

TEAM OBEDIENCE PARTICIPATION AT THE GSDCA NATIONALS OCTOBER 14, 2016

Every year at the GSDCA Nationals, the GSDCW participates in Team Obedience. This article is a request for MEMBERS who are interested in learning about team obedience and/or going to the nationals and trying out for the team and learn what it is all about.....please contact me. I have included the AKC Rules and Regulations exercises and scoring of Team Obedience. If you desire additional information please let me know. I will be setting up class practice sessions (please check the bulletin board) as this is a team sport and all exercise need to be performed in unison and some simultaneously. This is for exhibition only but a very prestige venue for a number of GSD clubs from over the U.S. that participate. It is great fun, and great camaraderie between other GSD clubs.

NON-REGULAR OBEDIENCE CLASS

Section 7. Team Class. The Team class will be for teams of any four dogs that are eligible under these regulations. Five dogs may be entered, one to be considered an alternate for which no entry fee will be required. However, the same four dogs will perform all exercises. Dogs may be handled by the owner or any other person, need not be entered in another class at the same trial, and need not have obedience titles. A separate official entry form will be completed in full for each dog entered. No dog may be entered on more than one team.

There will be two judges, one of whom will call orders while the other scores the team's performance. The teams will be judged one at a time, except for the group exercises. Dogs must be spaced with a minimum of four (4) feet between each dog and four (4) feet from the ring barrier on one side of the ring. (See table in Chapter 3, Section 12.)

The dogs on a team will perform the exercises simultaneously and will be judged as specified for the Novice class, except that a Drop on Recall will be used in place of the Recall exercise. In all exercises except the Drop on Recall, the teams have the option of executing the judge's orders on the team captain's repeat of the command.

In the Figure Eight portion of the Heel on Leash exercise, five stewards will be used. The stewards will stand 8 feet apart in a straight line. Each handler, with the dog sitting in heel position, will stand about equal distant from each of two stewards with all members of the team facing the same direction. On orders from the judge, the team will perform the Figure Eight, each handler starting around the steward on his/her LEFT and circling only the two stewards between whom he/she had been standing.

In the Drop on Recall exercise the handlers will leave their dogs simultaneously on order of the judge. The dogs will be called or signaled in, one at a time, on a separate order from the judge to each handler. Handlers will, without any additional order from the judge, command or signal their dogs to drop at a spot midway between the line of dogs and the handlers.

Each dog will remain in the down position until all four have been called and dropped. The judge will give the order to call the dogs, which will be called or signaled simultaneously. The finish will be done in unison on order from the judge.

Section 8. Team Class, Scoring. Individual dogs' scores will be based on the performance of the dogs and handler's individually plus team precision and coordination. Each dog and handler will be scored against the customary maximum (200) for a team total of 800 available points. Individual dogs' scores need not be recorded.

The exercises and maximum scores:

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| 1. Heel on Leash and Figure Eight | 160 points |
| 2. Stand for Examination | 120 points |
| 3. Heel Free | 160 points |
| 4. Drop on Recall | 120 points |
| 5. Long Sit | 120 points |
| 6. Long Down | 120 points |
| Maximum Total Score --- | 800 points |

All are welcome to participate and/or try-out and learn more about the sport of dog obedience. Even if you are not going to the nationals, come and participate and expand your knowledge of the sport. Maybe prepare your team (handler/dog) for the 2017 GSDCA Nationals in Reno.

You can contact me at:

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