DEPARTMENT 4I
FREDERICK COUNTY FAIR 4-H/FFA DOG SHOW

GENERAL RULES
1. See 4-H/FFA Club Department General Rules and Regulations as they apply.
2. When possible, except where expressly altered in these rules, the American Kennel Club (AKC) regulations will be used as the standard for judging.
3. Behavior Expectations and the 4-H Code of Ethics are expected at all times. Any 4-H member showing disrespect or unsportsmanlike conduct, or who willfully interferes with another handler, may be excused from showing.

ENTRIES
1. Dogs must be at least 6 months of age to compete in showmanship and obedience, and 12 months of age for agility as of the date of the show.
2. All dogs, whether registered or not, purebred or mix-breed, are eligible to compete.
3. Bitches in season are not permitted on the grounds nor are they permitted to compete and must be scratched from their respective classes.
4. All dogs must have a Dog Identification card on file at the 4-H office by July 1st of the current year.
5. All dogs must be trained and groomed by the individual who is showing them.
6. A dog may be shown only once in each division unless in first year classes where stated otherwise.
7. Dogs may be shown for exhibition only.
8. No dogs shall be left unattended before, during, or after the show.

HEALTH/SAFETY
1. All dogs must have a current rabies vaccination certificate on file with their vet. Any dog without written proof of a current rabies vaccination will not be allowed to compete.
2. All members are responsible for the care and safety of their animals. If, in the opinion of the Superintendent or appointed UME Volunteer, an animal’s health or safety is determined to be in jeopardy, the exhibitor may be excused from the grounds. Dogs may be inspected prior to or during the show by a Superintendent, appointed UME Volunteer or a judge to determine general health and well-being. Unfit or unhealthy animals, as determined by the Superintendent, appointed UME Volunteer or a judge, will be excused from competition.

Unfit or unhealthy may include, but is not limited to:
   a. Filthy – caked dirt, matted coat, flea infestation
   b. Contagious or parasitic skin disorders, mange, lice, mites, open or infected sores or injuries
   c. Lameness or painful movement
   d. Oozing or weeping eyes or ears
   e. Persistent coughing, gagging or choking, vomiting or projectile diarrhea
   f. Visual evidence of internal parasites such as worms

3. An animal (dog) that bites, attempts to bite, or shows aggression by growling or attempting to fight, either another dog or human will be excused from competition. A report will be filed with the appropriate animal health agencies. Any animal, which, in the opinion of the judge, is unapproachable, may be excused from the class.
DRESS CODE
1. Suggested attire:
   a. Showmanship
      1. Girls – dress, jumper, suit, stockings or socks, supportive closed shoes
      2. Boys – collared shirt, tie or bolo, slacks supportive closed shoes
   b. Obedience
      1. Girls – Same as above, or slacks, bermuda style shorts
      2. Boys – Same as above, or bermuda style shorts
   c. Agility
      1. Girls and Boys – comfortable, easy to move around in clothing, closed shoes.
2. Excluded dress includes:
   a. skirts, shorts, or skorts more than 3” above the knee
   b. bare mid-drifts
   c. open-toes shoes such as sandals
   d. blue jeans
   e. “baggies” or cargo style baggy pants.

OWNER RESPONSIBILITY
1. All exhibitors will be responsible to provide:
   a. water/food and bowls
   b. shade
   c. confinement
   d. waste product clean up (scoop your poop)
   e. appropriate collars, leads, and obedience articles as required by the class
   f. grooming supplies
   g. comfortable Chair

JUDGING
1. All judges and superintendent decisions are final
2. Point accumulation will determine Best in Show. Points are awarded once for each animal entered per division. One (1) additional point will be awarded to an animal that wins a division championship. Point divisions are as follows:

   Obedience, Showmanship (Fitting and Showing), and Agility
   First place – 5 points
   Second place – 4 points
   Third place – 3 points
   Fourth place – 2 points
   Fifth place – 1 point

3. Judges may excuse from the ring:
   a. any handler who willfully interferes with another animal or handler
   b. any animal which cannot be controlled or is not approachable
   c. any obviously ill or lame animal

4. Any handler who physically abuses their animal in or out of the ring will be disqualified and excused from the grounds and will forfeit ALL prizes including money, if applicable.
5. All Animals must remain under control at all times. This may include a leash or similar restraining area such as a crate or ex-pen, when not in competition.
SHOWMANSHIP
Exhibitors will be evaluated and judged individually and in a group to determine their ability to fit, groom, and present their project to the judge. Additional consideration is given to teamwork between dog and exhibitor, responsiveness, manners and attitude.

1. A First year showman may enter BOTH the "first year" and novice classes. However, a First Year exhibitor may enter a First Year Showmanship class only once during their 4-H tenure.

2. Once exhibitor and dog arrives on event grounds, ALL grooming must be done by the exhibitor. Specialized grooming (i.e. clipping, stripping, etc), where help is needed, must be done prior to arrival on event grounds. Any artificial preparations such as powder or cornstarch may NOT be left on the dog. Refer to Maryland 4-H Livestock Code of Ethics.

3. Dogs must be clean (including their ears) with coats well brushed and free of mats. Dogs should be free of external parasites. The judge may make allowances for unavoidable surface dirt due to wet weather.

4. Exhibitors should be able to show their dogs at an appropriate gait, show the dog’s bite upon judge’s request, and stand their dogs in an acceptable pose to permit examination by the judge. Exhibitors should be able to answer questions on care, grooming, and background of their breed(s).

5. Fitting of dog (body condition and grooming) will account for 40 points and showing in the ring (performance of dog, presentation of dog, alertness of exhibitor, personal appearance of the exhibitor) will account for 60 points.

6. Performance of the dog will not count against the exhibitor unless in the judge’s opinion it interferes with another exhibitor's dog. The ability of the exhibitor to show their dog to its best advantage, whether the dog is cooperating or not, will be evaluated. It is expected that the exhibitor will have worked with their dog adequately prior to the show and have developed a working relationship with the dog.

7. NOVICE CLASS: All 4-H/FFA members who have previously won a novice showmanship class, with competition, at the Great Frederick Fair, must move up.

8. ELITE CLASS: The following criteria are for those who MUST show in this class: Any exhibitor who has won Showmanship Champion at the Great Frederick Fair, Maryland State Fair, OR if moved from another county and/or state, then THAT major County Fair or State Fair Showmanship Champion (i.e. Montgomery County Fair, Prince George County Fair, Tennessee State Fair, etc.), must now show in the Elite Class. As well, any exhibitor who is currently showing or have shown in AKC, or a comparative association, in the Open class and having previously won that Open class with competition, must now show in the Elite class.

9. First year and Novice exhibitors will be expected to know the a) down and back, and b) Triangle gaiting patterns only.

10. Baiting is allowed at the judge's discretion. NO throwing bait.

CLASS DESCRIPTIONS
First Year Novice (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) - Exhibitors who are in their first year of training and showing their first dog are eligible to compete in this class. This class WILL be divided by the different age groups of Junior, Intermediate, Senior. Exhibitors who are regarded as Open Junior Handlers by the AKC, or comparable association, as of August 1 of the current year, are not eligible for this class.

Novice (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) - This class represents those who have previously shown their first dog in their first year of training, or who have not advanced to the Open class. Exhibitors who have previously placed 1st in a Novice Fitting & Showmanship class, or who are regarded as Open Junior Handlers by the AKC, are not eligible for this class and must compete in the appropriate Open Fitting & Showmanship class.

Open (Junior, Intermediate, Senior) - This class represents advanced fitting & showmanship. Once an exhibitor competes in an Open Fitting & Showmanship class they may not compete in a Novice Fitting & Showmanship class.
Elite class - The following criteria are for those who MUST show in this class: Any exhibitor who has won Showmanship Champion at the Great Frederick Fair, Maryland State Fair, OR if moved or have competed in/from another county and/or state, then THAT major County Fair or State Fair Showmanship Champion (i.e. Montgomery County Fair, Prince George County Fair, Tennessee State Fair, etc.), must now show in the Elite Class. As well, any exhibitor who is currently showing or have shown in AKC, or a comparative association, in the Open class and having previously won that Open class with competition, must now show in the Elite class.

Obedience
The exhibitor and dog are evaluated and judged as a team, using a set of predetermined exercises to determine the usefulness of the dog as a companion to man. The dog and exhibitor must also demonstrate teamwork, willingness and enjoyment of their work.

1. All exhibitors must have completed, and passed, one full training session (6 weeks or longer) with an instructor, to be eligible to compete in that obedience class. A form must be submitted with entry, signed by the instructor, stating that the exhibitor is eligible to compete.
2. Members who have a) won their obedience class with a minimum of two (2) competitors at a County Fair or State Fair the previous year will be required to move that dog to the next level of competition.
3. A dog may be entered only once in each class.
4. AKC obedience regulations will be liberally applied.
   a. no bait
   b. well-fitting flat buckle collars or flat slip collars of fabric leather or chain only
   c. no training devices allowed of any kind
5. All exercises will be done individually except for the long sit and long down (which will be done in convenient groups).
6. A qualifying score (170 points) is not necessary to receive a class placement.
7. Any dog that has earned a qualifying score at a sanctioned event in a novice class may not compete in the sub-novice class.
8. A 6' (foot) leash of leather or fabric is required for Primary & Sub Novice classes.
9. Score sheets will be available at the judge's discretion.
10. Jump heights (open and utility) will be expected at the steward's table prior to the start of the class.

Class Description - Obedience
Primary Exercises (all ages)
- Walk comfortably at the side of the handler - left turn, right turn, about turn, halt 30 points
- Sit on command 30 points
- Remain sitting while handler circles and returns to heel position 20 points
- Down on command 30 points
- Remain down while handler circles and returns to heel position 20 points
- Allow a judges examination 30 points

Total 160 points

Sub-Novice Exercises (Junior, Intermediate, Senior)
- Heel on leash 45 points
- Figure (8) Eight 25 points
- Stand for exam on leash 30 points
- Recall on leash 40 points
- Long sit on leash (1 minute) 30 points
- Long down on leash (3 minutes) 30 points

Total 200 points
NOVICE EXERCISES (Junior, Intermediate, Senior)
- Heel on leash and figure (8) eight 40 points
- Stand for exam 30 points
- Heel free 40 points
- Recall 30 points
- Long sit (1 minute) 30 points
- Long down (3 minutes) 30 points

Total 200 points

GRAD. NOVICE EXERCISES (all ages)
- Heel on leash 30 points
- Stand for exam (off leash) 30 points
- Heel free 40 points
- Drop on recall 40 points
- Long sit (3 minute out of sight) 30 points
- Long down (5 minutes out of sight) 30 points

Total 200 points

OPEN EXERCISES (all ages)
- Heel free and figure eight 40 points
- Drop on recall 30 points
- Retrieve flat 20 points
- Retrieve over high jump 30 points
- Broad jump 20 points
- Long sit (3 minutes) 30 points
- Long down (5 minutes) 30 points

Total 200 points

UTILITY EXERCISES (all ages)
- Signal Exercise 40 points
- Scent discrimination (article 1) 30 points
- Scent discrimination (article 2) 30 points
- Directed retrieve 30 points
- Moving stand and examination 30 points
- Directed jumping 40 points

Total 200 points

SECTION 4 - AGILITY
All exhibitors will be evaluated and judged individually over a predetermined set of obstacles to demonstrate a willingness to work with the handler under a variety of conditions. Agility, trainability, and confidence are also considered.

- These classes are timed and faults are recorded.

GENERAL RULES REGARDING AGILITY
1. All exhibitors must have completed, and passed, one full training session (6 weeks or longer) with an instructor, to be eligible to compete in that obedience class. A form must be submitted with entry, signed by the instructor, stating that the exhibitor is eligible to compete.
2. 1st Year Beginner class is for the dog and/or exhibitor who are training for the first time.
3. Any dog which has won a Standard Class (previously known as Intermediate), with competition at the Frederick Fair, Maryland State Fair, or other major County or State Fair, must compete in the Excellence Class.

4. Flat buckle collars only; no dangling tags.

5. 1st year beginner level- optional on leash.

6. Standard and Excellence classes- tab leashes only (point deduction at the discretion of the judge).

7. Faults (time or point deductions) will be assessed as follows:
   a. Refusal of an obstacle
   b. Off-course
   c. Failure to control
   d. Outside assistance that aids in the performance of dog or handler
   e. Knocking over an obstacle (i.e., pole off jump)
   f. Missing a contact zone
   g. Run-outs
   h. Pause table - leaving table, breaks sit or down, anticipates count - leaves before signal
   i. Mandatory excusals for inappropriate actions (but not limited to) - harshness, unsportsmanlike conduct, fouling in the ring, biting, failure to comply to judge's verbal instructions

CLASSES - AGILITY

1st YEAR BEGINNER CLASS OBSTACLES
   a. straight jumps (minimal height)
   b. pause table
   c. open tunnels
   d. tire jump (or similar) (lowered)
   e. lowered A-frame
   f. lowered dog-walk

STANDARD CLASS COURSE OBSTACLES
Same as 1st Year Beginner and adding:
   a. collapsible tunnel (shoot)
   b. teeter
   c. raised A-frame
   d. straight jumps (raise height)

EXCELLENCE CLASS COURSE OBSTACLES
Same as Standard and adding:
   a. weave poles)
   b. raised A-Frame
   c. appropriate jump heights for size of dog
   d. raise tire
GAMBLER'S CHOICE (all ages)-ribbon for placement 1-10
Objective - To accumulate as many points as possible in the allotted time before trying the Gambler's obstacle for extra bonus points. Points will not be awarded for a particular obstacle if there are any of the above mentioned faults.
   a) 1 minute of accumulated points before time is called and you take a chance at the Gambler’s obstacle.
      Weave poles - 5 points
      Contacts - 3 points
      Tunnels & tire - 2 points
      Jumps - 1 point
      Gambler’s – 25 bonus points
   b) Each piece may be chosen a maximum of three (3) times. However, no piece may be repeated in succession.

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