

Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Drill Team Guidelines

TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR COUNTY ENTRIES

1. For State Fair competition, a drill team shall only consist of 4-H exhibitors, their dogs, and 4-H obedience/showmanship training equipment.
2. Handler and dog equal one unit.
3. Teams must have a minimum of 4 units and a maximum of 20 units. A 4-H member may participate on only one drill team in any given year.
4. A club may enter a total of two drill teams.
5. All members of the drill team must be accompanied by their 4-H obedience dog while performing in the drill team ring.
6. Only regulation obedience and/or showmanship equipment (no props) will be allowed for use with the dogs in either drill team class.
7. Each drill team will be allowed two minutes prior to the start of their performance to set up equipment. An additional two minutes will be allowed at the end of the performance for removal of equipment.
8. For both set up and removal of equipment, each 10 seconds over the two minute time limit will result in a loss of 5 points.
9. Performance time will be up to 5 minutes, with each 10 seconds over 5 minutes reducing the score by five points.
10. Drill teams will be limited to a performance area 40 feet wide and 80 feet long.
11. Teams shall enter at one end of the show arena and exit at the opposite end.
12. Whistles and music are optional.
13. Bait cannot be used in drill team competition.

CLASS DESCRIPTION

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

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

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

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

DRILL TEAM BASICS

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

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

The length of time needed to develop a reliable drill routine will vary. When proficiency of the individual exercises is attained a drill team can perfect their routine with just a few practices. Participants on a drill team develop a comradeship that is its own reward regardless of the placing received.

DRILL TEAM DIVISION

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

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

MUSIC

Music should enhance a drill team routine. Inappropriate use of music or music with inappropriate lyrics may result in a deduction by the judges. When music is used the team should attempt to coordinate with the tempo of the music whenever possible. Judges may deduct points under the category Complexity and Execution of Drills when music is used as a background only and the team does not work with the tempo of the music.

EXERCISES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

JUDGES

There are 5 judges for each division with the areas of focus being different for each team. While timing and penalties is the focus of Judge #5 any judge may record penalties. The audit committee will check all score sheets for duplication of penalties. Consult the score sheets and judges guidelines for more information on judging and scoring.

DISCIPLINING

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

REGISTRATION

There is no pre-entry for the Indiana State Fair Drill Team competition. Drill Teams must register at the morning check-in the first day of the show.

Each team member must complete exhibition in an obedience class at the State Fair Dog Show in order to participate in Drill Team. Each team member must wear their obedience armband number while participating.

DRILL TEAM MEETING

A representative(s) must attend the meeting at the State Fair Dog Show. The meeting time will be announced. Representatives may submit an outline of their routine to be used by the judges during competition. A minimum of two copies is recommended. See the sample outline that gives a basic idea of the information that is helpful to the judges.

For complete rules/regulations see the current year 4-H/FFA Handbook/Premium list available on the Indiana State Fair site or accessed at <http://www.four-h.purdue.edu>
Select State Fair – Premium/ Handbook – Dept411 Dog Show.