

Wild West Dogsport Standing Rules for Active Club Members

The following standing rules have been established for all active members of Wild West Dogsport (WWDS). Each active member must observe all the rules shown below and supply a signed acknowledgement of this document (on page 6) to be kept on file with the acting club secretary.

Goals & Club Philosophy

WWDS aims to be a competitive Schutzhund training club that produces impressive dog-handler teams, exhibited with exemplary sportsmanship and proudly supported by other members during event participation in all three phases. WWDS is open to all working breeds that show an aptitude for the sport. Members are expected to strive to not only train their dogs but also title them to the best of their abilities.

WWDS is a unique dog training club, in that its members' success, progress, and the longevity of the club are only possible if certain core prerequisites are met at all times. When setting rules for the club, these core requisites are always our guide, against which all circumstances are evaluated. As you read the following rules, recognize that each rule was specifically created to ensure the preservation of these core requisites above all other considerations:

Requisite 1: We must ensure that our helper Joel Monroe continues to enjoy training with our club, and is properly compensated at all times. Joel provides training that is so far above standard, that replacing him is simply impossible. Without Joel, our club ceases to exist.

Requisite 2: We must ensure that none of our actions harm our relationship with Columbine School and thus our opportunity for continued use of these first-rate training grounds. Without the use of the school, our club ceases to exist.

Requisite 3: We must ensure that those accepted as active members continue to make a well-matched group that is indisputably loyal, supportive and engaged with the club, both financially as well as personally. Without loyal active members, our club ceases to exist.

The following rules aim to prioritize these core elements at all times.

1) General Conduct

- a) Members of WWDS are generally expected to protect the image and reputation of the sport of Schutzhund, of DVG, WWDS, its members, helpers and dogs.
- b) Conduct of members during Training-Saturdays (TS) should be conducive to continued learning, improvement and understanding of the sport of Schutzhund and the training sequencing for their dogs. Members are expected to participate in training sessions by observation and are encouraged to ask questions about the training process. The use of profanity is not appropriate in this setting.
- c) Members must take responsibility for their training progress in all phases of the sport by seeking knowledge independently as well as during TS, from books, videos, websites and/or private trainers. Each dog's progress varies, but it is generally understood that independent practice times are necessary in order to improve and achieve training milestones & titles.

2) Photos & Video Recordings

Photos and video may be recorded for personal use only. Neither may be published publically, online or emailed without the express permission of every person, helper, handler and dog featured.

Infractions of this rule will result in disciplinary action and may be cause for dismissal from the club.

3) Potential New Members & New Dogs

- a) Members are encouraged to promote WWDS to potential new members and invite them to come observe the Saturday training sessions. They can also be referred to a club officer, to help screen them before their first visit.
- b) Active members who wish to add another dog to regular training must have the dog evaluated by the training helper. The maximum number of dogs in active training may vary, but must be conducive to providing adequate training time for all members. The board of directors may also determine which new dogs - if any - to allow into the active training group.

4) How to Join - Provisional Status to Active Membership

The following paragraphs outline the steps required to become an Active Member of WWDS:

- a) Apply for provisional status:
 - i) Provisional status is open to persons who wish to become active members and lasts a period of 6 months, unless the board convenes a special meeting of the membership to discuss the applicant's progress.
 - ii) Provisional status can commence if the following prerequisites have been met:
 - (1) WWDS must have available training slot(s) for new active members;
 - (2) The applicant must have submitted a membership application;
 - (3) The applicant must have provided a signed copy of the standing rules and supply all necessary information;
 - (4) The applicant must have received a satisfactory evaluation of his/her dog/s by the training director;
 - (5) The applicant must have supplied the club initiation fee as specified in the "Fees" section #18) below.
- b) During the provisional term, WWDS members have a chance to evaluate the applicant and his/her dog, as to their training approach and their commitment to the club and the sport of Schutzhund. Equally, the applicant has the opportunity to participate in club training and activities to evaluate their membership in WWDS. During the provisional period the applicant is expected to:
 - i) attend club activities (training, trials, etc.) and show an effort to observe the training process and learn about the club and the sport
 - ii) pay applicable active member training fees
 - iii) participate in setup and cleanup duties
 - iv) observe other member's training
 - v) demonstrate a desire to support the nature, objective and purposes of WWDS and DVG

- c) At the conclusion of the provisional term, the applicant will be officially registered as a DVG member and will automatically convert to full WWDS active member status, unless:
 - i) The board of directors receives requests from members to bring the applicant's member status into review. After such review, the board will issue an official opinion and request votes from members by email ballot.

5) Maintaining Active Membership

To maintain active membership status, the member must:

- a) pay monthly training fees for a **minimum of one dog**
- b) pay yearly club renewal fees
- c) adhere to the club standing rules
- d) maintain WWDS membership in good standing

6) How to Join – Associate Membership

Persons wishing to become associate members must submit an application, and an initiation fee. Associate members enjoy discounted drop-in training fees, as outlined in the "Fees" section #18) below.

7) How to Join – Associate Members Converting to Active Membership

Associate members wishing to become active members must follow all steps outlined in section #4) above.

8) How to Join – Former Active WWDS Members

Former active members, who chose to leave active membership at any time for any reason, must follow all steps outlined in section # 4) above. Such applicant will be required to pay the "penalty initiation fee" as set forth in the "Fees" section # 18) below. This initiation fee contains a loyalty-penalty required regardless of circumstance.

9) Helpers/Decoys

Helpers have special privileges as determined by the board of directors that may extend to fees, renewals and training order.

10) Training-Saturdays

Active members participate in Training-Saturdays (TS) in an effort to advance their and their dog's expertise in the sport of Schutzhund. Each TS consists of one open-field obedience session (no instruction) and two protection-training run-throughs. Specific start times may vary. There usually is a lunch break, and most TS run through to late afternoon.

11) Groups & Drop-Ins

- a) Each active and provisional member becomes part of a group consisting of 2 to 6 members, for the purpose of fair rotation of setup and cleanup duties.
- b) Groups and training order line-up are determined by the Sergeant at Arms, who publishes them monthly via email and on a whiteboard at the field.
- c) Members must have their dog ready and on deck by the time the prior dog is finishing its turn.
- d) Changes to the training line-up must be approved by the Sergeant at Arms.
- e) Setup/cleanup duties rotate each TS. The group on setup/cleanup is expected to arrive 15 minutes before start of obedience and ready the field for training, as well as stay until

the last dog has been worked to finish cleanup duties. The specific duties are found in section # 19) below.

- f) Members must notify their group if unable to attend on their setup/cleanup TS and/or contact others to switch their turn.
- g) Drop-ins for training will be worked near the end of the first round of protection, or at the direction of the training helper or sergeant in arms.
- h) The board of directors may choose to extend privileges and/or special participation fees to visiting sister club members, decoys or other visitors.

12) Training Field & Adjacent Grounds

- a) WWDS considers it a great privilege to be able to use Columbine School for training. All WWDS members are expected to treat the grounds, buildings & surrounding areas with utmost respect, consideration and cleanliness. All trash/dog waste must be removed from the grounds, even if you didn't leave it personally. Remember that schoolchildren are in attendance on the grounds during school days.
- b) The area at the very NW of the school grounds has been designated as the dog potty area. As such, members may walk their dogs here, but must always remove any waste left behind. Members may also walk their dogs in the fields adjacent to the school grounds.
- c) The actual training field is the grass area south of the playground and continuing to the south side fence, and between the utility shed and the basketball court. The perimeter of the field is the "on-deck" area.

13) Smoking, Drinking, Drugs

- a) WWDS has a "Zero-Tolerance" policy for smoking, drinking or the use of drugs on any portion of the school grounds, since such usage may cause the club's dismissal from the school and thus will not be permitted anywhere on the school grounds, including the parking lot.
- b) Cigarette butts may not be left on any part of the school grounds or in the parking lot.
- c) Anyone found to be under the influence of or impaired by any legal or illegal substance, including prescription drugs, may be expelled from training for the day or face other consequences as determined by the board of directors and training director.

14) Parking & Dog Confinement

- a) Regular parking is not restricted and members may park where it is safe and practical to do so.
- b) Members bringing bitches in season should be sensitive to parking too close to other members and check to ascertain if their dog would be bothered by a bitch in season near them.
- c) Members are expected to provide safe confinement for their dogs while waiting their turn, such as plastic or wire crates, dog trailers, etc. Crates may be moved to shade areas on the school grounds away from the training area. Dogs confined in motorhomes or similar must be further confined in either an interior space or crate, to prevent accidental escape.

15) Obedience & Training Etiquette

- a) All dogs must be securely kept when not being worked or exercised. Members are responsible for their dog's well-being & safety and must make sure there is adequate ventilation, shade, shelter and water available to their dog/s at all times.

- b) Dogs must be kept under strict control whenever out of their crates and must be kept on leash at all times (except during off-leash heeling) on the field, on deck, in the parking lot and around the school buildings.
- c) Dogs not yet fully off-leash trained should always wear a line and/or remote collar, to avoid any incidents with other dogs, people and/or to prevent injury to the dog in the adjacent roadway or parking lot.
- d) Members with dog aggressive or people aggressive dogs must always keep the safety of others and their dogs as their highest priority. Members with such dogs are expected to keep their dogs controlled, prevent them from initiating any attack and advising others of these facts. They are furthermore expected to seek out solutions to the problem with the help of the training director, training helper or independently. Members may not use the presence of other dog/handler teams as training opportunities without the other member's express consent. Any such incident may result in fines and/or restricted training access.
- e) It is generally frowned upon to allow your dog to engage in staring at or barking at other member's dogs while on the training grounds.
- f) Members are encouraged to help each other in obedience training by offering to be 'the group' or 'the judge', provide distractions, shoot the gun or spot the member.
- g) Members must respect each other on the field and continue to check each other's position and whereabouts to avoid interfering in an exercise or unduly distracting a dog not yet ready for such distractions.
- h) Members wishing to practice the gunshots must first check with all other members on the field, to be sure everyone is ready or has time to reposition themselves and their dog relative to the gun.
- i) Members wishing to practice the go-out must ask other members on the field to briefly move away from the send-out area so as to practice the exercise in the safest way possible.
- j) Members using equipment or centerline of field should yield in a reasonable amount of time, if others are waiting for a turn.
- k) Members wishing to play with their dogs after obedience training should do so on the field inside the school's running track or elsewhere deemed safe. Members may not hold up others from using the training field for this purpose.
- l) Members may take their dogs to the field inside the school's running track during obedience or protection training, as long as their activities do not disturb the training in progress. It is the handler's responsibility to abstain from off-leash activities, if there is a chance that the dog may break and run towards the training area.
- m) In the one-month period before a trial, use of the obedience field & equipment is prioritized to those dog-handler teams planning to enter the trial.

16) Equipment

- a) Members are encouraged to bring their own chairs and yield off chairs brought by others.
- b) Members are responsible for obtaining the necessary equipment to maximize their dog's training in all three phases of the sport. The Training Director can provide suggestions for what equipment is needed & where it can be purchased.

- c) Members must maintain their equipment to highest standards, keeping in mind first & foremost the safety of the training decoy, other members and their dogs and their own.
- d) Members are further required to give great care to equipment belonging to the club (i.e. jumps, blinds, etc.), the training decoy (i.e. sleeves, long lines), or other members.
- e) Helper equipment, such as sleeves, sticks, whips, etc. may not be picked up, tried out or used except with the permission and under the supervision of a helper or club officer.
- f) Members must limit any thrashing of the sleeve by their dog, by immediately going to the dog to stop the behavior.

17) Ice Chest

The club's ice chest is provided for our helpers' comfort and care. Each member is permitted one free beverage per TS. Additional beverages can be purchased for \$1 each, payable to the Sergeant at Arms or Treasurer. Members may bring their own beverages and keep them in the club ice chest during the training day, as long as such use does not limit the storage of beverages for the helper's use.

18) Fees

a) Initiation Fees & Yearly Club Dues

- i) The initiation fee for persons joining the club as active members is \$300 and is non-refundable
- ii) The initiation fee for persons joining as associate members is \$135 and is non-refundable.
- iii) The initiation fee for former active members wishing to rejoin active membership is \$500 and is non-refundable. This fee contains a loyalty penalty assessed regardless of circumstance.
- iv) Yearly club dues are based on a budget review by the board of directors each July and may be influenced by fluctuations in number of members, costs of judge's airfares, accommodations, equipment, DVG membership fees, etc. Yearly dues (currently \$135) include DVG membership renewal.

b) Training Fees

- i) Training fees are assessed monthly to active and provisional members, based on the number of dogs s/he is training and the number of TS in the month. Training fees are used to pay for the time and expertise of our world-class training helper. The fee is the same whether 2 members participate in training or 15. Fees allow participation in one open field obedience session (without instruction) and two protection sessions per TS per paid dog. Members may opt to split protection sessions between two dogs, if the arrangement has met prior approval of the training helper. Members may also request to exchange a protection for an obedience session with instruction from the training director.
- ii) Paid training privileges do not extend to excessive email or phone contact with our helper/trainer. The respectful handler saves such questions to ask on TS.
- iii) Training fees must be submitted to a club officer on or before the first training Saturday of each month, **before** a member's first protection session. Members who expect to be absent, must make prior arrangements to submit their fees on time. A late charge of \$25 is assessed if a member has to be contacted by a club officer for failure

to pay. Repeated such instances may result in a membership review by the board of directors.

- iv) Changes in the number of dogs a member is planning on participating with during any given month must be submitted to the club treasurer or sergeant in arms at least one week before the first day of the month.
- v) Fees may be paid via Chase QuickPay, PayPal, credit card, cash or by check made out to "WWDS".
One dog (over 6 months old) - \$30 per TS
Two dogs - \$50 per TS
Three dogs - \$65 per TS
Each additional dog - add \$15 per TS
Puppies under 6 months of age - \$20 per TS
Puppies under 6 mo. as secondary dogs – Free
Extra dog in obedience & protection - \$35 per TS.
Third run-through (same dog) - \$15.

NOTE: Training fees are NON-refundable and missed sessions cannot be made up at a later date or traded.

b) Assessments

In case the number of active members and dogs does not yield the minimum fee owed to our training helper, a fee assessment may be added to each member's monthly fee. Assessments will be announced prior to each month's first TS.

c) Ice Chest Fees

Ice chest fees are assessed monthly and must be paid with the training fees on the first TS of each month. The fee covers the purchase of ice, water and other drinks for our helpers, as well as one beverage per TS for each active member. The fee also covers the purchase of lunches for our training helpers. **Currently the fee is \$5 per active member per month.**

d) Drop-In Fees –Associate Members/Visitors

Drop-in fees must be paid to the Sergeant at Arms or a board member **before** drop-ins can be added to the training line-up.

Associate Member Drop-In Fees:

- **Adult dog in obedience & 2 x protection** - \$50 per dog per TS.
- **Adult dog in obedience & 1 x protection** - \$30 per dog per TS.
- **Obedience only (no instruction)** - \$10 per dog per TS.
- **Puppy ≤ 6 months of age 1 x protection** - \$20.
- **One-time evaluation fee** - \$20 per dog (no repeats).

Visitor Drop-In Fees:

- **Adult dog in obedience & 2 x protection** - \$75 per dog per TS.
- **Adult dog in obedience & 1 x protection** - \$40 per dog per TS.
- **Obedience only (no instruction)** - \$10 per dog per TS.
- **Puppy ≤ 6 months of age 1 x protection** - \$30.
- **One-time evaluation fee** - \$30 per dog (no repeats).

The board of directors may choose to extend privileges and/or special participation fees to visiting sister club members, decoys or other visitors.

e) Fines

Penalty fines are assessed based on a board recommendation and may be escalated for repeat offenders at the board's discretion.

f) Scorebooks

Official DVG scorebooks may be obtained by submitting a scorebook application and fee to the club secretary. The fee is \$18

and subject to change. **Allow a minimum of six (6) weeks to receive scorebooks from Germany.**

g) Fee Changes

- I. Training fees are set by agreement with our training helper. If fees change, it may result in a change to each member's monthly fees. Such changes will be published in advance of the first month they are applicable to.
- II. Supplemental (ice chest) fees may be changed at any time if they are no longer sufficient in paying for the items they are intended for, as shown in Section # c) above.
- III. Fee changes are decided upon by the board of directors. The emphasis will always be on maximizing member participation while retaining the most experienced and beneficial training helper.

19) Setup & Cleanup Duties

Each TS, one group is in charge of the setup & cleanup of the field and training grounds. The following is a list of duties:

a) Setup:

- Retrieve wall & jump from their storage and stage them in the jumps area at the NW of the school grounds or on the training field.
- Retrieve and place 6 blinds in proper positions on the field.
- Provide an ice chest with a sufficient amount of ice, bottled water, sports drinks and Pepsi (no other varieties). Care must be taken to buy beverages when on sale. Submit purchase receipts to the club treasurer for reimbursement.
- Carry sleeves, scratch pants and other equipment from the helper's vehicle to the training area.
- Place a trash can at the back corner of the sandbox area.

b) Cleanup:

- Return wall and jump to storage or member vehicle
- Take down, roll up and store 6 blinds
- Return training equipment to helper's vehicle
- Check grounds for items and trash left behind
- Check potty area for dog waste and remove
- Empty trash can into trash bin behind school buildings and return to its original position after grounds are cleared
- Clean up mud, dirt or trash left in bathroom
- Turn off bathroom lights

20) Sergeant-in-Arms

The Sergeant-in-Arms is appointed by the board of directors and shall have the following responsibilities which s/he may delegate as necessary:

- a) Maintain order throughout all club meetings and assemblies
- b) Determine setup/cleanup group members and rotation
- c) Publish the upcoming month's training schedule and send via email to all members
- d) Maintain the training order during protection training
- e) Collect fees for drop-ins, extra turns, etc. and deposit funds with treasurer
- f) Initiate lunch orders & designate a member for their retrieval
- g) Keep and maintain all property entrusted to the Sergeant-at-Arms for the term of office

21) Club Trials

- a) WWDS typically hosts two club trials per year and may also apply to host regional or national level trials. The two club trials are held in the spring and fall of each year.
- b) Club members should strive to attempt their first title within 2 years of joining the club or starting a new dog.
- c) Club members are expected to support each club trial in two ways – by participating in the preparation for and execution of the trial, as well as by entering the trial with their own dogs. Being entered in the trial **does not** preclude a member's involvement in trial preparation and execution.
- d) Club members are expected to show their respect to trial judges by attending each day of judging, attending the judge's dinner, as well as by dressing smartly for competition, whether exhibiting in a club trial or any other competition.
- e) Club members are expected to make visiting competitors feel welcome and comfortable, so as to promote their repeat participation in trials and events.
- f) A club trial constitutes a paid TS to our helper. Thus, dogs not entered in protection during the trial may have the opportunity for one (1) protection session after the trial concludes, at the discretion of our training helper.

22) Complaints & Grievances

- a) WWDS members who observe violations of the standing rules should report this to a club officer. Complaints can also be made in writing and submitted to a member of the board.
- b) Complaints must never be submitted to the Training Director/Training Helper directly or via mass email.
- c) The board will review the complaint, request information and/or statements from the complainant and other sources and issue an official position within 14 days of receipt.
- d) The board may make one or more of the following recommendations based on their review:
 - Issue a warning to the offending member that will be considered in future complaints

- Issue a warning and/or assess a fine for the offense
- Initiate a change in the standing rules to prevent future occurrences of the problem
- Expel the member from WWDS club without refunds
- Report the offense to DVG
- Dismiss the charges

23) Revisions to Standing Rules

Standing rules are expected to change periodically based on the involvement of the club. With the exception of changes in training fees, fines and dues, all other changes to the standing rules shall be put to vote of the active membership. Votes may be requested during a meeting or via an email ballot.

The number of votes for each active member is directly related to the number of dogs the member is actively paying training fees for in the 6 months prior to the voting date.

24) Conditions of Participation

By participating, I agree that every dog I bring to any function of Wild West Dogsport will at all times be in the care and control of its handler. I further understand that by participating I agree to be fully responsible for the actions of my dog(s) while on the training grounds. I agree to hold Wild West Dogsport, its members, decoys and trial judges, and all property owners HARMLESS for loss and injury allegedly caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of my dog while on the site. I hereby assume all responsibility for such claims. I further relinquish all claims and agree to hold Wild West Dogsport, its members, decoys and trial judges, and all property owners HARMLESS for loss or injury that may have been caused directly or indirectly to myself or my dog during participation in WWDS activities. I agree to conduct myself with good sportsmanship and in a way that reflects well on myself and the sport of Schutzhund. I understand that abusive training or unsportsmanlike behavior will result in dismissal from the club event and ejection from the grounds with no refund of fees.

KEEP PAGES 1 – 5 FOR YOUR RECORDS

CURRENT CLUB OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: ANN BOYCE | VICE-PRESIDENT: DIANE BROWN | SECRETARY: MELODY FAIFER | TREASURER: BRITT COFFMAN
SERGEANT AT ARMS: BRITT COFFMAN | TRAINING DIRECTOR: JOEL MONROE

WILD WEST DOGSPORT CONTACT INFO:

Website: www.wildwestdogsport.com
Email: info@wildwestdogsport.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/WWDSCA/>
Phone: (661) 927-SCHH (7244)

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FILE THIS PORTION WITH AN ACTING CLUB OFFICER

CURRENT CLUB OFFICERS/BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT: ANN BOYCE | VICE-PRESIDENT: DIANE BROWN | SECRETARY: MELODY FAIFER | TREASURER: BRITT COFFMAN
SERGEANT AT ARMS: BRITT COFFMAN | TRAINING DIRECTOR: JOEL MONROE

Acceptance of Standing Rules

I certify that I have read, understand and agree to abide by the official WWDS Standing Rules V. 2016.1, as revised and approved by Wild West Dogsport membership on March 19, 2016.

Print Member Name

Date

Member Signature

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Conditions of Participation

By signing below, I agree that every dog I bring to any function of Wild West Dogsport will at all times be in the care and control of its handler. I further understand that by participating I agree to be fully responsible for the actions of my dog(s) while on the training grounds. I agree to hold Wild West Dogsport, its members, decoys and trial judges, and all property owners HARMLESS for loss and injury allegedly caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of my dog while on the site. I hereby assume all responsibility for such claims. I further relinquish all claims and agree to hold Wild West Dogsport, its members, decoys and trial judges, and all property owners HARMLESS for loss or injury that may have been caused directly or indirectly to myself or my dog during participation in WWDS activities. I agree to conduct myself with good sportsmanship and in a way that reflects well on myself and the sport of Schutzhund. I understand that abusive training or unsportsmanlike behavior will result in a minimum of dismissal from the club activity and ejection from the grounds with no refund of fees.

By signing below, I agree to the Conditions of Participation as stated above:

Print Member Name

Date

Member Signature