

Section 8 JUNIOR HANDLER'S PROGRAM

8.1 PROGRAM GOALS

The Junior Handler Program is open to children that have not yet reached their thirteenth (13) birthday as of the date of the trial. The program encourages:

- Family involvement in the sport of Disc Dog
- A lifetime interest in the sport
- Development of safe disc dog skills

The program is designed to prepare a junior to compete in a novice class.

8.2 REGISTRATION & ELIGIBILITY

Junior handler

Any child that is three (3) years or older but has not yet reached their thirtieth (13) birthday is eligible to become a junior handler. A junior handler may compete with any dog. Junior handlers may compete with different dogs at different trials. The dog may or may not have a CDDA number. The same dog may compete with more than one junior handler but must not compete in back to back rounds.

- All junior handlers must have a junior competition number.
- Junior handler application forms are available from the CDDA.
- Junior handlers may run a mini dog at one trial and a regular dog at another.

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8.3 GENERAL RULES

- All junior handlers will compete together in the same class with the novice single disc competitors.
- All juniors must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Very young juniors must be accompanied onto the field by an adult.
- A junior must handle the disc and the dog unassisted once the round has started.
- The registration waiver must be signed by a junior handler's parent or guardian.
- A junior handler class must be offered at all CDDA Sanctioned trials.
- A certified CDDA judge must officiate at a junior handler class.
- Every junior handler must have one parent or guardian present during the judge's briefing and the competition.
- Juniors may run regular or mini dogs.
- Junior handlers may only run one dog in each class (single disc, freestyle, furthest catch).
- All junior competitors must receive recognition (certificate, ribbon, etc) and/or prize. First place will go to the junior with the highest score, but placings are not to be emphasized over participation.
- In the junior handler division any and all titles earned go to the child and not the dog.
- All dogs and handlers that compete in the junior division must follow CDDA guidelines. (e.g. dog must be one year old, vaccinations are up to date).

Young competitors are encouraged to look after 'their' dogs when they are not competing, but safety must always be the first concern. We recommend that adults hold onto the leashes, especially with very young competitors and large excited dogs.

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8.4 JUNIOR RETRIEVAL PROFICIENCY TEST (JRPT)

- Junior handlers are not required to enter the RPT to earn points towards handler titles.
- The JRPT is open to juniors but is not required to compete in the single disc or other classes.
- The JRPT will be administered as per section 2.1 of the CDDA rules with the following exceptions:
 - Each junior will have three opportunities to achieve a successful retrieve
 - If the junior is unsuccessful at throwing the object over the 10 yard line they may re-throw the object or have the object placed past the 10 yard line.
 - An adult may coach a junior but may not give commands to the dog or be inside the handler's box.

8.5 JUNIOR SINGLE DISC CLASS

- All juniors will compete with the novice single disc competitors.
- Juniors are required to attend the judge's briefing with an adult.
- Junior handlers may run in any order during the novice single disc class. It is recommended that juniors do not run first.
- All rules of the novice single disc class as explained in section 2.2 apply with the following exceptions:
 - Dogs do not have to pass an RPT or JRPT to enter in junior single disc and accrue points toward junior titles.
 - All catches between the throw line and the 15 yard line will count as one point per catch or two points if the dog catches with all four feet off the ground.
 - An adult may be on the field with a junior to offer encouragement and verbal help. The adult must not handle the dog or disc once the round starts.

8.6 JUNIOR FREESTYLE CLASS

The junior freestyle class will not be marked as an official freestyle routine. Juniors will be given a written report with ideas on how to improve and encouraging their effort. No score will be given.

8.7 JUNIOR FURTHEST CATCH CLASS

All rules of the furthest catch class as explained in section 2.6 will apply with the following exceptions:

Juniors will be allowed up to five throws if they have not achieved a catch within the first three.

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8.8 JUNIOR AWARDS & TITLES

Junior Retrieval Proficiency Test (JRPT)

To earn this title a junior handler must pass the junior RPT test once.

Junior Disc Handler (JDH)

To earn this title a junior handler must accumulate 75 points at CDDA sanctioned trials

Junior Disc Handler Excellent (JDHX)

To earn this title a junior handler must accumulate 150 points and earn three (3) qualifying legs. A leg is earned when two (2) catches over 20 yards (or 15 yards if a mini disc dog) are scored within any number of throws over two (2) one minute rounds at a sanctioned CDDA trial.

Junior Disc Handler Champion (JDHCh)

To earn this title a junior handler must accumulate 300 points and earn three (3) qualifying legs. A leg is earned when four (4) catches over 20 yards (or 15 yards if a mini disc dog) are scored within any number of throws over two (2) one minute rounds.

If a mini dog is run by a junior handler and official mini discs are used then all qualifying scores need only be over the 15 yard line and not the 20.

There is no special designation on titles or awards for junior handlers running only a mini dog.

Mini dogs and regular dogs compete together with junior handlers.