

# WCFO, INC.

## COMPETITOR AND JUDGING RULES AND GUIDELINES

Update August 2015

These rules and guidelines are to help exhibitors in creating their routines and will be used in the judging of live and video WCFO, INC. titling events and competitions.

### WCFO COMPETITIVE DIVISIONS:

**ADULT** – For handler(s) 19 years and older and dog(s) 6 months and older (Handler entry age is determined by how old they are on January 1 of the year they compete.):

**SINGLES** – Entry with 1 Adult handler and 1 dog

**BRACE** – Entry with 1 Adult handler and 2 dogs

**PAIRS** – Entry with 2 Adult handlers and 2 dogs –OR– 1 Adult handler and 1 Junior handler, and 2 dogs

**TEAM** – Entry with equal numbers (but more than 2) of handlers (all Adults or mixed Adults and Juniors) and dogs

**SASSY SENIOR** – Entry with 1 handler and 1 dog, with the handler 65 yrs. or older and/or dog 9 yrs. or older

**HANDI-DANDI** – Entry with 1 handler and 1 dog, with physically and/or mentally challenged handler and/or dog (entry subject to approval)

HANDI-DANDI DIVISION DEFINED (2012)

1. The Handi-Dandi division is for those teams who do not feel they can compete in a regular division due to a **permanent** physical/mental disability of the dog, the person, or both team members.
2. The routine time length requirements and score requirement for the Handi-Dandi division have been modified so that physically challenged owners and/or dogs may compete with confidence. The Handi-Dandi requirements are set forth in the WCFO, Inc rules and guidelines.
3. Dogs/owners with a **permanent** physical handicap are eligible to compete in the Handi-Dandi division. Dogs/owners that are permanently physically handicapped include, but are not limited to, those that are deaf, blind, and/or have irregular or decreased locomotion.  
Deaf is defined as without functional hearing.  
Blind is defined as without functional vision.

If the dog's/owner's handicap is other than the above, such as a mental handicap (stroke, brain damage, etc.), a written statement from a veterinarian/doctor will be required as proof that the dog/owner should not perform in a regular division. The veterinarian's/doctor's written statement is a one-time requirement and should be submitted with the dog's/owner's first Handi-Dandi entry form. Subsequent Handi-Dandi entries should refer

to the fact that the veterinarian's/doctor's statement has already been submitted. Veterinarian and doctor statements will be kept on file with WCFO, Inc.

4. Dogs exhibiting **temporary** lameness as a result of an injury are not eligible for the Handi-Dandi division. A dog that is taped, stitched or bandaged in any way will not be eligible to compete in Handi-Dandi or any other division, in order to ensure the safety of the dog.

5. A leash may be used in all levels of HD division for a blind and/or deaf dog to ensure the safety of the dog.

6. Dog and owner teams entered in the Handi-Dandi division may not enter any other adult Musical Freestyle singles division, including all Musical Freestyle divisions (beginner through PDP), all Sassy Senior divisions, at the **same event** in which the team is entered in the Handi-Dandi division.

A Handi-Dandi team, if they so desire, may select to enter a regular division at a particular event. If the team selects to enter a regular division, they may not enter the Handi-Dandi division. A Handi-Dandi team entered in any particular event in the Handi-Dandi division, may NOT enter a regular division at that particular event.

7. A team entered in the Handi-Dandi division must provide a description of the nature of the dog's/person's handicap (if any) on the entry form. The Show Chairman of the event is required to provide the judge with a copy of that statement before the routine is judged.

**JUNIOR** – For handler(s) 18 years and younger and dog(s) 6 months and older (Handler entry age is determined by how old they are on January 1 of the year they compete.):

**SINGLES** – Entry with 1 Junior handler and 1 dog

**BRACE** – Entry with 1 Junior handler and 2 dogs

**PAIRS** – Entry with 2 Junior handlers and 2 dogs

**TEAM** – Entry with equal numbers (but more than 2) of Junior handlers and dogs

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## **STYLE CATEGORY CHOICES**

The following “Style Categories” are available for competitive titling events.

In all divisions (**ADULT** and **JUNIOR SINGLES, BRACE, PAIRS, and TEAM, SASSY SENIOR, and HANDI-DANDI**): Exhibitors may compete and earn legs and titles in the **HEELWORK-TO-MUSIC (HTM)** and/or **MUSICAL FREESTYLE (MF)** style categories.

**HEELWORK-TO-MUSIC (HTM):**

1. A HTM routine should be done with the dog and the handler in close proximity to each other throughout the routine. On all moves, the dog and handler team should move as one entity throughout the routine, displaying heelwork and creativity in the many positions and behaviors possible in HTM.
2. Heelwork is defined as any position between the handler and the dog within 360 degrees radius and includes, but is not limited to: right heel; left heel; face-to-face; face-to-back; back-to-back; back-to-face; and all angled positions between handler and dog within 360 degrees.
3. HTM routines may include:
  - Sustained close-in heelwork sequences, with the dog and handler moving together in sustained parallel position to one another (straight, curved or circular patterns);
  - Moving or stationary close-in heelwork behaviors done next to the other or together (for example, spins, turns, pivots, paws or hands on moves etc.);
  - Close-in connecting moves (either stationary or in motion) that connect heelwork sequences together;
  - Other creative and/or original close-in moves.
4. During heelwork sequences, behaviors, and/or moves the dog and the handler should maintain the same close proximity to each other throughout each type of sequence, behavior, or move. During a move such as a spin, the closest part of the dog's body in relation to the handler (head, shoulder, side, rear) should maintain the same close proximity.
5. The general heelwork position and proximity in a HTM routine will be determined during the first time the dog is in a position on either side of the handler, facing and moving in the same direction as the handler and at the same speed as the handler. The position must be maintained long enough to be recognized by the judge(s) as a "position" rather than a transition from one position to another.
6. Judges will penalize each instance of the loss of the heelwork proximity in HTM routines with .1 to 1.0 point deductions from the Technical Merit (TM)– Precise Execution score, depending on its severity.
7. No distance work should be included in HTM routines.
8. The dog or the handler should not weave through or be in-between the other's legs or arms in HTM routines. (Note: The dog's tail is excluded from this).
9. No jumps are allowed in HTM by either dog or handler. A jump shall be defined as purposely OR unintentionally propelling oneself rapidly upward such that the momentum causes the body to become momentarily airborne and feet leaving the floor. This includes choreographed moves by the handler and any exuberant ones from the dog or handler. Normal gaits such as when a dog is running and 4 feet briefly leave the floor are not considered a jump. Exuberant jumping by a dog does not reflect the desired technical precision and accuracy to be demonstrated in HTM. If a handler chooses to include a move, such as the dog walking on hind legs, and the dog "hops" during the movement, or a spin where the dog comes completely off the ground, deductions WILL occur and it is at the judge's discretion as to the severity. Dance

steps by the handler are encouraged and rewarded but should not include hops or jumps.

10. Judges will penalize each instance of distance, weaving / in-between legs or arms, or jumping in HTM routines with .3 to 1.0 point deductions from the Technical Merit (TM) – Content score, depending on its severity.

\*See further guidelines for additional information, deductions, and disqualifications.

### **MUSICAL FREESTYLE (MF):**

1. Any move is allowed, as long as it does not endanger the dog or handler.
2. Distance work, weaves, jumps, send-outs, and/or innovative new moves are encouraged.
3. Moves may be performed from any position.

\*See further guidelines for additional information, deductions, and disqualifications.

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### **MUSICAL INTERPRETATION AND MOVEMENTS OF HANDLER AND DOG:**

In both the HTM and MF styles, the movements of the handler/dog team should be in time with and match the style or theme of the music being played. In some cases, the movements will be in the form of dance steps and body positions. In other cases, as in a theatrical or story-telling routine, the team will be performing interpretive movements, moods, and/or expressions to match the music selected. With each higher level of competition, the team will be expected to perform a higher quality / level of interpretive movements in their routine.

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**COMPETITIVE TITLING ROUTINES ARE JUDGED BASED ON THE FOLLOWING**

### **SCORING SYSTEM**

**TECHNICAL MERIT (TM) Score** (50% of Total Score) (1.0 lowest/10.0 highest):

**1. Content** (amount, variety of moves, fullness of routine) – **3.0** points maximum.

Also includes:

- Different positions the dog is worked on in relation to the handler (within 360 degree radius of the handler).
- Different body positions/movements (with arms, legs, head, feet, etc. – handler and dog)
- Main moves and Transitional moves (moves used as transitions between the main moves).

**2. Precise Execution** of **All** movements by dog(s) and handler(s) – **2.0** points maximum.

Also includes:

- How “Precise”, synchronized, and together the handler(s) and dog(s) are throughout.
- How effective handler’s cues are, how quick and well dog responds.
- Consideration of mistakes and/or refusals.
- How well the handler disguises cues to the dog.

**3. Flow** of movements from one to another by dog(s) and handler(s)– **2.0** points maximum.

Also includes:

- Consideration of set-ups, starts and stops, and breaks in routine.
- Flow of main and transitional moves.
- Flow of the overall routine.

**4. Difficulty of Routine** (intricacy of steps, different paces, difficulty of handler(s) movements with dog(s) movements) – **2.0** points maximum.

Also includes:

- Difficult use of different handler and dog body positions/movements.
- Control of handler's body and movements with dog's movements.
- Complex and/or new, innovative moves and combinations.

**5. Stepping in Time to the Music** - staying with the beat – **1.0** point maximum.

Includes using the entire body, upper and lower (arms, legs, head, etc.).

**TOTAL TECHNICAL MERIT (TM) Points Possible = 10.0**

**-AND-**

**ARTISTIC IMPRESSION (AI) Score** (50% of Total Score) (1.0 lowest/10.0 highest):

**1. Animation, Attitude, Attention, and Harmonious Interaction (Bonding)** of dog(s) and handler(s) – **2.5** points maximum.

Also includes:

- Concentration, and readiness of handler(s) and dog(s) throughout.

**2. Quality and Creativity of Choreography**, layout of routine - **2.0** points maximum.

How creative and well all movements are arranged and laid out in the routine.

**3. Use of 75% Ring Space (50% for Juniors and small dogs)** - **1.5** points maximum.

How fully, completely, and balanced the 75%/50% ring area is covered by the handler(s) and dog(s). Note: A small dog is one that is 14 inches or under at the withers.

**4. Coordination of Routine with Music, Musical Interpretation** – **1.5** points maximum.

How well the routine matches the music and/or theme that is/are presented.

**5. Costume Coordination with Music and Routine** – **1.5** points maximum.

How well the handler's costume and the dog’s adornment match and/or complement the music, theme, and routine presented.

**6. Spectator Appeal** - **1.0** points maximum.

How well the spectators appreciate, enjoy, and respond to the routine.

**TOTAL ARTISTIC IMPRESSION (AI) Points Possible = 10.0**

**\* Consideration is given to both handler(s) and the dog(s) on all scores.**

**\* Some areas of scoring may affect other areas of scoring.** For example: Execution may affect Flow; Difficulty may affect Execution; Content may affect Quality and Creativity of Choreography; Moving/Stepping in Time to Music/Theme may affect Flow and/or Execution.

- ❑ **The Score Sheet for Adult Divisions at the Beginner level and for all of the Junior Division levels includes number scores for all of the scoring areas above and a section for the Judge's comments.**
  - ❑ **The Score Sheet for Adult Divisions at the Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced levels includes the Total T.M. and Total A.I. score numbers and a section for the Judge's comments.**
  - ❑ **All Score Sheets will be in triplicate form: one for the judge, one for the competitor, and one for WCFO, INC records.**
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### **FOR ALL ROUTINES:**

- 1) Before judging a contestant, the announcer shall not read competitors' extraneous information written as 'program information' on WCFO entry
  - a) Such information may be announced at separate time and/or available in event catalog
- 2) Other events held in conjunction with WCFO competition
  - a. Unless specifically approved, no other event is to be held the same weekend at the same location as a WCFO competition
  - b) Separate events may be scheduled on a different day only if both events are judged by WCFO guidelines. (ie OPDES and WCFO competition are 2 held separate days)
  - c) 2 WCFO competitions may be held within 24 hours (ie morning event and afternoon event similar to AKC current schedules)
3. Only current WCFO members in good standing may enter WCFO Live and/or Video titling events.
4. All entries must be complete and be submitted with proper fees by the entry deadline for each event (See individual event premiums and Live/Video Adult and Junior Entry Forms).
5. Handlers must submit program information, signed and dated photography release and agreements, and, in the case of video events, the video screen, with entry forms and packages.
6. In all competitive divisions, the "Handler" partner of the dog is a person who:
  - a. Lives with the dog;
  - b. Takes care of the dog; and,
  - c. Creates, practices, and performs the routine with the dog.
7. Pure Bred and Mixed Breed dogs 6 months of age and older, male and female, are welcome in titling competitions. Exception: Bitches in season are not allowed at

live events, but may enter video events. Refunds will not require a Veterinary Certification for any WCFO, INC. event. Hosted events may require a cancellation fee of \$10, at the discretion of the Host Club.

8. Entry numbers for an event may be limited by WCFO, Inc or the show giving club based on space or judge availability limitations
9. The organizers, unto themselves, reserve the right to refuse entries.
10. Entry fees are non-refundable and count for admission into the event. Exception: WCFO will grant a refund for a bitch entered in a live competition that comes into season after the entries close. Refunds will not require a Veterinary Certification for any WCFO, INC. corporate event. Hosted events may require a cancellation fee of \$10, at the discretion of the Host Club.
11. Competitors may participate and compete to earn legs and titles in live and/or video titling events. Leg(s) earned in live event(s) are considered with leg(s) earned in video event(s) and count towards the same title.
12. The level guidelines, scoring, and titling information are the same for video titling events as they are for live titling events.
13. For additional specific video event rules and guidelines see the Video Event Competition Rules and Guidelines section herein.
14. Puppies under 6 months old must not compete in any division, including Innovation (See Innovation information), at titling competitions. If an owner of a puppy wishes to try their puppy in the ring with an audience after all competitions are ended, with the approval and acceptance of the host of the event, they may do so just for fun. Puppies under 6 months may take Proficiency Tests (See separate Proficiency Test information)
15. In a single competitive titling event, a handler and dog may be entered in multiple divisions, following the division and level guidelines; provided that, they are only entered once in each of the MF and HTM style categories in the “Singles” division and once in each of the other appropriate divisions with the same handler and dog members/team. **If a dog is entered in either Handi Dandi or Sassy Senior that dog cannot at the same event be entered in a regular division (excluding Pairs or Team). The dog may be entered in a regular division at a later event if not also entered in Handi Dandi or Sassy Senior.**
16. Music in the public domain is acceptable and encouraged, as long as it is not offensive or sexually suggestive in language. Exhibitors may obtain their music by creating it new, purchasing it, or receiving it free. WCFO, INC. holds BMI and ASCAP licenses for WCFO, INC. and WCFO member clubs events, both live and video. Exhibitors and competitors do not need to hold music licenses for routines entered in WCFO events.
17. Costume, Music, and/or Routine should conform to generally accepted rules of decorum and not be offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation. This is especially important in the Junior Division, as WCFO, Inc. is concerned with having an image of being a wholesome family sport. Violations of the above will be determined by the judges and should result in the routine being disqualified.
18. In live events, all handlers are responsible for checking in with the music desk before the

event with 2 copies of their music, labeled with competitor's name, division, and music selection. Music must be on CD. An event host has the option to allow competitors to email their music in advance to the music coordinator to be placed in their computer cache- however they must allow for competitors unable to email music to bring their music on CD to be added to the cache at the event.

19. In live events, the Judges will sit along one long side of the ring apart from the audience and near announcer, music, and scoring desks.
20. In live events, there will be open practice whenever available.
21. In live events, each handler is responsible for checking in with the ring steward before the division entered begins.
22. In live events, music checks will be available immediately before each competitor's routine, to insure that the volume is at the competitor's preferred level prior to the performance. It is recommended that competitors use the music checks conscientiously, as placement of the speakers may be different at each event and may affect the dog's performance. Toys and/or training aids (other than food/food treats) may be used in the ring during music checks.
23. No food (animal or human), treats, bait, or training aids are allowed in the ring while a routine is being judged. Violations will result in the routine being disqualified.

Immediately upon completion of their routine, the dog and handler may take up to one minute to play inside the ring. This is not intended as training time, and food may not be brought into the ring, but toys are allowed. At events where a large number of entries puts constraints on the schedule, the competition host may reduce the amount of time allowed. Any such change must be announced at the briefing which precedes the competition.

24. In live events, the handler should be on deck while the team in front of them is on.
25. The routine must be performed in a total Ring Size area with a minimum of 1,800 square feet (167.22 square meters), with the shortest side no less than 30 feet (9.14 meters) and the longest side no more than 80 feet (24.38 meters). This is for both live and video titling events.
26. As part of the setup of all rings both live and video, the entrance/exit to the ring must be an opening at least 4 feet wide. At ALL events, an enclosed Ring Foyer will be added to the ring. Dogs MUST be on lead before leaving the foyer area. Dogs must be on lead when not in the warm up area or competing in the ring. At venues where a ring foyer is not possible, it is up to the show giving entity to provide an alternative.
27. At live events - In the instance of a sound system failure, WCFO will insure that each competitor receives a fair, complete, and uninterrupted performance of their routine.
28. The routine must start, continue, and finish within the confines of the ring area.
29. Use of Ring Space: The goal with this, for all routines, is for the dog(s) and handler(s) to cover as much of the total ring area as possible, presenting moves in various areas of the ring and balancing the routine throughout the ring space. The expectation for how much ring space

should be covered is:

- For Adult division entries with dogs that measure over 14” at the withers, the routine should cover at least 75% of the total ring area.
- For Adult division entries with dogs that measure 14” or under at the withers (“Small Dogs”) - and - for All Junior division entries, the routine should cover at least 50% of the total ring area.

Judges will score this aspect of scoring based on how well this is done by both the dog(s) and the handler(s) throughout the routine.

30. All movements of the dog(s) should appear natural and safe for the dog to perform. There should be no intentional held or forced movement of the dog(s) by the handler(s).
31. In the “Pairs” and “Team” divisions, the handler and dog teams may switch partners with other members in the routine, at any time during the routine.
32. For entrants in the following divisions and levels, the routine may be performed either on or off leash:
  - Beginner levels (A or B) of the Adult divisions.
  - The first two levels (1 and 2) of the Junior divisions.
  - Blind or deaf dogs in all levels of the Sassy Senior division.
  - Blind or deaf dogs in all levels of the Handi-Dandi division.
33. If the entry is in the “Brace”, “Pairs”, or “Team” division, at a level which allows the on or off leash choice, all members in the routine, together, must be either “on” or “off” leash.
34. With On Leash entries, the leash must not be dropped more than 25%, or the routine will be disqualified.
35. On Leash and Off Leash entrants will be judged by the same criteria, except for the specific ‘tight leash’ and ‘dropping of the leash’ rules for On Leash competitors.
36. In division levels where entrants are given choice to do their routine either On or Off leash, all On and Off leash competitors of each division level, together, compete for placements.
37. A time length requirement (minimum and maximum) for routines is listed for each of the division levels. (Refer to the division levels, leg/titling guidelines herein). In order to qualify for leg or title, the routine must be done in those times. 15 seconds will be allowed over/under each time length requirement. If the routine time is shorter or longer than the allowable time, including the 15-second over/under allowance, the routine will be disqualified.
38. The judging time of the routine will start when either the dog or handler begin to move (not when the music starts). The time will stop when both the dog and handler have stopped moving / the ending pose of the routine, or when the 15-second over time is reached, whichever comes first.
39. As this is a creative sport, subjective judging will apply.
40. Audience applause and feedback is always welcome and expected at all events. In live events, a competitor or organizer must not request that the general public hold applause during and/or after performances. **Exhibitors may not influence audience reaction to their routine ex: asking**

to clap or not clap. Routine should inspire audience appeal naturally.

41. Spectators shall not sit with their feet against any barrier or gating, and persons shall stay away from the ring gating.
42. Dogs must not be in the front row of the audience, close to the ring. People with food or dog food shall not sit in the front row.
43. Spectators shall not throw items into the ring during or after a performance.
44. In order for a routine to “qualify” for a leg or title, it must earn certain minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores. See Level Descriptions and Titling Requirements for specifics.
45. Judges will award qualifying ribbons for all legs and titles.
46. Legs and titles must only be granted in the division, style, and level in which they are earned.
47. WCFO considers canine freestyle a team sport, with handler(s) and dog(s). In all divisions, the **handler and dog** will be judged and scored, as one unit. Any legs and titles apply to the handler and the dog together.
48. Any legs and titles earned by the same handler/dog member unit stay with those same handler/dog members and are carried with them as they progress through any further levels of that same division and same style category. If there is any change in individual handler and/or dog members of a routine group, the group must then enter and compete as a separate, different team unit in the appropriate division and level for that team.
  - Exception for multiple handler/dog Division entries: A new handler/dog may join a Team, Pair or Brace upon the loss of another handler/dog, as long as the new handler/dog has earned the same title previously granted the original handler/dog members of the Team, Pair or Brace. Once a leg has been granted for a particular level, the Team, Pair or Brace, that Team, Pair or Brace must stay together until the Title has been granted for that level.
49. In live events, competitors are responsible for picking up their score sheets at the end of their division. Score Sheet delivery to participants shall be as soon as possible after judge releases same and scores are input into scoring program  
The host entities may post division placements at their discretion.
50. In live events, competitors and exhibitors are responsible for picking up their music CDs and/or tapes at the end of their performance. The organizers are not responsible for left music.
51. A handler/dog team may choose to move up to the next division level immediately once a title is granted. For example: on the next day in back-to-back events (Move-up forms are available at back-to-back events).
52. If a handler/dog team decides to remain in a division level in which they have attained their title, they may do so for up to 75 days following attaining that title. Any scores they receive in any events while remaining at that level will not count towards their next level title.
53. After 75 days of attaining a division level title, the handler/dog team must move up to the next

level of competition in that division.

54. There is no rule stating that a routine should be retired after it has won a title. However, it is recommended that handler/dog teams change their routines, to display their innovation and progression to the best advantage with new routines.
55. In each Titling Event, Judges will award 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place Medals (neck ribbons) in:

#### ADULTS

- Singles Division / HTM Style - In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Champion.
- Singles Division / MF Style - In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Champion.
- Brace Division / MF Style - In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced., and Champion  
**Brace Division / HTM Style - In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced., and Champion**
- Pairs Division / MF Style - In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Champion.  
**Pairs Division / HTM Style - In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced and Champion.**
- Team Division / MF Style - In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Champion..  
**Team Division / MF Style - In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Champion.**
- Sassy Senior Division / MF Style – In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced  
**Sassy Senior Division / HTM Style – In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice, Intermediate, and Advanced**
- Handi-Dandi Division / MF Style –In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice,Intermediate and Advanced..  
**Handi-Dandi Division / MF Style –In each of levels: Beginner A, Beginner B, Novice,Intermediate and Advanced..**

#### JUNIORS

- Singles Division – Class A / HTM Style - Level 1
- Singles Division – Class A / MF Style - Level 1
- Singles Division – Class B / HTM Style - All levels together.
- Singles Division – Class B / MF Style - All levels together.
- Brace Division / MF Style - In each of levels: 1, 2, 3, and 4  
**Brace Division / HTM Style In each of levels 1, 2, 3, and 4**
- Pairs Division / MF Style - In each of levels: 1, 2, 3, and 4  
**Pairs Division /HTM Style-In each of levels 1, 2, 3, and 4**
- Team Division / MF Style – In each of levels: 1, 2, 3, and 4  
**Team Division/HTM Style- In each of levels: 1,2,3,and 4**

56. Tied scores will be broken by Artistic Impression (A.I.) marks.
57. Other awards and/or prizes may be donated and/or offered at events.

58. Any routine that earns qualifying (“Q”) scores for its division level is eligible for placements, regardless of the number of entries in that division level.  
Exception: A judge may enter a competition of which they are judging, but only for qualifying scores and other prizes and awards, not for placements. Competitors must be notified if a judge of the event is entered in the event.
59. A live or video routine that does “not qualify” (“NQ”) for a leg or title is not eligible for a placement medal, but it is eligible other prizes and awards.
60. A routine that is “disqualified” (“DQ”) for disqualifying violation(s) [See: Disqualifications] receives no “official” scores and is not eligible for placement medals or official WCFO prizes and awards. The score sheet will be clearly marked with a “DQ” and have a mark drawn across it.
61. Competitors who wish to discuss their scores with a judge must wait until after the last judged division of the event is judged.
62. Judges may only discuss with a competitor that competitor’s own scores. Judges will not discuss any other competitor’s scores with a competitor.
63. No handler shall impugn the decision of the judges.
64. All exhibitors MUST clean up after their own dogs. Failure to do so may result in the handler and dog being excused.
65. All dogs and handlers will be entered at any event at their own risk and, while every care will be taken, the organizers will not accept responsibility for loss, damage or injury, however caused, to dogs, persons, or property while at an event.
66. In the event of cancellation of an event, WCFO, INC. and Hosts reserve the right to defray expenses from entry fees received.
67. In case of inclement weather or judge’s (s’) absence, the host club will videotape the event and it will be sent to the judge(s) scheduled to judge the event and scores and awards will be sent out in a timely fashion. OR - If there are certified judges in attendance that are competing, if mutually agreed, they will judge the event and their entries will be refunded.
68. A video recording of a routine performed and judged in a live event must not be subsequently entered as a video event entry.

### **HANDLER COSTUMES AND DOG ATTIRE:**

#### **HANDLERS:**

1. Handler Costumes are permitted and should be suited to the theme of the music. If the music does not have a theme, costuming is at the discretion of the handler.
2. Costumes must be neat and presentable. Glitz, Sequins, etc. may be used where appropriate.
3. Costume, Music, and/or Routine should conform to generally accepted rules of decorum and not be offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation. This is especially

important in the Junior Division, as WCFO, Inc. is concerned with having an image of being a wholesome family sport. Violations of the above will be determined by the judges and should result in the routine being disqualified.

\*Juniors: See Junior Guidelines for additional rules and information.

## **DOGS:**

All dogs may wear:

1. Decorative/Coordinated Neck Collar or Scarf.
2. Decorative/Coordinated Buckle Collar (snap or regular).
3. Non-chain Flat Decorative/Coordinated Martingale Collar.
4. Un-decorated Harness, with no added adornments to it.
5. Decorative/Coordinated Ankle Bands – on any number of the four legs, placed low near each foot, covering no more than 1 ½” of each ankle.
6. Plain, unadorned paw covering with non-slip soles (boots) for the purpose of providing traction on surfaces which the handler feels may cause slipping.

Drop-Coated dogs may wear Decorative/Coordinated Hair Bands, Bows, or Barrettes, provided that they are specifically for tying the hair away from the eyes.

\*No other adornment than the above is allowed on dogs.

Dogs must not wear:

1. Glitter, Paint, Hair Dye, or Nail Color.
2. Different/un-normal hairstyles or shaves.
3. Any kind of Prong, Choke or Slip Collars (made of chain or any other material).
4. Snoods.
5. Head Halters.
6. Tab/Training Tab.

\*Any violation of any of the above will result in the routine being disqualified.

## **PROPS AND OTHER ITEMS:**

1. Props may be stationary or movable.
2. Dogs and/or handlers may carry or retrieve a prop.
3. Dogs and/or handlers may carry and/or retrieve a stationary prop or retrieve a prop immediately after being thrown as long as it fits the theme of the routine, and is not used as a motivator. This action will be evaluated by the judge(s), and if it is determined to be a motivator, .1 to .5 point can be deducted from the TM score for each instance.
4. Props must be an integral part of the routine and must be used by the handler and dog team. A violation of this will result in a deduction of 1.0 point from the Total Technical Merit (TM) score and 1.0 point from the Total Artistic Impression (AI) score.
5. Time allotment for set up and taking down of props at live and video events is 60 seconds and must be done by the handler only. A violation of this will result in a deduction of 1.0 point from the Total Technical Merit (TM) score and 1.0 point from the Total Artistic Impression (AI) score.
6. No Human or Animal Props are allowed in competitive divisions. A violation of this will result in the routine being disqualified.
7. A prop or other item should not aid the dog and/or handler in the execution of a move. Ring gating, barriers, or other items should not be used to aid movement(s) in the routine.
8. Any allowed item may be used for a prop however when a prop or other item is used/presented in the routine, the dog's demeanor and/or drive should not change markedly. However, if a dog/handler team demonstrates animation, connection and harmonious interaction (bonding), they will not be penalized if the dog's head or eyes follow the movement of a prop.  
A prop cannot be used as a guide stick – for example a prop cannot be held out in front or above a dog's head to guide them in the correct direction or to attempt to enhance the dog's gait by encouraging it to raise its head and front end by trying to reach up and touch the stick. To use a prop in this manner will call for disqualification of the routine.

### **MISC. DEDUCTIONS:**

1. For excessive talking during the routine, a deduction of .1 to .3 (depending on severity) will be taken from the Artistic Impression (AI) – Animation/Interaction score.
2. For excessive barking during the routine, a deduction of .1 to .3 (depending on severity) will be taken from the Artistic Impression (AI) – Spectator Appeal score.
3. If there is physical manipulation of the dog (i.e. grabbing of collar, tight leash, pushing, pulling, tapping, holding, prodding, etc.) and it is done less than 50% of the routine, a deduction of .3 will be taken, for each instance, from both the Technical Merit (TM) – Precise Execution and the Artistic Impression (AI) – Animation/Interaction scores.

### **DISQUALIFICATIONS (DQ):** A routine will be disqualified for any of the following:

1. Fouling/Eliminating in the ring.

2. Leaving the ring (dog and/or handler at any time during the routine).
  3. Food/treats/bait/training aids in the ring.
  4. Using/presenting a prop/item that causes marked change in the dog's drive and/or demeanor.
  5. Any additional humans or dogs (outside of competition definitions) in the ring, at any point during the routine.
  6. Any violation of dog attire or adornment.
  7. Costume, Music, or Routine offensive or sexually suggestive in language or presentation.
  8. Routine too short or too long.
  9. Dropping of leash over 25% of routine in any On Leash entry.
  10. Abusive behavior toward dog, referee, judge(s), or ring steward.
  11. Physical manipulation of the dog (i.e. grabbing of collar, tight leash, pushing, pulling, tapping, holding, prodding, etc.) done forcefully or over 50% of routine.
  12. In Video Event – Edited DVD / Tape.
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## **VIDEO EVENT COMPETITOR RULES and GUIDELINES**

In addition to competitor guidelines for all titling events, the following rules and guidelines also apply to competitors of video titling events.

Video events are global events; WCFO members and their dogs from any country may enter.

There are four (4) Quarterly WCFO video competitions held each year: March, June, September, and December.

There are three (3) Judges and one Head Judge assigned to each Seasonal video competition event. If necessary, the Judges Advocate may adjust the number of judges and split the competition between two judging panels.

Pure Bred and Mixed Breed dogs of 6 months of age and older, including bitches in season, may enter video events.

Entry fees, scoring and level guidelines, and leg and titling information are the same for Quarterly video events as they are for live events.

Qualifying ribbons for legs and titles and medals for first, second, and third places are awarded the same for video events as they are for live events.

The Attila and Fly Hi Technical Merit Trophy will be awarded in each Quarterly video

competition to the routine with the highest Technical Merit score.

The Attila and Fly Hi Artistic Impression Trophy will be awarded in each Quarterly video competition to the routine with the highest Artistic Impression score.

Other prizes may be donated, announced, and awarded.

All entry packages (as described below) for each Quarterly video competition must **arrive** at the registrar's address **by midnight of the closing date** of that competition.

**Closing Dates** for Quarterly video competitions each year are as follows:

“Quarterly” Video Competitions:

- March Competition – March 31 of each year.
- June Competition – June 30 of each year.
- September Competition – September 30 of each year.
- December Competition – December 31 of each year.

Handlers need to be aware of the postal mailing times required in their area to make sure that their entry arrives on time to meet the deadline. A late entry will not be accepted. It may be held for the next video event scheduled.

The Live/Video Entry Form must be filled out completely and clearly and signed, including the Video Event Competitor Agreement and Honor Statement.

The Video Screen for Video Competitions must be filled out completely and clearly, in black ink. The Video Screen may be created electronically as part of the DVD creation. It must contain all of the required information

In the spaces for the “Event Name” and “Event Date” on the Live/Video Entry Form and on the Video Screen, enter the name of the “Quarterly” competition you are entering and the entry deadline date for that competition. For example: “June Competition” and “June 30, 2006”.

Any performance venue is acceptable, inside or outside (mountains, forests, schools, training centers, warehouses, parks, fields, etc.).

The performance Ring Size Area must be **clearly marked** (adhering to same live/video titling competition ring size rules) with visible markers (flagging, cones, pots, sticks, poles, or other) to define the outline of the ring space. A clear visual of the spacing measurement of the ring is advisable.

**QUALITY** of recordings is **very important** on video competitions! Please make sure that the “original” medium (tape or otherwise) in the video camera that is used is of the **BEST** quality (NEW is preferred).

**In order for each routine to be judged appropriately...**

**The complete video recording for each entry must show the following, in this order, one right after the other, with each of these recorded continuously** (no stops, pauses, or “stills” within each).

- 1) 5 to 7 seconds (MAXIMUM) clear viewing of the completed Video Screen for Video Competitions (see Live/Video Entry Form), with possible verbal statement of **ONLY**: division entered, handler and dog names, and music selection;

- 2) 5 to 7 seconds (MAXIMUM) clear panning of the whole ring space area showing the ring size and demarcations, with possible verbal statement of ONLY THE RING SIZE (“30’ x 60’”, “40’ x 50’”, etc) – NO OTHER DESCRIPTION;

Where applicable, setting up of props by handler alone (maximum time allowed 60 seconds).

- 3) Optional: 5 to 7 seconds (MAXIMUM) clear panning of the handler(s) in costume/attire (front, back, and sides) and the dog(s) in attire (front, back, and sides), with NO VERBAL STATEMENT OR COMMENTARY; Where applicable, setting up of props by handler alone (maximum time allowed 60 seconds).
- 4) Handler(s) and dog(s) performing the whole routine from start to finish, with recording STARTING WITH THE COMPLETE BEGINNING POSE (start) of the routine and recording ENDING **5 SECONDS AFTER THE ENDING POSE** (finish) of the routine.

\*Please make all “panning” clear and full, but very BRIEF. The purpose is for the Judges to see each item, clearly and quickly, in order to judge the routines properly.

The music selection must be played simultaneously as the routine is performed. The music should be played so that it is clearly audible throughout the whole video recording of the routine. In some cases, this means that the player needs to be kept right next to the video camera. The music should be clear and loud enough to drown out any outside sounds such as wind, rain, traffic, and other ambient noises. With indoor venues, especially in high-ceiling areas, care should be taken to minimize echo.

The video of the routine must show ALL HANDLER AND DOG MEMBERS, as ONE UNIT TOGETHER, THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE PERFORMANCE, so that all may be judged and scored properly. Placement of the video camera should be kept steady (a tripod may be best) and slightly elevated, to clearly view the performance members. Lighting should be sufficient to view all members at all times. Focus should be set so that all can be seen very well throughout the routine.

It is strongly advised that competitors have a camera person handle and manage the video camera throughout the performance of the routine. The camera should continually follow all performing members together as they move around the ring. The lens of the camera should “zoom” in and out as needed to show as much detail as possible of all moves, both close up and at distances from the camera.

TWO (2) DVD COPIES of the complete original video recording should be made to turn in with the rest of the entry information.

NTSC and PAL formatted DVDs are acceptable; however, NTSC format is preferred. PAL formatted DVDs need to be converted to NTSC format prior to the mastering and judging process. Converted DVDs are not of the sharpest quality.

### **AGAIN – QUALITY IS VERY IMPORTANT!**

Note: The Two (2) DVD copies are required to be turned in order to help insure that the competition is not held up because of unusable DVD. The second DVD copy will be used if one of them is damaged in the mail or it does not play.

**Entry packages with Edited DVD will be disqualified.**

The two (2) DVD copies of the original video should be labeled with:

- Handler and Dog Names
- Division entered
- "PAL" or "NTSC" (to notify WCFO which "format" the DVDs are in.

If one of the two (2) DVD copies is of better quality than the other one, the handler may mark the best copy with a defining mark (i.e. "best copy") on the label of that DVD. This will be the first choice used in the making of the Master DVD of all entries for that competition, and the one used by the Judges.

No additional information, other than the above, should be written on the DVD labels.

If a handler, group, or club wishes to combine more than one video entry on a DVD, they may do so. Each entry on the DVD must conform to the guidelines and have all of the required parts (above 1-4) in order and recorded together. \*The completed DVD must show all entries on it in the following Division, Style Category, Level order:

Junior Singles HTM: Level 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, CH

Junior Singles MF: Level 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4, CH

Junior Brace HTM: Level 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4

Junior Brace MF: Level 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4

Junior Pairs HTM: Level 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4

Junior Pairs MF: Level 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4

Junior Team MF: Level 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4

Junior Team HTM: Level 1A, 1B, 2, 3, 4

Adult Singles HTM: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champion

Adult Singles MF: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champion

Adult Brace MF: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champion

Adult Brace HTM: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champion

Adult Pairs MF: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champion

Adult Pairs HTM: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champion

Adult Team MF: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champion

Adult Team HTM: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Champion

Adult Sassy Senior MF: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced

Adult Sassy Senior HTM: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced

Adult Handi-Dandi MF: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced

Adult Handi-Dandi HTM: Beg. A, Beg. B, Novice, Intermediate, Advanced

A long blank space (10 SECONDS) of NOTHING recorded (no pictures, signs or banners) must be placed BETWEEN EACH entry so that, in the mastering process, nothing ends up cut off at the beginning or the end of any entry.

On a DVD each routine should preferably be recorded as a separate title or chapter.

A second identical DVD copy of all entries must still be sent in (total of 2 DVDs). A written listing of all entries on the DVD or tape, in the order they are recorded, should be attached to or wrapped around the DVDs in the entry package, and be sent with all other entry information and fee payments.

If a DVD sent in is un-viewable or not of sufficient quality to be judged, the entry may be rejected

and not accepted for competition.

Entry Packages sent in for video competition **must include ALL of the following:**

- Completed Live/Video Entry Form containing program information, signed and dated photograph release, and signed and dated agreements;
- Completed “original” Video Screen for Video Competitions;
- Two (2) DVD copies of the completed original video recording (as described); and,
- Proper entry fees.

Entry Packages (as described above) for Quarterly video events as well as Junior Specialty Video Competitions must be sent to:

UNA VALANSKI - Chairperson-Video Competitions  
526 LOYALVILLE ROAD  
DALLAS PA 18612 USA  
TEL: 570-477-2089  
EMAIL: [una@epix.net](mailto:una@epix.net)

The handler should keep the “original” video recording made.

DVDs sent in will not be returned.

Handlers will be notified of scores by e-mail, snail mail, or by listing on the website.

At the end of the competition, each competitor will receive:

- A copy of the whole competition DVD.
- A copy of their score sheet with judges comments; and,
- Any qualifying ribbons, placement medals, awards and other prizes earned.

\*A video recording of a routine that has been judged in one event must NOT be subsequently judged in another event.

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There is a “**Special**” **WCFO Video Competitions** held each year:

- (1) The yearly International Conference “Pro Stars” Competition (combined with the Live International Conference Pro Stars Competition) - Additional guidelines and deadlines are given with each year’s WCFO, INC. International event announcement.
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## **ADULT DIVISION LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS**

The following **Level Descriptions** describe and explain each Adult level of competition and the guidelines of performance expected in order to qualify for legs and titles in WCFO, Inc. Live and Video Titling Competitions.

**There are no required specific moves at each level, so as to keep the freedom to create an imaginative, artistic routine, showing the bond between handler and dog as they perform.**

## **ADULT DIVISIONS:**

For **ALL ADULT DIVISIONS (SINGLES, BRACE, PAIRS, TEAM, SASSY SENIOR, and HANDI-DANDI)** there are **four (4)** competition “LEVELS” to each:

### **LEVEL 1. )**

#### **BEGINNERS A On or Off Leash (HTM or MF)**

For handler/dog teams in which neither handler nor dog has a prior W.C.F.O. title or W.C.F.O. HTM or MF proficiency title. If either handler or dog has a prior W.C.F.O. title or W.C.F.O. HTM or MF proficiency title, the team shall enter the Beg. B division. The routine may be done on or off leash. [With “Brace, “Pairs” and “Team” division entries, all members in the routine must be either on or off leash.] The team will stay in the Beg. A division until the Beginner title is earned or until the handler or dog has earned a W.C.F.O. title or proficiency title as part of another handler/dog team in which case the team moves to the Beg. B division to complete the Beginner title. The team then moves to the Novice division (which is off leash only, except for option in Sassy Senior and Handi-Dandi divisions for blind and/or deaf dogs).

**-OR-**

#### **BEGINNERS B On or Off Leash (HTM or MF)**

For handler/dog teams in which either the handler or dog has a prior W.C.F.O. title or W.C.F.O. HTM or MF proficiency title (including adult handlers who have previously competed in W.C.F.O. Junior divisions and have attained a W.C.F.O title). The routine may be done on or off leash. [With “Brace, “Pairs” and “Team” division entries, all members in the routine must be either on or off leash.] The team will stay in the Beg. B division until the Beginner title is earned. The team then moves to the Novice division (which is off leash only, except for option in Sassy Senior and Handi-Dandi divisions for blind and/or deaf dogs).

#### **BEGINNERS A/B QUALIFYING EXPLANATIONS (by Scoring Areas):**

##### **Technical Merit (TM):**

1. Content - There is a basic amount and variety of main moves and transitional moves (65% full). The dog is worked on at least 2 sides of the handler. The balance of the amount of moves between the dog and the handler is 65%. (\*Meaning 67%/33% ratio)
2. Precise Execution - All moves are executed with 65% (fair) precision. Some hand cues are noticeable. The dog responds to the first or second cues. The handler and dog are fairly synchronized throughout the routine.
3. Flow - The routine flows fairly well (65%). There is some setting up of the handler and/or dog for the main moves. The transitional moves are fairly smooth.
4. Difficulty of Routine - Most of the steps, moves, and body positions are simple. There is a very small amount of complexity. The routine has basically one pace. There is 65% control in the

routine.

5. Stepping in Time to the Music - The handler and dog move with 65% (fair) accuracy in time to the music/beat/rhythm or theme.

### **Artistic Impression (AI):**

1. Animation, Attitude, Attention, and Harmonious Interaction (Bonding) - There is 65% attention, concentration, readiness, and animation from the dog and the handler throughout the routine. The interaction between the handler and the dog is 65% (good).

2. Quality and Creativity of Choreography, layout of routine - The choreography of the routine is laid out and done fairly in the ring space that is used, showing 65% (fair) creativity and balance.

3. Use of 75% Ring Space (50% for Juniors and small dogs) - The handler and dog team cover a fair amount of the 75%/50% of the total ring space.

4. Coordination of Routine with Music, Musical Interpretation - The routine matches the music/theme fairly well.

5. Costume Coordination with Music and Routine - The handler's costume and the dog's attire complement the music, routine, and/or theme fairly well.

6. Spectator Appeal - The routine is appreciated and enjoyed fairly well.

### **BEGINNERS TITLING INFORMATION:**

In order to receive a title at this (Beginning) level of competition, handlers and dogs must qualify with the following minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores, the following number of times (legs/shows). The routine length must be within the following times (plus or minus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds). Title abbreviations are also as follows.

**ADULT Singles BEG. A or B HTM or MF:** Avg. score 7.3, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes.  
Title – **W-FD/HTM or W-FD/MF**

**ADULT Brace BEG. A or B HTM or MF:** Avg. score 7.3, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes.  
Title – **W-BFD/HTM or W-BFD/MF**

**ADULT Pairs BEG. A or B HTM or MF:** Avg. score 7.3, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes.  
Title – **W-PFD/HTM or W-PFD/MF**

**ADULT Team BEG. A or B HTM or MF:** Avg. score 7.3, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes.  
Title – **W-TFD/HTM or W-TFD/MF**

**ADULT Sassy Seniors BEG. A or B HTM or MF:** Avg. score 6.7, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-SSFD/HTM or W-SSFD/HTMMF**

**ADULT Handi-Dandi BEG. A or B HTM or MF:** Avg. score 6.0, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-HDFD/HTM or W-HDFD/MF**

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## **LEVEL 2. )**

### **NOVICE (HTM or MF)**

The handler and dog team in this division must have earned a W.C.F.O. Beginner title in the style category entered (HTM or MF) and may have Proficiency titles. The routine must be done off leash (except for option in Sassy Senior and Handi-Dandi divisions for blind and/or deaf dogs). When the Novice title is earned, the team moves to the Intermediate division.

### **NOVICE QUALIFYING EXPLANATIONS (by Scoring Areas):**

#### **Technical Merit (TM):**

1. Content - There is a moderate amount and variety of main moves and transitional moves (75% full). The dog is worked on at least 3 sides of the handler. The balance of the amount of moves between the dog and the handler is 75%. (\*Meaning 62%/38% ratio)
2. Precise Execution - All moves are executed with 75% (nice) precision. Few hand cues are noticeable. The dog responds nicely on the first cues most of the time. The handler and dog are nicely synchronized throughout the routine.
3. Flow - The routine flows nicely (75%). There is a limited amount of setting up of the handler and/or dog for the main moves. The transitional moves flow nicely.
4. Difficulty of Routine - There are some intricate steps, moves, and different body positions. Some of the moves are fairly complex and original. There is a pace change in the routine. There is 75% control in the routine.
5. Stepping in Time to the Music - The handler and dog move with 75% (good) accuracy in time to the music/beat/rhythm or theme.

#### **Artistic Impression (AI):**

1. Animation, Attitude, Attention, and Harmonious Interaction (Bonding) - There is 75% attention, concentration, readiness, and animation from the dog and the handler throughout the routine. The interaction between the handler and the dog is 75% (nice).
2. Quality and Creativity of Choreography, layout of routine - The choreography of the routine is laid out and done nicely in the ring space that is used, showing 75% (good) creativity and balance.
3. Use of 75% Ring Space (50% for Juniors and small dogs) - The handler and dog team cover a nice amount of the 75%/50% of the total ring space.
4. Coordination of Routine with Music, Musical Interpretation - The routine matches the music/theme nicely.

5. Costume Coordination with Music and Routine - The handler's costume and the dog's attire complement the music, routine, and/or theme nicely.
6. Spectator Appeal - The routine is appreciated and enjoyed very much.

### **NOVICE TITLING INFORMATION:**

In order to receive a title at this (Novice) level of competition, handlers and dogs must qualify with the following minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores, the following number of times (legs/shows). The routine length must be within the following times (plus or minus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds). Title abbreviations are also as follows.

**ADULT Singles NOVICE HTM or MF:** Avg. score 8.0, 3 shows, 1:45-2:30 minutes.  
Title – **W-FDX/HTM or W-FDX/MF**

**ADULT Brace NOVICE HTM or MF:** Avg. score 8.0, 3 shows, 1:45-2:30 minutes.  
Title – **W-BFDX/HTM or W-BFDX/MF**

**ADULT Pairs NOVICE MF:** Avg. score 8.0, 3 shows, 1:45-2:30 minutes. Title –  
**W-PFDX/HTM or W-PFDX/MF**

**ADULT Team NOVICE MF:** Avg. score 8.0, 3 shows, 1:45-2:30 minutes. Title –  
**W-TFDX/HTM or W-TFDX/MF**

**ADULT Sassy Seniors NOVICE MF:** Avg. score 7.5, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title –  
**W-SSFDX/HTM or W-SSFDX/MF**

**ADULT Handi-Dandi NOVICE MF:** Avg. score 7.2, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title –  
**W-HDFDX/HTM or W-HDFDX/MF**

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### **LEVEL 3. )**

#### **INTERMEDIATE (HTM or MF)**

The handler and dog team in this division must have earned a W.C.F.O. Novice title in the style category entered (HTM or MF) and may have Proficiency titles. The routine must be done off leash (except for option in Sassy Senior and Handi-Dandi divisions for blind and/or deaf dogs). When the Intermediate title is earned, the team moves to the Advanced division.

#### **INTERMEDIATE QUALIFYING EXPLANATIONS (by Scoring Areas):**

##### **Technical Merit (TM):**

1. Content - There is a high amount and variety of main moves and transitional moves (90%

full). The dog is worked on at least 4 sides of the handler. The balance of the amount of moves between the dog and the handler is 90%. (\*Meaning 55%/45% ratio)

2. Precise Execution - Most of the moves are executed with 90% (great) precision. Rarely are visual cues noticeable. The dog responds efficiently to all cues. The handler and dog are mostly synchronized throughout the routine.

3. Flow - The routine flows greatly (90%). There is a rare amount of setting up of the handler and/or dog for the main moves. The transitional moves are very smooth.

4. Difficulty of Routine - There are many intricate steps, moves, and different body positions. Complex and/or original moves are apparent. There are a few pace changes in the routine. There is 90% control in the routine.

5. Stepping in Time to the Music - The handler and dog move with 90% (great) accuracy in time to the music/beat/rhythm or theme.

### **Artistic Impression (AI):**

1. Animation, Attitude, Attention, and Harmonious Interaction (Bonding) - There is 90% attention, concentration, readiness, and animation from the dog and the handler throughout the routine. The interaction between handler and the dog is 90% (great).

2. Quality and Creativity of Choreography, layout of routine - The choreography of the routine is laid out and done with great quality in the ring space that is used, showing 90% (great) creativity and balance.

3. Use of 75% Ring Space (50% for Juniors and small dogs) - The handler and dog team cover a great amount of the 75%/50% of the total ring space.

4. Coordination of Routine with Music, Musical Interpretation - The routine matches the music/theme greatly.

5. Costume Coordination with Music and Routine - The handler's costume and the dog's attire complement the music, routine, and/or theme greatly.

6. Spectator Appeal - The routine is appreciated, acknowledged and enjoyed greatly.

### **INTERMEDIATE TITLING INFORMATION:**

In order to receive a title at this (Intermediate) level of competition, handlers and dogs must qualify with the following minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores, the following number of times (legs/shows). The routine length must be within the following times (plus or minus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds). Title abbreviations are also as follows.

**ADULT Singles INTERMEDIATE HTM or MF:** Avg. score 8.5, 3 shows, 2:00-2:45 minutes. Title – **W-FDM/HTM or W-FDM/MF**

**ADULT Brace INTERMEDIATE HTM or MF:** Avg. score 8.5, 3 shows, 2:00-2:45 minutes. Title – **W-BFDM/HTM or W-BFDM/MF**

**ADULT Pairs INTERMEDIATE HTM or MF:** Avg. score 8.5, 3 shows, 2:00-2:45 minutes. Title – **W-PFDM/HTM or W-PFDM/MF**

**ADULT Team INTERMEDIATE HTM or MF:** Avg. score 8.5, 3 shows, 2:00-2:45 minutes. Title – **W-TFDM/HTM or W-TFDM/MF**

**ADULT Sassy Seniors INTERMEDIATE HTM or MF:** Avg. score 8.2, 3 shows, 1:45-2:30 minutes. Title – **W-SSFDM/HTM or W-SSFDM/MF**

**ADULT Handi-Dandi INTERMEDIATE HTM or MF:** Avg. score 8.0, 3 shows, 1:45-2:30 minutes. Title – **W-HDFDM/HTM or W-HDFDM/MF**

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#### **LEVEL 4. )**

#### **ADVANCED (HTM or MF)**

The handler and dog team in this division must have earned a W.C.F.O. Intermediate title in the style category entered (HTM or MF) and may have Proficiency titles. The routine must be done off leash (except for option in Sassy Senior and Handi-Dandi divisions for blind and/or deaf dogs). Teams in this division are working toward the Advanced title.

#### **ADVANCED QUALIFYING EXPLANATIONS (by Scoring Areas):**

##### **Technical Merit (TM):**

1. Content - There is an extensive amount and variety of main moves and transitional moves (95% full, with no dead spots). The dog is worked on more than 4 sides of the handler (up to full 360-degree radius). The balance of the amount of moves between the dog and the handler is 95%. (\*Meaning 52%/48% ratio)
2. Precise Execution - All moves are executed with 95% precision. No visual cues are noticeable. The dog responds efficiently to all cues. The dog and handler are "as one" throughout the routine, with constant synchronization.
3. Flow - The routine flows almost perfect (95%). There is no setting up of the handler and/or dog for the main moves. The transitional moves flow almost flawlessly.
4. Difficulty of Routine - Intricate and complex steps, moves, and different body positions are expected throughout the routine, with original and innovative moves present. There are many pace changes. There is 95% control in the routine.
5. Stepping in Time to the Music - The handler and dog move with 95% (extreme) accuracy in time to the music/beat/rhythm or theme.

##### **Artistic Impression (AI):**

1. Animation, Attitude, Attention, and Harmonious Interaction (Bonding) - There is 95% attention, concentration, readiness, and animation from the dog and the handler throughout the routine. The interaction between handler and the dog is 95% (wonderful, "as one") throughout the routine.
2. Quality and Creativity of Choreography, layout of routine - The choreography of the routine is laid out and done with extensive quality in the ring space that is used, showing 95% (extensive) creativity and balance.
3. Use of 75% Ring Space (50% for Juniors and small dogs) - The handler and dog team completely cover the 75%/50% of the total ring space.
4. Coordination of Routine with Music, Musical Interpretation - The routine matches the music/theme identically.
5. Costume Coordination with Music and Routine - The handler's costume and the dog's attire complement the music, routine, and/or theme exactly.
6. Spectator Appeal - The routine is appreciated, acknowledged, and enjoyed extremely.

### **ADVANCED TITLING INFORMATION:**

In order to receive a title at this (Advanced) level of competition, handlers and dogs must qualify with the following minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores, the following number of times (legs/shows). The routine length must be within the following times (plus or minus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds). Title abbreviations are also as follows.

**ADULT Singles ADVANCED HTM or MF:** Avg. score 9.2, 3 shows, 2:15-3:15 minutes. Title – **W-CH.FD/HTM or W-CH.FD/MF**

**ADULT Brace ADVANCED HTM or MF:** Avg. score 9.2, 3 shows, 2:15-3:15 minutes. Title – **W-BCH.FD/HTM or W-BCH.FD/MF**

**ADULT Pairs ADVANCED HTM or MF:** Avg. score 9.2, 3 shows, 2:15-3:15 minutes. Title – **W-PCH.FD/HTM or W-PCH.FD/MF**

**ADULT Team ADVANCED HTM or MF:** Avg. score 9.2, 3 shows, 2:15-3:15 minutes. Title – **W-TCH.FD/HTM or W-TCH.FD/MF**

**ADULT Sassy Seniors ADVANCED HTM or MF:** Avg. score 9.0, 3 shows, 1:45-2:30 minutes. Title – **W-SSCH.FD/HTM or W-SSCH.FD/MF**

**ADULT Handi-Dandi ADVANCED HTM or MF:** Avg. score 8.5, 3 shows, 1:45-2:30 minutes. Title – **W-HDCH.FD/HTM or W-HDCH.FD/MF**

## **LEVEL 5.)**

### **CHAMPION PERFECT DANCE PARTNERS (HTM or MF)**

The handler and dog team in this division must have earned a W.C.F.O. Champion title in the style category entered (HTM or MF) and may have Proficiency titles. Any foreign team who has won 3 Championship First, Second or Third Placement in the Advanced or what is considered the Highest Division, in their prospective country. (Note, entry routine for WCFO Champion Division must conform to the WCFO, INC rules for Heelwork-To-Music and Musical Freestyle for allowed moves, disqualifications, etc. )

The routine must be done off leash (except for option in Sassy Senior and Handi-Dandi divisions for blind and/or deaf dogs). Teams in this division are working toward the Champion Perfect Dance Partners title.

The teams entered in the W-Ch.PDP division are not eligible for the WCFO, INC High Technical Merit or High Artistic Impression Awards offered at every WCFO, INC titling competition.

There will be a special award offered at for the Champion Perfect Dance Partners division, which will require a perfect score of 10.0 in TM and 10.0 in AI to win.

### **ADVANCED QUALIFYING EXPLANATIONS (by Scoring Areas):**

#### **Technical Merit (TM):**

1. Content - There is an extensive amount and variety of main moves and transitional moves (95% full, with no dead spots). The dog is worked on more than 4 sides of the handler (up to full 360-degree radius). The balance of the amount of moves between the dog and the handler is 95%. (\*Meaning 52%/48% ratio)
2. Precise Execution - All moves are executed with 95% precision. No visual cues are noticeable. The dog responds efficiently to all cues. The dog and handler are "as one" throughout the routine, with constant synchronization.
3. Flow - The routine flows almost perfect (95%). There is no setting up of the handler and/or dog for the main moves. The transitional moves flow almost flawlessly.
4. Difficulty of Routine - Intricate and complex steps, moves, and different body positions are expected throughout the routine, with original and innovative moves present. There are many pace changes. There is 95% control in the routine.
5. Stepping in Time to the Music - The handler and dog move with 95% (extreme) accuracy in time to the music/beat/rhythm or theme.

#### **Artistic Impression (AI):**

1. Animation, Attitude, Attention, and Harmonious Interaction (Bonding) - There is 95% attention,

concentration, readiness, and animation from the dog and the handler throughout the routine. The interaction between handler and the dog is 95% (wonderful, "as one") throughout the routine.

2. Quality and Creativity of Choreography, layout of routine - The choreography of the routine is laid out and done with extensive quality in the ring space that is used, showing 95% (extensive) creativity and balance.

3. Use of 75% Ring Space (50% for small dogs) - The handler and dog team completely cover the 75%/50% of the total ring space.

4. Coordination of Routine with Music, Musical Interpretation - The routine matches the music/theme identically.

5. Costume Coordination with Music and Routine - The handler's costume and the dog's attire complement the music, routine, and/or theme exactly.

6. Spectator Appeal - The routine is appreciated, acknowledged, and enjoyed extremely.

### **CHAMPION TITLING INFORMATION:**

In order to receive a title at this (Champion) level of competition, handlers and dogs must qualify with the following minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores, the following number of times (legs/shows). The routine length must be within the following times (plus or minus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds). Title abbreviations are also as follows.

**ADULT Singles PERFECT DANCE PARTNER HTM or MF:** Avg. score 9.5, 5 shows, 3:00-4:00 minutes. Title – **W-Ch.PDP/HTM or W-Ch.PDP/MF**

**ADULT Brace PERFECT DANCE PARTNER HTM or MF:** Avg. score 9.5, 5 shows, 3:00-4:00 minutes. Title – **W-ChPDP/HTM or W-Ch-PDP/MF**

**ADULT Pairs PERFECT DANCE PARTNER HTM or MF:** Avg. score 9.5, 5 shows, 3:00-4:00 minutes. Title – **W-PCh.PDP/HTM or W-PCh.PDPMF**

**ADULT Team PERFECT DANCE PARTNERS HTM or MF:** Avg. score 9.5, 5 shows 3:00-4:00 minutes. Title – **W-TChPDP/HTM or W-TChPDP/MF**

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## **JUNIOR COMPETITOR GUIDELINES** **(specific and in addition to other Competitor Guidelines)**

WCFO, INC salutes our junior competitors and recognizes that they are the future of our sport. They will be the members of our World competition teams in the years to come. Our guidelines are based on what is expected of a junior athlete in any global sport. We ask our juniors and their parents and guardians to join with us in presenting WCFO junior competitors in canine freestyle

who possess the highest athletic, moral and sportsmanship characters of their countries as seen in any other global sport today.

### **JUNIOR AGE LIMITS:**

Junior competition age is 18 years and under. Entry age is determined by how old the handler is on January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year they compete. (If they turn 19 on January 2 or later in the year they compete, they are considered a Junior.) When moving up to the Adult divisions after competing in the Junior divisions, they enter the Adult divisions at the Beginners “B” level.

### **JUNIOR ENTRY FORM AND PARENT PARTICIPATION:**

Juniors must use the WCFO Junior Entry form for all events and have their parent/guardian signature on the form in order to compete. [Junior Entry Form is available on the World Canine Freestyle Organization Website at <http://www.worldcaninefreestyle.org>]

Junior’s music, costume and dance movements must be approved by their parent/guardian. Juniors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian at all WCFO events and follow WCFO GUIDELINES as listed in WCFO, INC. publications.

Junior handicapped handlers and/or dogs can show in the Junior Singles division and be given a handicap of 1.0 in Technical Merit and 1.0 in Artistic Impression. On the entry form, the nature of the handicap must be stated, so that prior approvals and arrangements can be made and given.

### **JUNIOR PERSONAL CONDUCT:**

1. Juniors attending a WCFO event shall display the characteristics of a WCFO member: sharing and bonding with their canine partner and with other WCFO members and attendees at events.
2. Juniors shall be students in good standing in their academic endeavors.
3. Juniors shall be drug and alcohol free.
4. Juniors shall display good sportsmanship in and out of the competition arena.
5. Juniors are encouraged to promote the joys and fun of responsible pet ownership through the sport of canine freestyle to their friends, classmates, schools, clubs and other organizations in which they actively participate.

### **JUNIOR DIVISIONS:**

The Divisions for **JUNIORS** are: **Singles, Brace, Pairs, and Team.**

- In the **Junior Singles** division, exhibitors may compete and earn legs and titles in the **HEELWORK-TO-MUSIC (HTM)** and/or **MUSICAL FREESTYLE (MF)** style categories.
- In the **Junior Brace, Pairs, and Team** divisions, and earn legs and titles in the **MUSICAL HEELWORK-TO-MUSIC (HTM)** and/or **MUSICAL FREESTYLE (MF)** style category.

At the **First Level** of each Junior division, there are 2 classes: **Class A** and **Class B:**

- Class A:** Junior will show in “A” if the dog is trained by the Junior only and the Junior

- and/or dog do not have any freestyle titles.
- **Class B:** Junior will show in “B” if the dog has been trained and/or shown by another handler or the Junior and/or dog have a freestyle title.

WCFO, INC. and/or a sponsoring Host Association may divide the Junior Division, if so desired, as follows: Eight Years and Under; Nine to Twelve Years; Thirteen to Fifteen Years, and Sixteen to Eighteen Years.

### **ADDITIONAL JUNIOR INFORMATION FOR ROUTINES**

1. Music should portray the relationship between the dog and handler and show personality of dog. Discretion should be used in selecting music. Music must show good taste and should not be offensive or suggestive in language. Music must be approved by parent/guardian with signature on entry form.
2. Costumes should be done in good taste showing the theme of music and routine. The following is strongly discouraged: short shorts and skirts, tight sweaters, low necklines, bare midriff and belly for girls and bare chests for boys. Costume should not distract, limit, or hinder judge’s view of dog. Costumes must be approved by parent or guardian with signature on entry form.
3. The dog must be trained by the Junior for the routine that is entered. Routine should be choreographed age appropriate. Junior handler may not use any sexually suggestive body movements during the routine.

### **JUNIOR LEVEL DESCRIPTIONS:**

The first four (4) regular Junior level categories are guidelines illustrating what juniors are expected to present in the competition ring to earn their titles in each of the **JUNIOR SINGLES, BRACE, PAIRS, and TEAM** divisions.

#### **JUNIOR FIRST (1) LEVEL (Class A or B):**

The Junior should move to the beat of the music and may be on or off leash. They will be judged on: how many moves the dog and handler successfully complete; the variety of moves; how the dog and handler are interacting; and control of the dog by the handler. The routine should cover 50% of the ring space. The handler and dog should appear to be having an enjoyable experience. Judges must look to see if the handler has control of their dog.

#### **FIRST LEVEL TITLING INFORMATION:**

In order to receive a title at this First level of competition, handlers and dogs must qualify with the following minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores, the following number of times (legs/shows). The routine length must be within the following times (plus or minus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds). Title abbreviations are also as follows.

**JUNIOR 1 Singles HTM or MF:** Avg. score 5.5, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JFD/HTM or W-JFD/MF**

**JUNIOR 1 Brace MF:** Avg. score 5.5, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JBFD/MF**

**JUNIOR 1 Pairs MF:** Avg. score 5.5, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JPFD/MF**

**JUNIOR 1 Team MF:** Avg. score 5.5, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JTFD/MF**

### **JUNIOR SECOND (2) LEVEL (Class B):**

In Musical Freestyle (MF), the Junior should be dancing to the music with dance steps (foot movement). In Heelwork to Music (HTM), the Junior should be moving to the beat of the music with foot movement. The routine may be on or off leash. Moves should match the music selected. Judges will be looking for: how many moves the dog and the handler successfully complete; the variety of moves; how the dog and handler are interacting; and, control of the dog by the handler. The routine should cover 50% of the ring space. The handler and dog should appear to be having an enjoyable experience. The handler's control of the dog is imperative.

#### **SECOND LEVEL TITLING INFORMATION:**

In order to receive a title at this (Second - Junior B) level of competition, handlers and dogs must qualify with the following minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores, the following number of times (legs/shows). The routine length must be within the following times (plus or minus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds). Title abbreviations are also as follows.

**JUNIOR 2 Singles HTM or MF:** Avg. score 6.0, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JFDX/HTM or W-JFDX/MF**

**JUNIOR 2 Brace MF:** Avg. score 6.0, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JBFDX/MF**

**JUNIOR 2 Pairs MF:** Avg. score 6.0, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JPFDX/MF**

**JUNIOR 2 Team MF:** Avg. score 6.0, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JTFDX/MF**

### **JUNIOR THIRD (3) LEVEL (Class B):**

In Musical Freestyle (MF), the Junior should be dancing to the music with dance steps (foot movement) and have arm (and/or hand) movements to the beat of the music. In Heelwork to Music (HTM), the Junior should be moving to the beat of the music with foot movement and have arm (and/or hand) movements to the beat of the music. The routine must be off leash. There must be a good variety of moves successfully completed. The routine must cover 50% of the ring space. The dog and handler should be interacting positively and should appear to be dancing/moving as a team.

#### **THIRD LEVEL TITLING INFORMATION:**

In order to receive a title at this Third level of competition, handlers and dogs must qualify with the following minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores, the following number of times (legs/shows). The

routine length must be within the following times (plus or minus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds). Title abbreviations are also as follows.

**JUNIOR 3 Singles HTM or MF:** Avg. score 6.5, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JFDM/HTM or W-JFDM/MF**

**JUNIOR 3 Brace MF:** Avg. score 6.5, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JBFD/ MF**

**JUNIOR 3 Pairs MF:** Avg. score 6.5, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JPFDM/MF**

**JUNIOR 3 Team MF:** Avg. score 6.5, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JTFDM/MF**

### **JUNIOR FOURTH (4) LEVEL (Class B):**

The Junior and dog should be dancing/moving together as a team with no visible hand signals and the dog must be off leash. All the skills from other levels are to be included. The routine must cover 50% of the ring space. The dog and handler should be interacting and flowing from one move to the other with a good variety of successfully completed moves.

### **FOURTH LEVEL TITLING INFORMATION:**

In order to receive a title at this Fourth level of competition, handlers and dogs must qualify with the following minimum average scores in both the total Technical Merit (TM) and the total Artistic Impression (A.I.) scores, the following number of times (legs/shows). The routine length must be within the following times (plus or minus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds). Title abbreviations are also as follows.

**JUNIOR 4 Singles HTM or MF:** Avg. score 7.0, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JCH.FD/HTM or W-JCH.FD/MF**

**JUNIOR 4 Brace MF:** Avg. score 7.0, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JBCH.FD/MF**

**JUNIOR 4 Pairs MF:** Avg. score 7.0, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JPCH.FD/MF**

**JUNIOR 4 Team MF:** Avg. score 7.0, 2 shows, 1:30-2:15 minutes. Title – **W-JTCH.FD/MF**

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### **JUNIOR CHAMPION LEVEL:**

To enter and compete at the Junior Champion level, the Junior must have earned all four of the titles above, as required by WCFO titling competition rules. While continuing to compete as a Junior Champion, the Junior and dog will be judged following “Fourth Level” Junior Guidelines

rules.

**NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPION:**

The Junior must compete in 3 events, live or video, between January 1 and the date of each year's national competition in their country. Their scores will be averaged and the junior with the best scores will be crowned WCFO National Junior Champion of their country. If the junior competes in more than 3 events during this time period, the 3 best scores will be averaged for their final score. The National Junior Champion will represent WCFO and the sport of canine freestyle through demos, TV appearances, news articles, fund-raisers, seminars, workshops, etc., nationally.

The National Junior Champion of each country is eligible to compete for World Junior Champion.

**WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPION:**

Each National Junior Champion of each country may compete to be the WCFO, INC. World Junior Champion. This competition may be held by live or video competition, or by the tallying of the 3 top scores of each country's National Junior Champion. If a live or video competition is held for this, each National Junior Champion is entered into the competition "free of charge". The winner from this competition will be crowned The WCFO World Junior Champion. The World Junior Champion will represent WCFO and the sport of canine freestyle through demos, TV appearances, news articles, fund raisers, seminars, workshops, etc. globally.

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**JUNIOR SPECIALTY VIDEO COMPETITION**

WCFO, INC. offers special worldwide video competition for Juniors to participate in each quarter. They are called the Junior Specialty Video Competition. The Junior Guidelines, the Video Guidelines, and additional guidelines below are followed for these competitions. Special awards may be offered and announced for these competitions.

\*\*Special note: Because these events were created to encourage Juniors to try freestyle, Juniors do not have to be a member of WCFO, INC. to compete in these competitions. But, if the Junior is a WCFO member in good standing their score will count toward legs or titles. All juniors are eligible for awards.

\*Entry packages for these **Special video events** must be sent to:  
**Una Valanski - 12 Tower Lane, Dallas, PA 18612 - TEL: 570-639-3922**  
**EMAIL: una@epix.net**

Four (4) Junior Specialty Video Competitions are held each year. The closing dates for entries for them are the same as the closing dates for the seasonal WCFO video event entries (Winter-March 31, Spring-June 30, Summer-September 30, and Fall-December 31).

Be sure to follow applicable entry package guidelines in the Video Event Competitor Rules and Guidelines for this competition.

For Entry Form that must be sent in with the entry package, go to the Junior Entry Form section at the World Canine Freestyle Organization Website: <http://www.worldcaninefreestyle.org>

Or contact Anna Schloff at [allpurposedog@yahoo.com](mailto:allpurposedog@yahoo.com) or [aschloff@lakeorion.k12.mi.us](mailto:aschloff@lakeorion.k12.mi.us)

There are discounted Special Entry Fees for this competition. They are:

4H and/or WCFO, INC. members - \$6.

All others - \$8.

Pairs, Team - \$2. for each additional junior

This is the breakdown of the divisions offered in the Junior Specialty Video Competition.

JUNIOR A 1<sup>st</sup> Level (Dog is trained by Jr. only and neither have freestyle titles)

Jr. Singles (HTM or MF styles)

8 yrs. and younger

9 to 12 years

13 to 15 years

16 to 18 years

Jr. A Brace (MF) not divided by age

Jr. A Pairs (MF) not divided by age

Jr. A Team (MF) not divided by age

JUNIOR B 1<sup>st</sup> Level (Junior and/or Dog have a freestyle title)

Jr. Singles (HTM or MF styles)

8 yrs. and younger

9 to 12 years

13 to 15 years

16 to 18 years

Jr. B 1<sup>st</sup> Level Brace (MF) not divided by age

Jr. B 1<sup>st</sup> Level Pairs (MF) not divided by age

Jr. B 1<sup>st</sup> Level Team (MF) not divided by age

JUNIOR B 2<sup>nd</sup> Level (Junior and Dog have earned W-JFD in style entering)

Jr. Singles (HTM or MF styles)

8 yrs. and younger

9 to 12 years

13 to 15 years

16 to 18 years

Jr. B 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Brace (MF) not divided by age

Jr. B 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Pairs (MF) not divided by age

Jr. B 2<sup>nd</sup> Level Team (MF) not divided by age

JUNIOR B 3<sup>rd</sup> Level (Junior and Dog have earned W-JFDX in style entering)

Jr. Singles (HTM or MF styles)

8 yrs. and younger

9 to 12 years

13 to 15 years

16 to 18 years

Jr. B 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Brace (MF) not divided by age

Jr. B 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Pairs (MF) not divided by age

Jr. B 3<sup>rd</sup> Level Team (MF) not divided by age

JUNIOR B 4<sup>th</sup> Level (Junior and Dog have earned W-JFDM in style entering)

Jr. Singles (HTM or MF styles)

8 yrs. and younger

9 to 12 years

13 to 15 years

16 to 18 years

Jr. B 4<sup>th</sup> Level Brace (MF) not divided by age

Jr. B 4<sup>th</sup> Level Pairs (MF) not divided by age

Jr. B 4<sup>th</sup> Level Team (MF) not divided by age

JUNIOR CHAMPION (Junior and Dog have earned W-JCH.FD in style entering)

Jr. Singles Champion (HTM or MF styles) not divided by age

Jr. Champion Brace (MF) not divided by age

Jr. Champion Pairs (MF) not divided by age

Jr. Champion Team (MF) not divided by age

**\* All Juniors are encouraged to enter! \***

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## **WCFO, INC. RECORDING AND ISSUING OF TITLES**

1. WCFO, INC. members will receive free of all charges recording of legs and titles and issuance of title certificates of all canine freestyle teams no matter how many human/dog teams said member represents in the competition ring at any WCFO, INC. titling competition (live and/or video).
2. WCFO, INC. member club members who are individual members of WCFO, INC. will receive free of all charges recording of legs and titles and issuance of title certificates of all canine freestyle teams no matter how many human/dog teams said member represents in the competition ring at any WCFO, INC. titling competition.
3. WCFO, INC. member club members who are NOT individual members of WCFO, INC. may not enter to compete in WCFO, INC. titling competitions (unless otherwise stated).
4. Any canine freestyle team who has entered a WCFO, INC titling competition and received a title pre May 31, 2002 and has had their title recorded and their title certificate issued may carry the WCFO, INC title recognition status. Any handler/dog team who has entered a WCFO, INC titling competition and received a title before May 31, 2002, and has had their title recorded and certificate issued, is recognized by WCFO, INC as having that title.
5. WCFO, INC. will record all titles for Proficiency Tests regardless of the status of WCFO, INC. membership of the team (See: Proficiency Test information).

\*WCFO, INC. membership applications are available by contacting WCFO, INC.

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## **INNOVATION / “NON-TITLING” DIVISION**

b. The **Innovation** division is a “**non-titling**” division for WCFO, INC. members in which anything goes. It will be open to exhibitors at all live and/or video regular titling events, except when specifically noted otherwise in individual event premium announcements.

- c. Innovation routines will NOT be judged. No titles or official WCFO, INC. awards are granted to Innovation exhibitors at any titling event. A team may request a judge to give a personal opinion on their routine pre presenting it in the Innovation division. The judge may/may not agree, depending on time and convenience.
- d. Innovation is an appropriate division for exhibitors who want the added experience of performing with their dogs in a competition-like setting but are not ready to enter a competitive division, or they want to perform a routine that does not fit into any of the competitive division formats and guidelines. It is also where performers can try out new and innovative moves in developing routines. Examples of exhibitors for this division may include (but are not limited to):
  - e. · New exhibitors and dogs (6 months and older) to the performance arena.
  - f. · Mixed teams with any number combination of humans and dogs (i.e. 2 humans and 1 dog, 2 humans and 3 dogs, 1 human and 3 dogs, etc.).
  - g. · Exhibitors using human or animal props in their routines.
  - h. · Exhibitors choosing to have the dog wearing a costume or attire not approved for the competitive divisions.
  - i. · Professional exhibitors and dogs.
- j. The maximum time limit for Innovation routines will be 3:15 minutes (plus 15 seconds, allowed for recording and playback device speeds).
- k. Exhibitors entering this division must fill out, sign, and submit the same entrance forms as all other exhibitors in live and/or video regular competition events.
- l. The Innovation Division entry fee is 50% off of the regular fee.

Innovation routines to be scheduled after all judged routines. *Should the event be so small as to not allow for this configuration, the host entity should ask WCFO President to send to WCFO Board for exemption of this rule.* At the discretion of the host entity, Innovation participants may be allowed to use food in the ring at the time of their Innovation routine on last day of competition

### **WCFO FREQUENT DANCER POINTS**

When a WCFO member enters a SPONSORED WCFO event ONLY, they will receive WCFO FREQUENT DANCER POINTS per the following chart:

Entries	Points Earned PER ENTRY
MF singles, HTM singles, SS singles MF, SS singles HTM, HD singles MF, HD singles HTM, MF brace, HTM Brace, Junior MF, Junior HTM, Junior Brace	1
MF pairs, HTM pairs, MF teams, HTM teams	.5 per person
Junior pairs MF, Junior pairs HTM, Junior team MF, Junior team HTM	.5 per person
Proficiency Test	.5
Innovation	.5

**YOU NEED NOT QUALIFY IN ORDER TO EARN WCFO FREQUENT DANCER POINTS, BUT, YOU DO NEED TO SHOW UP AND COMPETE.** Proof that a team showed up and competed will come from the scoring file...IT WILL BE IMPORTANT THAT THE SCOREKEEPER INDICATES THAT A TEAM DQs IF THEY ARE THERE, AND SHOW, BUT RECEIVED 0s. Teams that receive 0s without the DQ designation will not receive WFDPs

Each individual entry at a sponsored event will count toward WFDPs. For example, if DogA/HandlerA enter and show in MF Intermediate (don't qualify), pass their Bronze Bar HTM and DogB/HandlerA show in HTM Beginners (qualify) on the first day of the competition, and DogA/HandlerA show in MF Intermediate (qualify), and DogB/HandlerA show in HTM Novice (DQ – dog leaves ring) and are part of a Beginner Pairs routine (qualifying) on the second day, HANDLER A would earn 5.5 WCFO FREQUENT DANCER POINTS over the two day competition.

When an individual has earned 10 points by competing at a SPONSORED WCFO event, they will be awarded a FREE entry equal to the cost of one single entry. This entry is only good for entries at subsequent SPONSORED WCFO competitions. The entry is not transferable.

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WCFO, INC. reserves the right to change information and update premium lists as necessary. Prize structure may change as indicated by membership and sponsorship. For the latest updates, contact WCFO, INC. directly.

WCFO, INC is an amateur sports competition organization, governing the sport of canine freestyle. It grants titles, certifies judges and its membership votes on rules of competition. WCFO judges the dog and human partner equally and cannot be compared to any other dog sport in existence today. The emphasis in WCFO is on the bond between the handler and the dog. Paid or unpaid "professional" handlers are not allowed to handle someone else's dog in competition.

A professional handler is someone who handles dogs for compensation, remuneration, payment, or reimbursement to themselves of any kind, monetarily or otherwise. Handling dogs may or may not be the professional's primary vocation or source of income.

Determining factors for whether a person is a professional handler could be but are not limited to:

- a. If there are business cards or advertisements offering their services;
- b. If a training facility offers their services;
- c. If they act as a professional handler for or with any other group(s) or training center; and/or,
- d. If they show or handle dogs that they don't reside with, take care of, and provide for.

If a "paid or unpaid professional handler" or a team's trainer wishes to handle a dog, belonging to someone else, they may show in Innovation. Handlers who feel they are not capable of showing their dogs to their best, may not invite another paid or unpaid professional to handle their dogs in any titling division, but may invite them to show in Innovation.

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**OTHER IMPORTANT WCFO, INC. INFORMATION AVAILABLE**

WCFO, INC. Membership Application, Benefits, and Information

WCFO, INC. Guidelines for Hosting Live Events

WCFO, INC. Video Competition Hints and Tips

WCFO, INC. Proficiency Tests and Combined Titling

WCFO, INC. and 4H Clubs