

# Rules and Policies

**Version 1.9.20**

**DockDogs® is a wholly owned subsidiary of:**

**DockDogs®, Inc.  
5690 Wolff Road  
Medina, OH 44256  
330.241.4975  
dd\_admin@dockdogs.com  
www.dockdogs.com**

*DockDogs® Rules and Policies are protected by copyright law and international treaties.  
Copyright DockDogs® Inc., 2003 – 2020. All rights reserved.*

*Unauthorized reproduction or distribution of this material, or any portion of it, may result in severe civil and criminal penalties, and will be prosecuted to the maximum extent possible under the law.*

*2019 DockDogs® Rules and Policies Committee is comprised of a select group of individuals representing current affiliated organizations in conjunction with corporate management representatives.*

*DockDogs® Rules and Policies, version 1.9.20 shall become effective January 9, 2020 and remain in effect until such time as the DockDogs® Worldwide Office releases a newer version.*

<b><u>ARTICLE I. OVERVIEW</u></b>	<b>4</b>
SECTION 1.01 STATEMENT OF PURPOSE	4
SECTION 1.02 RULES OF CONDUCT	4
SECTION 1.03 RIGHTS, RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY	4
SECTION 1.04 RULES & POLICIES	4
SECTION 1.05 DOCKDOGS® MISSION STATEMENT, VALUES AND CORE VALUES	5
<b><u>ARTICLE II. GENERAL RULES &amp; EVENT GUIDELINES</u></b>	<b>6</b>
SECTION 2.01 GENERAL RULES	6
SECTION 2.02 COMPETITION TEAM	6
SECTION 2.03 THE VENUE	12
SECTION 2.04 COMPETITION FLOW	13
SECTION 2.05 EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS	15
SECTION 2.06 EVENT REGISTRATION	15
SECTION 2.07 DOCKDOGS® CREDITS	17
<b><u>ARTICLE III. DOCKDOGS® BIG AIR®</u></b>	<b>17</b>
SECTION 3.01 EVENT DESCRIPTION	17
SECTION 3.02 RULES & EQUIPMENT SPECIFIC TO BIG AIR®	17
SECTION 3.03 COMPETITION FLOW	18
SECTION 3.04 SCORING PROCEDURE, PASSING, AND RESOLVING TIES	19
SECTION 3.05 BIG AIR® FINALS ROUNDS	21
SECTION 3.06 DIVISIONS, AWARDS, AND TITLES	23
SECTION 3.07 WORLDWIDE BIG AIR® RANKINGS	25
<b><u>ARTICLE IV. DOCKDOGS® EXTREME VERTICAL™</u></b>	<b>26</b>
SECTION 4.01 EVENT DESCRIPTION	26
SECTION 4.02 RULES & EQUIPMENT SPECIFIC TO EXTREME VERTICAL™	26
SECTION 4.03 COMPETITION FLOW	27
SECTION 4.04 SCORING PROCEDURE, PASSING, AND RESOLVING TIES	27
SECTION 4.05 DIVISIONS, AWARDS, AND TITLES	28
SECTION 4.06 WORLDWIDE EXTREME VERTICAL™ RANKINGS	31
<b><u>ARTICLE V. DOCKDOGS® SPEED RETRIEVE™</u></b>	<b>31</b>

SECTION 5.01	EVENT DESCRIPTION	31
SECTION 5.02	RULES & EQUIPMENT SPECIFIC TO SPEED RETRIEVE™	31
SECTION 5.03	COMPETITION FLOW	32
SECTION 5.04	SCORING PROCEDURE AND RESOLVING TIES	33
SECTION 5.05	DIVISIONS, AWARDS AND TITLES	35
SECTION 5.06	WORLDWIDE DOCKDOGS® SPEED RETRIEVE™ RANKINGS	37

## **ARTICLE VI. DOCKDOGS® IRON DOG** **37**

---

SECTION 6.01	SCORING	37
SECTION 6.02	RANKING & TITLES	38
SECTION 6.03	DIVISIONS AND MONETARY PRIZES	38
SECTION 6.04	IRON DOG™ POINTS TABLES	39

## **ARTICLE VII. EVENT STAFFING & RESPONSIBILITIES** **39**

---

SECTION 7.01	OVERVIEW	39
SECTION 7.02	EVENT MANAGER	40
SECTION 7.03	JUDGE	40
SECTION 7.04	EVENT ADMINISTRATOR	40
SECTION 7.05	WRANGLER	41
SECTION 7.06	STAFF RESPONSIBILITIES	41

## **ARTICLE VIII. DOCKDOGS® CLUBS & CLUB EVENTS** **42**

---

SECTION 8.01	DOCKDOGS® CLUB AFFILIATION	42
SECTION 8.02	CLUB EVENT OBJECTIVES	42
SECTION 8.03	EVENT APPLICATION	43
SECTION 8.04	EVENT SCHEDULING	43
SECTION 8.05	MANUAL JUDGES CERTIFICATION TRAINING	43

## **ARTICLE IX. MISCONDUCT AND PROTEST POLICY & PROCEDURES** **44**

---

SECTION 9.01	PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING MISCONDUCT	44
SECTION 9.02	COURTESY WARNINGS	44
SECTION 9.03	DISCIPLINARY ACTION	45
SECTION 9.04	INFRACTIONS / PENALTIES	47

## **Article I. Overview**

### *Section 1.01 Statement of Purpose*

- (a) DockDogs® is the independent governing and sanctioning body for regional/club, national and international Dock Jumping™ and Dock Diving™, dog performance and canine aquatic sports. DockDogs® establishes the rules and standards of the sport, tracks results and records, supports and promotes the growth of its athletes, events, spectators, and sponsors.

### *Section 1.02 Rules of Conduct*

- (a) Competitors, Officials and event personnel shall at all times be expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the values, objectives and positive image of the sport and DockDogs®.
  - (i) All competitors, officials, event personnel and support personnel present on the grounds of a DockDogs® event during event hours are subject to the jurisdiction of the DockDogs® Rules and Policies. The act of participation in a DockDogs® event as a competitor, official, or support person signifies understanding of the Rules and Policies and an agreement to abide by the Rules and Policies described herein.
  - (ii) All competitors acknowledge through their entry to a DockDogs® event or the activation of a Worldwide Membership, that their participation in a sanctioned or affiliated event is a privilege and not a right.
  - (iii) In addition, DockDogs® maintains jurisdiction over misconduct that may occur off the grounds of the event or outside event hours, provided that the misconduct is reasonably related to the event. This paragraph shall be interpreted as broadly as is necessary to regulate such off-grounds misconduct as social media abuse, abuse of motel rooms by persons attending the event and / or abuse of a dog entered in the event, including but not limited to, any action or activity that is perceived or deemed detrimental to DockDogs®.

### *Section 1.03 Rights, Responsibilities and Authority*

- (a) DockDogs® reserves the right and privilege to determine all manners in which its events shall be sanctioned and conducted. This includes the entitlement to constitute and enforce rules and policies as well as impose penalties and sanctions on individuals, groups of individuals, clubs or organizations, which demonstrate conduct that is deemed contrary to the best interests of DockDogs®. DockDogs® reserves the right to deny registration or participation to any person(s) or organization(s) DockDogs® believes, in its opinion, will not promote the best interests of DockDogs®.
- (b) DockDogs® reserves the rights to have Event Managers make discretionary decisions regarding rules and procedures at events.
- (c) DockDogs® reserves the right to modify / alter the standard equipment and at any time for safety purposes.

### *Section 1.04 Rules & Policies*

- (a) The committee one to two times per year or as needed shall revisit DockDogs® Rules and Policies. Upon revision, a notice of any and all changes shall be announced publicly.

- (i) The Rules Committee shall be made up of no fewer than five individuals, one of who must be a certified Judge and one of whom must have worked as an Event Administrator at least twice in the previous year. Further members will consist of up to two (2) members from each full affiliate in good standing from the previous year. The DockDogs® head office shall appoint and supervise such a committee.
- (b) Any variance of the rules must be pre-approved by the onsite Event Manager; a full copy of the rules must be available onsite at the registration area.
- (c) Judges briefing rules must be posted onsite at events at the registration area.

*Section 1.05 DockDogs® Mission Statement, Values and Core Values*

a) DockDogs® Mission Statement:

DockDogs® and its affiliates worldwide are committed to providing zero discriminatory, family friendly, canine aquatic activities with a quality entertainment experience for all involved.

DockDogs® maintains zero tolerance for bullying, harassment, and/or unethical treatment of spectators, competitors, employees, event crew, and canines. Everyone involved follows the rules and policies and ethical guidelines which are the foundation of DockDogs® Worldwide.

b) DockDogs® Values:

**SAFETY** – DockDogs® provides an atmosphere of safe competition for canine athletes and their human counterparts. DockDogs® holds the element of safety of both humans and canines to the highest standard, during active competition and at all times on competition grounds, to maximize the experience of all competitors and supporters.

**PROFESSIONALISM** - DockDogs® commits to all staff, event crew, and competitors maintaining a professional attitude. Throughout all channels of communication, whether directly with DockDogs® Worldwide, Affiliated Clubs, Sanctioned Facilities, and social media, and with all aspects of events, DockDogs®, its staff, event crew, and competitors will interact in a respectful and professional manner.

**ZERO DISCRIMINATION** - DockDogs® welcomes dogs of all breeds and sizes and their equally diverse human counterparts. DockDogs® was founded with an attitude of inclusion and will exhibit zero tolerance for those who practice discrimination of any form towards humans or canines.

**COMMUNITY** – DockDogs® creates and fosters a community of humans and dogs that enjoy the sport of canine aquatics. By providing a platform capable of enhancing the human-animal bond, DockDogs® is firmly committed to supporting its members, and its members to supporting DockDogs®. DockDogs® also believes in giving back to its community by promoting and supporting several canine associated charities.

**CULTURE** – DockDogs® cultivates a fun environment where members and their canine counterparts care about each other and contribute to the overall success of the organization. This atmosphere creates and supports friendships along with promoting honorable competition. A significant aspect of this culture is promoting a healthy active lifestyle for all competitors and canines.

*INNOVATION* – DockDogs® continues to seek out and deploy new aspects of the exciting sport of canine aquatics that humans and their canine counterparts can enjoy as a team. As the leader in the sport of canine aquatics, DockDogs® is also the forerunner in innovations for all current and new disciplines.

c) DockDogs® Core Values:

Sportsmanship, Professionalism, Leadership, Diversity, Accountability, Integrity, Fairness, Respect, Honesty.

If you observe any violations, the Ethics Committee can be reached from the DockDogs® website under the "Contact Us tab", where there is a reporting form for your convenience. You may also email the committee at [ethicscommittee@dockdogs.com](mailto:ethicscommittee@dockdogs.com).

## **Article II. General Rules & Event Guidelines**

### *Section 2.01 General Rules*

- (a) The 2020 season's start date is October 1, 2019 and will conclude September 28, 2020.
- (b) All competitors acknowledge through their entry to a DockDogs® event that their participation in the event is an acknowledgement for use of their likes and/or kindness including but not limited to photos and or video footage for print or electronic media purposes.
- (c) It is the responsibility of the Competitor to have read and fully understand all DockDogs® Rules and Policies.
- (d) All competitors (*past or present*) in DockDogs® will be opted in to the DockDogs® newsletter; your privacy is important; therefore, we do not sell your information to any 3<sup>rd</sup> parties. You can unsubscribe at any time by following the unsubscribe link contained in any newsletter.

### *Section 2.02 Competition Team*

- (a) Competition Team
  - (i) The Competition Team shall consist of one dog and one handler (herein referred to as "Team").
  - (ii) Handlers must be at least seven (7) years old to compete. Handlers must restrain and control their dog(s) at all times to maintain a safe competition environment for all competition teams, spectators, and participants at the event.
  - (iii) Pushing, pulling, or dropping a dog into the water, up the stairs to the dock or on the dock is strictly prohibited. A handler in no way can assist a dog in having a forward motion. Tapping a dog as a means of encouragement is accepted.
  - (iv) If a member of a competition team has a disability, reasonable accommodations may be made to assist the competition team, which will be up to the discretion of the Event Manager and a decision made on a case-by-case basis.

- (v) Dogs must be at least six (6) months old to compete for insurance requirements.
- (vi) A dog may compete only once within any given competition Wave™ / Heat.
- (vii) A handler may compete with multiple dogs within any given competition Wave™.
- (viii) If a dog is entered in an event by more than one handler, the Handler/Dog Team with the highest score that QUALIFIES for a finals round must advance to the finals.
- (ix) It is the sole responsibility of the Competitor to inform the Event Administrator of their Title status. Failure to do so could result in that teams scores not being included in the DockDogs® Worldwide Titles Database or Rankings and competing in that event as a non-titled team.
- (x) It is the sole responsibility of the Competitor to inform the Event Administrator of their Membership status by providing their Active Handler ID. Failure to do so could result in that team's scores being withheld from the DockDogs® Worldwide Titles Database, Awards or Rankings and competing in that event as a non-member team.
- (xi) Worldwide Membership: Teams participating in Worldwide DockDogs® events who wish to be included or qualify for Worldwide Membership programs, incentives, benefits, will be required to register and purchase a Worldwide Membership each year.
  - 1) Membership fees are \$70 per team (valid from Oct 1, 2019 – Sept 28, 2020)
  - 2) Members will have access to special offers and discounts only available to DockDogs® Worldwide members. These offers include but may not be limited to online pre-registration advance notice, discounts, membership email and information transfers.
  - 4) Teams participating in worldwide sanctioned events without becoming a member, will not be considered for such things as Overall Worldwide, National, and Club rankings; Contingency programs; Monetary awards; World Championship; Titles Certificates; Title Reductions and any other programs/awards or incentives introduced by DockDogs® throughout each season. Once teams are registered as Worldwide members all scores from the current season will be counted towards all above mentioned items retroactively each year, with the exception of Contingency programs, and monetary awards (*teams must be active members at time of competition to be recognized for these*).

(b) Health / Injuries

- (i) Dogs in heat will not be allowed on the dock or within the competition venue. If a dog is found to be in heat, it is the responsibility of the handler to immediately remove the dog from the competition area and bleach down all areas where the dog was present. If a dog has been in heat within the last 30 days prior to attending an event, the competitor must provide a Veterinary clearance that the heat cycle is complete.
- (ii) Should a dog appear to be injured or ill, the dog's handler will be asked to cease competition until such time as the dog regains health. Examples of injury shall include visible limping, bandages, stitches, and open wounds (a "hot spot" is not considered an open wound).
- (iii) Any competing member of DockDogs® may notify the Judge or the Event Manager of a possible injury or illness. The final decision on the competition status of a dog shall rest solely with the Event Manager and/or the Judge.

(iv) Should a dog be known to have had a recent injury or be exhibiting bandage wraps, a letter from an accredited veterinarian, on appropriate letterhead, must be presented to the Judge no less than thirty (30) minutes prior to a Wave™, stating that the dog is healthy and able to compete, which shall allow the dog to compete.

(v) Handlers are prohibited from jumping into the pool, regardless of the situation. The ONLY exception is if the wrangler needs assistance in getting a dog out of the pool. Jumping into the pool will result in disqualification from that event.

(vi) Flip flops or slides are not permitted on the dock.

(c) Crating: All competing dogs must be crated or held by the handler or an assistant of the handler on a maximum length of a four (4) foot lead at all times while on site at an event. Dogs must remain within the competitor's crating area at all times when not competing unless pre-approved permission has been granted by the event staff. Tie outs are not permitted.

(d) Collars, Leashes & Vests:

(i) Collars

- 1) Flat buckle collars, Martingale (material only, no-chain) type collars and harnesses may be worn on the dock.
- 2) Choke collars, prong collars or electronic collars (including electronic collar receivers & transmitters), gentle leaders, halti-collars, or any other collar other than either a flat buckle-type or (material only) Martingale type collar or harness, are not allowed. Any collars of this nature must be removed prior to competing on the dock at any time, including during practice.

(ii) Leashes

- 1) Dogs must be kept on a slip lead or standard leash that is four (4) feet long or SHORTER at all times while on the competition grounds. All other leashes/leads, including retractable leads (i.e. Flexi Leads), are strictly prohibited in all areas of the competition venue.
- 2) No dog shall be allowed off-leash in any part of the competition area, including the exercise area, except for; on the dock or in the water itself. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.
- 3) At no time during competition or practice shall more than one dog be off leash at the same time. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.

(iii) Dog vests and personal floatation devices are permitted.

(e) Prohibited Use of Training Devices during Competition:



- (i) No other objects may be used on the dock during competition other than 1 handler, 1 dog, 1 chase object, 1 sound device and 1 leash.
  - (ii) No other object may be used during competition to throw the chase object or to extend the object over the water except for the handler's own body.
  - (iii) At no time during competition can any part of the Handler's body be used to propel the dog down the dock or into the pool/body of water.
  - (iv) Electronic collar transmitters are NOT allowed on the dock.
  - (v) Food and Dog treats are not permitted on the dock or within the competition staging/line up area.
- (f) Breeds
- (i) DockDogs® events are open to all breeds including mixed breeds.
  - (ii) It shall be the responsibility of the handler to make sure that their dog's breed is listed correctly within their team profile.
  - (iii) All breeds compete together within normal competition waves & finals (unless otherwise specified).
  - (iv) DockDogs® ranks and awards various breeds annually at the DockDogs® World Championship Golden Paw Awards Gala.
  - (v) In order for a particular Breed to be recognized for ranking & award considerations there must be a minimum of 10 different active teams within that breed that are ranked nationally within the current season. All breeds that are recognized for Year End Big Air breed rankings will also be recognized for Year End Iron Dog breed rankings, as applicable.
- (g) Youth Handler Teams (7 – 15 years)
- (i) A Team shall qualify for the Youth Handler Class when they have turned 7 years old. A child is not permitted to begin practicing or competing at a DockDogs® sanctioned event until they have turned seven (7) years old (this is due to insurance requirements and the safety of the child).
  - (ii) A handler that is turning 16 years old during the current season, shall qualify for the Youth Handler Class during the entire DockDogs® season; IF THEY WERE 15 YEARS OF AGE WHEN THEY ACHIEVED THEIR FIRST RECORDED SCORE AT AN EVENT DURING THE CURRENT SEASON (i.e. If a handler achieves their first recorded score during the current season prior to turning 16 years old, then they will be considered a Youth Handler for the duration of that season. If a handler has already turned 16 years old prior to achieving their first recorded score of the season, then they will not qualify as a Youth Handler for that entire season. In addition, if a Youth Handler practices and competes at age 15, but the dog doesn't receive an actual score in competition, regardless of how many times they tried, but finally earns a score after the handler turns 16, then they are NOT considered a Youth handler team.
  - (iii) Youth Handler Teams shall have a standard pre-registration \$12 entry fee and \$15 onsite registration fee per Big Air® Wave™ at National events (unless otherwise specified). Youth Handler Teams shall have a standard \$12 pre-registration entry fee and \$15 onsite

registration fee per Big Air<sup>®</sup>, Speed Retrieve<sup>™</sup>, or Extreme Vertical<sup>™</sup> Wave<sup>™</sup> at Club Affiliate events (unless otherwise specified).

- (iv) It shall be the responsibility of the handler to inform the Event Administrator of this eligibility for the Youth Handler's division; proof of age may be requested.
- (v) Any Youth Handler in competition must be able to control the competing dog at all times. The handler of a dog that is out of control may be excused by the Judge or the Event Manager. It is the responsibility of the Youth Handler's parent/guardian, to ensure this requirement is met (i.e. if necessary, the Youth Handler MUST have a parent/guardian with them while in line or while going to and from the dock and/or up & down from the dock).
- (vi) Parents and/or guardians are not allowed on the dock or stairs once the Youth Handler Team (dog & handler) have safely reached the dock surface, and their "Time" has begun, as this would be subject to the same rules governing double-handling as any other competitor.
- (vii) Youth Handler Teams compete as regular competitors.
- (viii) At all national events, the top Youth Handlers will be recognized for their statistical ranking throughout the weekend based on Big Air<sup>®</sup> Wave<sup>™</sup> scores; and the top six (6) handlers will be awarded accordingly (i.e. each handler may only receive one award based on their top ranking).
- (ix) A Youth handler who qualifies for an invitation with multiple dogs, for specialty divisions may only accept one Championship invitation per specialty division [i.e. Youth Handler]. Youth Handlers may still accept additional invitations for regular divisions [i.e. Big Air<sup>®</sup>, Speed Retrieve<sup>™</sup>, Extreme Vertical<sup>™</sup>, Iron Dog<sup>™</sup> divisions].
- (x) Youth Handler Teams shall be ranked nationally among all competitors and also ranked separately among all Youth Handler Teams.
- (xi) Youth Handler Teams shall be ranked at the Club/Affiliate level among all competitors and ranked separately among all Youth Handler Teams.
- (xii) The highest nationally and or worldwide ranked Youth Handler Team at the end of the ranking year shall be awarded the Youth Handler of the Year award.

(h) Veteran Dogs

- (i) A Team shall qualify for the Veteran Class during the entire DockDogs<sup>®</sup> season if the competing dog is between the ages of eight (8) and ten (10) during the season. If a veteran dog turns 8 yrs of age during the season, then all of their jumps will count in rankings for that season, not just from the time that the dog turned 8. However, a dog will not be allowed to COMPETE as a veteran dog until they turn 8 (i.e. a Veteran Dog who turns 8 in June will NOT compete or be ranked as a Veteran Dog in February, although their scores from February will be considered in the end of year rankings).
- (ii) It shall be the responsibility of the handler to inform the Event Administrator that the dog is eligible for the Veteran Dog class.

- (iii) Veteran Dog Teams shall compete as regular competitors.
- (iv) At all national events, all Veteran Dogs will be ranked based on their statistical event data for each Big Air® Wave™ of competition.
- (v) Veteran Dog Teams shall be ranked nationally among all competitors and ranked separately among all Veteran Dog Teams.
- (vi) Veteran Dog Teams shall be ranked at the Club/Affiliate level among all competitors and ranked separately among all Veteran Dog Teams.
- (vii) The highest Worldwide ranked Veteran Dog Team at the end of the ranking year shall be awarded the Veteran Dog Team of the Year award.

(i) Legend Dogs

- (i) A Team shall qualify for the Legend Class during the entire DockDogs® season if the competing dog turns the age of ten (10) during the season. Once a Legend dog turns 10 yrs of age during the season, then all of their jumps will count in rankings for that season, not just from the time that the dog turned 10. However, a dog will not be allowed to COMPETE as a Legend dog until they turn 10 (i.e. a Legend Dog who turns 10 in June will NOT compete or be ranked as a Legend Dog in February, although their scores from February will be considered in the end of year rankings).
- (ii) It shall be the responsibility of the handler to inform the Event Administrator that the dog is eligible for the Legend Dog class.
- (iii) Legend Dog Teams shall compete as regular competitors.
- (iv) At all national events, all Legend Dogs will be ranked based on their statistical event data for each Big Air® Wave™ of competition.
- (v) Legend Dog Teams shall be ranked nationally among all competitors and ranked separately among all Legend Dog Teams.
- (vi) Legend Dog Teams shall be ranked at the Club/Affiliate level among all competitors and ranked separately among all Legend Dog Teams.
- (vii) The highest Worldwide ranked Legend Dog Team at the end of the ranking year shall be awarded the Legend Dog Team of the Year award.

(j) Hero Dogs

- (i) A Team shall qualify for the Hero Class during the entire DockDogs® season if the competing dog turns the age of twelve (12) during the season. Once a Hero dog turns 12 yrs of age during the season they will be flagged as such in the Legend Dog Rankings and in Event Wave Results.
- (ii) It shall be the responsibility of the handler to inform the Event Administrator that the dog is eligible for the Hero Dog class.

- (iii) Hero Dog Teams shall compete as regular competitors.
- (iv) At all national events, all Hero Dogs will be ranked alongside the Legend Dogs based on their statistical event data for each Big Air® Wave™ of competition.
- (v) Hero Dog Teams shall be ranked nationally among all competitors and ranked alongside all Legend Dog Teams.
- (vi) Hero Dog Teams shall be ranked at the Club/Affiliate level among all competitors and ranked alongside all Legend Dog Teams.
- (vii) The highest Worldwide ranked Hero Dog Team at the end of the ranking year shall be awarded the Hero Dog Team of the Year award. All ranked Hero Dogs will be recognized at the Golden Paw Awards Gala.

(k) Lap Dogs

- (i) A Team shall qualify for the Lap Dog Class if the dog is measured at seventeen inches (17") or shorter from the top point of the shoulder (withers) down to the ground while standing in its "natural" stance. A measuring device is included in every Admin kit and available for use if a question arises concerning a particular dog at an event. A DockDogs® competitor may anonymously request a Lap Dog to be measured, onsite at any event in order to verify the dog's height.
- (ii) It shall be the responsibility of the handler to inform the Event Administrator of their eligibility for the Lap Dog Class.
- (iii) Lap Dog Teams compete as regular competitors.
- (iv) At all national events, all Lap Dogs will be ranked based on their statistical event data for each Big Air® Wave™ of competition.
- (v) Lap Dog Teams shall be ranked nationally among all competitors and ranked separately among all Lap Dog Teams
- (vi) Lap Dog Teams shall be ranked at the Club/Affiliate level among all competitors and ranked separately among all Lap Dog Teams.
- (vii) The highest nationally ranked Lap Dog Team at the end of the ranking year shall be awarded the Lap Dog Team of the Year award.

*Section 2.03 The Venue*

(a) The Dock

- (i) Dimensions: The competition venue shall consist of a dock forty (40) foot long by eight (8) feet wide. The top of the dock surface shall rest no more or less than twenty-four (24) inches off of the water surface at the start of each day of competition at all National events. At Club events (with exception to pond jumps) the top of the dock surface shall rest no more or less than twenty-four (24) inches off of the water surface at the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> day

of the event. At Club Pond Events the top of the dock surface shall rest within a 1" variance of twenty-four (24) inches off of the water surface at the start of the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the event.

- (ii) Surface: The surface of the dock shall be a rubber-like or stiff carpet surface that is non-slip when wet.
- (iii) Measuring Tape: A forty (40) foot long x half (1/2) inch wide measuring device is recommended and should be well secured to the top of the dock surface.

(b) The Staging Area

- (i) The Staging Area is the space near the rear of the dock where the Wrangler will line up teams for their jumps.
- (ii) All teams within a group must remain in the staging area until their second jump has been completed.
- (iii) Teams that are waiting to jump must stay at least eight (8) feet away from the base of the steps to the dock while another dog is on the dock."
- (iv) Only the wrangler and the teams competing are allowed in the staging area during that wave of competition.

(c) The Pool/Body of Water

- (i) Dimensions: The pool/body of water should be a minimum of (20) feet wide by (40) feet long.

(d) The Competition Area

- (i) Smoking (including E-cigarettes) is not permitted within the DockDogs<sup>®</sup> competition area (this is exclusive of the kenneling area).

*Section 2.04 Competition Flow*

(a) Judge's Briefing: The Head Judge (or a designee) will hold a Judge's Briefing prior to the start of each Wave<sup>™</sup> at all events.

(i) Roll Call

- 1) A roll call will take place during the Judge's Briefing.
- 2) Attendance at the roll call by all competitors or their representatives within that Wave<sup>™</sup> is mandatory, or they will be scratched.

(ii) The judge's briefing is open to all competitors within the Heat/Wave<sup>™</sup>.

- 1) Although attendance is mandatory during the roll call, attendance during the judge's briefing is optional.
- 2) Open Waves / Heats shall be offered to all teams who wish to compete.
- 3) The number of competitors shall be limited only by event constraints and Wave<sup>™</sup> limits for each event and shall be included on the Event Information Page.

(b) Running Order

- (i) The running order for each competition Big Air<sup>®</sup> Wave<sup>™</sup> / Speed Retrieve<sup>™</sup> Heat and each Group therein, shall be determined by random draw.
  - (ii) The running order shall be posted in the staging area and / or at the registration area at the conclusion of the Judge's Briefing.
  - (iii) It is the responsibility of the handler to know the Team's position within the Running Order.
- (c) Groups & Waves / Heats: If more than 10 Teams are entered in any given Wave<sup>™</sup> / Heat, all Teams within each Wave<sup>™</sup> / Heat shall be broken down into groups of no more than 10 Teams each.
- (i) One group at a time, each Team will be given one jump in rotation order.
  - (ii) After the rotation of all Teams has been completed, all Teams will then take a second jump in rotation order.
- (d) Time Limit
- (i) All Teams have a time limit during competition to complete the jump. From the time that the Team (dog & handler) both step onto the top of the dock, a Team will have a total of sixty (60) seconds to complete their turn in Extreme Vertical<sup>™</sup>, Speed Retrieve<sup>™</sup> or Big Air<sup>®</sup>. A time clock will be placed on the dock, remotely controlled for team time and activated by designated event staff. As a backup in the event the clock is inoperable, the team will be issued a verbal warning when the time left approaches 30 seconds.
  - (ii) A dog that is already in motion toward completing the jump when the time limit expires shall be allowed to complete the jump and a score shall be recorded.
- (e) Practice
- (i) Practice times for each event shall be listed on the Event Information Page. Practice will take place during Open Dock at the beginning of each event day and between Waves / Heats when time permits.
  - (ii) The general time allotted for Teams on the dock during practice is up to a maximum of two (2) minutes to complete their jump(s) from the time they reach the top of the dock. Unlimited number of jumps allowed during each team's two (2) minute allotted time unless otherwise directed by the Event staff.
  - (iii) The thirty (30) minute time slot prior to the Judges Briefing and Roll Call of each Wave<sup>™</sup> / Heat is allocated as "warm-up" for Teams competing in the particular pending Wave<sup>™</sup> / Heat; one (1) warm-up jump per Team is recommended during this time.
  - (iv) Practices will be conducted under the same rules that govern competition; with the exception that more than one handler can be on the dock with a dog during practice.
  - (v) At no time may a competitor practice or train a dog on a competition dock when the dock is closed unless approval is obtained from the Event Manager.
- (f) Double Handling / Interference

- (i) Only the handler of the dog may verbally or otherwise cue the dog to perform. Any cues from another person (i.e. "double-handling") may result in disqualification. This includes persons other than the handler commanding the dog to "stay" or "go".
- (ii) At no time should dogs or handlers be allowed to distract, intimidate or interfere with other dogs and / or handlers in any way.
- (iii) No one assisting a team up to the top of the dock is permitted to stand on the dock or stairs once the Competition Team has safely reached the dock surface and their "Time" has begun.

#### *Section 2.05 Event Announcements*

- (a) An Event Information Registration Page shall be developed for each event (National or Affiliate) and be posted on the DockDogs® website (www.dockdogs.com).
- (b) All information regarding the event, including schedule, hotels, driving directions and links to a pre-registration form or page shall be posted on this page. No other announcements will be made unless otherwise agreed to by DockDogs®.

#### *Section 2.06 Event Registration*

- (a) Pre-registration: All pre-registrations event fees shall be collected via the DockDogs® website unless other or additional pre-registration options have been arranged with an event host, sponsor and or approved with or by DockDogs® Worldwide Office.
  - (i) For each event, pre-registration shall close on a pre-determined date or on fulfillment of 30 teams per Wave™ for Big Air®, 30 teams per heat for Speed Retrieve™, 21 dogs for Extreme Vertical™; after which registration will only be accepted, once the event begins, on a first come first served basis.
  - (ii) Active worldwide members will be provided an opportunity to pre-register for each event (for an allotted period of time) prior to pre-registration opening up to inactive teams.
  - (iii) Pre-registration confirmation shall be made via email. It is the responsibility of the handler to provide a form of payment and a valid email address with their registration. No other means of confirmation shall be made or accepted on site.
  - (iv) All pre-registered teams must check-in onsite at the event at least ½ hour prior to the Judges Briefing to sign the waiver form(s) before being allowed access to the dock.
  - (v) Members in good standing of the host club for an affiliate club event may be afforded the opportunity to participate in an "early bird registration period" to be determined during event planning and online posting.
- (b) On-Site Registration: All competitors registering onsite at an event will be required to fill out the Registration Form in its entirety and sign the Waiver Form. The handler must be present to register on site at that time. **An onsite proxy is not permitted.**
  - (i) If a competitor does not complete the required fields on the registration form, that Team's results may not be included in the official results of that event. It is the Handler's responsibility to supply the required information to the DockDogs® office in order to allow that Team's results to be included in the official results.

- (ii) All Teams who access the dock, whether for competition or practice shall fill out the Registration Form and the Waiver in their entirety as well as pay the full non-refundable entry fee.
  - (iii) There shall be one handler and one dog listed per Registration Form and Waiver.
  - (iv) All original Registration Forms and Waivers shall be returned to the office within (2) two days of the completion of the event.
  - (v) Onsite registrations will be available on a first come first serve basis in one of the following formats at each National and Club Event:
    - 1. Teams can only register for waves of that day, based on availability.
    - 2. Teams can register for any waves of the event on any given day, based on availability.
- (c) Check In: Check in and registration for each Wave™ shall close thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the Wave™ (unless otherwise stated). Competitors are responsible for checking in with the Administrator sixty (60) minutes prior to start of the first scheduled Finals round.
- (i) Waivers: All Competitors must sign a DockDogs® waiver to participate.
    - 1) Minors who would like to participate must have a parent or guardian co-sign the Waiver in order to participate and the parent or guardian must remain at the event site with the minor during their participation.
    - 2) All Volunteers helping at an event must sign a Waiver onsite.
- (d) Liability: Dogs must be crated or held by a leash that is four-foot or shorter in length and remain in the competition or kenneling area, unless pre-approved for media and/or promotions or other special circumstances pre-arranged by or with DockDogs® event management.
- (i) Handlers must verify and notify event staff that their dogs are not known biters.
  - (ii) Handlers are also responsible for alerting the onsite event staff if their dog is aggressive or has "space issues."
- (e) Acceptance of Awards: The handler or a handler's representative must be present to accept prizes and / or other awards. Handlers will be required to furnish their Social Security Number within their DockDogs online account, once they have been awarded a minimum of \$600 in Prize Purse Credits during that calendar year, in order for DockDogs® to report any necessary winnings to the appropriate parties accordingly.
- (i) Unless specified otherwise, all monetary prizes at the Worldwide and national level will be in the form of online credits distributed through the DockDogs® online credit proprietary program. DockDogs® credits will only be issued to winning teams that are active DockDogs® Worldwide Members prior to close of the event. Awards will not be mailed.
- (f) Entry Fees: All competitors in a DockDogs® event shall be required to pay an entry fee for each Wave™ or round in which they would like to compete.
- (i) The entry fee shall be pre-determined by the DockDogs® office or the event hosting Club and announced on the Event Information Page.



- (ii) The entry fee is non-refundable, even if the dog refuses to jump into the water or the team fails to arrive for their scheduled jump slot. This also will apply to teams that fail to attend the mandatory roll call before each Wave™. Credits MAY be issued in the case of dog illness accompanied by a letter from an officially licensed veterinarian. This letter MUST be submitted to the Head Office within 72 hours of the conclusion of the event that the dog could not compete in or credits will not be issued.

(iii) Cancellation of Event Policy

- 1) If the first Wave™/Heat of the event HAS NOT started upon cancelation notification, the Head Office will reimburse all pre-registered teams for form of payment (credits, credit card)
  - 2) If the event has started, credits will be reimbursed for the cancelled waves
  - 3) If the event is cancelled prior to finals, the Finals awards will be based on event rankings
- (g) On-site Switching: Switching of handlers and competition teams is not allowed. If an allowance is made, it will be documented in writing with a clear explanation and forwarded to DockDogs® worldwide office at the conclusion of the event.

*Section 2.07 DockDogs® Credits*

- (a) Inactive teams (non-Worldwide members) will be granted two (2) "complimentary online registration system accesses" per season. The "complimentary access" refers to the ability to process two (2) separate transactions during that DockDogs season. After the "complimentary accesses" have been utilized a team must purchase a Worldwide membership in order to continue to pre-register for events. Inactive teams can continue to register onsite at events on a first come, first served basis.
- (b) Credits will not be "awarded" to inactive teams and cannot be used for event registrations by inactive handlers.
- (c) Credits can be used through the online registrations system to pre-register for upcoming events and purchase DockDogs® Worldwide memberships and can be redeemed onsite at an event for wave registrations. (This is not applicable for some "Early Bird" Membership discounts or specialty events, ie: World Championships)
- (d) Credits expire one year from their date of issue.

<b>Article III. DockDogs® Big Air®</b>
--

*Section 3.01 Event Description*

- (a) DockDogs® Big Air® scoring is based on distance. The dog will jump from the end of the dock and into the pool. The Team that achieves the longest distance score wins.

*Section 3.02 Rules & Equipment Specific to Big Air®*

(a) Object

- (i) An object may be used to entice the dog to jump into the water but is not required.
- (ii) The object must be throw-able, floatable and retrievable. Examples of an acceptable object would be a bumper, a ball, a Dead Fowl Trainer, or a Frisbee.
- (iii) The object cannot sink, cannot dissolve, cannot be a living or dead animal, and cannot be known as an edible commodity for dogs.
- (iv) The handler must make their best effort to keep the dog under control approaching and up on the dock, including while any chase object is thrown.
- (v) The handler may choose to release their dog at any time, regardless of when they release their chase object.
- (vi) The dog shall not be required to retrieve the object in order to receive a score.

(b) Starting Line

- (i) Handlers must position themselves and their dogs anywhere on the dock, forward of the 40-foot line. The dog's tail may rest over the 40-foot line, but the remainder of the dog's body must rest in front of the 40-foot line; no other part of the dog may rest beyond the 40-foot line.

*Section 3.03 Competition Flow*

(a) General Event Format

(i) Open Waves:

- 1) One group at a time, each Team shall be given one jump in rotation order. After the rotation of all Teams within that group has been completed, all Teams shall then take a second jump in rotation order. The longest of the two jump distances shall be assigned as the Team's Score for that Wave™.
- 2) The Teams shall be ranked within their jumped division based on the longest to shortest Score within that division.

(b) National Level Formats

- (i) The formats for events, including Regional Championships and other National events shall be determined and announced on the Event Information Page for each event.
- (ii) The format for the World Championships of Dock Diving™/Dock Jumping™, shall be determined by DockDogs® and announced prior to the event.

(iii) The Road to Worlds Championship Qualifying Criteria shall be separately published by DockDogs® at the beginning of the season and incorporated for that year into the current Rules and Policies version.

### *Section 3.04 Scoring Procedure, Passing, and Resolving Ties*

#### (a) Scoring

##### (i) Official Jump Distance

- 1) The official jump distance will be measured from the lateral midpoint of the end of the dock to the point at which the base of the dog's tail breaks the water's surface, specifically, the point where the dog's tail meets the body (base of the tail).
- 2) A jump, where the dog's tail enters the water at a point further from the dock than another part of the dog's body, will be scored using the point of the dog (i.e. the head/nose) that breaks the surface of the water closest to the dock.

##### (ii) Scoring

- 1) A jump will be considered official after the handler cues the dog to proceed-- regardless of whether or not the dog retrieves a chase object--or the sixty (60) second time limit runs out.
- 2) All Big Air® jumps shall be listed as a number with two decimal points. If a Scoring Document is returned to the office with jumps listed as, for example, 16.1, the administration shall assume that this is to represent 16.01. If that was not how the jump was announced, complaints will be directed to the Judge and the Administrator for explanation and/or resolution.
- 3) If the dog stops and then jumps from a stand, the jump will be scored as a regular jump.
- 4) Should a Team pass on a jump, their distance shall be notated as "PASS." The distance shall not be notated as "0.00"; a slash; or left blank.
- 5) If a Team runs out of time before a jump has been completed or the dog does not jump, their jump status shall be notated as "Timed Out" and the distance field shall be notated as "0.00"; and will not be included as a score towards rankings.
- 6) If a Team does not show up for their turn within the Running Order, they shall be skipped, and their jump status shall be notated as "SCRATCH" and the distance field shall be notated as "0.00"; and will not be included as a score towards rankings. If the Team shows up after their turn is over, they shall be required to wait until their turn comes up within the Running Order rotation again. If a team misses both turns, they have forfeited their right to jump in that Wave™.

- 7) If a Team is disqualified by the Judge from a Wave™ or an Event, their jump status at the time of disqualification shall be notated as "D.Q." and the distance field shall be notated as "0.00"; and will not be included as a score towards rankings
  - a) The Judge shall make a notation on a separate piece of paper as to why the Team was disqualified. This piece of paper shall be signed by both the Judge and the Administrator and attached to the appropriate Score Sheet.
- 8) If the dog walks down the exit ramp and jumps into the pool from the ramp, the jump status will be marked as "DISALLOW".
- 9) If the dog jumps from the dock down to a platform surrounding the pool, then jumps from the platform into the pool, the jump status will be marked as "DISALLOW".
- 10) If the "toy" or "chase object" accidentally falls into the pool or off of the dock and onto the ground while the dog is still on the dock, at the judge's discretion, the handler may be allowed to re-throw the toy.
- 11) If a dog jumps into the water while the handler is on the dock, but prior to the throwing of the chase object, the Team may, at the judge's discretion, be allowed a re-run as long as the dog is in forward motion towards the end of the dock at the end of the 60 seconds.
- 12) If a dog jumps into the water while the handler is on the dock, but prior to the throwing of the chase object two or more times, subsequent inadvertent jumps shall be counted, and the Team shall not be allowed a re-jump.

(iii) Measuring Technology

- 1) At national events, the Judge will evaluate all jumps electronically using proprietary digital video stop-action technology, alternatively DockDogs® proprietary software. In the case of a failure of the electronic equipment, the Manual Judging System will be utilized (including TWO certified judges, when feasible).
- 2) At club events, the Manual Judging System will be used.
  - a) Two certified judges stand one behind the other on elevated footings if available during competition waves for scoring jumps, with the ability to move freely alongside the length of the pool. Scorekeeper (does not need to be certified) takes recorded scores from each of the certified judges for each jump and averages the scores to determine a final score for each team.
  - b) Judges shall score the dog's jump from the end of the dock to where the base of the dog's tail breaks the surface of the water.
  - c) During the scoring process, there shall not be any verbal communication regarding scores between the Judges, rather directly with the scorekeeper.
  - d) At club events, the Main Judge can be granted (1) one wave off from judging per day, and a relief judge will take their place in their absence.

(b) Passing

- (i) At any time prior to the Team mounting the dock, a Team may elect to “pass” on any jump and will not receive a jump distance for that jump.
  - 1) The handler must inform the Wrangler of the intention to pass as soon as the handler is confident in the decision to do so.
  - 2) A “pass” shall be noted by writing in “pass” for that jump on the Judge’s Official Score Sheet.
- (ii) Judges and event personnel cannot recommend a course of action regarding passing including advising a handler on how passing will likely affect the standings.
- (iii) From time to time, certain events will specify that “passing” is not an option. Should this be the case, this will be clearly stated on the Event Information Page and during the Role Call/Judges Briefing.

### (c) Resolving Ties

- (i) When there is a tie between two or more Teams in a Wave™, each Team’s second longest jump distance in that Wave™ will be used as a tiebreaker.
  - 1) If a Team is tied with another Team and chooses to “pass” on their subsequent jump, thereby not providing a jump distance by which to break the tie, the Team who “passes” will automatically lose the tie.
  - 2) If a tie occurs because both Teams have chosen to “pass” on their jumps, then the subsequent Team to choose to “pass” will be awarded the lower ranking.
- (ii) If any teams are tied in the Bubble sheet for Finals selection, their second longest jump of the event will break the tie(s) between the affected teams.
- (iii) If each Team’s second, and perhaps third, jumps of the Wave™ also result in a tie, each Team’s second longest jump distance from all previous jumps within that event shall be ranked and the tiebreaker determined.
- (iv) If a Team is tied for First Place with another Team at the end of the Finals round and Jump #1 and Jump #2 are the same score, a one jump “jump-off” shall occur until there is a defined winner. The Team with the longest jump of the “jump-off” shall be declared the winner.

### *Section 3.05 Big Air® Finals Rounds*

#### (a) General Big Air® Finals Rules

- (i) It is the responsibility of the Handler to determine if the Team has made the finals. The ‘bubble sheet’ must be posted at least once a day at all events to help Teams determine if they have made the finals.
- (ii) If a dog is entered in an event by more than one handler, the Handler/Dog Team with the highest score that QUALIFIES for a finals round must advance to the finals.

- (iii) Each team must check in with the Event Administrator at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the first Big Air® Finals round. If a team has not checked in within the allotted sixty (60) minute time period, the Team will be scratched from the Finals round and replaced by the first alternate team.

(b) National Four Tier Finals

- (i) The Amateur Finals shall be comprised of the top (up to) 6 Teams with a top score of 12'11" or less from the open waves within that event.
- (ii) The Contender Finals shall be comprised of the top (up to) 6 Teams with a top score between 13'0" and 17'11" from the open waves within that event.
- (iii) The Semi Pro Finals shall be comprised of the top (up to) 6 Teams with a top score between 18'0" and 21'11" from the open waves within that event.
- (iv) The Pro Finals shall be comprised of the top (up to) 6 Teams with a top score of 22'0" or greater from the open waves within that event.

(c) Club Divisional Finals

- (i) Divisional Finals are designed to recognize performance of the top (up to) 6 Teams within each Big Air® division during an event.
- (ii) Qualifying criteria for Club Divisional Finals should be based on the highest of the following: Top score from that event or Club title.

(d) Other Big Air® Finals

- (i) Showcase Round: If requested by the venue or determined by the DockDogs® Worldwide office, a Showcase Round will be announced at select Club & National events for Youth Handlers, Veteran Dogs, and / or Lap Dogs for the top (up to) six (6) ranked Teams from that event.
  - 1) Teams participating in a Showcase Round will participate as if it is a "bonus"; they may also qualify and participate in regular finals; scores do NOT count towards titles or rankings.
- (ii) Special Finals: At all Club Events, clubs have the option of hosting Special Finals for Youth Handlers, Veteran Dogs, and / or Lap Dogs.
  - 1) All Special Finals must be declared in advance on the Event Application form and the Online Event Registration Information page.
  - 2) Clubs may establish a minimum number of teams required to host the Special Finals.
  - 3) Clubs are required to announce the maximum number of teams allowed in each Special Finals based on the selected format for the regular Big Air® Finals.

- 4) Teams participating in a Club Special Final will earn a leg towards a club title.
- 5) Eligibility for Club Special Finals:
  - a) Teams for the regular finals' rounds will be calculated first. Any teams that did not qualify for the regular finals' rounds will be invited to the Special Finals if the minimum number of teams remains.
  - b) A Team cannot qualify for both a regular Big Air® Final and a Special Final (i.e. the same dog and handler cannot jump in the regular Big Air® Finals and in the Youth Handler Special Final).
  - c) A dog CAN jump in one regular Big Air® Final and one Special Final (i.e. a dog could jump with a parent in the regular finals and a Youth handler in the Youth Handler Special Final).

*Section 3.06 Divisions, Awards, and Titles*

- (a) Divisions: DockDogs® has developed Divisions in order to allow Dogs to be competitive at their current level of jumping and work toward additional milestones in advancement.

Division	Jump Distance
Novice	0'1" - 9'11"
Junior	10'0" - 14'11"
Senior	15'0" - 19'11"
Master	20'0" - 22'11"
Elite	23'0" - 24'11"
Super Elite	25' and above

(b) Awards

(i) Monetary Prizes

- 1) The recommended monetary prizes shall be awarded to the Top 3 Teams in each Big Air® Finals at each event (unless otherwise specified) and shall be broken down as follows:

Placement	Pro Final	Semi-Pro Final	Contender Final	Amateur Final
First Place	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
Second Place	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
Third Place	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00

- 2) Monetary prizes shall not exceed the amount listed above, nor shall they be altered in their breakdown for any event without the expressed written consent of DockDogs® management.
- 3) If there is an unbroken tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, the prize money for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be combined and divided equally among the tied teams. The next team will not be awarded a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish and therefore will not receive any 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizing/awards.

In the case of ties for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, any prize money would be combined & divided equally among the tied teams and the next team would not be awarded 4<sup>th</sup> place.

- 4) DockDogs® Club Affiliates may offer a different prize purse for Club Affiliate Events with the expressed written consent of DockDogs® management. The prize purse will be posted on the Event Information Page on the DockDogs® website.
- 5) All monetary prizes shall be awarded to handlers of the dogs only.
- 6) In the event that the scheduled Finals cannot be run, the corresponding awards/prizing will be decided using the latest Big Air® Bubble.

(ii) Divisional Awards

- 1) All competing Teams shall be ranked in each wave, within each Division for both national and club/affiliate events.
- 2) Wave placement awards shall be given to Teams who place in the top three (3) in each Division.
- 3) Competitor awards shall be given to all remaining Teams who successfully complete a jump.

(iii) Other Awards

- 1) Placement/Finalist awards shall be given to Teams who achieve a score in the Big Air® Finals.
- 2) DockDogs® may allow non-cash gift bags as other awards for competitors from sponsors, hosts, or accredited clubs depending on availability. Such pricing structure shall be posted at the Registration area.
- 3) DockDogs® Club Affiliates may offer other awards for Club Affiliate Events (i.e. gift baskets, gift cards). Clubs are encouraged to promote the "other awards" on the Event Information Page on the DockDogs® website and must include any variance in writing on the Club Event Request Form.

(c) Titles

- (i) Big Air® Titles are based on the performance of the Dog and Handler Team.
- (ii) Within each Wave™ of competition at any event, a Team can secure one leg toward a title based on their Score.
- (iii) If a Team competes in a Finals round at any event, they can secure one leg toward a title based on their score.
- (iv) Earning a Title: A national title is earned by accumulating five (5) legs within one division at a nationally sanctioned event and a club title is earned by accumulating five (5) legs within one division at a club/affiliate sanctioned event.



- 1) Once a title has been earned, the Team may be referred to by the Title they have earned, and the appropriate initials can be added to the end of the dog's name.
  - 2) Title certificates can be printed off from through your online Team account, as they are achieved. The Team must hold a valid Worldwide Membership to view & print Titles Certificates.
- (v) Additional Titles: A team may, over the course of competitions, earn legs in more than one division.
- 1) A more advanced title shall be awarded upon completion of five legs in the next higher division, but not the lower.
  - 2) If a Team earns a Division Title or moves up to a more advanced division, the change shall not be in effect until the close of the event in which it was achieved.
- (vi) Petitioning the Committee for Review of Current Titles
- 1) Teams who hold a valid Worldwide Membership, will be able to petition the Rules committee to have their highest "Achieved" title status reviewed for a possible reduction to a lower current "Active" Title based on their current abilities.
    - a) This would be an option for dogs that have peaked in performance and are on a down swing in current abilities due to past injury, illness, increase in age, birthing, etc.
    - b) Terms for review would include proof of consistently reduced abilities over a period of 3 consecutive events. National title reductions will be based on National event data and Club title reductions will be based on Club event data.
    - c) If the Team has a recorded score in their Achieved title division or a higher division within their last 3 consecutive events, then the petition will be denied.
  - 2) If the petition is successful, the Team will always retain their highest "Achieved" title, but will then continue to compete and be ranked under their current "Active" title for all current awards, points, divisional placements, etc.
  - 3) If the petition is successful, and the team continues to achieve scores within higher divisions than their newly lowered title, those scores will count towards legs for titles in those higher divisions and could result in re-titling in a higher division. Re-titling will occur once (3) new legs within a higher division have been achieved.

### *Section 3.07 Worldwide Big Air® Rankings*

- (a) Teams who hold a valid World Membership and receive a qualifying Score in a nationally sanctioned DockDogs® competition Wave™ shall be ranked against all other Worldwide Membership Teams competing in DockDogs® nationally sanctioned events.
- (b) The ranking will take into account the five longest scores each Team receives during the ranking period. (Note: you must have a minimum of 5 legs to be ranked).
- (c) Worldwide rankings shall be reset each year at the completion of the DockDogs® Season.

- (d) Rankings shall occasionally be used as qualifying criteria for National Caliber events. Should this be the case, DockDogs® shall announce the details on the Event Information Page.
- (e) Rankings may be used for annual awards purposes.
- (f) A second level of club rankings will be issued for Club and Affiliate event competitions.
- (g) On Occasion, club rankings may be utilized as qualifying criteria for National caliber events.

## **Article IV. DockDogs® Extreme Vertical™**

### *Section 4.01 Event Description*

- (a) DockDogs® Extreme Vertical™ scoring is based on height. The dog will jump from the end of the dock and grab an object from an extender suspended over the pool. The Team that achieves the highest height wins.

### *Section 4.02 Rules & Equipment Specific to Extreme Vertical™*

- (a) Teams: Number of teams will be limited as follows:
  - (i) National Events: up to 28 Teams
  - (ii) Club Events: up to 28 Teams (TBD by Club)
- (b) Object: The object to be used is not a choice of the Team. The standard object is a double roped white foam bumper with alternating 2" black/white stripes. It is approximately 1½ inches in diameter and 12 inches in length.
  - (i) The object is suspended up and over the pool, eight (8) feet from the end of the dock on an extender.
  - (ii) The object hangs parallel to the surface of the water.
  - (iii) The object height is measured from the surface of the dock to the bottom of the object.
  - (iv) A Handler cannot touch the Extreme Vertical extender/apparatus for any reason during either practice or competition.
- (c) Start Height:
  - (i) Teams must select their start height during the Judge's Briefing prior to the start of the event.
  - (ii) Competition Start Height and practice jumps will begin at a minimum of 4'6" for non-titled teams and Cadet titled teams. All non-titled and Cadet Teams must attempt 6'0" if still in the competition.

- (iii) Competition Start Height and practice jumps will begin at a minimum of 5'6" for Top Gun titled teams. A Top Gun titled team can attempt jumps at TWO heights below 6'0"; the next height must be at 6'0" or higher.
- (iv) Competition Start Height and practice jumps will begin at a minimum of 6'6" for High Flyer titled teams. A High Flyer titled team can attempt jumps at TWO heights below 7'0"; the next height must be at 7'0" or higher.
- (d) Starting Line: Handlers must position themselves and their dogs anywhere on the dock, forward of the twenty (20) foot line. The dog's tail may rest over the twenty (20) foot line, but the remainder of the dog's body must rest in front of the twenty (20) foot line.

#### *Section 4.03 Competition Flow*

- (a) A Team will be allowed up to two (2) attempts to achieve a successful catch (except during tie breaking rounds where each Team is allowed one (1) attempt at a height(s) until the tie is broken).
- (b) The increment at which the object is raised during competition will be two (2) inches (except in the case of the winning Team's personal best attempt or tie breaking scenario).
- (c) Two total misses, regardless of the height at which such failures occur, disqualifies the Team from further jumping (except during tie breaking rounds).
- (d) Upon a team's 1<sup>st</sup> failed attempt and once the dog has exited the pool, the team must return to the dock immediately for a second attempt at that height, unless they are passing at that height.
- (e) Competition ends once all teams have acquired two total misses. In the case of one remaining team still jumping, that team is permitted to continue jumping until it has two total misses and they are permitted to pass to a higher height (falling within the 2" increment rule). i.e., The team successfully grabs at 7'4" and chooses to pass to 7'8" (permitted); however, they could not pass to 7'7".

#### *Section 4.04 Scoring Procedure, Passing, and Resolving Ties*

- (a) Scoring
  - (i) Scoring will be based on three (3) factors: a catch, a failed catch, and a pass.
  - (ii) A catch is defined as the bumper being grabbed or completely knocked clean (removed) from the extender. The dog is NOT required to carry the bumper in the dog's mouth into the water and is NOT required to complete the retrieve. A catch is scored as "O".
  - (iii) A failed catch is defined as the bumper still being attached to the extender after the attempt. A failed catch is scored as "X".
  - (iv) A pass is defined as when the handler indicates in advance, to the wrangler/judge that they pass at the current height. A pass is scored as "P".
  - (v) All scores are the final determination of the official Extreme Vertical™ Judge.

(vi) The highest score achieved during the competition will be utilized as the final recorded score.

(b) Passing

- (i) A handler must inform the Wrangler of his / her intention to pass before being called onto the dock for the attempt at each given height.
- (ii) Passing is available until there are three (3) teams or less, and then passing is no longer an option.
- (iii) Passing is NOT available on the second attempt at the start height. Mandatory jump applies to the pre-selected start height.

(c) Ties

(i) If there is a tie in Extreme Vertical™:

- 1) and it concerns first place High Flyer, the Teams tying shall have one more jump at the same height.
  - a) If the tie is still unbroken, the bar shall be lowered by 1" (if all have failed) or raised by 2" (if all have cleared).
  - b) The tying Teams shall then attempt one jump at each height until the tie is decided.
  - c) The tying Teams must jump on each occasion when deciding the tie.
  - d) The highest achieved score will be recorded, even if the tie breaking score happens to be lower in height, and the wave standings will be assigned manually.
- 2) and it concerns any other place in High Flyer, Top Gun or Cadet, the team who misses at a lower height earns the lower place. Ties may still remain (i.e., if Sue/Spot missed both attempts at 6'10" and Frank/Fido missed once at 6'8" and at 6'10", then Frank/Fido will earn the lower placement.
  - a) If the tie is still unbroken, the Teams shall be awarded the same placement in the competition and the extra required award will be sent from the Office.
  - b) The only exception to this rule would be when there are no High Flyer teams, in which case the High Flyer tie breaking rules would apply so that a winner is declared.

*Section 4.05 Divisions, Awards, and Titles*

(a) Divisions: DockDogs® has developed Divisions in order to allow Dogs to be competitive at their current level of jumping and work toward additional milestones in advancement.

Division	Jump Height
Cadet	Up to 5'11"
Top Gun	6'0" to 6'11"

High Flyer	7'0" and above
------------	----------------

(b) Awards

(i) Monetary Prizes

- 1) The recommended monetary prizes shall be awarded to the Top 3 Overall Teams, as follows:

Placement	Amount
First Place	\$100.00
Second Place	\$50.00
Third Place	\$25.00

- 2) Monetary prizes shall not exceed the amount listed above, nor shall they be altered in their breakdown for any event without the expressed written consent of DockDogs® management.
- 3) If there is an unbroken tie: For example, a tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place, the prize money for 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> place will be combined and divided equally among the tied teams. The next team will not be awarded a 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish and therefore will not receive any 3<sup>rd</sup> place prizing/awards. In the case of a tie for 3<sup>rd</sup> place, any prize money would be combined & divided equally among the tied teams and the next team would not be awarded 4<sup>th</sup> place.
- 4) DockDogs® Club Affiliates may offer a different prize purse for Club Affiliate Events with the expressed written consent of DockDogs® management. Any approved variance regarding the prize purse will be posted on the Event Information Page on the DockDogs® website.
- 5) All monetary prizes shall be awarded to handlers of the dogs only.

(ii) Regular Finals/Wave Awards

- 1) Finals Placement awards will be awarded to the Top 3 Overall Teams, with the remaining teams being awarded at the wave level per their titled divisions.

(iii) Divisional Finals/Wave Awards

- 1) All competing Teams shall be ranked within each Division for both national and club/affiliate events where Divisional Finals Format is being followed.
- 2) Placement awards shall be given to Teams who place in the top three (3) in each Division.
- 3) Competitor awards shall be given to all Teams who successfully achieved a catch in competition.

(iii) Other Awards

- 1) DockDogs® may allow non-cash gift bags as other awards for competitors from sponsors, hosts, or accredited clubs depending on availability. Such prize structure shall be posted at the Registration area.
- 2) DockDogs® Club Affiliates may offer other awards for Club Affiliate Events (i.e. gift baskets, gift cards). Clubs are encouraged to promote the “other awards” on the Event Information Page on the DockDogs® website and must include any variance in writing on the Club Event Request Form.

(c) Titles

- (i) Within each Extreme Vertical™ competition at any sanctioned DockDogs® National or Club/affiliate event, a Team can secure one leg toward a title based on their Score.
- (ii) Earning a Title: Extreme Vertical™ titles are not Club or National level titles exclusive. A title is earned by accumulating (5) five legs within one division at nationally sanctioned or club/affiliate sanctioned events. Any team who previously held a national or club Extreme Vertical™ title will automatically be awarded the highest of all their EV titles.
  - 1) Once a title has been earned, the Team may be referred to by the Title they have earned, and the appropriate initials can be added to the end of the dog’s name.
  - 2) Title certificates can be printed off from through your online Team account, as they are achieved. The Team must hold a valid Worldwide Membership to view & print Titles Certificates.
- (iii) Additional Titles: A team may, over the course of competitions, earn legs in more than one division.
  - 1) A more advanced title shall be awarded upon completion of five legs in the next higher division, but not the lower.
  - 2) If a Team earns a Division Title or moves up to a more advanced division, the change shall not be in effect until the close of the event in which it was achieved.
- (iv) Petitioning the Committee for Review of Current Titles
  - 1) Teams who hold a valid Worldwide Membership, will be able to petition the Rules committee to have their “Achieved” title status reviewed for a possible reduction to a lower “Active” Title based on their current abilities.
    - a) This would be an option for dogs that have peaked in performance and are on a down swing in current abilities due to past injury, illness, increase in age, birthing, etc.
    - b) Terms for review would include proof of consistently reduced abilities over a period of 3 consecutive National and/or Club events.
    - c) If the Team has a recorded score in their Achieved title division within their last 3 consecutive events, then the petition will be denied.
  - 2) If the petition is successful, the Team will always retain their “Achieved” title, but will then continue to compete and be ranked under their “Active” title for all current awards, points, divisional placements, etc.

- 3) If the petition is successful, and the team continues to achieve scores within higher divisions than their newly lowered title, those scores will count towards legs for titles in those higher divisions and could result in re-titling in a higher division. Re-titling will occur once (3) new legs within a higher division have been achieved.

#### *Section 4.06 Worldwide Extreme Vertical™ Rankings*

- (a) Teams who hold a valid World Membership and receive a qualifying Score in a nationally sanctioned DockDogs® Extreme Vertical competition shall be ranked against all other Worldwide Membership Teams competing in DockDogs® nationally sanctioned events.
- (b) The ranking will take into account an average of the top 3 “grab” heights each Team receives during the ranking period.
- (c) Worldwide rankings shall be reset each year at the completion of the DockDogs® Season.
- (d) Rankings shall occasionally be used as qualifying criteria for National Caliber events. Should this be the case, DockDogs® shall announce the details on the Event Information Page.
- (e) Rankings may be used for annual awards purposes and or qualifying criteria for select events.
- (f) A second level of club rankings will be issued for Club and Affiliate event competitions.

<b>Article V. DockDogs® Speed Retrieve™</b>
---

#### *Section 5.01 Event Description*

- (a) DockDogs® Speed Retrieve™ scoring is based on time. The dog will run, jump from the end of the dock into the water and swim towards the end of the pool to retrieve the object. The Team with the fastest time wins.

#### *Section 5.02 Rules & Equipment Specific to Speed Retrieve™*

- (a) Teams
  - (i) Handlers should encourage the dog to retrieve with a verbal or sounding device command. No other device will be allowed. No other person can take any action that will assist the dog in identifying the target during competition once the competition team is set in the starting block, however a judge or wrangler can assist the team in identifying the object BEFORE they are set in the starting block.
  - (ii) At events where there is only one (1) round of Speed Retrieve™, two handlers can compete in that same wave with the same dog; but only in the case where one of the handlers is

registered and competing in Iron Dog with that dog at that event, and the Iron Dog team in the "two handler" situation will not earn Speed Retrieve standings, awards or purse prizing as their score is solely for the purposes of Iron Dog points at that event, Worldwide titles and rankings.

(b) Object

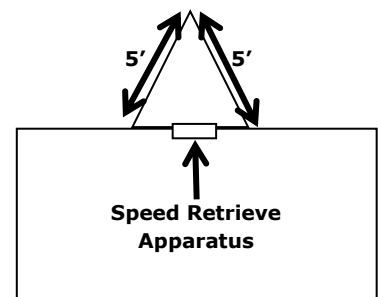
- (i) The object to be used is not a choice of the dog / handler team. The standard object is a double roped white foam bumper with alternating 2" black/white stripes. It is approximately 1½ inches in diameter and 12 inches in length which is located on an extender towards the end of the pool. The object is suspended 2" from the bottom of the object off the surface of the water.
- (ii) The handler may bring one (1) additional object onto the dock, but cannot throw the object to entice the dog to jump.

(c) Starting Block

- (i) The starting block is a three (3) foot wide box between the twenty (20) and twenty-three (23) foot marks on the dock, indicated by one (1) line at the twenty (20) foot mark and one (1) line at the twenty-three (23) foot mark. The total distance from the twenty (20) foot mark on the dock to the object hanging from the extender will always be fifty-eight (58) feet.
- (ii) At the start of score time, the dog must have at least one front paw touching the starting block (i.e. paws can alternate as long as one paw remains in contact with the starting block).
- (iii) The dog's back paws may also be in the starting block, but are not required to be in the starting block.
- (iv) The handler may hold or restrain the dog until the green light or starters cue.
- (v) The handler's body (including hands, feet, and knees) may be in and / or on the starting block, but are not required to be in the starting block.
- (vi) No part of the dog or handler may be forward of the twenty (20) foot mark after the team is set and has given a cue to the Judge that they are ready.

(d) Apparatus Perimeter

- (i) A five (5) foot perimeter made with portable fencing will surround the speed retrieve apparatus at the end of the pool. Only a judge may enter to reset the speed retrieve object.



Section 5.03 Competition Flow



- (a) For each attempt, the handler must first verify that the Judge(s) are ready. Then, the Handler will signal to the Judge(s) to initiate the starting cue.
- (b) Qualifying Round: Teams will take a first retrieve and receive a First Time. Keeping the same order, each Team will then take a second retrieve and receive a Second Time. The faster of each Team's two retrieves will be recorded as that Team's Score. There will only be one (1) qualifying round at National Events, until there are forty (40) or more dogs competing in Speed Retrieve™.
- (c) At events where there is only one (1) round of Speed Retrieve™, it will be run as an all in one Qualifier & Finals round.
- (d) Finals Round: In the case of Events with multiple qualifying rounds, a separate Finals round will be held.
  - (i) The top six (6) Teams with the fastest scores from the combined qualifying rounds will compete in the Finals round, and the top three (3) will receive awards/prizing.
  - (ii) It is the responsibility of the Handler to determine if the Team has made the finals.
  - (iii) If a dog is entered in an event by more than one handler, the Handler/Dog Team with the highest score MUST advance to the finals.
  - (iv) Each team must check in with the Event Administrator at least sixty (60) minutes prior to the scheduled start of the Speed Retrieve™ Finals round. If a team has not checked in within the allotted sixty (60) minute time period, the Team will be scratched from the Finals round and replaced by the first alternate team.

#### *Section 5.04 Scoring Procedure and Resolving Ties*

##### (a) Execution Time

- (i) Starts from the time that the Team (dog & handler) both step onto the top of the dock; ends when dog is in motion to make the retrieve. Maximum of sixty (60) seconds.
- (ii) If the Team is not set for the attempt within the 1-minute timeframe, that attempt will be forfeited and the Score for that attempt will be recorded as "no time".

##### (b) Score Time

- (i) Starts after green light or starters cue; ends when dog removes object from extender at the end of pool. Maximum of thirty (30) seconds.
- (ii) The attempt must include the object being cleanly grabbed from the extender.
- (iii) The dog is encouraged to, but does not have to, retrieve the object from the pool.

(c) False Start

- (i) If the dog leaves the starting block before the green light or the starters cue, then it will receive a false start warning.
  - 1) If the dog does not leave the dock surface during that false start, the handler may reset the dog in the starting block if enough time remains within the one-minute time limit (execution time) and score time will be reset.
  - 2) If the dog leaves the dock surface and jumps into the water on a false start, then the team will receive no time for that retrieve.
  - 3) Each team is allowed a maximum of one false start or refusal per rotation.
- (ii) If the Handler breaks the starting line after the dog is set, this would also constitute a false start and the false start regulations would apply.
- (iii) An electronic beam is set eight (8) inches off of the surface of the dock and is used to electronically detect false starts.

(d) Computation of Scored Time

(i) National Timing

- 1) Each score time will be determined by electronic measurement of the time for the completed retrieve, which will be measured in 1000<sup>th</sup> second increments (00.000) from the starting block to the retrieval of the object.
- 2) Electronic times will be the official score for a retrieve. In the case of a failure of the electronic equipment, Club Affiliates Timing (Manual Timing) procedure will be utilized (including two time judges and a line judge).

(ii) Club Affiliates Timing (Manual Timing)

- 1) Two (2) Judges will be on hand to take manual time, with the final time being the average of the two (2) Judge's recorded times, which will then be the "official" time of the retrieve. One Line Judge will also be available to watch the starting block for a false start. Line judge MUST be certified judge due to making discretionary calls; individuals using stop watches DO NOT need to be certified judges. All other Speed Retrieve™ rules and policies shall apply.
- 2) Starting cadences by the standard recording for manual judging shall be: At the handler's cue... "Set"... (3 second pause)... "GO". It is mandatory to use the standard recording at all events that are being manually judged.

(e) Ties

- (i) Qualifying Round: The Team with the fastest score of their other retrieve will be awarded the higher ranking.

- (ii) Final Round: Each Team will make one additional retrieve and the Team with the fastest time for the additional retrieve will be awarded the higher ranking.

*Section 5.05 Divisions, Awards and Titles*

- (a) Divisions: DockDogs® has developed Divisions in order to allow Dogs to be competitive at their current level of jumping and work toward additional milestones in advancement.

Division	Scored Time
Sonic	< 5.999 seconds
Nitro	6.000 – 6.999 seconds
Turbo	7.000 – 7.999 seconds
Express	> 8.000 seconds

(b) Awards

(i) Monetary Prizes

- 1) The recommended monetary prizes shall be awarded to the Top 3 Overall Teams as follows with the exception of the case of the team that is participating in the all in one round of Speed Retrieve for Iron Dog points purposes only (see Section 5.02 (a) (ii) for full explanation):

Placement	Amount
First Place	\$100.00
Second Place	\$50.00
Third Place	\$25.00

- 2) Monetary prizes shall not exceed the amount listed above, nor shall they be altered in their breakdown for any event without the expressed written consent of DockDogs® management.
- 3) DockDogs® Club Affiliates may offer a different prize purse for Club Affiliate Events with the expressed written consent of DockDogs® management. Any approved variance regarding the prize purse will be posted on the Event Information Page on the DockDogs® website.
- 4) All monetary prizes shall be awarded to handlers of the dogs only.

(ii) Finals/Wave Placement Awards

- 1) Finals Placement awards will be awarded to the Top 3 Overall Teams, with the remaining teams being awarded at the wave level per their titled divisions; with the exception of the case of the team that is participating in the all in one round of Speed Retrieve for Iron Dog points purposes only. (see Section 5.02 (a) (ii) for full explanation)

(iii) Other Awards

- 1) DockDogs® may allow non-cash gift bags as other awards for competitors from sponsors, hosts, or accredited clubs depending on availability. Such prize structure shall be posted at the Registration area.
- 2) DockDogs® Club Affiliates may offer other awards for Club Affiliate Events (i.e. gift baskets, gift cards). Clubs are encouraged to promote the “other awards” on the Event Information Page on the DockDogs® website and must include any variance in writing on the Club Event Request Form.

(c) Titles

- (i) Speed Retrieve™ Titles are based on the performance of the Dog & Handler Team.
- (ii) Qualifying Round: Within each Wave™ of competition at any sanctioned DockDogs® national or club/affiliate event, a Team can secure one leg toward a title based on their Score for that Wave™.
- (iii) Finals Round: If a Team competes in a Finals round at an event, they shall earn (1) one divisional leg based on their fastest score within the Finals round.
- (iv) Earning a Title: A national title is earned by accumulating (3) three legs within one division at a nationally sanctioned event and a club title is earned by accumulating (3) three legs within one division at a club/affiliate sanctioned event.
  - 1) Once a title has been earned, the Team may be referred to by the Title they have earned, and the appropriate initials can be added to the end of the dog’s name.
  - 2) Title certificates can be printed off from through your online Team account, as they are achieved. The Team must hold a valid Worldwide Membership to view & print Titles Certificates.
- (v) Additional Titles: A team may, over the course of competitions, earn legs in more than one division.
  - 1) A more advanced title shall be awarded upon completion of three legs in the next higher division, but not the lower.
  - 2) If a Team earns a Division Title or moves up to a more advanced division, the change shall not be in effect until the close of the event in which it was achieved.
- (vi) Petitioning the Committee for Review of Current Titles
  - 1) Teams who hold a valid Worldwide Membership, will be able to petition the Rules committee to have their “Achieved” title status reviewed for a possible reduction to a lower “Active” Title based on their current abilities.
    - a) This would be an option for dogs that have peaked in performance and are on a down swing in current abilities due to past injury, illness, increase in age, birthing, etc.
    - b) Terms for review would include proof of consistently reduced abilities over a period of 3 consecutive events. National title reductions will be based on National event data and Club title reductions will be based on Club event data.

- c) If the Team has a recorded score in their Achieved title division within their last 3 consecutive events, then the petition will be denied.
- 2) If the petition is successful, the Team will always retain their "Achieved" title, but will then continue to compete and be ranked under their "Active" title for all current awards, points, divisional placements, etc.
- 3) If the petition is successful, and the team continues to achieve scores within higher divisions than their newly lowered title, those scores will count towards legs for titles in those higher divisions and could result in re-titling in a higher division. Re-titling will occur once (3) new legs within a higher division have been achieved.

#### *Section 5.06 Worldwide DockDogs® Speed Retrieve™ Rankings*

- (a) Teams who hold a valid Worldwide Membership and receive a qualifying Score in a nationally sanctioned DockDogs® Speed Retrieve competition shall be ranked against all other Worldwide Member Teams competing in DockDogs® nationally sanctioned events.
- (b) The ranking will take into account an average of the lowest (3) three times recorded for each Team during the ranking period. A Team must have a minimum of 3 scores to be ranked.
- (c) Worldwide rankings shall be reset each year at the completion of the DockDogs® Season.
- (d) Rankings shall occasionally be used as qualifying criteria for National Caliber events. Should this be the case, DockDogs® shall announce the details on the Event Information Page.
- (e) Rankings may be used for annual awards purposes and or qualifying criteria for select events.
- (f) A second level of club rankings will be issued for Club and Affiliate event competitions.

## **Article VI. DockDogs® Iron Dog**

#### *Section 6.01 Scoring*

- (a) Teams are scored according to the progressive table points system. Each score in Big Air®, Extreme Vertical™, and Speed Retrieve™ corresponds to a point total. As teams compete, they earn points.
- (b) To qualify for an Iron Dog ranking at an event, a team must register for Iron Dog at a regular event prior to their first round of competition OR participate in designated Iron Dog waves at a designated Iron Dog event.
  - (i) To qualify for Iron Dog rankings at a regular event, a team must enter in one each of a Big Air® Wave™, an Extreme Vertical™ Wave™, and a Speed Retrieve™ Wave™. An Iron Dog team must also achieve a valid score in each of the 3 disciplines at the event. In the instance that a team does not achieve a valid score within each of the 3 disciplines their overall event Iron Dog points will reflect "DNQ" with a value of zero, and therefore will not count as a leg towards an Iron Dog title or for Overall Country or Worldwide rankings.

- (ii) To qualify for Iron Dog rankings at a designated Iron Dog event, a team must enter in the designated round or waves of an Iron Dog™ Big Air® Wave™, Iron Dog™ Extreme Vertical™ Wave™, and an Iron Dog Speed Retrieve™ Wave™. An Iron Dog team must also achieve a valid score in each of the 3 disciplines at the event. In the instance that a team does not achieve a valid score within each of the 3 disciplines their overall event Iron Dog points will reflect “DNQ” with a value of zero, and therefore will not count as a leg towards an Iron Dog title or for Overall Country or Worldwide rankings.

### *Section 6.02 Ranking & Titles*

- (a) Teams must have participated, and recorded a score, in at least three (3) Iron Dog event competitions in order to qualify for a worldwide ranking.
  - (i) An Iron Dog title is achieved after earning three (3) Iron Dog scores within one division at nationally sanctioned events, and a club title is earned by accumulating three (3) Iron Dog scores within one division at a club/affiliate sanctioned event.
- (b) Teams must hold a current Worldwide Membership.
- (c) Worldwide Iron Dog Rankings Criteria:
  - (i) The ranking will take into account the three (3) highest point total score each Team receives during the ranking period.
  - (ii) Worldwide Iron Dog rankings shall be reset each year at the completion of the DockDogs® season.
  - (iii) Worldwide Iron Dog rankings shall occasionally be used as qualifying criteria for National Caliber events. Should this be the case, DockDogs® shall announce the details on the Event Information page.
  - (iv) At the DockDogs® Year End Awards, one team will be crowned the Overall DockDogs® Champion based on their Year End Overall Worldwide Iron Dog Ranking.
- (d) Affiliate Club Events Iron Dog:
  - (i) Affiliate Clubs may host Iron Dog at sanctioned club events. Iron Dog scores will be used for Club rankings and awards in the DockDogs® Worldwide office.

### *Section 6.03 Divisions and Monetary Prizes*

- (a) Divisions: DockDogs® has developed Divisions in order to allow dogs to be competitive at their current level and work toward additional milestones in advancement.

Division	Total Score
Spartans	3000 + points
Gladiators	2900.00 to 2999.99
Titans	2800.01 to 2899.99
Warriors	<= 2800 points

(b) The recommended monetary prizes shall be awarded to the Top Three (3) Overall Teams who participated in Iron Dog at a regular national event, as follows:

Placement	Amount
First Place	\$100.00
Second Place	\$50.00
Third Place	\$25.00

(c) Finals Placement awards will be awarded to the Top 3 Teams within each Division, with all remaining teams being awarded Competitor awards.

(d) DockDogs® Club Affiliates may offer other awards for Club Affiliate Events (i.e. gift baskets, gift cards). Clubs are encouraged to promote the "other awards" on the Event Information Page on the DockDogs® website and must include any variance in writing on the Club Event Request Form.

#### *Section 6.04 Iron Dog™ Points Tables*

Iron Dog™ Points Tables can be found online at [www.dockdogs.com/Iron\\_Dog\\_Points.pdf](http://www.dockdogs.com/Iron_Dog_Points.pdf)

## **Article VII. Event Staffing & Responsibilities**

### *Section 7.01 Overview*

- (a) Event Staff consists of an Event Manager, Judge(s), Event Administrator and Wrangler; they shall be named for each event by the DockDogs® office or Event-Hosting Club.
- (b) Any person scheduled as an Event staff member must be approved by the DockDogs® office.
- (c) Staffing for National events is selected by the DockDogs® office. Staffing for Club events are selected by the Club. The DockDogs® office will appoint an Event Administrator for all Club events.
- (d) Any changes to the scheduled staffing must be submitted to the DockDogs® office prior to the start of that event.
- (e) Any changes to the scheduled staffing after the start of an event will be on an emergency basis only. The DockDogs® office must be notified of any changes as soon as possible.

- (f) All event staff shall have a complete working knowledge of all DockDogs® Rules and Policies, must be willing and able to enforce all rules, and have successfully passed the Annual DockDogs® Certification Test.

#### *Section 7.02 Event Manager*

- (a) The Event Manager shall be responsible for the overall management of the event, including set-up and tear-down of the event, all safety aspects, and verification that all necessary equipment and supplies are on hand for the operation of the event.
- (b) All final decisions regarding the management of the event and rules of the competition shall be made by the Event Manager in the event of any conflict or required discretion; and shall be final unless a formal protest is submitted.

#### *Section 7.03 Judge*

- (a) The Judge is responsible for conducting the Judge's Briefing / Roll Call prior to each Wave™.
- (b) The Judge will also confer with the Event Manager on the rules of competition when and if required.
- (c) The Judge shall make all final decisions regarding the scoring of competitors. Immediately upon the conclusion of each Wave™ / Heat, the Judge should sign the score sheet and deliver to Event Administrator.
- (d) A Judge cannot be substituted during a Wave™ / Heat. If an emergency arises, the Wave™ / Heat shall be temporarily suspended until the Judge returns.
- (e) At National events, the Judge shall be responsible for judging all Waves / Heats within the event, as well as correctly setting up and calibrating the scoring systems. A Judge shall not compete in any National event he / she has agreed to judge. Multiple judges may be used for different divisions within any National Championship Caliber event.
- (f) At Club events, the Judge shall be responsible for judging a Wave™ / Heat in its entirety. A Judge shall not compete in any Wave™ / Heat he / she has agreed to judge but may compete in other Waves / Heats in the same competition that he / she does not have a responsibility to judge.

#### *Section 7.04 Event Administrator*

- (a) The Event Administrator shall be responsible for taking and sorting all on-site registrations, maintaining an accurate record of all results and keeping all event paperwork. All final decisions regarding paperwork, running order and the submittal of paperwork to the DockDogs® office shall be made by the Event Administrator and/or Event Manager.
- (b) Upon closing of the pre-registration period, the DockDogs® office shall forward via email all pertinent paperwork to the Event Administrator.
  - (i) No person may alter or change in any way the paperwork as it is forwarded from the DockDogs® office without permission.



- (c) The Administrator shall ensure that the Running Order / Scoring Sheets for each Wave™, and each Group within, are filled out in its entirety prior to the beginning of each Wave™.
- (d) The Event Administrator shall be responsible for forwarding electronic copies of the results within 24 hours of the close of the event to the DockDogs® office.
- (e) The Event Administrator shall be responsible for forwarding hard copies of all paperwork (completed Registration Forms, Waivers, Score sheets signed by the Judge and the Event Administrator, monies, and any other pertinent paperwork) to the DockDogs® office for receipt within (2) two days of the close of the event.
- (f) The Event Administrator may compete in an event he / she has agreed to work. The Event Manager shall be notified of this prior to the event. If competing would hinder the Event Administrator's ability to take care of their duties, then they shall not compete. This will be based on a discussion between the Event Administrator and the Event Manager.
- (g) The Event Administrator, at his / her discretion, may consider requests from competitors to be in specific groups within a Wave™ (i.e. multiple dogs per handler in a Wave™ or a child handling a dog wanting to be near his/her parent handling a dog.)
- (h) Upon the completion of each Wave™, the Event Administrator shall print out the completed Score Sheet(s) for that Wave™.
  - (i) This Score Sheet shall be signed by the Event Administrator and set aside to be returned to the office.
  - (ii) The Event Administrator is also responsible for sending in all handwritten scoring sheets used during the competition to the office, including those signed by the Judge(s) and scorekeeper.
  - (iii) The entire Running Order and Scoring Sheets spreadsheet shall be forwarded electronically to the DockDogs® Office within twenty-four (24) hours of the completion of the event.
  - (iv) All original, completed, signed Score Sheets shall be postmarked for return to the Office within five (5) days of the completion of the event.
  - (v) All original Registration Forms and Waivers shall be postmarked for return to the Office within two (2) days of the completion of the event.

#### *Section 7.05 Wrangler*

- (a) The wrangler shall be responsible for keeping the dogs within each Wave™ / Heat organized and lined up to run, for keeping track of the time limit and other duties as required. Should there not be a designated Wrangler, one may be appointed as a volunteer to act as the Wrangler during any Wave™ / Heat within any event.

#### *Section 7.06 Staff Responsibilities - Results Audit*

- (i) All event results shall be audited upon return to the DockDogs® office.
- (ii) All Score Sheets shall be evaluated, and any necessary corrections will be made upon return to the DockDogs® office. Mistakes in results, scores, placements, awards, or otherwise shall

be corrected before results are placed in the rankings and titles database. Awards will not be exchanged if mistakes are found in the results or placements.

(b) Disallowed Scores

- (i) It is the responsibility of both the Judge and the Event Administrator to ensure that all event results are accurate when submitted to the DockDogs® Office.
- (ii) If the Judge and/or the Event Administrator turn in unsigned Scoring Sheets or if the Scoring Sheets are incomplete, the results for that event may not be recognized, published, or included in rankings or title updates.
- (iii) It is the responsibility of the Judge and Event Administrator to rectify the errors in order to allow the results to be recognized.
- (iv) The DockDogs® office reserves the right to disallow a Score should a major rule infraction be found within the results of an event. Should a disallowance occur, the disallowance should be posted as such as part of the results of the event.

<b>Article VIII. DockDogs® Clubs &amp; Club Events</b>
--

*Section 8.01 DockDogs® Club Affiliation*

- (a) Any non-profit organization may make application to the DockDogs® Worldwide office for affiliation. Applications can be obtained through the Worldwide Office.
- (b) If there is an existing Affiliation within 150 miles of the applicant's address, then the application will be deferred to the next scheduled Rules Committee meeting for review and consideration.

*Section 8.02 Club Event Objectives*

- (a) To maintain the grass roots aspect of our sport.
- (b) To support the increase in the number of competition opportunities for DockDogs® competitors around the country.
- (c) Ensure sanctioning standards (e.g. a 40 ft. dock exactly 24 inches off the water at start of event; 1" variance permitted for club pond jumps).
- (d) Support the ability of teams to improve through competition and encourage them to go to nationally sanctioned events to work toward National Titles and objective distance rankings.
- (e) Maintain the competitive nature of the sport with a system that allows comparisons across events regionally and geographically.
- (f) To provide a Club Title structure at the Club level for competitors.

### *Section 8.03 Event Application*

- (a) Valid Affiliation: Before an event application can be processed, a valid or current Affiliation number must be issued and included on the application.
- (b) Event Application: Any Club that wishes to hold a Club Event must submit an Event Application to the DockDogs® office no less than 120 Days prior to the requested event dates. Copies of the Event Application can be obtained from the DockDogs® office.
  - (i) Event Announcement: A Club Event (including but not limited to: competition, fun jump, training, social meeting), shall be announced on the DockDogs® website when all pertinent information requested on the Application, along with other paperwork, including a Certificate of Insurance, if applicable, for the event, has been received by the DockDogs® office.
  - (ii) DockDogs® reserves the right to refuse any specific or individual Event application request if it is not deemed to be in the best interest of DockDogs®.
  - (iii) The Club Finals structure is to be predetermined on the Event Application and is included online through DockDogs® registration.

### *Section 8.04 Event Scheduling*

- (a) Clubs shall submit paperwork for a DockDogs® Club Event.
- (b) Club Events cannot be scheduled within 150 miles of another club or Worldwide event on the same date.
- (c) The DockDogs® head office must approve all club event dates within 15 business days of receipt of Event Application, unless special circumstances apply.
- (d) Nationally sanctioned event dates take precedent over club event dates in regard to scheduling/distance criteria.

### *Section 8.05 Manual Judges Certification Training*

- (a) Judges who are certified in judging Big Air® are also certified to judge Extreme Vertical™ and Speed Retrieve™.
- (b) All club affiliate judges will be certified through the worldwide program.
  - (i) Club affiliate judges will receive certificates as proof of successful completion of the required training.
  - (ii) Re-Certification will be required after 24 months; and must manually judge at a minimum of one event each year, with a minimum of 50 jumps.

(iii) Re-certifying affiliate judges who renew during their re-certification year will only be required to score 30 jumps in the re-certification manual judge's test. Upon written request a one-time temporary extension of 6 months may be offered to a Judge to renew their certification. For the year 2020 only, all manual judges whose terms expire in 2020 will automatically be extended to 2021.

(c) Clubs must list any/all judges that will judge during the club's event on the Event Application Form. One main certified judge must judge throughout the entire event in order to maintain consistency in scoring. The scorekeeper used for averaging purposes can be replaced or switched.

## **Article IX. Misconduct and Protest Policy & Procedures**

### *Section 9.01 Procedures for Reporting Misconduct*

- (a) Report of Misconduct: Any person attending a DockDogs® event may report any potential misconduct to the Event Manager or Event Administrator. Upon receipt of a complaint, the Administrator shall provide the complainant with a Misconduct Report Form.
- (b) Complainant: The complainant must fill out on the following and sign and date the form:
  - (i) Event Name & Event Location
  - (ii) Name of Event Manager, Judge and Administrator
  - (iii) Complainant's name, address, and daytime telephone number
  - (iv) Details of the alleged misconduct, including time and place, actions leading to the incident, and names of witnesses to the incident.
  - (v) Should the complainant disagree with the judgment or ruling they may file a protest under the same policies and procedures listed below.
- (c) Event Staff: If an Event Staff member witnesses any act leading to a complaint, that person must also fill out a Misconduct Report Form.
- (d) Administrator: at the end of the event, the Event Administrator along with all other paperwork from the event will submit all Misconduct Forms.

### *Section 9.02 Courtesy Warnings*

- (a) Issuing a Verbal Warning: the judge or any Event official may issue a verbal warning to any competitor. (ie. first time offense – dog off lead) The decision to sanction versus issue a verbal warning shall be based on the perception of the judge or official as to the severity of the offense or possible offense.

- (b) Issuing a Courtesy Warning: Courtesy warnings should be recorded in writing by the Event Manager and submitted on a Courtesy Warning Form, and a copy should be issued to the offender. A competitor with a history of several courtesy warnings, especially for the same infraction, should receive a sanction rather than further warnings. Some examples of incidents that may warrant a courtesy warning:
- (i) Failure to keep a dog under control.
  - (ii) Failure to keep a dog on lead or use of an unapproved lead such as a Flexi-Lead.
  - (iii) Competitors whose tolerance appears to be decreasing and are in danger of losing control.
  - (iv) Competitors who repeatedly take their dogs outside the Competition or kenneling areas without pre-approval.
- (c) Issuing a Sanction: When the following actions occur, a warning is not appropriate. When an incident may be questionable as to its acceptability, or otherwise might escalate to a point of not being acceptable, the event manager may issue a written sanction. Such a sanction should, whenever possible, be used as an educational experience for the competitor, who should be advised as to how they might be able to handle the situation differently. There are several determining factors in favor of issuing an official sanction rather than a warning:
- (i) Does the incident warrant immediate dismissal from the event?
  - (ii) Does the incident involve any actual abuse to animals or people?
  - (iii) Is the incident deemed unacceptable and not in the best interest of the sport if it recurred?

### *Section 9.03 Disciplinary Action*

- (a) Response at Event: Upon receipt of a misconduct form, the Event Manager & Judge will jointly decide the proper response to the incident, preferably within 2 hours of reporting of the incident, and definitely before the closing of the event.
- (i) If the complaint involves dog aggression towards another dog or a human, the dog must be confined or otherwise observed, kept under control and non-accessible for safety reasons until a ruling can be made.
  - (ii) If an unprovoked bite of a person is involved, the incident shall be reported to local authorities in compliance with state and local laws.
- (b) Incident Documentation: The Event Manager shall document in detail the incident and dialog surrounding the incident. Such documentation will be signed by the Event Manager and Judge, and then included in the event package being returned to the DockDogs® office. In additions to notes of the incident, other items to note include:
- (i) The findings of the event staff.

- (ii) The rationale in support of such findings.
  - (iii) The manner in which the sanctions were carried out.
- (c) Rulings: All disciplinary actions must be made by the Event Manager in the presence of the Judge or Administrator. This action must be made directly to the subject of the complaint. A disciplinary action should include:
- (i) A statement of the nature of the infraction(s).
  - (ii) Any sanctions imposed.
  - (iii) The consequences if the infraction(s) persists.
- (d) Filing a Protest
- (i) Any competitor that does not agree with the warning/ruling received can protest this action by advising the Event Manager that a protest will be filed and then by obtaining a "Protest Form" from the Event Administrator.
  - (ii) The protest form must be filled out completely and returned to the Event Administrator before the completion of the event.
  - (iii) If the competitor is removed from the venue, he/she will be required to request and return the protest form by "Certified Mail" to the DockDogs® office within a (7) seven-day period from the closing of that event.
  - (iv) The protest form must include a \$100.00 filing fee payable to DockDogs®, Inc. before the completion of the event or if the competitor is removed from the venue within a (7) seven-day period from the closing of that event.
  - (v) If the competitor's protest is confirmed by the DockDogs® office and Rules Committee, and the ruling reversed, such fee will be returned.
  - (vi) If the protest is denied and the DockDogs® office validates the ruling, such fee will not be returned.
- (e) DockDogs® Actions
- (i) Notice to Offender: Once DockDogs® Head Office determines or imposes a notice of suspension or ban, an email notification to the individual(s) or organization, via the email of record, regarding the details of such reprimand shall be issued to the offending party by the DockDogs® office. The email shall include the nature of the offense as well as the consequences if the offensive conduct continues. The individual(s) or organization has a period of 10 days from receipt of notification to appeal the decision; this notice of appeal must be received in writing at the DockDogs® office within the 10-day period.
  - (ii) Notification of Suspension / Ban shall be made to all necessary DockDogs® member groups and Affiliated Clubs.

- (f) Appeals: Any person placed on probation, suspended or banned may appeal directly, in writing, to the CEO or President of DockDogs®. An appeal must be filed no later than 30 days from the date a person is notified of the probation, suspension or banning. The decision of the CEO or President is final.

#### Section 9.04 Infractions / Penalties

- (a) The following is a table of infractions and penalties. It is the responsibility of the Event Manager and the Judges to understand them and have the ability to effectively enforce the penalties.
- (b) Repeated offenses: DockDogs® Head Office reserves the right to suspend or revoke any and all privileges.
- (c) DockDogs® reserves the right to modify/alter the Infraction/Penalty list at any time.
- (d) Penalties could include the following and will be issued at the discretion of the Event Manager or the DockDogs® Head Office.

<b>Infraction</b>	<b>Penalty</b>
Handler purposely jumping into the water.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Handler accidentally falling into water.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the Wave™
Pushing or pulling a frightened dog into the water, up the stairs to the dock or on the dock.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Suspension from the Wave™
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Use of any training collar, including pinch, prong, choke or electronic collars, <u>on the dock</u> at any time, including practice.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the Wave™
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Any conduct deemed "poor sportsmanship".	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Interfering with another competitor.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Failure to control a dog.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the Wave™
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Failure to keep a dog on leash at all times on the grounds of an event, including exercise areas, except on dock during practice / competition.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the Wave™
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event.
Allowing dog to "mark", urinate, or defecate anywhere in the competition area.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Not picking up dog defecation left behind by handled or owned dog.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Failure to follow an Event Manager or Judge's instructions	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Any disrespectful or aggressive behavior towards Event Staff and/or fellow competitors	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Disqualification from the event
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension for a period of (1) year
Failing to provide adequate shade, water or other basic needs to dog(s).	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Any actions towards dogs that may appear abusive to the public.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event.

Interference by another person to cue the dog to perform with a verbal or non-verbal signal (double handling). Penalties are for both the handler and the person who gives the cue.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy Warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Disqualification from the Wave™
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Disqualification from the event
Dog aggression towards other dogs.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the Wave™
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
	4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season
Dog aggression towards people.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension for the remainder of the season
Smoking (incl. E-cigarettes) in the competition area.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the Wave™
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Suspension from the event
Any verbal or threatening abuse.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate suspension from the event, loss of all points, awards or wins accumulated at event.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension for a period of (1) year.
Consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs at any event within the DockDogs competition area during competition.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Courtesy warning.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Immediate suspension from the event, loss of all points, awards or wins accumulated at event.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Suspension for a period of (1) year.
Destruction or damaging of property at any site including motels that may then refuse to admit dogs in the future.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate suspension from the event, loss of all points, awards or wins accumulated at event.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension for a period of (1) year.
Misrepresentation of animals (such as registering one dog for an event, then running a different dog under the same name).	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate suspension from the event, loss of all points, awards or wins accumulated at event.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension for a period of (1) year.
Misrepresentation of ability in order to deceive (i.e. "sandbagging").	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Verbal warning privately from the Event Manager.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Written Warning from the Event Manager.
	3 <sup>rd</sup> Offense: Disqualification from event.
	4 <sup>th</sup> Offense: Suspension for remainder of the season.
Sexual harassment.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate suspension from the event, loss of all points, awards or wins accumulated at event.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Lifetime suspension and loss of all titles & awards.
Use of illegal drugs, substances, or devices to enhance dog performance.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate suspension for a period of six months, loss of all points, awards or wins accumulated to date.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Lifetime suspension and loss of all titles & awards.



Any abuse of people, including foul language, intimidation, etc.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate suspension from the event, loss of all points, awards or wins accumulated at event.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Suspension for a period of one year.
Any abuse of dogs or any other physical abuse towards dogs.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate suspension from the event, loss of all points, awards or wins accumulated at event.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Lifetime suspension and loss of all titles & awards.
Unprovoked dog bite to another dog or person, including handler.	1 <sup>st</sup> Offense: Immediate suspension of dog from the event, loss of all points, awards or wins accumulated at event. Must leave event unless muzzled or kenneled. Must wear commercially available muzzle at all events, except while on dock, for the remainder of season.
	2 <sup>nd</sup> Offense: Lifetime suspension and loss of all titles & awards.



2020 DockDogs®  
Road to World Championship  
Qualifying Criteria

The following is a detailed breakdown of how teams can qualify for an invitation to the 2020 DockDogs® World Championships. **DUE TO THE COVID19 CRISIS the following amendments will be made for the 2020 SEASON ONLY:** All final invitations are dependent upon the team's participation during the 2020 season at (1) National DockDogs® event and depending on the discipline(s) that the team is earning an invite – the team will be required to have achieved a minimum of (3) scores within Big Air; (1) scores within EV, SR and ID, on or before September 28th , 2020. **NOTE: this criteria must be met. If you accept an invitation and have not met the qualifications by the end of the season you will forfeit your invite with no refund!** The team must also hold an Active 2020 DockDogs® Worldwide membership in order to be considered for an invitation. **All other required qualifications still apply.**

Invitations for teams are determined based on the following Avenues in the order that they appear below:

### 1. Sanctioned Facility Dog House League

The successful DogHouse League will continue this year at participating Sanctioned Facilities.

There will be (2) World Championship invites offered based on DHL rankings. The Overall top one (1) ranked team from each division of each discipline will receive an invite. The second invitation will be by lottery of the remaining top ranked teams from the series. If an invitation is declined, that invite will be passed down to the next one qualifying team. Specialty divisions are not included in possible invites.

Prior to Worlds, a team may be re-assigned to a higher competition division based on the higher of: Worldwide rankings, League rankings, Club rankings and National title (Club title if no National title).

For this avenue **ONLY** a team does not have to attend a second event prior to Worlds.

### 2. Scheels Series

In order to be considered for the Scheels Series you must have attended a minimum of (2) of the 2020 Scheels Series events (*separate event locations*).

Upon completion of the above noted requirements the top (3) ranked teams within each Division of each Discipline (Big Air; Speed Retrieve, Extreme Vertical & Iron Dog) will receive an invitation to the 2020 DockDogs® World Championships. This includes the Specialty Classes (Youth Handler; Lap Dog; Veteran Dog; Legend Dog).

Rankings are based on a team's best two qualifying scores within each discipline of all 2020 Scheels Series events they have attended (i.e. there will be individual rankings for one top score per event for Big Air, Speed Retrieve, Extreme Vertical, Iron Dog). Please note that only the 2 best qualifying scores of all 2020 Scheels Series events will be considered for this ranking, and not all jumps from each event.

### **3. Wild Card & Wild Card Double Header Events**

The Wild Card & Wild Card Double Header event(s) will consist of events selected by DockDogs® Worldwide; and the top (4) Ranked teams per event, within each division of each discipline (Big Air; Speed Retrieve, Extreme Vertical & Iron Dog), based on event rankings, will receive an invitation to the 2020 DockDogs® World Championships. **Event Rankings for these Events will be based on the average of the two top scores from Waves & any Finals.** This includes the Specialty Classes (Youth Handler, Lap Dog, Veteran Dog, Legend Dog). **Please note that to be ranked for a possible invite in Big Air a team must have at least three (3) Big Air scores from competition waves from that event. Also, if a division is unfilled (4 qualifying teams) we may fill the division with a team whose average is within one (1) division of its title to fill out.**

### **4. Year End Rankings**

#### **Overall by Country**

Overall Rankings by Country take into consideration a team's (5) best jumps (including Finals) within Big Air, and the (3) best scores within Speed Retrieve, Extreme Vertical & Iron Dog to date for National caliber events within a Country. The top (2) ranked teams within each Division in each Discipline (including Specialty Classes) will receive an invitation to the 2020 DockDogs® World Championships. Country specific invites will be based on specific Countries including USA/Canada/Australia.

*Note: If a team were ranked within the parameters of a division higher than which they are titled, they would not be considered for a Rankings invitation based on their titled division; however, they could potentially qualify for an invite for the higher division within which they are ranked.*

#### **Overall Worldwide**

Overall Rankings take into consideration a team's (5) best scores (including Finals) within Big Air, and the team's (3) best scores within Speed Retrieve, Extreme Vertical & Iron Dog to date. The top (2) ranked teams within each Division in each Discipline (including Specialty Classes) will receive an invitation to the 2020 DockDogs® World Championships. *(If a team were ranked within the parameters of a division higher than which they are titled, they would not be considered for a Rankings invitation based on their titled division; however, they could potentially qualify for an invite for the higher division within which they are ranked.)*

### **IMPORTANT - Additional World Championship Qualifying & Competition information**

- I. *An invitation will be passed down to the “Next Qualified Team” in the instance that the original Qualifying Team does not accept their invitation for that specific qualifying avenue.*
- II. *If a team turns down an invite, they will not have the opportunity to qualify for an invite within that division through another qualifying avenue. However, a team could qualify for an invite within a higher division than the original “declined” invitation.*
- III. *If a Youth Handler competes and earns an invitation to the 2020 DockDogs® World Championships within the Youth Handler division, and they turn 16 years of age prior to the start of the World Championships, they will still compete as a Youth Handler at the World Championship event.*
- IV. *In the case of Specialty Class Invitations (Youth Handler, Lap Dog, Veteran Dog, Legend Dog):*
  - a. *If a Youth Handler qualifies with multiple dogs for multiple invitations to the 2020 DockDogs® World Championships for the Big Air Youth Handler Division, they may only accept one invitation (their qualifying team of choice). Youth handlers may still accept additional invitations for regular Big Air Divisions. (ie.: Novice, Junior, Senior, Master, Elite & Super Elite)*
  - b. *If a Dog qualifies with multiple handlers for multiple invitations to the 2020 DockDogs® World Championships for the following Big Air specialty classes, (Lap Dog, Veteran Dog, Legend Dog), they may only accept one invitation per Specialty Class with their qualifying team of choice. Any entry fees previously paid will follow the dog. The teams may still accept additional invitations for regular Big Air Divisions. (ie.: Novice, Junior, Senior, Master, Elite & Super Elite)*
- V. *If a team feels that it is unfair for them to compete in their invited division for Worlds because of improvement during the season, they may contact the office within two weeks of Worlds to request re-assignment to a higher division.*
- VI. *All discipline Finals selection (aside from the Specialty divisions) will be based on a new floating bubble system for 2020. There will be no re-assignment of divisions based on current titles or rankings prior to Worlds; however a team may possibly qualify for a different final at Worlds based on the team’s qualifying scores at Worlds.*