

Paws 2 Dance

— Judges and Judging —

Judge Qualifications

Judges will be chosen with backgrounds in dance performance, dog obedience and musical freestyle.

Judging Panels

Judging panels for official competitions will be comprised of a minimum of 3 judges, as follows:

- **Artistic impression judge (1):** a person with a dance performance background to score artistic impression;
- **Technical merit judge (1):** a person with a background in dog obedience to score technical merit (canine technical performance);
- **Overall presentation judge (1):** a person with a musical freestyle background to score overall presentation of the dance team.

(For panels comprised of six judges, there will be 2 persons in each of the above positions).

To the extent possible, the composition of judging panels at fun matches will be the same as that for official competitions.

Conflicts

The Show Committee will use its best efforts to select judges who have no relationship to any exhibitor as a member of an exhibitor's immediate family or as a regular trainer of an exhibitor in musical freestyle. However, because of financial constraints and the limited number of qualified judges available, the Show Committee reserves the right to select the judges it sees appropriate, notwithstanding that such a relationship may exist between a judge and an exhibitor who enters a competition.

Scoring

A routine will be judged on:

- **Artistic impression;**
- **Technical merit;** and
- **Overall presentation.**

Each of these categories will be scored out of a maximum of 10 points by the judge or judges responsible for scoring that category.

The total score for the routine will be the average of the scores of all judges serving on the judging panel.

Judging and scoring procedure

Judges may not confer with each other before or during a routine or during scoring of a routine. *(The only exception is that judges may confer with each other if one or more judges believe a disqualification has occurred).* The judges may not discuss a routine to the discredit of a handler with persons other than the handler without the handler's permission.

Judges will have one minute to mark their scoresheets following completion of a routine.

Total scores for each entry will be announced at the end of the competition.

Disqualifications

An entry may be disqualified for:

- the dog leaving the ring
- the dog fouling the ring
- the dog attempting to bite a person or another dog in the ring
- use of food or training aids in the ring
- use of a prong collar or training halter.

The judging panel will confer if any judge believes a disqualification has occurred and the panel will make a decision on the disqualification.

Ties

For the purpose of determining a placement within a division or eligibility for a prize, when the total score of two entries is the same, the tie will be broken in favour of the entry with the highest score for “**Overall Presentation**.” If the entries remain tied on that score, the tie will be broken in favour of the entry with the highest score for “**Artistic Impression.**” If the entries remain tied on that score, the tie will be broken by decision of the judging panel.