed session” and shall remain confidential, except that the decision to suspend or remove a person from the Approved Judges List shall be published.

Judging

The judge has the right to remove or excuse any competitor during any part of the test. The Judge also has the right to deny participation in a Carting Test due to ill fitting equipment, physical unsoundness, or unruliness of dog or handler. The success and integrity of the carting program is dependent upon the judges’ knowledge, ethics and common sense. It is the judge’s responsibility to be positioned so that total attention can be given to the dog and handler for the entire time it is present for judging, and to score each dog/handler team in an impartial manner. All Judges’ decisions are final. The judge will record pass/fail information for each dog on the Judges Record Sheets following the conclusion of the test. These sheets

may be posted for entrants to view.

Scoring

For a dog to receive a qualifying score, the judge must mark the dog as passed in each exercise.

To receive a qualifying score you must receive a score of 170 or better out of the possible 200; not fail any given exercise; not have been removed from any exercise by the judge; and must negotiate all course elements. Each entrant will be timed but this is not a condition to qualify. The time will be used in the event of a tie score to determine placement.

Dogs and handlers doing any of the following automatically fail:

- The dog leaves the ring; the judge may use his or her discretion as to whether the dog will be allowed to complete the exercises.
- The dog upsets the cart/wagon; the judge may use his or her discretion as to whether the dog will be allowed to complete the exercises.
- The dog eliminates in the ring; the judge may use his or her discretion as to whether the dog will be allowed to complete the exercises.
- The dog is not under control; the dog may not complete the exercises and will be dismissed immediately.
- If the handler has placed a load in the cart / wagon, the load is too heavy for the dog's condition; the judge may use his or her discretion as to whether the dog will be allowed to complete the exercises.
- The dog or handler's behavior threatens the safety of the dog, the handler, some other dog or person, or physical property; the dog may not complete the exercises but will be dismissed immediately.

During the carting test, the judge may permit a handler to assist his dog in completing a failed exercise. Only gentle guidance by the dog's collar is permitted as discipline. If a dog fails a particular exercise, it will not ordinarily be re-judged. However, if in the judge's opinion a particular and unusual circumstance affected the dog's performance, the judge may re-judge the dog on the complete exercise at his or her discretion. If the judge decides to re-judge a dog on an exercise, he or she should announce the reason to the spectators and on the Draft Test Sheet.

Point Deductions

Areas of, but not limited to, point deductions are:

- Breaks stay cues during harnessing or at gate
- Dog is uncomfortable or resists hitching to cart
- Dog *initially* looks back at cart in a worried or fearful manner
- Doesn't pull or move forward readily
- Dog resists handler's cues or responds slowly, causing handler to repeat cues
- Dog lacks smoothness during turns or stops (stops poorly)
- Tight lead or hard rein pulls
- Dog goes off course
- Dog shies from a course element
- Handler physically manipulates dog using his/her body or hands

Commands, Signals and Encouragement

During the testing, a handler may give cues, signals and encouragement to the dog by voice, arm signal or with a whistle. Multiple cues and signals are permitted. When one cue only is specified for an exercise, it may be a voice, hand or simultaneous voice and hand signal. A simultaneous voice and hand signal is considered a single cue. While an entrant may encourage the dog in a pleasant and positive manner, undue

and frequent yelling, shouting or reprimands should be considered undesirable and unnecessary for a dog under control. Such behavior constitutes a failure of the exercise. Physical praise and petting are encouraged between and after exercises. A handler shall not carry or offer food during the exercises or in the testing area.

Handling Between Exercises

A dog may be guided gently by the collar between exercises. Any other physical guidance is not permitted and will result in a failure.

Library of DraftDog Forms



The forms on the following pages may be reproduced from this book, or can be obtained online along with other DSA Competition & Titling information at www.dogscouts.org.



DSA Competition Registration Number (CRN) Request Form

Complete a separate registration form for each dog you are registering. Each dog needs only one CRN to compete in any and all DSA competitions. **Please print clearly or type** – this information will appear on all DSA Competition & Titling records. Registration confirmation will be emailed to you. If you do not have email, it will be sent via US mail. Please allow 2-4 weeks for processing.

Handler Name (s): _____

Address: _____

e-mail address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Dog Name: _____

Breed: _____

Birthdate: _____ Gender: _____ Altered: _____

Height at Shoulder: _____ Approximate Weight: _____

If you have previously registered with DSA, list the first 6 digits of your CRN: _____

Fees:

DSA CRN Registration	\$35.00	_____
Less Spay/Neuter Discount (enclose proof)	-\$5.00	_____
If this is the 3rd (or greater) dog being registered in this household	-\$5.00	_____
Less DSA Member Discount	-\$10.00	_____
(Member Number/ Exp Date _____)		
Printed copy of _____ Rulebook (optional)	+\$10.00	_____
* Rulebooks are available free online at DSA website		
Total		_____

Payment Information

Make check or money order payable to DSA (in US funds drawn on U.S. Banking institutions.)

Mail to: ***Dog Scouts of America, Attn: Ann
161 Beetem Hollow Road, Newville, PA***

OFFICIAL DSA DraftDog TEST ENTRY FORM (sample)

[INSERT TRIAL HOST AND ADDRESS]

Return completed form(s) with **entry and registration fees payable to:** [insert here]

Mail To: [Trial host/secretary and address]

Entries close: [insert closing date]

Entry Fee: _____



DOG INFORMATION

Reg. Name: _____

DSA CRN #: _____

Call Name: _____

Approx. Height (at shoulder): _____

Date of Birth: _____ Breed: _____

Width of Cart: _____

Started Advanced Individual Veterans Team Driving

(For team entry complete a form for second dog)

This dog is already titled in the entered class

** Dog must have DSA Competition Registration Number (CRN) / entries will not be accepted and/or considered valid without an DSA CRN.*

OWNER/HANDLER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Handler's Name (if other than owner/handler above): _____

Entries accepted on a first-come-first served basis. Confirmations will be sent out after entries have closed.

GENERAL AGREEMENT

I understand that I enter my dog in this DSA Draft Test at my own risk. I have read the current DSA Draft Dog Test Regulations and understand them. I agree to abide by the DSA Draft Test Regulations. (Draft test regulations are available at the DSA Web Site) I certify and represent that the dog entered is not a hazard to persons or other dogs. This entry is submitted for acceptance on the foregoing representation and agreement. I agree to conduct myself in accordance with all such rules and regulations and to abide by any decisions made in accord with them. I also understand that the club holding this event has the right to refuse this entry. I agree that I am solely responsible for the actions of myself and the dog that accompanies me in relationship to this entry. In consideration of the acceptance of any entry and the opportunity to participate in this event, I agree to hold harmless and indemnify the Dog Scouts of America and the event giving club, their members, officers and agents, the owner and or leaser of the premises, any provider of services at this event, any employees or volunteers, and any Draft Dog judge judging at this event from any claim for loss, damage or injury alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly by my actions or by the actions of the dog in relationship to this event. I agree to be responsible for any loss and expense (including legal fees) incurred by any of the listed parties based on claims related in any way to my participation or the actions of the dog in relationship in this event, whether the claims are made by third parties or by myself. In addition, I agree to assume the sole responsibility for any loss, damage, or injury (including death) to myself or to the dog in relationship to this event. I agree to release, indemnify, and promise not to sue the parties listed above for any such loss, damage or injury to myself or the dog, regardless of the cause, and whether or not the loss, damage or injury may have been caused by the negligence of the listed parties.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent or Legal Guardian signature for junior or minor entries: Signature: _____ Date: _____

DSA Draft Dog Judges Evaluation Sheet



Date _____ Division _____ Individual Team Entry Number _____
 Judge: _____ Location: _____

BASIC CONTROL

Heeling: 1. Handler adapts pace 2. Frequently heels beyond reach 3. Dog leaves ring 4. Unmanageable 5. Physical handling Recall: 1. More than 1 stay cue 2. No stay when told 3. A second cue to come	Recall: (continued) 4. Does not go to handler 5. Remains out of reach 6. Dog leaves ring 7. Physical handling Down Stay: 1. More than 1 stay cue 2. Moves substantially 3. Sits or stands before handler returns to heel position	Pass <input type="checkbox"/> /Fail <input type="checkbox"/> Comments:
--	---	---

HARNESSING AND HITCHING

1. Physical Guidance 2. Refuses to accompany handler 3. Does not stay while handler gets harness 4. Uncooperative during harnessing 5. Refuses to back required distance in 30 seconds 6. Substantial change of direction during backing 7. Uncooperative during hitching	8. Handler does not properly harness or hitch 9. Harness does not fit property 10. Hitch is unsafe 11. Apparatus balance is unsafe or gives dog trouble 12. Equipment poorly designed or in need of repair 13. Equipment is inappropriate for site. 14. Equipment breaks & can't be repaired in 10 min.	Pass <input type="checkbox"/> /Fail <input type="checkbox"/> Comments:
---	---	---

MANEUVERING COURSE

1. Handler impeded dog's motion to enforce halt 2. Handler touches dog/apparatus without permission 3. Dog refuses to accompany handler 4. Dog does not obey cues given by handler 5. Dog or apparatus bumps objects more than twice	6. Dog bumps handler who works in front of dog 7. Dog refuses to back required distance in 30 sec. 8. Dog fails removable object exercise 9. Dog upsets draft apparatus 10. Equipment breaks & can't be repaired in 10 min.	Pass <input type="checkbox"/> /Fail <input type="checkbox"/> Comments:
--	---	---

FREIGHT LOAD

1. Dog significantly moves during out of sight stay 2. Handler overloads apparatus 3. Freight loaded improperly 4. Physical guidance/touching	5. Dog refuses to move loaded apparatus 6. Freight load becomes unbalanced 7. Freight load is too heavy for the dog	Pass <input type="checkbox"/> /Fail <input type="checkbox"/> Comments:
--	---	---

INTERESTING DISTRACTION

1. Handler physically touches or guides dog 2. Dog changes direction and follows distraction 3. Dog flees the distraction	4. Dog barks excessively or refuses to stop 5. Dog refuses to continue after distraction 6. Dog fails a naturally occurring distraction	Pass <input type="checkbox"/> /Fail <input type="checkbox"/> Comments:
---	---	---

DOWN STAY

1. Handler physically touches or guides dog 2. Dog does not remain in position until handler returns with freight load		Pass <input type="checkbox"/> /Fail <input type="checkbox"/> Comments:
---	--	---

FAILURES COMMON TO ALL EXERCISES

1. Dog not under control 2. Handler yells frequently to maintain control 3. Handler abuses dog 4. Dog upsets the draft apparatus	5. Dog urinates while being tested 6. Dog defecates while being tested 7. Dog or handler violate specific site regulations	Pass <input type="checkbox"/> /Fail <input type="checkbox"/> Comments:
---	--	---

Pass Fail Judge's Signature: _____
 Comments: _____

DSA DraftDog Title Application



Registered Name of Dog: _____

Owner(s): _____

DSA CRN#: _____ DOB: _____ Sex: _____

- Master Draft Dog (MDD) – 3 successful advanced tests
- Master Draft Dog Excellent (MDDX) – 5 successful advanced tests
- Champion Draft Dog (CDD) – 10 successful advanced tests

Proof of successful completion of tests (copy of Certificate of Award) must be submitted to the DSA DraftDog Chairperson.

	Sanctioning Club (Certificate Attached)	Date of Completion
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		

Signature of Owner _____

Date _____

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A List of Useful Definitions

- ◆ **Competition Registration Number (CRN)** - A dog must be registered with Dog Scouts of America for competition by obtaining a CRN. The CRN will be used by DSA to track points and titling. The format of a DSA CRN will be “DSA 000000-00”. The first six digits will be the same for all dogs registered from a given household. The last two digits will be unique to each dog in the household.

- ◆ **Match or Fun Match** - A “match,” also referred to as a “fun match,” is where dogs are competing just for fun. Dogs do not earn points toward titles. Fun Matches do not require certified judges. DSA encourages groups to hold fun matches, and to use exercises for fun and training—DSA only asks that “Dog Scouts of America” always be credited, whether the event is formal or informal. DSA also requests that groups holding organized fun matches notify DSA of their matches.

- ◆ **Test** - A “test” refers to a DSA-Sanctioned test of a dog/handler team’s skills, and in which entrants may work toward titles. A dog may compete only once in each test.



DSA DraftDog Test Sanction Application (page 1)

In order for your trial to be a Sanctioned DraftDog Test, you must provide the following information to the Dog Scout of America office. Once your test has been sanctioned, teams entered will be eligible to be awarded qualifying legs or titles.

Application fee of \$50.00 applies for one or more trials held on the same day or consecutive days, provided they are listed on one application. For large events with greater than 50 paid entries, there is an additional fee of \$3 per entry, to be paid no later than when scores are submitted for recording.

Proposed Event Date(s) _____

Location (address) _____

Description of Test Area (please include map of test area) _____

Club/Host Organization Name _____

Chairperson Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____ Email _____ Website _____

Secretary Name / phone / email: _____

Additional Committee Member Name: _____

Additional Committee Member Name: _____

Is this event being held in conjunction with any other dog sports event? Yes / No

If yes, please describe event _____

Note: All must be members in good standing of the regional club sponsoring the carting test. These persons will comprise the **Draft Dog Test Committee** for the proposed event.

Judge's Name: _____ Phone _____

Judge's Organization/Breed Affiliation: _____

Judge's email address: _____

Submitting this completed application indicates that it is the intention of this club to host a Carting Test in accordance with DSA regulations and that all necessary equipment and provisions will be provided by the hosting club (except those items required to be provided by the test entrants, as defined in the DSA regulations).

Fee: \$50, to be included with this application.

Draft Dog Test Chairperson _____ (signature)

Draft Dog Test Secretary _____ (signature)

(DSA DraftDog Trial Sanctioning Application, page 2:)

Please note:

If you are holding more than one test, please edit the information to indicate this. If you have questions please contact the DSA DraftDog Chairperson (**contact info for DSA Competition & Titling staff can be found on the DSA website on the Contact Us page.**)

Test officials must be provisional or approved at time of sanctioning application submission. If you have not arranged for trial officials but wish to reserve the date, please note "TBD". Once you have finalized your staff you must submit a new application (no additional payment required).

PAYMENT INFORMATION***Fees***

Event Sanctioning Fee \$50.00

The \$50 Trial Sanctioning Fee must be paid with this application. Team Administrative Fees are payable when score sheets are submitted for certification and must include all entries.

Please make check payable to DSA in US funds. Checks must be drawn on US banking institutions.

Mail to: ***Dog Scouts of America, Attn: Lonnie
5040 Nestel Road
St. Helen, MI 48656***

Please refer to the DSA DraftDog Rule book under Hosting a Trial for complete trial details.
Applications must be received by DSA a minimum of three months prior to trial date.

DSA Sanctioned DraftDog Test Recap Sheet

Thank you for hosting a DSA Competition & Titling event. These forms have been created to help you easily report your results to DSA.



Please Type or Print Clearly.

(To be completed by draft test secretary)

Sponsoring Club:

Date of Event:

Location of Event:

Judge(s):

Please provide the following information with regard to the event:

To Sponsors:

1. Did any of the details of the event (e.g. judge or judges present, location, etc.) differ from those originally stated on the application form? _____ (yes or no). If "yes," attach an explanation.

2. PROVIDE TWO MARKED CATALOGS OR ON PAGE TWO OF THIS FORM PROVIDE A LIST OF ENTERED DOGS WITH INFORMATION AS INDICATED (additional pages may be attached if necessary).

To Sponsors and Judges/Testers:

1. Were there any complaints, inadequacies in facilities, failures to follow rules and guidelines
2. Were there any injuries of any kind to dogs or handlers? (yes or no). If "yes," attach full report.
3. Please provide a brief description of the facilities and the running of the event.
4. Please provide any additional comments or suggestions.

Dated: _____

Signed: _____

Send this Draft Dog Test Report to the DSA Competitive Events Secretary, along with the copies of the Judges Evaluation Sheets. Use a separate page for each level and judge.

Mail to: ***Dog Scouts of America, Attn: Lonnie
5040 Nestel Road, St. Helen, MI 48656***

DSA Sanctioned Event Judge Evaluation Form



This form is to be completed by the Trial Secretary for this trial, if possible. Other Trial Contact persons may substitute for the Secretary. Include an explanation for the substitution.

Complete a separate evaluation for EACH Judge working with you and mail within 10 days of the trial to the DSA Competition & Titling Chairperson of the appropriate venue (may be submitted with your Trial/Test Recap and score reporting.)

Name of Judge: _____

Type of Event: IMPROV / DraftDog / Other: _____

Trial host organization: _____

City/State: _____

Date of Event: _____

Level (s) judged _____ # Dogs Judged at each level _____

Please answer the following questions by circling Yes/No or rating the answers per the following scale:

5 = excellent

4 = better than average

3 = average – needs work in this area

2 = below average – should study the rules and regulations further

1 = poor

_____ Rate the Judge's understanding of good ring procedures

_____ Rate the Judge's professionalism in the ring today

_____ Rate the Judge's understanding of the applicable Rules and Regulations

_____ Rate the Judge's ability to design a fair and functional course

_____ Rate the Judge's ability to determine how a performance should be scored

_____ Rate the Judge's ability to apply the description of any specific exercises in the rules and regulations to their scoring of a dog/handler's performance.

Is the Judge aware of the appropriate scoring procedure for each exercise for all classes judged?

YES / NO

Trial Secretary Name _____

Signature _____ Date Signed _____

Remarks – please provide comments and suggestions on the reverse side of this page or in an attachment. Please summarize and/or include any comments submitted by competitors either verbally or in writing regarding this judge's performance. You may also wish to convey helpful suggestions directly to the judge, but please ensure they are also included on this form.

DSA Sanctioned Event Judge Compensation and Expense Guidelines

These guidelines are provided to judges, representatives, and show committees in order to ensure fair and equal compensation for services rendered and to assist host clubs in budgeting for their event. Compensation made to any trial officials must be in the form of check, cash or money order. Trial officials are prohibited from accepting ‘complimentary’ entry fees as a form of compensation.

1. These fees are guidelines, and trial hosts and judges may come to individual agreements as appropriate. Judge should not be expected to perform their duties for free, but they are not prohibited from doing so.
2. Suggested judging fees: \$5 per entry judged, or a flat fee based on anticipated number of entries.
3. Suggested travel expenses: \$.48 per mile plus tolls (or current government rate)
4. In the event of airline travel, expenses are to be individually negotiated by host club and Judge.
5. Meals are to be provided by host club on day(s) of trial(s) or expenses reimbursed to Judge.
6. Lodging: Hotel reservations are to be made and paid for in advance by the host club.
7. All fees and expenses will be paid at the conclusion of the Judge’s last assignment. Judge shall furnish a written receipt to host club at time of payment.
8. Keeping in mind that Judges must often cancel classes and other income producing appointments in order to assist host club, the following “cancellation policy” is strongly recommended:
9. In the event the host club cancels/postpones the trial(s), the Judge shall be compensated, within 7 days, an amount equal to one half the total Judging fee. If re-scheduling the trial(s), the host club must inform the Judge of the new date within 7 days. The remaining balance and all related expenses shall then be paid at the conclusion of the judge’s last assignment on the rescheduled date. If, due to prior commitment, the Judge is not available for assignment on the rescheduled date, the 50% payment shall be made immediately.
10. The host club must confirm with the Judge, in writing, all terms and conditions of assignment. Confirmation must be sent to Judge within two weeks of verbal acceptance of assignment. A sample judge’s confirmation letter can be found in the Rulebook.
11. The Judge and host organization should agree in advance on how supplies and equipment for the courses will be obtained. If any trial officials will participate in the trial, then the courses and supplies to be used on those courses is to remain a secret until the day of the trial. To facilitate this, the host organization may provide a funds in advance for the Judge to obtain necessary equipment, within an agreed-upon budget.
12. Judges may use the following form as a receipt to the host club:

Received from: _____ Date: _____
 Judging Fee(s): \$ _____ Name: _____
 Signature: _____
 Travel: \$ _____
 Meals: \$ _____
 TOTAL: \$ _____
 Note: attach all receipts

DSA Sanctioned Event Sample Judge Confirmation Letter

I, _____, agree to act as a Judge for the following event(s) sponsored by _____.

Date Type of Event: IMPROV / DraftDog / Other: _____

Trial #(s): _____ Level(s): _____

This event will be held at: _____

Scoresheets, if modified from the template in the Rulebook, to be sent to: _____

The trials will be held on a _____ surface.

Ring size: _____

Judge's fees and compensation:

Judging Fee: _____

Travel: _____ (receipts required)

Lodging: Hotel reservations made and paid for in advance by host club.

Meals: _____

Course supplies and equipment budget: _____ to be paid (before / after) the trial.

All fees and expenses will be paid prior to the conclusion of the judge's last assignment.

In the event the host club cancels/postpones the trial(s), the Judge shall be compensated, within 7 days, an amount equal to one half the total Judging fee. If re-scheduling the trial(s), the host club must inform the Judge of the new date within 7 days. The remaining balance and all travel, lodging and meal expenses shall then be paid at the conclusion of the judge's last assignment on the re-scheduled date. If, due to prior commitment, the Judge is not available for assignment on the re-scheduled date, the 50% payment shall be made immediately.

Your signature below confirms that you agree to and understand the above agreement and that you have read and understand the latest rules/regulations governing the trial that you have agreed to judge. You must sign this form and return it to the Trial Secretary no later than _____

Judge Name _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Trial Secretary _____ Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

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DOG SCOUTS OF AMERICA

www.dogscouts.org