

# Berks County Dog Training Club Member Match Rules

## Ground Rules

All dogs not in the ring must be leashed, crated, or in a car.

Dogs will not be allowed in the rings until they are judged. When a ring is finished, normal training may be allowed with the approval of the Member Match Committee.

All handlers will be responsible for the conduct of their dogs at all times.

Handlers will clean up after their dogs and properly dispose of all refuse.

The Member Match Committee will select at least four judges, if available. Sites, match dates and the time will appear in the newsletter. May and September matches are to be held a half hour early.

Entries will be taken 15 minutes before the match starts and until 45 minutes after it begins.

The purpose of our Match Shows is to simulate actual AKC Obedience Trials, in order to give the dog and handler experience under those conditions. Unlike an actual trial, corrections are permitted and encouraged.

Infractions of the ground rules will be reported to the Board of Directors.

The Member Match Committee reserves the right to cancel a match in the event of extreme weather.

Member Match rules are to be printed in the newsletter yearly.

There will be 4 rings (1 for each class).

## Member Match Rules

Both purebred and mixed breeds may compete. Members will be eligible to compete for monthly and year-end awards in PreNovice and Novice A only. PreNovice and Novice A are for competition. All other classes are F.E.O.

Non training members may show at Member Matches. They are eligible for awards and trophies at individual matches, but not eligible for year end awards.

Non members may participate in the Member Matches F.E.O. They are ineligible for awards and trophies. Non members may show in 2 Member Matches, then they must either join the club or stop showing in Member Matches.

F.E.O.- means For Exhibition Only. A dog is entered F.E.O. in a class when they are not ready to show in that class, when the handler intends to give additional signals, or when the dog has already earned the degree in that class. Dogs that are entered F.E.O. do not get a score. When using a prong collar, food or any training aid, you must show F.E.O.

There will be one judge assigned to each of the classes if possible, except Graduate Novice. The first available, qualified, and willing judge shall judge Graduate Novice. Judges who show in the class that they are judging must enter F.E.O. for that class in that match. Judges may show one entry before they begin judging. Any subsequent entries must be shown after they finish judging their class.

There will be a trophy given for first place in Pre Novice and Novice A. There must be two or more dogs showing in a class to receive a trophy. There will also be ribbons awarded for the four highest qualifying scores in Novice A. Also four ribbons to the four highest scores in Pre Novice.

Once a third leg is earned, you may continue to show in the "A" classes for sixty days. After that time dog and handler must enter the "B" class. After completion of title, a dog may continue to show in Novice B until a high "B" is earned. A dog may continue to show in Open B and Utility B indefinitely. This rule is effective

for third legs obtained in any recognized registry (AKC, UKC, AMBOR, etc.) Handlers are requested to inform the committee in a timely fashion upon completion of a degree. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility for that calendar years awards.

Mixed breed dogs shall compete against others in their class. Mixed breeds may move to the "B" class or the next class after obtaining three qualifying scores under two different judges. When six qualifying scores are obtained, mixed breeds must move to the "B" class or the next class. This rule does not apply to the step from Pre Novice to Novice or from Graduate Novice to Open. Mixed breeds may obtain a "Degree" honored by the BCDTC. When the handler feels that their dog is ready to achieve a club title, they will inform the Member Match Committee that they are beginning to compete for their title. They may inform the committee at anytime prior to or following the two year award period (see Member Match rule #1). The Match Show Chairman will maintain a record of the scores to award a suitable memento for the "Member Match Degree" at the annual awards banquet.

Due to time constraints at our matches, the only instance where an individual dog may show in more than one class is in Open B and Utility A or B.

The classes will be:

**PRE-NOVICE:** Only your first dog may compete in this class. Your second or subsequent dog may not compete for awards.

**NOVICE A:** This class is for a handler who has NOT obtained a CD on any dog. A handler may compete with more than one dog until one dog has earned a CD, then the second or subsequent dog must compete in Novice B.

**NOVICE B:** This class is for anyone who has earned a CD on a dog.

**GRADUATE NOVICE:** This class is for a dog that has NOT earned a CDX

**OPEN A:** This class is for a dog that has NOT earned a CDX.

**OPEN B:** This class is for a dog that has earned a CDX. A dog may show in this class indefinitely.

**UTILITY A:** This class is for a dog that has NOT earned a UD.

**UTILITY B:** This class is for a dog that has earned a UD. A dog may show in this class indefinitely.

## Yearly trophy rules

Yearly trophies will be awarded at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Dogs must show in a minimum of five shows a year to be eligible for any yearly trophy. If a dog leaves for any reason before group exercises, they are not given credit for showing in the match. It is not necessary for the dog to show in the same class for the five shows. The only exception to this rule is the September graduation class, which must show four times, if the graduation date permits.

An average of the three highest qualifying scores within a class will determine a dog's yearly average for that class. Trophies will be awarded to the four highest averages in each class. Qualifying scores are required for all yearly trophies. Not dog may receive a trophy in both Pre Novice and Novice. In these cases the class which the highest placement occurs will be awarded.

No dog and handler shall be eligible to receive the same class trophy more than two years in succession. A handler may continue to show indefinitely in one class with the understanding that they are ineligible for monthly or yearly class awards (as specified in Member Match Rules #1). The handler, however may receive the same trophy with another dog.