

**BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR
DOG DEPARTMENT 22; DIVISION 2; CANINE EXHIBITOR WITH DISABILITY
NON-TRADITIONAL CANINE OBEDIENCE JUDGING PROGRAM AND GUIDELINES**

SECTION ONE: MISSION STATEMENT FOR PROVIDING A NON-TRADITIONAL OBEDIENCE COMPETITION JUDGING PROGRAM

1. To provide an educational experience for canine exhibitors with disability that otherwise might be omitted from competition and denied the experience and growth it provides.
2. To provide exhibitors with disability an opportunity to learn about canine obedience training and handling in a safe, supportive environment by using the American Kennel Club Canine Good Citizen Program as a foundation and goal.
3. To focus on building positive relationships between the exhibitor with disability and his or her own or volunteer canine through teamwork.
4. To provide canine therapy and motivation with physical and mental stimulation while having fun!

SECTION TWO: BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR NON-TRADITIONAL CANINE OBEDIENCE COMPETITION JUDGING PROGRAM PURPOSE

The purpose of the Berrien County Youth Fair Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Judging Program Purpose shall be as follows

1. The Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Program for Sportsmanship, Canine Obedience and Canine Anatomy are a series of exercises designed to demonstrate the working relationship and abilities of the exhibitor and canine in a controlled performance and natural independence exercise.
2. These exercises are not a test, but rather demonstrate the exhibitor's team ability and skill acquired through training and bonding with his or her canine.
3. These exercises emphasize the teamwork between the exhibitor and his or her canine in every day existence and/or the therapy or service dog areas of the canine world.
4. Each team will be evaluated on the progress of his or her comprehension aptitude and his or her ability to physically execute the verbal exercise commands given by the judge.
5. The exhibitor and his or her canine will demonstrate their confidence in each other, as well as, his or her temperament, willingness and enjoyment of working with each other.

SECTION THREE: VOCABULARY DEFINITIONS

The following terms shall be communicated and understood to be defined as ...

1. **Autism Meltdown** – An exhibitor that is receiving an overload of outside stimulus that he or she has become psychologically and physically unable to process the information, and begins to shut down mentally in the form of anger and confusion. Personal safety may be compromised and fatigue and noncompliance in any communication form may become a factor. Exhibitor is not goal dependent and may require assistance to gain control of him or herself.
2. **Bitch** – A female canine.
3. **Brisk or Briskly** – Walking or rolling keenly, alive, alert and energetic.
4. **Canine** – A dog or bitch that is owned by the exhibitor or has been volunteered by its owner to work with the exhibitor.
5. **“Control” or “Heel” Position** – Due to the canine's or exhibitor's disability, canine is sitting on left side or right side of exhibitor facing the same direction.
6. **Disability** – A persistent physical or mental defect, weakness, or handicap which prevents a person from engaging in ordinary activities or normal life, or from performing a specific job.
7. **Excused** – The judge's justification to ask an exhibitor to leave the obedience ring without completing the obedience itinerary. An invitation to return to the obedience ring will be withheld and penalties will be given.
8. **Exhibitor** – A person with a disability entered in the Non-Traditional Obedience Competition.

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9. **Exhibitor's Team** – A team of three or more consisting of the exhibitor, the canine and one or more team instructor(s). **Judge** – A person evaluating the performance of the exhibitor's team in the non-traditional obedience competition.
10. **Lame** – Irregularity or impairment of the function of locomotion, irrespective of the cause or how slight or severe.
11. **Luring** – The appearance of having a reward in hand. Example would be holding the thumb and/or fingers together as if holding a treat.
12. **Natural Manner** – The gait is not artificial, free from affectation; what is expected for the exhibitor.
13. **Non-Traditional Exhibitor** – A person with a life challenge (*disability, handicap*) who cannot meet the American Kennel Club obedience competition handling standards of one handler to one canine without the aid of a team instructor(s).
14. **Non-Traditional Standards of Canine Obedience Handling** – Non-Traditional standards of canine handling consist of a team of one (1) dog, one (1) exhibitor, one (1) to two (2) Team Instructors, and one (1) to two (2) leash(es) attached to one (1) to two (2) collar(s) and/or one (1) harness performing the canine obedience competition exercises.
15. **Pause** – A complete stop of forward motion by the exhibitor.
16. **Pivot** – Turning in a circle occupied by the exhibitor before the team start to turn; a turn in place.
17. **Pleading** – Repeated urgent commands and/or signals to elicit the proper behavior from the dog while the dog remains unresponsive to the exhibitor's commands and/or signals.
18. **Release** – The judge's permission for the exhibitor to leave the obedience ring without completing the obedience itinerary due to extenuating physical and/or mental circumstances. An invitation to return to the obedience ring will be extended and penalties will not be given.
19. **Service Dog** – A canine that has been specially trained to assist the exhibitor with his or her disability, yet still accomplish the obedience exercises that is asked of it by the exhibitor.
20. **Team Instructor** – The person or persons working and assisting the exhibitor's team in the obedience ring.
21. **Therapy Dog** – A trained and temperament tested canine who provides affection and comfort during stressful situations, yet still accomplishes the obedience exercises asked of it by the exhibitor.
22. **Traditional Exhibitor** – A person who meets the traditional standards of canine handling and does not need the assistance of a team instructor.
23. **Traditional Standards of Canine Handling** – Traditional standards of canine handling consist of one (1) dog, one (1) exhibitor and one (1) leash attached to one (1) collar or harness performing the canine obedience competition exercises.
24. **Valid Certification** – A document signed by a licensed veterinarian, stating that the canine has received the required immunizations and/or is in need of special canine training equipment.

SECTION FOUR: BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR EXHIBITOR AND CANINE PREREQUISITES

1. **Exhibitor's Prerequisite** - To be eligible to participate in the Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Competition, the exhibitor must be
 - A. **Exhibitor's Age** – Age five to twenty six as of January 1 of each year. (Please see Obedience Classes Offered and Eligibility.)
 - B. **Exhibitor's Eligibility** – Exhibitor must have trained with a Berrien County 4-H Canine Therapy Dog Competition club, and/or a dog training facility that offers Canine Therapy Dog Competition Classes.
 - C. **Exhibitor's Enrollment** – Exhibitor will enroll in his/her competition classes on or before July 1, as instructed by the Dog Department 22 General Dog Rules; Sections A through N.
2. **Canine Prerequisite** – To be eligible to participate in the Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Competition, the canine must have the following qualifications:
 - A. **Canine's Age** – Age six to twelve months or older as of August 1 of each year.

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- B. **Canine's Enrollment** – With the exception that the canine can be a volunteer canine therapy dog volunteered by its owner to work alongside the exhibitor with disability, the Canine enrollment will follow the Dog Department 22 General Dog Rules; Sections A through N.
- C. **Canine's Immunizations** – Canine must have a signed valid certification from a licensed veterinarian stating the canine has received the following immunizations...
 - 1. **Rabies** – Three year Rabies are acceptable if administered between September 1 and July 23.
 - 2. **Distemper** - Three year Distemper is acceptable if administered between September 1 and July 23.
 - 3. **Hepatitis** - - Three year Hepatitis is acceptable if administered between September 1 and July 23.
 - 4. **Parvo** – Three year Parvo is acceptable if administered between September 1 and July 23.
 - 5. **Leptospirosis** – Must be administered yearly.
 - 6. **Bordetella** - Must be administered yearly.
 - 7. **Corona** – Highly recommended.
 - 8. **Lymes** - Highly recommended.

SECTION FIVE BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR REGISTRATION

- 1. **Registration for Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Competition Classes** - The exhibitor **MUST REGISTER HIM/HERSELF AND HIS OR HER CANINE** in a Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Class **BY JULY 1** (see BCYF Dog Department General Rules for registration).
- 2. **Being Shown Out Of Judging Order** - Should the exhibitor show just cause, due to severe mental or physical disability that he/she should be shown out of class judging order in the Non-Traditional Obedience Ring he/she must inform the dog show committee by stating this request on the registration form. The dog show committee does not guarantee that such a request will be met, but will do its utmost to oblige the request.
- 3. **CLOSING DATE FOR NON-TRADITIONAL OBEDIENCE CLASSES** – Non-Traditional Obedience Classes **will close at 5:00 p.m. on July 1.**
- 4. **Verification of Canine Immunizations, Canine's Labeled Current Picture and Non-Traditional Obedience Classes** - Verification of canine immunizations, Canine's labeled **current** picture and classes **MUST** be made on **SUNDAY, ENTRY DAY.**

SECTION SIX RESERVE AND HANDICAP CANINES AND BITCH IN SEASON

- 1. **Reserve Canine**
 - A. Should a team canine become unavailable to enter the ring on the day of judging, a registered Reserve Canine may be substituted for the unavailable canine.
 - B. The Berrien County Youth Fair Dog Superintendent and/or the Non-Traditional Canine Co-Coordinator shall communicate to the judge regarding the canine replacement no later than fifteen minutes prior to the exhibitor entering the obedience ring.
 - C. Each club coordinator will furnish a list of registered Reserve Canines for his or her club to the Dog Show Coordinator within one hour prior to the beginning of the obedience competition evaluation.
- 2. **Handicap Canine**
 - A. A handicap canine shall be permitted to compete in the Non-Traditional Exhibitor Obedience Competition Evaluation.
 - B. Handicap canine shall be required to perform all parts of the obedience exercises without added assistance from the exhibitor.
- 3. **Bitch (Female dog) in Season** – A bitch in season may be shown in Non-Traditional Exhibitor Obedience Competition Evaluation with the following precautions...
 - A. The obedience judge shall be informed that the exhibitor's bitch is in season prior to the start of the competition evaluation.

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- B. The bitch shall wear “*BLOOMERS*” (doggie panties with an absorbent pad adhered to the inside of the pantie) and shall be crated in a safe area away from the competition evaluation ring.
- C. The bitch shall be shown out of class order and will enter the obedience evaluation ring after all classes have finished.

SECTION SEVEN BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR’S LEASH AND CRATE RULES (Dept. 22; Dogs - General Rules and Regulations; Section I)

- 1. Dogs must remain on leash and said leash shall be attached to a human hand, or crated except during judging.
- 2. Dogs are not allowed beyond the judging or parking area.
- 3. All dogs must be removed from the fairgrounds at the completion of the days judging.
- 4. Exhibitors are required to clean up after their own dogs.
- 5. No dog may be left unsupervised at any time.
- 6. If dog is crated, the exhibitor’s name and contact information must be displayed on the crate.
- 7. Exhibitors violating rules will lose their premium.
- 8. **BCYF Crate Area** – A safe and controlled crate area will be made available for the exhibitor to secure his or her canine.

SECTION EIGHT TEAM INSTRUCTOR(S)

- 1. Non-Traditional exhibitor shall be judged with a Team Instructor(s) present in the obedience ring, thus ensuring continuation of the exhibitor’s and canine’s safety.
- 2. Should a Team Instructor not be present in the obedience ring, the judging will not proceed.
- 3. **The Team Instructor(s) responsibilities are**
 - A. The continuation of safety, be it medical or physical, for the exhibitor and the canine.
 - B. To stand aside, work beside, work behind, or work in front of the exhibitor and his or her canine in a manner that is assisting the exhibitor’s canine team in accomplishing the obedience evaluation.
 - C. Team Instructor’s responsibilities may include physical contact with the exhibitor and/or verbal prompting. The Team Instructor should not touch the dog.
 - D. Should the exhibitor display a “*psychological meltdown*” behavior, the Team Instructor should be the main person to assist the exhibitor in calming his or her anxiety, thus keeping the exhibitor from harming him/herself and/or others.
- 4. **The Position of the Team Instructor**
 - A. **One Team Instructor** – The Team Instructor (*holding the six foot leash*) shall position him/herself on the opposite side of the exhibitor’s “Control Position.”
 - B. **Two Team Instructors** - The Team Instructor (*holding the six foot leash*) shall position him/herself on the opposite side of the exhibitor’s “Control Position,” while the second Team Instructor position him/herself where is it beneficial for the exhibitor to see, to touch or to hear, yet still have control of the team canine.

SECTION NINE EXHIBITOR’S AND CANINE DRESS CODE

- 1. **Purpose** - The purpose of the BCYF Canine Judging Dress Code is
 - A. To educate the exhibitor and his or her team on how to dress for success for a canine competition evaluation.
 - B. To educate the exhibitor on how to groom his or her canine for presentation in a canine competition evaluation.
- 2. **Unacceptable Clothing** – The following clothing items shall be considered unacceptable clothing attire for both the exhibitor and the team instructor(s) –

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Denim (*blue jeans*), Halter top, Spaghetti string top, Tube top, Mini shorts above the middle of one's thigh, Mini dress above the middle of one's thigh, Logos or writing on clothing, Pants worn around one's buttocks, No belt holding pants securely to one's waist, Open toed shoes, Dangling earrings.

3. **Exhibitor and Team Instructor shall wear** - Clean dress pant or shorts that are just above the knees or longer, Clean short or long sleeve, blouse or shirt, Clean socks or nylons, Clean low heeled medical, athletic or walking shoes, Post earrings, Wedding rings, Medical Alert Jewelry, Clean light weight jacket should the weather call for it.
4. **Exhibition ID** – Exhibitor shall wear his/her exhibition id pinned to the upper back area of the outmost garment or pinned to the back of a wheelchair.
5. **Cell Phone** – Exhibitor and Team Instructor will not have a cell phone in the obedience ring.
6. **Canine Grooming** – The canine shall be immaculately groomed according to breed standards, or to the breed standards the canine looks most like.
7. **Consequences of Improper Dress, Cell Phone and Canine Grooming** – The judge shall deduct twenty points if the exhibitor's team chooses to wear unacceptable clothing items noted in Section 8; Paragraph 2, or the exhibitor chooses not to groom his/her canine to the code noted in Section 8; Paragraph 5.

SECTION TEN LEASHES, COLLARS AND HARNESSSES

1. Leash Regulations

- A. Exhibitor's team may be evaluated using two leashes attached to the canine's two collars.
- B. Upon entering the obedience ring, the judge will make note of whether or not the Team Instructor's six foot leash is attached or not attached to the canine's Volhard's / Snap or Martingale collar. If the leash is not attached to the collar, the Team Instructor should have the leash in his or her hand or have it hanging around his or her neck and ready to place it on the canine at the judge's discretion.
- C. The exhibitor should be using a four foot leash attached to the canine's tagless buckle collar.
- D. Once inside the obedience ring, the Team Instructor's leash cannot be detached or reattached unless the judge mandates.

2. Canine Collars

- A. **Collar(s)** - The canine shall wear up to two *tagless* collars. Acceptable collars are Volhard / Snap collar, Martingale collar and Buckle ID collar.
- B. **Body Harness** – Should a canine be diagnosed with a medical condition and has been advised against the use of an obedience collar, and a body harness has to be used in its place, a signed documentation from the canine's veterinarian must accompany the canine's registration form stating the diagnosis and the requirement of the body harness. The body harness should be fitted in a way that will not interfere with the obedience exercises.
- C. **Pinch Collar** – A pinch collar cannot be employed.
- D. **Sight Harness** – A sight harness is acceptable.

SECTION ELEVEN NON-TRADITIONAL CANINE OBEDIENCE CLASSES AND ADVANCEMENT

1. **Purpose** – The purpose of dividing the Non-Traditional Exhibitor's Obedience Classes into established classes of capability will enable fair competition amongst the exhibitors.
2. **Class Advancement**
 - A. Class First and Second place winners **MUST** advance to the next obedience level.
 - B. Should an exhibitor not be able to obtain a first or second place placement with the same canine within three years of being in said class, yet demonstrates that he or she has the mental and/or physical capabilities of advancement, he/she may advance to the next class.
 - C. Should the exhibitor's comprehension and/or motor skills reach a point in his/her canine career and with the same canine, where it would be beneficial for him/her to **remain** within a class level range, he/she

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may do so, but a brief reason must be stated on the BCYF Registration Form when registering for dog classes.

3. **Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Classes Being Offered** – The Berrien County Youth Fair will offer five classes for the non-traditional exhibitor. The classes are
- A. **Class A: Sub-Novice; On Leash** – This class is for all first time exhibitors, ages five and up, who have never shown in Non-Traditional Canine Classes, or for the exhibitor who has not achieve a qualifying class placement in the previous year’s canine’s competition.
 - B. **Class B: Novice; On Leash** – To be eligible for this class the exhibitor must have obtained a first or second class placement in Class A: Sub-Novice the previous year.
 - C. **Class C: Advanced-Novice; On Leash** - To be eligible for this class the exhibitor must have obtained a first or second class placement in Class B: Novice the previous year.
 - D. **Class D: Graduate-Novice; On Leash** - To be eligible for this class the exhibitor must have obtained a first or second class placement in Class C: Advanced-Novice the previous year.
 - E. **Class E: Graduate; On or Off Leash (Exhibitor’s choice)** - To be eligible for this class the exhibitor must have obtained a first or second class placement in Class D: Graduate-Novice the previous year. Once an exhibitor obtains the status of Class E; Graduate, he or she will remain in said class in future competitions. Future competition goals will be to work the dog off leash.

SECTION TWELVE

PREPARING THE NON-TRADITIONAL CANINE OBEDIENCE RING, PERSONAL NEEDED AND DUTIES OF

- 1. **Obedience Ring Size** – The maximum standard size of the Non-Traditional Exhibitor’s Canine Obedience Ring shall be seventy feet long by seventy feet wide. The minimum size shall be forty feet long by seventy feet wide. If the show site can accommodate more footage on length and/or width exceeding the maximum size, this is advisable, but the ring cannot be less than the minimum allowed.
- 2. **Ring Personal and Duties** – The Berrien County Youth Fair’s Non-Traditional Exhibitor’s Canine Obedience classes shall have the following personal...
 - A. **Obedience Judge** – One (1) obedience judge will be necessary. Duties will be to assess the exhibitor’s team on how well he/she communicates and executes the obedience exercises.
 - B. **Ring Master** – One (1) Ring Master will be necessary. Duties will be to position him/herself at the ring entrance and
 - 1. Become the “Parent” of the ring and assist the exhibitor’s team in focusing on his/her canine and in keeping calm.
 - 2. Should the judge mandate, the Ring Master may execute the Canine Anatomy Evaluation while the exhibitor’s team is in the bull pen.
 - 3. Assist the judge in comprehension of the exhibitor’s and/or canine’s disability.
 - 4. Assist the judge in comprehension of the Berrien County Youth Fair’s Non-Traditional Exhibitor’s Canine Obedience Judging Procedures and Guidelines.
 - 5. Check to see if the collars and leashes are on correctly.
 - 6. Keep the entrance to the obedience ring clear of crowds and debris for the safety of entering and exiting without injury.
 - C. **Table Secretary** – One (1) Table Secretary will be necessary. Duties will be to position him/herself at the ring table and
 - 1. Make sure the exhibitor’s judge’s score sheet matches the exhibitor’s id tag as he/she enters the ring.
 - 2. Double check the math on the judge’s score sheet.
 - 3. Make sure the judge initials score sheets.
 - 4. Keep the ring table organized and clean.
 - 5. Obtain what equipment is needed by the judge.

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- D. **Ring Secretary** – One (1) Ring Secretary may be necessary. Duties will be to position him/herself beside the judge with clipboard and exhibitor’s score sheet in hand and mark down the judge’s observations as told by the judge, thus assisting the judge to focus on the exhibitor’s behavior and efforts.
- E. **Ring Steward(s)** – One (1) to two (2) Ring Steward(s) may be necessary. Duties will be to perform as “Poles” for the Figure Eight Exercise, make sure the ring is free of debris so the exhibitor and canine do not harm themselves, and assist in any manner the judge may specify.

**SECTION THIRTEEN NON-TRADITIONAL CANINE OBEDIENCE JUDGING PROGRAM
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- 1. **Berrien County Youth Fair’s Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Judging References**
 - A. **Exhibitor’s Judging References** shall be based upon
 - 1. The American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen Program
 - 2. The American Kennel Club’s Rally Judging Program
 - 3. The Therapy Dog International Program
 - B. **Canine’s Judging References** shall be based upon
 - 1. The American Kennel Club’s Canine Good Citizen Program
 - 2. The American Kennel Club’s Obedience Regulations; Chapter Three – Novice; Section One through Thirteen, minus the Heel Free exercise.
- 2. **Berrien County Youth Fair’s Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Judging Program**
 - A. **Judge’s Decision** – It shall be understood that the decisions of the Judge shall be final.
 - B. **Judging Program Sequence** – The Non-Traditional Exhibitor Judging Program shall proceed as follows
 - 1. Group Evaluation of Sit-Stay and Down Stay.
 - 2. Sportsmanship #'s 1 through 9
 - 3. Canine Anatomy
 - 4. Obedience
 - 5. Sportsmanship #1 through 14
- 3. **Exhibitor’s Judging Sequence** – The order of exhibitors entering the obedience ring shall be determined by the dog show committee. Should the exhibitor show just cause that he or she requires an out of class scheduled judging sequence, he/she must communicate this option to the dog show committee on his/her registration form by July 1. (*See Section Ten; Paragraph 2.*)
- 4. **Exhibitor’s Responsibility** –
 - A. It is the responsibility of the exhibitor to be ready at ringside when the judge requires his/her presence.
 - B. The exhibitor must report to the Ring Master any possible conflicts before the entering the obedience ring.
- 5. **Non-Traditional Obedience Judge’s Ring Adaptations** – The obedience judge may adapt the obedience ring to meet the exhibitor’s individual needs by using the following methods.
 - A. **Individual Walk Through** – The obedience judge may opt to have an individual walk through of the canine obedience exercise course. The purpose of a “Walk Through” is so that the judge may observe the exhibitor’s disability and communication skills, while planning the necessary adaptations. Walk through will consist of the Judge, the exhibitor and the Team Instructor(s) only. Canine will remain at the gate with the Ring Master during a walk through.
 - B. **Yellow Guideline** – The obedience judge may opt to have a yellow guideline laid down on the path the visually challenged or directionally challenged exhibitor will walk. The purpose is so that the exhibitor can concentrate on his/her canine and not have to worry about hidden holes, uneven ground, or which is left or right. Unless the guideline is required by the next exhibitor, the guideline should be removed before the next exhibitor enters the ring.
 - C. **Deaf Interpreter(s)** – A deaf exhibitor shall have one to two sign language interpreter(s) present in the obedience ring.

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1. If one Interpreter for the Deaf is present, he/she shall communicate with the exhibitor using sign language, the directions and the instructions the judge so commands, while at the same time verbally stating what he or she is signing.
2. If two Interpreters for the Deaf are present, one interpreter shall communicate with the exhibitor using sign language, the directions and the instructions the judge so commands, while at the same time the second Interpreter will verbally state what the first one is signing.
6. **Non-Traditional Judging for an Exhibitor's Team That May Be Difficult to Form an Opinion On –**
 - A. Should the non-traditional obedience judge find it problematic to judge an exhibitor due to the exhibitor's lack of communication skills and/or mobility life challenges, the judge will focus his/her attention on the canine's performance.
 - B. During the exercises the exhibitor must hold onto his/her leash and let go of the leash at the proper moment giving the canine free movement to perform the exercise.
 - C. Five points will be deducted for each time the exhibitor lets go of his/her leash at the improper moment.
7. **Non-Traditional Exhibitor's Verbal Communication to His/Her Canine –** The non-traditional exhibitor may issue up to two verbal commands, clap his/her hands or pat his/her legs to encourage his/her canine without penalties. Should the exhibitor issue three or more verbal commands, continuously clap his/her hands or pat his/her legs, three points will be deducted.
8. **Non-Traditional Exhibitor's Correction of a Canine's Error –**
 - A. The non-traditional exhibitor **MUST RECOGNIZE AND CORRECT** his/her canine's error(s) while in the obedience ring. Should the exhibitor recognize the canine's error, but does not communicate a physical or verbal correction of the canine's error, the judge will deduct ten points.
 - B. Should the Non-Traditional Judge require the canine's error be corrected and the exhibitor has *failed to recognize* the canine's error, the judge may communicate to the exhibitor a verbal "***Correct Your Dog***" command. The judge will penalize points for having to issue a correction command to the exhibitor.

SECTION FOURTEEN NOTES TO JUDGE

Notes to Judge can be found at the top of the Non-Traditional Judge's Score Sheet. This section will assist the judge in comprehending the exhibitor's and canine's mental and/or physical insufficiencies, as well as, assisting the judge in adapting the obedience ring to meet the needs of the team. Examples: Exhibitor is deaf, Exhibitor is legally blind, or Canine is blind in one eye.

SECTION FIFTEEN NON-TRADITIONAL CANINE OBEDIENCE EXHIBITOR'S RING ETIQUETTE

1. **Purpose** – The Non-Traditional Exhibitor's Ring Etiquette purpose is to continuously encourage the exhibitor to communicate and become an independent canine handler. In becoming an independent, yet skilled canine handler, the exhibitor must be able to communicate his/her handling wishes and/or safety concerns regarding his/her canine's physical and mental needs.
2. **Judge Prompting the Exhibitor** – The Non-Traditional Obedience Judge will neither prompt, nor will he/she ask if the exhibitor wishes to execute the obedience exercises on his/her own.
3. **Procedure** – The Non-Traditional Exhibitor's Ring Etiquette procedure shall be as follows:
 - A. During the Sportsmanship Evaluation and prior to the beginning of the obedience exercises, the non-traditional exhibitor should communicate his/her canine safety requirements and/or personal wish for independent canine handling. The exhibitor must communicate his/her wish on his/her own initiative.
 - B. The non-traditional judge will oblige the exhibitor's communication for his/her canine's safety requirements and/or independent handling by directing the Team Instructor to
 1. Remove his/her six foot leash (if attached) from the canine's Volhard Collar and to stand in a designated area **in the ring**. Team Instructor shall remain in the ring for safety purpose.

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2. Should the exhibitor have a life challenge that designates that the Team Instructor remain beside, behind or in front of the exhibitor (example would be legally blind or in a wheel chair) the Team Instructor shall do so but not interfere with, nor shall he/she touch the exhibitor or canine, unless instructed to do so by the judge.

**SECTION SIXTEEN EVALUATION NUMBER ONE – GROUP EXERCISES OF
SIT-STAY AND DOWN-STAY**

1. **Purpose of Group Evaluation of Sit-Stay and Down-Stay** – To have the exhibitor’s team demonstrate their skillful working abilities, their confidence, temperament, enjoyment and willingness to perform as a duo or trio in a social environment.
2. **Judge’s Preparations for Group Evaluation of Sit-Stay and Down-Stay** – The judge will set up the group exercise in such a manner that a wheelchair can maneuver behind the canine without rolling over the canine’s tail. The judge can lay down a yellow guideline indicating where he would like the exhibitors to stop walking and turn and face his/her canine.
3. **Team Instructor’s Position** during Sit-Stay and Down Stay Exercises shall be twenty four to thirty six inches directly behind the canine. His/her six foot leash should be laid upon the ground in such a fashion that should the canine decide to get up and move away, the Team Instructor can step upon the leash thus preventing the canine from disrupting the rest of the evaluation.
4. **If there are two Team Instructors**, the second Team Instructor should be found behind the exhibitor.
5. **Judge’s Commands for Sit-Stay and Down-Stay** – The judge shall use the following commands in order...
 - A. **For Sit-Stay Exercise**
 1. Sit your dog
 2. Stay your Dog
 3. Leave your dog
 4. Return to your dog
 5. Exercise Finished. Praise your dog.
 - B. **For Down-Stay Exercise**
 1. Sit your dog
 2. Stay your dog
 3. Down your dog
 4. Leave your dog
 5. Return to your dog
 6. Exercise Finished. Praise your dog.
6. **Time Frame for Group Evaluation of Sit-Stay and Down-Stay**
 - A. **SIT-STAY** for
 1. **Sub-Novice and Novice Classes** - Sit-Stay Time Frame should be one minute.
 2. **Advance-Novice, Graduate Novice and Graduate Classes** - Sit-Stay Time Frame should be three minutes.
 - B. **DOWN-STAY** for
 1. **Sub-Novice and Novice Classes** – Down-Stay time frame should be three minutes.
 2. **Advance-Novice, Graduate Novice and Graduate Classes** – Down-Stay time frame should be five minutes.
7. **Total Points for Group Evaluations**
 - A. **SIT STAY** will equal forty points.
 - B. **DOWN STAY** will equal forty points.

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SECTION SEVENTEEN EVALUATION NUMBER TWO – SPORTSMANSHIP

1. **Purpose** – The purpose of the Sportsmanship Evaluation is
 - A. To promote communication skills in good manners and fair play.
 - B. To witness the exhibitor’s comprehension skills of verbal and tactile communication which is instrumental in canine obedience.
 - C. To visually understand the exhibitor’s comprehension of
 1. The Dress Code for him/herself and his/her canine.
 2. The proper placement of the canine’s collars and leashes.
 3. If the exhibitor has dog bait with him/her.
2. **Procedure** – Upon entering the obedience ring for the individual canine exercises, the judge will mark “YES” or “NO” on his/her worksheet.
 - A. **Dress Code, Canine Grooming, Collars and Leashes Evaluation** – The judge will then note if the team is...
 1. Dress according to the Dress Code.
 2. Groomed according to breed standards.
 3. Are the collars are on correctly AND the correct leash is attached. (4 foot leash to buckle collar and /or 6 foot leash to Volhard or Martingale.)
 4. Did the exhibitor bring a toy and/or food to bait the dog with into the ring?
 - B. **Introductions:**
 1. Introduce him/herself to the exhibitor with an extended hand for a handshake.
 2. The exhibitor, in turn, will hopefully accept the handshake.
 3. The exhibitor will introduce him/herself.
 4. The exhibitor will introduce his/her canine.
 5. The exhibitor will introduce his/her Team Instructor(s)
3. **Sportsmanship Evaluation Conclusion Number Five** – After the obedience exercises have been completed, AND prior to leaving the obedience ring, the obedience judge will mark a “YES” or “NO” to the following questions.
 - A. Did the exhibitor **HAPPILY ENCOURAGE HIS/HER CANINE** during the exercises?
 - B. Did the exhibitor **PRAISE HIS/HER CANINE** while in the obedience ring?
 - C. Did the exhibitor **MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH YOU**, the judge?
 - D. Did the exhibitor **HUG OR PET GENTLY HIS/HER CANINE** while in the obedience ring?
 - E. Did the exhibitor **COMMUNICATE A “THANK YOU”** in the form of a handshake and/or words to the judge?
4. **Sportsmanship Evaluation Total Points** - Total Points to be earned for Sportsmanship Evaluation is fourteen points.

SECTION EIGHTEEN - EVALUATION NUMBER THREE – CANINE ANATOMY EVALUATION

1. **Purpose** – The purpose of the Canine Anatomy Evaluation is to promote memory skills and an understanding of the canine’s physiology.
2. **Ring Master Giving the Anatomy Evaluation** – Should the judge mandate, the Ring Master can perform the Canine Anatomy Evaluation prior to the exhibitor entering the obedience ring.
3. **Procedure** –
 - A. The judge shall choose four anatomy terms from the Word Bank.
 - B. These same four terms must be asked of every exhibitor in the class.
 - C. The judge or ring master shall ask the exhibitor to communicate where these terms are located on the canine’s body.

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4. **Word Bank** – The following terms shall be in the Canine Word Bank...
- | | | | | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Back,</i> | <i>Body,</i> | <i>Cheek,</i> | <i>Crest,</i> | <i>Croup,</i> | <i>Digit,</i> |
| <i>Ear,</i> | <i>Elbow,</i> | <i>Eye,</i> | <i>Feathers,</i> | <i>Flews,</i> | <i>Head,</i> |
| <i>Hock,</i> | <i>Legs; Back,</i> | <i>Legs; Front,</i> | <i>Loin,</i> | <i>Muzzle,</i> | <i>Nails,</i> |
| <i>Neck,</i> | <i>Nose,</i> | <i>Occiput,</i> | <i>Pad,</i> | <i>Pastern,</i> | <i>Paw,</i> |
| <i>Rump,</i> | <i>Stifle,</i> | <i>Stop,</i> | <i>Tail,</i> | <i>Teeth,</i> | <i>Tuck Up,</i> |
| <i>Wither</i> | | | | | |
5. **Canine Anatomy Evaluation Total Points** – Total Points to be earned for Canine Anatomy Evaluation is four points.

SECTION NINETEEN CANINE OBEDIENCE EVALUATION

1. **Purpose** – To have the exhibitor’s team demonstrate his/her ability and skill acquired through training and bonding, as well as, their confidence, temperament, willingness and enjoyment of working with each other as a team.
2. **Procedure** - The following five obedience exercises shall be performed by the exhibitor’s team under the watchful eye of the obedience judge.
 - A. **HEEL ON LEASH** – The “*Heel on Leash*” exercise shall be executed using the judge’s ten verbal commands (in any order) of: Forward, Slow, Normal, Left Turn, Right Turn, About Turn, Fast, Halt, and Exercise Finished. Praise Your Dog.
 - B. **FIGURE EIGHT** – The “*Figure Eight*” exercise shall be executed using the judge’s four verbal commands of: Forward, Halt, Exercise Finished and Praise Your Dog.
 - C. **STAND FOR EXAM** – The “*Stand for Exam*” exercise shall be executed using the judge’s five verbal commands of: Stand Your Dog, Leave Your Dog, Return to Your Dog, Exercise Finished and Praise Your Dog.
 - D. **RECALL** – The “*Recall*” exercise shall be executed using the judge’s six verbal commands of: Sit Your Dog, Leave Your Dog, Call Your Dog, Finish, Exercise Finished and Praise Your Dog.
3. **Canine Obedience Evaluation Total Points** – The total points an exhibitor can earn for Canine Obedience Evaluation is as follows...
 - A. **HEEL ON LEASH** will equal forty points.
 - B. **FIGURE EIGHT** will equal thirty points.
 - C. **STAND FOR EXAM** will equal thirty points.
 - D. **RECALL** with **FINISH** will equal twenty points.

SECTION TWENTY NON-TRADITIONAL EXHIBITOR’S AND/OR CANINE’S UNACCEPTABLE SOCIAL BEHAVIOR

The obedience judge has the discretion to release an exhibitor’s team any time throughout the obedience course for the following reasons.

1. **NON-TRADITIONAL EXHIBITOR’S BEHAVIOR**
 - A. **Meltdown Behavior** – Should the exhibitor show signs of a psychologically or medical necessitate meltdown behavior
 1. The obedience judge may choose to **RELEASE** the team from the ring and have the exhibitor wait until everyone else has exhibited, thus giving the exhibitor time to compose him/herself. The exhibitor should not be penalized for being released from the obedience ring.
 2. The judge will extend an invitation to the exhibitor to return to the obedience ring and begin where he/she left off in the sequence of the obedience course.
 3. Should the exhibitor refuse to come back into the obedience ring after the judge’s invitation, the judge will **EXCUSE** the exhibitor’s team from competition.

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- B. Exhibitor's Unacceptable Social Behavior** – Should the judge witness the exhibitor displaying behavior that is socially unacceptable in or outside of the obedience ring, he or she may...
1. Choose to issue up to two verbal warnings, along with penalties, that his/her unacceptable social behavior will not be tolerated in canine competition, or
 2. The obedience judge may **EXCUSE** and/or **DISQUALIFY** the exhibitor's team from all competition should the exhibitor choose to continue his/her unacceptable behavior after two verbal warnings.
2. **CANINE'S UNACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR** - Should the canine display unacceptable social behavior that is unsuitable for the safety of another canine and/or human being, said behavior would constitute an immediate disqualification and said canine shall be taken to a secure place away from the exhibition area for confinement.
3. **NON-TRADITIONAL EXHIBITOR'S AND CANINE'S SOCIAL BEHAVIOR DISQUALIFICATION REASONS** – The non-traditional canine obedience judge shall constitute an immediate disqualification of an exhibitor or canine if the
- A. Exhibitor has been observed pinching, hitting, spiting at or kicking his/her canine, team instructor or spectator.
 - B. Exhibitor is excused from the obedience ring for reasons described in Section 20; paragraph 1A and 1B.
 - C. Exhibitor refuses to continue to work with his/her canine and team instructor.
 - D. Canine is found to be less than six months of age.
 - E. Canine is in poor health, lame or physically unable to execute obedience exercises.
4. **Disqualification Procedures** – Should the non-traditional canine obedience judge find it necessary to disqualify a team, he/she shall follow the following disqualification procedures by
- A. Immediately stopping the Non-Traditional Obedience Competition.
 - B. Explain to the exhibitor's team why they are being disqualified.
 - C. Write on the exhibitor's worksheet "*Disqualified*" and state the reason for the disqualification.
5. **Awards if Disqualified** – Competition awards, premiums, ribbons and trophies will be withheld from an excused or disqualified non-traditional exhibitor.

SECTION TWENTY-ONE

NON-TRADITIONAL CANINE EXHIBITOR'S COMPETITION DEDUCTIONS

1. **Standard Deductions** – The following standard deductions shall apply...
 - A. **Three points** deducted for three or more verbal commands during one exercise.
 - B. **Five points** deducted for the extremely mentally disabled or hard to communicate with exhibitor every time he/she drops his/her leash.
 - C. **Ten points** deducted for
 1. Failing to recognize his/her canine's error.
 2. Did recognize his/her canine's error and chose not to correct the canine's error.
 3. Exhibitor is told by the obedience judge to "Correct Your Dog."
 4. Canine defecates or urinates in the obedience ring.
 5. Canine leaves the ring.
 - D. **Twenty points** deducted for
 1. Exhibitor is not dressed to Dress Code Standards.
 2. Canine is not groomed to Breed Grooming Standards.
2. **Minor Deductions** – The following minor deductions will still qualify an exhibitor's team, but the deduction worth will be up to the judge's desecration.
 - A. After two verbal questions or instructions from the Team Instructor, the exhibitor still must be reminded repeatedly to focus on his/her canine.
 - B. Exhibitor must correct his/her canine once or twice.
 - C. Exhibitor keeps a constant tight leash.
 - D. Canine forges.

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- E. Canine crowds' exhibitor.
 - F. Canine lags.
 - G. Canine continuously sniffs the ground.
 - H. Canine sat up or stood up after exhibitor returned to "Control Position."
 - I. Canine made a slight or minor movement before exhibitor returned.
 - J. Canine barked once or twice.
 - K. Canine had to be forced into a "Sit" or "Lay" position.
 - L. Canine has to move in self-defense because exhibitor rolled his/her wheelchair too close for the canine's comfort.
 - M. Exhibitor steps on the canine by mistake and canine had to move in self-defense.
 - N. Exhibitor's error.
 - O. Judge' has to tell the Exhibitor "Correct Your Dog."
 - P. Canine leaves the ring.
3. **Non-Qualifying Score** – The exhibitor's team will receive a non-qualifying score for the following reasons:
- A. The exhibitor has verbally given more than five of the same verbal commend on the same exercise.
 - B. The exhibitor has made more than three corrections during the obedience competition.
 - C. Canine and/or Exhibitor were unmanageable.
 - D. Canine growled, snapped or bites.
 - E. Canine is frequently beyond the exhibitor's reach.
 - F. Canine did not remain in place.
 - G. Canine went to another canine or another person.
 - H. Canine repeatedly whines or barks.
 - I. Canine stands up and refuses to lie back down.
 - J. Canine sits up and refuses to lie back down.

SECTION TWENTY-TWO

SCORING PROCEDURES

When the obedience evaluation has been completed, the judge and ring secretary will add up the scores from the Group Evaluation, the Sportsmanship Evaluation, the Canine Obedience Evaluation and the Canine Anatomy Evaluation and place score in the **TOTAL NET SCORE BOX**. This score will not be valid until the obedience judge's initials appear next to the score box.

SECTION TWENTY-THREE

TROPHIES

1. **Purpose** –Trophies may be awarded for the Non-Traditional Canine Classes to acknowledge and give incentive to keep up the good teamwork that the exhibitor has earned on the day of competition and evaluation.
2. **Ties for Placement** – Should the judge find that two or more exhibitor's team have the same score for class placement, the judge shall have the exhibitors perform an obedience exercise to break the tie.
3. **Trophy Classifications and Placements** – There are three classifications for trophies.
 - A. **Class Trophy** –
 1. Using the Berrien County Youth Fair's Trophy Worksheet, the judge will use the highest score for first place and the lowest score for last place, to determine class trophy placement.
 2. The judge will pass out the Class ribbons and/or trophies accordingly for the following placements:
 - a. **FIRST** Place (Blue Ribbon)
 - b. **SECOND** Place (Red Ribbon)
 - c. **THIRD** Place (Yellow Ribbon)
 - d. **FOURTH** Place (White Ribbon)
 - e. **FIFTH** Place (Pink Ribbon)
 - f. **SIXTH** Place (Green Ribbon)

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g. **Placement below Sixth Place** (Class Medallion)

B. High in Trial Trophy (*Championship*)

1. On the judge's worksheet in the "High in Trial Winners" column, the judge will write the exhibitor's name, Berrien County Youth Fair's ID number, and score of the first and second place winners.
2. The judge will then take all first and second place class winners and, again, using the highest score for first place and the lowest score for sixth place, pass out the "High in Trial" rosettes and/or trophies accordingly for the following placements:
 - a. **OBEDIENCE GRAND CHAMPION** (Blue Rosette)
 - b. **OBEDIENCE RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION** (Red Rosette)
 - c. High in Trial **THIRD** Place (Yellow Rosette)
 - d. High in Trial **FOURTH** Place (White Rosette)
 - e. High in Trial **FIFTH** Place (Pink Rosette)
 - f. High in Trial **SIXTH** Place (Green Rosette)

SECTION TWENTY-FOUR

BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR PREMIUMS

The Berrien County Youth Fair may be capable of awarding cash premiums for Non-Traditional Canine Classes. To earn a premium for Non-Traditional Canine Class, the exhibitor must have achieved the following points:

1. **Class A Ribbon** (Blue Ribbon) – 144 to 218 points.
2. **Class B Ribbon** (Red Ribbon) – 73 to 143 points.
3. **Class C Ribbon** (White Ribbon) - 00 to 72 points.

SECTION TWENTY-FIVE

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

1. **Who is in Command of a Medical Emergency?** – Should a medical emergency arise inside or outside of the non-traditional obedience ring, the Judge and/or the Ring Master shall immediately take command and delegate.
2. **First Aid Kit** shall be located at the Hospitality Table.
3. **Cell phones** shall be located on the Ring Master, Co-Coordinator of the Event, and at the Dog Superintendent's Table.
4. **Ambulance or Veterinarian** – Should the Obedience Judge or Ring Master require an ambulance or Veterinarian the following codes will be enforced –
 - A. 911 AMBULANCE
 - B. 911 VETERINARIAN

SECTION TWENTY-SIX

**REVIEW OF THE BERRIEN COUNTY YOUTH FAIR
NON-TRADITIONAL CANINE EXHIBITOR OBEDIENCE JUDGING
PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

A review of the Berrien County Youth Fair's Non-Traditional Canine Obedience Judging Procedures and Guidelines shall be done on a yearly basis per disability census.