



Our Mission:

Pier Pups, LLC strives to offer events at which all canine dock diving competitive levels are catered to, from the family dog to the pro-jumper; and we will further strive to foster an environment where positive training supports a relaxed and friendly atmosphere for families, competitors and dogs.

Section 1 Rights, Responsibilities and Authority

- (a) All participants and exhibitors will receive the best care and protection the surroundings will afford, but they are at all times subject to the owner's risk.
- (b) Pier Pups reserves the right to make discretionary decisions regarding rules and procedures at events.
- (c) By entering a Pier Pups event, all competitors acknowledge that their participation in the event is an acknowledgement for the use of their likeness, including but not limited to, photos and/or video footage for print or electronic media purposes.
- (d) Pier Pups reserves the right to limit or deny registration or competition at any event to any person or dog whose participation would be detrimental to the best interests of Pier Pups.
- (d) Pier Pups reserves the right to interpret all rules and regulations.

Section 2 Sportsmanship

(a) Unsportsmanlike Conduct

- (i) Competitors, officials, and event personnel shall at all times be expected to conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike manner.
- (ii) Misconduct such as aggression towards dogs or people; disrespect of people, property or dogs; or social media abuse will not be tolerated and will result in an eviction from the event or a suspension from further events. The judge will use his/her discretion regarding the action to be taken based on the severity of the misconduct.
- (iii) The handler may not obviously try to lower their dog's score at any time to achieve a title, a placement, or a ranking in a division lower than their dog's ability. This is considered "sandbagging". Sandbagging will not be tolerated and may result in removal from the event based on the judge's discretion.

Section 3 General Rules

(a) Competition Team

- (i) The Competition Team will consist of one dog and **up to two handlers**.
- (ii) Handlers must be at least seven (7) years old to compete.
- (iii) **The handler throwing the toy is considered the handler of record. The handler of record must throw the toy for both jumps in a session.**
- (iv) Pushing or pulling a dog into the water, up the stairs to the dock or on the dock is prohibited.
- (v) 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 Pier Pups staff and a decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.
- (vi) Dogs must be at least six (6) months old to compete.
- (vii) A dog may compete only once within any given competition session. A handler may compete with multiple dogs within any given competition session. Only one dog is permitted on the dock at a time.
- (viii) If a dog is entered in an event by more than one handler, and the dog advances to the Final Jump Off, the handler with the highest score will advance to the Finals with the dog. An individual dog may not participate in the Final Jump Off with multiple handlers, except where the dog is being handled by a Junior Handler in the Junior Handler Division.
- (ix) 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.

(b) Health / Injuries

(i) Dogs must be current on vaccinations for distemper, bordetella and rabies. Additionally, dogs must be free from infections, parasites, contagious or transmissible diseases.

(ii) Dogs in heat will not be allowed on the dock or within the competition venue.

(iii) If a dog appears to be injured or ill, the dog's handler will be asked to cease competition.

(c) Collars & Leashes

(i) Choke collars, prong collars, electronic collars, gentle leaders, head collars, or any other collar other than a flat buckle-type collar, are not allowed and must be removed prior to competing and during practice.

(ii) Dogs must be kept on a leash that is no longer than six feet at all times while on the competition grounds. All other leads, including retractable leads, are strictly prohibited.

(iii) No dog will be allowed off-leash in any part of the competition area, including the potty area, except for on the dock or in the water itself. THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE.

d) Chase 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 throwable, 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.

Section 4 The Venue

(a) The Dock

(i) Dimensions: The competition venue shall consist of a dock, forty (40) feet long x eight (8) feet wide.

(ii) Surface: The surface of the dock shall be a turf surface that is non-slip when wet.

(b) The Staging Area

(i) The Staging Area is the space near the rear of the dock where the teams will line up for their jumps.

(ii) All teams within a competition session 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.

(c) The Pool shall be forty (40) feet long by sixteen (16) feet wide.

Section 5 Competition Session

(a) Roll call

(i) The judge may perform a roll call prior to the start of the competition session.

(b) Running Order

(i) The running order for each competition will be determined randomly.

(ii) The running order will be posted in the staging area or at the registration area prior to the start of the competition session.

(iii) It is the responsibility of the handler to know the Team's position within the running order.

(c) Time Limit

(i) Dogs are allowed **3 minutes per session to complete their two jumps:**

(d) Practice

(i) Practice will take place approximately 15 minutes prior to the start of a competition session **when time permits.**

(ii) The time allotted for teams on the dock during practice is one (1) minute to complete their practice jump.

- (iii) One practice jump is allowed per team. More practice jumps **may be allowed**, time permitting.
- (iv) Only jumpers participating in the session are allowed to practice.
- (v) At no time may a competitor practice or train a dog on the dock when the dock is closed, unless approval is obtained from the Pier Pups staff.

Section 6 Event Registration

- (a) Registration spaces in a given competition session are limited and are subject to the discretion of the Pier Pups staff.
- (b) All pre-registered teams must check-in at the event at least ½ hour prior to the start of the competition session.
- (c) Day-Of Registration: All competitors registering day-of at an event will be required to fill out the Registration Form in its entirety and sign the Waivers.
 - (i) All Teams who access the dock, whether for competition or practice must fill out the Registration Form and sign the Waiver in its entirety as well as pay the full non-refundable entry fee.
 - (ii) One handler and one dog listed per Registration Form and Waiver.
 - (iii) 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.
- (d) 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. Credit MAY be issued in the case of dog illness accompanied by a letter from an officially licensed veterinarian.

Section 7 Competition Divisions: Distance, Grab-It and Junior Handler Division

- (a) Competition session will have the following jump divisions for Distance and Grab-It.

Distance

- (i) Novice – 0 - 9’11”
- (ii) Open – 10’ – 15’11”
- (iii) Pro – 16’ – 19’11”
- (iiii) Master-20’ plus

Grab-It

- (i) Open 0-39’11
- (ii) Pro 40’ -- plus

- (b) A team’s placement in a division will be determined by the best jump (or combined score in a Grab-It session) in an individual competition session.
 - (i) Placement in a division will be made on a session-by-session basis.
 - (ii) A team’s division for the Final Bubble and Final Jump Off will be based on the team’s longest jump of the day. (example: In the 10:00 session a team qualifies for second place in the Novice Division. They will be awarded a ribbon in the Novice Division for that competition session. In the 2:00 session that team qualifies for second place in the Open Division. They will be awarded a ribbon in the Open Division for that competition session. The team’s highest score of the day will be used in the Final Bubble. If the team placed within the top five in the Open Division, they will compete in the Final Jump Off in the Open Division.)
 - (iii) There is no Final Jump Off for Grab-It. Placement in Grab-It sessions do not qualify for Final Jump Off.

(c) Junior Handler Division

- (i) The Junior Handler division is open on an optional basis to any handler between the ages of 7 and 12. Handlers between those ages may choose to compete in the adult divisions if they wish.
- (ii) A Junior Handler may remain in the Junior Handler division during the season of their 13th birthday.
- (iii) If a handler starts the Pier Pups season at the age of 12, but turns 13 before the end of the season, they may choose to compete that entire season as a Junior Handler. The “season” begins with the first Pier Pups event and ends with the last Pier Pups event of the calendar year.
- (iv) Handlers will compete during regular sessions, but will be scored as a Junior Handler.
- (v) Parents/guardians are allowed on the dock as a second handler, however the Junior Handler must throw the toy.

(vi) If the parent/guardian is not the second handler, a parent/guardian may assist while going to/from the dock, while waiting in line or going up/down stairs. Once the handler has reached the dock surface, a third handler is not allowed on the dock or stairs.

(vii) Parents/guardians may not coach or issue commands to the dog while on the dock if they are not acting as a second handler.

(viii) The same rules in section (b) above will apply to Junior Handlers.

Section 8 Measuring, Scoring Procedure and Resolving Ties for Distance jumps

(a) Measuring

(i) A judge will evaluate all jumps using a manual judging system and will judge all jumps by eye.

(b) Pier Pups 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 in their division wins.

(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.

2) Both of the team's jump distances will be recorded. The longest of the two jump distances will be assigned as the team's score.

3) If the dog walks down the exit ramp and jumps into the pool from the ramp, the score will be recorded as a refusal.

4) 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.

(c) Resolving Ties

(i) When there is a tie between two or more teams in a competition session, each Team's second longest jump distance in that session will be used as a tie-breaker.

(ii) If a team is tied for First, Second or Third Place with another team at the end of the session, 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.

(d) The Bubble and Final Jump Off Rules

(i) The top five dogs of the day in the Master, Pro, Open and Novice divisions will move on to the Final Jump Off.

1) The "Bubble Board" will be posted after each session to reflect to current position in the Bubble for each dog.

2) The "Bubble Board" will list each team's highest score (i.e. their longest jump of the day to that point).

3) The Final "Bubble Board" will be posted after the last regular competition session of the day and the five dogs with the longest jump in each division will move on to the Final Jump Off.

4) In the event that multiple dogs have a bubble score that is tied, those teams will move on to the Final Jump Off.

5) In the Novice division, only dogs with scores of five (5) feet or longer will be invited to the Final Jump Off regardless of the number of Novice teams in the Novice division competing in the Final Jump Off.

(ii) It is the responsibility of the handler to determine if his/her team has made it to the Final Jump Off. If the team does not check in 15 min. prior to the start of the Final Jump Off, the next dog in line will take their spot so that five dogs in each division will compete in the Final Jump Off.

(iii) Participation in the Final Jump Off is free.

Section 9 Scoring Procedure, Placing, and Resolving Ties for Grab-It

(a) Pier Pups scoring for Grab It is based on a combined score of jump distances resulting in successful catches plus a Bonus if **both** jumps result in a catch. Two jumps per session are allowed to obtain your combined score.

(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.
 - 2) The jump distances with a catch will be recorded and added together for a combined score. The toy must be above the plane of the water during the catch to be counted.
 - 3) If the dog walks down the exit ramp and jumps into the pool from the ramp, the score will be recorded as a refusal.
 - 4) 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.
- (ii) A 10-point Bonus will be added to the team's score if both jumps result in a catch. For example, if the team's first jump results in a catch at 10' 6" and their second jump results in a catch at 12' 6", the team's score would be 33' (23' combined jump distance + 10-point bonus).
- (b) A team's placement in a division is based on the team's score including bonus as set forth in Section 7(a).
- (c) Resolving Ties
- (i) When there is a tie between two or more teams in a competition session, the team with the highest individual jump distance will decide the winner.
 - (ii) In the event that both jumps have the same distance, a "jump off" will decide the winner.
 - (iii) In a "jump off", each competitor is allowed one more jump and the longest jump with a catch wins. A one jump "jump off" shall occur until there is a defined winner.
- (d) Scores in Grab-It will not be used for the Bubble and will not move a team into the Final Jump Off.

Section 10 Awards

Rosettes will be awarded to teams who place in the top three (3) places in each division for each competition session in both Distance sessions and Grab-It sessions.

Medallion rosettes will be awarded to teams who place in the top three (3) places in each division in the Final Jump Off for Distance only.

Section 11 Pier Master and Grand Pier Master

- (a) Pier Master – Earn 20 Pier Master Points and you will be awarded the Pier Master Trophy.
- (i) Accumulating points
 - 1) One point will be awarded for each 1st place win during regular daily sessions in Novice, Open, Pro and Master divisions in both Distance and Grab-It Games.
 - 2) Two points will be awarded for a 1st place win during the Final Jump Off.
 - 3) A combination of Novice, Open, Pro and Master 1st place points will qualify for the Pier Master Trophy.
 - (ii) Pier Master points are awarded to the **team** (1 [handler of record](#), 1 dog).
 - 1) A dog may compete with more than one [handler of record](#) at a given event, however points for 1st place wins will be awarded to each team separately. See *Section 3* (a) regarding Competition Teams.
 - 2) Each team must accumulate 20 Pier Master Points to be awarded a Pier Master Trophy. A dog may be awarded a Pier Master Trophy with each [handler of record](#).
 - 3) Each team may only be awarded one Pier Master Trophy.
 - (iii) Points will roll over from year to year.
 - (iv) Points will be awarded for first place wins in daily sessions and final jump offs at the Wisconsin State Fair using the divisions and distances observed at the Fair.
- (b) Grand Pier Master – Earn 50 Grand Pier Master Points and you will be awarded the Grand Pier Master Award.
- (i) Accumulating points
 - 1) After earning the Pier Master Trophy, your points will be set to zero and you can start accumulating points toward Grand Pier Master.
 - 2) Points are accumulated the same manner as Pier Master points.

- (ii) Grand Pier Master points are awarded to the **team** (1 [handler of record](#), 1 dog).
- 1) A dog may compete with more than one [handler of record](#) at a given event, however points for 1st place wins will be awarded to each team separately.
 - 2) A dog may be working on achieving a Pier Master and Grand Pier Master award with different [handlers of record](#) concurrently.
- (iii) Points will roll over from year to year.
- (iv) Points will be awarded for first place wins in daily sessions and final jump offs at the Wisconsin State Fair using the divisions and distances observed at the Fair.